



ALBANY, NY AREA INFORMATION

[Albany](#), also known as “New York’s Capital City”, is the capital of New York and has a deep-rooted history. Located on the banks of the Hudson River with a great mix of natural scenery, historical architecture, and cultural institutions present in the city. Whether you want to enjoy great dining and entertainment in the urban district or explore the outdoors, there are many options for every visitor and resident alike.

Transportation

By Car

It is easy to drive and park around Albany. Whether you drive yourself or let someone else take the wheel via [Uber](#) or [Lyft](#), all of Albany’s attractions are accessible by car.



By Bike

Getting around on two wheels is a breeze in Albany, with various bicycle paths and trails within the city. There are also [CDHP stations](#) where you can rent and ride bicycles around the city.



By Air

[Albany International Airport](#) serves 5 different airlines and is close to downtown area, being only 7 miles away.

By Bus

The Capital District Transportation Authority is Albany’s primary bus and transportation service. With a high number of bus routes and low fares, CDTA will get you where you need to go. For more information about how to ride the bus, please click [here](#).



By Train

Albany has an [Amtrak](#) station (Albany-Rensselaer Station) that includes the Adirondack, Empire Service, and Ethan Allen Express tracks.

Schools

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the public school system is determined by the age of the child. Typically, the child must be 5 years old by September 1st to enter kindergarten. School districts may be very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for foreign students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the September 1st requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability.

Contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

Public, Private, and Preschools

- A complete listing of public schools in Albany can be viewed [here](#).
- A complete listing of private schools in the Albany area can be viewed [here](#).
- A directory of preschools and daycares in the Albany area can be viewed [here](#).

Additional Resources

- www.greatschools.org
- www.eschoolprofile.com
- www.schooltree.org

Colleges/Universities

- [Colleges and Universities near Albany, NY](#)



Recreation

Listed below are a few of the attractions offered in Albany. A more complete listing of attractions in Albany can be found [here](#).

- [Museums in Albany](#)
- [Outdoor Activities in Albany](#)
- [Nightlife in Albany](#)
- [Sporting Events in Albany](#)
- [Arts and Culture in Albany](#)
- [Dining in Albany](#)



Courtesy of <https://www.albany.com/things-to-do/outdoor-activities/>

Obtaining a Driver's License

In the US, a driver's license or ID card is issued by each individual state and not by the federal government. Since there is no national identity card in the USA, and many Americans don't have a passport or carry around a birth certificate, a driver's license issued by your state is often the only official piece of identification for many citizens. Since 9/11, you will need to show a valid driver's license or State ID card to enter many big office buildings.

If you have an out-of-state or out-of-country license, you may use it for as long as you maintain your residency in the state where it was issued. If you are moving permanently to New York, you may use your out-of-state license for only your first 30 days. To change to a New York license, you will need to pass a vision test, surrender your out-of-state license, bring proof of identity, and pay necessary fees to your local DMV facility.

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, visit the [NY DMV Website](#).

Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.