



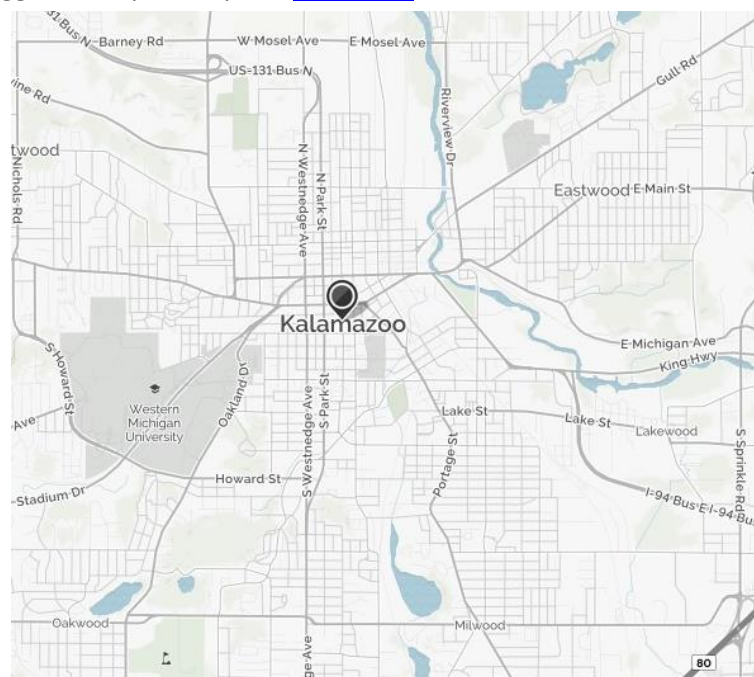
KALAMAZOO, MI AREA INFORMATION

[Kalamazoo](#) is a small city in southwest Michigan with a population of nearly 75,000 people. For a small city, Kalamazoo still bustles with excitement. Equidistant from Chicago and Detroit, living in Kalamazoo allows easy access to these two major American cities. Kalamazoo is a city that values education, the arts and the outdoors. Two major colleges/universities are located in the city: Kalamazoo College (private) and Western Michigan University (public). Every June Kalamazoo holds the second oldest community art fair in the US which brings over 60,000 visitors. If the Art Deco architectural style present in parts of the city wasn't enough, the city has an official Arts Council which organizes an "Art Hop", a free event for local businesses and artists to showcase their work at the beginning of each month. Kalamazoo is also home to some historic breweries and bookshops.

Transportation

By Car

It is easy to drive and park around Kalamazoo. Driving can be a great way to see the city's varying architecture from Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie style to Victorian style mansions. Whether you drive yourself or let someone else take the wheel via [Uber](#) or [Lyft](#), all of Kalamazoo's attractions are accessible by car. For a map with a suggested city tour by car, [click here](#).



By Bike

It is great to have a [bike in Kalamazoo](#). While Kalamazoo already has an extensive trail network, the city is actively working to develop their

biking paths. There are mountain bike trails, commuter suggested routes, outdoor community biking events and tours. Kalamazoo is a biker's paradise!



By Bus

Kalamazoo runs on the Kalamazoo [Metro](#). There are 27 different bus routes that drive you to locations in Kalamazoo proper and the surrounding urbanized area. Along with the bus system, Metro provides a ride share service.



By Air

The closest airport is the [Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport](#). For further airport locations, you could always drive out to Chicago or Detroit; however, those locations are a little over 2 hours away.

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

Kalamazoo is a hub for great education. From higher education all the way down to pre-k and elementary, Kalamazoo works hard to ensure its residents have access to great schools. [Kalamazoo Public Schools](#) uphold the "[Kalamazoo Promise](#)". As a student in Kalamazoo you are able to register and apply for a scholarship that can provide up to 100% paid tuition to post-secondary education. Eligibility is for all students who graduate from KPS, are residing in the district, and have been KPS students four years or more. (Enrollment and residency must be continuous.)

Kalamazoo also has [8 magnet](#) programs that focus on science, technology, international studies, the arts and writing.

A list of private schools in the Kalamazoo area can be viewed [here](#). Most are religiously affiliated.

A directory of preschools in the Kalamazoo area can be viewed [here](#).

Additional Resources

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

Colleges/Universities

- [Western Michigan University](#)
- [Kalamazoo College](#)



Area Recreation

Part of Kalamazoo's charm is its rich history. Even though it's small, Kalamazoo has seen a lot since its founding. You can experience this charm by visiting some of Kalamazoo's museums and searching for some old-fashioned architecture. Nevertheless, Kalamazoo has a growing and vibrant downtown with great dining and entertainment. In Kalamazoo you're never far from something to do whether it be enjoying fun festivals, scouting the urban art, taking in the nightlife or getting in touch with the outdoors.

- List of [museums](#) in Kalamazoo
- List of upcoming [events](#) in Kalamazoo
- [Outdoor recreation](#) opportunities in Kalamazoo
- [Downtown](#) delights and activities. Guides to food inspired walking tours, local breweries art and more.
- List of [local farmers markets](#)
- [Art and live music](#) locations.



Downtown Kalamazoo

Registration

Obtaining a Driver's License

In the US, a driver's license 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.

You are allowed to drive in Michigan as long as your license, from your native country, remains valid. An International Driving Permit is strongly suggested because it acts as a translation for your information, but these documents are not required. New Michigan residents who are age 18 or older and wish to drive must obtain a Michigan driver's license upon moving to the state or obtaining employment with the intent of remaining in the state.

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

You can find the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) location closest to you [using this locator](#).

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