



SPOKANE, WA AREA INFORMATION

[Spokane](#), located in the heart of the Inland northwest, is the second largest city in the state of Washington. It is home to over 200,000 people. The Spokane River which bisects the city running through the downtown area is what brings this beautiful city to life. In true Washington spirit, nature and the environment are an integral part of this city's culture. Spokane's motto "Near nature, near perfect" says it all. The city has the second largest urban waterfall in the United States. White water rafting, trail hiking and biking are very accessible in this city. With 76 lakes and 5 national parks within driving distance of the city, there's more than enough to see if you're looking for an outdoor adventure. Unlike the rest of Washington, the Spokane area sees a lot of sunshine and gets a glimpse of all four seasons. In the winter time, Spokane's Skywalk network is a commuter's refuge. Over 13 blocks of the downtown area are connected by indoor skywalks, so you can go from building to building without having to step outside! Spokane is known for its friendly and welcoming residents who love nature, art and coffee. Spokane is a unique American city that invites all to enjoy and profit from its beauty and community.

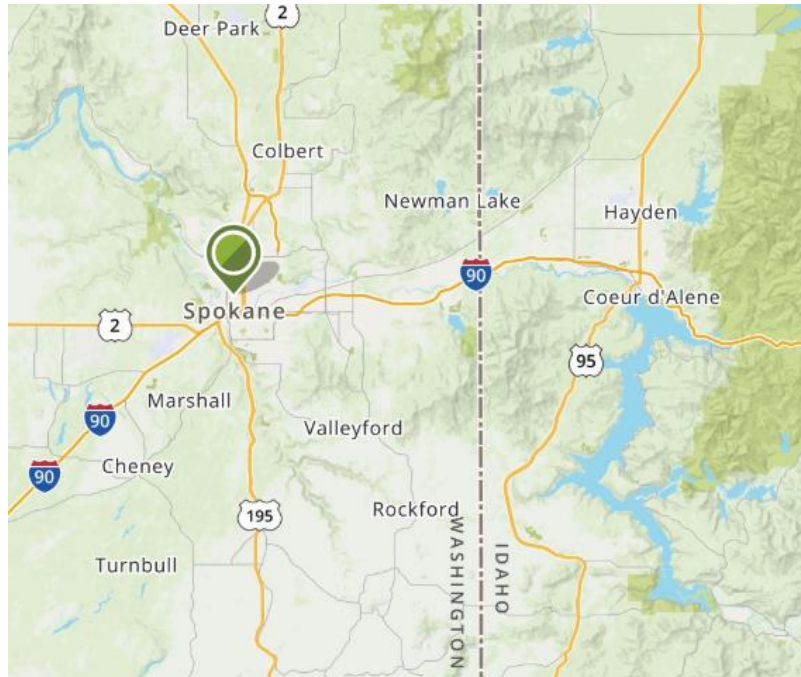


Courtesy of [Business Services of Spokane](#)

Transportation

By Car

It is easy to drive and park around Spokane. Rarely congested, the city is great for driving, and every part of the city is reachable in 30 minutes or less. Whether you drive yourself or let someone else take the wheel via [Uber](#) or [Lyft](#), all of Spokane's attractions are accessible by car.



By Bike

Biking is easy and enjoyable in Spokane. The Spokane Regional Transportation Council has created a virtual map (like a GPS system) to guide you through and around the city by bike. Spokane also has an extensive bike share system. Spokane has it all, bike lanes, concrete pathways and trails.

By Air

The [Spokane International Airport](#) is a little over 10 miles outside of the downtown area. They have non-stop flights to many locations throughout the United States.

By Bus

The City runs on [the Spokane Transit Authority](#). STA has an extensive bus system that can take you anywhere in the city. The buses also go out to the airport as well as other neighborhoods outside of the city. The downtown area also has a shuttle system for commuters.



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

Spokane is a major hub for education in the American Northwest. There are four colleges/universities in Spokane that provide a four year degree, two public and two private. The [Spokane Public School District](#) is the largest public-school system in eastern Washington and serves over 29,000 students. Families have the ability to choose where their child is enrolled, giving them the freedom to choose the best place for their student. For elementary students, the public-school system has gifted classes for those students who show outstanding academic result and who prove they are capable of benefiting from higher level classes.

A complete listing of public schools in Spokane can be viewed [here](#). ROTC classes are offered in the public high school system in Spokane. Spokane has many magnet schools available that focus on the arts and STEM programs as well as charter school programs. If you are looking for public schools that are independently run or that focus on specific fields of study, there are many great options. All magnet schools are different thus it is important to do some independent research too look at enrollment requirements and school ratings.

A complete listing of private schools in the Spokane area can be viewed [here](#). Most are religiously affiliated. Spokane does have an international school, with an IB program, [Spokane International Academy](#), and is rated as one of the best schools in the city.

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

Additional Resources

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

Colleges/Universities

- [Washington State University at Spokane](#) – Public University, Health Sciences branch in Spokane.
- [Eastern Washington University](#) – Public University with a campus near Spokane.
- [Gonzaga University](#) – Private University with D1 Athletics. Sporting events are great fun for student attendees and Spokane families!
- [Whitworth University](#) - Private University



Recreation

Spokane has so much to do from outdoor activities to museums to live performance art. Listed below are a few of the attractions offered in Spokane. A more complete listing of things to do in Spokane can be found [here](#).

- [Spokane Museum](#) – includes the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, Military Museums, and a Children’s Museum
- [Performing Arts](#)
- [Restaurants and Nightlife](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation](#)
- [Shopping](#)



The Museum of Arts and Culture

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 Washington, you may use your out-of-state license for only your first month here. To change to a Washington license, bring your Social Security card, another form of ID, and multiple utility or phone bills verifying that you are a Washington resident to a motor vehicle facility. You'll have to pass written and eye exams, and usually a road test. Details [here](#).

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, visit the [Washington Department of Motor Vehicles](#).

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