



Travel Guide and Activities



Useful Information

Climate

NYC has a humid subtropical climate. Winters can be cold with temperatures often dropping below freezing, while Summers are typically hot and humid with temperatures averaging in the mid-80s°F (around 30°C). Spring and Autumn are usually mild and pleasant, making these seasons ideal for outdoor activities. There are occasional rain showers all-year round, so it is always a good idea to have an umbrella handy.

Money

The official currency in New York, as in the rest of the United States, is the U.S. Dollar (USD). Credit and debit cards are widely accepted across the city. Avoid carrying large amounts of money, EC New York recommends that all its students get a bank account for the duration of their time at the school.

Telephone Country Code

The United States country code is +1. New York City's primary area codes are 212, 646, and 917.

Electricity

110 V; 60Hz – 2 flat-pin plug or third round pin. Travellers from countries using different plug types may need an adapter.

Tap water

Tap water in New York City is safe to drink, unless there's a sign to the contrary, and is renowned for its quality and taste.

New York

Must-See Sights and Travel Essentials

New York City is the largest and most populous city in the United States. The city is made up of five boroughs - Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx, and Staten Island - each with its own distinct vibe and attractions. Famous for its diverse population, towering skyscrapers, and vibrant arts scene, New York serves as a melting pot where various cultures converge.

[Check out the Monthly Activities Calendar](#)

5 Things to Do

- Visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island
- Stroll through Central Park
- Visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Catch a Broadway show
- Enjoy shopping along Fifth Avenue



Transport

New York City has one of the most comprehensive and efficient transportation systems in the world. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) operates the subway system, which runs 24/7 and connects all boroughs except Staten Island. Buses complement subway routes and provide access to areas not serviced by trains.

Subway, metro and bus: A one-way ride on the subway or local bus costs \$2.75. The fare for an express bus ride is \$6.75. Subway and bus maps can be found at each station and are given to students during orientation. One way for students to save money and explore the city to the fullest extent is by buying unlimited MetroCards. Each of these cards are valid for unlimited subway and local bus rides.

Bus Service: There are many ways to travel from NYC to various cities located on the East coast, including Washington DC, Philadelphia, and Boston. Travelling by bus to these cities can be very inexpensive. Some notable bus services offered are the BoltBus, MegaBus, Fung Wah, Lucky Star, and Greyhound. Many of these buses leave from Penn Station and/or the Port Authority.

Train: An easy way to explore the outskirts of New York City is to travel by train. Students can explore Long Island by using the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) or visit New Jersey via N.J. Transit.

Taxi: New York City is full of taxis. You can walk out of any building at any time and find a yellow taxi-cab. This is a quick way to travel through New York, but may be expensive depending on how far you need to go.

Public Transport Info

The subway is the most popular mode of transport, running 24/7 and covering all five boroughs. Buses are another affordable option, and both subway and bus fares are paid using a MetroCard or the contactless payment system OMNY.

[N.Y. Transport Maps](#)

[NY Transport Schedules](#)

Legal Driving Age

The legal driving age in New York City is 18. Most rental companies require that you be at least 25 years old, have an international driving license, a second form of identity and a major credit card.

Alcohol Age

The legal drinking age in New York is 21. This law applies to purchasing alcohol at bars, restaurants, and retail stores. Make sure to carry identification (such as a passport or government-issued I.D.) with you, as you may be asked to prove your age.

Smoking Laws

Smoking is prohibited in all indoor public places, including restaurants, bars, and workplaces. Outdoor public spaces such as parks, beaches, and pedestrian squares are also smoke-free zones. E-cigarettes and vaping are subject to the same rules. To buy cigarettes, you must be 18 years of age or older and must show identification.

Insurance

All EC students must be covered by health insurance for the entire length of their stay in the U.S.

Public Holidays

Public holidays falling on a weekday

2025: 01 Jan, 20 Jan, 17 Feb, 26 May, 19 Jun, 04 Jul, 1 Sept, 13 Oct, 11 Nov, 27 Nov, 28 Nov, 25 Dec, 31 Dec.

Visa Requirements

A visa may be required depending on your nationality and length of stay. For Visa information, please visit our Visa Requirements page

[Visa Requirements](#)

Cost of Living

Bottle of water / soda (0.33 litre)
\$1.50
Coffee/Cappuccino (Starbucks)
\$3.00-\$3.50
Fast-Food combo meal
\$5.00-\$10.00
Meal, inexpensive restaurant
\$15.00-\$20.00
Fitness club (monthly, 1 adult)
\$90.00-\$100.00
Public transport (local transport)
\$2.75 (one-way)
Public transport (weekly pass)
\$33.00
Public transport (monthly pass)
\$127.00
Metro single ride
\$2.75
Express Bus ride
\$6.75

Medical

If you are not at school and are in an emergency you can call 911 for ambulance, fire department or police department from any telephone or call the school's emergency number: +1 347-567-3843. If you need to see a doctor when the school is closed, the following clinics are open and close to EC New York:

Duane Reade Immediate Walk-In Medical Care

You do not need to make an appointment; they have locations all over New York.

Docs Walk-In

You do not need to make an appointment. They are open Mon- Thur 8 am-8 pm, Fri 9 am-7 pm, Sat 9 am-3 pm and Sun 9 am-2 pm.

