

## Arrival Guide & Travel Tips

The official PREPARE check-in hours at the Townhouse Community Center are on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. International students will also take care of their immigration check in at this time. For those individuals needing a ride to Cornell from the Ithaca airport or bus station, **PREPARE can only pick you up between 8:00 am and 7:00 pm on August 14<sup>th</sup>**. After this time it will be necessary to call a taxi. See details below. For those students who will be arriving in New York City or Syracuse on the evening of August 13<sup>th</sup>, you may want to stay the night and reserve a hotel, as it will be easier and safer than traveling to Ithaca in the middle of the night. This will also allow you to be well rested for the activities scheduled for the days ahead. We understand that international travel is often not flexible and we will try our best to accommodate your travel plans.

If you are going to arrive on Cornell campus **after the PREPARE check-in hours** please review the following **PREPARE website for late arrival instructions at:** <http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/orientation/prepare-program/frequently-asked-questions>. Be sure to check this page frequently to obtain the latest information. Students arriving after 5 pm on August 14<sup>th</sup> will need to do their immigration check in online to complete the necessary paperwork. See details at: <http://isso.cornell.edu/students/new-student-visas/isso-check>

### **WE NEED YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY!**

**It is important for us to know your travel plans. Please fill out** the following online travel information survey as soon as you have registered for PREPARE, and confirmed your travel plans but **no later than July 17<sup>th</sup>** at: [https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a36cHn9tpyAGyeV](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a36cHn9tpyAGyeV)

### **IMMIGRATION**

- ❖ All international students travelling into the U.S. must carry their immigration documents with them including: I-20 document for F-1 students (or DS-2019 for J-1 students) and your passport with your F-1 (or J-1) Visa Stamp. (Note that Canadians are not required to apply for F-1 or J-1 visa stamp.) Receipt of payment of the SEVIS fee.
- ❖ There is usually a long line to clear immigration when you arrive at the port of entry. Please be aware that it will take considerable time before you can get your luggage and catch connecting transportation.
- ❖ Follow the immigration officer's instructions and clearly answer any questions.
- ❖ In an emergency, contact the ISSO office at 607 255 5243.

### **Getting To Ithaca:**

- ❖ Please note that **prices (in U.S. dollars) for buses, shuttles, vans, etc. can change without notice.** Please be prepared and bring extra cash.
- ❖ There are three major ways getting to Ithaca:
  - by bus from New York City (arrive at Newark airport, JFK airport or LaGuardia airport )
  - by plane to Ithaca Airport
  - by plane to Syracuse Airport and ground transportation

### **From Newark Airport, NJ:**

Buses to Ithaca start from Port Authority Bus Terminal on 42<sup>nd</sup> St. and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. in NYC (see below).

#### **By Shortline Shuttle Bus from Newark Airport to Port Authority:**

- ❖ A shuttle runs every 15 min. (during the day) or 30 min. (late evening and early morning) from Newark Airport terminals A, B and C to Port Authority.
- ❖ Shuttle runs from 4:00 am until 1:00 am; travel time depends on traffic but is approximately 45 minutes.

- ❖ You can refer to [www.coachusa.com/olympia/ss.newarkairport.asp](http://www.coachusa.com/olympia/ss.newarkairport.asp) for more information regarding the shuttle schedule, stop locations and ticket purchasing.
- ❖ Tickets are around \$16 one-way and can be purchased online <https://www.coachusa.com/> Select “Newark Liberty Airport” as the departing station and “Midtown Manhattan” as the arrival station. Tickets may also be purchased on the bus.
- ❖ Follow the signs in Newark Airport to the Newark Airport Express Bus.

#### Additional Services:

- ❖ Different bus carriers and taxis are available as well (although they can be more expensive).

#### From New York City:

##### By Plane to Ithaca Airport:

- ❖ NYC has two major airports: LaGuardia Airport (LGA) and John F. Kennedy Airport (JFK).
- ❖ From LaGuardia Airport (LGA), there are no direct flights to Ithaca (although you can arrange connecting flights with 1-2 stops through Philadelphia or Detroit by American Airlines, United or US Airways).
- ❖ From JFK, there are no direct flights to Ithaca (although you can arrange connecting flights through Philadelphia or Detroit by American Airlines, United, US Airways or Delta).
- ❖ [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), and [www.travelocity.com](http://www.travelocity.com) are internet-based travel websites, which may be useful in researching flight options and booking flights.

##### By Bus to Downtown Ithaca or Cornell Campus

All buses departing NYC (except the Cornell Campus-to-Campus Coach Service (C2C)) leave from Port Authority Bus Terminal on 42<sup>nd</sup> St. and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.

##### To get to Port Authority Bus Terminal, NYC:

From LaGuardia Airport

- Shortline operates a shared shuttle service to Port Authority every 20-30 minutes that runs for 24 hours every day. Travel time is approximately one hour. Tickets can be bought online for \$19.60 one-way or at the Welcome Center Desk in the ground transportation area, near baggage claim for \$21 plus tax. For more information and to make reservations online visit: <https://www.goairlinkshuttle.com/>.
- NYC Airporter offers a bus service every 30 minutes to Port Authority for \$14. Tickets can be purchased online or at the ground transportation area near baggage claim. For more information visit : <http://www.nycairporter.com/>
- You can also use a taxi instead for approximately \$30 (+ tip).

From JFK Airport

- From JFK Airport, Shortline bus operates a shuttle service to Port Authority every 20-30 minutes that runs for 24 hours every day. Tickets can be bought online for \$19.60 one-way or at the Welcome Center Desk in the ground transportation area near baggage claim for \$21 plus tax. For more information and to make reservations online visit: <https://www.goairlinkshuttle.com/>
- NYC Airporter offers a bus service every 30 minutes to Port Authority for \$18. Tickets can be purchased online or at the ground transportation area near baggage claim. For more information visit : <http://www.nycairporter.com/>
- You can also get a taxi (\$45 + tax + tip)

##### Shortline/Coach USA

- Once at Port Authority in NYC, Shortline Bus tickets can be bought on the second floor for \$54.50 one-way (\$45.50 for college student with student ID).
  - After buying the ticket, you can board the Shortline Bus on the third floor.

- Your ticket is good for travel at any of the scheduled departure times, any time of the year. Schedule can be found at [www.coachusa.com/shortline/](http://www.coachusa.com/shortline/) (left-hand side, select Origin: State-New York, City-New York and Destination: State-New York, City-Ithaca).
- No reservation is necessary, but be early as it is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The bus trip takes approximately 5 hours (this can affect your arrival time at Cornell significantly; please let us know the arrival time of your specific bus ride on the travel survey mentioned above).
- If you arrive during check-in hours disembark the bus at the **North Campus** stop and walk to the nearby Townhouse Community center for check-in. PREPARE volunteers will be at the bus stop to guide you to the check-in venue.

### Greyhound Bus

- Greyhound Bus provides several trips to Ithaca with buses stopping at the downtown Ithaca Bus Terminal on State Street. (We recommend you take the Shortline bus as it brings you directly to North Campus, but we can pick you up at the Ithaca Bus Terminal between 8 am and 7 pm on August 14th).
- At Port Authority, Greyhound Bus tickets can be bought at the basement (subway) level.
  - Tickets can be bought for \$40-75 one-way depending on the time you take the bus.
- After buying the ticket, you can also board the Greyhound Bus on the basement level.
  - No reservation is necessary, but be early as it is on a first-come, first-served basis.
  - The bus trip takes approximately 5 hours (this can affect your arrival time at Cornell significantly; please let us know the arrival time of your specific bus ride).
  - Schedule can be found at: [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com) (Leaving from: New York, NY and Going to: Ithaca, NY).
- If you are dropped off at the Ithaca Bus Terminal, and you arrive between 8 am and 7 pm, we will be able to pick you up from the terminal.
- If you arrive at Ithaca Bus Terminal **after** 7 pm, call a taxi (see section below) to take you to campus.

### Campus-to-Campus Coach Service (C2C)

- ❖ Campus-to-Campus Coach Service provides several trips daily from Cornell Club and Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City to Cornell Ithaca Campus.
  - The bus departure from Cornell Club (located at 6 East 44th Street, between Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue; a 15 minute walk from Port Authority) and Weill Cornell Medical College (located in front of the main entrance to the Medical College at 1300 York Avenue, across from the intersection with 69th Street). Tickets are \$90 one way, and \$82.50 with a student discount.
  - If you arrive during check-in hours between 8 am and 5 pm, disembark the bus at the **North Campus** stop and walk to the nearby Townhouse Community center for check-in. PREPARE volunteers will be at the bus stop to guide you to the check-in venue.
  - Detailed bus schedule and addresses of the bus stops can be found on this page: <http://transportation.fs.cornell.edu/coach/schedule/default.cfm>

### From Syracuse Airport:

- ❖ The easiest and most economical method of traveling to Ithaca is by Ithaca Airline Limousine van service (taxis are more expensive).
  - This Limo service charges \$85 per person (subject to change) for a one-way trip from Syracuse to Ithaca and must be reserved at least 48 hours in advance. To reserve the Ithaca Airline Limousine, call at (607) 273-3030 or (855) 349-0084 (toll-free within the US) and provide your credit card details directly.
  - Please contact the Ithaca Airline Limousine at the number below if your plane is delayed and they will try to accommodate your new arrival time (they may wait, or reschedule you for the next van).

- You will be responsible for paying for the van service to the driver in cash (in U.S. dollars only). **Drivers cannot take credit card payments.**
- The Limo van service departs Syracuse at the following scheduled times:
  - 5:00am, 10:30am, 1:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm, 1:00am.
  - It takes approximately 1.5 hours to get to Ithaca.
- Pickup location: Go to the north end of the airport, exit doors by United and Delta airline baggage claims, and turn right. The vehicle will be at the curb by a glass-walled shed.
- Please ask the driver to drop you off at Cornell University on North Campus at Townhouse Community Center for check-in, if you arrive in Ithaca between 8 am and 7 pm on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **From Another Major City:**

- ❖ From Philadelphia: US Airways provides several flights per day to Ithaca.
- ❖ From Detroit: Delta Airlines provides a couple of flights per day to Ithaca.
- ❖ From Newark: United Air provides a couple of flights per day to Ithaca.
- ❖ From any other major city: there are no direct flights to Ithaca but you can find several with one or more stopovers or connections. Online travel agencies such as [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com) and [www.orbitz.com](http://www.orbitz.com) are useful for finding flight options and booking flights.

### **Within Ithaca to Cornell Campus**

If you require a ride to Cornell from the Ithaca airport or bus station, PREPARE can offer transportation to campus from 8 am until 7pm. If you arrive after 7pm, you need to call a taxi. See Taxi Service info below. See also late arrival info in second paragraph.

#### **From Ithaca Regional Airport**

- ❖ We will pick you up if you arrive between 8 am and 7 pm on August 14th.
- ❖ The person meeting you will be holding a PREPARE sign.
- ❖ If we are not there, please just wait by your gate (our driver may be late due to a large number of students waiting for assistance).

#### **From NYC by Bus**

- ❖ Via Shortline: a volunteer/driver will meet you at your bus stop with a PREPARE sign if you are arriving between 8 am and 7 pm on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Via Greyhound: a driver will meet you at the Ithaca Bus Station with a PREPARE sign if you are arriving between 8 am and 7 pm on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **From Elsewhere in Ithaca**

- ❖ We will make special arrangements for a driver to pick you up from locations in the local Ithaca area, e.g. hotels in Ithaca, if you are arriving between 8 am and 7 pm on August 14th.

#### **Taxi Service in Ithaca:**

- ❖ **Ithaca Dispatch** (toll free 1-888-321-1149) handles dispatch for the following companies:
  - Cayuga Taxi: 607 277-TAXI (8294)
  - University Taxi: 607 277-7777
  - Yellow Cab: 607 277-CABS (2227)
- ❖ **Collegetown Cab:** 607-588-8888 / 607-592-1478

### **What if I can't arrive on August 14<sup>th</sup>?**

Please check FAQ at the PREPARE website at: <http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/orientation/prepare-program/frequently-asked-questions>

As we get closer to the start of the PREPARE program, information for late arrivals may be updated, so check it frequently. Contact the coordinators at [prepare@cornell.edu](mailto:prepare@cornell.edu) to inform them of your situation.

WHAT TO BRING**Ithaca in August:**

- ❖ Hot and humid (25°C-30°C), so bring light summer clothing.
- ❖ It tends to rain a lot; don't forget an umbrella.

**Necessities:**

- ❖ **Again, please pack your valuables and necessary items in your carry-ons, just in case luggage is delayed or missing.**
- ❖ On Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, you will have a chance to shop for necessities and amenities.
- ❖ Note that Ithaca winters are quite cold, so you will need warm winter clothing once the season changes. See this section on the ISSO website for more information: <http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/practical-matters/surviving-ithaca-winters>

U.S. MONEY

- ❖ For those who are arriving in the U.S. without U.S. currency, you will need to exchange money at the first major US airport after going through customs.
- ❖ You can convert your currency at Travelex at LaGuardia Airport, JFK International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport, and Philadelphia International Airport.
- ❖ There are no currency exchanges at Syracuse or Ithaca Airport.
- ❖ Money exchange in Ithaca is very limited and can take up to several weeks, so plan ahead.

CALLING FROM THE U.S.

- ❖ Remember to dial 1 before the area code if calling long-distance in the U.S.
- ❖ There are also a number of services that allow you to make voice and video calls via the internet for free, as well as phone calls from the internet to landlines and cell phones in many countries at reasonable rates, such as Skype, Viber and ooVoo.
  - If you set up free accounts with one of these services for yourself and for your family or friends back home, you can make free calls to each other as long as both sides are connected to the internet.
  - You can also make calls via the internet from your computer to a phone back home at rates roughly 1.1 cents per minute to China and from 1.5 cents per minute to India.
  - See [www.skype.com/intl/en-us/home](http://www.skype.com/intl/en-us/home) and [www.oovoo.com/home.aspx](http://www.oovoo.com/home.aspx) for more information.
  - Also see information about campusSIMS at <https://campussims.com/us/> and AT&T at <https://store.cornell.edu/c-552-att-wireless.aspx>.

PACKING, SHIPPING, & SHOPPING

- ❖ Take essential and valuable items with you on the plane in your carry-ons, in case airlines lose or delay your luggage.
- ❖ Be aware that there are often extra fees for taking more than one or two suitcases on plane.
  - If you plan on bringing several items of luggage and have several connections in your trip, you might want to consider shipping some of your belongings to Cornell. Big Red Shipping & Storage can put your shipped items in your dorm room before you arrive. Make sure your shipped items will arrive in Ithaca by August 7<sup>th</sup> (at least one week before you move in) and see [www.bigredboxes.com](http://www.bigredboxes.com) for more information.
- ❖ When you arrive in your dorm room on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, no linen will be provided. You will have the opportunity to go to the mall during PREPARE on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> to purchase linen and other necessities.
  - Alternatively, if you would like to have linens delivered to campus before you arrive see <http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/orientation/prepare-program/frequently-asked-questions> for details.

- The Campus Store has many room ‘necessities’ and there will also be a clothing and housewares sale on North Campus during regular orientation. The ‘Dump & Run’ sale will be on Saturday, August 19 from 6:00am-6:00pm and Sunday, August 20 from 7:30 am-2:00 pm. See <http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/movingin/dumpandrunk/> for more information.

❖ Make a list of things you would like to buy in Ithaca for more efficient shopping.

**For PREPARE:**

- ❖ Some events in PREPARE will include a fair amount of walking, so bring comfortable shoes.
- ❖ **Bring your traditional clothing/costume to wear for our International Dinner** to be held at the International Dinner and Talent Show on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be fun!

ONE LAST REMINDER

PREPARE cannot accommodate any non-participants who may be traveling with you. Therefore, if you have parents or other family members or friends traveling with you, they need to make their own reservations in Ithaca as soon as possible. Accommodations become increasingly difficult to find later in the summer when other Cornell students and families from across the country will be arriving in Ithaca as well. Here is a website that lists the hotels and inns around the Ithaca area: [www.visitithaca.com/lodging](http://www.visitithaca.com/lodging).

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at [prepare@cornell.edu](mailto:prepare@cornell.edu). All of us at PREPARE look forward to meeting you soon! Good luck!