



Detroit - City Business Guide

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Overview

Detroit is the eight largest city in the United States and the automotive capital of the world, and as such possesses a thriving culture and economy. Founded next to a narrow strait (détroit), it is the oldest city in the Midwest. Detroit saw the advent of the assembly lines and the establishment of families like Ford, Olds, Chevrolet and Dodge. The "Mo(tor)town" is also a label begun in the late 1950's to define an entire new genre of black music. Along with its near neighbours Cleveland and Chicago, Detroit is experiencing a renaissance. Contrary to Detroit's reputation as the motor city, the city's economy has shifted toward service industries in recent years. Detroit is home to many large companies, including the big three General Motors, DaimlerChrysler and Ford and also high tech companies like Compuware.

Business Etiquette

Detroit is a Midwestern conservative city. Formal business wear is often the norm in the office.

* Entertainment commonly takes place in restaurants either during lunch or in the evening. It is uncommon to be invited into a business associate's home for business purposes

* Gifts are not normally tolerated, although token gestures, such as a bottle of wine, are usually accepted after a deal has been completed

* Business cards are exchanged after meals or meetings, not during introductions

* It is normal to call people by their last names, however, once a relationship has been established, people tend to call one another by their first names

Chamber of Commerce

Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce

1 Woodward Avenue Suite 1700 / 1900; Tel.: +1 (313) 964 4000

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan - Other Inquiries, Chamber of Commerce

600 East Lafayette Boulevard; Tel.: +1 (313) 225 0450

Detroit Black Chamber of Commerce

3011 West Grand Boulevard; Tel.: +1 313 664 2098

Embassies and Consulates

Canadian Consulate

600 Renaissance Centre Suite 1100; Tel.: +1 (313) 567 2340

Japanese Consulate

400 Renaissance Centre Suite 1600; Tel.: +1 (313) 567 0120

Italian Consulate

535 Griswold Street Suite 1840; Tel.: +1 (313) 963 8560

Mexican Consulate

645 Griswold Street Suite 4372 ; Tel.: +1 (313) 964 4515

Business Centers

Business centers generally provide a range of services that include secretarial, translation/interpretation, and office services, including computer rentals, audio/visual equipment rentals, cellular phone rentals, copy and printing services, and temporary office space and staff. Most large hotels (some of which may be listed here) also have business centers that offer many of the same services that independent centers provide.

Detroit Business Center.Com

18456 West McNichols Road; Tel.: +1 (313) 255 4300

Albin Business Centers

24288 Indoplex Cir, Farmington, MI 48335 ; Tel : +1 800 510-4800

University Business Center

1131 West Warren Avenue; Tel.: +1 (313) 831 0682

Airport Business Center

1 Detroit Metro Airprt ; Tel : +1 734-942-4731

Conference and Exhibition Centers

International Banquet & Conference Center

400 Monroe Street; Tél : + 1 313 963 7994

International Banquet & Conference Center

1000 Brush Street; Tel.: +1 (313) 961 1234

COBO Conference Exhibition Center

1 Washington Boulevard; Tel.: + 1 313 877 8000

Renaissance Conference Center

200 Renaissance Centre; Tel.: +1 (313) 568 5700

Translation Offices

Ambassador Spanish Translation Services

1536 Dragoon Street; Tel.: +1 (313) 297 7163

Interpreter and translator

876 lakepointe street svc; Tel.: +1 (313) 821 5521

A L S Translation & Interpreting

Tel.: +1(313) 640 0095

Courier/Messenger Services

Bent's Courier Service

7456 Pembroke Avenue; Tel.: +1 (313) 342 8527

FedEx

100 renaissance ctr ste 114.; Tel.: +1 (313) 259 8344

Courier & I Legal Services

65 cadillac sq ste.; Tel.: +1 (313) 963 7917

K L Courier Service

12205 Maiden Street; Tel : + 1 313 371-0889

Internet Connection Place

Detroit Public Library

Tel.: +1 (313) 833 5492

Visas & Customs

Passports valid for at least six months after arrival are required for all. In general, travelers visiting the U.S. are required visas. However, under the Visa Waiver Program, citizens of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom are allowed to stay for 90 days without a visa. Citizens of Canada and Mexico do not need a visa but must carry proof of citizenship and identity. Beginning October 26, 2004, all travelers, including children of any age, who want to travel visa-free to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program must have a Machine-readable passport. Duty-free allowances are 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 2 kilograms of tobacco, 1 liter of alcohol, and gifts worth up to \$100. Meat products, seeds, plants, fruits, and hazardous goods are prohibited. To travel without a visa within the Visa Waiver Program, all passports issued after October 26, 2005 must be biometric. Machine-readable passports issued before this date are also valid for visa-exempt travel.

Phone Information

The area codes for Detroit is 313. It is necessary to dial the area code and the number in making local calls in Detroit. There is no toll charge for any of the three local area codes from within the Detroit calling area.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Emergency police, fire, and ambulance

911

Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

For local calls, dial the seven-digit telephone number. For long-distance calls within the U.S., dial 1, then the three-digit area code then the seven-digit number. For long-distance calls outside the U.S., first dial 011 and the country code. Four special prefixes, "800", "888", "877", and "900", are not area codes but indicators of special services. "800", "888", and "877" are toll-free calls. The "900" numbers charge you for the call and are often expensive. For collect calls or operator-assisted calls, dial "0" instead of "1". For local directory assistance, dial 411. For long-distance information, dial 1, and then the appropriate area code followed by 555-1212. The most common public phone is the coin-operated type. Telephone-card phones are becoming increasingly common.

Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

There are several cellular service providers in the U.S., including: Verizon Wireless, Cingular, T-Mobile, AT&T Wireless, Nextel, VoiceStream, and Sprint PCS.

Mobile phone numbers follow the regular telephone number convention, with the seven-digit telephone number followed by the area code.

If you choose to bring your cellular phone into the U.S., check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service.

Money

Most restaurants, shops, and hotels will take travelers' checks and major credit cards. Travelers can also withdraw cash from ATMs. The basic unit of U.S. currency is the dollar, which equals 100 cents. Coins are the copper penny (1 cent) and four silver coins: the nickel (5 cents), the dime (10 cents), the quarter (25 cents), and the half-dollar (50 cents). Silver \$1 coins and "golden" dollar coins also exist. Paper bills come in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100.

Tipping

- * Restaurants 15 to 20 percent of bill, none at fast-food restaurants.
- * Bars About US\$1 per drink or 10% to 15% of drink prices.
- * Airport Skycap/Porter US\$1 per piece of luggage.
- * Taxis 10 percent of fare.
- * Hotel Bell Desk US\$1 per piece of luggage or per taxi summoned.
- * Hotel Housekeeping US\$1 per person per day.
- * Hotel Room Service 15 percent of bill.
- * Parking Attendant/Valet 15 percent of parking rate.
- * Haircare/Personal Services 20 percent of bill.

Time Difference

Detroit is in the Eastern time zone (Greenwich Mean Time minus 5 hours). From early April through late October, Georgia switches to daylight-saving time.





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VAT & Taxes

Sales tax in Detroit is 7%. There is no VAT.

Voltage

110V AC, 60Hz. Plugs are of the flat, two-pin type.

Local Transportation

When you think of Detroit, one of the first things that come to mind is the automobile. The Motor City is headquarters for General Motors, Ford Motor Company and DaimlerChrysler. The city is also home to the nation's first stretch of paved road (Woodward Avenue), the first traffic light and one of best freeway systems in the country. Detroit does not have a comprehensive public transportation system. The best way to see the region is by car. There are many transportation companies to help get you around town. The elevated computerized rail transit system costs just 50 cents per ride and covers nearly 3 miles in 15 minutes. The route stops 13 times around downtown's entertainment and business areas as well as major hotels and Cobo Center. Hours for Amtrak (Rail Service) : Daily 5:30 a.m. to midnight, also there are suburban stops in Royal Oak, Birmingham, and Pontiac. Call for details on prices and other transportation Needs to +1 (313) 873 3442 or (800) 872 7245 (Toll Free).

Taxis are everywhere carrying your message throughout this thriving port city.

Health Info

No specific immunizations are needed to enter the United States. For more information, contact the Center for Disease Control at 800-342-2437.

Climate

Weather in Detroit can vary depending on where one stands. Lake breezes may cool or warm some parts more than others, or it may shower in one section and miss the rest. The period from late spring to fall provides the best weather for sightseeing. Temperatures in the summer may soar into the 32°C with fairly high humidity, but generally the days are quite comfortable around 27°C. Cold winds and snow are a possibility early November to early April.

Public Holidays

Where to Eat

Rattlesnake Club (Downtown) boasts of a spectacular view of the Detroit River but also has interesting dishes such as Lake Ontario pickerel, perch with watercress or white chocolate ravioli. **Opus One** (Downtown) is one of Detroit's finest and most expensive restaurants and serves an inspired contemporary food. **Emily's** (Northville) is Zagat's top restaurant in Detroit. The charming old grey house dating back to the late 1800s has a lot of charm and the cuisine with its French Mediterranean accents is also inspiring. In West Bloomfield, **The Lark** country inn with its dining room overlooking a small garden and consistently skilled cuisine is the perfect place for a business meal. **Zingerman's** is a kosher deli loved by locals for a quick and tasty lunch. Winner of numerous awards, **Tribute's** Chef Takashi Yagihashi prepares an inventive Franco-Japanese cuisine. A few kilometres away in Chelsea is the charming brick storefront of **Common Grill**, an eclectic restaurant full of innovative seafood and steak specialties.

Local Gift Ideas

Pewabic Pottery, dedicated to the Arts & Crafts movement, sells handcrafted ceramics and tiles. General shopping can be made at Somerset Collection, a luxury mall which hosts top brands like Saks and Tiffany. For music lovers, Pure D Vinyl and Vera Jane sell records solely by Detroit artists, alongside Detroit-themed accessories.

Leisure Time

Detroit holds vestiges of the great motor era. A visit to the 60-room Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is a must. Apart from excellent collections of paintings, The Detroit Institute of Arts is home to one of the city's most familiar images, Diego Rivera's Detroit Industry murals depicting the autoworkers at Ford's Rouge manufacture. Henry Ford Museum offers a mesmerizing history of America as displayed in an unprecedented collection of artefacts. From there, take the very popular bus tour Ford Rouge Factory. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra headed by Neeme Jarvi is a much-appreciated treasure. The Fisher Theatre is a good place to catch up with successful Broadway touring productions. For a view over the city, the Renaissance Centre has a top observation tower. The yearly January Auto Show shows the newest trends in the industry.

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