Discovering
The USA

The United States of America (USA) is a nation of vast opportunity, spanning the North American continent and defined by its diversity, innovation, and resilience.

Comprised of 50 states, it is the world's third-largest country by both land area and population, offering a unique blend of cultures, landscapes, and experiences. From the bustling streets of New York City to the natural beauty of its national parks, the USA showcases both vibrant urban life and wide-open wilderness.

Recognized globally for leadership in technology, business, and culture, the United States remains a symbol of progress and possibility. Rooted in the values of freedom and equality, its history continues to shape a future guided by creativity, ambition, and shared ideals.

Activity Level
Low level

Visa Process

U.S. citizens do not require a visa for domestic travel within the United States, including its states and territories.

Travelers must carry a valid U.S. government-issued photo ID or a U.S. passport when flying or moving between destinations within the country.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are widely accepted throughout the United States. Major brands—including Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover—are commonly used in shops, restaurants, hotels, and other businesses.

Travelers are advised to carry some cash for smaller establishments or when minimum purchase amounts apply.

Currency

The official currency of the United States is the U.S. Dollar (USD).

Air conditioning and heating

Air conditioning is standard in most hotels across the United States, particularly in cities, popular tourist areas, and warmer regions during summer. Guests can generally expect air-conditioned rooms for comfort.

Dining

Food in the United States is highly diverse, shaped by indigenous traditions and influenced by European, African, Asian, and Latin American cuisines. Classic dishes include burgers, barbecue, mac and cheese, fried chicken, and apple pie. Regional specialties range from New England clam chowder to Louisiana gumbo and Tex-Mex.

International flavors are widely embraced, with American adaptations of Chinese, Italian, Japanese, and Middle Eastern dishes commonly found. Modern dining trends highlight farm-to-table cuisine, plant-based options, fusion cooking, and a thriving food truck culture, reflecting the country's dynamic and evolving food scene.

Plug Sockets

The United States uses Type A and Type B plug sockets. Type A has two flat parallel pins, while Type B adds a grounding pin. The standard supply is 120 volts at 60 Hz.

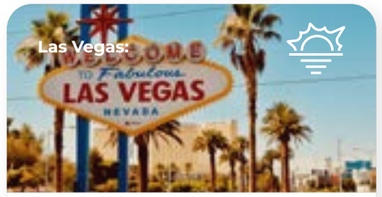
Travelers from regions using different plug types or higher voltages will need a plug adapter and, for some devices, a voltage converter.

Pharmacies

Pharmacy hours in the United States vary by location. Most independent pharmacies operate Monday through Friday, typically from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with shorter hours on weekends. Larger national chains, such as CVS, Walgreens, and Rite Aid, often have extended hours, with some locations open 24 hours a day in major cities. Travelers should confirm opening times with individual pharmacies.



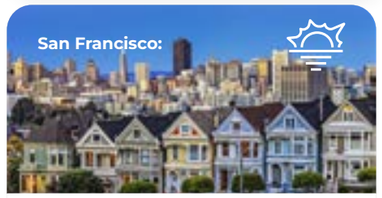
Summer in the United States is typically hot, with temperatures ranging from 68°F to 95°F (20°C to 35°C). The South and Midwest are generally humid, while the Southwest is dry and hot. Coastal regions tend to be milder. Thunderstorms are frequent in the Midwest and Southeast, and hurricanes may affect the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.



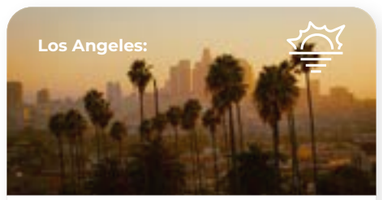
Summer Average	Winter Average
70-79°F	39-57°F



Summer Average	Winter Average
64-81°F	27-36°F



Summer Average	Winter Average
55-68°F	45-55°F



Summer Average	Winter Average
59-79°F	46-64°F



Summer Average	Winter Average
81-100°F	50-59°F

Check-in process

Travelers are required to present a valid passport at hotel check-in. Standard check-in time in the United States is typically between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM, though policies vary by property.

Guests arriving earlier may request early check-in if a room is available, but this is not guaranteed. Confirm specific check-in times when making reservations.







Emergency

In the United States, dial 911 for police, fire, or medical emergencies. The number is available 24/7 and should be used only for urgent situations requiring immediate assistance.

Gratuities

Tipping is an important part of service culture in the United States, particularly in restaurants where staff rely on gratuities to supplement income. **General guidelines include:**

Restaurants: 15–20% of the bill before tax; more for exceptional service.

Bars: $1–2 per drink, or 15–20% of the total tab.

Hotel staff: $1–2 per night for housekeeping; $1–2 per bag for bellhops.

Taxis and rideshare (e.g. Uber): 10–15% of the fare.

Valet Service $1–2 when your car is returned.

Tour guides: $5–10 per person for group tours; more for private tours. Tipping is generally not included in the bill, except for large groups or at some high-end establishments, so check receipts carefully.

Cultural Norms

Cultural norms in the United States vary by region but generally emphasize individuality, direct communication, and informality. **Key aspects include:**

Individualism: Personal freedom, independence, and self-expression are highly valued.

Punctuality: Being on time is important for work, meetings, and appointments.

Direct Communication: Americans are generally straightforward and value honesty in both personal and professional interactions.

Informality: First names are often used, even in professional settings, and casual dress is widely accepted.

Tipping Culture: Tipping 15–20% is customary at restaurants, bars, and for services such as taxis and haircuts.

Diversity & Inclusivity: The U.S. is culturally diverse, and respect for different backgrounds, identities, and beliefs is expected.

Personal Space: About an arm's length of space is preferred when conversing..

Small Talk: Casual conversations—often about weather, sports, or current events—are common, even with strangers.

Patriotism: National pride is significant, with symbols like the flag and anthem holding strong meaning.



What to pack

Essentials:

Passport & Visa: Carry your passport, visa, and all required travel documents.

Travel Insurance: Strongly recommended to cover unexpected situations.

Money: Bring cash (preferably in small denominations) and credit/debit cards.

Health Kit: Include prescription medications and essential over-the-counter medicines, packed in hand luggage.

Clothing:

Summer Wear: Pack light, breathable clothing (cotton or linen), swimwear, comfortable shoes, a hat, and a light jacket for evenings.

Heat Protection: Prepare for high summer temperatures by packing for both comfort and sun safety.

Personal Items:

Toiletries: Essentials such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and personal items.

Sunscreen & Sunglasses: Important for sun protection.

Insect Repellent: Recommended for extra protection.

Electronics:

Phone & Charger: A local SIM card can provide better connectivity and help avoid high roaming charges.

Camera: Bring extra memory cards and batteries.

Other Useful Items:

Small Backpack/Daypack: Convenient for day trips and carrying essentials.

Hand Sanitizer: Helpful for cleanliness on the go.

