

Washington and New York

Washington D.C.

- It is the capital city of the USA.
- It lies in the east of the USA on the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia.
- It is the only city which is not a part of a state.
- It is the seat of the federal government, the President, the Congress and the Supreme Court.
- It became the capital of the USA in 1800, the first capital city was Philadelphia.
- It is named after the US first President George Washington, he chose the place of the city in 1791.
- It has more than 500 000 inhabitants.
- The city is divided into 4 parts:
 - Northwest
 - Northeast
 - Southwest
 - Southeast
- Each of these parts is named after its direction from the Capitol
- The most important government buildings and the most famous sights are situated in the west-central part of the city

Interesting places in Washington

- **The White House** – it has been the home of every US president except for George Washington. It has 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, there is also the office of the president, some of the rooms are open to public but only for the ambassador's permission.
- **Capitol** – it is the seat of the Congress, the seat of the House of Representatives and the Senate. It is connected with the White House by Pennsylvania Avenue. It is also connected with the Washington Monument by the National Mall, which is a green park where we can find old trees (more than 200 years old).
- **Pentagon** – it is the seat of the Department of Defense of the USA. In September 2001 a hijacked plane was crashed into the western side of the Pentagon, more than 180 people were killed.
- **Supreme Court** – a white marble building, it is situated across the street from the Capitol and it is the seat of the highest court in the USA.
- **Washington Monument** - the white marble obelisk which rises in the middle of the National Mall. It symbolizes the US first president and also the city itself.
- **Jefferson Memorial** – it is the adaptation of the ancient Roman Pantheon and it commemorates the US third president Thomas Jefferson. There is also a bronze statue of this president which holds the Declaration of Independence.
- **Lincoln Memorial** – it was inspired by Greek architecture and it commemorates the US 16th president Abraham Lincoln.
- **The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial** – it is the newest memorial on the National Mall. It is the only memorial on the Mall which is not dedicated to a president or war. It commemorates Martin Luther King, a leader of protests against segregation and racial inequality, the author of the famous speech „I had a dream...“
- **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** – it commemorates the Vietnamese War and all 58000 people killed or missing in this war.
- **Arlington National Cemetery** – here we can find more than 200 000 graves of military personnel and their dependents of every war in which the USA has taken part. Two of the US presidents are buried here – W.H.Taft and John F.Kennedy.
- **Library of Congress** - it is the largest library and it contains more than 90 million items. Originally it was established for the use of the Congress but now it serves as the national library.
- **The National Air and Space Museum**
- **The National Gallery of Art**
- **The National Theatre**
- **Opera House**
- **Ford's Theatre** – President Lincoln was killed here in 1865

- **Mount Vernon** – outside the city, the private place of George Washington. The house and the furnishing of it are authentic to his final years. Washington and his wife are buried in the grounds of Mount Vernon.

New York

- It is the largest city in the USA.
- It was founded by the Dutch in 1626. The Dutch bought Manhattan (formerly called New Amsterdam) from native Americans for 24 dollars.
- New York has always attracted immigrants from all over the world.
- It lies on the Hudson River.
- The city is divided into 5 boroughs:
 - Manhattan
 - The Bronx
 - Queens
 - Brooklyn
 - Staten Island
- **Manhattan** is the oldest part of New York and the most important one. Here we can find the tallest buildings, some of the world's most famous shops, the largest schools, the famous financial centre called Wall Street, SoHo (a part of Manhattan famous for many artists, galleries and variety of shops), Greenwich Village (one of the oldest residential parts of) ... Broadway stretches across the whole Manhattan and is one of the largest and best known streets in New York. Central Park divides the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side, which are both fashionable places with many interesting residents (for example John Lennon). Harlem is a traditional centre of business and culture of Black Americans.
- **The Bronx** – it is a residential place where we can find Botanical Gardens, the ZOO and the South Bronx is known for hip-hop and rap music
- **Queens** – it is the largest part of New York and there are more than 2 million people. The famous places situated here are for example the airports La Guardia and the J.F.K. International Airport, Flushing Meadows Corona Park which is a place famous for tennis and Long Island known for its beaches.
- **Brooklyn** – is the most populous borough in New York and it is the second largest one. Here we can find Prospect Park and Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Other interesting places here include Coney Island, Brooklyn Heights. Coney Island was first developed as a place for rich people but now it is one of the America's amusement places (Cyclone rollercoaster, Astroland). Brooklyn Heights is a prominent residential area. Brooklyn Bridge is also one of the most famous places here, it connects the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn and it is over the East River
- **Staten Island** – it is the third biggest borough in New York in the southwest part of the city. It is the least populated part of New York. Here we can find some very badly developed localities.

Interesting places in New York

- **Statue of Liberty** – it was built on Liberty Island in New York Harbour in 1886. It symbolizes freedom and the USA. It was given to the USA by French people. They built the statue in France, then they carried it across the Atlantic Ocean in pieces and then re-built it in New York.
- **Ellis Island** – it is called the gateway to the USA as it was the first place immigrants had to go through when they wanted to live in the USA – some of them did not get the permission to stay in the USA, some of them were lucky.
- **World Trade Centre** – it was a complex of 7 buildings, it opened in 1973 and it was destroyed during the terrorist attacks in 2001. At the time of the Centre opening, the buildings were the tallest ones in the world. The most famous of these buildings were The Twins, both of them with 110 storeys. The Twins were hit by the hijacked planes and destroyed in September 2001.
- **One World Trade Centre** – also known as Freedom Tower is a skyscraper which is built near the place where the Twins used to stand. The construction finished in May 2013 when the aerial was put on the top of the building and it became the fourth tallest building in the world and the tallest building in the USA. It is near the place called Ground Zero where there is the National September 11 Memorial and

Museum also known as 9/11 Memorial. There are 3 columns made of steel which were used as a base of this building. On one of these columns there are more than one thousand messages written in hand as a memory of all those people killed during the terrorist attacks in September 2001. Next to this One World Trade Centre there are several more skyscrapers.

- **Empire State Building** – it is a 102-storey skyscraper in New York and it used to be the tallest building in the world before the construction of the World Trade Centre. Now it is the fourth tallest building in the USA.
- **Saint Paul's Chapel** – it is the oldest church in New York which was built in 1766.
- **Madison Square** – named after James Madison, one of the US presidents and established as a park in 1811. Near Madison Square we can find Madison Square Garden Centre which offers cultural and sport events.
- **The Chrysler Building** – it was the seat of the Chrysler car company and it is also known for its competition in height with the Empire State Building. Now it is the eighth tallest building in the USA and the world's tallest brick building in the world.
- **The United Nations Headquarters** – the seat of the United Nations which was formed after the Second World War.
- **Times Square** – it used to be the centre of performing arts in New York, but it has lost its importance from the past years. But still one tradition is still kept here – people come here and celebrate here the New Year.
- **Rockefeller Centre** – it is a complex of buildings where we can find terrace with cafés and also an open-air skating rink, many fountains, travel agencies, restaurants, theatres, business companies.
- **St. Patrick's Cathedral** – this cathedral was inspired by Gothic cathedrals in Europe and was built in 1888.
- **Carnegie Hall** – the place of concerts and the seat of New York Philharmonic Orchestra
- **The Guggenheim Museum** – now there can be found more than 5000 paintings, sculptures and sketches from Impressionism up till now