



UNITED STATES
SERVAS
INCORPORATED

2013 Host List

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United States Servas, Inc

2013 Host List



Welcome to all Servas travelers visiting the United States of America. Thank you for coming as “Ambassadors of Peace” to explore our country.

US Servas Mission Statement

US Servas is a nonprofit membership organization fostering understanding of cultural diversity through a global person-to-person network promoting a more just and peaceful world.

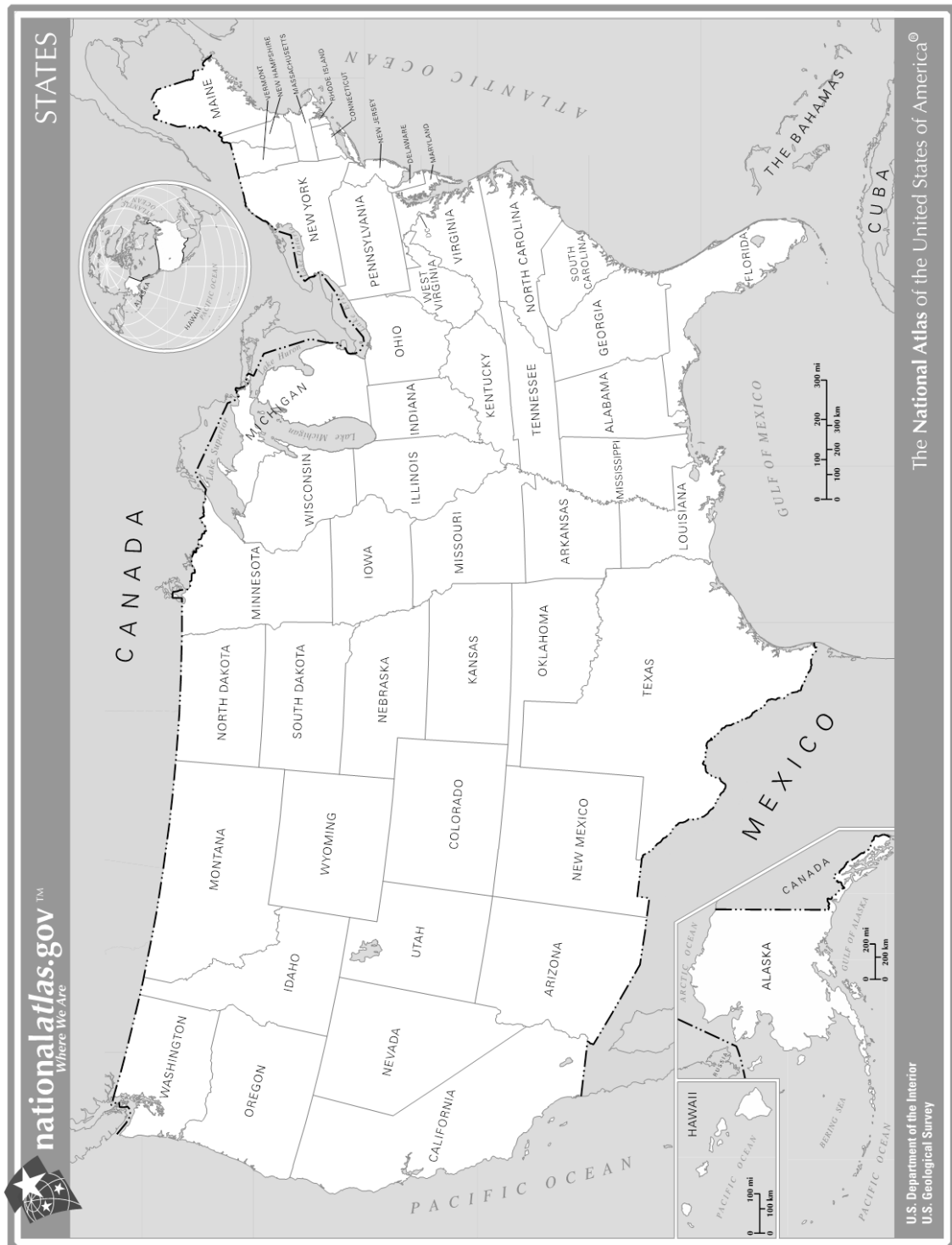
United States Servas 2013 Host List

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This list is confidential and is for the use of approved Servas members only.
It remains the property of US Servas and must be returned, destroyed and/or
deleted from your hard drive after use.

Using this list for purposes other than it is intended is grounds for immediate
termination of Servas membership and possible litigation.

USA Map—To conserve space, we have eliminated individual state maps. There are many excellent on-line sources including maps.google.com, mapquest.com and others. Most public libraries have computers available so you can access the Internet.



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UNITED STATES SERVAS NATIONAL OFFICE

The office is located in rural northern California between the coast and the redwood forest. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time. We close on national holidays.

The mailing address of the office is
United States Servas, Inc
1125 16th Street, Suite 201
Arcata, CA 95521

Our email address is info@usservas.org and our phone number is 707-825-1714. We love visitors and can often use volunteer help. If you are thinking of visiting the office, please call ahead so we know you are coming.

We hope that Servas travel opens doors for you in ways that enrich your life. Peace begins with you and your host—one visit at a time. Please review this introductory section for information that can make your visit a success.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SERVAS TRAVELERS

For over 60 years, our members around the world have enjoyed the art of hosting visitors in the Servas way. The system works remarkably well, but only when travelers remember to do the following:

1. AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS BY LEARNING SERVAS PROTOCOL...

Host lists provided by US Servas are in English and are prefaced with important local rules for visiting Servas hosts. Your interviewer can provide more details but, as a minimum, Servas protocol includes the following “DOs” and “DON’Ts:”

- DO contact hosts well in advance and include a copy of your Letter of Introduction.
- DO make yourself sound as interesting as you can in your Letter of Introduction. Introduce yourself in simple English that is understandable to a person who may not speak English. Answer the questions briefly and in a conversational tone. Be sure to let hosts know the purpose of your travel.
- DON’T send a “blanket” email message to every host within a region or ask the local coordinator to find you a host. Send individual requests to hosts and let them know why you chose them.
- DO remember that if you request a visit by email that hosts in many countries do not check email every day—be patient and don’t expect an immediate answer.
- Be sure to word your email as a formal request—perhaps with a greeting in the language of the host country and put Servas in the subject line.
- DON’T call before 8 am or after 10 pm, call hosts collect, or expect hosts to return your long-distance call at their expense.
- DO confirm arrangements before arriving and notify your hosts if your schedule or your arrival time has changed. Always let hosts know if your plans have changed and you will not be visiting them.
- DON’T request more than a 2-night stay; the visit may be extended later at the host’s express invitation.
- DO make sure all your travel companions (18 and older) are valid Servas members, each with his/her own Letter of Introduction.
- DO take seriously your responsibility for getting to the host’s home...and get there on time.
- DON’T assume your hosts will feed you. While some hosts will invite you to share meals with them, they are not obligated to do so.
- DO present your original Letter of Introduction to your hosts at the door when you arrive...before being asked.
- DO be polite and gracious, follow the rules of the house, and accept whatever sleeping and eating arrangements that are offered.
- DON’T make calls from your host’s telephone or use his/her computer without first asking for permission...even local calls.
- DON’T expect to have access to wireless Internet on your computer equipment at a host’s residence, or to be able to use your host’s computer. Your hosts may have valid reasons not to want others to use their equipment (e.g., confidential information and/or home business data on computer). Be prepared to access the Internet on your mobile phone’s network or go without Internet access during your stay.
- DO consider carrying your own sheets or a sleep sack in order to save hosts the trouble of doing extra laundry.
- DO spend time with your hosts—this is the central purpose of the visit! Make time to get involved and share your ideas.
- DO remember that no money ever changes hands during a Servas visit.

2. LEARN ABOUT THE REGION...

Learning new things about other cultures is a driving force behind Servas. A prerequisite to any trip is familiarization with the customs and cultures, history and governance of the places you will visit.

Consider seriously what you hope to learn on your trip. One idea is to read a novel set in the country you will be visiting or one that is written by a native author.

3. GIVE BACK TO YOUR HOSTS...

- Take every opportunity to thank Servas hosts for their hospitality in whatever ways you can: help prepare a meal, treat your hosts to a meal out, or bring a small souvenir from home. Find out what household chores you can help with. After returning home, send your hosts a thank you note; add special hosts to your holiday card list.
- Whatever you do, don't be a burden to your hosts. You should always have the means to pay for your own transportation, food, and activities. You should also be prepared to pay for lodging elsewhere (a hotel or hostel) in case plans fall through and because you will occasionally need "down time."
- Be prepared for medical expenses or carry international insurance coverage.
- Try not to spend excessive amounts of time in your room with your computer. While it is great to be able to let the folks back home know what a good time you are having, the goal of your visit is to spend quality time with your hosts.

4. GET INVOLVED IN YOUR HOSTS' LIVES IN THE SPIRIT OF PEACE...

- Servas offers you a unique opportunity to find out about a community from an insider's point of view. Ask to accompany host families to work or to school. Find out if there are any local gatherings or cultural events you could attend with them.
- Be sensitive and respectful of your host's values and custom—especially where there are differences. If something offends you, find out if the root of the problem is cultural or individual and try to resolve things in a peaceful manner.
- If Servas helped make your trip worthwhile, the best way to show your appreciation is to remain active in the organization. You could become a host or day host yourself, or volunteer locally for Servas. Tell your friends about Servas if you think they would make good hosts or travelers. If you are already involved with other peace organizations let them know about Servas, too!

5. MORE TIPS FOR THE TRAVELER...

- Make the effort to contact hosts living outside of major cities. Rural hosts typically have more time and want more visitors.
- In the unlikely event that a Servas member acts inappropriately, please report the incident quickly to that country's national secretary—or the police, if appropriate, for action.
- Have realistic expectations about the number of hosts you intend to visit. Why burden yourself with lists you may never use? Never divulge host information to non-members you meet on the road. Have them contact a local volunteer coordinator.
- Servas membership does not guarantee anyone the "right" to free hospitality. Servas hosts, on the other hand, do have the right to refuse a homestay request...even without an explanation. Be polite and understanding when a host, who finds it inconvenient to receive you, must say "No."
- Remember that Servas has just one small office in the US; elsewhere, Servas is a completely volunteer-run organization and local Servas coordinators may not be available the day you call. Remember also that each Servas branch is autonomous.

Please take this set of guidelines along with you and refer to them on your trip

The Host List

This list is private, confidential and on loan, only for the use of approved Servas members. After your travels, please return printed lists to the office that provided them. If this is an electronic copy, please delete it from your hard drive and destroy any printed copies.

Servas Gatherings

Travelers are especially welcome to attend local gatherings, which are held in many areas—especially northern and southern California, New York City, Chicago and Washington D.C. For more information, contact the area representatives in the states you plan to visit or visit the calendar section on our website (www.usservas.org).

Obtaining additional host lists

If you would like lists for other countries while traveling in the US, please visit, call or write the national office. To receive additional lists, you must:

- Present your letter of introduction (you can mail a copy or email a scan of it to us) to confirm that you are an approved Servas traveler
- Make a \$20 deposit, which is returned when you return or delete the lists, and pay a \$5 handling fee for each group of five lists
- Most lists can be sent to you by email, but if you are requesting a list from a country that does not permit us to do this, we will need a US address to send them to.

Feedback

You and your hosts share the Servas experience. We would love to hear about your visits. While the overwhelming majority of Servas visits are positive, problems do occur. Learning to overcome differences of opinion, customs, politics, culture and beliefs is what Servas is all about. We encourage travelers and hosts to try to resolve conflicts on their own as they happen in a peaceful way. If, however, you encounter a serious problem, please report it promptly and thoroughly either to any of the interviewers listed or to the office. The Complaints committee will review your concern and initiate appropriate follow-up. You will be notified of the resolution.

Servas International

US Servas is a proud member of Servas International, which includes over 120 countries around the world. Each national group is autonomous in governance, but we all work together to accomplish our mission of global peace and understanding. For more information, visit the Servas International website www.servas.org.

Miscellaneous Abbreviations

The following is a list of common abbreviations—for organizations hosts may participate in, for example and others often used in the US.

AARP-American Association of Retired Persons
AAUW-American Association of University Women
ABA-American Bar Association
ACLU-American Civil Liberties Union
AFSC-American Friends Service Committee
AFS-American Field Service
AI-Amnesty International
AYH-American Youth Hostel
BBB-Better Business Bureau
EIL-Experiment in International Living
FOR-Fellowship of Reconciliation
IIE-Institute for International Education
LWV-League of Women Voters
MADD-Mothers Against Drunk Driving
NAACP-National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
NARAL-National Abortion and Reproductive Right Action League
NEA-National Education Association
NOW-National Organization for Women
PETA-People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
PP-Planned Parenthood
PSR-Physicians for Social Responsibility
PTA-Parent-Teacher Association
SPCA-Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
UNA-USA United Nations Association (USA)
UU-Unitarian Universalist (Church)
WWF-World Wildlife Fund
YM/YWCA-Young Men's/Women's Christian Association