

## New York City

New York City is one of the most famous and largest cities in the world and in America. It is famous for its outstanding monument and skyscrapers, some of the most beautiful buildings of the modern age. It is also a major commercial, financial, and cultural center of both the US and the world.

Giovanni da Verrazzano was the first European to sight New York Bay in 1524. In the 1920s and the 1930s New York was nicknamed the 'Big Apple' by jazz musicians, who considered the city as the world capital of jazz. This name became famous for the publicists who used it for a promotional campaign of the city. Today New York City has a population of 8.5 million, but the metropolitan area around it numbers more than 21 million. Like many American cities, it has a wide ethnic mix. It shares with many large cities the problems of traffic congestion, overcrowding, poverty and violence and crime. It used to be known as one of the most violent cities in the world, but there have been dramatic improvements in recent years. With countless cultural attractions and a large city park system, the city that never sleeps attracts and entertains about fifty million foreign and American tourists every year. New York City includes five boroughs: Manhattan, The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.

- The Statue of Liberty

When people arrive in New York harbor one of the first things they see is the huge statue that stands on Liberty Island. It is the Statue of Liberty, which was given to the United States by France for the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It shows a woman, 46.5 metres high, holding a torch (The torch represents the light of freedom after the oppression. The original was replaced in 1984 with a gold-coated one. The statue functioned as a beacon for 16 years from 1886 to 1902.) in her right hand. She is wearing a crown with seven spikes representing the seven continents of the world. In her left hand she is holding a book. On this is written July 4 1776, the date of the Declaration of Independence. For millions of immigrants arriving in America on ships it was a welcome to the New World where they hoped to find freedom and work because they came from countries where there is war. It became the symbol of America as a land of hope and opportunity.