

## USA

The USA is a country consisting of 50 states, American regions are cultural units formed by history and geography and shaped by culture that all the states share. The English (specifically American English) is the national language of the United States and there are distinct regional accents, while Spanish, spoken by 12% of the population, is the second most common language. There are different geographical areas:

1. The Northeast,
2. The Midwest,
3. The South,
4. The West.

**The Northeast** is the wealthiest, the most densely populated and the most industrialized region in the United States, but is also an area of beautiful countryside and extensive farmland. This is also the part of the USA that most visitors see, the skyscrapers of New York and the White House in Washington DC are the symbols of this region. The Northeast includes:

**-New England:** made up of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Its one large city is Boston, the most European of American Cities;

**-Mid Atlantic:** comprising New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

**The South** is a beautiful region of green hills, sandy beaches and flat lowlands. Because of its warm climate, agriculture has always been at the basis of its economy. The region is industrialized and urban and it is among the fastest-growing areas in the USA, but despite economic growth, the South still has persistent poverty in some area. In the four states of Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas there is one industry which has done a lot for the economy of the region, that is the oil industry. The major cities in the region are New Orleans, Atlanta, Miami, and other important region are Dallas, Florida, Oklahoma and Alabama.

**The Midwest** cover the central part of the USA, between Appalachians and the Rocky Mountain. This region is crossed by the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and it is important both for agriculture and industry. The Great Plains extend from North Dakota down to Oklahoma, and this was the land where the Indians used to live. The Great Plains is also the setting of many stories and films about the Wild West. The Rocky Mountains stretch for more than 4800 kilometres from British Columbia, in Canada, to New Mexico in the USA. Another tourist attraction of Midwest is the Grand Canyon in Arizona, it is 445 kilometres long and almost two kilometres deep. The Midwest includes Ohio, Nebraska, Minnesota, Colorado and North and South Dakota.

**The West** includes the Pacific States and the two separate states of Alaska and Hawaii. This area is considered America's door to the Orient, some important ports are in Seattle, Portland and San Francisco. California, which is the most populous state in the USA, is important both for agriculture and industry, in fact the main industries here are computers, aerospace, movies and high tech. Oregon and Washington contain some of the most fertile soils and beautiful scenery, their main resources are agriculture, timber and hydroelectric energy. The main cities are San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, the home of Microsoft. To the west of Los Angeles are famous places like Malibu, Santa Monica, Hollywood and Beverly Hills, San Francisco is famous for its location on a beautiful bay and for its mild climate. Alaska which is the largest state of the USA, is situated in the northwest corner of American continent, Hawaii is situated in the Pacific Ocean, northeast of Australia, tourism is the main industry of this state.

## New York

New York City is one of the largest and most famous cities in the world. It is famous for its outstanding monuments and skyscrapers, some of the most beautiful buildings of the modern age. In 1789 New York became the first capital of the United States. New York kept growing and became the largest city and the business center of the United States, in the 1920s and 1930s New York was nicknamed the 'Big Apple', particularly by jazz musicians who considered the city as the world capital of jazz. Today New York City has a population of 8 million, but the metropolitan area around it numbers more than 21 million. Like many American cities, it has a wide ethnic mix. It used to be known as one of the most violent cities in the world, but there has been dramatic improvement in recent years. With cultural attractions and a large city parks system, the 'City That Never Sleeps' attracts and entertains about fifty million foreign and American tourists every year. The city includes five boroughs: Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, Bronx.

### Statue of Liberty

When people arrive in New York harbour, one of the first things they see is the statue that stands on Liberty Island. It is the Statue of Liberty, which was given to the United States by France in 1886 for the centennial of the Declaration of Independence, it shows a woman, 46.5 metres high, holding a torch in her right hand and in her left hand she is holding a book, she is wearing a crown with seven spikes, representing the seven continent.

### Manhattan

It consists of Manhattan Island and several other small islands, its name comes from the word Manna-hata, the name given by the Native American who lived there. It is the smallest in area of the five boroughs, but the third-largest in population. Actually is the most densely populated county in the United States, with a population of about 1,700,000. Manhattan is an area of culture and commerce, with many architecturally significant buildings in a wide range of styles. It is where most of New York famous sight and attractions are located. It is divided in three areas: Uptown, Midtown, Downtown.

Uptown is famous for its attraction and museums, among which the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Guggenheim Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Central Park combines beautifully landscaped areas with a variety of recreational facilities. Uptown is home to the famous Lincoln Center for the performing Arts, the Metropolitan Opera House(MET), the American Museum of Natural History and many more. Harlem is one of the city's biggest neighborhoods and a historic center for African American music, art and culture.

Midtown is the busiest commercial district in the nation, and it has the majority of the city's skyscrapers. Broadway is the oldest north-south main thoroughfare in the city, which runs the full length of Manhattan. Broadway crosses Manhattan diagonally and its intersections with avenues are often marked by famous squares and parks, such as Times Square and Union Square. Among Midtown attractions are the world-famous Museum of Modern Art(MOMA), the United Nations Headquarters, Rockefeller Center, St Patrick's Cathedral and some of New York's most famous skyscrapers such as the Empire State Building and Chrysler Building.

Downtown includes different neighborhoods, all with their unique features and atmosphere, such as Chelsea, Greenwich Village, Little Italy, Chinatown and Lower East Side. Wall Street runs through the Financial District and gives the name to the neighbourhood. It is known all over the world because it is the home of the New York Stock Exchange and the heart of the American financial industry.

## Washington DC

Washington Dc is the capital city and administrative district of the USA, it does not belong to any state. The initials D.C. stand for District of Columbia. This is an area on the banks of the Potomac which was chosen as the seat of the federal government in 1790. More than 60% of Washington's population are African Americans, and the city is famous for its historical monuments and important buildings.

The Capitol represents the heart of Washington DC, it stands on Capitol Hill overlooking the city. This is where the Congress meet – the house of Representatives and the Senate. It also houses the Library of Congress, which is the largest in the world

The White House is where the President works and lives. As the name suggests, it is painted white.

The Washington Monument honors the much-loved first President of the US after whom the city was named. It is the highest structure in the city.

The Lincoln Memorial was built in 1922. It is a marble imitation of the Parthenon in Athens. Inside is a large statue of Lincoln sitting in a chair. It was the meeting point of the Civil Rights and anti-war demonstrations during the 1960s.

The Pentagon is the headquarters of the US army and the American Ministry of Defense.

Just outside Washington there is Arlington National Cemetery, where more than 290,000 Americans died in wars, politicians and other famous people are buried.