

A full-page background image of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. The bridge is a vibrant red-orange color, spanning across the water. The scene is captured during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light reflecting off the water and the bridge's structure. The sky is a clear blue with some light clouds. In the foreground, the water meets a sandy beach with several large, dark rocks. The bridge's iconic towers and suspension cables are clearly visible.

Your travel guide to the USA



WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE TO

the USA

Ready to book the trip of a lifetime to the USA?
With so much to see and do, it's natural to feel
overwhelmed. But don't worry – we're here to help
you every step of the way, making the process simple,
stress-free, and tailored to your dream holiday.



What you'll find in this guide:

- **Expert guidance**
We have travelled through the USA extensively to find the best experiences and recommendations for you.
- **Different ways to travel**
From self-drive adventures to escorted tours, we'll talk you through all the options to find your travel style.
- **Advice on when and where to go**
We'll recommend the best areas and best times to visit based on different interests.
- **Tips for your journey**
We'll provide some key travel tips, so you can travel with confidence.



Why book your holiday with us?

- **We have 20 years of experience**
Our award-winning team has been dedicated to creating bespoke experiences for over two decades.
- **Every trip is customised**
Tailored to your preferences for the best USA experience.
- **We work with trusted local partners**
They will be there for you around the clock, allowing peace of mind.
- **You can fly from regional airports**
We offer flights across the UK and Ireland for added convenience.
- **Your money is safe with us.**
We're fully licensed with ATOL in the UK and IAA in Ireland, ensuring top service and financial security.

THE BEST TIMES TO VISIT THE USA

You can travel to the USA year-round, although the best time of year depends on the areas you want to visit. We've suggested the best times to visit each area. No matter when you go, for most regions we'd recommend at least two weeks, though more time is ideal for a truly memorable trip.



Utah

Mild spring and autumn weather make Utah perfect for adventure, from hiking its red-rock national parks to scenic drives, canyon walks, and exploring its iconic desert landscapes.



California

Enjoy sunshine almost year-round. Bask on Southern California's golden beaches, explore vibrant cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, or escape to Yosemite National Park, where spring and autumn bring perfect hiking weather.



Arizona

Arizona's desert climate means scorching summers and mild winters. The Grand Canyon and Sedona are best in spring or autumn, when temperatures are pleasant and the red-rock landscapes glow under clear, golden light.



American Rockies

The Rockies range from snowy alpine winters to warm, dry summers. Visit in summer for hiking and wildlife or winter for world-class skiing amid crisp mountain air and breathtaking snow-covered peaks.



Great American West

Late spring to early autumn is ideal for this wonderful region, with South Dakota and Wyoming at their best, and North Dakota, Idaho and Montana offering warm weather and stunning open landscapes.



Mount Rushmore

Chicago

Boston

Washington, DC

New Orleans



New England

Expect fiery autumn colours, spring blossoms and warm coastal summers. Explore charming seaside towns or admire brilliant fall foliage.



New York

Experience snowy winters, blossoming springs, sunny summers and colourful autumns, from ice-skating in Central Park to balmy rooftop evenings.



Texas

With warm, comfortable weather and plenty happening, March to May and October to November are great for Texas' food trails, live music, city exploring, and scenic Hill Country adventures.



Florida

Florida enjoys warm weather year-round, with hot, humid summers and mild, sunny winters. The dry season (November–April) offers ideal conditions for beaches, theme parks and the Everglades, with summer bringing tropical rain showers.



Deep South

Spring and autumn are the best times to visit Louisiana and Tennessee, while Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia also shine with warm days, lively festivals and comfortable sightseeing weather.

OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

The USA is a land of contrasts, where glittering cities meet vast national parks. From golden beaches and mountain trails to music-filled streets and open highways, every journey reveals a new side of America's endless adventure.

A land of contrasts

California sparks endless adventures. Begin in San Francisco, from the sea lions of Pier 39 to the Golden Gate Bridge, then follow the Pacific Coast Highway toward Los Angeles for studio tours, Hollywood hikes, and sunsets on Santa Monica Pier. Head inland to Yosemite National Park, where El Capitan towers over ancient forests, before returning to the coast for Santa Barbara's beaches, Monterey's whales, and Carmel's winding scenic roads.

Arizona brings vast desert beauty and classic Western spirit. Ride the vintage train from Williams to the incredible Grand Canyon, explore Sedona's red-rock trails, or stay on a Tucson ranch for a taste of cowboy country. In Scottsdale and Phoenix, discover botanical gardens, mountain walks, and stylish dining beneath fiery sunsets.

Utah is a landscape of natural drama – glowing arches in Arches National Park, the deep canyons of Canyonlands, Bryce Canyon's towering hoodoos, and Zion's famous sandstone cliffs. With scenic byways and star-filled skies, it feels made for road-trippers.

Across the **Deep South**, rhythm and flavour fill the air. Louisiana blends jazz bars, Creole cooking, and historic streets in New Orleans. Tennessee moves to the beats of Nashville's honky-tonks and Memphis' blues clubs, with Graceland and the National Civil Rights Museum offering powerful moments. Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia add charming coastal towns, riverfront history, and warm Southern hospitality.



Beale Street Music District in Memphis Tennessee

“American Sky truly care about their customers, offering attentive support and expert guidance that makes every journey smooth, enjoyable, and completely stress-free. Highly recommend!”



The **American Rockies** and the **Great American West** offer some of the continent's most striking scenery. In Wyoming, Grand Teton's jagged peaks and Yellowstone's geysers define true wilderness. South Dakota's Badlands, Black Hills, and roaming bison create a frontier spirit, while Montana delivers glacier-carved valleys and wide-open plains. Colorado adds alpine lakes, dramatic mountain towns, and the high-altitude beauty of the Rockies at their most iconic. Idaho's hot springs and rugged ranges feel wonderfully untouched, and North Dakota's quiet prairies make for easy, scenic drives.

New York City delivers unforgettable energy. Wander Central Park, take in Times Square's glow, and cross the Brooklyn Bridge for iconic skyline views. Browse the Met or MoMA, shop Fifth Avenue, and enjoy everything from rooftop dinners to cosy neighbourhood cafés. With dazzling Broadway shows, striking architecture, and endless discoveries, the city feels alive from dawn to late night.

Other iconic cities shine in their own way.

Washington, DC mixes monuments and Smithsonian museums along the National Mall.

Chicago blends bold architecture with lakefront paths and world-class galleries. **Boston** offers lobster rolls, the Freedom Trail, and Fenway Park's old-school charm. **Seattle's** waterfront markets, coffee culture, and Space Needle views bring a cool Pacific Northwest vibe.

New England glows in every season – discover Vermont's forested trails, New Hampshire's Cog Railway to Mount Washington, and Maine's rugged coastlines and fresh seafood before ending in historic Boston. Wander the Freedom Trail's brick-lined path, explore world-class museums, and soak up the city's timeless charm at Fenway Park.

Finally, **Florida** brings pure sunshine living. Miami's golden beaches, the Keys' island escapes, Orlando's legendary theme parks, and the wildlife-rich Everglades offer year-round warmth, adventure, and relaxation.



Adventure awaits

The USA can be surprisingly complex to work out how to get around. The distances are vast, and the options are varied, but we are here help you choose the right way to travel, creating a seamless, unforgettable itinerary.

Great Smoky Mountains



Self-drive by car

A self-drive itinerary gives you the opportunity to explore the USA at your own pace. When booking, we can personalise your itinerary with suggestions on where to go and which activities to book. We recommend hiring a car for your whole trip for great value and flexibility.

Self-drive by motorhome

We recommend a motorhome holiday for confident drivers or those with time to explore at a slower pace. Wake up to mountain views and ocean horizons. Plus, with our 24/7 USA support team, help is always just a call away.

Escorted tours

If you'd prefer to leave the driving to someone else, our escorted tours are a fantastic option. You'll travel in comfort with a group of like-minded travellers, while expert guides ensure you experience each region's highlights. Many guests tell us they've made lifelong friends on these tours. Perfect for solo travellers, couples, and anyone who enjoys shared adventures, they're a wonderful way to travel.





Travel Essentials

- An ESTA is required for UK and Irish visitors and passports must be valid 6 months beyond return date.
- Download the Mobile Passport Control app before arrival for faster entry.
- Sales tax varies by state and is rarely included in prices shown.
- Tipping is expected: 18–20% in restaurants, \$1–\$5 for service staff.
- Legal drinking age is 21 – always carry photo ID.
- Minimum age for car hire is 25 and a credit card is required (also recommended for hotel check-ins)
- Travel insurance is essential for healthcare cover.

Domestic flights

The USA offers excellent flight connections between regions, making it easy to combine multiple highlights in one trip. For example, pair New York and Orlando for city thrills and family fun, or combine San Francisco and Las Vegas for iconic sights and entertainment.

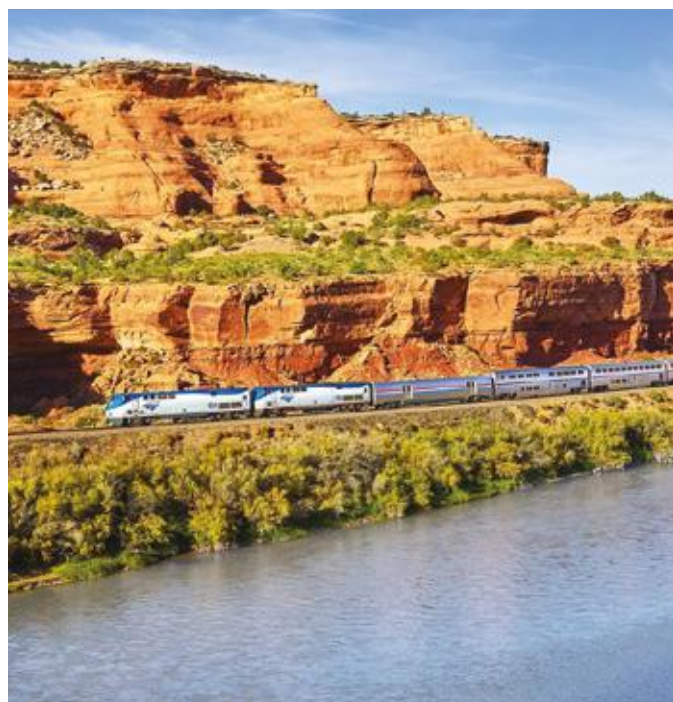
Cruises

A cruise is another effortless way to explore the USA in comfort and style. Sail between vibrant cities and coastal islands, from Alaska's glaciers to Hawaii's volcanic shores. With excursions from whale watching to historic city tours, it's a seamless way to experience the country's natural beauty – and you'll only unpack once.



Amtrak rail

Travelling by train offers a relaxed and scenic perspective of the USA. Amtrak's iconic routes connect major cities and breathtaking landscapes, especially along the East Coast from Boston to Washington, DC. It's a comfortable, convenient, and eco-friendly way to see America unfold from your window seat.



THE USA'S National Parks

America's national parks open the door to some of the world's most dramatic landscapes – places where giant sequoias tower overhead, geysers erupt from ancient ground, and sandstone arches glow at sunset. Each park has its own personality, making them perfect for road trips, hiking adventures, or simply slowing down in nature.



Yosemite National Park, California



Yosemite in California is all about scale, from granite giants like El Capitan and Half Dome to sweeping meadows and roaring spring waterfalls. **Yellowstone** in Wyoming brings a completely different energy with colourful hot springs, erupting geysers, and herds of bison roaming wide-open valleys, creating one of North America's most vivid wildlife landscapes.

Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee blends misty ridgelines, wildflower-filled valleys, and historic Appalachian settlements, making it a favourite for scenic drives, easy hikes, and summer wildlife spotting.

Rocky Mountain in Colorado adds soaring alpine peaks, mountain lakes and wildlife-rich valleys. Utah's parks deliver pure red-rock drama. **Zion** surrounds you with towering sandstone cliffs and emerald canyons, while **Arches** and **Canyonlands** showcase natural stone arches, vast desert viewpoints, and deep river-carved canyons that glow at golden hour.

The **Grand Canyon** in Arizona remains the USA's most iconic panorama – layered cliffs dropping into an immense, colourful gorge, best seen at sunrise or sunset along the rim trails. On the east coast, **Acadia** in Maine mixes pine forests, granite peaks, and rugged shores, especially stunning in autumn when the foliage blazes red and gold.

Death Valley in California offers extremes: salt flats, shifting dunes, desert mountains, and spectacular night skies. **Everglades** in Florida reveals a unique wetland world of waterways, mangroves and wildlife. **Crater Lake** in Oregon dazzles with its deep-blue volcanic lake, and **Olympic National Park** in Washington State brings an impressive mix of rainforest trails, alpine meadows, rugged beaches, and snowy peaks, making it one of the country's most diverse landscapes.



Our tips and tricks

- The America the Beautiful Pass is the most cost-effective way to visit multiple national parks, offering unlimited access and quickly saving you money across several stops. Buy the annual pass online at [NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov/abpass).
- Some popular national parks require entry reservations in advance during peak season
- Arrive early to secure parking and stay flexible – weather can change plans
- Pack layers and a refillable bottle - the weather can change very quickly, and many parks have water stations
- Download offline maps, as phone signal can disappear – handy for navigation
- Respect wildlife and admire from a safe distance



Western USA inspiration



Los Angeles



Palm Springs



Scottsdale

Discover western USA on this two-week itinerary traversing California, Arizona and Nevada on a sun-soaked adventure. Every day presents a new experience, and we'll personalise the itinerary to you.

DAY 1: Los Angeles

Arrive in Los Angeles, a city of movie landmarks and Pacific beaches. Spend the afternoon exploring at your own pace. Visit Hollywood Boulevard and the Walk of Fame, wander through Beverly Hills, or head to Santa Monica to watch the sunset.

DAY 2: Palm Springs

Collect your car and travel east to Palm Springs, a glamorous desert retreat. Relax by the pool, browse boutiques and art galleries, or take the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway for views across the Coachella Valley. The relaxed resort atmosphere is ideal for easing into your journey.

DAY 3: Scottsdale

Continue across the open desert to Scottsdale. Discover its charming Old Town with wooden boardwalks and Western-style shops or unwind in one of the region's renowned spa hotels. As evening falls, dine outdoors under warm desert skies.

DAY 4-5: Grand Canyon

Travel north to the Grand Canyon, one of the world's most iconic natural wonders. Spend two nights here to appreciate the changing colours and vast scale of the canyon. Walk along the rim for spectacular viewpoints, join a ranger-led talk, or take an unforgettable helicopter flight.

DAY 6-7: Las Vegas

Drive to Las Vegas, where desert landscapes give way to dazzling lights. Wander the famous Strip, enjoy world-class dining, or see a live show. You may also choose to visit nearby Hoover Dam, a striking engineering achievement set above Lake Mead. Whether you prefer lively entertainment or relaxing poolside, Las Vegas offers both.



DAY 8: Death Valley National Park

Leave the city and enter the dramatic wilderness of Death Valley National Park. Explore rolling sand dunes, salt flats and multi-coloured canyons. Visit Badwater Basin, the lowest point in North America, and take in sweeping views from Zabriskie Point.

DAY 9-10: Yosemite National Park

Continue into the Sierra Nevada mountains to Yosemite National Park, home to soaring granite cliffs, ancient sequoias and cascading waterfalls. Spend your time wandering valley trails, gazing up at El Capitan, Yosemite Falls and Half Dome, or driving to Glacier Point for unforgettable vistas.

DAY 11-12: San Francisco

Travel to San Francisco, known for its hillside neighbourhoods and sweeping bay views. Explore Fisherman's Wharf, take a ferry to Alcatraz, or ride a classic cable car through the city streets. Stroll along the waterfront or enjoy dinner overlooking San Francisco Bay.

DAY 13: Monterey & Carmel

Drive south to Monterey and neighbouring Carmel-by-the-Sea. Visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium, walk the scenic coastal paths, or browse Carmel's boutique shops and galleries. The jagged coastline and ocean viewpoints are particularly memorable.

DAY 14: Pacific Coast Highway & Santa Barbara

Follow the spectacular Pacific Coast Highway, where dramatic cliffs, beaches and ocean views stretch for miles. Pause in Santa Barbara, known for Mediterranean-style architecture, relaxed cafés and golden beaches.

DAY 15: Los Angeles Departure

Return to Los Angeles for your flight home or extend your stay for extra time by the coast.



Death Valley National Park



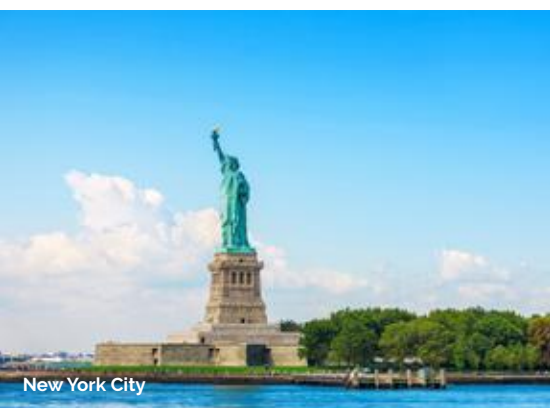
Yosemite National Park



San Francisco



Southern and eastern USA inspiration



New York City

Embark on a vibrant two-week journey through the American South and East Coast, travelling from New York to the Deep South and ending in Miami. We can tailor the route to your interests.

DAY 1-2: New York City

Arrive in New York City and take the evening to settle in. See Times Square, stroll along Fifth Avenue, and explore the incredible dining scene.

DAY 3: Philadelphia

Travel to Philadelphia, where you'll visit historic sites including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

DAY 4-5: Washington, DC

Join a guided city tour featuring the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. The afternoon is yours – choose to visit one of the Smithsonian museums, stroll the National Mall, or enjoy a riverfront café.



Washington, DC

DAY 6: Virginia

Head south to Colonial Williamsburg, where costumed interpreters and restored buildings recreate 18th-century life. Explore the historic streets before continuing to Roanoke in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

DAY 7: Blue Ridge Parkway & Great Smoky Mountains

Follow the Blue Ridge Parkway into Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where mist-covered valleys dominate the landscape. Continue to the mountain town of Gatlinburg for an overnight stay.



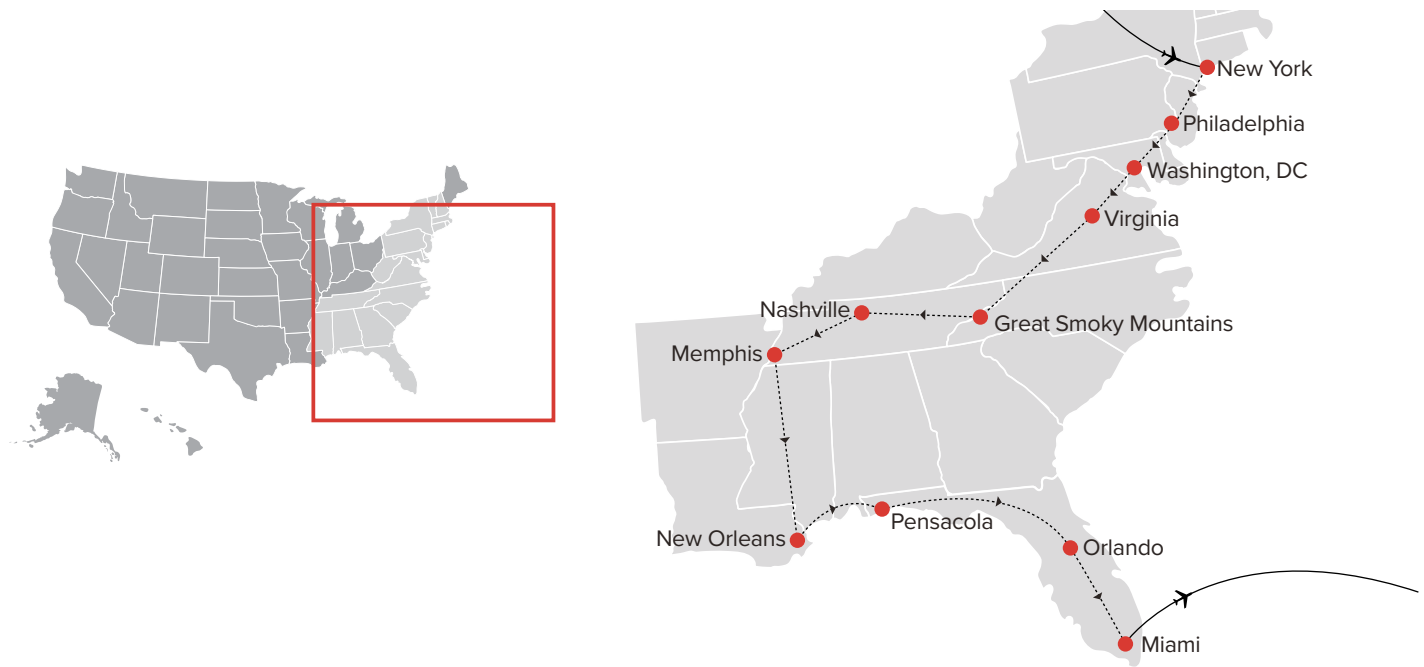
Great Smoky Mountains

DAY 8: Nashville

Head west to Nashville, home of country music. Explore Music Row, visit the Country Music Hall of Fame, or enjoy live performances in local venues for a taste of Nashville's warm hospitality.

DAY 9: Memphis

Travel to Memphis, famous for blues, soul and rock 'n' roll. Visit Beale Street, or take a tour of Graceland, Elvis Presley's legendary home.



DAY 10-11: New Orleans

Travel south to New Orleans. Stroll the lively French Quarter, sample Cajun and Creole dishes, or take a riverboat dinner cruise. Browse the boutiques of the French Quarter, take a streetcar to the Garden District, or join a bayou tour to discover Louisiana's wetland wildlife and culture.

DAY 12: Pensacola

Travel along the Gulf Coast to Pensacola, stopping at Bellingrath Gardens. On arrival, stroll white-sand beaches and enjoy the warm Gulf waters.

DAY 13-14: Orlando

Drive east across Orlando. Spend time enjoying the Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando theme parks and exploring local dining and entertainment.

DAY 15: Miami

Visit the Kennedy Space Center before continuing to Miami. Spend your final evening enjoying South Beach's Art Deco architecture and vibrant nightlife.

DAY 16: Departure

Your journey ends in Miami. You may choose to extend your stay to enjoy more of Florida's sunshine. We'd recommend exploring the beaches along the west coast, or a road through the beautiful Florida Keys, all the way down to quirky Key West.



New Orleans



Orlando

Your dream USA adventure awaits...

We tailor every itinerary around you – from scenic road trips to flexible flights and train journeys. Speak with our travel experts and we'll create a holiday that's uniquely yours.



Miami

Contact Us

For more information and help
with tailor making your holiday,
talk to one of our friendly team

9am-7pm Mon-Fri

9am-5pm Sat-Sun

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