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## Chicago

The Windy City will blow you away with its cloud-scraping architecture, lakefront beaches and world-class museums. But its true mojo is its blend of high culture and earthy pleasures. Is there another city that dresses its Picasso sculpture in local sports-team gear? Where residents queue for hot dogs in equal measure to some of North America's top restaurants? Sure, the winters are brutal, but come summer, Chicago (p155) fetes the warm days with food and music festivals. Jay Pritzker Pavilion (p159), designed by Frank Gehry


## Miami

How does one city get so lucky? Most content themselves with one or two highlights, but Miami (p179) seems to have it all. Beyond the stunning beaches and Art Deco Historic District, there's culture at every turn. In cigar-filled dance halls, Havana expats dance to son and boleros; in exclusive nightclubs stiletto-heeled, fiery-eyed Brazilian models shake to Latin hip-hop; and in the park old men clack dominoes. To top it off, street vendors and restaurants dish out diverse flavors from the Caribbean, Cuba, Argentina and Spain.



# Plan Your Trip Ten-Day Itinerary 



## Big Apple to the Big Easy

Delve into two of the USA's most fascinating cities - New York City and Washington, DC-for their worldclass museums, iconic buildings, and top-notch food and entertainment options. Then head south for sparkling beaches, Disney magic and Cajun cooking on a ramble through Miami, Orlando and New Orleans.

## (1) New York City (p35)

Spend two days exploring the metropolis, visiting memorable people-watching 'hoods such as Chinatown, the West and East Villages, SoHo, Nolita and the Upper West Side. Museum-hop down the Upper East Side. Wander in Central Park, along the High Line and across the Brooklyn Bridge. Prioritize iconic sights, including the Statue of Liberty and MoMA. In the evenings, catch a Broadway show or a
concert at legendary Carnegie Hall or the Lincoln Center.

- New York City to Washington, DC
( $31 / 2$ hrs Amtrak Northeast Regional train


## (2) Washington, DC (p127)

Take two days to see the nation's capital. Spend one day on the National Mall, exploring the monuments, memorials and Smithsonian museums. On the next day, head to Georgetown for shopping, caféhopping and ambling along atmospheric tree-lined streets. At night, seek out eating and drinking hot spots in Logan Circle, Shaw and Capitol Hill.
$\bigcirc$ Washington, DC to Miami
$21 / 2 \mathrm{hrs}$

## (3) Miami (p179)

Get ready for two days in body-beautiful Miami. Stroll the Technicolor backdrop of the Art Deco Historic District, delve into

the contemporary art scene in Wynwood and connect with Miami's Latin roots in Little Havana. Set aside plenty of downtime for playing in the waves, and for long walks on Miami Beach, and plan at least one night out in South Beach.
© Miami to Walt Disney World
4hrs Head north along Florida's Turnpike toll road

## 4 Walt Disney World (p201)

So many theme parks, so little time. You'll have to make some tough choices for your two-day stay. The safe bet: spend day one in the Magic Kingdom, seeing Cinderella's Castle, Pirates of the Caribbean and nightly fireworks; on day two go on safari at Animal Kingdom and see a show in the Tree of Life. Epcot is another top option.
$\bigcirc$ Walt Disney World to New Orleans
用 9hrs West via I-75 and I-10
$11 / 2$ hrs From Orlando

## (5) New Orleans (p213)

By day explore the French Quarter and Jackson Square, or head to the Tremé to learn about New Orleans' deep African American roots. Ride the St Charles Avenue Streetcar and ogle the mansions. In the evenings, have a Cajun feast at Cochon or Coop's, and then go to hear live jazz at a club on Frenchman St.

## Plan Your Trip If You Like...



## Local Delicacies

## Union Oyster House

Guess what gets shucked and sucked in this Boston restaurant? (p108)
Coop's Place Prime New Orleans spot to sample jambalaya and other Cajun dishes. (p230)
Lobster Dock You just can't beat a Maine seaside shack for cracking into a crustacean. (p124)
Giordano's Chicago's deep-dish pizza behemoth. (p174)

## Exquisito Restaurant

Roast pork and plantains in Miami's Little Havana. (p197)

## Architecture

Chicago Birthplace of the skyscraper, Chicago has magnificent works by many of the great 20th-century architects. (p155)
New York City The muchphotographed classics include the art-deco Chrysler Building, the majestic Brooklyn Bridge and the spiraling Guggenheim. (p35) Miami Miami's art-deco district is a Technicolor dream come to life. (p186)
San Francisco See elegant Victorians, cutting-edge 21st-century masterpieces and possibly the most beautiful bridge in the world. (p289)
New Orleans A gorgeous
French colonial center, plus grand mansions reached via a historic streetcar. (p213)

## Historic Sights

## Freedom Trail, Boston

 Visit Paul Revere's home, an 18th-century graveyard and 14 other Revolutionary War sites along the 2.5 -mile path. (p96)Washington, DC See
where Lincoln was assassinated, Martin Luther King Jr gave his famed speech and Nixon's presidency was undone. (p127)
Alcatraz Catch a ferry to the notorious island prison where D-block solitary cells raise goosebumps. (p296)
John F Kennedy National Historic Site Immerse yourself in the Kennedy lifestyle in the house where Jack and various siblings were born. (p106)

## Plan Your Trip <br> Need to Know

When to Go

Tropical climate
Dry climate
Warm to hot summers, mild winters
Mild to hot summers, cold winters


High Season (Jun-Aug)

- Warm days across the country, with generally high temperatures.
- Busiest season, with big crowds and higher prices.
- In ski resort areas, January to March is high season.

Shoulder Season (Oct \& Apr-May)

- Milder temperatures, fewer crowds.
- Spring flowers (April); fiery autumn colors (October) in many parts.


## Low Season (Nov-Mar)

- Wintry days, with snowfall in the north, and heavier rains in some regions.
- Lowest prices for accommodations (aside from ski resorts and warmer getaway destinations).


## Currency

US dollar (\$)

## Language

English

## Visas

Visitors from Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and many EU countries don't need visas for less than 90-day stays. Other nations see http:// travel.state.gov.

## Money

ATMs widely available. Credit cards accepted at most hotels, restaurants and shops.

## Cell Phones

Foreign phones that operate on tri- or quadband frequencies will work in the USA. Or purchase inexpensive cell phones with a pay-as-you-go plan once you're there.

## Driving

Drive on the right; the steering wheel is on the left side of the car.

