

A close-up, low-angle shot of the Statue of Liberty's head and crown against a clear blue sky. The statue's face is the central focus, looking slightly upwards and to the right. The crown's spikes radiate outwards. The lighting is bright, creating strong highlights and shadows on the bronze surface.

lonely planet

- HIGHLIGHTS
- ITINERARIES
- LOCAL EXPERTS
- EASY-TO-USE MAPS

Discover USA

Experience the best of the United States of America

Discover USA

Contents 

Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there

Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking



Sleeping

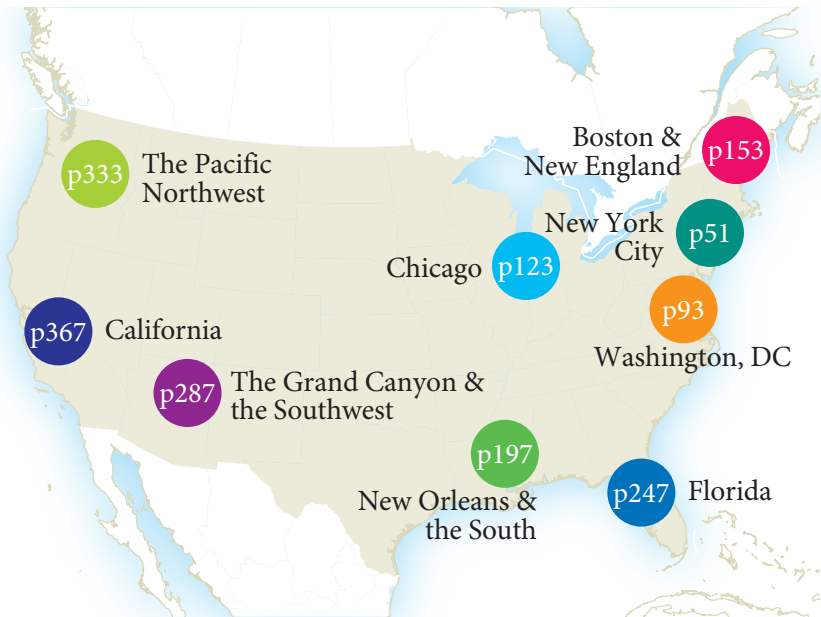


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This Is the USA

Enormous in size and staggeringly diverse, America harbors an astounding collection of natural and cultural wonders, from teeming city streets to mountains, coastlines and forests covering vast swaths of the continent.

America: home to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago, Miami, Boston and New York City. Each is a brimming metropolis whose name alone conjures a million different notions of culture, cuisine and entertainment. Look more closely, and the American quilt unfurls in all its surprising variety: the red-hot music scene of Memphis, the easygoing charms of antebellum Savannah, the eco-consciousness of free-spirited Portland and the magnificent waterfront of San Francisco.

This is a country of road trips and great open skies. It's a country where four million miles of highways lead past red-rock deserts, below towering mountain peaks and across fertile wheat fields that roll off toward the horizon. The scenic country lanes of New England, the lush rainforests of the Pacific Northwest and the Spanish moss-draped backdrop of the Deep South are a few fine starting points for the great American road trip.

Cuisine is another illumination of the American experience. New York locals get their fix of bagels and lox at a century-old deli on Manhattan's Upper West Side, while several states away, pancakes and fried eggs disappear under the clatter of cutlery at a 1950s-style diner. Plates of fresh lobster served off a Maine pier, oysters and champagne in a wine bar in California, beer and deep-dish pizza at a Chicago pub – just a few of the ways to dine à la Americana.

The world's third-largest nation has made tremendous contributions to the arts. Cities like Chicago and New York have become veritable drawing boards for the great architects of the modern era. Musically speaking, America has few peers on the world stage. From the jazz of New Orleans to the country of Nashville, plus bluegrass, hip-hop and rock and roll, America has invented sounds that are integral to modern music.

“
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closely,
and the
American
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”

