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# Plan Your Trip

## USA's Top 12



### New York City

#### *The USA's dynamic mega city*

Home to striving artists, hedge-fund moguls and immigrants from every corner of the globe, New York City (p35) is constantly reinventing itself. A staggering number of museums, parks and ethnic neighborhoods are scattered through the five boroughs. Do as locals do and hit the streets. Every block reflects the character and history of this dizzying kaleidoscope, and on even a short walk you can cross continents. Above: Times Square (p68). Right: Brooklyn Bridge (p75)



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## Grand Canyon National Park

### *Jaw-dropping, red-rock chasm*

The sheer immensity of the Grand Canyon (p253) is what grabs you at first – a two-billion-year-old rip across the landscape that reveals the earth's geologic secrets with commanding authority. But it's nature's artistic touches, from sun-dappled ridges and crimson buttes to lush oases and a ribbon-like river, that hold your attention and demand your return. To explore the canyon, take your pick of adventures: hiking, biking, rafting or mule riding.

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## Yosemite National Park

### ***Gorgeous landscape of peaks and waterfalls***

Meander through wildflower-strewn meadows in valleys carved by rivers and glaciers, whose hard, endless work makes everything look simply colossal (p325). Thunderous waterfalls tumble over sheer cliffs, ant-sized climbers scale the enormous granite domes of El Capitan and Half Dome, and hikers walk beneath ancient groves of giant trees. Even the subalpine meadows of Tuolumne are magnificently vast.





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## Las Vegas

### ***Garish oasis of indulgence***

Just when you think you've got a handle on the West – majestic, sublime, soul-nourishing – here comes Vegas (p237) shaking its thing. Beneath the neon lights of the Strip, the city puts on a dazzling show: dancing fountains, a spewing volcano, the Eiffel Tower. But it saves its most dangerous charms for the gambling dens – seductive lairs where the fresh-pumped air and bright colors share one goal: separating you from your money.

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