

# **WELCOME TO THE USA**

THE MOST FAMOUS LANDMARKS OF THE USA ARE

- THE STARS AND STRIPES
- THE STATUE OF LIBERTY
- THE WHITE HOUSE
- SKYSCRAPERS
- HOLLYWOOD: THE MOVIE INDUSTRY
- THE ENERGY OF CITY LIFE
- THE PLAINS AND COWBOYS' CULTURE
- BEACHES, FORESTS, LAKES AND WATERFALLS

## **THE NATURAL WONDERS OF THE USA**

### **NATIONAL PARKS**

THE USA HAS 59 NATIONAL PARKS. HERE ARE SOME OF THEM:

1. REDWOOD: THERE IS HYPERION, THE TALLEST TREE IN CALIFORNIA
2. DEATH VALLEY: THE HOTTEST AND DRIEST PLACE IN THE USA. TEMPERATURE CAN REACH 50 ° C (DEGREES CENTIGRADES)
3. DENALI: CENTERED AROUND MOUNT MCKINLEY (ALASKA), THE HIGHEST IN THE USA AND ONE OF THE COLDEST IN THE WORLD
4. YOSEMITE
5. YELLOWSTONE
6. GRAND CANYON.

## **NIAGARA FALLS**

THEY ARE ON THE EAST COAST OF THE USA, LOCATED ON THE BORDER BETWEEN CANADA AND THE USA. THERE ARE TWO GREAT WATERFALLS: THE AMERICAN FALLS ARE 53 METERS HIGH AND THE CANADIAN FALLS (HORSESHOE FALLS) ARE WIDER AND MORE IMPRESSIVE. THE NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE CALLED THEM THUNDER OF WATER. THE MOST POPULAR WAY TO SEE THE FALLS IS BY BOAT. AROUND THEM YOU CAN SEE HOTELS, CASINOS AND OBSERVATION POINTS.

## **YOSEMITE**

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK IS LOCATED IN CALIFORNIA, IN THE WEST OF THE USA. THE TALLEST FALLS IN NORTH AMERICA ARE YOSEMITE FALLS: THEY ARE 739 (= SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY – NINE) METERS HIGH. HERE YOU CAN ALSO SEE EL CAPITAN, THE WORLD'S LARGEST GRANITE MONOLITH, FORMED DURING THE ICE AGE, AND HALF DOME, ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS MOUNTAINS IN CALIFORNIA: ITS PEAKS ARE FOR EXPERT HIKERS. YOU CAN SEE GIANT SEQUOIAS, THE TALLEST, THE LARGEST AND THE OLDEST TREES IN THE WORLD IN YOSEMITE. THEY ARE 3,000 (= THREE THOUSANDS) YEARS OLD!

## **YELLOWSTONE**

YOU CAN SEE NATURE AT ITS BEST IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. IT IS FAMOUS FOR ITS WILDLIFE AND ITS GEOTHERMAL AREAS. THERE ARE HOT SPRINGS, BOILING MUDS, FUMARoles AND GEYSERS. SOME GEYSERS ERUPT SEVERAL TIMES A DAY. THERE ARE ALSO HUNDREDS OF SMALLER EARTHQUAKES.

## **GRAND CANYON**

IT IS IN THE WEST. THE COLORADO RIVER AND THE EROSION OF WIND AND RAIN SHAPED THIS SPECTACULAR PLACE OVER A PERIOD OF 6 MILLION YEARS. THE CANYON IS 446 (= FOUR HUNDRED FORTY – SIX) KILOMETERS LONG AND 16 KILOMETERS WIDE.

## FAMOUS AMERICAN CITIES

### NEW YORK

IT IS SITUATED ON THE EAST COAST OF THE USA. IT IS NOT THE CAPITAL CITY, BUT IT IS THE CAPITAL OF **FINANCE AND FUN**.

THERE ARE **FIVE BOROUGHES**: MANHATTAN, THE QUEENS, BROOKLYN, STATEN ISLAND AND THE BRONX. BROOKLYN BRIDGE IS THE MOST FAMOUS BRIDGE AND IT CONNECTS BROOKLYN TO MANHATTAN. THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO SEE ARE IN MANHATTAN.

NEW YORK IS FAMOUS FOR ITS SKYLINE: THERE ARE IMPORTANT **SKYSCRAPERS**: **THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING** HAS 102 FLOORS AND EVERY YEAR THERE IS A RUNNING COMPETITION TO REACH THE TOP. IT'S A BUSY AND CROWDED CITY WHERE YELLOW TAXIS RUSH AROUND VERY FAST. THERE YOU CAN FIND A REFUGE FROM THE CHAOS IN **CENTRAL PARK**, A GREEN OASIS WHERE YOU CAN DO SPORTS OR JUST RELAX, OR YOU CAN ENJOY AN EVENING IN **BROADWAY**: THE THEATRE DISTRICT WITH CINEMAS, THEATRES AND RESTAURANTS. THERE IS ALSO **TIMES SQUARE** WHERE NEW YORKERS CELEBRATED THE NEW YEAR'S EVE.

NEW YORK IS ALSO THE CAPITAL OF FINANCE. HERE IS **WALL STREET**: A BULL REPRESENTS THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE, AS A SYMBOL OF AGGRESSIVE OPTIMISM. IT IS THE CENTRE OF THE WORLD'S DIPLOMACY: THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNO (UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION) ARE HERE.

### WASHINGTON

IT WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON WHO DECIDED TO BUILD THE CAPITAL THERE ON THE RIVER POTOMAC IN 1791. WASHINGTON DC (DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA) IS THE CAPITAL OF THE USA AND IT REMINDS US OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND POWER. IT HAS A LOT OF NEOCLASSICAL BUILDINGS. IN FACT, YOU CAN SEE **THE WHITE HOUSE**, THE RESIDENCE OF EVERY PRESIDENT OF THE USA AND SEAT OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER. BARACK OBAMA LIVES AND WORKS THERE. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS 132 ROOMS, 35 BATHROOMS, A

TENNIS COURT, A JOGGING TRACK, A SWIMMING - POOL AND A CINEMA. **THE CAPITOL** (CAMPIDOGGIO), WHERE THE CONGRESS MEET, IS THE SEAT OF THE LEGISLATIVE POWER AND **THE SUPREME COURT** IS THE SEAT OF THE JUDICIARY POWER. ANOTHER IMPORTANT LANDMARK IS THE TALL OBELISK CALLED THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

### **LOS ANGELES**

IT IS THE MOST POPULATED CITY IN THE USA AND THE SECOND LARGEST AFTER NEW YORK. IT IS A VAST METROPOLITAN AREA SPEAKING HUNDREDS OF LANGUAGES. FAMOUS FOR ITS ENORMOUS BEACHES, MILD WINTERS AND HOT SUMMERS, YOU CAN ENJOY BEACH LIFE ALL YEAR LONG. INTERNATIONAL FAME DERIVES FROM **THE MOVIE INDUSTRY OF HOLLYWOOD.**

### **SAN FRANCISCO**

IT IS THE LIVELIEST CITY IN THE USA. THE MOST POPULAR IMAGE OF SAN FRANCISCO IS **THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE** WITH ITS FOG COMING FROM THE OCEAN ESPECIALLY IN SPRING AND SUMMER. IT IS A MIX OF MODERN AND OLD ARCHITECTURE, LIKE THE VICTORIAN HOUSES OFTEN SEEN IN MOVIES. THE CITY IS ON 50 HILLS BUT YOU CAN TRAVEL AROUND BY **CABLE CARS.**