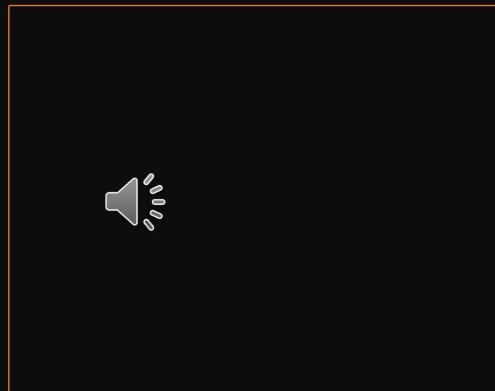
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The United State Of America

•Now we will go to see the United States of America together

The United State of America

 The United States of America is a Union of fifty states plus the District of Columbia. The government of the USA is based on the Constitution, which representatives of the thirteen original states wrote in 1787. Under the Constitution, the USA is a federal republic. Every four years Americans elect the nation's president. American's call their flag "The Stars and Stripes". It has fifty stars to represent the fifty American states and thirteen stripes to represent the thirteen original American states. People in the USA are very proud of their flag, to them it is a symbol of freedom, solidarity and national unity. The colours of the flag are symbolic, too. Red is for strength, white is for purity and blue represents justice. At school children say the Pledge of Allegiance and salute the flag with these words: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." A lot of people put flags in their windows or in their gardens to celebrate Independence Day on July 4 th or to show patriotism, especially since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York on September 11 th, 2001. There is even an American flag on the moon! In 1969 American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin were the first people to walk on the moon. They planted a flag and it is still there!



Washington, D.C • now we're going to see Washington, D.C

Washington, D.C. The home of US government

Washington, D.C. is the capital of the USA. When George Washington became the first president he chose an independent area on the east coast of the USA on the Potomac River for the new capital, named District of Columbia after Christopher Columbus. Because of its long avenues, beautiful parks and the lack of skyscrapers, people often describe it as the most attractive American city. Washington is the center of government. The White House is the home and office of the president. The Capitol is where the United States Congress, the American parliament, meets to make laws. It is divided into two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The judges of the Supreme Court meet in the Supreme Court Building to decide if the actions of the president or the law of the Congress are against the Constitution. Washington also has many universities and some of the most important museums and art galleries in the world.



New York

New York is one of largest cities in the world. It is situated on the Hudson River in New York State. A tribe of Native Americans called "Manhattan" were the first inhabitants of the New York area. In 1626, a Dutchman bought the area for 24 dollars and named it New Amsterdam. Then the English took over in 1664, and renamed it New York. Today New York City is called "the Big Apple". A local sports journalist used the name for the first time in the 1920s. The city began using the name in their advertising to attract tourists. Now Manhattan Island is one of the five boroughs of the city. The others are Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the Bronx. Manhattan is the economic and cultural heart of New York City. As well as the Stock Exchange on Wall Street, it is the home of the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, one of the largest and most important art museums in the world. Manhattan is famous for having lots of different areas, or neighbourhoods. Little Italy is where the first Italian immigrants lived. It has a lot of authentic Italian cafés, restaurants and shops. Chinatown is where 30% of New York's Chinese population lives. There are markets there with Chinese food and clothes and accessories. Harlem is a centre of African American culture and business, with famous jazz clubs and gospel choirs. It is easy to travel around New York. The underground, which is called "the Subway", is one of the largest public transport systems in the world, with more than 460 stations. It is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And did you know? It is an underground system, but 40% of it is above ground!

Manhattan

now we're going to see Manhattan

Magnificent Manhattan

Magnificent Manhattan

Central Park is the perfect place to relax with its lakes, ice-skating rinks and a zoo. It is popular with cyclists, joggers and rollerbladers. Opposite the park there's a luxury apartment building, the Dakota, where many famous people live. John Lennon of the Beatles and his wife, Yoko Ono, lived there. Lennon was assassinated in front of the Dakota in 1980. There is a John Lennon memorial in Central Park called the Strawberry Fields Memorial, after the Beatles' song "Strawberry Fields Forever".Times Square is famous for its Broadway theatres. It is the only place in New York where shops, hotels and cinemas have to have bright signs.To Americans, the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island in New York Harbor is the symbol of American democracy. From 1892 to 1932, the statue was the first thing that European immigrants saw when they arrived in New York by ship.The 9/11 Memorial and Museum commemorates the September 2001 attacks on the USA. It is on the site where two hijacked planes crashed into the Twin Towers, which were part of the World Trade Center. The area became known as GroundZero. The Memorial has two enormous waterfalls and reflecting pools where the towers stood.

