

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – UNITED STATES GENERAL INFORMATION

The United States of America (USA), commonly called the United States or America, is a federal constitutional republic consisting of fifty states and a federal district.

The country is situated mostly in central North America, where its forty-eight contiguous states and Washington, D.C., the capital district, lie between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, bordered by Canada to the north and Mexico to the south. The state of Alaska is in the northwest of the continent, with Canada to the east and Russia to the west across the Bering Strait. The state of Hawaii is an archipelago in the mid-Pacific.

The country also possesses several territories in the Pacific and the Caribbean. At 3.79 million square miles (9.83 million square kilometers) and with over 315 million people, the United States is the third or fourth-largest country by total area and the third-largest by both land area and population.

It is one of the world's most ethnically diverse and multicultural nations, the product of large-scale immigration from many countries. The geography and climate of the United States is also extremely diverse and is home to a variety of species.

San Francisco, California

San Francisco, officially the City and County of San Francisco, is the leading financial and cultural center of Northern California and the San Francisco Bay Area.

It is the most densely settled large city (population greater than 200,000) in the state of California and the second-most densely populated major city in the United States after New York City. San Francisco is the fourth most populous city in California, after Los Angeles, San Diego and San Jose.



San Francisco (Spanish for "Saint Francis") was founded on June 29, 1776, when colonists from Spain established a fort at the Golden Gate and a mission named for St. Francis of Assisi a few miles away. The California Gold Rush of 1849 brought rapid growth, making it the largest city on the West Coast at the time.

After three-quarters of the city was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire, San Francisco was quickly rebuilt, hosting the Panama-Pacific International Exposition nine years later. During World War II, San Francisco was the port of embarkation for service members shipping out to the Pacific Theater. After the war, the confluence of returning servicemen, massive immigration, liberalizing attitudes, and other factors led to the Summer of Love and the gay rights movement, cementing San Francisco as a center of liberal activism in the United States.

Today, San Francisco is one of the top tourist destinations in the world, and is renowned for its cool summers, fog, steep rolling hills, eclectic mix of architecture, and landmarks including the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, the former prison on Alcatraz Island, and its Chinatown district. It is also a primary banking and finance center.



We kindly thank our sponsors



Vontobel Swiss Wealth Advisors AG



National Association of State Boards of Accountancy



BANK ALPINUM 

Language

English is the national language. Although there is no official language at the federal level, some laws—such as U.S. naturalization requirements—standardize English. In 2010, about 230 million, or 80% of the population aged five years and older, spoke only English at home.

Spanish, spoken by 12% of the population at home, is the second most common language and the most widely taught second language.

Culture

The United States is a multicultural nation, home to a wide variety of ethnic groups, traditions, and values. Aside from the now small Native American and Native Hawaiian populations, nearly all Americans or their ancestors immigrated within the past five centuries.

Mainstream American culture is a Western culture largely derived from the traditions of European immigrants with influences from many other sources, such as traditions brought by slaves from Africa. More recent immigration from Asia and especially Latin America has added to a cultural mix that has been described as both a homogenizing melting pot, and a heterogeneous salad bowl in which immigrants and their descendants retain distinctive cultural characteristics.

American culture is considered the most individualistic in the world. The American Dream, or the perception that Americans enjoy high social mobility, plays a key role in attracting immigrants. While the mainstream culture holds that the United States is a classless society, scholars identify significant differences between the country's social classes, affecting socialization, language, and values.

The American middle and professional class has initiated many contemporary social trends such as modern feminism, environmentalism, and multiculturalism. Americans' self-images, social viewpoints, and cultural expectations are associated with their occupations to an unusually close degree. While Americans tend greatly to value socioeconomic achievement, being ordinary or average is generally seen as a positive attribute.

Climate

Because of its sharp topography and maritime influences, San Francisco exhibits a multitude of distinct microclimates.

The dry period of May to October is mild to warm, with average high temperatures of 64–71°F (18–22°C) and lows of 51–56°F (11–13°C).

Entry regulations/visa

Generally speaking, all foreigners require a visa for stays in the United States.

For further information please contact your local United States Embassy or visit the service bureau of consular affairs at http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_1342.html

Please remember that the United States Government is very strict with entry visas, therefore we urge you to organize your visa as soon as possible.

Please note that all individuals are responsible for their own travel arrangements and visa matters.

We kindly thank our sponsors



Vontobel Swiss Wealth Advisors AG



BANK ALPINUM