



America

Incl. Canada, Mexico &
Hawaii stopovers
2011/12

**Legendary
for a reason**

**Your travel guide to
Contiki & America**



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Welcome to Contiki!

Thank you for choosing to travel with Contiki!

We can't wait to meet you and take you through North America – one of the most diverse and stunning places on earth.

Before you get here, please take some time to read through this Travellers Guide – it's full of useful information on North America and your holiday.

Contiki has been running tours since 1961 and our experience means we can give you some pretty useful tips – what to pack, how much money you'll need, what to do in the city where your tour starts, and much more – the more we help you prepare for your tour the better.

On behalf of all the Contiki North America Team – have a great holiday!

Greg Fischbein
President
Contiki USA



Personal details\

About me:

Name:

Home Address:

.....

.....

email:.....

Mobile Phone:.....

Home Phone:.....

Blood Group:.....

Allergies:.....

Driver's Licence (Home):.....

Driver's Licence (International):.....

PIN:.....

Emergency contact:

Name:.....

Relationship:.....

Phone:.....

Passport details:

Number:.....

Expiry Date:

Date passport issued:.....

Where passport issued:

Travel insurance:

Company Name:

Policy Number:.....

Finding your way around

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Map of America, Canada, Mexico & Hawaii





MANITOBA

ONTARIO

QUEBEC

MINNESOTA

WISCONSIN

MICHIGAN

NEW YORK

MAINE

VERMONT

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MASS.

IOWA

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

OHIO

PENNS-
YLVANIA

MARYLAND

NEW JERSEY

KANSAS

MISSOURI

KENTUCKY

W.VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA

N.CAROLINA

ARKANSAS

TENNESSEE

S.CAROLINA

OKLAHOMA

ALABAMA

GEORGIA

MISSISSIPPI

LOUISIANA

FLORIDA

Merida

Cancun

Gulf of Mexico

Quebec City

Ottawa

Montreal

Toronto

Niagara Falls

New York

Philadelphia

Annapolis

Washington D.C.

Richmond

Raleigh

Nashville

Memphis

Charleston

Savannah

Tallahassee

St. Augustine

Orlando

Cocoa Beach

Miami

Sioux Falls

Madison

Milwaukee

Chicago

Cleveland

Pittsburgh

Dallas

Little Rock

Jackson

New Orleans

Before you go\

What to pack?

The golden rule of travellers is: "Decide how many clothes you want to take – halve the amount and that's how much you'll need!"

Baggage allowance

You may bring on tour with you one reasonably sized suitcase, (29" x 20" x 10" / 73cm x 50cm x 25cm) with a maximum weight of 20kgs (44lbs) and one piece of hand luggage (to carry on the coach/airplane with you) with a maximum weight of 4kg (8lbs). Please ensure you adhere to this allowance as it is required by North American safety regulations. This applies to tours that have included flights.

Packing checklist

The checklist below gives you an idea of the clothing that you will require on your tour. In North America, even in summer, it can be cool and wet in some locations, and warm clothing is definitely recommended on tours early or late in the year.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rainproof jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Alarm Clock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeans | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing material |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thick Sweater/Jumper | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin – medicines, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptor for electrical appliances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thongs - sandals - flip-flops | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera and memory cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 'Going Out' shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Ipod/MP3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable walking shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent |

Guys:

- Casual shirts
- Smart trousers
- Collared Shirts (for evenings out)

Girls:

- Skirts
- Summer dresses
- Smart dress (for evenings out)

Check-in online

Give us your important details and tell us about the things you're interested in before you start your tour. That way, you can just get on with having fun once you arrive. Note: Visit contiki.com/checkin to see if Check-in is available in your region.

Electricity & Voltage

The majority of the locations where Contiki travel in North America operate on 120v as opposed to other countries which operate on alternating current (AC) which varies between 220 – 240v. Clients from countries outside North America should note that due to the difference in voltage, you will require a power convertor to enable your electrical equipment to work in North America.

In all locations in North America you will require an adaptor which allows you to plug into a 2 pin North American power socket.

Flying hints

- Ensure you carry all your travel documentation, your camera and any things to keep you occupied on your flight in your hand luggage.
- Most airports have restrictions on the amount of liquids that can be in your hand luggage. Check this before you pack.
- Take advantage of Duty-Free shopping but check the current Duty-Free limits that apply in the country of your destination.
- Don't carry articles packed by others and never accept articles to carry from people not known to you.
- On longer flights to North America, make sure you drink plenty of water and walk the aisle regularly.
- Adjust immediately into local time on arrival by staying awake until evening before sleeping. This will help you recover from jet-lag.

Documents & Money

The checklist below gives you an idea of some other things you may need to organise and pack before you depart:

- Travel insurance
- Passport
- Visas (if applicable, see below)
- Credit cards/cash/Travellers Cheques
- Contiki tour documents / hotel vouchers
- Copies of your passport, credit card numbers, travel insurance policy, etc.

Visas

Depending on your nationality, you may require visas to enter some of the countries included in your tour. Check with your travel agent or online at <http://travel.state.gov> to determine whether you require visas and ensure you obtain them prior to departure if necessary.

Money matters\

Currency

The main three currencies you'll encounter in North America is the US Dollar, the Canadian Dollar and the Mexican Peso

America

The basic unit of currency in the USA is the dollar (\$ USD). One dollar is made up of 100 pennies. In paper form you'll find \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes / bills. The coins available are ¢.01 (penny), ¢ .05 (nickel), ¢10 (dime), ¢.25 (quarter), ¢.50, \$1.00 (rare)

Canada

The basic unit of currency in the Canada is the dollar (\$CAD). One dollar is made up of 100 pennies. In paper form you'll find \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes / bills. The coins available are ¢.01 (penny), ¢ .05 (nickel), ¢10 (dime), ¢.25 (quarter), ¢.50, \$1.00 (Looney) and \$2.00 (Tooney)

Mexico

The basic unit of currency in the Mexico is the Peso (\$MXN or \$MX). One Peso is made up of 100 Mexican cents (centavos). In paper form you'll find \$20, \$50, \$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 pesos notes / bills. The coins available are ¢.5, ¢.10, ¢.20, ¢.50, \$1.00 \$2.00 \$5.00 and \$10.00

Access to money

We highly recommend that you carry your currency in a number of different ways (cash, credit cards, travellers cheques) so that you have access to money at all times while you're on tour.

It is always advisable to start your tour with some cash in local currencies such as USD, CAD dollars or MXN pesos (both Canada and Mexico will accept USD but usually at an unfavourable exchange rate). Beyond that, there are a number of options:

- Access cash from your own bank account via a debit card – having a card with a Visa, MasterCard or Maestro logo on it will mean you have access at a large number of cash machines.
- Purchase a pre-paid debit card via a company such as Travelex which allows you to load money onto the card which can be withdrawn while you are overseas. You may even be able to buy your card in USD which means you know exactly how much you're spending in advance.
- Credit cards – use your credit cards from home to reduce the amount of cash you need to carry. Most restaurants, shops, museums, sights, etc. in North America will accept payment by credit card.
- All cash machines in North America require a pin number to be entered when using them – ensure your debit cards, pre-paid cards and credit cards have a pin number connected to them.

- Travellers Checks - USD\$ travellers cheques are accepted as cash in virtually all retail stores in the US, eliminating the need to convert them to currency prior to making a purchase. In Canada and Mexico, UDS\$ travellers cheques are widely accepted and can be converted into the appropriate currency for a small fee.

Note: Contiki Explore More optional activities can't be paid for by Maestro cards. We do accept Visa, Mastercard & American Express cards.

Budgeting

There are loads of great things to spend your money on while you're in North America – from a flight over the Grand Canyon, to a special dinner, to those shoes that you just can't resist...so how much money should you bring?

Remember your tour already includes plenty of things such as many breakfasts and evening meals, some sightseeing, guided tours, activities, and much more. So what else will you spend your money on? As a guide, the table below shows you the main items you'll probably spend your money on while you're on tour.

Item	Approximate cost per day	Frequency
Lunch	\$7 - \$10	Every day
Dinner	\$20	On nights when there is no included or optional dinner
Public transport / taxis (during free time)	\$5 - \$20	On free days in cities
Sightseeing / museum entrances	\$10 - \$15 per museum/sight	On free days in cities
Optional Activities	\$15 - \$20	Average amount per day if you do all activities
Entertainment / drinks	\$10 - \$40	As often as you want
Internet access	\$2 - \$5 per hour	On free days in cities
Souvenirs	\$5 - \$10	On free days in cities

Be aware that costs vary from city to city and country to country. In bigger cities, prices tend to be more expensive than in the smaller cities, so you will need more per day (e.g. a beer will cost you around \$6.00 at a regular bar in New York whereas Mexico is not as expensive so you will need less).

Making phone calls

Save money and stay in touch wherever you are with the Contiki Global Phonecard & Contiki International roaming SIM card.

Contiki Global Phonecard – Get your free Global Phonecard in your Contiki Pack!

Save money on calling home from around the World using a Contiki Global Phonecard!

Your Contiki Global Phonecard is more than just a phonecard. It has heaps of great value features:

- Low cost international and long distance calls: Save up to 70% off payphones and hotel phones calling from over 150 countries.
- Each card comes with a free 5 minute call so you can let your family know that you arrived safely.
- Messaging: Friends and family can leave you voice messages for free - no matter where you are. You can then retrieve your messages over the phone or the web. Send SMS (text messages) from the web to any Cell Phone worldwide - check it out at www.contiki.ekit.com.
- 24 x 7 Customer Service: Our multilingual team provide free assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Call the free phone access number for the country you are in and press 0 # to speak with a consultant.

One of the best things about the Contiki Global phonecard is that it is rechargeable! Always go to www.contiki.ekit.com for all the latest access numbers and calling tips. If you are visiting a city where there is an economy number, use this for even cheaper rates. You may require a coin deposit for the payphone but the Contiki Global phonecard rate will be much cheaper. Dialling Toll Free access numbers usually require no coin deposit but the per-minute charge on your Contiki Global Phonecard will be higher.

If you want an even more convenient option, why not get yourself a free Contiki roaming SIM card? Go to www.contiki.ekit.com/mobile for more information.

It saves you 70% on Global roaming rates and works from all the countries that you will visit on your Contiki tour and more, over 110 Countries in total!

Using your Cell Phone from home while travelling can become very costly. With the Contiki Global SIM card calls cost from just 49c per-minute as well as free to receive calls in over 50 Countries! For more rates information go to: www.contiki.ekit.com/mobile

Save a bundle on your calling and texting from around the world and control your spending whilst travelling.

Keep in touch \

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in the world!

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call credit!

Save up to 70% on
international roaming
charges



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Visit - www.contikius.ekit.com/freesim
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Number when ordering your
Free SIM

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follow your trip online, read
your journal and call or text
you at the click of a button!

Update your Travel Journal
direct from your mobile with
text, photos and podcasts



For more information and to buy yours today
visit www.contiki.ekit.com

Top up your SIM card anytime anywhere either over the phone by dialling 191 or online at www.contiki.ekit.com.

Travel Journal – Get a free automatic Travel Journal with an ekit SIM card!

You could also get a free automatically updated record of your trip when you buy an ekit SIM card!

The travel journal automatically plots your current location using Google maps and uploads photos of where you are to keep family and friends back home up-to-date on your progress!

You have the freedom personalise your Journal as much or as little as you want! Log into journal online or text your entries direct to your Journal using your ekit SIM. You can also upload your own photos and let your friends and family comment on what a great time you are having!

Keeping in touch has never been easier or more fun! Simply go to <http://www.contiki.ekit.com/ekit/tj/> to create your journal and leave your log in details with friends and family back home to let them follow your trip day-by-day. Journal auto-updates with cool features like local time and weather for your current location so folks back home know when to call and leave messages for you! Let mum and dad even top up your calling credit through logging into Journal so there is no excuse not to call home!

So buy an ekit SIM card today and set up your own Travel Journal at <http://www.contiki.ekit.com/ekit/tj/>

International country codes

When calling home you will need to ensure you use the correct country code – below are a few for your reference.

Australia	61	Canada	1
Great Britain	44	USA	1
New Zealand	64	South Africa	27
Japan	81	Indonesia	6
Singapore	65	Malaysia	60
Israel	972	Brazil	55
Mexico	52		

Your Tour Manager can recommend the most convenient places to call home.

Other info\

Your Contiki Crew

Tour Manager

Think of your Tour Manager as your walking, talking guidebook. They're there to help you make the most of each day. They've been on an intensive training tour in North America so they really know their stuff. Best of all they take care of all the organising – accommodation, sightseeing, optional excursions, etc – so that you don't have to.

Tour Driver

Our Tour Drivers are well trained to handle jam-packed streets and fast-moving freeways. They know their way around, so you can sit back and relax.

Accommodation

You'll experience a wide variety of accommodation on our North America tours – from hotels like the Pines Resort near Yosemite National Park, the Tunnel Mountain Resort in Banff National Park or lodging in Grand Canyon National Park. We also have to regular hotels in big cities, to quaint hotels in small towns. Your Tour Manager will explain all the important details such like how check-in works, where your room is located, where dinner will be served, etc.

Your Coach

Our modern air-conditioned coaches are the best in North America, and we update our fleet regularly to make sure they're environmentally friendly. Then there are the Contiki extras like panoramic windows, a stereo sound system, reclining seats, a toilet, and many of our coaches have power points for 'charging on the go' (don't forget your power adaptor).

Since you'll spend a bit of time on the coach travelling from place to place, your Tour Manager will explain the best ways of enjoying your time and keeping the coach comfortable for everybody on board.

Your comfort is our top concern so we make frequent stops every few hours where you will have the opportunity to buy a drink or snack, smoke (if you do) and use toilets. All of our coaches are equipped with a toilet which is available for use in between stops if necessary.

Shopping

There are loads of great places to shop in North America – from well known brands at lower prices than at home, to souvenirs and boutique items.

Your Tour Manager will give you ideas on the best shop, so make sure you ask them at the start of the tour if there's something special you're after.

Health

It's important to look after your health whenever you are travelling, as you may have more late nights and early mornings than you do at home. Your Tour Manager will give you some hints on how to stay healthy while on tour, and will also be able to provide you with obtaining medical assistance if you require it.

Tipping

Tipping is customary in North America. It is an accepted practice in all areas of the service industry, and particularly in restaurants, bars, hotels and taxis. While on tour, your Tour Manager will explain how tipping works in each country that you visit.

Your Tour Manager and Driver also work in the service industry and will be doing everything they can to ensure you have the holiday of a lifetime. At the end of the tour you will be provided with a discrete opportunity to tip your crew – if you feel that they have done an excellent job for the duration of the tour we would recommend a tip of \$3 per person per day. However, this is not compulsory, it's completely up to you.

Laundry Facilities

It's a good idea to start the tour with up to two weeks worth of clean clothes so if it does take you a while to get the opportunity to do washing, you won't be caught out. All laundry services are available at extra cost.

Legal drinking age

The legal drinking and gambling age in the USA is 21 and it is strictly enforced. The legal drinking age in Canada varies by province. In Quebec and Alberta the legal age is 18 and in British Columbia and Ontario it is 19. You must present proof of age when entering clubs, bars & gaming establishments or when purchasing alcohol. The legal age in Mexico is 18.



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Public holidays

America

January 1	New Year's Day
January 17	Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
February 21	Washington's Birthday
May 30	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 5	Labor Day
October 10	Columbus Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 24	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Christmas Day (observed Monday Dec 26th)

Canada

January 1	New Year Day
Feb 21	Family Day
April 22	Good Friday
April 25	Easter
May 23	Victoria Day
July 1	Canada Day
August 1	August civic holiday
September 5	Workers or Labour Day (May Day)
October 10	Thanksgiving Day
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Boxing Day

Mexico

January 1	New Year Day
February 4	Constitution Day
February 24	Flag Day
March 15	Benito Juarez Birthday
May 1	Workers or Labour Day (May Day)
September 16	Independence Day
November 20	Revolution Day
December 25	Christmas Day



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Online check-in\

Save yourself time & Check-in online

Want to jump the line & get on with having fun on the first day of your tour? You can.

Take advantage of Contiki's easy-to-use online Check-in service before you start your tour & skip the paperwork on day 1.

It takes less than 5 minutes & it's simple to use, all you need to do is:

- Visit Contiki.com/checkin
- Follow the instructions on screen & enter all your essential details (like your booking reference, passport & insurance details)
- You're checked in - it's that easy.

You'll also have access to all your essential tour information on your Contiki profile & a whole lot of cool other stuff on the Contiki Community.



Get connected\

Get advice, meet your trip mates, or become a fan!

Join the Contiki Community online & connect with your tour mates before you jet off. Or meet & chat with our super-knowledgeable Contiki crew & past travellers for lots of handy travelling tips.

Get answers to the big questions (like backpack or suitcase & how much money to take) & the small ones too. Jump in to the conversation, start your own or have a read of what others have posted.

You'll also find tons of great advice & articles in Contikipedia too. If you're on Facebook or Twitter, remember to follow us for the latest fun & offers.

Join in now at

 contiki.com/community Or follow us at:

 facebook.com/contiki  twitter.com/

 youtube.com/  flickr.com/contikiholidays

Where your tour starts\

Where your tour starts

Your tour may start in Los Angeles, New York, Vancouver or in one of our other locations in North America. So, what do you do when you arrive there? How do you get around the city? What sights should you see so you don't double up on things included in your tour? All these and many more questions are answered in the following section – so find the city your tour is starting in and get busy planning the start of your trip.

You will need to make your own way to the start hotel for your tour. Information about your tour start hotel can be found in the information section of your Contiki travel documents. The list below shows all of our start cities in North America, and the pages in this guide where you'll find information about them.

- Los Angeles pages 23-28
- New York pages 28-34
- Hawaii pages 34-37
- Las Vegas pages 39-42
- Chicago pages 42-47
- New Orleans pages 47-49
- San Francisco pages 51-58
- Vancouver pages 63-65
- Mexico City pages 69-73

Your pre tour Kick-start meetings

Kick-start your Contiki experience with your fellow travelers & Tour Manager at this informal get-together before your tour. Kick-start meetings are a great way to meet your travel buddies & learn any important new information about your holiday before you go.

Your kick-start meeting takes place on the night before your tour departure, or, on the first day of tour (see below for details relating to individual tours). The meetings are usually held in the start hotel reception area, however it's important that you check the Contiki 'welcome letter' you receive from the hotel front desk to confirm the exact location.

Note: If you haven't already used our easy online check-in service please bring your passport with you to the meeting.

Los Angeles

Tour	Kick Start Meeting	Check In	Tour Departs
Wild Western	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
LA to the Bay	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Western Highlights	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
LA Explorer	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Grand Southern	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Southern Adventure	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Grand Northern	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Northern Adventure	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Best of USA	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am

Kick Start meetings will be held in the reception area of the Kyoto Grand Hotel - just across from the reception desk.

Check in will take place in the tour lobby which is located past the hotel reception area and elevators to the guest rooms

Las Vegas

Tour	Kick Start Meeting	Check In	Tour Departs
California Highlights	4pm first day of the tour	4pm	4:30pm
LV New Year	4pm first day of the tour	4pm	4:30pm

Kick Start meetings & check in will be held in the reception area of Harrah's - look for your Tour Manager near the front desk.

Chicago

Tour	Kick Start Meeting	Check In	Tour Departs
Rock & Soul	5pm first day of the tour	5pm	5:30pm
North by Northeast	5pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Northern Adventure	5pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am

Kick Start meetings & check in will be held in the reception area of the Best Western Grant Park

New Orleans

Tour	Kick Start Meeting	Check In	Tour Departs
Eastern	8:30am first day		
Discovery	of the tour	8:30am	9am
Southern	8:30am first day		
Adventure	of the tour	8:30am	9am

Kick Start meetings and check in will be held in the reception area of the Holiday Inn

New York

Tour	Kick Start Meeting	Check In	Tour Departs
Grand Northern	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
North by Northeast	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Grand Canadian	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Grand Southern	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Eastern Discovery	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
NY Explorer	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Best of the USA	5pm first day of the tour	5pm	5:30pm
Eastern Escapade	5pm first day of the tour	5pm	5:30pm
NY New Year	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am

Kick Start meetings and check in will be held in the lobby of the hotel

Vancouver

Tour	Kick Start Meeting	Check In	Tour Departs
Grand Canadian	7pm evening before departure	10am	10:30am
Canada & the Rockies	7pm evening before departure	10am	10:30am

Kick Start meetings and check in will be held in the hotel reception area

Mexico City

Tour	Kick Start Meeting	Check In	Tour Departs
Mexico Grande	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Mexican Fiesta	7pm evening before departure	7am	7:30am
Yucatan Explorer	5pm first day of the tour	5pm	5:30pm

San Francisco

Tour	Kick Start Meeting	Check In	Tour Departs
SF New Year	7pm evening before departure	8am	8:30am

Kick Start meeting and check in will be held in the hotel reception area

USA

Country Code: +1

Currency: Dollar (USD) \$

Language: English

Los Angeles, California

Area Code: 310 & 213

Climate: Average seasonal temperatures: Spring 20.5-22.7°C (69-73°F), Summer 24-28°C (76-84°F), Autumn 24-29°C (76-85°F) and Winter 20-21°C (68-70°F)

Arriving in Los Angeles

From Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

By shared shuttle: Claim your luggage, proceed outside and look for the orange "Shared Ride Van" sign located on the outer island. Contact the Guest Service Representative dressed in a blue Super Shuttle uniform and they will assist with your transportation needs. You can book in advance online at www.supershuttle.com. Use the discount code 57ZAX to receive \$2 off your fare. Standard fare is \$16. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By Taxi: Taxis from LAX airport to downtown Los Angeles are expensive. It will cost approximately \$49 including a \$2.50 airport surcharge for the journey. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By LAX Flyaway Shuttle: Take advantage of the Kyoto Grand's proximity to Union Station. For just \$7 each way you can take the Flyaway shuttle between Union Station and LAX. Union Station is a quick 10 minute walk from the Kyoto Grand Hotel. Carrying a lot of luggage? Take a cab or call the Kyoto Grand for a complimentary ride in the hotel shuttle. To check the daily schedule for the Flyaway shuttle please navigate to http://lawa.org/welcome_LAX.aspx?id=292.

Contiki's Los Angeles hotel

The Kyoto Grand Hotel is well located in the heart of downtown. It is walking distance to the train and metro station which services Hollywood, Universal City Walk, Universal Studios, Pasadena and Anaheim. You are within walking distance to Staples Center, LA Live, (a new entertainment complex) and a lot of nightlife options.

Kyoto Grand Hotel

120 South Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Reception Telephone: +1 (213) 629-1200

We offer discounted rates for Contiki clients and the accommodation is based on twin share. This is the departure point for all Contiki tours that start in Los Angeles.

NOTE: Check in at the Kyoto Grand is at 3.00pm and check out is at 12.00pm.

Getting around & public transport:

The Downtown LA area is a lively business, shopping and residential district that is in the heart of Los Angeles. Easily accessible by bus or rail, Downtown is home to many of Los Angeles' most widely visited attractions. From the historic neighborhoods of Chinatown, El Pueblo de Los Angeles, and Little Tokyo to arts at the Music Center and MOCA to shopping at the Jewelry and Fashion Districts, Downtown LA provides a wide variety for everyone.

Buses: The easiest way to get around downtown LA is by DASH, a local bus service. There are six routes that service the downtown area. The fare is .35 (you must have exact change). DASH runs weekdays from 6.00am to 7.00pm (depending on the route) and weekends 10.00am to 5.00pm.

It is important to note that the Los Angeles metropolitan area is vast and is very much a car culture. However, there is public transportation that will take you to some of its well-known destinations.

Metro: The Metro station is located in Union Station which is less than a 10 minute walk from Contiki's hotel. The Red Line runs to Hollywood and Universal City, where Universal Studios is located. The Gold Line will take you to Old Town Pasadena (exit Memorial) one of Southern California's oldest communities. The Blue Line will take you to Long Beach where the Queen Mary is located (Note: The Anaheim listed on the Blue Line is not Anaheim the city where Disneyland is located). Fares will vary based on how far you travel on each line but the base fare is \$1.50 and a day pass may be purchased for \$5.

Big Blue Bus: This is a bus that services Santa Monica. You can catch the Express #10 bus at Olvera St. & El Pueblo Visitors' Centre, a short walk from the Contiki hotel and take it to Santa Monica. The 1-way fare is \$1.75. It takes approximately an hour.

For more information on metro and bus routes go to www.experiencela.com

AMTRAK: AMTRAK is a nationwide train service. Trains leave from Union Station in Downtown Los Angeles for cities such as Anaheim, San Diego and San Francisco. Amtrak also operates a bus service to Las Vegas. www.amtrak.com

Taxi cabs: There are nine franchise taxi operators in the City of Los Angeles who operate more than 2300 taxis. Be sure before boarding any taxi in the city of Los Angeles that you look for the official City of Los Angeles Taxicab Seal. Taxicabs bearing this seal are insured, have trained drivers and are regularly inspected by the City of Los Angeles. Any taxi without the seal has no legal authorization to operate in the City. Cabs can be hailed from the street and generally if their sign is lit-up they are available.

The starting fare is \$2.85 and \$.30 for each additional 1/9th mile or 37 seconds of wait time. The 10%-15% gratuity is not included in the final fare.

Note: Public transport and taxi rates are subject to change

Tour itinerary and departure information:

Tours that depart from Los Angeles usually do not spend any time sightseeing in the city. The exceptions are the LA Explorer and the Best of USA. It's important that you make the most of any time you have in the city before your tour departs or on your return.

Ideas for sites to visit in your free time Los Angeles

Beverly Hills: The home to movie stars, famous athletes and musicians, Beverly Hills is a must-see attraction in Los Angeles. Stroll up and down Rodeo Drive and Melrose Avenue - you'll marvel at the prices in the luxurious boutiques.

Hollywood: Take a walk down Hollywood Boulevard where the sidewalks are lined with stars. Stop off at Mann's Chinese Theatre where the hand and footprints of many of America's most famous silver screen stars are imprinted in cement.

Universal Studios: You'll spend an extraordinary and unforgettable day right in the middle of the greatest film adventures and right alongside the biggest stars. You'll go 'behind the scenes' to share in the magic of how television, movies and movie history are made.

Universal City Walk: Attached to Universal Studios, Universal CityWalk is a shopping, dining and entertainment complex. It's an ideal destination for a night of fun. In addition to its nightclubs, restaurants, shops and cinemas, CityWalk is also host to a variety of concerts and special events throughout the year.

Santa Monica: The subject of popular songs, movies and television shows, the city has a vibe like no other. Visit the Third Street Promenade, a stroller's paradise known for its multitude of movie theatres, restaurants and animated street performers. Or take a trip to the famous and historic Santa Monica Pier, home to savoury smells from fast food stalls and the solar powered, nine-story high Ferris wheel that has long been a symbol of the city. This is also where historic Route 66 ends. If your feet start to fail, hop on the electric powered Tide Shuttle, a bus service that runs along the beach offering great views plus a ride to the artsy Bergamot Station and the Santa Monica Museum of Art.

Venice Beach: A desired destination for travellers from all over the world. It is unlike any place on Earth, well known for its artists, street performers and funky atmosphere. It is a virtual carnival running year round with free admission.

Hop-on, Hop-off double decker Fun tour: With Starline's HOP-ON HOP-OFF tour can you discover the whole of Los Angeles on a city tour that allows you to get on or off the bus at any of their 50 stops. Enjoy the open air view inside in a vintage double decker bus from England as the narrated tour points out landmarks from Downtown Los Angeles to the beaches of Santa Monica, with Hollywood and Beverly Hills in between. Hop-on or hop-off as often as you like to explore major attractions, movie studios or dine and shop at Los Angeles's hotspots - when you're ready to continue, just hop back on the bus. You can purchase two types of tickets that are good for all 4 loops: 24 hour tickets or 48 hour tickets. Book online at www.starlinetours.com

Anaheim Disneyland: Welcome to the happiest place on earth. Opened by Walt Disney himself in 1955, Disneyland is one of America's most famous landmarks. The park is split into four different lands - Fantasyland, Adventureland, Frontierland and Tomorrowland - each with their own rides, shops and restaurants.

Disney's California Adventure: Located next to Disneyland, California Adventure is Disney's newest theme park having opened in early 2001. Rides, shows and attractions highlight the diverse state of California. Explore such areas as the Sunshine Plaza, Golden State, Paradise Pier and Hollywood Pictures Backlot.

Downtown Disney: This bustling entertainment area is located adjacent to Disneyland and California Adventure. Downtown Disney has quickly become one of the hottest nightspots in California with its multitude of shops, theatres and restaurants. Just a few of the dining options include: The Rainforest Café, ESPN Zone, The House of Blues and Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen.

Tourist information

On arrival at the hotel collect your "Welcome to Los Angeles" letter from the front desk. This letter is filled with information on things to do and see as well as a reminder for pre-departure meetings and departure times.

The hotel concierge can help you with Los Angeles sightseeing or you can check out Los Angeles Tourism online at www.discoverlosangeles.com



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www.StarLineTours.com

Starline Terminal is at The Chinese Theatre
6925 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA

Internet: The Kyoto Grand has a business centre where you can access your email (at a cost) to let your friends and family know you have arrived safely in Los Angeles, or email after your tour with all your adventure stories.

Luggage storage: If you want to head out and discover the energy of Los Angeles, store your luggage with the front desk until you want to check into your hotel after 3:00pm. If you have done a lot of shopping, or have luggage over 20kg (44lbs), you can store your things at the hotel if you are returning to Los Angeles at the end of your tour. This service is free.

Luggage: It is very important that your 1 piece of luggage is no heavier than 20kg (44 lbs), as this rule is strictly adhered to on morning of departure. Hand luggage must weigh no more than 4kg (8lbs). This applies to tours that have included flights.

Mail pickup point: You can have letters and parcels sent to the Kyoto Grand Hotel, which you can pick up when you arrive. The address is: Kyoto Grand Hotel 120 South Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 USA. Please write: PLEASE HOLD FOR CONTIKI CLIENT: (Your name) ARRIVING on (Arrival date), to avoid confusion.

Short break information: Contiki offers a LA Explorer tour that coincides with most of the Grand Southern, Southern Adventure, Wild Western, LA to the Bay or Western Highlights tours. Book very early, as these are very popular.

If you miss the coach

Should you miss the coach, please check the front desk for a note from your Tour Manager and contact Contiki toll free at 1-800-944-5708 and ask to speak with the Operations department. They will give you detailed information on how to catch up with your tour.



Hot Air Balloon Flights

The Sonoran Desert is one of the foremost ballooning areas in the world. Don't miss the opportunity to discover it for yourself!

Daily flights year round - FAA Certified - Insured

www.HotAirExpeditions.com
Hot Air Expeditions, Inc.

Rated the best hot air balloon flight in Phoenix by Fodor's Travel

Useful LA addresses & telephone numbers

Consulates and Embassies

Australia

Consulate-General
2020 Century Park East 31st
Floor Los Angeles, CA 90067
+ 1 (310) 229-2330

Britain

Consulate-General
11766 Wilshire Blvd, Suite
1200, Los Angeles, CA
90025-6538
+1 (310) 481-0031

Canada

Consulate-General
550 S Hope St, Los Angeles,
CA 90071
+1 (213) 346-2700

Germany

Consulate-General
6222 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite
No. 500. Los Angeles CA
90048
+1 (323) 930-2703

Israel

Consulate-General
6380 Wilshire Boulevard Los
Angeles, CA 90048-5071
+1 (323) 852-5500

Los Angeles transport information

Big Blue Bus+1 310 451-5444
LA Metro+1 800 266-6883 (Toll free)
DASH+1 800 252-9040 (Toll free)
Yellow Cab+1 800 200-1085 (Toll free)

New York

Area Code: 212 (Manhattan)

Climate: Average seasonal temperatures: Spring 5-16°C (42-62°F), Summer 21-24°C (71-76°F), Autumn 20-8°C (68-48°F) and Winter 0-3°C (32-37°F)

Arriving in New York

New York is serviced by three airports: John F. Kennedy, La Guardia & Newark

From John F. Kennedy Airport (JFK)

By shared shuttle: Claim your luggage then follow the signs to the Ground Transportation Desk near the Baggage Claim area. You can either call SuperShuttle directly on the courtesy phone or ask an agent at the desk to arrange for SuperShuttle service. You can book in advance online at www.supershuttle.com. Use the discount code 57ZAX to receive \$2 off your fare. Standard fare is \$18. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

Japan

Consulate-General
350 S Grand Ave, #1700, Los
Angeles, CA 90071
+ 1 (213) 617-6700

Korea

Consulate-General
3243 Wilshire Blvd, #300, Los
Angeles, CA 90010
+1 (213) 385-9300

New Zealand

Consulate-General
2425 Olympic Blvd, Suite
600E Santa Monica, CA
90404
+1 (310) 566 6555

South Africa

Consulate-General
6300 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite
600 Los Angeles, CA 90048
+ 1 (323) 651-0902

By taxi: Taxis into the city take anywhere from 30-60 minutes. They cost \$45 "Flat Fare" to Manhattan NOT including bridge tolls and tip. Taxis usually take both cash or credit cards. Make sure to hail a cab in the designated areas or ask a uniformed airport employee to help you. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

From Newark (EWR)

By shared shuttle: Claim your luggage then follow the signs to the Ground Transportation Desk near the Baggage Claim area. You can either call SuperShuttle directly on the courtesy phone or ask an agent at the desk to arrange for SuperShuttle service. You can book in advance online at www.supershuttle.com. Use the discount code 57ZAX to receive \$2 off your fare. Standard fare is \$18. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By taxi: Taxis into the city take anywhere from 20-45 minutes and cost \$30-\$38 NOT including bridge tolls (these are an additional cost). Taxis usually take both cash or credit cards. Make sure to hail a cab in the designated areas or ask a uniformed airport employee to help you. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

From La Guardia (LGA)

By shared shuttle: Claim your luggage then follow the signs to the Ground Transportation Desk near the Baggage Claim area. You can either call SuperShuttle directly on the courtesy phone or ask an agent at the desk to arrange for SuperShuttle service. You can book in advance online at www.supershuttle.com. Use the discount code 57ZAX to receive \$2 off your fare. Standard fare is \$13 It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By taxi: Taxis into the city from LGA take anywhere from 20-40 minutes and cost \$16-\$26 and don't include bridge tolls (these are an additional cost). Taxis usually take both cash or credit cards. Make sure to hail a cab in the designated areas or ask a uniformed airport employee to help you. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By public transport: New York City buses provide service between LaGuardia and Manhattan. For service between LaGuardia and Manhattan, the M60 bus goes to 106th and Broadway with connections on the route to the Q33 and Q47 buses and the E, F, G, R, V and 7 trains on the New York City subway.

Contiki's New York Hotel

The Skyline hotel is well located in the famed Clinton/Hells Kitchen neighbourhood of New York City. It is a few blocks away from the Theatre District, Times Square, Intrepid Museum, fabulous restaurants and nightclubs with easy access to public transport.

Skyline Hotel

725 10 Avenue New York, NY 10019-7199

Reception Telephone: +1 (212) 586-3400

We offer discounted rates for Contiki clients and the accommodation is based on twin share. This is the departure point for all Contiki tours that start in New York.

Note: Check-in at this hotel is at 3.00pm and check-out is at 12:00pm.

Getting around and public transport:

If you can't walk to your destination, the next-best way to get around is by the City's transit system. It's inexpensive, environmentally friendly, a great way to see NYC and it operates 24/7.

Getting a MetroCard is your first step to getting around on the subway or bus. They can be purchased at subway stations, from either automated machines (which accept cash, ATM bank cards and regular credit cards) or from booth attendants. A single subway or bus ride is currently \$2.25. Riders have the choice of buying a pay-per-ride or an unlimited MetroCard. Pay-per-ride cards range in value from \$2.25 to \$89. The unlimited MetroCard allows users to ride as often as they like within a fixed time period: one-day Fun Pass (\$8.25), seven days (\$27).

For more information visit www.mta.info

Subway: The easiest and quickest way to travel around four of the five boroughs is by public subway. Riding the subway or 'the train' is the best way to feel like a local during your stay in NYC. Trains operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and for \$2.25 (cost of a single ride), you can use the system citywide and transfer as many times as you need, so long as you don't exit the system through a turnstile. You can transfer from bus to subway or vice versa within two hours of using your MetroCard. Subway stations are generally about eight to 10 blocks apart.

Buses: Public buses are a scenic way to see the city and a great way to reach destinations not convenient to a subway stop. All city buses accept MetroCards and exact coin change (no pennies accepted). Check the route sign atop the front of the bus before boarding to ensure it's the bus you want. Buses operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and for \$2.25 (cost of a single ride) will take you any distance until the end of the route. Waits vary, depending on the time of day, but they're usually 5–15 minutes. Buses generally stop every other block on avenue routes and every block on cross-street routes.

AMTRAK: AMTRAK is a nationwide train service.

Trains leave from Penn Station in midtown Manhattan for cities such as Boston, Philadelphia and Washington DC.
www.amtrak.com

Taxi cabs:

There are 12,187 Yellow Cabs (taxi's) that service New York City. Cabs can be hailed from the street and generally if their sign is lit-up they are available. Yellow Medallion cabs are the only ones authorized to pick up hails. Any cab without the medallion has no legal authorization to operate in the City. These are regular cars that will take you from place to place; they usually cost more than cabs and aren't as well regulated (or as safe). Taxi cabs are required to take you to your destination inside the metropolitan area. Cabs take both cash and credit card however if you are paying cash its a good idea to have small bills because the cabbies can't usually break anything higher than \$20. The starting fare is \$3 and \$.50 for each additional 1/5th mile or 1 minute of wait time. Mon-Fri there is a \$1 peak surcharge (4pm-8pm) and a \$0.50 night surcharge (8pm-6am). Tolls are extra but additional riders are free. The 10%-15% gratuity is not included in the final fare.

Note: Public transport and taxi rates are subject to change.

Tour itinerary and departure information

Tours that depart from New York usually do not spend any time sightseeing in the city. The exceptions are the Best of USA, New York Explorer and the New York New Years Eve. It's important that you make the most of any time you have in the city before your tour departs or on your return.

Ideas for sites to visit in your free time

Statue of Liberty: This world famous symbol of freedom was given to the US by France and was the first thing immigrants saw as they came into New York's harbour.

Lights, Camera, Action! Go On Location to your favorite TV and movie sites!

New York TV & Movie Sites

Sex and the City Hotspots

Gossip Girl Sites

Sopranos Sites

Brooklyn TV & Movie Sites

Central Park Movie Sites (Walking)



Call Zerve at (212) 209.3370 | www.screenitours.com | Advanced Purchase is Required

Empire State Building: Two decks let you get the same view 'King Kong' did when they filmed the movie. This building is 102 stories high and constructed in an art deco style.

Times Square and Broadway: Theatres, clubs, the rich and sometimes the not-so-famous hang out here. The majority of New York plays are showcased nightly in this area.

Fifth Avenue: All the big-name stores and classy boutiques are on this street. Start your shopping here and you may never go elsewhere. It is very pricey, but excellent quality in most shops.

Rockefeller Centre: 200 shops and restaurants are here, also Radio City Music Hall (home of the Rockettes and NBC Television studios) with an observation tower located at the top.

Greenwich Village: Many consider 'The Village' to be New York's cultural centre with its eclectic bars, cafés and shops. Make sure to check out the street performers and chess players in Washington Square Park.

Museum of Modern Art: 'MoMA' houses one of the world's finest collections of modern art work from the past 150 years.

SoHo (South of Houston): SoHo is located at Canal Street, between Sixth Avenue & Lafayette Street. Once the home of factories and warehouse buildings artists flocked to this area in the 50's and 60's because of the cheap loft space. The neighborhood is now a very trendy and rather upscale area with many shops, bars, restaurants and boutiques. It's a great place to visit at night or on the weekend to walk around and just window shop.

Chinatown: This area is a colourful and vibrant part of the city. Many shops offer bargains on clothing and leather. If you walk down Canal Street in the open markets you can buy knockoffs of most anything and everything. Most of the Chinese restaurants can be found near Mott St.

Little Italy: Next to Chinatown located on Mulberry Street, you will find Little Italy, the Italian section of New York City. Little Italy is slowly shrinking due to booming Chinatown encroaching on its borders. Today, there are less than five thousand Italians living in the area.

World Trade Center Site: September 11, 2001 changed the landscape of New York and attitudes of Americans forever. The National September 11 Memorial and Museum has an information kiosk to help the thousands of visitors of ground zero with tours, maps and brochures.

Broadway tickets: Discount Broadway tickets can be purchased at TKTS Times Square, 3pm-8pm on the day of performance (Wed/Sat matinee tickets sell 10.00am-2.00pm, Sun 1.00am to 7.30 pm) or you can go to TKTS at South Street Seaport where the lines are shorter.

Tourist information

On arrival at the hotel collect your "Welcome to New York" letter from the front desk. This letter is filled with information on things to do and see as well as a reminder for pre-departure meetings and departure times.

The hotel concierge can help you with New York sightseeing or you can check out New York City Tourism online at www.nycgo.com

Hotel check-in: Upon check-in, the hotel will ask you for your tour accommodation voucher. If you would like to charge anything to your room a credit card is required. As a reminder check-in is at 3.00pm and check-out is 12.00pm

Note: All tours except The Best of USA will check-in at the Skyline Hotel. Best of USA passengers will check-in at the Hotel Beacon.

Internet: The Skyline Hotel has internet kiosks where you can access your email (at a cost) to let your friends and family know you have arrived safely in New York, or email after your tour with all your adventure stories.

Luggage storage: If you want to head out and discover the energy of New York, store your luggage with the front desk until you want to check into your hotel after 3.00pm. This service is \$1 per bag.

Luggage: It is very important that your 1 piece of luggage is no heavier than 20kg (44 lbs), as this rule is strictly adhered to on morning of departure. Hand luggage must weigh no more than 4kg (8lbs). This applies to tours that have included flights.

Mail pickup point: You can have letters and parcels sent to the Skyline Hotel, which you can pick up when you arrive. The address is: Skyline Hotel 725 10th Avenue, New York, NY 10019. Please write: PLEASE HOLD FOR CONTIKI CLIENT: (Your name) ARRIVING on (Arrival date), to avoid confusion.

The address for the Hotel Beacon is: 2130 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. Please write: PLEASE HOLD FOR CONTIKI CLIENT: (Your name) ARRIVING on (Arrival date), to avoid confusion.

Short break information: Contiki offers a New York Explorer tour that coincides with the end or beginning of the Grand Southern and Eastern Discovery tour. It also links with the beginning of the Grand Northern, North by North East and Grand Canadian tours. Book very early, as these are very popular.

If you miss the coach

Should you miss the coach, please check the front desk for a note from your Tour Manager and contact Contiki toll free at 1-800-944-5708 and ask to speak with the Operations department. They will give you detailed information on how to catch up with your tour.

Useful NYC addresses & telephone numbers

Consulates and Embassies

Australia

Consulate General
150 East 42nd Street New
York, NY 10017
+1 (212) 351-6500

Britain

Consulate-General
845 Third Avenue, New York,
NY 10022
+1 (212) 745-0200

Canada

Consulate-General
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
+1 (212) 596-1628

Germany

Consulate-General
871 United Nations Plaza New
York, NY 10017
+1 (212) 610-9700

Israel

Consulate-General
800 2 Avenue New York, NY
10017
+ 1 (212) 499-5000

Singapore

Consulate General
231 East 51st Street New York,
NY 10022
+1 (212) 223-3331

Honolulu, Oahu Hawaii

Area Code: 808

Climate: There are really only 2 seasons in Hawaii: summer (called Kau in Hawaiian) from May to October and winter (Ho'oilō) from November to April. The average daytime summer temperature at sea level is 29.C (85° F) while the average daytime winter temperature is 25.6.C (79°.F)

Arriving in Honolulu

Oahu is serviced by the Honolulu International airport:
From Honolulu International Airport (HNL)

By shared shuttle: The easiest and least expensive way to get to the hotel is by airport shuttle. Once you have collected your luggage exit the airport, look for the 'Airport Waikiki Express' podium or an 'Airport Waikiki Express' employee wearing a yellow shirt who will direct you to a shuttle. Shuttles run 24 hours from the airport to the Waikiki area hotels. You are only allowed two bags. The cost is \$9 one-way or \$15 round trip to the Park Shore Waikiki. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

Japan

Consulate-General
299 Park Avenue New York,
NY 10171
+ 1 (212) 371-8222

Korea

Consulate-General
335 E. 45th St. (4th Fl.), New
York, NY 10017
+1 (212) 692-9120

New Zealand

Consulate-General
222 East 41st Street New York,
NY 10017
+ 1 (212) 832-4038

South Africa

Consulate-General
333 East 38th Street New York,
NY 10016
+1 (212) 213-4880

New York transport information

MTA +1 (718) 330-1234
Yellow Cab
+1 (845) 877-7222

Contiki's Honolulu Hotel

The Park Shore Waikiki is situated on Waikiki Beach. Laze at the outdoor swimming pool and enjoy the views of Waikiki Beach or walk around Waikiki and explore the sights.

Park Shore Waikiki

2586 Kalakaua Ave. Honolulu, HI 96815

Reception Telephone: +1 (808) 922-0411

We offer discounted rates for Contiki clients and the accommodation is based on twin share.

Note: Check-in at this hotel is at 3.00pm and check-out is at 12.00pm.

Getting around and public transport:

Buses: If you can't walk to your destination, the next-best way to get around is by public transit, made possible by The Bus. You can purchase a 4-day pass which offers unlimited rides for \$25 at any ABC store. A single ride is currently \$2.25 and you can get 1 free transfer. Waits vary, depending on the time of day, but they're usually 5–15 minutes. For more information visit www.thebus.org

Taxi cabs: There are plenty of taxi companies in Honolulu. The hotel can call one for you or you can hail one from the street. Fares tend to be more expensive than on the mainland so it is best to take the public bus or do a sightseeing tour if you are going a fair distance. All cabs are metered and controlled by the city and county of Honolulu; the starting fare is \$3.10 for the first 1/8 of mile or fraction and \$0.40 for each additional 1/8 of a mile or fraction or 45 seconds of wait time. The 10%-15% gratuity is not included in the final fare.

Inter-island flights: Hawaii is made up of six major islands: Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Maui, and Hawaii's Big Island. Each one is distinctive and while in Honolulu you may want to visit a different Island.

You can purchase a day trip through Polynesian Adventures. The day trip includes a round trip flight and sightseeing to Maui, the Big Island or Kauai. Visit www.polyad.com for more information or our Customer Service Centre can assist you. Alternatively, you can fly over on your own. Check www.iflygo.com for inexpensive flights.

Note: Public transport, flight fares and taxi rates are subject to change.

Stopover information:

As Hawaii's cosmopolitan hub, Honolulu serves up an easy-going mix of culture, fantastic food and jaw-dropping nature. With a few days here, you'll soon find yourself on "island time" enjoying the Hawaiian lifestyle.

Kick start each day with an included coffee and a muffin, before hitting the soft sands of Waikiki Beach. With gentle waves, it is a great place to give surfing a go, or to just chill out and people watch.

While you're here, learn about World War II on our included tour of Honolulu's historical hot spots. Visit the Pearl Harbor & Arizona Memorial & see the sunken USS Arizona up close. Then cruise through the crater of an extinct volcano when you visit the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl - Your Local Guide will tell you all about the fallen soldiers who are buried here. You'll also see the USA's only royal residence, Iolani Palace & learn about the former royal family who lived there.

Your Pearl Harbour tour has been pre-booked for your Contiki Hawaiian stopover package for the first free morning. You must call Destination America 24 hours prior to your tour departure +1 (808) 971-0504 during office hours Mon-Fri, 8.00am-5.00pm to reconfirm your pick up time & location. Look for Polynesian Adventure tours (tour starts approximately 9:00am & returns 2.30-3.00pm). Present your voucher to the driver.

Note: An important thing to note - there is no Tour Manager included in this stopover package.

Ideas for sites to visit in your free time

Polynesian Cultural Centre

Experience 7 Polynesian island villages with demonstrations of arts, crafts & cultural handiwork, followed by a night time dinner luau.

Pearl Harbor

Pay tribute to the thousands of soldiers who died in the infamous 7 December 1941 attack on this beautiful harbour.

International Marketplace

This is a must for souvenir shopping. A wide selection of Hawaiian handicrafts set in an outdoor Polynesian village. Bargaining is allowed.

Beaches

Naturally, Waikiki is the best known beach used by Hawaiian Royalty for centuries. Others include Hanauma Bay (the best snorkelling in Oahu), Makapuu (great surfing) & Sandy Beach (used for filming 'Magnum, PI').



Water sports

The beautiful Hawaiian waters can best be explored by snorkelling or by sailing on a catamaran.

Honolulu Zoo

Spend a couple of hours at Honolulu's small yet enjoyable zoo. It's right across from your hotel.

Paradise Cove Luau

Enjoy an all-you-can-eat Hawaiian Buffet dinner at a beautiful secluded beach 55 km (35 miles) outside of Honolulu (transport provided). Take part in various forms of island entertainment before dinner & then take in the spectacular dinner show.

Duke's Canoe Club

Looking for somewhere to have dinner & drinks? Try the barefoot bar at Duke's Canoe Club, located in the Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach Hotel. Great atmosphere & it's located right on the beach.

Tourist information

On arrival at the hotel collect your "Welcome to Honolulu" letter from the front desk. This letter is filled with information on things to do & see. We also have a Contiki Customer Service Centre, which is our free concierge service. The centre is a short walk from the hotel. Our Contiki representative is there to help set you up with all you need to know about free & additional cost activities or simply to help you uncover the best place to head for a night out at one of Waikiki's top nightspots.

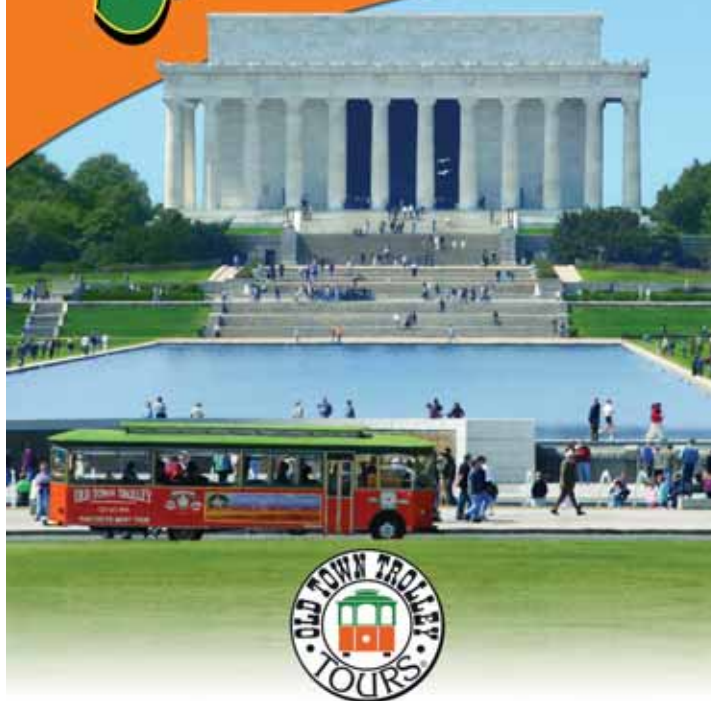
The Contiki Customer Service Centre is located inside the Waikiki Trade Centre at 2255 Kuhio Avenue Ste 1002. The Centre is open from 8.00am – 5.00pm Monday - Friday & 8.00am-12.00pm on public holidays. The Centre is closed on Saturday, Sunday & Christmas Day. The centre offers staffed professionals who can offer advice about local sightseeing & many other things to help you enjoy your stay in Honolulu. You can also reach the centre by telephone at (808) 971-0504.

Note: This service is operated on behalf of Contiki Holidays by Destination America.

Luggage storage: If you want to head out & discover Waikiki, store your luggage with the front desk until you want to check into your hotel after 3.00pm. This is a free service.

Mail pickup point: You can have letters & parcels sent to the Park Shore which you can pick up when you arrive. The address is: Park Shore Waikiki 2586 Kalakaua Ave. Honolulu, HI 96815. Please write: PLEASE HOLD FOR CONTIKI CLIENT: (Your name) ARRIVING on (Arrival date), to avoid confusion.

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Las Vegas, Nevada

Area Code: 702

Climate: Average seasonal temperatures: Spring 20-30°C (69-87°F), Summer 36-38°C (98-101°F), Autumn 33-18°C (93-66°F) & Winter 13-17°C (57-63°F)

Arriving in Las Vegas

Las Vegas is serviced by McCarran International Airport (LAS).

From Las Vegas

By taxi: The easiest way to get to the hotel from LAS is by taxi. Taxicabs are available on the east side of baggage claim, outside door exits 1-4. Airport personnel are available on the taxi curb to assist passengers. The fare to the hotel is \$12-\$15 to \$15-\$18. Most taxis will not accept credit card payments. There is a \$1.80 charge on all fares originating at the airport. The maximum number of passengers allowed in any taxi is 5. It is customary to tip 10% to 15%.

Contiki's Las Vegas Hotel

Harrah's is located at the heart of the 'Strip' across from Caesars Palace & the Forum shops. The hotel features a casino, seven restaurants, an outdoor swimming pool, spa, health club, full-service beauty salon, a variety of retail options & of course, entertainment.

Note: You must be 21 or older to book pre or post night at Harrah's.

Harrah's

3475 Las Vegas Blvd S Las Vegas NV 89109

Reception Telephone: +1 (702) 369-5000

We offer discounted rates for Contiki clients & the accommodation is based on twin share. This is the departure point for all Contiki tours that start in Las Vegas.

Note: Check-in at this hotel is at 4.00pm & check-out is at 11.00am.

Getting around & public transport:

Distance is deceiving in Las Vegas because some 'Strip' hotels are 3 to 5 city blocks long & appear closer together because of their size. Luckily, Las Vegas has a variety of public transportation options.



Walking: If you decide to walk remember that the Las Vegas Strip is over 6.4 km long (4 miles) from one end to the other, walking the strip will take considerable time. It is also very hot in Las Vegas during the summer so it can be uncomfortable to walk. Be sure to wear sunscreen, bring bottled water, maybe try your luck in the casinos along the way to cool off.

Monorail: The Las Vegas monorail runs from the MGM Grand Hotel to Sahara Ave & operates 7 days a week from 7.00am to 2.00am Monday - Thursday & until 3.00am Friday – Sunday. Monorail tickets can be purchased at vending machines located inside each station & at station hotel properties. A 1 ride pass is \$5 so the best option is to purchase an unlimited rides day pass for \$13. There is a station behind Harrah's where you can board the monorail.

Free shuttles: Harrah's offers a free shuttle to the Rio every 30 minutes Mon-Wed 10.00am-1.00am & Thur-Sun-10.00am to 4.00am. Pick up locations are at the following hotels:

Rio: Carnival World Buffet entrance, Bally's/Paris: Limousine entrance, Caesars Palace: Augusta Tower valet entrance & Harrah's Las Vegas: Shuttle/bus/trolley drop off.

The Hard Rock Cafe Las Vegas offers free shuttle service from South Las Vegas Boulevard (The Strip) to the cafe. The shuttle picks up from Showcase Mall (in between the Grand Canyon Experience & the MGM Grand) between the hours of 11.00am & 9.00pm, every half hour, traffic permitting.

Free trams: A tram runs from Bellagio to the Monte Carlo hotel every 10 minutes 24 hours a day & offers indoor boarding platforms.

The Excalibur to Mandalay Bay tram operates 24 hours a day with non-stop service on the southbound trip. The same tram on the return (northbound) trip from Mandalay Bay to Excalibur provides a stop at the Luxor for those wishing to visit there.

Buses: The Deuce is a double decker bus that stops at virtually every hotel & casino along the Las Vegas Strip & down to Freemont Street. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Stops, which are located about every quarter mile in each direction, are marked with signs or by bus shelters. A single ride fare is \$3 & a full day pass is \$7. You must have exact change for the single ride fare & a day pass may be purchased at the Showcase Mall (between the MGM & the Grand Canyon Experience) & Slots-A-Fun Casino.

Taxi cabs: Sixteen taxicab companies service the Las Vegas valley. Cabs cannot be hailed from the street. In order to hail a cab you must enter a taxi line at one of the Casinos/Hotels. A Valet will then flag a cab for you. It is polite to tip the Valet, usually a \$1 will do.

The starting fare is \$3.30 & \$.20 for each additional 1/12th of a mile traveled. If the taximeter senses that the taxicab is moving less than 8-12 MPH, the taximeter will assess a charge of \$.20 (twenty cents) every 24 seconds (\$30 per hour waiting time). Once the taximeter senses that the taxicab is moving at a speed greater than 8-12 MPH the fare calculates on the actual distance traveled. The 10%-15% gratuity is not included in the final fare.

Note: Public transport & taxi rates are subject to change.

Tour itinerary & departure information:

Tours that depart from Las Vegas usually do not spend any time sightseeing in the city. The exception is our Las Vegas New Years Eve tour. It's important that you make the most of any time you have in the city before your tour departs or on your return.

Ideas for sites to visit in your free time

Conservatory at Bellagio: Crafted by a team of 100 horticulturalists, the Bellagio's conservatory features elegant, elaborate arrangements of plants & flowers that change with each season in its bright, airy atrium.

Fountain Show at Bellagio: Using a dramatic combination of music, water & light, the Bellagio in Las Vegas delivers spectacular performances with its majestic fountains. The fountain show runs Monday - Friday, 3.00pm. – midnight & Saturday & Sunday, noon – midnight, every half-hour until 8.00pm & every 15 minutes after that until midnight. Fountains are occasionally closed during high winds.

Fountain shows at Caesars Palace: No civilization put on a greater spectacle than ancient Rome, now you have a chance to witness the glory for yourself at Caesars Palace's fountain shows. Hours of operation: Fall of Atlantis & Festival Fountain: Every hour on the hour Sunday - Thursday, 10.00am. – 11.00pm Friday & Saturday, 10.00am - midnight.

Lion Habitat at MGM Grand: One look into the MGM Grand's lion habitat & you'll be hooked. The majestic cats command adoration whether they're chasing a large ball, licking their immense paws or just lyin' around. Hours of operation: Open daily, 11.00am-7.00pm. There are daily feeding times at 11:15am and 4:30pm.

The Sirens of TI: Part muse, part temptress, part pirate; watch as the Sirens of TI battle a band of pirates in Sirens' Cove, located at the front entrance of the popular hotel & casino. Performance times: 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 10:00 p.m. (summer only). Please note that the show is shut down from Nov 29 - Dec 26

Gondoliers at Venetian: A little piece of Venice with a Vegas spin. Canals meander through this casino's shopping centre, while gondoliers serenade passengers. Watch for free or \$16 gets you a ride as the gondola glides past cafes & sidewalks; it is a good place to tell that special someone stories about how one day you will take them to Venice.

Miracle Mile Shops: Located inside Planet Hollywood Casino, over 170 shops, restaurants & entertainments can be found at this prime 'Strip' location. Shops include H&M & Urban Outfitters for clothes, Sephora for makeup & Wild Pair for shoes.

Forum Shops at Caesars Palace: The Forum Shops has the best selection of shops in Vegas. Here you'll find everything from famous designers to popular favorites. What sets the Forum Shops apart are their specialty shops, rhinestone-studded shoes at Stuart Weitzman, with handbags to match, Estee Lauder's gold compacts, Louis Vuitton's bags & Harry Winston's jewels!

Las Vegas Outlet Centre: You will need to take a taxi, 7600 S. Las Vegas Blvd is over 5 km away.

Las Vegas Premium Outlets: More outlets stores are located downtown at 875 S. Grand Central Park.

Las Vegas Shows: Las Vegas has many fantastic shows from Cirque du Soleil, Broadway musicals, headliners, comedy & more. Check with the hotel concierge or visit www.lasvegas.com for tickets.

Tourist information

The hotel concierge can help you with Las Vegas sightseeing or you can check out Las Vegas Tourism online at www.vegas.com

Hotel check-in: Upon check-in, the hotel will ask you for your tour accommodation voucher. If you would like to charge anything to your room a credit card is required. As a reminder check-in is at 4.00pm & check-out is 11.00am. You must be 21 or travelling with someone who's aged 21 or above to check into the hotel.

Internet: Harrah's has a business centre where you can access your email (at a cost) to let your friends & family know you have arrived safely in Las Vegas, or email after your tour with all your adventure stories.

Luggage storage: If you want to head out & discover the energy of Las Vegas, store your luggage with the front desk until you want to check into your hotel after 4.00pm. This service is free.

Luggage: It is very important that your 1 piece of luggage is no heavier than 20kg (44 lbs), as this rule is strictly adhered to on morning of departure. Hand luggage must weigh no more than 4kg (8lbs).

Chicago, Illinois

Area Code: 312

Climate: Average seasonal temperatures: Spring 2-15°C (37-58°F), Summer 20-22°C (68-73°F), Autumn 17-8°C (64-48°F) & Winter -3--4°C (26-24°F)

Arriving in Chicago

Chicago is serviced by two airports: Chicago's O'Hare & Midway Airports. Airport Express provides convenient van service to the hotel from both airports www.airportexpress.com.

From Chicago's O'Hare Airport (CHI)

By shared shuttle: Shuttles depart from O'Hare airport every 10-15 minutes for service to Chicago hotels. The Airport Express ticket counters for purchasing tickets are located at Door 1E, Door 2D & Door 3F lower level across from baggage claim. Request a one-way trip to the Best Western Grant Park & the ticket agent will indicate where to board the van. The last Airport Express van leaves O'Hare at 11.30 pm 7 nights a week. The standard fare is \$27 from O'Hare. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By taxi: There are taxi lines outside of each terminal arrival area. Taxis from CHI airport to downtown Chicago will cost approximately \$42. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By train: Go to terminal 2 & get on the Blue Line - take the Blue Line in the direction of Forest Park and get off at Clark/Lake station. Transfer to the Orange Line and take that train in the direction of Midway. Exit the train at Roosevelt station and walk towards Michigan Ave. Make a left on Michigan Ave - the hotel will be on the left hand side of the street across from Grant Park just before 11th St.

From Chicago's Midway Airport (MDW)

By shared shuttle: Shuttles depart from Midway airport every 15 minutes for downtown service to Chicago hotels. The Airport Express ticket counter & loading zone is located at Door 3, lower level across from baggage claim. Request a one-way trip to the Days Lincoln Park North & the ticket agent will indicate where to board the van. The last Airport Express van leaves Midway at 10.30pm 7 nights a week. The standard fare is \$22. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By taxi: There are taxi lines outside of each terminal arrival area. Taxis from MDW airport to downtown Chicago will cost approximately \$26. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By train: Enter the train at Midway take the Orange Line in the direction of Loop. Exit the train at Roosevelt station & walk towards Michigan Ave. Make a left on Michigan Ave - the hotel will be on the left hand side across the street from Grant Park just before 11th St.

Contiki's Chicago Hotel

Contiki's Chicago hotel is well located just across the street from famous Grant Park and within walking distance of many Chicago attractions. Check out Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower), the Magnificent Mile shopping district, Navy Pier, Hancock Tower & more!

Best Western Grant Park

1100 S Michigan Ave, Chicago IL 60605,
Phone number - 312-922-2900,

We offer discounted rates for Contiki clients & the accommodation is based on twin share. This is the departure point for all Contiki tours that start in Chicago.

Note: Check-in at this hotel is at 3.00pm & check-out is at 11.00am.

Getting around and public transport:

Getting around Chicago is simple & quick, thanks to buses & the "L", a system of elevated trains operated 24 hours a day by the Chicago Transit Authority. Chicago has the second largest public transportation system in North America so you'll have a safe, convenient & comfortable ride.

Trains/subways: Each rail line has a colour name. All trains operate to Downtown daily until at least midnight, except the Purple Line Express. Trains run every 5 to 10 minutes during the day & early evening & every 10 to 15 minutes in later evening. The Howard-Dan Ryan is the Red Line; Lake Englewood-Jackson Park is the Green Line; the O'Hare-Congress-Douglas is the Blue Line; the Ravenswood is the Brown Line (whose trains circle the Loop, giving the area its name); the Evanston Express is the Purple Line; & the Skokie Swift is the Yellow Line. A single ride fare is \$2.25 or a Day Pass can be purchased for \$5.75. Passes are good for both buses & trains & are sold at select Currency Exchanges, Jewel & Dominick's stores, CVS Pharmacies & Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower).

Buses: Most Bus routes operate every day, including all holidays. Buses run every 10 to 15 minutes. A single ride fare is \$2.25 or a Day Pass can be purchased for \$5.75. Passes are good for both buses & trains & are sold at select Currency Exchanges, Jewel & Dominick's stores, CVS Pharmacies & Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower). If you pay cash you must have the exact change.

For more information on train & bus routes go to www.transitchicago.com

AMTRAK: AMTRAK is a nationwide train service. Trains leave from Union Station in Downtown Chicago for cities such as Madison, WI.



Taxi cabs: Chicago's taxis, despite a recent increase in fares, are more reasonable than those of many other major US cities. Cabs can be hailed from the street & generally if their sign is lit-up they are available. The minimum fare for any journey is \$2.25, then for every 1/9 of a mile travelled it is \$0.20. For the first additional adult passenger there is a \$1 charge & any additional adult is \$0.50. In addition, for every 30 seconds of time not spent moving the meter adds \$0.20. You are responsible for paying any tolls. The 10%-15% gratuity is not included in the final fare.

Note: Public transport & taxi rates are subject to change.

Tour itinerary and departure information:

Tours that depart from Chicago do not spend any time sightseeing in the city. It's important that you make the most of any time you have in the city before your tour departs or on your return.

Ideas for sites to visit in your free time

The Art Institute of Chicago

One of the United States best art museums, the Art Institute of Chicago houses seven centuries of art, including drawings, photography, textiles & architectural sketches. An absolute must for all art lovers.

The Magnificent Mile

Stretching along Michigan Avenue from the Chicago River to Oak Street is the Magnificent Mile, one of the highest concentrations of posh boutiques, department stores & salons in the world.

Lincoln Park

The largest park in the city, Lincoln Park stretches along Lake Michigan and contains several beaches, famous outdoor works of art & a free zoo featuring over 2,000 species of animals from around the world. The area surrounding Lincoln Park is a nightlife favourite for university students & young adults living in Chicago.

Museum of Science & Industry

One of Chicago's most popular attractions, the Museum of Science & Industry contains exhibits of applied sciences, engineering & industry, in a hands-on setting with buttons to push, cranks to turn & levers to lift. There is a World War II submarine on display, as well as a simulated space station and Omnimax movie theatre.

Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower)

The country's tallest building at 442m (1,450 feet). A great way to see the city.

Wrigley Field

For those who believe that the game of baseball is truly "America's Pastime" - Wrigley Field is the centre of the baseball universe. Without a doubt, it is one of America's most famous ballparks. Check out the pubs & bars around the stadium on game day - they're sure to be fun.

Navy Pier

Over 8 million people a year visit the sights & sounds of Navy Pier. Specialty shops, an IMAX Theatre & boat tours of Lake Michigan & the Chicago River are all represented on the Pier. Restaurants include the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company & the Navy Pier Beer Garden, there's also live entertainment daily throughout the summer.

Tourist information

On arrival at the hotel collect your "Welcome to Chicago" letter from the front desk. This letter is filled with information on things to do & see as well as a reminder of departure times.

The hotel concierge can help you with Chicago sightseeing or you can check out Chicago Tourism online at www.explorechicago.org

Internet: The Best Western Grant Park offers a business center and free WiFi access in room to let your friends and family know you have arrived safely in Chicago, or email after your tour with all your adventure stories.

Luggage storage: If you want to head out & discover the energy of Chicago, store your luggage with the front desk until you want to check into your hotel after 3.00pm. This service is free.

Luggage: It is very important that your 1 piece of luggage is no heavier than 20 kg (44 lbs), as this rule is strictly adhered to on morning of departure. Hand luggage must weigh no more than 4kg (8lbs).

Mail pickup point: You can have letters & parcels sent to the Days Inn Lincoln Park, which you can pick up when you arrive. The address is: Best Western Grant Park 1100 S Michigan Ave, Chicago IL 60605, Phone number - 312-922-2900, Please write: PLEASE HOLD FOR CONTIKI CLIENT: (Your name) ARRIVING on (Arrival date), to avoid confusion.

If you miss the coach

Should you miss the coach, please check the front desk for a note from your Tour Manager & contact Contiki toll free at 1-800-944-5708 & ask to speak with the Operations department. They will give you detailed information on how to catch up with your tour.



Useful Chicago addresses & telephone numbers

Consulates and Embassies

Australia

Consulate-General
123 North Wacker Drive Suite
1330 Chicago IL 60606
+1 312 419 1480

Britain

Consulate-General
Wrigley Building 400 N
Michigan Avenue, Suite 1300,
Chicago, IL 60611.
+1 (312) 970 3800

Canada

Consulate-General
Two Prudential Plaza
180 North Stetson Avenue,
Suite 2400 Chicago, Illinois
60601-6714
+1 (312) 616-1860

Germany

Consulate-General
676 N. Michigan Ave, Suite
3200 Chicago, IL 60611
+1 (312) 202 0480

Israel

Consulate-General
111 East Wacker Drive,
Chicago, IL 60601
+1 (312) 297- 4800

South Africa

Consulate-General
200 South Michigan Avenue
6th Floor Chicago, IL 60604
+1 (312) 939-7929

New Orleans, Louisiana

Area Code: 504

Climate: Average seasonal temperatures: Spring 16-23°C (61-74°F), Summer 26°C (81°F), Autumn 25-16°C (78-61°F) & Winter 12°C (54°F). Summers are generally humid.

Arriving in New Orleans

From Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY)

By shared shuttle: Shuttle service is available from the airport to the hotels in the Central Business District (CBD) for \$20 (per person, one-way visit). www.airportshuttleneworleans.com. Ticket booths are located on the lower level in the baggage claim area. It's customary to tip an additional 10 -15%.

By Taxi: A cab ride costs \$33 from the airport to the Central Business District (CBD) for one or two persons & \$14 (per passenger) for three or more passengers. Pick-up is on the lower level, outside the baggage claim area. It's customary to tip an additional 10 -15%.

Contiki's New Orleans Hotel

"The Holiday Inn New Orleans is located just steps away from the French Quarter on World Famous Bourbon St! This hotel provides modern conveniences with a pool and high speed internet access in your room in addition to being central to the Convention Centre, Superdome, Museums & Arts District.

Holiday Inn New Orleans

221 Carondelet St New Orleans, LA 70130.
Phone - 504-962-0800

NOTE: Check-in at this hotel is at 4.00pm & check-out is at 11.00am

Streetcars: The streetcars are not only a form of public transportation (serving in place of busses on some routes) but they are a tourist attraction as well. Experience a mode of transportation that dates from the 1800s. Each trip on the streetcar is only \$1.25 USD & you'll need exact change.

Taxi cabs: Many taxis are privately owned, so one will look different from the other -even those within the same company. Taxi's can be hailed from the street. A taxi ride within the city will cost you \$1.20 mile with a \$2.50 drop charge & \$1 charge for each additional passenger. Trips to the westbank are an additional \$2 plus meter charge.

The 10%-15% gratuity is not included in the final fare.

Tour itinerary and departure information

For tours beginning in New Orleans your first day does not include a city sightseeing tour so it's important to make the most of your time in the city.

Sites to visit in your free time

French Quarter

Bourbon Street is a must see when in New Orleans but to get a real feel for the city you have to veer away from this hot spot. If you do, you will find great shopping, music, food & hotels. Most importantly, the French Quarter is a living history museum not to be missed. When the streetcar drops you off at Canal St. turn right on Canal & left on Decatur to get to the French Quarter.

Jackson Square: The heart of the Quarter is Jackson Square, flanked on its sides by the Pontalba Buildings & at its top, by the St. Louis Cathedral, Cabildo (the seat of government for the French & Spanish) & Presbytere.

French Market: Offers everything from upscale shopping & cuisine to flea & farmers markets at America's oldest running marketplace.

Marie Laveaus House of Voodoo: Purchase souvenirs, take a tour & maybe even run into a ghost or two - 739 Bourbon Street.



Lafayette Cemetery: The above-ground tombs in the cemeteries of New Orleans are often referred to as “cities of the dead.” The stones are bleached white & have beautiful decorative iron work. The most famous is Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, Garden District. Do not visit a cemetery at dusk or at night time without a guide.

St. Charles Avenue: This is one of the main thoroughfares in New Orleans & the home of the world famous St. Charles Streetcar Line. It is also famous for the hundreds of mansions that adorn the tree-lined boulevard for much of the Uptown section of the route. Hop on the streetcar & ride it to the Carrollton bend for a mini tour of the Garden District.

Blain Kern’s Mardi Gras Museum: Across the river in Algiers you can see how Mardi Gras is brought to life & it’s history as well. 1380 Port of New Orleans Place.

Tourist information

On arrival at the hotel collect your “Welcome to New Orleans” letter from the front desk. This letter is filled with information on things to do & see as well as a reminder for meetings & optional activities.

The hotel front desk can help you with New Orleans sightseeing or you can check out New Orleans Tourism online at www.neworleanscvb.com

Luggage storage: If you want to head out & discover the vibe of New Orleans, store your luggage with the front desk until you want to check into your hotel after 4.00pm. This service is free.

Luggage: It is very important that your 1 piece of luggage is no heavier than 20 kg (44 lbs), as this rule is strictly adhered to on morning of departure. Hand luggage must weigh no more than 4kg (8lbs).



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San Francisco, California

Area Code: 415

Climate: Average seasonal temperatures: Spring 11-14°C (53-58°F), Summer 16-20°C (61-68°F), Autumn 17-12°C

(64-54°F) & Winter 9-11°C (49-52°F). It is always wise to have a light jacket or jumper as it can be cold even in summer.

Arriving in San Francisco

The San Francisco Bay Area is serviced by two airports: San Francisco International & Oakland International Airports.

From San Francisco International (SFO)

By train: The easiest way to get to San Francisco & the hotel is the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) operates rapid rail service to San Francisco. The SFO BART Station is located on the Departures/Ticketing Level of the International Terminal (Boarding Area G side). BART is easily accessed from any terminal by riding SFO's AirTrain to the Garage G/BART Station stop. There is no charge to board AirTrain. The fare from SFO to the Civic Center (your stop) is \$8.10. Exit the station & the hotel is on Market & 8th Street.

By shared shuttle: Claim your luggage (lower level). Proceed to the upper level & outside to the curb. Follow the SuperShuttle signs to get to the SFO Airport agent (in teal green jackets) & they will arrange your SuperShuttle transportation to your destination. Wait for your van at Terminal 1 (across from Air Canada) or Terminal 3 across from United door #3. You can book in advance online at www.supershuttle.com. Use the discount code 57ZAX to receive \$2 off your fare. Standard fare is \$17 & it's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By taxi: Taxis depart from the designated taxi zones located at the roadway centre islands, on the arrivals/baggage claim level of all terminals. Uniformed taxi coordinators are stationed at the taxi zones from 7.00am. to 1.00am to assist passengers with questions or concerns. It will cost approximately \$45 & it's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

From Oakland International Airport (OAK)

By train: The least expensive way to get San Francisco is by AirBART & BART. AirBART operates between OAK & the BART Coliseum/Oakland Airport station daily, approximately every 10 minutes, until midnight. Service begins at 5.00am Monday through Saturday & at 8.00am on Sundays & public holidays. There is a single shuttle stop for both terminals, conveniently located between Terminal 1 & 2 at OAK's third curbside. You must pay \$3 to board AirBART (exact change only). You will need to transfer to BART heading towards Daly City. The fare from the transfer point to the Civic Center (your stop) is \$3.10. Exit the station & the hotel is on Market & 8th Street.

By shared shuttle: Advanced reservations are required. You can book in advance online at www.supershuttle.com. Use the discount code 57ZAX to receive \$2 off your fare. Upon arrival call 1 (800) 258-3826, select option 1 & provide your reservation number so we can accommodate you. Please wait for your SuperShuttle van across from Terminal 1, shelter number 3, at the 'Door to Door Reservation' zone. The standard fare is \$27 & it's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

By taxi: Taxis depart from the designated taxi zones located at the roadway centre islands, on the arrivals/baggage claim level of all terminals. It will cost approximately \$40 & it's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

Contiki's San Francisco's Hotel

The Hotel Whitcomb is well located on vibrant Market St within walking distance to legendary Chinatown, Union Square, the city's famous cable cars & its exciting nightlife. There is a bus & streetcar stop in front of the hotel.

Hotel Whitcomb

1231 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103
Reception Telephone: +1 (415) 626-8000

We offer discounted rates for Contiki clients & the accommodation is based on twin share. This is the departure point for all Contiki tours that start in San Francisco.

Note: Check in at this hotel is at 3.00pm & check out is at 11.00am.

Getting around and public transport:

Getting around San Francisco is simple & quick, thanks to MUNI, one of America's oldest public transit agencies. MUNI provides transit service within the city & county of San Francisco 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and operates 80 routes throughout San Francisco with stops within 2 blocks of 90% of all residences in the city. Operating Historic streetcars, modern light rail vehicles, diesel buses, alternative fuel vehicles, electric trolley coaches & the world famous cable cars, MUNI'S fleet is among the most diverse in the world.



Buses & streetcars: MUNI is only \$2 with a free transfer & takes you most everywhere. Tickets are sold on the bus (exact change required), or in Muni metro stations. Transfers last 90 minutes in any direction & bus drivers often give you tickets with extra time. This means that for many trips you can go roundtrip for just \$1.50. If you plan to see a lot of San Francisco & stay for a few days, invest in a MUNI Passport (1-day: \$13; 3-day: \$20, 7-day: \$26), which are for sale at the cable car turnaround & the Union Square Visitor Centre. These passes include rides on the must-see cable cars, which are ordinarily \$5 each way, so the pass quickly pays for itself.

Cable cars: The San Francisco cable cars are world famous. The cable car is literally pulled by a cable underneath the ground moving at 7 mph. There are three lines (Powell-Hyde, Powell-Mason, California). The fare is \$5 each way, no transfers. However, if you invest in a MUNI Passport (as mentioned above), you can ride them as much as you want. Tickets & passes are for sale at the cable car turnaround & the Union Square Visitor Centre.

For more information on train & bus routes go to www.sfmata.com



Taxi cabs: Taxi service is one of the most convenient (& low cost) forms of transportation in San Francisco. Cabs can be hailed from the street & generally if their sign is lit-up they are available. Rates are set for all companies by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). The starting fare for any journey is \$3.10 & then for every 1/5 of a mile travelled it is \$0.45. In addition, for every 60 seconds of time waiting the meter adds \$0.45. You are responsible for any tolls. The 10%-15% tip is not included in the final fare.

NOTE: Public transport & taxi rates are subject to change.

Tour itinerary and departure information:

A full day of sightseeing is included in your tour. However, if you have booked pre or post nights here are some ideas of what to do & see while in San Fran.

Ideas for sites to visit in your free time

Union Square

A shopping Mecca, Union Square is one of San Francisco's main retail & cultural centres. It also refers to the actual park bordered by Geary, Powell, Post & Stockton streets. Set aside as a park in 1850 & named before the start of the Civil War as a tribute to the frequent demonstrations in support of the Union troops.



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Chinatown

San Francisco Chinatown is the largest Chinese community on the West Coast, & the second largest in the United States next to New York City's settlement. Chinatown is best mid-day when all the shops are open & streets are busy, it gets quiet very soon after dark. San Francisco Chinatown is about eight blocks long & has two long main streets, Grant & Stockton. It's easy to give in to the urge to just shuffle down Grant Avenue, buy a few Chinatown souvenirs or t-shirts & miss the most interesting parts. They're not far away & it only takes a little effort to find them.

North Beach

Best known as San Francisco's Little Italy, it's also famed for Beat movement of the 50s. However, North Beach is no relic & it has much to offer beyond pasta & poetry. Whether prowling for historic landmarks, sampling house-roasted espressos, shopping, clubbing, or eating, you'll find North Beach has plenty to offer for both a leisurely afternoon visit & a night on the town.

Golden Gate Park

Bigger than New York's Central Park, Golden Gate Park offers a haven away from the hustle & bustle of the city. There are 6 museums in the park, the newest being the world class California Academy of Sciences. Pack a lunch & stroll through the park or rent a bike & ride the 11 km (7 miles) to the other end.

Fisherman's Wharf & Pier 39

Fisherman's Wharf is San Francisco's most popular destination. Often tourist-packed, today's Fisherman's Wharf is home to sidewalk seafood vendors, souvenir shops & other attractions. It's popular with all ages & interests & Fisherman's Wharf offers some of the most incredible views of the San Francisco Bay. Don't forget to check out the seals on Pier 39.

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Haight-Ashbury

If there's any area of San Francisco that evokes images of the long-gone '60s hippie culture, 'The Haight' is it. Fragments of that flower-power, incense-burning, tie-dye-wearing, peace-&-love-vibing era still can be purchased at Eastern-influenced outlets, but the Haight today is a whole new scene. Exclusive boutiques, high-end vintage-clothing shops, second-hand stores, Internet cafés & hip restaurants have all settled in, making the area one of San Francisco's commercial centres.

Tourist information

On arrival at the hotel collect your "Welcome to San Francisco" letter from the front desk. This letter is filled with information on things to do & see as well as a reminder for departure times.

The hotel concierge can help you with San Francisco sightseeing or you can check out San Francisco Tourism online at www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com

Hotel check-in: Upon check-in, the hotel will ask you for your tour accommodation voucher. If you would like to charge anything to your room a credit card is required. As a reminder check-in is at 3.00pm & check-out is 11.00am

Internet: The Hotel Whitcomb has a business centre where you can access your email (at a cost) to let your friends & family know you have arrived safely in San Francisco, or email after your tour with all your adventure stories.

Luggage storage: If you want to head out & discover the liveliness of San Francisco, store your luggage with the front desk until you want to check into your hotel after 3:00pm. This service is free.

If you miss the coach

Should you miss the coach, please check the front desk for a note from your Tour Manager & contact Contiki toll free at 1-800 -944-5708 & ask to speak with the Operations department. They will give you detailed information on how to catch up with your tour.



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United States history\

Area: 9,372,610 sq. km (3,449,120 sq. miles)

Population: 310,619,716

Capital: Washington, D.C.

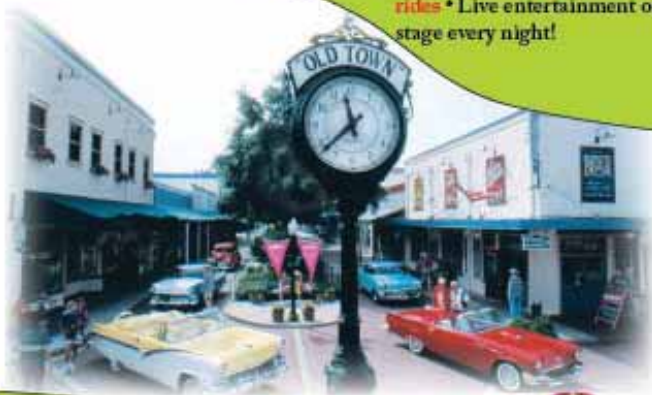
In 1492 Columbus sailed the Ocean Blue & "discovered" America. Here's a timeline of history on the United States of America.

- 1775-1776** American War of Independence broke out with 13 colonies gaining independence & forming a Confederation of States.
- 1787** Federal Constitution was adopted so the 13 States could form an effective Central Government. Slowly the importance of the industrial North began to outstrip the agricultural slave-owning South.
- 1803** Known as the Louisiana Purchase, the United States purchased 828,000 acres of land from France for approximately 4 cents an acre, thus doubling the size of the Nation.
- 1820** The Missouri Compromise set a line between the slave & free territory.
- 1849** Gold is discovered in California, sparking the largest migration of people in history.
- 1860** Abraham Lincoln was elected President.
- 1861- 65** The American Civil War broke out when 11 southern states declared independence from the United States.
- 1869** The Transcontinental Railroad linking the East Coast to the West coast is completed.
- 1898** The Spanish American War begins & ends 9 months later.
- 1917-18** USA joined the Allies in First World War against Germany.
- 1929** The Wall Street Crash knocked \$26 billion off the prices on the Stock Exchange in a month.
- 1941** Japan attacked Pearl Harbor & America entered the Second World War.
- 1950-53** Korean War
- 1954-68** United States Civil Rights movement; Civil Rights Leader Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, TN.
- 1959** Hawaii becomes the 50th State
- 1960-73** U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

- 1963** President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.
- 1974** President Nixon resigned from the Executive Office, due to involvement in the Watergate scandal.
- 1981** President Reagan was elected President of the United States.
- 1988** Presidential Elections occurred with George Bush, former Vice President, winning the presidency
- 1991** The first Gulf War begins
- 1992** Governor Bill Clinton defeated George Bush for the Presidency.
- 1996** President Bill Clinton re-elected.
- 2000** George W Bush (son of former President Bush) elected as President.
- 2001** A terrorist attack destroys the World Trade Centre in New York City.
- 2003** U.S. begins involvement in the Iraq War.
- 2004** President George W. Bush re-elected
- 2008** In a historic election, Barak Obama is elected the first African-American President of the United States.

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Group Reservations (Parties of 8 or more):
1-800-282-1851, groupsales@redrockjeep.com

Canada

Country Code: +1

Currency: Dollar (CAD) \$

Language: English/French

Vancouver, British Columbia

Area Code: 604

Climate: Average seasonal temperatures: Spring 10-18°C (50-65°F), Summer 21-23°C (69-74°F), Autumn 18-9°C

(65-48°F) & Winter 6-7°C (43-44°F)

Arriving in Vancouver

From Vancouver International Airport (YVR)

By train: Once through the customs & immigration arrivals process, walk toward the exit to our International Arrivals greeting area. Exit the building following signs marked 'Canada Line'. Before the parkade entrance, an escalator & elevator will take you up to the Canada Line platform. Price is \$3.75 CAD to Vancouver. Get off at the Vancouver City Centre Station which is on Granville between Georgia & Robson, your hotel is at 180 W Georgia.

By taxi: Taxis are a quick & easy way to get to & from Vancouver International Airport. Our taxis are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Taxis charge a metered rate based on time & distance. Let the curbside staff know your needs & they will hail a cab. The approximate fare to downtown Vancouver is \$28 - \$32. It's customary to tip an additional 10% -15%.

Contiki's Vancouver Hotel

The Sandman hotel is ideally located in the heart of Downtown Vancouver. You are walking distance to shopping, restaurants, parks & museums with easy access to public transport & the new Canada line at Robson St & Granville St.

The Sandman Hotel

180 W. Georgia, Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 4P4 Canada
Reception Telephone: +1(604) 681-2211

We offer discounted rates for Contiki clients & the accommodation is based on twin share. This is the departure point for all Contiki tours that start in Vancouver.

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Buses & SkyTrain If you can't walk to your destination, the next-best way to get around is the SkyTrain or bus system. It's inexpensive, environment-friendly & a great way to see Vancouver. Buy a Day Pass for \$9CAD or for a single fare, good to use for 90 minutes, is \$2.50 - \$5CAD depending on how many zones you are travelling through. These passes are good for use on the SkyTrain or busses. You will need exact change for the bus, but can use bank notes, coins or cards at the SkyTrain stations.

Taxi cabs: There are four taxi companies in Vancouver. Cabs can be hailed from the street & generally if their sign is lit-up they are available. If you're in a popular downtown area, you'll be able to find a taxi easily. If you aren't, it is probably best to call the cab company & request pick up. Vancouver Taxis are metered & generally cost between \$5 & \$10. The 10-15% gratuity is not included in the final fare.

Note: Public transport & taxi rates are subject to change

Tour itinerary and departure information:

A full day of sightseeing is included in your tour. However, if you have booked pre or post nights here are some ideas of what to do & see while in the city.

Ideas for sites to visit in your free time

Stanley Park

Stanley Park is almost 1000 acres of forest, beaches & trails. But it's also the home of the Vancouver Aquarium, tennis courts, a 'pitch & putt' course, a cricket club, & a children's zoo. There is also a miniature railroad, two restaurants, a gift shop, & nearly a dozen memorials & statues. Most famous of all is the Totem Poles, British Columbia's most visited tourist site.

Granville Island

This used to be an industrial area but has been converted into an artist's paradise. You can browse galleries & studios while watching the artists create. There is also fresh fruit, baked goods & other mouth-watering delicacies at shops, stalls & restaurants. You can take the SkyTrain or a water taxi directly to Granville Island.

Vancouver Art Gallery

Internationally renowned artists & photographers are on display in this museum right in the heart of the city. 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver.

Gastown

Stroll down the cobbled streets. Explore its historic buildings & courtyards. Enjoy its unique shopping, nightlife, attractions & special events. Gastown is just a couple blocks from the hotel on Cambie St.

Tourist information

On arrival at the hotel collect your "Welcome to Vancouver" letter from the front desk. This letter is filled with information on things to do & see as well as a reminder for pre-departure meetings & departure times.

The front desk of the hotel can help you arrange your time or you can check out Vancouver Tourism online at: www.tourismvancouver.com/visitors

Internet: The Sandman Hotel has a business centre where you can access your email (at a cost) to let your friends & family know you have arrived safely in Vancouver or email after your tour with all your adventure stories.

Mail pickup point: You can have letters & parcels sent to the Sandman Hotel, which you can pick up when you arrive. The address is: Sandman Hotel 180 W Georgia St, Vancouver BC Canada V6B 4P4

Please be sure to write: PLEASE HOLD FOR CONTIKI CLIENT: (Your Name) ARRIVING on (Arrival Date), to avoid confusion.

Luggage: It is very important that your 1 piece of luggage is no heavier than 20 kg (44 lbs), as this rule is strictly adhered to on morning of departure. Hand luggage must weigh no more than 4kg (8lbs).

If you miss the coach

Should you miss the coach, please check the front desk for a note from your Tour Manager & contact Contiki toll free at 1-800-944-5708 & ask to speak with the Operations department. They will give you detailed information on how to catch up with your tour.

Useful Vancouver addresses & telephone numbers Consulates and Embassies

Australia

Consulate-General
1225-888 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3K4
+1 (604) 684-1177

Germany

Consulate-General
World Trade Centre Complex
704 - 999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1
+1 (604) 684-8377/218-1390
(24h)

Japan

Consulate-General
800-1177 West Hastings
Street Vancouver, BC V6E
2K9
+1 (604) 684-5868

Korea

Consulate-General
Suite 1600-1090 West
Georgia Street Vancouver,
BC V6E 3V7
+1 (604) 681-9581/2

New Zealand

Consulate-General
1200 - 888 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3K4
+1 (604) 684-7388

South Africa

Consulate-General
1700-1075 West Georgia
Street Vancouver, BC V6E
3C9
+1 (604) 688-1301

United Kingdom

Consulate General
800 - 1111 Melville Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 3V6
+1 (604) 683-4421

United States

Consulate General
2100 - 1095 West Pender
Street Vancouver, BC V6E
2M6 +1(604) 685-4311

Canadian history

Area: 9,920,000 sq.km (3,800,000 sq. miles)

Population: 33,592,700

Capital: Ottawa, Ontario

Canada's first inhabitants were distinctive groups of Indians & to the North, Eskimos or Inuit. It's first visitors were the Vikings who sailed from Iceland around 1000 AD; they were followed by explorers from England, Portugal & France. Today Canada has 10 provinces & 3 territories.

- 1534** French navigator, Jacques Cartier, sailed up the St Lawrence River & claimed the area for France.
- 1633** Canada becomes a province of France while fur trading thrives throughout the region.
- 1670** England continues to establish settlements along the Hudson River.
- 1754** The Seven Years War begins, pitting the British against the French & the Indians for control of the land.
- 1763** The Treaty of Paris is signed, handing over Canada to the British.
- 1812** Canada fights alongside the British against the newly independent United States.
- 1867** The British North America Act is passed, forming Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia & New Brunswick into the Dominion of Canada.
- 1905** Millions of Eastern European immigrants enter Alberta & Saskatchewan.
- 1960** Canada passes its first Bill of Rights
- 1967** In celebration of its 100th birthday, Canada holds a World's Fair & Expo in Montreal.
- 1973** Royal Canadian Mounted Police celebrate their 100th year of service to Canada.
- 1974** The CN Tower is completed – the tallest free standing structure in the world at over 550 metres (1800ft).
- 1982** Canada achieves complete control of its Constitution.
- 1988** The Winter Olympics are held in Calgary.
- 1989** Canada & the United States enact a free trade agreement (NAFTA) that eliminates all tariffs on goods transported between the two countries.
- 1995** The Quebec Referendum is held & separation from Canada is rejected.
- 1998** Canada is elected to the United Nations Security Council.
- 1999** Nunavut becomes Canada's newest territory.
- 2000** Beloved former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau dies.
- 2002** Men & Women's Hockey win Gold Medals at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.
- 2006** Canada's Women's Hockey team brings home a Gold Medal from Torino.

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Mexico City, Mexico

Country Code: +52

Currency: Pesos, MX\$

Language: Spanish

Climate: Average seasonal temperatures: Spring 25°C (78°F), Summer 24-25°C (75-78°F), Autumn 21°C (71°F) & Winter 20-21°C (69-71°F) Afternoon rains usually pour during July & August, they can fall every day but will rarely last for more than 2 hours. It can cool off in the evening so a light jacket is recommended.

Arriving in Mexico City

From Benito Juarez International Airport (MEX)

By shared shuttle: Grayline Mexico offers 24 hour shared ride transfers that must be booked online prior to arrival. The Contiki hotel is the Best Western Royal Zona Rosa, which lies in Zone 2. For clients arriving between the hours of 7.00am – 9.59pm the fare is \$15 USD per person. For clients arriving between 10.00pm – 6.59am the fare is \$20USD per person. Once on the site click the link for “transfer & other services” www.grayline.com/Grayline/destinations/mexico/mexicocity.go

By taxi: If you decide to take a taxi from the airport it will need to be an authorized taxi. Do not take it if someone approaches you with offers of transportation, this will be an unauthorized taxi. Instead, go straight to a clearly marked “Transporte Terrestre” counter inside the terminal, on the left-hand side after you exit the arrivals area. State the name of your hotel to the attendant, you’ll pay at the counter & be handed a ticket. Rates are charged by Zone & include the tip, although excessive luggage can be charged extra (2 luggage bags per person is considered reasonable). To the centre of the City expect to pay about \$15 USD. Follow the signs outside to ‘Taxis Autorizados’ where there is a long line of yellow & white taxis then hand your ticket to the driver.

Contiki’s Mexico City Hotel

The Best Western Royal Zona Rosa is surrounded by three of Mexico City’s most important avenues, where financial, commercial & entertainment centres are located. You are within walking distance from banks, monuments, embassies, restaurants, pubs, museums, galleries, boutiques, parks & public transportation.

Best Western Zona Rosa

Amberes No. 78, Mexico City, 06600, MX
Reception Telephone: +52 (55) 91 49 30 00

NOTE: Check-in at the hotel is at 1.00pm & check out is at 2.00pm.

Getting around and public transportation

Mexico City is vast so we recommend buying a detailed map of the city.

Metro: El Metro is the main rail-based system in Mexico City. The trains run mainly underground, although there are some that run overground too. Some 4.5 million people use Mexico City's metro system each weekday. The system has eleven lines; construction of a twelfth is under way.

The Tren Ligero (Light Train) is an extension of Mexico City's Metro system. In years past, the line was a 1950s style Tranvia (Tram), which was upgraded to Tren Ligero & connects the southern-most Metro terminal, Metro Taxqueña, with Xochimilco, one of the southernmost suburbs in the capital.

The capital's Metro systems (rail & bus) get extremely busy at peak times which are 6.30am to 10.00am & 4.30pm to 8.00pm.

The Metro is by far the best way of getting into the centre of Mexico City. Road traffic congestion in the central areas of the city is virtually constant during daylight hours & the Metro will transport you around the city faster than a taxi.

Taxi cabs: There are several different kinds of taxis available in Mexico City. However if you are not familiar with the area or if you don't speak Spanish, it's best to call to arrange a taxi via the hotel or phone a taxi rank (Sitio). They cost more than street cabs, but are safe & still good value. They charge a fixed fee of about \$1-2 USD when you get in & then around \$1 USD per km. If you get stuck in a traffic jam a time-lapse charge is applied automatically by the meter when the vehicle is stationary.

Although some taxis are beginning to accept credit & debit cards, most don't & those that do will add 10% to the fare to cover bank charges they pay to offer the card payment facility. We recommend you pay with cash as drivers prefer it & it will save you money.

Be sure, whatever taxi you get into, that the driver's license card is visible. The license card is a white, laminated document with official stamps, a hologram & a photograph of the taxi driver on it. The card should be presented in full colour & not be a photocopy. Gratuity is not included in the final fare.

NOTE: Public transport & taxi rates are subject to change



Tour itinerary and departure information

A guided tour on the coach is included for the Mexico Grande & Mexican Fiesta tours. The Yucatan Explorer spends limited time in the city. It's important that you make the most of any time you have in the city before your tour departs.

Ideas for sites to visit in your free time

The Centro Historico (Historic Centre)

The Centro Historico focuses around the Plaza de la Constitución (Constitution Plaza) or more commonly known as the Zócalo (Main Plaza), the second largest city plaza in the world. This is the heart of Mexico City & its government, business & financial centres all operate in & around this area. There are over 1,400 colonial buildings in this area with a distinctly Spanish feel. Off the Plaza you can find the city's Cathedral & Palacio Nacional (National Palace) - both are examples of colonial architecture.

Templo Mayor

Mexico City was built on top of the destroyed Aztec City of Tenochtitlán. You can see some of the remains of the old city by visiting Templo Mayor - the archaeological site in the heart of Mexico City.

Zona Rosa

The Contiki hotel is in the Zona Rosa which translated means, 'the Pink Zone', referring to the pink colored tiles on the street. It was once the high-class residential area of Mexico City, before tourism, shops, restaurants, hotels & commercial office space took it over. Today, it is the centre of commercial activity in Mexico City. This area, along with Polanco is one of Mexico City's main Night Spots.

Coyoacan

The streets in this area are all cobbled & the area is home to some of Mexico City's finest mansions & great museums. Many present-day celebrities live around here, as past celebrities have, including: Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera & Leon Trotsky.

Chapultepec

Mexico City's largest 'green area'. You'll find Chapultepec Park itself, the Castle where French leader Maximilian ruled from before he met his fate in Queretaro. There's also Mexico City's extensive Zoo, The Anthropology Museum, Chapultepec Fun Fair with its "Russian Mountain" wooden roller-coaster, several top-class Museums & Cultural Centres & some of the city's finest hotels & restaurants. Just north of Chapultepec is the district of Polanco, an ultra-high class residential area, which is also host to Mexico's biggest & most elaborate US-Style Shopping Mall, Santa Fe.

Tourist information

On arrival at the hotel collect your "Welcome to Mexico" letter from the front desk. This letter is filled with information on things to do & see as well as a reminder for departure times.

Hotel check-in: Upon check-in the hotel will ask you for your tour accommodation voucher. If you would like to charge anything to your room a credit card is required. Check-in is at 1.00pm & check-out is 2.00pm

Internet: The Best Western Zona Rosa has a business centre where you can access your email (at a cost) to let your friends & family know you have arrived safely in Mexico City or email after your tour with all your adventure stories.

Luggage storage: If you want to head out & discover the energy of Mexico City, store your luggage with the front desk until you want to check into your hotel after 1.00pm. This service is free.

Luggage: It is very important that your 1 piece of luggage is no heavier than 20 kg (44 lbs), as this rule is strictly adhered to on morning of departure. Hand luggage must weigh no more than 4kg (8lbs).

Tippling: Just like in the US & Canada, most employees in the services sector in Mexico, especially the hospitality industry, depend heavily on tips. Minimum wages are quite low, making tips especially important. Check to see if a service charge was added to your bill as this may mean you do not need to tip.

Regatear: As a tourist, you're pretty much expected to haggle & bargain when buying souvenirs, pottery, etc. However, don't try this in shopping malls, upscale boutiques & department stores.

Shopping: It's advisable to bring lots of coins & small bills, as often vendors do not have change. You will need numerous 1, 5, 10, 20 pesos & some 10, 20 & 50 centavo coins. Try to use 20, 50, 100 & 200 peso bills instead of the larger denominations.

Health: Traveller's diarrhea is a common traveler's illness in Mexico. You can prevent it by sticking to bottled water, not eating at the street food stands, eating only fruit that you can peel & washing your hands or using hand sanitizer before you eat.

Yucatan Explorer

Meet your Tour Manager in the Lobby for a short orientation on day 1 of your tour. Please bring your passport, travel vouchers & emergency contact details to the meeting. Even if you have already checked in for your tour online, you will still need to attend this meeting.

If you miss the coach

Should you miss the coach, please check the front desk for a note from your tour manager & contact Contiki's ground operator Journey Mexico at +52 (55) 56 72 53 53 & ask to speak with the Operations department. They will give you detailed information on how to catch up with your tour.

Useful Mexico City addresses & telephone numbers Consulates and Embassies

Australia

Ruben Dario 55 Colonia
Polanco 11580 Mexico DF
+52 (55) 5531 5225

Britain

Consulate-General
Rio Lerma 71 Colonia
Cauhtemoc Mexico DF
+52 55 5242 8500

Canada

Consulate-General
Schiller 529 Colonia Rincon
del Bosque Polanco 11560
Mexico DF
+52 (55) 5724 7900

Germany

Consulate-General
Lord Byron 737 Colonia
Polanco 11560 Mexico, D.F.
+52 (55) 5283 22 00

Israel

Consulate-General
Sierra Madre 215 Lomas de
Chapultepec C.P. 11000
Mexico, D.F.
+52 (55) 5201-1507

New Zealand

Consulate-General
Jaime Balmes 8, Piso 4 Col.
Los Morales Polanco C.P.
11510 Mexico, D.F.
+ 52 (55) 5283 9460

South Africa

Consulate-General
Andres Bello 10 Forum
Building, 9th Floor Colonia
Polanco C.P. 11560 Mexico
DF
+ 52 (55) 1100 4970

United States

Paseo de la Reforma 305
Colonia Cuahatemoc 06500
Mexico DF
+52 (55) 5209 9100



Mexican history\

Area: 1,972,550 km (761,606 sq mi)

Population: 111,211,789

Capital: Mexico City

The history of Mexico begins perhaps as much as 30,000 years ago during the last ice age. With its diverse geography & beautiful scenery, this land gave rise to the development of early civilizations unique in the world. At least three great civilizations—the Mayas, the Olmecs & later the Toltecs - preceded the wealthy Aztec empire, conquered in 1519–1521 by the Spanish under Hernando Cortés. Spain ruled Mexico as part of the viceroyalty of New Spain for the next 300 years until September. 16, 1810, when the Mexicans first revolted. They won independence in 1821. Today, Mexico is made up 31 states & 1 federal District.

- 3500 B.C. - 300 A.D.** The Pre Classical Period-Olmec Culture
- 300 - 900** A.D.The Classical Period-Mayan Culture
- 900-1521** The Post Classical Period – Toltec, Tarasco & Aztec Culture
- 1519 - 21** Spanish forces led by Hernando Cortés arrive & conquer Mexico.
- 1523-1821** Viceroy's ruled "New Spain" which claimed its northeast boundary near what today is Charleston, SC & its northwestern outposts at San Francisco, CA & Taos, NM in the USA
- 1540** Spanish expansion continued northward into what is now the United States. Spanish territory covered the southeast, southwest & California
- 1789** French Revolution: its doctrines spread to Latin America, where Creoles wanted to supplant Gachupines (Peninsular-born whites) in office.
- 1810 - 21** Mexico fights for independence from Spain & wins it in 1821.
- 1836** Texas declares its independence from Mexico. Mexicans & Texans battle at the Alamo & San Jacinto.

- 1848** The U.S. wins the Mexican-American War & gains Mexican territory. The land includes what are now California, Nevada & Utah, plus parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming & Colorado.
- 1862** Battle of Puebla. The Cinco de Mayo holiday honors this national army defeat of French invaders.
- 1910** The Mexican Revolution begins when citizens rise up against oppressive rulers.
- 1917** A new constitution is adopted.
- 1968** Mexico City hosts the first Olympic Games ever held in Latin America.
- 1985** An earthquake of magnitude 8.1 strikes Mexico City. Nearly 10,000 people are killed.
- 1992** Mexico joined the U. S. & Canada in NAFTA, effective January 1, 1994.
- 1993** A violent rebellion breaks out in Chiapas.
- 1995** Mexican banking crisis. With U.S. aid, the Mexican economy recovers.
- 2000** Vicente Fox is sworn in as the first president elected who did not belong to the ruling party PRI
- 2006** Felipe Calderón wins the Presidency with a razor thin margin



General information

CALENDAR 2011

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CALENDAR 2012

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Here are a few ideas on some key words & phrases of some of the countries you might visit on your tour... Try them out on the locals!

English	French	German	Spanish	Italian	Greek
Good morning	Bonjour	Guten	Buenos días	Buongiorno	Kalimera
Goodbye	Au revoir	Auf Wiedersehen	Adios	Arrivederci	Yasou
Please	S'il vous plait	Bitte	Por favor	Perfavore	Parakalo
Thank you	Merci	Danke Schon	Gracias	Grazie	Effaristo
Yes	Oui	Ja	Si	Si	Ne
No	Non	Nein	No	No	Oki
Where is?	Où est?	Wo ist?	Dónde está?	Dové	Poo eeneh?
The toilet	les toilettes	die toilette	el lavabo	Il gabinetto	To oahlehtes
The bank	a banque	Die Bank	Banco	Banca	Trapeza
Post Office	la Poste	Die Post	Correos	Ufficio Postale	Takeiromeo
How much?	Combien?	Wieviel?	Cuanto?	Quanto?	Posso?
The bill	l'addition	Die Rechnung	La cuenta	Il Conto	To loghariazmo
Ladies	Dames	Damen	Enoras	Donne	Yinekon
Gents	Messieurs	Herren	Senores	Uomini	Anthron
Stamp	Timbre	Briefmarke	Sello	Francobollo	Grammatesimo

Residents of the United States & Canada speak English, but at times they use entirely different vocabulary & phrases to the rest of the English-speaking world. Here are a few examples - you'll pick the rest up as you go along.

English	American	English	American
food and drink		vehicles and driving	
crisps	chips	motorway	freeway/interstate
biscuit	cracker/cookie	dual	divided
swiss roll	danish	carrageway	highway
chips	french fries	level crossing	grade crossing
white coffee	with cream	lay-by	pull-off
black coffee	w/out cream	petrol	gas
soft drink	soda	bonnet	hood
lemonade	7-up	boot	trunk
with ice	on the rocks	hire car	rental car
shopping		miscellaneous	
spirits	liquor	underground (tube)	subway
sellotape	Scotch tape	footpath	sidewalk
chemist	Drug store	public phone	phone booths
		reverse charges	call collect
		lift	elevator
		toilet	bathroom/restroom
		mobile phone	cell phone

Clothing sizes

Sizes vary from country to country around the world. No doubt while in Europe you will want to buy clothes, so as a guide we have listed the approximate comparative sizes to help you when trying clothes on.

Men

Suits and coats

American/English	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
European	46	48	50	52	54	56	58

Shirts

American - English	15	15½	15¾	16	16½	17
Continental	38	39	40	41	42	43

Sweaters

	S	M	L	XL
American/English	34	36-38	40-42	44
Continental	44	46-48	50-52	54

Shoes

American	7½	8	8½	9½	10	11
Continental	40	41	42	43	44	45

Women

Dresses, coats and suits

American	32	34	36	38	40
English	10	12	14	16	18
Continental	38	40	42	44	46

Blouses and sweaters

American	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
English	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
Continental	40	42	44	46	48	50	52

Shoes

American	5	5½	6½	7½	8½	9	9½
English	3½	4	5	6	7	7½	8
Continental	36	37	38	39	40	41	42

Children's wear

American	1	4	6	8	10	13	15
English	1	2	5	7	9	10	12
Continental	1	2	5	7	9	10	12

US Measures & Metric Equivalents

Liquid Measure

16 ounces	1 pint
2 pints	1 quart
4 quarts	1 gallon

Cubic Measure

1728 cu. in	1 cu. ft.
27 cu. ft	1 cu. yd.
40 cu. ft	1 ton

Long Measure

12 inches	1 foot
3 feet	1 yard

Dry Measure

2 pints	1 quart
8 quarts	1 peck

Metric Equivalents

Linear Measure

1 centimetre	0.3937 inch
1 inch	2.54 centimetres
1 decimetre	3.937 inches
1 foot	3.048 decimetres
1 meter	1.09 yards
1 yard	0.9144 metres
1 kilometre	0.621 miles
1 mile	1.6 kilometres

Square Measure

1 hectare	2.471 acres
1 acre	0.4047 hectares

Weights

1 gram	0.03527 ounce
1 ounce	28.35 grams
1 kilogram	2.2 pounds
1 pound	0.45 kilograms

Temperatures

Celsius° = F° - 32, then x 5/9 Fahrenheit° = C° x 9/5, then + 32

Sending Letters Home

Postage prices can change without much notice, but at the time of printing the local currency cost of mailing a letter and postcard are:

From the USA to the USA to Canada International

(in US dollars)

Postcard (small)	\$.28	\$.75	\$.98
1 oz. letter	\$.44	\$.75	\$.98

From CANADA to the USA to Canada International

(in Canadian dollars)

0-30 grams	\$.98	\$.54	\$1.65
30-50 grams	\$1.22	\$1.00	\$2.44

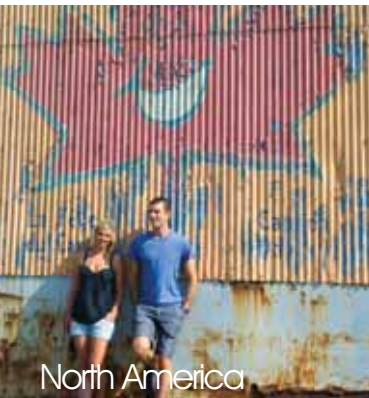
From Mexico to N.America to Europe International

(in Pesos)

0-20 grams	\$9.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
20-50 grams	\$10.50	\$17.50	\$24.50



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