



WESTERN UNITED STATES

Fun Facts



- California produces more than 17 million gallons of wine each year
- Arizona, the largest copper producer in the United States, has enough copper on the roof of the capitol to create 4,800,000 pennies
- Oregon's tallest mountain, Mt. Hood, is a dormant volcano
- Utahans have the highest literacy rate in the United States

The Old West – a place of great intrigue and wonder. Although it is the “newer” half of the United States, the west holds enough natural mystery and Native American tradition, to feel like it has been an official part of the nation for many centuries. Along the rugged Pacific coast, into the wine country of California, to the majesty of the Golden Gate Bridge and into the melting pot of Los Angeles, where many cultures collide – creating a massive area of the country with a little taste of everything, visitors can enjoy a world of big skies and stunning surroundings with a sense they're escaping. National Parks, diverse landscapes, and reminders of the strong Native American cultures will captivate visitors of the west.

As the final destination of the famous Route 66, Los Angeles, the “City of Angels”, offers many sights and adventures. Home of the world-famous Getty Museum, Universal Studios, Hollywood, and glamour itself, there is always something to see in this massive and vibrant city, constantly humming with energy. Stop into the more quaint cities of California moving north to Santa Barbara and Solvang, a smooth transition to a different pace of life as you get closer to wine country. Carmel, Monterey, Sonoma, and Napa Valley – proud producers of superb California wines – will charm and impress visitors with their delectable flavors. Sample and delight in the wine and food of the region, as you scratch the surface of the art and science behind wine-making.

The charming Southwest is not to be missed when venturing out west. Durango, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Tucson, and Scottsdale are some of the ideal destinations to really get a taste of the culture. Native American art, jewelry, scenery, and foods inundate these towns and leave lasting impressions of breathtaking sunsets and seemingly endless skies. Not far from here but almost a world away stands one of America's most popular vacation destinations, Las Vegas. The lights and glitz and glamour of this desert oasis provide endless entertainment, dining, shopping, and gambling. Spend time on the famous “Strip”, packed with glittering hotels, graced with the stunning fountains of the Bellagio, and home to some of the greatest shows on earth – you'll never be without something to do in Vegas.

Whether touring through this region, driving leisurely through it, or seeing it by train, the wonder of the versatile landscapes and unique history will create stories and memories to share forever. At the heart of a region with so much diversity in its surroundings, cultures, and lifestyles, is a region that still somehow maintains a common sense of history and unity – a fascinating dichotomy that will thrill any visitor of the great American West.



CURRENCY AND BUDGETING

The exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the Canadian dollar is approximately 1:1; however, for the most current exchange rate, please go to our Web site at www.globusfamily.com/currency

Although credit cards are widely accepted in the United States and Canada, we recommend our passengers carry some cash (~\$50.00) to use in circumstances when credit cards are not accepted or in destinations where ATMs are not readily available.

When budgeting for your trip, keep in mind that the cost of goods, including food, drinks, and souvenirs, may differ significantly from what you're used to at home. In general, Canada and Alaska are more expensive than destinations in the continental United States. While the cost of goods in the eastern United States and Hawaii are expensive, they are slightly cheaper than what you'll find in Canada and Alaska. The western United States are cheaper yet, but your dollar will go the farthest in the southern U.S.



TEMPERATURES

When traveling to the western United States keep in mind that the temperature can vary greatly between northern and southern destinations. The northern states are substantially cooler than southern states and are also more prone to rain showers. The farther inland you travel the drier the air becomes. If traveling to coastal cities, an ocean breeze may persist. We recommend checking local weather in each of your destinations prior to traveling to ensure you are adequately prepared for the conditions.

Below is the average high and low temperatures for two of our western U.S. destinations.

Seattle, WA		Month	Las Vegas, NV	
Average High °(F)	Average Low °(F)		Average High °(F)	Average Low °(F)
47	37	January	58	39
50	37	February	63	44
54	39	March	70	49
59	43	April	78	56
64	48	May	89	66
70	52	June	99	75
76	56	July	104	81
76	57	August	102	79
71	53	September	94	71
60	47	October	81	59
51	41	November	67	47
46	36	December	57	39



FOOD SPECIALTIES

The western US is known for a wide variety of specialties. Among them, western-style bbq, fresh seafood in the Northwestern states, fabulous beef, game meats including venison and elk, fresh trout, green chili, beef jerky, Indian fry bread, breakfast burritos, and the legendary Rocky Mountain Oysters.

The western US is also world renowned for its wine production, particularly in California, Oregon, & Washington.



SHOPPING SPECIALTIES

In the western US, cowboy hats, cowboy boots, western shirts, and leather products such as belts and wallets are always popular souvenirs. Other regional finds include books on the Western National Parks, Native American handicrafts including pottery, rugs, jewelry, and rugged outdoor wear.

Along the coast, regional wines, artisan handicrafts, coffee, salmon (Pacific Northwest), cedar planks (for cooking), and hand-made chocolates. San Francisco in particular, is known for its shopping at Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, Union Square, and dozens of boutique shops.

Los Angeles and Las Vegas are shopping hotspots in the western U.S. Las Vegas features a wide array of outlets and Los Angeles has its famous Rodeo Drive and Melrose Avenue, and the Universal City Walk near Hollywood.

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