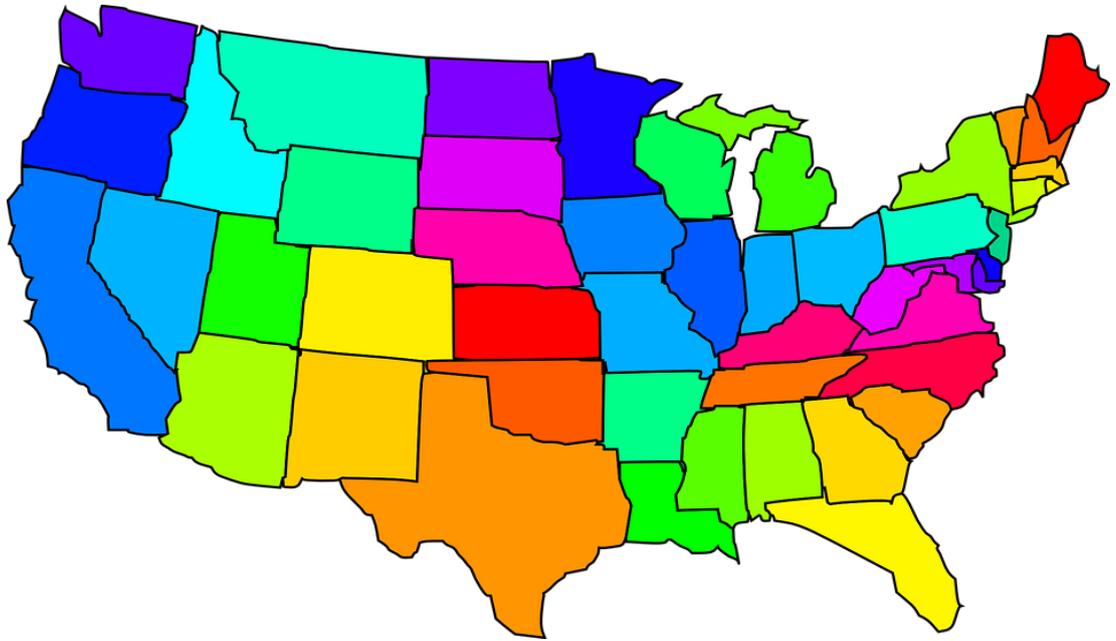


30 Curiosities of the United States



For better or worse, **in the United States everything is done in a big way:** cars, *large* McDonald's menus are endless and even the country's debt is the largest in history. It is a country you **either love or hate**. We are undoubtedly from the first group, it is a peculiar land with a lot of interesting places **to see in the United States**. We tell you **30 curiosities of the United States so that you learn something more about the country**.

30 CURIOSITIES OF THE UNITED STATES:

1. A 16-year-old student designed the current flag, among the most impressive curiosities of the United States

One of the funniest curiosities of the United States is the process of choosing the current flag of the country. Robert G. Heft, a 16-year-old student, **created the design by cutting out parts of an old flag belonging to his grandparents as a paper for history class.**

The professor gave it a notable bass, but Heft felt it deserved more. They challenged each other, agreeing that if the design was accepted by Congress, the professor would give it an excellent rating. Not only did it end up being that way, but Heft **has visited the White House up to 14 times** thanks to that history work.

The first flag of the United States is in Philadelphia. So you can take the opportunity to get to know the city!

2. The Armed Forces only accept “Made in USA” flags.

Since 2014, **the Department of Defense has been required by law to purchase flags made in the United States.** One more sign of patriotism, since they consider that the army should fight alongside flags created in their country. In addition, this way they avoid paying taxes abroad.

3. Christmas was illegal

One of America's most incredible curiosities is that **celebrating Christmas was illegal until 1907.** The reason? **It was considered an old pagan festival** that did not fit with the religiousness of the country. It's funny that now there are a lot of towns called "Christmas" or there are even three "Santa Clauses".

If you want to spend these special dates of the year in the country, probably the most special place is New York.

4. United States of Earth? One of the most surreal curiosities of the United States

An **amendment was proposed in 1893 to change the name from the United States of America to the United States of the Earth.** The congressmen who promoted the change believed that the country not only had power over its territory, but over the entire world.

5. It has had 9 different capitals

The original capital of the United States was Philadelphia, but Washington DC was not transferred from there directly. Not much less! From 1774 to 1800, Congress met in numerous locations. For this reason, it can be considered that **up to 8 more cities were the political capital** of the country in their day: Baltimore, Lancaster, York, Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton, New York and, finally, Washington DC.

6. It is the most obese country in the world

This is surely one of the least surprising curiosities of the United States. It is known for being the country of *fast food* and it shows. **Two - thirds of Americans are overweight and half of them are obese**. Both McDonald's have made a dent, though Subway recently overtook the burger chain, becoming the world's largest restaurant chain.

7. 40 hectares of pizza are consumed per day

It's not just hamburgers that contribute to weight gain, **pizza is America's favorite food**. So many pizzas are consumed daily that the surface of 40 soccer fields could be filled. **There are more than 60,000 pizzerias** across the country, which are especially crowded on the night of the Superbowl final. **The oldest is Lombardi's**, which opened in 1905. It's in New York and it's still one of the best in the city.

If you want to see other options, we tell you the **best restaurants to eat cheaply in New York**.

8. Each citizen owes \$54,000

The cradle of capitalism **cannot boast of having a healthy economy**. In fact, each person would have to pay \$54,000 to get out of debt. Unfortunately, **48% of the population is considered to have low incomes**, but at the same time there are almost 170,000 students with loans of more than \$200,000 to pay for their studies. **The last day without a national debt in the United States was January 8, 1836**. Crazy, right?

9. It has the least populated capital in the world

Only 0.21% of the country's population lives in the capital, the lowest percentage in the world behind Pakistan and Nigeria. One of the most surprising curiosities of the United States... Would you like to be last in something, with how competitive they are? Without a doubt, one of the best curiosities in the United States.

10. It would take 4 planets to support the consumption of the United States

With the rate of consumption and the waste generated by the United States, it would take four planet Earths to withstand it without suffering. To give you an idea, **an American consumes the same as 32 Kenyans**, for example. Although beware, it does not only happen in the United States, but in most developed countries. In fact, **Luxembourg** tops the EU consumption list per capita.

11. They have a problem with the environment

One of the most worrying curiosities of the United States is that they recycle almost nothing. **Only 34% of waste is recycled**. It is estimated that **reaching 75% would be equivalent to eliminating 50 million cars**. But it does not seem that it is an issue that is going to improve, since **Trump took the country out of the Paris Agreements**, which limit the emission of polluting gases. The United States, Syria and Nicaragua are the only countries that are not part of the agreement.

12. Maternity leave is not paid

Unfortunately, **the United States is one of only three countries that does not financially compensate moms who are sick after giving birth**. The other two are Suriname and Papua New Guinea. It is a very controversial issue that has caused complaints from many women.

13. “In God We Trust”

The current motto of the United States was chosen in 1956, but it already had a long history. **It originated in 1861, during the Civil War**, when religious sentiment grew in the population. Since then, this inscription appears on all coins and dollar bills.

14. Canada could be the 51st state

If Canada were to seek admission to the United States, **it would automatically be admitted** as the country's 51st state. This is indicated by one of the 13 Articles of Confederation, ratified in 1781.

15. The US government can disable all GPS in the world

The **GPS system was purchased by the United States Department of Defense**. It is paid with the taxes of the Americans, but at any time it can be deactivated for some interest of the country. At the moment, since 1995 it has never been turned off despite the participation of the United States in various wars.

16. It has no official language, one of the most surprising curiosities of the United States

Although English is the most widely spoken language in the United States, **there is no law that establishes it as the official language of the country**. Besides English, hundreds of languages and dialects are spoken, with Spanish being the most common.

17. Interracial marriages were prohibited for many years

For most of the history of the United States, couples of different ethnicities could not have sex or marry. It was not until **1967 that the pitiful Racial Integrity Act was abolished**. That law distinguished human beings according to their skin color and prevented mixed relationships. In addition, it forced the sterilization of "crazy, idiotic, imbecile or epileptic". And to think that "only" 50 years ago...

18. The Liberty Bell has a misspelling.

The famous bell **was first rung on July 8, 1776**, during the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. After being officially sounded for the last time in 1846, the famous crack that is now so characteristic was made. If you visit it in Philadelphia, look at the inscription on it. **It says "Pennsylvania" with a single N**. So they didn't have autocorrect yet!

19. If you visit the United States, avoid Detroit

Detroit is the most dangerous city in the country, with 1,988 murders per 100,000 people. In contrast, **Honolulu is the safest big city in the country** with only 230 crimes per 100,000 inhabitants. Of course, there are many Hawaiians who still claim to be very different from the rest of continental America. The truth is that there is a difference, they lead a much more relaxed life.

20. The highest mountain in the world is in the United States

We have been deceived all our lives. **Measured from the bottom of the ocean,**

Hawaii's dormant Mauna Kea volcano towers over Everest. Only 4,200 meters of Mauna Kea protrude from the surface, but the total height exceeds 10,000 meters! While Everest, considered the highest mountain in the world, measures 8848 meters.

21. The population did not like the idea of going to the moon

In the 1960s, **half of Americans did not agree much with the space mission that would put Armstrong and Aldrin on the lunar surface.** The main reason was the great expense involved. In fact, it is estimated that almost a third of Americans today still do not believe that the moon has been reached.

22. The United States and the USSR planned to walk on the moon hand in hand

Before the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 the two countries were negotiating a joint mission to the moon. But when Johnson took power, the Soviets did not trust him and the plan was never carried out.

Curiously, although it seems that the two countries that were protagonists of the Cold War are far away, they are **only separated by 3,800 meters in the Bering Strait.** Do not miss the **best curiosities of Russia.**

If you are interested in astronomy, you can visit the **Kennedy Space Center** in Florida. Visiting it is one of the most interesting things **to do in Orlando.**

23. How much did Alaska cost?

Another business that the United States and **Russia** have had is the purchase of Alaska. **The US government paid \$7.2 million for the territory in 1867.** For another reference, when he bought the Danish part of the Virgin Islands, he paid the equivalent of 25 million in gold bullion.

24. A deadly law against alcohol

The US government banned alcoholic beverages from 1919 to 1933. The **18th amendment to the constitution was introduced to establish the famous prohibition.** But not only that... Anyone who tried to cheat to get liquor in one way or another ended up dead. **The government poisoned alcoholic beverages,** causing more than 10,000 deaths.

25. With or without alcohol, the first bar in the country is in New York

The oldest bar in the United States was built in 1668 in the upstate New York town of Tappan. It's called '76 House and you can still visit it. What's more, it's interesting to see because it still has an old look.

26. Wyoming pioneered the female vote.

And after the 18th amendment came the much more important 19th, which gave women the right to vote. One of the curiosities of the United States that should be celebrated the most is that **the state of Wyoming was a few years ahead in allowing women to vote**. In 1869 the citizens of the state could already vote. Because of that, it was also the first state to have a female governor in 1924: Nellie Tayloe Ross.

27. The first American woman to win Olympic gold received a porcelain bowl.

At the 1900 Paris Olympics, medals were not yet awarded, instead gifts were given to the winners. But the most surprising thing is not that, but that Margaret Abbott died without knowing that she was an Olympic champion in women's golf. She was visiting Paris with her mother and **she decided to sign up for a golf tournament without knowing that she was part of the Olympic program**.

28. The Californian bear is a myth, among the funniest curiosities of the United States.

The California state flag is one of the most famous in the entire country. The brown bear is the protagonist because it is the official animal of the state. But, paradoxically, **none of these animals have been seen in California since 1922**. The vast majority were hunted or moved to zoos (unfortunately).

29. The Pentagon is the largest office building in the world

With more than **27 kilometers of corridors** spread over five floors, the Pentagon holds the world record. Although much of that space is totally wasted. **There are twice as many restrooms as needed** because construction began when the laws that segregated black citizens were still in place.

Fortunately, they were abolished before the inauguration and the Pentagon was the first building in the state of Virginia to have the same spaces for everyone. To give you an idea, **the construction cost more than 2 billion dollars** at current exchange rates.

30. The town of the five flags

And to end this list of curiosities of the United States, we tell you which was the first town in the country. It is northeast of Florida and is called **Pensacola**. **The first Spanish settlement** was founded there in 1698. Although it is curious that it is known as the "city of the five flags" because it **was under the control of Spain, France , Great Britain, the United States and the 11 Confederate States of America** that separated from the country from 1861 to 1865.

Finally, a not funny curiosity is that **health care in the United States is private and very expensive**. For example, **an overnight hospital stay for any minor ailment costs around \$7,000**. That is why it **is essential to take out travel insurance**. We offer you a **20% discount on lati insurance**.