ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

New York to Washington

The big cities of the East Coast, with Amish country and Gettysburg in between.

Length	13 days, 12 nights
Distance	610 km, 7 driving days
Behind the wheel	9 h 30 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – New York JFK (JFK), Washington Dulles (IAD) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

New York	Days 1–4	**8**
Philadelphia	Days 5–6	**10**
Lancaster	Day 7	**12**
Gettysburg	Day 8	**14**
Baltimore	Day 9	**16**
Washington	Days 10–12	**18**

Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		New York	30	40 min	
2		New York			
3		New York			
4		New York			
5		Philadelphia	150	2 h 10 min	
6		Philadelphia			
7		Lancaster	130	1 h 40 min	
8		Gettysburg	90	1 h 30 min	
9		Baltimore	100	1 h 40 min	
10		Washington	60	1 h	
11		Washington			
12		Washington			
13		Flight home from IAD	50	1 h	

610 km · 9 h 30 min behind the wheel · on average 90 km a driving day

Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.

The route



Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

ON THE ROAD

Day 1	Land at New York JFK (JFK), drive to New York · About 30 km (20 mi), 40 min
Day 5	New York, drive to Philadelphia · About 150 km (90 mi), 2 h 10 min
Day 7	Philadelphia, drive to Lancaster · About 130 km (80 mi), 1 h 40 min
Day 8	Lancaster, drive to Gettysburg · About 90 km (60 mi), 1 h 30 min
Day 9	Gettysburg, drive to Baltimore · About 100 km (60 mi), 1 h 40 min
Day 10	Baltimore, drive to Washington · About 60 km (40 mi), 1 h
Day 13	Washington to Washington Dulles airport (IAD), fly home to Amsterdam · About 50 km (30 mi), 1 h

Well prepared

ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

Customs

Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

DON'T FORGET

Notes



DAYS 1–4

New York NY

Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Statue of Liberty

Land at New York JFK (JFK), drive to New York: about 30 km (20 mi), 40 min

4 nights

NEW YORK · DAYS 1–4

HOTEL

- [ ] Moxy NYC Lower East Side · 3★ — roughly €180
  145 BOWERY
- [ ] Moxy NYC East Village · 3★ — roughly €430
  112 EAST 11TH STREET
- [ ] Moxy NYC Chelsea · 3★ — roughly €410
  105 West 28th Street
- [ ] Hilton Garden Inn NYC Financial Center/Manhattan Downtown · 3★ — roughly €340
  6 Water St
- [ ] Hampton Inn Times Square Central · 3★ — roughly €410
  220 West 41st St.

NOTES



DAYS 5–6

Philadelphia PA

Liberty Bell and Independence Hall

New York, drive to Philadelphia: about 150 km (90 mi), 2 h 10 min

2 nights

PHILADELPHIA · DAYS 5–6

HOTEL

- [ ] Motto by Hilton Philadelphia Rittenhouse Square · 3★ — roughly €80
  31 S 19th St
- [ ] Independence Park Hotel, BW Premier Collection · 3★ — roughly €140
  235 Chestnut St
- [ ] Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown · 3★ — roughly €110
  201 North 17th Street
- [ ] Courtyard by Marriott Philadelphia South at The Navy Yard · 3★ — roughly €190
  1001 Intrepid Ave
- [ ] Residence Inn Philadelphia Center City · 3★ — roughly €130
  1 E Penn Sq

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DAY 7

Lancaster PA

Amish farmland

Philadelphia, drive to Lancaster: about 130 km (80 mi), 1 h 40 min

1 night

LANCASTER · DAY 7

HOTEL

- [ ] Hollinger House · 3★
  2336 Hollinger Road
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Lancaster · 3★ — roughly €140
  1450 Harrisburg Pike
- [ ] Parkview Inn & Suites, Lancaster Amish Country, PA · 3★ — roughly €120
  2260 Lincoln Hwy E
- [ ] Hampton Inn Lancaster · 3★ — roughly €100
  545 Greenfield Rd
- [ ] Lancaster Arts Hotel · 3★ — roughly €130
  300 Harrisburg Ave

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DAY 8

Gettysburg PA

The Civil War battlefield

Lancaster, drive to Gettysburg: about 90 km (60 mi), 1 h 30 min

1 night

HOTEL

- [ ] Best Western Gettysburg · 3★ — roughly €80
  301 Steinwehr Avenue
- [ ] Brickhouse Inn B&B · 3★ — roughly €60
  452 Baltimore Street
- [ ] Historic Downtown Gettysburg Entire Home with Free Parking · 3★
  131 York Street
- [ ] Lightner Farmhouse B&B · 3★
  2350 Baltimore Pike
- [ ] The Brafferton Inn · 3★
  44 York Street

NOTES



DAY 9

Baltimore MD

Inner Harbor

Gettysburg, drive to Baltimore: about 100 km (60 mi), 1 h 40 min

1 night

BALTIMORE · DAY 9

HOTEL

- [ ] Wilson House Bed & Breakfast · 3★
  2100 Mt Royal Terrace
- [ ] The Study at Johns Hopkins · 3★
  3215 North Charles Street
- [ ] Staybridge Suites Baltimore - Inner Harbor by IHG · 3★ — roughly €90
  17 Commerce Street
- [ ] Hampton Inn Baltimore Bayview Campus · 3★ — roughly €120
  6571 Eastern Avenue
- [ ] Hampton Inn Baltimore-Downtown-Convention Center · 3★ — roughly €280
  550 Washington Blvd

NOTES



DAYS 10–12

Washington DC

The National Mall and the Smithsonian

Baltimore, drive to Washington: about 60 km (40 mi), 1 h

3 nights

WASHINGTON · DAYS 10–12

HOTEL

- [ ] Hotel Hive · 3★ — roughly €90
  2224 F Street NW
- [ ] Phoenix Park Hotel · 3★ — roughly €80
  520 N Capitol St NW
- [ ] Motto by Hilton Washington DC City Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  627 H Street NW
- [ ] The Normandy Hotel · 3★ — roughly €80
  2118 Wyoming Ave NW
- [ ] Homewood Suites by Hilton Washington DC Convention Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  465 New York Avenue NW

NOTES

What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	New York	€160	–	€60	**€220**
2	New York	€160	–	€60	**€220**
3	New York	€160	–	€60	**€220**
4	New York	€160	–	€60	**€220**
5	Philadelphia	€160	–	€60	**€220**
6	Philadelphia	€160	–	€60	**€220**
7	Lancaster	€160	–	€60	**€220**
8	Gettysburg	€160	–	€60	**€220**
9	Baltimore	€160	–	€60	**€220**
10	Washington	€160	–	€60	**€220**
11	Washington	€160	–	€60	**€220**
12	Washington	€160	–	€60	**€220**
13	Flight home from IAD	–	–	€60	**€60**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€1,920
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€780
Total	**€4,400**
	€2,200 a person

An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.

Notes

About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.rondreis.expert/en/tours/new-york-washington/

PHOTOS

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MAP AND TYPE

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