

美国旅游便览

VISITING THE U.S.A.

中英对照



一九八〇年

美国旅游便覽

VISITING THE U. S. A.

致 读 者

《美国旅游便览》(visiting the U. S. A) 是香港出版的一本介绍美国人民风俗习惯、文化艺术和风土人情等概况的书。该书主要对象是去美国的旅游者。我们翻印这本书，主要是供我院旅游干训班学员及英语系学生做为英语课外参考阅读教材用，同时也可供导游翻译及出国学习考察的有关人员阅读参考。本书仅供内部使用，请勿外传。

北京第二外国语学院干训部

Contents

PART 1

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNITED STATES—PEOPLES AND CUSTOMS

1	First Impressions	2
2	Customs Vary With Cultures	6
3	Cultural Differences: Personal	17
4	Cultural Differences: National	27
5	Schools in the United States	36
6	Manners and Courtesies in Social Life	42

PART 2

FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES

7	The Climate and Size of the United States	54
8	Traveling in America	59
9	American Money	65
10	Finding a Place to Stay	70
11	Housing	74
12	Food and Food Customs	79
13	Postal Service, Telephone, Telegraph	87
14	Health and Safety	93
15	Shopping	95
16	Things to Do	100
Appendix A: Important Formalities, Visas, Customs		111
Appendix B: Temperature, Weights and Measurements, Clothing Sizes		117

目 次

第一部

美国概况——人民与风俗

1	最初观感	2
2	风俗随文化而异	6
3	文化差异：个人方面	17
4	文化差异：民族方面	27
5	美国的学校	36
6	社交生活的礼仪	42

第二部

关于美国的一些有用资料

7	美国的气候与面积	54
8	在美国旅行	59
9	美国货币	65
10	找个地方住	70
11	住房子	74
12	食物和吃的习惯	79
13	邮政、电话、电报	87
14	健康与安全	93
15	购物	95
16	各种活动	100
附录一：访美手续要点，签证，关税		111
附录二：气温，度量衡，衣服尺码		117

第 一 部

美国概况—— 人民与风俗

PART 1

General Information about the United
States — People and Customs

Chapter One

First Impressions

Fast modern airplanes have made the world seem a smaller place. With increasing frequency, people travel from one country to another to conduct business or just to visit. Many visitors to the United States, in particular, find that life in America is very different from the customs and habits observed in their own countries. This chapter will discuss some of the differences visitors will notice when they first arrive in the United States.

Pace

Many visitors find the fast pace at which people move very troubling. One's first impression is likely to be that everyone is in a rush. City people always appear to be hurrying to get where they are going and are very impatient if they are delayed even for a brief moment. At first, this may seem unfriendly to you. Bus drivers will rush you; storekeepers will be in a hurry as they serve you; people will push past you as they walk along the street. You will miss smiles, brief conversations with people as you shop or dine away from home. Do not think that because Americans are in such a hurry that they are unfriendly. Often, life is much slower outside the big cities, as is true in ethor

第 一 章

最 初 观 感

快速的现代飞机，使世界似乎比前小了。人们为了自己的业务或光是为了游历，出国旅行的次数越来越多。到美国的许多游客，特别觉得美国人的生活跟他们本国的风俗习惯，大异其趣。本章将谈一谈游客初临美国时所发觉的一些不同点。

步 调

许多游客看到美国人做事都是快步调，觉得很困扰。初到美国的人，第一个印象大概就是觉得美国人个个都匆匆忙忙。城市里的人似乎永远赶着到什么地方去，纵使被阻片刻，就极不耐烦。起初，你也许认为这是对你的不友好表示。公共汽车司机催促你；店员跟你做生意，总是急急忙忙；你在街上走，后面的人一推就走到你的前面。你买东西或到外面吃饭，没有人跟你说笑寒暄。别以为美国人这样匆忙是对你表示不友好。大城市以外的人们，生活的步调就慢得多了，其实别的国家也是这种情形。

countries as well.

Americans who live in cities such as New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles, often think that everyone is equally in a hurry to get things done; they expect others to "push back", just as city people do in Tokyo, Beirut, or São Paulo, for example. But when they discover that you are a stranger, most Americans become quite kindly and will take great care to help you. Many of them first came to the city as strangers and they remember how frightening a new city can be. If you need help or want to ask a question, choose a friendly looking person and say, "I am a stranger here. Can you help me?"

Most people will stop, smile at you, and help you find your way or answer your questions. But you must let them know that you need help. Otherwise they are likely to pass you by, not noticing that you are new to the city and in need of help. Occasionally, you may find someone too busy or perhaps too rushed to give you aid. If this happens, do not be discouraged; just ask someone else. Most Americans enjoy helping a stranger.

People

Who are these people rushing by you on the street? More than 215 million now call America "home," but most of them can trace their families back to other parts of the world. If you look at the names on shop windows, you will see that Americans come from many different lands. The idea that these people, who once were strangers to the United States, have lost the customs and cultures of their original countries and have

住在纽约、芝加哥、或洛杉矶等大城市的美国人，往往觉得人人做事都同样在赶；他们预期别人也“推一下”，跟东京、贝鲁特、或圣保罗的人没有不同。不过，他们一发现你是异乡人，多半会表示友善并尽力帮忙你。许多美国人初到城市，自己也是异乡人，他们会记得踏入一座新城市时，心里有多惊恐。你如果需要人帮忙或想问什么问题，可以选一个面貌和善的人，对他说“我是外地来的。你能帮我一下吗？”

这时候，人们多半会停下来，微笑地给你指点途径，或答复你的问题。但你必须让他们知道你需要人帮忙，否则他们多半从你身旁匆匆而过，根本不会注意到你是外地人，也不知道你需要帮忙。你偶尔会碰到一个本身太忙或赶着办事没法帮你的人。遇到这种情形，你也不必气馁，只要另找别人。大多数美国人都高兴帮忙外来客。

人 民

在街上从你身边匆匆而过的人都是谁呢？今天有二亿一千五百万以上的人称美国为“家”，但大部分的人追溯家谱，都知道自己的祖先是来自世界其他地区来的。你如果注意一下商店橱窗上的名字，就知道美国人的来处不同。如认为这些起初在美国，也是异乡客的人，丧失了他们本

become “American” is really not true. In fact, what exists in America is more often a kind of “side-by-side” living in which groups of people from other countries often have kept many of their own customs and habits. They join the general American society only in certain areas of their lives—such as in schools, businesses, and sports—but they keep many of their own native customs and manners socially and at home. This living “side-by-side” has both advantages and disadvantages. Sometimes it may cause disagreements to develop between groups whose ways of life are very different from one another. However, there are also great advantages that come from the variety of cultures brought by settlers from other lands. There is great freedom of choice among ideas, dress, food, and social customs in America. Everyone can find some part of his own familiar world in the United States, in churches, music, food, national groups, or newspapers.

Informality

Although American **informality** is well known, many new visitors think that it indicates a “lack of respect.” This is especially true in the business world. Americans often use first names upon meeting a stranger and do not always shake hands. They often just smile and say “Hi” or “Hello,” rather than using a more **formal** hand shake. It is good to remember that to an American such an **informal** greeting really means the same thing as a more formal hand shake someplace else. Similarly, Americans do not usually give a special “farewell” or hand shake to each person when they leave a party or business meeting. They will often

土的风俗文化成了“美国人”，这是不确的。其实，美国人今天过的多半是一种“并存”生活，来自不同国家的民族仍保留着许多他们本身的风俗习惯。他们只是在生活的某些范畴里——例如学校、商务、体育运动——加入美国的大社会，至于社交生活和家庭生活方面，仍保持着自己原有的一些习惯与礼仪。这种“并存”生活有利有弊。生活方式极不相同的各族有时可能由此产生歧见。不过，移民从各地带来的多种文化，也产生了极大好处。在美国，你可以任意选择不同的观念、服饰、食品、社会风俗等等。每个人在美国都多多少少可以接触到自己所熟悉的世界，在教会里，在音乐、食物、民族或报刊方面都如此。

不拘礼节

美国人以不拘礼节著称，可是新到美国的访客却认为这表示美国人缺乏敬意。商界特别有这种情形。美国人第一次同人见面，常直呼对方的名字，还不一定跟人握手。他们往往只是笑一笑，说一声“嗨”或“哈囉”，不正正经经握手为礼。其实我们该知道，在美国人看来，这种不拘礼节地打招呼，跟其他地区的正经握手为礼意义相同。同样地，美国人在社交场合散席或业务会议散会的时候，也不一定要跟每个人“道别”或握手。他们往往只向大家挥挥

just wave good-bye to the whole group or perhaps say, "Well, so long everybody, I'll see you tomorrow." They then will leave. No hand shakes.

Americans seem either totally hurried and hard working or totally informal and at ease. Often you will see men working at office desks without their suit coats and ties. They may lean far back in their chairs and even put their feet up on the desk while they talk on the telephone. This is not meant to be rude. Once Americans leave the busy streets, they are easy and informal.

A visitor to the United States should therefore understand that being in a great hurry does not indicate unfriendliness and being informal and at ease does not show a lack of respect. Americans have a great range of customs and habits that at first may seem puzzling to a visitor. In time you will learn these new ways.

手，或者说声“好啦，我们再见吧。明天见。”然后就走了，并不握手为礼。

美国人似乎不是匆匆忙忙埋头苦干，就是悠闲自在无所事事。你时常会见到不穿外衣不打领带的人坐在写字间里工作。他们拿着电话讲话的时候，会朝椅背一靠，甚至把双足架在写字台上。这不是粗鲁无礼的表示。美国人一离开熙熙攘攘的街道，就无拘无束，非常随便。

因此到美国的游客，应该明白，匆忙并不是表示不友善，不拘礼节也不是表示缺乏敬意。美国人有许多风俗习惯在陌生客看来是颇为费解的。你慢慢地就会了解这些新的生活方式。

Chapter Two

Customs Vary with Cultures

If American customs seem strange, remember that Americans feel the same way when they visit another country. People living in different cultures do many daily things differently from one another. What a dull world it would be if this were not true!

Some differences are small, and one soon becomes accustomed to them. For example, many people find it strange that Americans move from place to place so often. Born in one city, they may attend school in a second, enter business in a third, and perhaps move several more times during their lives. Today, most Americans fully expect and accept the fact they will move frequently.

Nevertheless, houses are of great interest to Americans. They spend much time thinking, reading, and talking about their homes and how to improve them. They also enjoy looking at other people's houses. Since they would enjoy visiting and examining a house in another country, they may assume that you will probably have the same desire when you visit the United States. Do not be surprised, therefore, when you visit an American family and are shown every room in the house, including the bathroom and kitchen!

第 二 章

风俗随文化而异

如果美国的风俗令外人觉得奇特，别忘记美国人到他国访问，也一样觉得别人的风俗奇特。在不同文化中生活的各个民族，日常的行为有许多是彼此互异的。假若不是这样，这个世界将多么沉闷！

有些歧异是微不足道的，不久就习以为常了。举例说，许多人都奇怪美国人为什么时常搬迁。美国人在甲地出生，到乙地上学，赴丙地经营事业，此后在其有生之年，也许还要搬迁好几次。今天，大多数的美国人都料到自己将时常迁移，也认为这是理所当然。

不过，美国人对于居所却极感兴趣。他们为自己的居所及怎样改善居所之事，花了许多时间去想，去读，和谈论有关的资料。他们也喜欢观察别人的房舍。他们到了另一国家，总喜欢参观兼研究别人的房子，所以你来美国访问，他们就以为你也许同样有这种心愿。因此，你到美国人家作客，主人家领你参观每间房间，甚至浴室和厨房

The Love of Travel

You may notice that Americans are in constant motion. People in the flat central part of the United States, the Middle West, may choose to drive their automobiles 120 to 160 kilometers just to have dinner with a friend in a neighboring city. They may go to another town for an evening of theater or music. Many young people attend universities that are located at great distances from their friends and families, just so they can "see another part of the country." Americans love to travel in their own land as well as in other parts of the world. They are always curious to know what lies beyond the next hill or the next town.

Knowledge of Your Country

You may meet Americans who know very little about your country. If so, be patient with them. Unfortunately, little is taught about the cultures or customs of other countries in American schools. The United States has always been separated from other countries by the vast oceans to the East and West of the country. As a result, Americans have not become so familiar with different cultures and other ways of doing things as is often the case in other countries. If Americans try to help you with something that is very familiar to you, if they mistake your country for another thousands of kilometers away, be patient with them. The United States has developed into a modern nation in a very short time compared with many other countries—only about 300 years. Americans have been very busy with growth of the country, with building roads and cities, establishing free education for millions of children, and making in-