

SOME THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE USA

Location of Camp Barney:



Georgia, the state where Camp Barney is located, is highlighted in red.

Diversity: America is a melting pot of cultures, ethnicities, and races. The 21st century has seen a greater emphasis on embracing and celebrating diversity, including the recognition and promotion of minority voices and cultural practices. **At camp, we will have staff from all over the world. A majority of our campers are considered “white” or by US standards. We strive to be an inclusive camp and have everyone feel like family by the time summer ends.**

Tipping: The waitstaff, bartenders, cab drivers, hotel employees, and almost anyone in the service industry are tipped. The rule is to tip not less than 15% and although it’s considered as voluntary, giving less than the accepted percentage or not leaving anything at all is generally looked down upon. This is one of what foreigners often rant about when in America (and the locals do that too anyway). **However, parents are not allowed to give tips to our staff.**

Political Polarization: The U.S. has become increasingly politically polarized in the 21st century. This can be seen in the rise of political extremism and the prevalence of echo chambers in media consumption. **Staff at CBM likely have varying political ideology. We encourage staff to maintain a comfortable work environment and connect with topics that are less polarizing than politics.**

America is REALLY Huge: If you plan to travel after camp and you have in your itinerary driving from New York to Miami to Mount Rushmore to Grand Canyon to Las Vegas to Hollywood, please realize that it's almost impossible to happen or you will not have the depth of experience you were hoping for. Remember, America's area is 9,826,675 km² which first-timers often underestimate. Hint: Italy is just about the size of California.

Distance between some major USA cities


Miles	Atlanta, GA	Chicago, IL	Denver, CO	Houston, TX	Kansas City, MO	Los Angeles, CA	Minneapolis, MN	Miami, FL	New York, NY	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA
Atlanta, GA		715	1405	800	805	2185	1135	665	865	2495	2785
Chicago, IL	1150		1000	1085	525	2020	410	1380	795	2135	2070
Denver, CO	2260	1615		1120	600	1025	915	2065	1780	1270	1335
Houston, TX	1285	1750	1805		795	1550	1230	1190	1635	1930	2450
Kansas City, MO	1295	850	965	1280		1625	440	1470	1195	1865	1900
Los Angeles, CA	3515	3250	1650	2495	2610		1935	2740	2800	385	1140
Minneapolis, MN	1825	665	1470	1980	680	3110		1795	1200	2010	2015
Miami, FL	1070	2220	3320	1915	2365	4405	2885		1280	3115	3365
New York, NY	1390	1275	2865	2630	1925	4505	1935	2060		3055	2860
San Francisco, CA	4015	3435	2040	3105	3000	615	3240	5015	4915		810
Seattle, WA	4485	3330	2140	3940	3060	1835	2675	5415	4600	1305	

The Non-Metric System: When going to the United States, visitors are welcomed with the words inches, miles, and the rest of the imperial measurements used widely in the country. It's confusing for those who're used to the metric system but people from Liberia and Myanmar will totally have no problems with it. Too bad we do not have anyone coming from either of those countries this year! Below is an easy conversion chart to start helping you get familiar:

IMPERIAL VS METRIC

Temperature

Celsius to Fahrenheit $(\text{Celsius} \times 1.8) + 32 = \text{Fahrenheit}$
 Fahrenheit to Celsius $(\text{Fahrenheit} - 32) / 1.8 = \text{Celsius}$



-18°C
0°F


0°C
32°F

10°C
50°F

20°C
68°F

30°C
86°F

40°C
104°F



Weight

1 oz (ounce) = 28.35 g (gram)
 1 lb (pound) = 0.45 kg (kilogram)
 1 stone = 6.35 kg

Volume


1 fl.oz (fluid ounce) = 29.57 ml (millilitre)
 1 cup = 237 ml

 1 pint = 0.47 ℓ (litre)
 1 quart = 0.95 ℓ

Distance

1" (in, inch) = 2.54 cm (centimetre)
 1' (ft, foot) = 30.48 cm

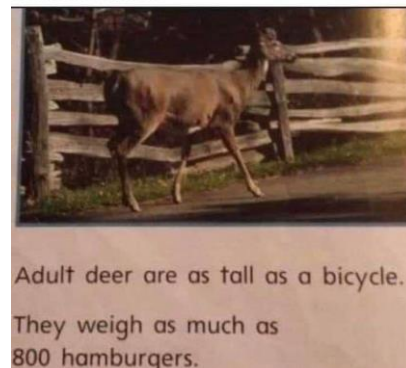
 1 yard = 0.9144 m (metre)
 1 mile = 1.61 km (kilometre)



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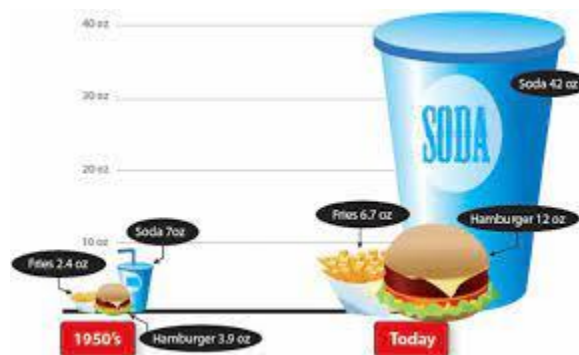
British: hey guys we developed a thing called the metric sy-
Americans:



Yep, this is true!

Taxes Only Added at Checkout: International staff find it strange that they can't have any idea on how much they're about to pay until they get into the cashier and find out the sales tax is not included in the purchase price and will be added at checkout. The reason behind this is taxing can be different depending on the state you're located. Moreover, counties do even have their own sales tax percentage. The exclusion of sales tax also allows companies to advertise lower prices. This might take some time to adjust to if you are not from here.

Portion sizes: Americans are known for their large portion sizes, which can be surprising for visitors who are used to smaller portions. It's common for restaurants to serve meals that could easily feed two or three people. **At camp, we have buffet style eating, so you can determine your own portion size!**



Smoking age is 21 in Georgia, as is the **drinking age**. This may come as a surprise to some of you who come from countries where the drinking and smoking age is lower. If you are 21 or older, **smoking tobacco is allowed at Camp Barney but ONLY in the back porch of the staff lounge.** **Alcohol is NOT allowed at camp.**

Tipping (Again): As mentioned earlier, tipping is a significant aspect of American culture. Visitors may be shocked to learn that tipping is expected in most service industries and not leaving a tip, or leaving less than the accepted percentage, is generally frowned upon.

U.S. TIPPING GUIDELINES



BARTENDER

\$1 to \$5 per round of drinks, depending on the number of drinks



SKYCAP AT AIRPORT

\$1 to \$3 per bag checked



BELLHOPS

\$1 to \$5 per bag, depending on the level of the hotel



TAXI

15%–20%, but round up the fare to the next dollar amount



HOTEL CONCIERGE

\$5 or more, if he or she performs a service for you



TOUR GUIDE

10% of the cost of the tour



HOTEL DOORMAN

\$1–\$2 if he helps you get a cab



VALET PARKING ATTENDANT

\$1–\$2, but only when you get your car



HOTEL MAID

\$1–\$3 a day (either daily or at the end of your stay, in cash)



WAITER

15%–20%, with 20% being the norm at high-end restaurants



HOTEL ROOM-SERVICE WAITER

\$1 to \$2 per delivery, even if a service charge has been added



RESTROOM ATTENDANTS

\$1 or small change in more expensive restaurants



PORTER AT AIRPORT OR TRAIN STATION

\$1 per bag



COAT-CHECK PERSONNEL

\$1–\$2 per item checked unless there is a fee, then nothing.