**New York**

New York, originally called **New Amsterdam**, was founded by Dutch colonists in **1625**. The legend says that island of Manhattan was bought from Native Americans for 60 guilders, which means about 1000 dollars now. **NYC is the largest city in the U.S.** and belongs also to the largest cities in the world. Population of 8 million increases every working day almost up to 20 million people. The most famous nickname for NYC is The Big Apple, other are The City That Never Sleeps and Capital of the World. The most important street in financial and commercial world is Wall Street with its NYSE and many big banks, in cultural world Broadway and Times Square. NYC is divided into 5 boroughs: **Manhattan, Bronx, Richmond, Brooklyn and Queens**. NYC has been a gateway for immigrants and many of them have settled there. Little Italy, Chinatown, Lower Eastside are quarters for one nationality. NYC is **cosmopolitan city**, where 43% are white, 25% African Americans and 24% Hispanic. NYC is well known for its Manhattan skyline. **Empire State Building** used to be many years the highest building in the world. Among the interesting places to see belong also the **Statue of Liberty** in the entrance of the harbour, **Central Park, Museum Mile** (group of world famous museums on **5th Avenue**) and many others.

**Los Angeles**

“The City of Angles” is **the second largest city in the U.S.** located on the west coast in California. Originally belonged to Spanish territory of Mexico, but since 1848 is a part of U.S. Official population is about **3,5 million inhabitants**, but illegal immigration from Mexico is a big problem for Californian government. Hispanic or any other Latinos are more than 48% of population of L.A. Climate in L.A. is **semi-tropical** and very pleasant throughout the year. L.A. is the centre of film industry in the world. **Hollywood** with its studios Paramount, Universal Studios, MGM (Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer) represent the trademark of “Factory of the Dreams”. The beaches as Venice Beach, Palm Beach or Beach Santa Monica together with Hollywood or Beverly Hills (home of many celebrities) attract many tourists. Beside movie industry is L.A. centre of sports – clubs as L.A. Lakers in basketball, L.A. Dodgers in baseball or L.A. Galaxy in soccer are leading clubs in these sports.

**Chicago**

**Chicago is the third largest city in the U.S.** located on the shore of Lake Michigan. It is called also **“Windy city”** because of strong winds blowing through it. Population is about **2,7 million people**, Chicago always attracted immigrants to come to work in its industries. There is large **Czech and Slovak community**. A lot of important and well- known companies are seated in Chicago such as Boeing, McDonald´s, Motorola and others. Due to connection to the Atlantic Ocean and down to Gulf of Mexico the city is important **railroad and trucking hub in the U.S.** Chicago is a home to the busiest airport in the world – **O´Hare International**.

**Other American cities**

**Detroit, Michigan** – The centre of the car industry in the U.S. (General Motors, Ford, Chrysler). **San Francisco, California** – The city of Hippies, the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz. **Houston, Texas** – centre of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). **Atlanta, Georgia –** Headquaters of Coca-Cola Co. **New Orleans, Louisiana** – The home of jazz (French Quarter). **Boston, Massachusetts** – one of the oldest cities in the U.S., Boston Tea Party