

From Sea to Shining Sea

A low-angle, close-up photograph of the Statue of Liberty, showing her head with the crown, her right arm raised holding the torch, and her left arm holding the tablet. The statue is set against a clear, bright blue sky. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the copper and the details of the sculpture.

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!*

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

The American landscape has sparked the imagination of settlers from the earliest days of this country. Often called “a virgin land,” the vast American continent, with its natural wilderness and a frontier line pushing constantly westward, held out the promise of possibility for generations of immigrants.

The verses next to the photo of the Statue of Liberty are the opening words of the popular song “America the Beautiful,” written in 1893 by Katherine Lee Bates after she had ridden a wagon to the top of Pike’s Peak in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. They convey the connection between the country’s natural beauty and the soaring spirits the idea of America inspires.

Today, the United States remains a country remarkable for the beauty and variety of its land and its bounty. From the Atlantic Ocean to the far western states bordered by the Pacific — and on to Alaska and Hawaii — there are sights for every imagination. Nature lovers enjoy a national park system that preserves tracts of wilderness. Those with an urban bent

can sample the hills of San Francisco, the historic homes of Charleston, the architectural inventiveness of Chicago, or the warm welcome found on the front porches of small towns throughout Middle America.

This poster show offers an introduction to the vistas found — in Bates’s words — “from sea to shining sea.”



Clockwise, starting from above left, horse park in Lexington, Kentucky; midtown Manhattan, New York City, from New Jersey; fall foliage in Calais, Vermont; Grand Canyon, Arizona; surfer, Oahu, Hawaii; Paseo del Rio, San Antonio, Texas. (© age fotostock/SuperStock, © Ambient Images Inc./Alamy, © AP Images, © Pixtal/SuperStock, Mark Johnson/Mira.com., John & Claude Elk)





Fall foliage in Massachusetts. (© AP Images)



Thomas Jefferson Memorial and cherry blossoms, Washington, D.C. (© Bruce Dorrier/SuperStock)



Above, houses on East Battery, part of the Historic District of Charleston, South Carolina. Near right, African Americans living along South Carolina's coast carry on a 300-year-old tradition of making coiled sweetgrass baskets. Far right, colonial-era houses in Charleston. (© Jon Arnold Images/SuperStock, © National Geographic/SuperStock, © Damir Frkovic/Masterfile)





Above, a great egret in the Everglades of Florida. Left, Chubby Carrier and his Bayou Swamp Band are exponents of traditional Louisiana music. *(Peter Johannes/Ravenwood Studios, Theo Westenberger)*



Top: The skyline of Chicago, Illinois. Center left, baseball at Wrigley Field. Clockwise from center right: Just like many other American cities, Chicago is home to a variety of ethnic enclaves, faithful guardians of the culinary traditions and cultural patrimony from their countries of origin. Here, Chinese-Americans celebrate the Autumn Moon Festival; butchers show off German delicacies; Saint Patrick's Day parade, the biggest event for the Irish; a couple shows off dancing skills during the Polish Heritage Festival. (© Robert Ferreck and Odyssey Productions, Inc.,

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Northern Minnesota's Itasca State Park, where the Mississippi River begins its 4,107-kilometer journey to the Gulf of Mexico. (Greg Ryan/Sally Beyer)



Above, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. Left, Hernando de Soto Bridge over the Mississippi River, connecting cities in Tennessee and Arkansas. (© SuperStock, ThinkStock/SuperStock)



Farming vistas: Clockwise from top, farm and buildings in Whitman County, Washington; wheat fields in Minnesota; corn plants in Minnesota; soybeans in Indiana. (Terry Donnelly, © age fotostock/SuperStock)



The state flower of Texas, the bluebonnet, blooms under an oak with another wildflower, the paintbrush.

(© Adam Jones/Danita Delimont)



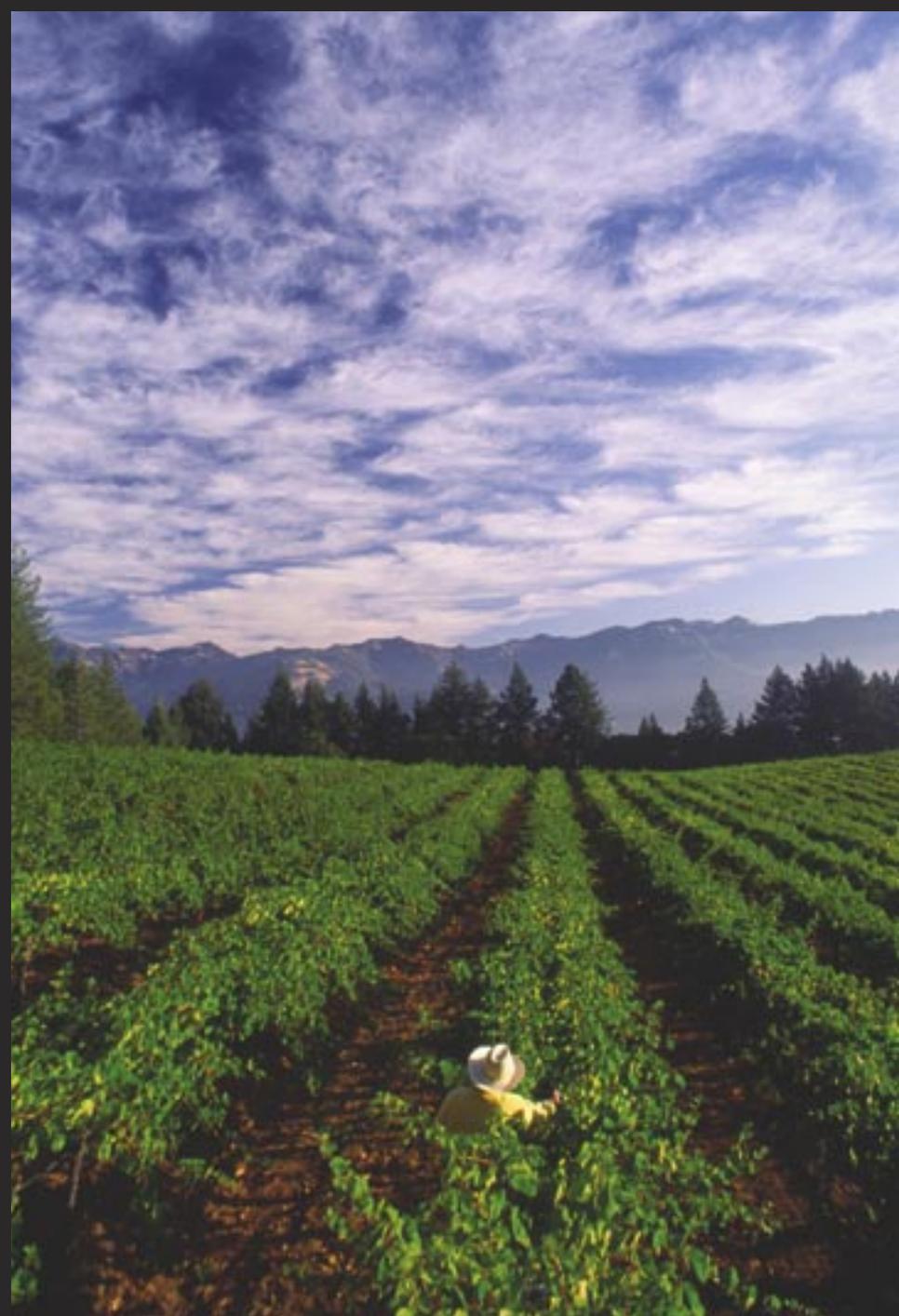
Bison graze as steam rises from geysers in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. (© AP Images)



River guides overlook the Colorado River, which through millions of years carved the Grand Canyon in Arizona.
(© 2007 Kerrick James)



Clockwise from top, barn in Capitol Reef National Park, Utah; Apache father and son in Arizona; rodeo competition in Tucson, Arizona; adobe cottage in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
(Stockxpert, © David H. Wells and Odyssey Productions Inc., © Jose Galvez/Photo Edit)



California scenes, clockwise from top, San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge; grapevines in Napa Valley; beach in La Jolla section of San Diego; holiday banners in San Francisco's Chinatown.

(Comstock, © AP Images, © 2007 Michael Melford)



Multnomah Falls, near Corbett, Oregon. (© AP Images)



Northern lights over Portage Lake and Chugach Mountains, Alaska. *(Alaska Stock Images)*

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