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Exploring America's many cultures, one town at a time

American culture is a rich fusion of customs and histories from all over the globe and centuries past. In the U.S., you're as likely to find life-changing samosas as you are a comforting plate of barbecue and coleslaw. To celebrate this, we're highlighting 11 of America's most culturally diverse cities, in no particular order, where you might feel like you've arrived in another country. Don't be fooled, though—Americana is different everywhere you look, whether you're celebrating Oktoberfest in Texas or watching a Bollywood premiere in California. These destinations ought to be the most popular U.S. cities for international travelers who want to experience one of America's finest features: its inclusive spirit. Revisit your family's heritage or encounter a whole new side of America, and whatever you do, embrace the flavors, people, and festivities that make the 50 states a great place to travel.

Washington Island, WI

Today, just over 700 people call Washington Island home, and many of them can trace their story back to another island: Iceland. This idyllic village has long been an oasis for Scandinavian-Americans, especially folks of Icelandic and Danish descent. Not only does this community embrace their international culture—they are always happy to tell you about the waterfront pioneer history that sets this place apart. **Cultural encounters** – At first glance, Jacobsen Museum is just a tiny log cabin. Look closer and this museum is filled with found Native American artifacts, Jens Jacobson's own carvings, and debris from the many legendary shipwrecks at Death's Door (the strait that connects Lake Michigan to Green Bay). **Food for thought** – The Koyen Collection is a marketplace for Northern European cuisine, handcrafted arts and jewelry, and some good old-fashioned pub time. It's anchored by K.K. Fiske Restaurant, where you've got to order the lawyers—they're actually burbot fish, not attorneys, so don't worry—and try a seasonal sangria at the Granary Saloon. **Come one, come all** – Stop for a moment of meditation at the island's traditional stavkirke, which is modeled after the 12th-century Borgund Stave Church in Norway. The meandering prayer path and the stavkirke's simple wood interior will bring you back to nature.