

Agenda: Living and Working in the USA

This is a two day agenda.

A parallel program lasting one day will be offered for accompanying children. This will take into consideration their specific needs and age group.

Objectives

To:

- Examine the challenges of an expatriate assignment on the working and social life of the family
- Analyze the influences of the home culture and how these will affect impressions of the American culture
- Compare and contrast in depth how values influence the differing behavior and communication styles of Americans and Germans
- Explore the underlying drivers of American attitudes towards and life and work
- Identify strategies for effective interaction with Americans socially and in the workplace
- To assist participants to create more effective adaptation strategies so that they can alleviate culture shock

Module 1: **EXPLORING THE ROLE OF THE EXPATRIATE**

- Introductions and establishing a framework. (If there are children, they will join this first module)
- Introductions and review of agenda
- Expectations and Objectives
- Mood and feelings concerning assignment
- Role changes within the family?
- Managing expectations: professional and personal

Module 2: **LIVING IN THE USA** (Session with a Daily Living Consultant)

- Practical information based upon needs assessment
- Housing
- Shopping
- Schooling
- Health and medical issues
- Money
- Banking and Safety and security
- Public Transportation
- Driving in America
- Making friends
- Socializing and entertaining
- Recreation

Agenda: Living and Working in the USA

- Vacations and leisure trips

Module 3: UNDERSTANDING CULTURE

- What do you know about how Americans live and work?
- Is this different from how people in your home culture behave?
- Definition of Culture
- The “Cultural Pond”: interconnecting values, systems, and behaviors
- Worksheet 1: Personal Behavioral Preferences
- Analyzing Your Personal Preferences
- Discussion and Observations in Relation to Home country and US Culture

Module 4: COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS

- Making friends by finding topics of mutual interest
- Dealing with differing opinions
- Conversational taboos

Module 5: WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS

- “Me” and my career
- Multi-Cultural interaction within the USA
- Attitude Towards Time
- Project planning
- Team Work
- Initiative and Risk-Taking
- Power and Status
- Leadership
- Superior-Subordinate Relations
- Relationships
- Negotiating and Contracts

Module 6: DISCUSSION: LIVING AND WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS

- Review of professional and social challenges
- Personal audit of intercultural skills
- Explanation of Culture Shock
- What strategies can you use so that you will be able to live and work comfortably, happily and effectively in America?
- Repatriation considerations
- Setting short and long-term goals individually, and as a family

Module 7: SUMMARY AND REVIEW WITH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS