

## CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF USA

*Otaqulova Gulirano Yoshuzoq qizi*

*Student of Samarkand State University (Kattakurgan branch)*

*e-mail address: [otakulovagulirano@gmail.com](mailto:otakulovagulirano@gmail.com)*

**Annotation:** In this article you can read about some customs and traditions of USA. American culture encompasses the customs and traditions of the United States.

**Key words:** Customs, touching, competitive eating, turkey pardoning, pumpkin carving, Halloween, Easter, Fifth Avenue

### **Customs in USA.**

**Keeping your shoes on:** While you probably think you're doing the world a favor by keeping your socks under wraps, in most Asian cultures it is expected that you take your shoes off when entering someone's home.

**Eating anywhere that does not serve food:** In Japan, it is considered rude to eat anywhere that isn't a restaurant, bar or hotel. Eating a banana on the bus? Ice cream outside? All no-nos.

**Touching:** Americans are notoriously friendly, but hugging and touching others, even if only on the arm, is offensive in places like China, Thailand and Korea. Respect to personal space varies from country to country.

**Not declining gifts:** Americans are quick to accept gifts, favors, and invitations, and often without offering something in return. However, many cultures (like in Japan) expect you to decline things a few times before ultimately accepting them. In China, you're even expected to refuse a gift three times before accepting it.

### **Traditions of the USA.**

The United States is hundreds of years old, but some of its most famous traditions are even older. Yet some of America's other traditions are a bit more unusual. For instance: Competitive eating, had been practiced for more than 100 years, with large sums of money awarded to the winners. Thanksgiving has inspired some unique offshoot traditions, like the presidential turkey pardon

**The unusual tradition of turkey pardoning dates back to Abraham Lincoln and 1863.** According to White House history, White House reporter Noah Brooks wrote in a dispatch, "A live turkey had been brought home for the Christmas dinner, but [Lincoln's son Tad] interceded in behalf of its life. ... [Tad's] plea was admitted and the turkey's life spared."

**Pumpkin carving is a popular Halloween tradition that has been around since 1866.** The first reference to pumpkin carving in the US was in the children's magazine Harper's Young People, which reported "a great sacrifice of pumpkins" for

Halloween in 1866.

**Easter fashion parades started in New York City in the mid-1800s.**

According to Time, the parades were founded on an old superstition that wearing new clothes at Easter time meant good luck for the remainder of the year. In the mid-1800s, wealthy New Yorkers leaving the churches along Fifth Avenue would parade their fine clothing. Easter parades are still celebrated today.

In conclusion, "Culture encompasses religion, food, what we wear, how we wear it, our language, marriage, music, what we believe is right or wrong, how we sit at the table, how we greet visitors, how we behave with loved ones, and a million other things," said Cristina De Rossi (opens in new tab), an anthropologist at Barnet and Southgate College in London (opens in new tab).

**Used literature:**

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