The United States has often been described as a nation of immigrants. People from around the globe have been drawn here, creating a diverse, dynamic culture and a wealthy, powerful nation.

One came with plenty of money; another carried only a handful of belongings. Many came for work. Others to flee war or to escape oppression. All of these men, women, and children left likenesses or traces of their journeys to America’s entryways. Drawing from the millions of immigration records in the National Archives, “Coming to America” is an exhibit showcasing stories of America’s immigrants.
Exhibition Details

Content:
Free-standing units, framed facsimile documents, photographs, text and graphic panels, and labels

Curator:
Jennifer N. Johnson, National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service (NATES)

Supplemental Materials:
Educational and promotional resources, including an education and resource guide, digital components, marketing resources, installation manual, and exhibit-related products through the National Archives Store.

Rental Fee:
$7,500 for 7-week display

Security Requirements:
Moderate security and environmental controls

Shipping:
Exhibitor is responsible for all outgoing shipping costs

Size:
1500 square feet (estimated)

Number of Crates:
15-20 (estimated)

Insurance:
Insured by the National Archives

Tour Dates:
Coming to America: Faces and Stories of America’s Immigrants will be available for tour 2018 through 2020. Dates subject to change.

Tour Status:
Opening March 2018

More About this Exhibition

Trace stories of immigrants over the evolving philosophy of government policy and attitudes about immigration.

Immigration stories have rich recorded history
The individual stories of immigrants and their communities as recorded in immigration case files, court records, census schedules, petitions, and declarations of intention are featured.

Civil War
After the huge wave of immigrants in the 1840s, learn how immigrants shaped the Civil War: one-fourth of the Union Army was immigrant. See evidence from a regiment from Wisconsin in which 80 of the 86 men were Germans.

1880s to World War I
By the late 19th century, powerful anti-immigrant movements began pushing for restrictions based on national origins as well as on health, literacy, and political views. Stories include those of Chinese immigrants and those who had to register as enemy aliens during World War I.

Post-World War I to World War II
Some were fleeing war and oppression. Others were simply looking for work and better opportunities. Stories include those that wanted to become naturalized citizens.

National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service
NATES@nara.gov
816.268.8088