



**TOUR GUIDE
FLASHCARDS**



STATE CAPITOL

Visitor Services: 801-538-1800

Capitol Scheduling: 801-410-0011

Revised Fall 2017

CAPITOL TIMELINE

- 1 1847: Brigham Young and 148 Mormon Pioneers enter the Salt Lake Valley
- 2 1896: Utah becomes the 45th state in the Union, with Heber Manning Wells elected as the first Governor
- 3 1911: Utah State Inheritance Tax is enforced, resulting in a deposit of \$798,546 from the estate of E.H. Harriman (president of the Union Pacific Railroad). This, in addition to the \$1 million dollar bond, secures the total \$2.7 million dollars in finances needed to build a state capitol.
- 4 1912: Capitol construction begins. Richard K.A. Kletting is selected as the Capitol architect. Groundbreaking ceremony takes place on December 26
- 5 1916: Capitol is completed. A ceremony and public reception are held on October 9, attended by 40,000 visitors

- 6 1961: State Office Building, located north of the Capitol, is dedicated
- 7 2002: Construction of the east (Senate) and west (House) buildings begin
- 8 2004: Capitol restoration construction begins. Seismic upgrades include 265 base isolators located underground at the foundation, which allow for 24-inch horizontal movement (48 inch total swing) in the event of an earthquake.
- 9 2008: Capitol restoration completed at a total cost \$227 million. Utah State Capitol is re-dedicated on January 4th.

HALL OF GOVERNORS

- 1** The Hall of Governors is used to remember our past Governors. It is Utah tradition that before a Governor leaves office they sit for a portrait to commemorate their time spent in office. Beginning with Heber Manning Wells, on the Northeast corner, we can see these portraits in sequential order surrounding the seal.
- 2** The Great Seal of the State of Utah was adopted in 1896 when Utah became the 45th state in the union. The date 1847 also appears on the seal which is the year Mormon settlers arrived in Utah.
- 3** Symbols depicted on the seal include a bald eagle representing protection and peace, six arrows representing the six Native American tribes that inhabited Utah before the settlers (Shoshone, Goshute, Navajo, Northern Utes, White Mesa Utes, and Paiute), two American flags showing support of the nation, and Utah's state flower the sego lily.

- 4 Also included on the seal is our state motto, “Industry,” and state emblem of the beehive both adopted in 1959. These represent the unity and work ethic ideals of all Utahns.
- 5 The Utah State Liberty Bell replica (located inside the west entrance) is one of 55 that were commissioned by the United States Treasury in 1950. The bells were made to the exact size of the original bell (six-foot tall and weighing more than one ton).
- 6 Neoclassical design elements include the ample natural light. The skylight allows light to filter through every floor, and is a symbol of transparency. Wall panels are made from Sanpete County oolite.
- 7 Innovative Technologies and advanced construction methods at the time of design include: reinforced concrete, two elevators, electrical lighting, a central vacuum system, and a fire-proofing system.

ROTUNDA

- 1 The Rotunda is a gathering space for the People of Utah and is used for government and free speech events. The rotunda can also be rented for proms, weddings, luncheons, and other events.
- 2 The open design and skylights are symbolic of the transparency of Utah government. From this central point of the Capitol, one can see all three branches of government (House & Senate, Supreme Court, and Governor's Office).
- 3 Richard Kletting, a German born architect, designed the Capitol to be "neoclassical" in style, meaning it has architectural roots in ancient Greek and Roman styles (columns, dome, etc).
- 4 Kletting used natural light to amplify the modern electricity and avoid open flames. The glass floor allows light to filter through to the ground floor.

- 5 The dome murals tell the history of Utah from the early beginnings to settlement (e.g. irrigation, mining as an industry, the Pony Express, and the Golden Spike).
- 6 The 4 large pendentives depict the first explorers to enter the region (Fathers Escalante & Dominguez in 1776; fur trappers like Peter Skene Ogden; John C. Fremont and mapmakers; and Brigham Young and pioneers).
- 7 Made primarily out of marble from the state of Georgia, there are 24 solid marble columns, each weighing approximately 25,000 pounds.
- 8 The dome is 165 feet above the floor. The largest seagull painting has a nearly 6 foot wingspan.
- 9 The chandelier weighs approximately 1,000 pounds and the chain weighs 5,000 pounds.

GOLD ROOM

- 1 Formally known as the State Reception Room, this space is utilized to receive dignitaries and ambassadors from other states and governments including Presidents of the United States.
- 2 The space is an executive function room and is used by the Governor for press conferences and award ceremonies to honor important Utahns (military, school achievement, etc.), as well as ceremonial bill signings (the last step in a bill becoming a law).
- 3 Nicknamed the “Gold Room” for obvious reasons; the gold on the upper walls and ceilings is likely 23 karat gold leaf.
- 4 In 1916, the room decoration budget was \$65,000. In 2016, one chandelier is worth \$40,000. The entire space is worth over \$3,000,000.

5

Furniture, tapestries, and chandeliers were imported from Europe to create the most ornate room possible and are either original or reproductions.

6

The ceiling mural in the Gold Room, titled *Children at Play*, was painted in the Beaux-Arts style by artist Louis Schaettle. Historical documents indicate that the mural was painted on canvas in New York City and installed on the Gold Room ceiling after it was completed. The mural is original to the building and depicts a group of cherubic children playing together.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

- 1 Ask the kids if they know the Governor's name (point at his picture). Ask who might the second image be of? (If kids mention "vice" or "assistant" Governor, you can say they are correct and let them know that his title is Lieutenant Governor and he helps the Governor run the State).
- 2 Inside the reception area are two bookcases that hold gifts that have been given to the governor. One case highlights local/national visitors; the other shows items from around the world.
- 3 The two murals depict Utah's oldest industry—mining. They show Bingham Canyon Mine over 100 years ago, which is now known as Kennecott Copper Mine and is still functioning in the Oquirrh Mountains. (It is one of the only two man-made items you can see from space, the other being the Great Wall of China).

4

The Governor's Ceremonial office is used primarily for meetings with the public, photo ops, and ceremonial bill signings. He also has a working office located through the backdoor where he does day-to-day work.

5

In 1999, a tornado tore through downtown Salt Lake taking with it many of the hundred year old trees that were planted on Capitol grounds. Local artist, Chris Gochnour, repurposed the wood from the fallen trees and built the ceremonial desk, which is now lovingly referred to as the "tornado desk" and serves as a symbol of Utah's determination.

SUPREME COURT

- 1 The Supreme Court is the highest court of appeal in Utah. It works primarily as a “court of review,” meaning they review the work of lower courts and judges (note there’s no witness stand or jury box).
- 2 The Supreme Court is comprised of 5 justices who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Justices are put onto ballots every 10 years for “retainer” elections by the people of Utah.
- 3 In the late 1990s the Supreme Court moved to the newly built Matheson Courthouse. However, the Chamber was kept in its historic beauty to remind visitors that all 3 branches were once unified under one roof—it is also used at least once a year for regular cases to retain ownership and ceremonial function.
- 4 The stoplight (semaphore) was gifted to the Supreme Court in 1916 by the family of

Lester Wire, Salt Lake Police Officer and inventor of the electric traffic light. The light served as a timer during court cases, giving each side exactly 20 minutes to address the judges.

5

The Scales of Justice and Mercy symbol on the wall shows the fine balance between the two concepts. The balance between the rights of individuals and the rights of society as a whole is also symbolized.

6

The Book of Law symbolizes how every law is written down, codified, and built on previous laws and the State Constitution.

7

The mural shows a bridge in Natural Bridges National Monument in the Southeastern corner of Utah, which was preserved by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1904 after its initial discovery.

HOUSE GALLERY

- 1 There are 75 Representatives in the Utah House elected to 2-year terms (no term limits), each representing approximately 35,000–40,000 constituents.
- 2 Utah has a “part-time” or “citizen” legislature that convenes for a 45-day annual session from late-January to mid-March. After session, legislators return to their careers and family lives, helping them keep in touch with those they represent.
- 3 From April to November, legislators meet once a month in an “interim session” to meet with experts and plan ahead for bills for the following year.
- 4 During Session, the gallery (point to green seats behind gold railing) is open to the public on a first come, first served basis. The boxes on either side are reserved for news media and press.

5

The phrase, “Vox Populi” above the Speaker’s seat, means “voice of the people” in Latin, and is a reminder of the purpose of the Chamber.

6

The House was upgraded electronically during the Capitol Restoration and now includes an electronic voting system where legislators cast votes with the push of a touchscreen.

7

All of the paintings in the Chamber depict actual people, showing the deep connection between representatives and the people of Utah. The original murals include *Dream of Brigham Young*, *Jim Bridger and the Discovery of the Great Salt Lake*, *Seraph Young Votes*, and *Engen Brothers Bring Skiing to Utah*. The murals were added during the Capitol Restoration to show more of Utah history.

SENATE GALLERY

- 1** The Senate is a body of 29 individuals elected to 4-year terms, each serving approximately 95,000–100,000 citizens.
- 2** The Senate shares the responsibility with the House for making laws for the State in an annual 45-day Session. They also have the added duty of approving nominations made to State Courts and Commissions, and do this throughout the year on interim session dates.
- 3** During Session, the gallery is open to the public on a first come, first served basis.
- 4** The Senate is often called the “upper house,” meaning that it’s a little more removed from everyday people. Senators represent more constituents and have longer terms. They also have added formality in the Chamber (must wear suit jackets, etc).

5

The 28 roll-top desks are original to the chamber and were refurbished during the Restoration. The Senate opted to also retain their historic roll call vote, and verbally state “YEA” or “NAY” when voting on whether they want bills to become laws.

6

The paintings depict the vast nature of Utah, representing the top, central, and southern, regions in Utah. The Utah Lake mural on the back wall symbolizes the central rivers and lakes of Utah. The murals that flank the chamber depict Canyonlands National Park, symbolizing the red-rock deserts and Indian ruins of southern Utah, and the mural of the Wasatch Mountains and pioneer orchards, symbolizes Northern Utah and agriculture.