



ALASKA STATE CAPITOL SELF-GUIDED TOUR



Welcome to the Alaska State Capitol. This building houses the Alaska State Legislature and the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

The building was completed in 1931 to serve as a Territorial and Federal Building. Cost of the land and building was approximately \$1 million. When Alaska became a State in 1959, the building was given to the State to serve as our capitol.

Ground Floor Lobby

The marble used in the lobby and throughout the building is Tokeen marble. The marble came from Prince of Wales Island, located South of Juneau near Ketchikan. The sculpture "Two Alaskan Otters" by Juneau artist Judd Mullady was sculpted from marble shipped from Haines, a town North of Juneau on the Lynn Canal.

The bust is of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, an Alaskan Native from Petersburg whose testimony before the Territorial Legislature split the opposition and allowed the Alaska Civil Rights Act of 1945 to pass.

The 1930 style of artwork flanking the lobby are stone fired clay murals by Joan Bugbee Jackson, an artist from Cordova, Alaska. "Harvest of the Sea," shows fishermen on the Alaska coastal waters, and "Harvest of the Land," depicts Alaskan Natives hunting in Interior Alaska.

The designs near the ceiling were placed during construction and have symbolic meaning. They represent mining, lumber, fisheries, and our Alaskan Natives. The igloo represents Native Alaskans, however, Native Alaskan Eskimos did not live in igloos, they lived in sod, and driftwood structures called barabarahs (bar'-rah-bar'-rahz). Igloos were used as emergency hunting and fishing lodges.



(Floor 1 is primarily legislative offices and is not part of the tour.)

Proceed via the Elevators to Floor 2

Black and white photographs from the Winter and Pond collection are visible throughout this floor. The two busts on this floor are of the first U.S. Senators from Alaska, Ernest Gruening and Bob Bartlett.

Turn RIGHT from the elevators and proceed to the Fahrenkamp Committee Room. The portrait is of former State Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp. The earrings under the portrait were worn by her during sessions of the Senate, and mean "in one ear and out the other." On the wall to the left is the Seal of the State of Alaska, which is made of gold nuggets.

The Butrovich and Beltz Committee Rooms are next on this hall. Information of both rooms is available on plaques outside the rooms. The audio teleconference equipment allows citizen participation from across the State.

At the end of the hall are the Senate Chambers. The handles on the doors leading into the Chambers are hand-cast brass in a totemic design representing an eagle, a whale, and a bear. **Enter the public gallery to view the chambers.** The State Legislature has 20 senators serving four-year terms. Legislative sessions are held annually beginning in January and running for 120 days, typically ending in May.

Return past the elevator area and proceed down the hall to the corner.

This room was the Territorial Senate Chamber. Since Statehood, this room is used by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as an office and as a meeting room for the House Majority. The hand stenciled ceiling dates back to the original construction of the building and is representative of the 1930's.

The House of Representatives meet in the chamber located at the end of the hall. Forty representatives serve in the House for 2-year terms. Senators, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor serve 4-year terms. Our 40 representatives and 20 senators serve a state population of 626,000.

Proceed via the Elevators to Floor 3

The Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are on this floor. To the left of the elevator area are the double doors leading to the Governor’s Office. Alaska Natives from Haines carved the doors from black birch. The carvings depict Alaska’s major industries; tourism (Tlingit dancer), fishing and processing, wood products, mining, hunting and trapping, and oil and gas. The map of Alaska (near the stairway doors) was cut out of a piece of the 48-inch pipe used to construct the Trans-Alaska pipeline. The weld represents the 800-mile route of the pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez.

Down the Hall towards the Lieutenant Governor’s Office is the “Hall of Governors.” Pictured are the Governors and Lieutenant Governors, both Territorial and State. Pictures of the elected State Governors are at the end of the hall.

(Floor 4 is primarily legislative offices and is not part of the tour.)

Proceed via the Elevators to Floor 5

As you leave the elevators you will see four panels with pictures representing the judicial districts of Territorial Alaska and a map of Alaska superimposed over the contiguous United States. **Turn LEFT from elevators and proceed to the end of the hall.** This room was originally the Superior Court of Judicial District One, and has been restored to its original look. The benches and lighting are from the original courtroom days. On the far end of the room is a railroad punch clock dating from the 1860’s. The Senate Finance Committee uses this room.



Return down the hall past the elevators to the far end of the floor.

This is the House Finance Committee Room and has also been restored to fit the original décor of the 1930’s. Paneling along the walls is Honduran mahogany. The view from this room includes Douglas Island, the State Office Building, the Juneau Douglas City Museum and the Alaska State Museum.

This ends the walk through the Capitol. More information is available from the Juneau Visitor’s Center in the Centennial Hall located at 101 Egan Drive. Walk down Main Street to the signal lights, turn right one block.

Return to the Ground Floor via elevators by pressing “G”. Thank you for visiting Alaska’s State Capitol.



Please sign our guest book before departing.



Alaska State Flag

The design of the flag was selected in 1926 by a contest held for Alaska students in grades 7 through 12. The winning design, submitted by Benny Benson, 13 year-old Alaska Native, consisted of eight gold stars on a field of blue. The stars represent the Big Dipper, or Great Bear, symbolizing strength. The North Star depicted future statehood. The Alaska Legislature adopted the design as the official flag for the Territory of Alaska on May 2, 1927. In 1959 the drafters of the Alaska constitution stipulated that the territorial flag would become the official State flag.

Official State Song, “Alaska’s Flag”

Written by Marie Drake

Eight stars of gold on a field of blue, Alaska’s flag, may it mean to you; The blue of the sea, the evening sky, the mountain lakes and the flowers nearby; The gold of the early sourdoughs dreams, the precious gold of the hills and streams; The brilliant stars in the northern sky, the “Bear,” the “Dipper,” and shining high, the great North Star with its steady light, o’er land and sea a beacon bright, Alaska’s flag to Alaskans dear, the simple flag of the last frontier.

Printed by: Legislative Affairs Agency
State Capitol Room 3 – Juneau, Alaska 99801; (907) 465-3800
(Date Revised 7/16/2004)

