

Visitor Services

Each year, the Utah State Capitol welcomes tens of thousands of local students, Utah citizens, international tourists, and political dignitaries. The Capitol Preservation Board, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, the Senate, and the House of Representatives, offers guided tours of the Capitol's architecture, art, history, and function.

Guided Tours

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tours begin on the hour and run 50 minutes.

Last tour begins at 4:00 p.m.

Each year, through the Capitol Preservation Board Events and Scheduling program, the Capitol hosts thousands of events—from free speech rallies and government meetings to choir performances and wedding ceremonies. The sprawling grounds and majestic buildings also serve as the backdrop for countless photography sessions and art exhibits.

Visitors Center Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

Capitol Building Hours

Monday - Friday

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Capitol Preservation Board
350 North State Street
120 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

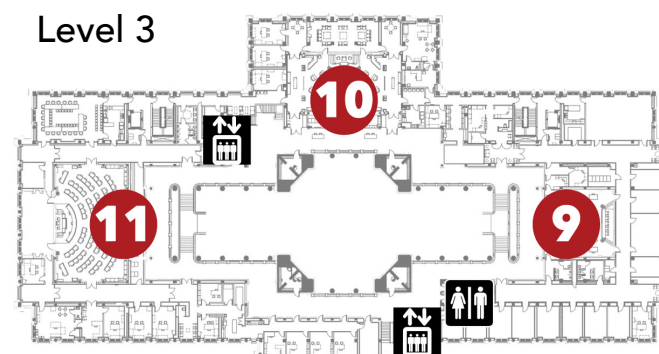
Visitors Center: 801-538-1800
Events & Scheduling: 801-410-0011
www.utahstatecapitol.utah.gov



9. Supreme Court (level 3)

The Utah State Supreme Court is the highest court of appeal in the state judicial system. The State Supreme Court is made up of five justices appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Most of the court's business is now conducted in the Scott M. Matheson Courthouse in downtown Salt Lake City, and the Capitol's historic courtroom is used occasionally for oral arguments and ceremonial functions.

The painting in this Chamber is by H. L. A. Culmer. Titled *Natural Bridge (Caroline Bridge)*, it depicts one of three natural bridges in Utah's Natural Bridges National Monument. Birdseye marble is featured in this room.



10. Senate Chamber

The Senate is a body of 29 individuals elected to four-year terms from districts of about 95,000 citizens. The Senate and House meet in their respective chambers for 45-day annual sessions, beginning on the fourth Monday of January.

In 1916, Lee Greene Richards and Alma B. Wright painted the Chamber's multi-paneled landscape of Utah Lake. In 2006, Utah artist Keith Bond was commissioned to paint the landscape of northern Utah, *Orchard along the Foothills*, and of the red rock and ancient ruins of southern Utah, *Ancestral Home*. Utah onyx is featured on the walls and columns.



11. House Chamber

The House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Senate for creating the laws of the State. Seventy-five representatives serve two-year terms and are each elected from a district of approximately 37,000 citizens.

The House Chamber features Vincent Aderente's *Dream of Brigham Young* and Alonzo Earl Foringer's *Jim Bridger and the Discovery of the Great Salt Lake*. During the Capitol restoration, Utah painter David Koch was commissioned to interpret historic events for two new murals in the Chamber: women gain the right to vote in the Utah Territory in 1870, and the Engen brothers build their first ski jump. Birdseye marble is used in this room.

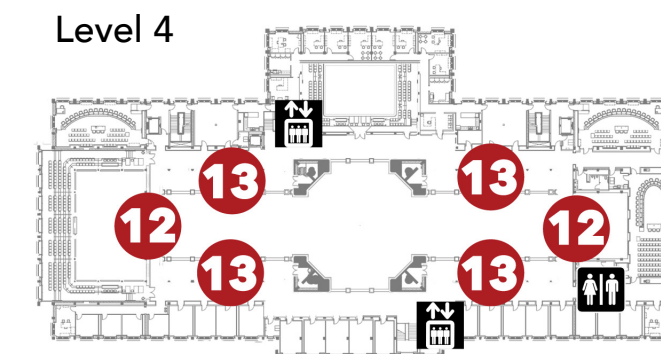
12. Lunettes (level 4)

The half-moon-shaped paintings at each end of the large, vaulted atrium were among the first commissioned artworks installed in the Capitol. Painters Gerard Hale, of Utah, and Gilbert White, of New York, captured scenes of Utah's pioneer heritage. The west mural is titled *The Passing of the Wagons* and the east mural is titled *The Madonna of the Covered Wagon*.



13. Fourth Floor Gallery

Kletting intended the fourth floor gallery to be used for art display. Over the years, the gallery was converted into office space and the hallway was significantly narrowed. The Capitol restoration project reclaimed this space according to Kletting's original plans, and the gallery features rotating exhibits of Utah's history and heritage.



THE UTAH STATE CAPITOL

self-guided tour



Welcome to the Capitol

In 1888, Salt Lake City donated nearly 20 acres of land—then known as Arsenal Hill for its prior use as private munitions storage—to the Utah Territory for the construction of a statehouse.

Only in 1909, years after Utah became a state, did real progress unfold. Union Pacific Railroad President E. H. Harriman passed away, and Utah received nearly \$800,000 in inheritance taxes from his estate. The Utah Legislature responded with a \$1 million bond, a Capitol Commission was established, and the project was underway.

Utah architect Richard K.A. Kletting won the design bidding process, and construction began in 1912. Kletting's plans incorporated modern methods and materials, including steel-reinforced concrete, electric lighting, and elevators. The building was dedicated in 1916.

A massive renovation project from 2004 to 2008 not only restored the Capitol's original beauty, but also fulfilled many of Kletting's visions for the Hill. Perhaps most impressively, a seismic base isolation system was installed underneath the Capitol to help improve safety and protect against earthquake damage.

Capitol Facts

- Neoclassical revival architecture
- Beaux-Arts interior design
- Granite and terra-cotta exterior
- 404 feet long, 240 feet wide, 285 feet high
- Original construction cost \$2.7 million
- Restoration cost \$260 million

As you explore the building, see if you can spot these **Utah symbols**:

- *Beehive* - State emblem, symbolizing industry
- *California seagull* - State bird
- *Rocky Mountain elk* - State animal

1. The Capitol Grounds

Four lions grace the east and west entrances of the Capitol. The original lions were created with cement in 1915. After decades of guarding the Capitol, the well-weathered lions were retired. The new lions, sculpted from durable Italian marble, are named Patience, Fortitude, Honor, and Integrity. They became the new Capitol guardians in 2008.

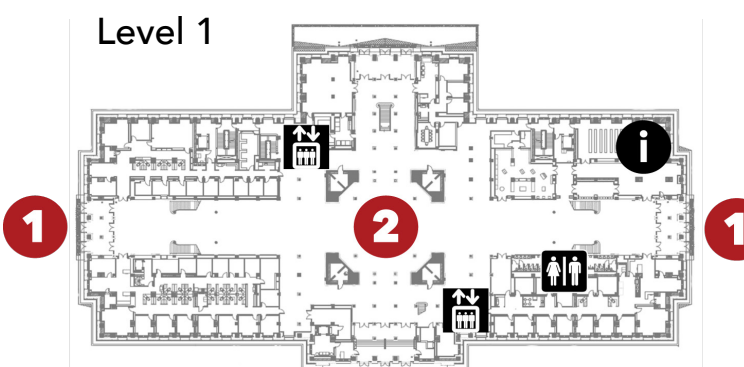
After the 2004 - 2008 Capitol restoration project, the grounds more closely honor Richard K.A. Kletting's original plans for the area. Capitol Hill includes six buildings; sprawling lawns; a central plaza with a sparkling fountain; a circular walkway boasting hundreds of Yoshino Cherry trees; and a broad collection of monuments, plaques, and statuary.



2. Hall of Governors (level 1)

By tradition, each governor of Utah commissions an official portrait. The Hall of Governors on the first floor of the Capitol exhibits the portraits and biographies of Utah's past state governors.

Replicas of historic Edison lightbulbs grace the ceiling, allowing visitors to see the Capitol as it looked when the building first opened in 1916. The paneled skylight, made of thick layered glass, allows sunlight to brighten the Hall of Governors. If you see the shadows of feet pass overhead, don't be alarmed! This skylight also serves as the floor of the Rotunda above.



i = Visitors Center

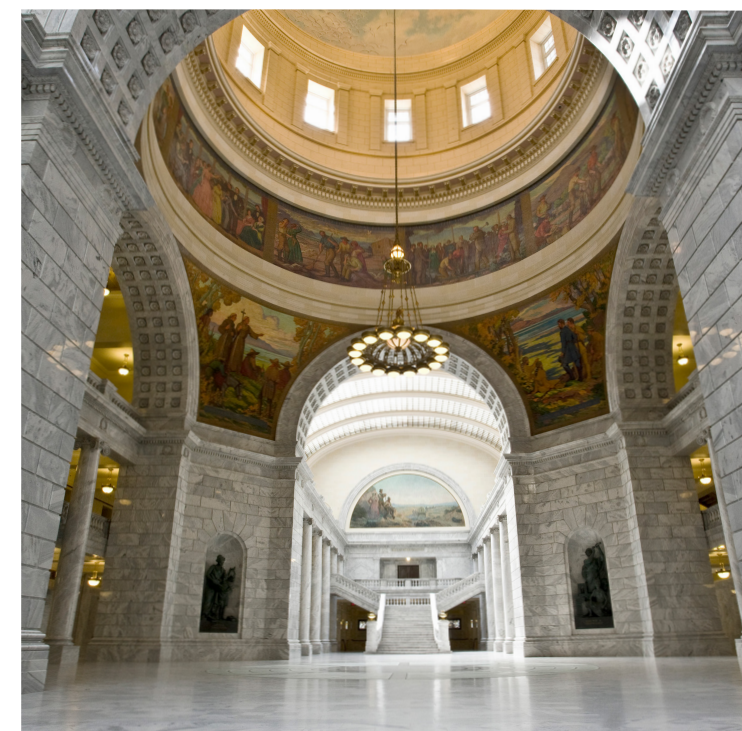
3. Rotunda (level 2)

The Rotunda, one of the most spectacular spaces in the Capitol, serves as the backdrop for many public, private, and government events. This space is made particularly unique by Kletting's use of natural light from magnificent arching skylights in the atrium vaults. The interior dome reaches 165 feet at its highest point. A 95-foot chain holds the luxurious chandelier. Seagulls, painted by William Slater, fly across the blue sky in the dome. The walls and columns are made of marble from the state of Georgia.

4. Cyclorama & Pendentive Murals

The Rotunda was left unfinished for nearly 20 years, until the Depression era Public Works of Art Project (PWAP) funded art commissions for the Capitol. Renowned Utah artist Lee Greene Richards designed the cyclorama and pendentive murals.

The circular cyclorama depicts scenes from 19th century Utah life. Pendentives are large cut-outs of a sphere that support a dome. In the Rotunda, the pendentives are home to four large paintings depicting the earliest non-Native explorations into the region.

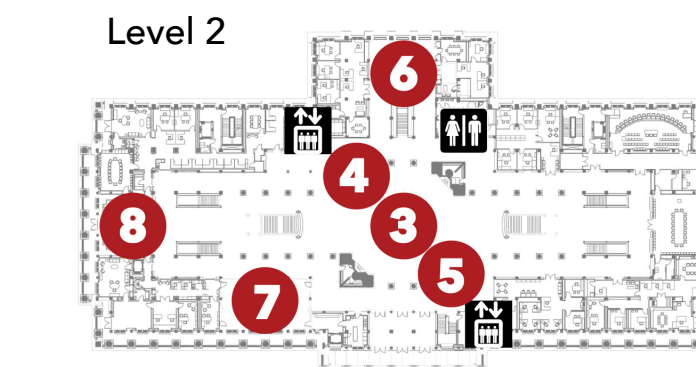


5. Niche Sculptures

Richard Kletting recommended four classical allegorical niche sculptures to illustrate values and ideals fundamental to Utah's culture. During the 2004 - 2008 Capitol restoration, artists were selected to fulfill Kletting's vision. Each of the 11-foot bronzes employs an adult mentor and a youthful learner, although the youth in the *Land and Community* sculpture is a Rocky Mountain elk.

6. Brigham Young

In 1850, U.S. President Millard Fillmore appointed Brigham Young as the first governor of the Utah Territory. This monumental bronze statue of Brigham Young was sculpted by Utah artist Kraig Varner. Prior to the restoration, the statue stood in the Rotunda. Brigham Young is also featured in murals located in the Rotunda and the House Chamber.



7. The State Reception Room

The State Reception Room, nicknamed the "Gold Room" for its lavish furnishings, was designed to accommodate formal state functions. Louis Schaettle's Beaux-Arts ceiling mural, titled *Children at Play*, was commissioned as part of the Capitol construction. The richly ornamented walls, draperies, fireplaces, and furnishings were preserved during the Capitol restoration to show the room in its turn-of-the-century glory.

8. Governor's Suite

The Governor's suite consists of staff offices, conference rooms, a reception area, and both a ceremonial office and a working office for the Governor. While the working office is not visible to the public, the ceremonial office is used for bill signings, press conferences, and meetings with the public.

Local artisan Chris Gochnour created the desk in the ceremonial office from sections of trees toppled on the Capitol grounds by a tornado that ripped through Salt Lake City in 1999. Gochnour constructed the desk as a symbol of Utah's spirit and determination, a reminder that something good can come from a disaster.

