



SELF-GUIDED TOUR ALASKA STATE CAPITOL



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 and Gravina marble. The marble came from Prince of Wales Island and Gravina Island, located south of Juneau near Ketchikan.

The bust is of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, an Alaska Native leader from Petersburg whose testimony before the 17th Territorial Legislature split the opposition and allowed the Alaska Civil Rights Act of 1945 to pass.

The artworks flanking the lobby are stone-fired clay murals by Joan Bugbee Jackson, an artist from Cordova. *Harvest of the Sea* shows fishermen on Alaska coastal waters and *Harvest of the Land* depicts Alaska Natives hunting in Interior Alaska. The murals depict life in Alaska in the 1930's.



The designs near the ceiling were placed during construction and have symbolic meaning. They represent mining, lumber, and fisheries, with the igloo representing Native Alaskans; however Native Alaska Eskimos did not live in igloos, they lived in sod and driftwood structures called barabarahs (bar-ah-bar-ahz). Igloos were used as emergency hunting and fishing lodges.

FLOOR 1 IS PRIMARILY LEGISLATIVE OFFICES AND IS NOT PART OF THE TOUR.

FLOOR 2

Black and white photographs from the Winter and Pond collection are visible throughout this floor. The two busts 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 Senate floor sessions 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 Committee Room is down the hall, and information about the room is available on a plaque outside the entrance. 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 who serve four-year terms. 90-day legislative sessions are held annually beginning in January and ending in April.

Return past the elevator area and proceed down the hall to the Speaker's Chambers.

This room served as the Territorial Senate Chambers. Since statehood, this room has been 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 1930s.

The House of Representatives meet in the Chamber located at the end of the hall. Forty representatives serve in the House for two year terms. Our 40 representatives and 20 senators serve a state population of 731,000.

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 from 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 toward the Lieutenant Governor's Office is the "Hall of Governors" which has photos of both Territorial and State Governors and Lieutenant Governors. Both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor serve four year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms.

FLOOR 4 IS PRIMARILY LEGISLATIVE OFFICES AND NOT PART OF THE TOUR.

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 the elevators and proceed to the end of the hall. The Senate Finance Committee 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 1860s.



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

This is the House Finance Committee Room and has been restored to fit the original décor of the 1930s. 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, the Terry Miller Legislative Office Building, and the Legislative Finance Building.

This concludes the walk through the Capitol. Return to the Ground Floor via elevators by pressing "G".

Additional local and state information is available from the Juneau Visitors Center at 292 Marine Way (kiosk in front of Library) or 470 South Franklin (at Cruise Ship Terminal near the Tram). Walk down Main Street to the stop light, turn left on Marine Way (which turns into South Franklin).

***Thank you for visiting Alaska's State Capitol.
Before leaving, please sign our Guest Book.***



ALASKA STATE FLAG



In 1926, Alaska students, grades 7-12, participated in a contest to design the territorial flag. The winning design submitted by a 13 year-old Alaska Native, Benny Benson, consisted of eight gold stars on a blue background. The stars represent the Big Dipper, or Great Bear, and symbolize strength. The North Star depicted future statehood. In 1927, the design was adopted as the official flag for the Territory of Alaska. In 1959, the drafters of the Alaska Constitution stipulated that the territorial flag would become the official state flag.

STATE SONG ALASKA'S FLAG



The words to the song *Alaska's Flag* were written by Marie Drake, a long-time employee of the Alaska Department of Education, and set to music composed by Elinor Dusenbury. The Territorial Legislature adopted *Alaska's Flag* as Alaska's official song in 1955.

“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 sourdough's 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.”

- Marie Drake