

Visitor's Guide: Capitol (Guide Service Tours)



The Capitol Building is one of the most recognizable symbols of representative democracy.

To see this building, we are happy to book one of two types of tours: a staff-led tour a guide-led tour. The following information is for a **guide-led tour** of the Capitol building.

My staff will email you with a confirmation ticket. [See Example Below](#). Please bring the confirmation with you to the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) and take it to the one of the two Information Desks, where employees will direct you accordingly.



What to Bring: Please print the confirmation page emailed by my staff.



Location: East Capitol and 1st Streets NE, Washington, DC 20002

Arrival: The Capitol Visitor's Center (CVC) is located beneath the East Front Plaza of the U.S. Capitol at East Capitol and 1st Streets NE. **See map below**. When arriving at the CVC, you will be on the upper level. Please take the escalators or stairs to the ground floor level and go to either information desk (North or South) and CVC employees will process your ticket information.



Nearest Metro:

Capitol South—[Orange/Blue](#) Line, located at 1st Street SE between C and D Streets SE. This stop is closest to the CVC.

Union Station—[Red](#) Line, located at 1st Street NE and Massachusetts Avenue NE.



Duration: From one to two and half hours



Upon entry, you will go through a security check. Prohibited items will be confiscated. Please limit what you carry on tours, as this will speed up the security check process.

Prohibited Items:

- [Knives of any size](#) (This includes pocketknives)
- [Perfumes](#)

- Aerosol containers
- Pointed objects (knitting needles, letter openers, nail files, etc.)
- Any bag larger than 18" wide x 14" high x 8.5" deep
- Cans and bottles (full or empty)
- Electric stun guns, martial arts weapons or devices
- Food or beverages of any kind
- Guns, replica guns, ammunition, and fireworks
- Mace and pepper spray
- Non-aerosol spray
- Razors and box cutters

Accepted Items:

- Cameras
- Cell Phones
- Purses
- Keys
- Wallets
- Jackets
- Umbrellas
- Backpacks
- Extra shoes



Dining Options: The Capitol Visitor Center Restaurant is located on the lower level of the CVC. It is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Gift Shop: The Gift Shops are located on the upper level of the CVC and are open from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.




Accessibility: The CVC is fully accessible to visitors with disabilities and mobility impairments. Listening devices with audio description of the films and exhibitions are available at the Information Desks and all films have captions. There are a variety of additional services available.

Should you require any additional information, please visit <http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/visit/> or call our main office at (202) 224-2651 and ask to speak with the Tour Coordinator.


While in D.C., please contact the CVC at (202) 226-8000, should you require any help with your tour.


Example of CVC Confirmation for Guide Service Tours
(Will be in .pdf format)



Capitol Tour

Welcome to the U.S. Capitol, where the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have met for more than two centuries. Today, it stands as a monument not only to its builders but also to the American people and our system of representative democracy.



For Official Use Only: 
Admit 45 **7466-6142-9467**
October 17, 2012
Tour Time: 2:10 PM
frenchtown middle school

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Before entering the Capitol Visitor Center, all visitors are screened by a magnetometer and all items that are permitted inside the building are screened by an x-ray device. The following items are strictly prohibited:

- Any bag larger than 14" wide x 13" high x 9" deep
- Aerosol containers
- Any pointed object (knitting needles, letter openers, etc. Note: pens and pencils are permitted.)
- Cans and bottles
- Electric stun guns, martial arts weapons or devices
- Food or beverages of any kind (the restaurant is available to satisfy your dining needs)
- Guns, replica guns, ammunition and fireworks
- Knives of any size
- Mace and pepper spray
- Non-aerosol spray (prescriptions for medical needs are permitted)
- Razors and box cutters

The following are allowed in the Capitol, but not in the Senate and House Galleries:

- Battery-operated electronic devices (medical devices are permitted)
- Camera
- Creams, lotions, or perfumes
- Strollers
- Video recorders or any type of recording device

Visitors: The Visitor Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. It is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Presidential Inauguration Days.

Official Business: Visitors with official business appointments may enter the Visitor Center as early as 7:15 a.m.

RESERVATION CONFIRMATION
Please print this page and bring it with you when you visit the U.S. Capitol to get your tour passes.

TIPS FOR VISITING THE U.S. CAPITOL

As parking is limited on Capitol Hill, visitors are encouraged to use public transportation to reach the U.S. Capitol. Train (Metrorail) stations and bus stops are nearby – the Union Station and Capitol South Metrorail stops are the most convenient to the Capitol.

The tour time printed on this page is the time you will need to be in line outside one of two Orientation Theaters on the lower level of the Visitor Center. Please arrive at least 45 minutes early to complete the required security and screening process.

Visitors enter the U.S. Capitol through the Capitol Visitor Center. Passes are required to tour the historic U.S. Capitol; however, they are not required to enter the Visitor Center. Tours of the Capitol begin with a 13-minute orientation film and last approximately one hour.

A separate pass obtained from the office of a Member of Congress is required to visit the Senate or the House of Representatives Galleries. International visitors may obtain gallery passes at the Senate or House Appointment Desks in the Visitor Center.

The tour of the historic Capitol building is a walking tour, so please wear comfortable shoes. Escalators and elevators are located near the public stairways, and wheelchairs are available upon request at the Visitor Center.

Please take advantage of the Exhibition Hall, the Restaurant, the Gift Shops and the other amenities at the Visitor Center before or after your tour.

For more information, go to www.visitthecapitol.gov.

U.S. Capitol Map

