



Office of General Services

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OGS ANNOUNCES FREE SUMMER CAPITOL AND PLAZA TOUR SCHEDULE

Registration for Special July 1 Capitol Tours Now Open

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the popular and free summer weekday tours of the Empire State Plaza will begin on Monday, July 3. Free Capitol tours will continue to be offered through the summer, including the second Saturday of each month, and a special tour has been added for July 1 during the Independence Day holiday weekend.

Free Empire State Plaza Summer Tours

- **When:** Monday – Friday, July 3 through August 31 (No tours on holidays)
- **Time:** 1 p.m.
- **Location:** Plaza Visitor Center and Gift Shop, North Concourse
- **Reservations:** Not required – arrive early to sign up for the tour

The one-hour tours feature highlights of the world-class, 98-acre complex where state government, unique architecture, and modern art share the same space. No two tours are the same, and highlights can include The Egg Center for the Performing Arts, the concourse, and outside where visitors will learn about the Plaza's main platform, Capitol, Robert Abrams Building for Law and Justice, Cultural Education Center, Corning Tower, Legislative Office Building, and agency buildings, as well as the memorials that honor those who have dedicated or given their lives in service to others. Those taking the tour will also learn about the Empire State Plaza Art Collection, which is known as the largest publicly owned modern art collection in the country housed outside of a museum.

Free Capitol Saturday Tours

- **When:** Second Saturday of each month and special July 1 tours (No tours on holidays)
- **Times:** 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- **Location:** Plaza Visitor Center and Gift Shop, North Concourse
- **Reservations:** Required – reserve online at www.empirestateplaza.org or call 518-474-2418

Free Weekday Capitol Tours

- **When:** Monday – Friday (no tours on holidays)
- **Times:** 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.
- **Location:** (new starting location) Information desk in the Capitol's State Street Lobby
- **Reservations:** Not required, except for groups of 10 or more people

The New York State Capitol has served as the seat of government for New York since the 1880s. The building is a marvel of late 19th century architectural grandeur, built by hand of solid masonry over a period of 32 years. Tour highlights include the legislative chambers, the Hall of Governors, the Great Western (Million Dollar) Staircase, and museum-quality exhibits on New York State's history throughout the building.

Last year, the OGS Capitol tours program was awarded its second "Certificate of Excellence" by TripAdvisor® for the consistently great reviews people submit to the TripAdvisor travel website after taking a free tour of New York's statehouse. Both the Empire State Plaza and the Plaza's Corning Tower observation deck have also received certificates of excellence from TripAdvisor.

All visitors to the Capitol are required to undergo security screening. Personal belongings such as backpacks and large bags should not be brought on the tour. Sharp objects, such as pocket knives and nail clippers, weapons, and nuisance devices, such as whistles and noisemakers, will not be allowed into the building.

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