



## Office of General Services

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**Contact:**

Heather Groll | [heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov) | (518) 474-5987

### **OGS CAPITOL TOURS RECEIVES THIRD CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE FROM PROMINENT TRAVEL WEBSITE**

#### **Empire State Plaza, & Corning Tower Also Recognized**

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the OGS capitol tours program was awarded its third “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. The capitol tours program has received this accolade for three years running, and 2017 marks the second year that both the Empire State Plaza and the Corning Tower observation deck also received certificates of excellence from TripAdvisor.

“Governor Cuomo has made it a priority for New York to make the best use of its public facilities, and these certificates of excellence let the OGS team know their efforts to provide interesting and informative tours of these iconic Albany landmarks are truly appreciated,” Commissioner Destito said. “It is gratifying to know that so many of the people who come from around the world to see the 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural details of the Capitol, the Empire State Plaza’s modern art collection, and the amazing views from the Corning Tower observation deck are then taking the time to write positive reviews.”

TripAdvisor awards a Certificate of Excellence to accommodations, and restaurants that consistently earn great reviews from travelers. A tour of the Capitol is currently listed on the website as the most popular of more than 60 things to do in Albany, with the New York State Museum at the opposite end of the Empire State Plaza listed as number two.

Free walk-in tours of the Capitol are offered Monday through Friday at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. OGS also offers weekend tours of the Capitol on the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Reservations are required for the Saturday tours and for groups of 10 or more for weekday tours and can be made by calling (518) 474-2418 or visiting [www.EmpireStatePlaza.org](http://www.EmpireStatePlaza.org). Weekday tours begin in the Capitol’s State Street lobby, and weekend tours start at the Empire State Plaza Visitor Center and Gift Shop, located on the north end of the Plaza’s concourse level, closest to the Capitol.

In 2015, which marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the corner stone laying for the Empire State Plaza, OGS began offering daily tours of the Plaza during the summer months that focus on its history and design, as well as the Empire State Plaza Art Collection.

Free one-hour walk-in tours of the Plaza begin at 1 p.m. on weekdays at the Plaza Visitor Center and 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.

The Corning Tower Observation Deck is located on the 42nd floor of the building and offers breathtaking views of Albany, the Plaza, the Hudson River Valley, the Port of Albany, the foothills of the Adirondacks, the Catskills, and the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. The observation deck is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on weekdays and is accessible by a dedicated elevator that stops on the plaza-level of the tower.

Visitors can find additional information about events, attractions, and parking at the New York State Capitol and Empire State Plaza at [www.EmpireStatePlaza.org](http://www.EmpireStatePlaza.org).

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