



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Tour Information For Our State Capitol and Surrounding Historic Landmarks

History, Architecture, and Culture In Jefferson City Await Citizens Across Missouri

We are days away from the end of this year's regular legislative session, when lawmakers will return to their districts and prepare for the next legislative session. However, that does not mean the State Capitol and other educational landmarks in the surrounding area will be closed to visitors.

This time of year, in fact, is one of the best times to visit historic Jefferson City. Whether you take the train or travel by automobile, a Jefferson City trip is one of the most affordable and educational vacations you will have all year.

I am extremely privileged to return to the State Capitol during session each week to work in this grand and beautiful building. With a dome that towers more than 260 feet above ground level, our current State Capitol building is the third to be based in Jefferson City. Fires destroyed the first two State Capitols — the first was engulfed by flames in 1837 and the second burned to the ground Feb. 5, 1911. Our current Capitol building, dedicated on Oct. 6, 1924, is 437 feet long, 300 feet wide at its center, and covers three acres land — totaling 500,000 square feet of floor space.

Much of the space in the Capitol that is not used as office buildings, hearing rooms, and legislative chambers is dedicated to house educational exhibits in the Missouri State Museum, which occupies nearly the entire first floor. Hundreds of pieces of art also appear throughout the Capitol building.

Most likely the most notable piece of art in the State Capitol is Thomas Hart Benton's "Social History of Missouri." Visitors seeing this mural, which encompasses all four walls of the House Lounge, can't help notice Jesse James, Huckleberry Finn, the Pony Express, the Civil War, and many other people, places, and events that helped shape Missouri into the state that we know today.

A 30-minute guided tour is the absolute best way to experience what our State Capitol has

to offer—from its history to its architectural features. Capitol tours are given Monday through Saturday every hour on the hour (excluding the noon hour) for walk-in guests. Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more. And on Sundays, tours are given at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. Tour reservations may be made online (www.dnr.mo.gov/TourReservation) or by calling (573) 751-2854.

A walk around the Capitol grounds will also showcase the Governor's Mansion (www.missourimansion.org) and our state's Supreme Court building (www.courts.mo.gov). And I cannot end this column without mentioning tours of the former Missouri State Penitentiary, where some buildings date to the 1800s. Call 1-800-769-4183 to reserve a tour time and purchase tickets (\$12 a person).

If you have any questions about visiting your State Capitol or other historic landmarks in Jefferson City, please feel free to contact me at (573) 751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

