

# Guidelines for Visiting the Alabama State Capitol

Thank you for visiting the Alabama State Capitol on your trip. Museums and historic site are one of the most enriching environments for visitors of all ages because of the quality and quantity of items visitors see and experience. The following guidelines will help you have a smooth and trouble-free visit to the Alabama State Capitol.

## Tours:

Guided tours require reservations (size: minimum of 15/maximum of 50 visitors). Guided tours last approximately 45 minutes and are given Monday through Friday at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, and 3:00 pm; Saturday at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm.

## Before your trip:

- **Basics:** Tours of the State Capitol cover the main floor of the building as well as the upper levels. Most of the offices are working government offices and are not open to the public, but the most historic areas of the building are available for touring.
- **Tour Changes:** Please contact the Tour Scheduling Office at 334/ 242-3935 or [capitol tours@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:capitol tours@ahc.alabama.gov) if the number in your group has significantly changed (plus/minus 10 or more).
- **Cancellations/Rescheduling:** Contact the Tour Scheduling Office at 334/ 242-3935 or [capitol tours@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:capitol tours@ahc.alabama.gov) if you must cancel or reschedule your trip. **By contacting us as soon as possible and releasing your date, you help us ensure that as many groups as possible are able to visit the Capitol.** Reservations are arranged on a “first-come, first-served” basis; we will make every effort to accommodate rescheduling requests.

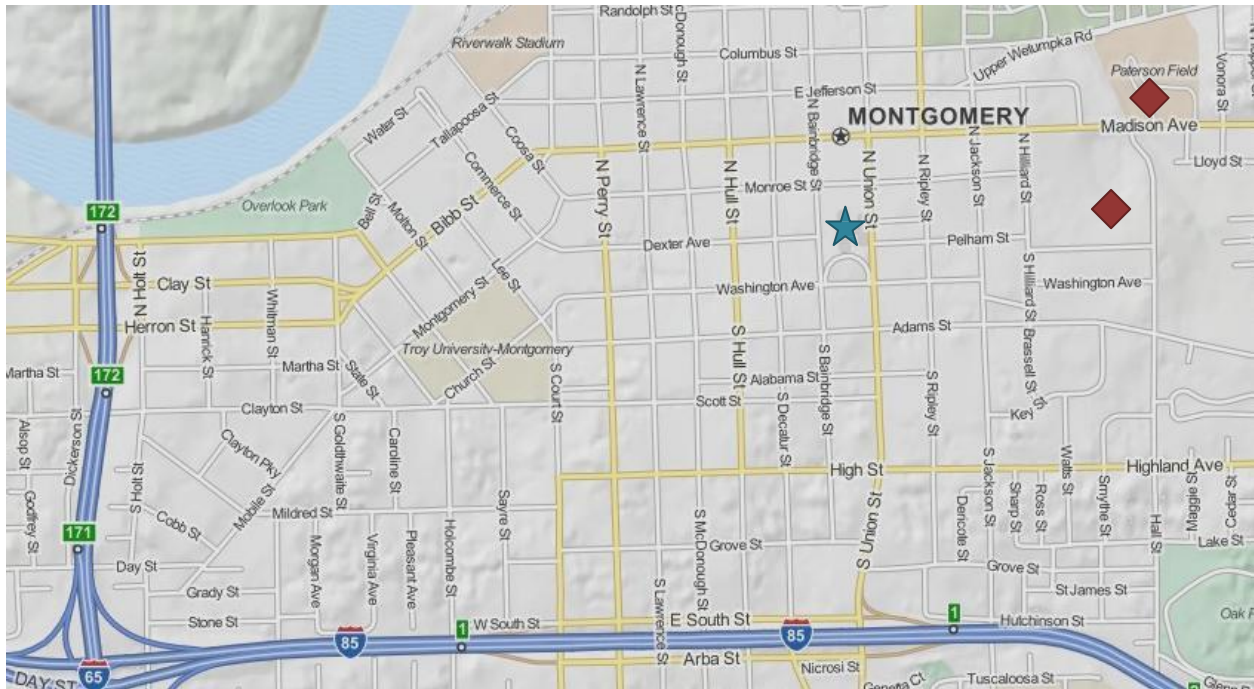
## During your visit:

- **Registration:** Please have an accurate headcount of all persons on tour and enter number in the registration book at the front desk when asked. **An accurate headcount is vital in emergency situations.**
- **Late Arrivals:** Please contact the Tour Scheduling Office at (334) 242-3935, Lisa Franklin at (334) 242-3188, or the Goat Hill Museum Store at (334) 353-4969 if you will arrive late. To accommodate other pre-arranged groups, please note that your tour will be shortened due to a late arrival.
- **Loading and Parking:** For your group’s safety, **unload buses at the Union Street Entrance.** Groups may not cross Union Street mid-block. **All groups must cross the street by using the kiosks (glass structures) and tunnel or the crosswalks located at the corners of the block.** The elevator kiosk is available for use by those visitors with mobility impairments. Buses are not allowed to park or idle at the unloading point. See the following

Driving/Parking Directions for more detailed information, including bus parking. **Saturday tours:** Visitors enter through the left set of brass doors at the Union Street Entrance.

- **Security:** All visitors are required to go through security, including processing through metal detectors. This includes everyone on tours, including children. Security checks will include inspection of all bags of people who enter. Processing is faster if backpacks, purses and other handheld bags are not brought into the Capitol (**adults should minimize the size of any purses or other bags** brought in the Capitol). **Weapons – or anything deemed a weapon – are not allowed in the Capitol. Visitors entering the Capitol with a weapon are required to exit and stow the weapon in the car or bus or wait outside during the tour. The school will be notified immediately if a student has a weapon.** Follow directions of all uniformed police officers or Capitol staff with official state identification. Allow 15 minutes before your scheduled tour.
- **Goat Hill Museum Store:** Plan to visit the Goat Hill Museum Store for an excellent selection of Alabama-related souvenirs and gifts. Call 334/ 353-4969 for more information. Allow 15 to 30 minutes.
- **Restrooms:** All public restrooms are located in the Union Street Lobby, Street Level. Allow 15 minutes.
- **Lunch:** Your group is welcome to eat lunch on the exterior grounds of the Capitol. The Capitol does not have the staff or facilities to haul away large bags of trash; **it is your responsibility to provide your group with the required number of trash bags, to bag your trash, and to remove the trash from the grounds. You are responsible for any lunch bags or coolers that are left unattended in the Capitol or on Capitol grounds.**
- **Safety/Care of the Building:** For your safety and the preservation of the building, please do not lean against any walls, furniture or railings in the State Capitol. Walk carefully, and be sure to always hold onto the rails while using stairs. Eating, drinking and smoking are not allowed in the State Capitol or the Goat Hill Museum Store. Photography is allowed; please turn the flash off when photographing near historic furnishings or artwork. Beepers and cellular phones are permitted but should be turned to “vibrate” setting. Please use the available umbrella bags for wet umbrellas.
- **Special Needs:** Please alert staff to visitors with special needs so that they may modify tours and assist as requested. Most of the site is accessible for people who are physically challenged.
- **Welcome and enjoy the tour!** Again, please let us know if you have questions or if we can do anything to make your tour more enjoyable.

## Driving Directions to the Alabama State Capitol



★ **Alabama State Capitol, 600 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery AL, 36104**

◆ **Free Bus Parking (Crampton Bowl Stadium, Paterson Field)**

**BUS UNLOADING AT UNION STREET:** After crossing Washington Street, merge into far right lane and stop in front of glass kiosks on the right. The Capitol is located across the street on the left. Unload bus and continue with Kiosk/Tunnel Directions. Free bus parking is available at Crampton Bowl or Paterson Field (see map above).

**KIOSK/TUNNEL ENTRANCE:** Direct group into right glass kiosk and lead downstairs. At bottom of stairs, enter tunnel and go left towards escalators. Lead group up one flight of stairs located to the left of the escalators and exit where designated. You are now located in the Street Level of the Capitol where tour will begin. **For visitors requiring elevators:** On Union Street, access elevator through left glass kiosk. Enter tunnel and go right towards escalators. Use elevators located to the right of the escalators, pressing “S” for Street Level. You are now located in the Street Level of the Capitol where tour will begin. **Saturday tours:** The Tunnel is not open on Saturdays. Visitors enter through the left set of brass doors at the Union Street Entrance.

**DEXTER AVE ENTRANCE:** Scheduled tour groups must enter at Union Street through the Tunnel. Individuals or small groups not requiring access through the Tunnel may enter at Dexter Avenue Monday through Friday. All visitors must enter at Union Street on Saturday.

**ONLINE MAP SEARCHES:** Use the address “1 North Union Street, Montgomery, AL, 36104” for online maps/directions. This will lead you directly to the Union Street entrance for unloading and loading of buses.

## Highway Directions to the Alabama State Capitol

**FROM I-65 SOUTH (BIRMINGHAM, HUNTSVILLE, AND POINTS NORTH):** Take I-65 South to Montgomery. Merge onto I-85 North via Exit 171. Take Exit 1 (Court Street) and continue straight on Arba Street for ½ mile. Turn left on Union Street and merge into far right lane. Continue ¾ mile. See bus unloading directions on reverse.

**FROM I-65 NORTH (MOBILE AND POINTS SOUTH):** Take I-65 North to Montgomery. Merge onto I-85 North via Exit 171. Take Exit 1 (Court Street) and continue straight on Arba Street for ½ mile. Turn left on Union Street and merge into far right lane. Continue ¾ mile. See bus unloading directions on reverse.

**FROM HWY 80 EAST (SELMA, MONTGOMERY REGIONAL AIRPORT AND POINTS WEST):** Take HWY 80 East to I-65 North. Follow directions from I-65 North (above).

**FROM I-85 SOUTH (AUBURN, TUSKEGEE AND POINTS EAST):** Take I-85 South to Montgomery. Take Exit 1 (Union Street). Bear right onto Union Street and stay in far right lane. Continue ¾ mile. See bus unloading directions on reverse.

**FROM HWY 231 NORTH (TROY, UNION SPRINGS AND POINTS SOUTH):** Take Hwy 231 North to Montgomery. Turn right onto Eastern Blvd (Hwy 231). After 3 miles, exit right onto I-85 South. Take I-85 South for 5 ½ miles. Take Exit 1 (Union Street). Bear right onto Union Street and stay in far right lane. Continue ¾ mile. See bus unloading directions on reverse.

**FROM HWY 231 SOUTH (WETUMPKA, ALEXANDER CITY AND POINTS NORTH):** Take Hwy 231 South to Montgomery. At Hwy 152, continue straight on Cong. W.L. Dickinson/Federal Drive for 4 ½ miles. Turn right onto Madison Avenue and continue 1 ½ miles. Turn left on Ripley Street and continue ¼ mile. Turn right on Washington Street and right at the next light on Union Street. Stay in far right lane and stop in front of glass kiosks on the right. See bus unloading directions on reverse.

## Parking at the Alabama State Capitol

**PARKING:** Metered street parking is available for Capitol visitors. Meters are usually \$.050/hour and limited to two hours. Metered spaces are free on Saturday and Sunday. Complimentary parking is available at Cramton Bowl Stadium or Paterson Field (see map on reverse).

## **ALL TOUR BUSES UNLOAD AT UNION STREET BUS ZONE & ENTER THROUGH KIOSK**

Dear Drivers/Bus Service:

It is our goal at the Alabama Historical Commission Capitol office to ensure our visitors a safe and enjoyable excursion to the historical attractions in our area. In order to do this, buses unload passengers at the kiosks (glass structures) on Union Street. Passengers should take the kiosk staircase into the Tunnel, enter the building near the escalators, and proceed to Street Level where their guide will meet them. Passengers with special needs may take the elevator in the second kiosk building.

Do not park or idle the bus at the unloading/loading area. Buses must then proceed to Cramton Bowl or Paterson Field parking lots (directions below). When carriers remain parked on Union Street there is a definite danger to pedestrians and other drivers; it also hinders other buses from using the kiosk entrances.

Do not stop traffic or direct visitors to cross the street at the bus unloading zone. All visitors enter the Capitol through the glass **kiosks (glass structures) and on through the tunnel or use crosswalks located at the corners of the block.**

Cars accompanying buses must park at metered spaces around the Capitol or park at Cramton Bowl/Paterson Field.

The Capitol Police in conjunction with the Montgomery Police Department will enforce this "No Parking" area to the fullest. Follow directions of all uniformed police officers or Capitol staff with official state i.d. badges.

### **DIRECTIONS TO COMPLIMENTARY PARKING AT CRAMTON BOWL STADIUM: To**

**Cramton Bowl:** *From Union Street, continue north to the second light and turn right onto Madison Avenue; continue ½ mile. After passing Cramton Bowl on your right, immediately turn right onto Hall Street (bordering Cramton Bowl). Just beyond stadium, enter parking lot to the right. **From Cramton Bowl:** Take Hall Street north (exiting left from parking lot) to Madison Avenue. Turn left onto Madison Avenue and continue ¼ mile. Turn left on N. Ripley Street and continue ¼ mile. Turn right on Washington Street and right at the next light*

onto Union Street. Stay in far right lane and stop in front of glass kiosks on the right. The Capitol is located across the street on the left.

(cont.)

**DIRECTIONS TO COMPLIMENTARY PARKING AT PATERSON FIELD: To Paterson**

**Field:** From Union Street, continue north to the second light and turn right on Madison Avenue; continue ½ mile. After passing Cramton Bowl on your right, immediately turn left at the light at Hall Street, entering Paterson Field's parking lot. **From Paterson Field:** Turn right onto Madison Avenue and continue ¼ mile. Turn left onto N. Ripley Street and continue ¼ mile. Turn right onto Washington Street and right at the next light onto Union Street. Stay in far right lane and stop in front of glass kiosks on the right. The Capitol is located across the street on the left.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the tour office at 334/242-3935 or [capitoltours@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:capitoltours@ahc.alabama.gov). Thank You.

Sincerely,

Lisa K. Franklin  
Site Director  
Alabama State Capitol

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