



U.S. CAPITOL *visitor center*

Amenities: Advance Reservation System, Website, Capitol Cafe and Gift Shops

The Capitol Visitor Center provides a more convenient, more efficient and easier system for scheduling all Capitol tours that allows more opportunities for constituents and other visitors to experience tours of the historic U.S. Capitol. The new, free, user-friendly, 24/7 Web-based **Advance Reservation System** is what constituents, Members of Congress and international visitors will use to schedule guided tours of the Capitol. Visitors may book tours through the offices of their Representative or Senators, or they may book tours themselves. The Advance Reservation System is accessible through the new, content-rich **Website**, www.visitthecapitol.gov. Whether booking through their Representative or Senator's office or on their own, visitors automatically receive email confirmations with their preferred tour time and tips for visiting the Capitol. When they arrive at the Capitol Visitor Center, they will exchange that email confirmation for tour tickets at one of two Information Desks in Emancipation Hall or at a Visitor Services kiosk outside. Visitors who do not have Internet access may book tours by calling the office of their Representative or Senators or through the **Office of Visitor Services at 202-226-8000**.

Walk-in visitors may check up-to-date LCD screens located behind the Information Desks regarding tour availability as there will be a limited number of same-day passes. No ticket is required to enter the Capitol Visitor Center or to enjoy its amenities. Tours begin in one of two Orientation Theaters where visitors will watch a 13-minute orientation film.

Gift Shops

Unique keepsakes from all over the United States are featured in the Capitol Visitor Center's two Gift Shops. Located on the Visitor Center's upper level, the North and South Gift Shops are filled with items related to the U.S. Capitol and Congress, including books and DVDs, jewelry and scarves, Capitol collectibles, prints and posters, adult and children's apparel, and educational toys and games.

Capitol Cafe

Located on the lower level of the Visitor Center, the Capitol Cafe is operated by Restaurant Associates of New York City. The goal of the Capitol Visitor Center's food service operation is to create a dynamic dining environment that reflects America's great bounty and regional cuisines.



Other conveniences such as coat checks, public telephones, ATMs, and Senate and House appointment desks greet visitors after they pass through a single security check-in area on the entry level. Visitors may request listening devices for foreign-language versions of the films and the exhibition at the Information Desks. Sign-language interpreting for tours is available when booked in advance. All films have open captioning. Wheelchairs are available upon request.