

## MAINE STATE HOUSE SELF-GUIDED TOUR



### WELCOME CENTER

After entering the State House from the public west entrance, visit the Welcome Center to the right of the security kiosk. On the wall to the left of the door to the Welcome Center is a drawing of the original State House.

### HISTORY

Maine's first capital was the city of Portland. That, however, was a temporary arrangement, in part because Portland was considered too far south. On February 24, 1827, Governor Enoch Lincoln signed the proclamation naming Augusta as the new capital. The capital was moved to Augusta upon completion of the State House, which had its cornerstone laid on July 4, 1829, and was completed by late 1831. A rear section was added in 1890 and the building was substantially expanded in 1909-1910. The State House was built using Maine granite quarried in the neighboring town of Hallowell and hauled to the site by teams of oxen.

### HALL OF FLAGS

From the Welcome Center, turn right and continue on to the main corridor of the building, then turn either right or left to take the stairs or elevator to the second floor and the Hall of Flags. The flags displayed here are replicas of the original flags which are now stored at the Maine State Museum, adjacent to the State House.

These flags were used by military regiments from Maine that fought in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean Conflict. There is also a POW/MIA flag, recognizing those taken prisoner or missing in action during the Vietnam War. Behind the grand staircase in the west wing is the Governor's office.

While in the Hall of Flags, take a few minutes to view the portraits of some of Maine's most prominent people. On the south wall is a portrait of Maine's first Governor, William King, who served from 1820 to 1821.

Turning next to the east wall, on the extreme right you will find a portrait of Thomas Brackett Reed, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1889 to 1891 and from 1895 to 1899.

Next is a portrait of Margaret Chase Smith, who has the distinction of being the first woman to have been elected to both houses of Congress. She was also the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for President by one of the two major political parties. This happened at the 1964 Republican Convention in San Francisco.

On the other side of the double doors is a portrait of Edmund S. Muskie, Governor of Maine from 1955 to 1959, U.S. Senator from 1959 to 1980, Secretary of State from 1980 to 1981, and Vice Presidential candidate in 1968.

Also on the east wall, to the extreme left, is a portrait of James G. Blaine, the Republican candidate for President in 1884. In 1862 he purchased as a gift for his wife the mansion that is today known as the Blaine House, the official residence of the Governor of Maine. Blaine's daughter, Harriet Blaine Beale, donated it to the state in 1919.

On the north wall, just to the left of the north entrance to the Hall of Flags, is a portrait of Senator George J. Mitchell. Prior to being appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1980 by Governor Joseph E. Brennan to complete Senator Muskie's term, Senator Mitchell was a U.S. District Court Judge. He served in the

United States Senate from 1980 to 1995, and served as Senate Majority Leader from 1990 to 1995.

From 1996 to 2000, Senator Mitchell served as chairman of the peace negotiations in Northern Ireland. Under his leadership the governments of Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom were able to arrive at the historic Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland after many decades of strife referred to there as "The Troubles."

Senator Mitchell also founded and remains active with the Mitchell Institute, which supports Maine students seeking a college education by annually awarding scholarships to a senior from every public high school in Maine.

In the center of the Hall of Flags is a bust of Percival Proctor Baxter, the Governor of Maine from 1921 to 1925. Over a 30-year period, he purchased the land for what is now Baxter State Park. Before leaving the Hall of Flags, be sure to view the plaques honoring Maine's soldiers, as well as the Battle Field Cross Memorial to the soldiers from Maine who gave their lives fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The next stop on your self-guided tour will be on the third floor.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Upon reaching the third floor, proceed to the House of Representatives Chamber at the end of the north wing. You will pass the Office of the Clerk of the House on the left and the Office of the Speaker of the House on the right. Maine has 151 representative districts, and is currently the only state in the nation to have Native American representation in the House of Representatives. The Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians each have one Representative.

In the front corners of the House chamber there are two voting boards; members push a button on their desks, and the boards light up to display the votes. Members also have a button to let the Speaker know when they'd like to speak. Video cameras are positioned around the chamber to stream the House sessions to the web.

## ROTUNDA

In the center of the building you will see the rotunda. The dome is viewable from this point. Weather permitting, step out onto the front veranda and enjoy the view. The eight columns on the veranda are solid granite and weigh 20,000 pounds each. The park across the street is Capitol

Park. In the wooded area at the end of the park is a mausoleum in which the body of Governor Enoch Lincoln is interred. Walk to the extreme left of the porch and you will be able to view the Blaine House, which is the white building with black shutters across the street. Upon re-entering the building, notice the portraits in and around the rotunda. These are portraits of Maine's most recent governors.

## WEST WING

Toward the rear of the building is the west wing. As you enter the west wing, notice the black limestone strip that runs across the floor. A close inspection of this strip will reveal 500-million-year-old fossils. In fact, these fossils can be found in most of the black limestone strips throughout the second, third, and fourth floors of the State House. At the head of the grand staircase leading from the second to the third floor is a portrait of George Washington, painted in 1836 by Thomas Truman Spear. Doors on either side of the portrait lead to the Legislative Council Chamber. To the left is a magnificent fireplace once used to heat this part of the building.

## MAINE STATE SENATE

Next, proceed to the Senate Chamber at the end of the south wing, which also

contains the Offices of the Secretary of the Senate and the President of the Senate. There are several interesting portraits displayed in the Senate Chamber. The portrait of President Abraham Lincoln by Albion Harris Bicknell is one of only three that he did of the President standing; all Bicknell's other portraits of the President showed him sitting. Bicknell was originally from Turner, Maine, and later settled in Malden, Massachusetts.

On the rear wall of the Senate Chamber is a portrait of Hannibal Hamlin, a Congressman and U.S. Senator from Maine who served as Vice President of the United States during President Lincoln's first term. To his right is Joshua Chamberlain, Civil War hero, Governor of Maine, and President of Bowdoin College. To Chamberlain's right is a portrait of Sir William Phips, who was the first Colonial Governor of Massachusetts, which then included the territory that later became Maine.

The portrait to the right of the rear doors of the Senate Chamber is of Henry Knox, the country's first Secretary of War under George Washington. After the Revolutionary War, Knox settled in Thomaston, Maine. To his right is a painting of an area in Maine known as Big Wilson/Little Wilson Stream. Finally, to the extreme right is a portrait

of Sir William Pepperell of Kittery, who was Commander in Chief at the siege of Fort Louisbourg in 1745, and was active in raising troops for the French and Indian Wars.

## UNDERGROUND CONNECTOR

Finally, before leaving the State House complex, visit the connector between the State House and the Cross State Office Building across the plaza. The connector is accessible through the west entrance just beyond the security kiosk. There you will find magnificent animal dioramas set in each of Maine's four very distinct seasons. The dioramas were created by Klir Beck in 1957, and the display also includes pictures of Mr. Beck working on the dioramas. The granite walls of the tunnel were carved by Evan W. Haynes of North Yarmouth. Notice the inscriptions. They are in five different languages: English, French, Penobscot, Passamaquoddy and Abenaki.

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Guided tours may be scheduled through  
the Maine State Museum  
(207) 287-2301

For more information, visit  
<http://house.maine.gov>