

TOUR TIDBITS

- Parking (buses, vans, etc.) is permitted only at the metered spaces along Sumter Street, Assembly Street, Senate Street and Pendelton Street. If parking is not available, drop off passengers on the Sumter Street side of the State House and send the buses to the Coliseum parking lot on Park Street.
- Statues look inviting for play. However, out of respect for the symbols and safety for our visitors, we must insist that people do not walk on, play on, climb or otherwise disturb the statues and monuments on the South Carolina State House grounds.
- If your group is interested in meeting with their legislator, you must make those arrangements with the legislator's office.
- We do have public restrooms and recommend all guests take advantage of these before the tour begins.



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSE



What city was the first capital of South Carolina and was also the location of the first State House?

Answer: Charleston, SC

Why was the capital moved to Columbia?

Answer: Because Columbia is the geographic center of the state and the General Assembly wanted a central capital for the Upstate and the Lowcountry.

Why did the state/legislators want to build a second State House in Columbia?

Answer: They wanted to build a fireproof State House to preserve state records and documents.

Who were Charleston and South Carolina named after?

Answer: King Charles II from England.

The majority of the State House is made of two types of stone. What are they?

Answer: Blue granite (our state stone) and marble.

What war delayed construction of the State House? Who was the Union general whose troops came through Columbia?

Answer: Civil War; General Sherman

Why are there six bronze stars on the west/southwest sides of the State House walls?

Answer: The stars show where cannonballs hit the State House during the Civil War.

What two state officials in the executive branch have their offices in the lower lobby?

Answer: The Lieutenant Governor and the Governor.

In the main lobby located upstairs, what Revolutionary War battles are shown by two large paintings on either side of the walls?

Answer: The battle of King's Mountain and the battle of Cowpens.

Why do we have two state house domes?

Answer: A smaller dome was built inside the larger, outer dome to center it aesthetically within the inside of the building

The law-making body of South Carolina (the legislative branch) is called the General Assembly.

What are the two groups that make up this body?

Answer: The Senate and the House of Representatives.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSE



How many members does the Senate have? Who leads the Senate?

Answer: 46; Lieutenant Governor.

What important man from South Carolina has his portrait over the main desk in the Senate chamber AND a statue in the main lobby?

Answer: John C. Calhoun.

South Carolina is the only state to have a double-sided seal. The front side of the seal has one of our state mottos on it. What is the motto written on the front side?

Answer: Prepared in mind and resources.

The opposite side of the state seal has a second state motto. What is the motto written on the back side of the seal?

Answer: While I breathe, I hope.

How many members do the House of Representatives have? Who presides over the House chamber?

Answer: 124, Speaker of the House.

The Senate and the House chamber have two symbols of authority which are placed at the front of the desk to represent that the legislative branch is in session. What is the symbol of authority for each chamber?

Answer: The Senate sword and the House mace.

What happened to the House mace during the Revolutionary War?

Answer: It was hidden from the British but its location was lost for 40 years.

The General Assembly is only in session for part of the year. What month does the legislative body begin working and what month do they end working?

Answer: From January to June.

What is the artwork located on the balcony of the third floor called?

Answer: Mosaic glass.

