



Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center

The Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center is stocked with travel brochures about the region and offers knowledgeable staff to answer visitor questions. Within the Center is an exhibit about the history of Albany, the Henry Hudson Planetarium and a gift shop offering unique Albany items. Self-guided walking tours, seasonal guided tours, school programs and an audio visual presentation designed to provide a brief orientation to the city are offered. The Albany Heritage Area comprises all of downtown Albany and is one of 17 Heritage Areas and Corridors in New York State that preserve, interpret and promote special places in the Empire State.

History of Our Building

The Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center is comprised of two historic buildings. The building to the east is the former Albany Pumping Station built in the 1870s and designed by Edward and Charles Ogden. Water pumped from the Hudson River to this building was filtered and then pumped to Bleecker Reservoir located a couple miles west. The pump works were housed here until 1937. One of the original chimney stacks, which worked to convert water to steam before it reached the pumps, still exists in the Visitors Center. The building closest to Broadway (25 Quackenbush) was built in 1852 as one of seven townhouses that lined Quackenbush Street. In 1895 all but one townhouse was demolished for a Pumping Station expansion. 25 Quackenbush was renovated into administrative offices for the Albany Water Department and a large brick stable was built at the rear of the building. In 1897 the offices and stable were connected into one building. In the 1970's the historic district was renovated, a pedestrian walkway was created and the area became known as Quackenbush Square. In 1986, the former townhouse became the home of the Albany Visitors Center. An expansion of the Visitors Center was completed in 1991 to include a portion of the original pumping station. The other portion of the building is occupied by a restaurant, The Albany Pump Station.

Gift Shop

Introducing a new "Albany...An Amazing Discovery" line of gift items that are perfect for personal and corporate gifting. Also, unique items handcrafted by local artisans, gifts from regional attractions and fun, educational items for young explorers too!

Rentals

Make your next event a part of history. The Albany Visitors Center is a creative and historic site for corporate meetings and social functions.

Mission: The Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center introduces the public to Albany's history and culture by developing educational programs that encourage exploration of the cultural resources within the Heritage Area and the Capital Region of New York State.

Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center

www.albany.org/VisitorCenter.aspx | (518) 434-0405

25 Quackenbush Square, Albany, New York 12207

Monday-Friday 9am-4pm / Saturday 10am-3pm / Sunday 11am-3pm

Located at the Corner of Broadway & Clinton Ave, Metered/Reimbursed Parking Available via Spencer St.





Henry Hudson Planetarium

The Henry Hudson Planetarium is located in the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center. Public astronomy programs are held the third Saturday of each month. Private showings for school groups and other group functions are available by reservation only.

Saturday Star Shows 2011

January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17

Children's Shows – 11am

Interactive program exploring the stars, planets, comets and constellations in the night sky. Geared to children ages 3-7 and their families.

Albany Star Sighting – 1pm

Interactive program identifies stars, planets, comets and constellations in the night sky and the tools and techniques for becoming an amateur astronomer. Geared for skywatchers ages 8 and above.

School Break Fun

Planetarium programs are offered during winter and spring school breaks.

February 22 @ 11am: Follow the North Star and the Underground Railroad ~ Sky show explores the important role astronomy played in the freedom seekers' search along the Underground Railroad (Appropriate for children in grades 2-12)

February 23 @ 1pm: Circus of the Stars ~ Meet lions, bears, and other animals of the night sky. Program followed by a craft project and popcorn! (Appropriate for children in grades pre-K – 3)

April 21 @ 11am: Stars of the Pharaohs ~ Exploration of ancient Egypt through astronomy and archeology. (Appropriate for children in grades 3-12)

Birthday Parties for Children

Parties include a star program led by our staff and a private party space. Maximum 25 children. \$100 party fee

The Henry Hudson Planetarium is an official NASA Space Place. Visit the Space Place website at www.spaceplace.nasa.gov. This site is designed specifically for elementary school age children to learn about space science and technology in a way that is fun and hands on.

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