Stop #2: The Small Senate Rotunda

In the Small Senate Rotunda you will see a ring of columns. If you want to learn some special features about these columns and the Capitol, turn to page 16 for Capitals in the Capitol.

Stop #3: The Old Senate Chamber

The Senate of the United States used the Old Senate Chamber from 1810 until 1859. With so many new states entering the Union, the Senate moved to its present and larger chamber. Each state has two Senators, and they serve a six-year term. Senators met here and talked about westward expansion, slavery and ways to keep the Union together.

Three well-known Senators who served during that time were Henry Clay of Kentucky, John C. Calhoun of South Carolina and Daniel Webster of Massachusetts.

Things to Discover:
★ The central chair is where the Vice President sat and presided over the Senate.
★ The balcony above the entrance, called "The Ladies Gallery," was open to visitors.
★ The jars on the desks contained sand used to dry the ink.
★ The brass bowls on the floor are spittoons. Some Senators chewed tobacco.

NEXT STOP: Retrace your steps back to the Rotunda. Continue through the south door of the Rotunda to the House wing. National Statuary Hall (4) is straight ahead.

Stop #4: National Statuary Hall

This room, also known as the Old Hall of the House, is where the U.S. Representatives met from 1807 to 1857. Representatives are elected every two years. Since 1864, statues of famous Americans have been exhibited in this room.

Things to Discover:
★ Seven men who served as President, including John Quincy Adams, sat in this room as Representatives. Can you locate the seven floor plaques to show where they sat?
★ Hear whispers from across the room. Stand where Adams had his desk. Have one person stand on the exact opposite side of the room and whisper towards the floor. Those by the desk of Adams will hear every word you say.

NEXT STOP: Exit National Statuary Hall toward Rotunda. Go down the stairs on the left. At bottom of stairs turn left, then right into Crypt (5). Exit north door, turn right to see the Corn Cob Capitals (6).