

Welcome Chaperones!

Instructions for Chaperones: On this tour you will not only learn about Eastern State Penitentiary's unique architecture and history, but also explore how the prison's history shapes our understanding of prisons today. Use this guide to help your students follow the audio tour, discuss what they learned, and explore the rest of the site.

Before you start...

Ask your group any of the the following questions and write responses down. You will return to these ideas after the tour:

What do you think you will see today?
What do you think of when you think of a prison?
*What does **justice** mean to you?*

Key words your students should know:

- **Incarceration** - the state of being confined in prison
- **Inmate/prisoner** - a person who is confined in prison
- **Rehabilitation** - the act of bringing someone back to health
- **Solitary Confinement** - the act of isolating a person in prison
- **Recidivism** - the act of returning to crime after leaving prison

Press 1 and the Green Button and GO!

Examine!

Instructions: As you walk through the space, listening to audio stops 1-10, be sure to point out key architectural details to your group. Each number below corresponds with the audio stop:

Audio Stop #1



Front Facade

Audio Stop #3



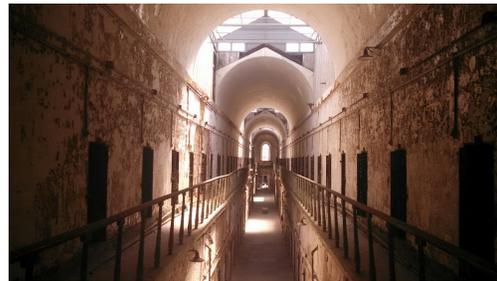
Original Feeding Hole Design

Audio Stop #6



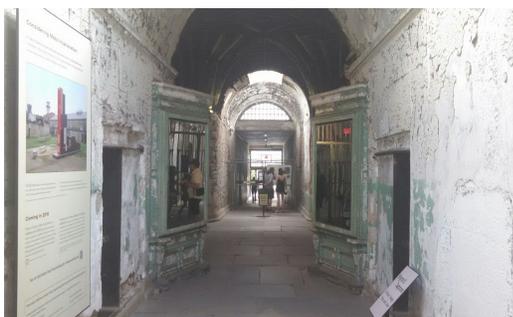
Radial Plan

Audio Stop #7



Two-Story Cell Block with Barrel Vaulted Ceiling

Audio Stop #8



Surveillance Mirrors and Cell Block Expansion

Once you finish Audio Stop #10, turn the page.

Discuss and Reflect!

Instructions: You are now on the Baseball Field. Break up into groups with at least one chaperone and discuss any of the following questions. Ask a student to record responses.

How does the building make you feel and why?

What story impacted you the most and why?

In your opinion, does a prison bring about justice?

Why?

Why Not?

Explore!

Instructions: Now is a great time to plan what your group will do next. Select any of the following options based on time and group interest. We recommend exploring in **groups of 15 or less** with at least one chaperone in each group.

Does your group have 30 minutes?

We recommend:

One Exhibit:

- Prison's Today: Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration*
- 1945 Tunnel Escape*

One Hands on History Tour (5-10 minutes)

- Punishment Cells
- Soup Alley (Dining Halls)

One Art Installation

- Chorus* by Jess Perlitz
- Sepulture* by Jared Scott Owens

Does your group have 1 hour?

We recommend:

One Exhibit:

- Prison's Today: Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration*
- 1945 Tunnel Escape*

One or Two Hands on History Tours

- Hospital Block (15-20 minutes)
- Punishment Cells
- Soup Alley (Dining Halls)
- Synagogue
- Chaplain's Office Murals

One Art Installation

- Apokaluptein16389067:II* by Jesse Krimes
- Specimen* by Greg Cowper
- Other Absences* by Cindy Stockton Moore

Does your group want to learn more about...

Prisons Today?

We recommend...

- Prisons Today: Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration*
- Art Installations (Cellblocks 8,9,11)
- Room for Debate

Changes in prison life between the separate and congregate systems?

We recommend any of the following Hands on History tours...

- Soup Alley (Dining Halls)
- Punishment Cells
- Hospital Block

Religion at Eastern State?

We recommend...

- Synagogue
- Chaplain's Office Murals

Prisoner stories

We recommend...

- Al Capone's Cell
- 1945 Tunnel Escape
- Pep the Dog
- Sydney Ware
- George Norman
- Women at Eastern State

**For additional help planning your visit, please see any staff member
at a guide stand!**

*****After You Leave...**

Consider the question of change. Eastern State Penitentiary was founded on a principle of change and reform from previous prison systems. Just as Eastern State Penitentiary changed while it was open, our prison system continues to evolve today.

Ask your students to reflect on any of the following questions:

What can prisons today learn from the history of Eastern State?

If you could bring one person to Eastern State who would it be and why?

What changes do you want to see in today's prison system?

Who do you think is most impacted by the prison system and why?

What challenges do you think people in, and transitioning out of, prison face today?

How do these issues impact you or your community?

***We are developing this resource to help chaperones guide students through the audio tour and spark discussion about the prison's history.

After you complete the audio tour, you will be sent a Google Survey asking your thoughts about your experience today. ***Please take 5 minutes to complete that survey and enter a chance to win a free tour for your next group!***