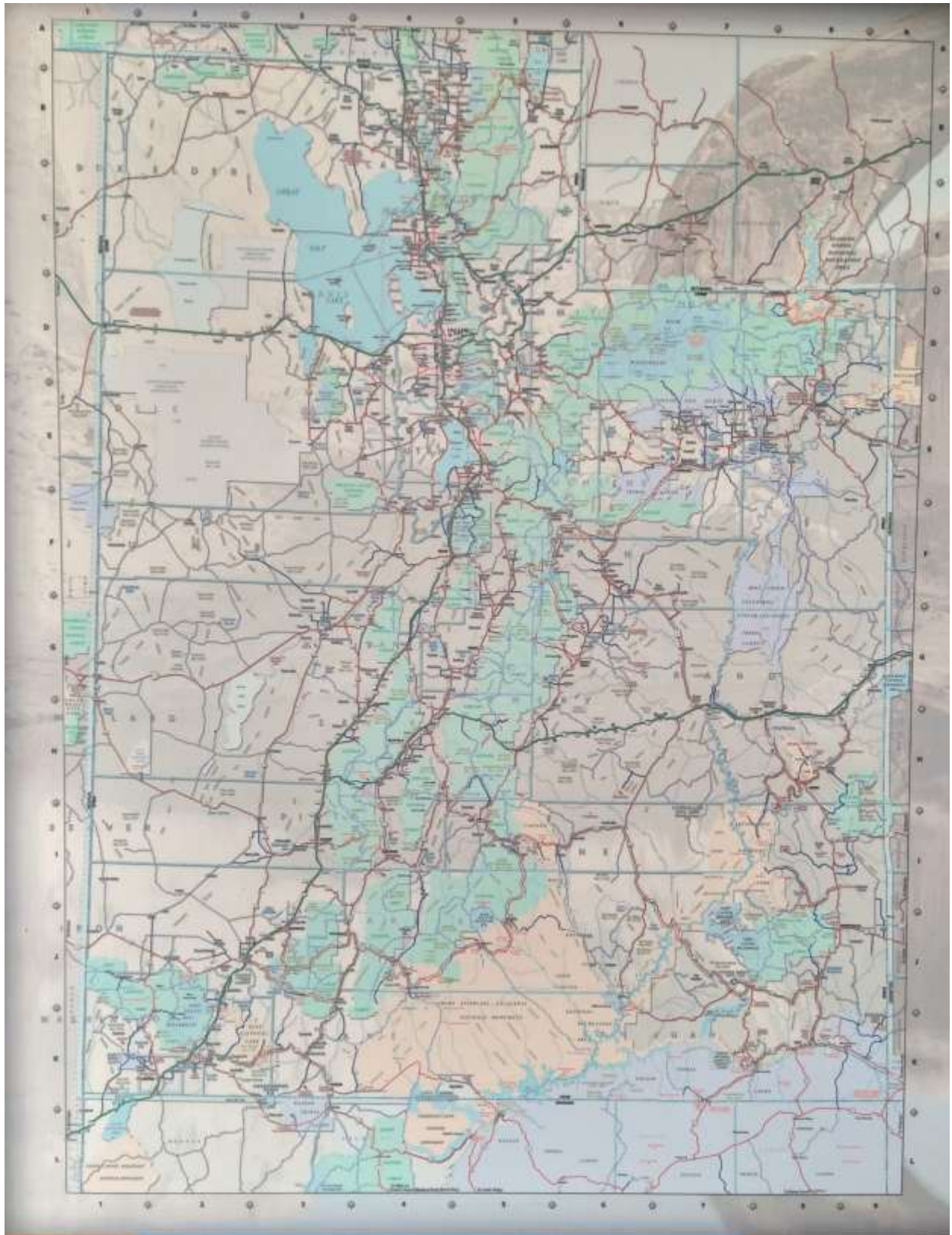


DAY 9 & 10 - UTAH



Something unusual happened when we crossed the border from Colorado into Utah on Friday, Sept. 12th. On the western horizon we saw a sky that was dark, a large rain cloud that stretched miles across the countryside. I had never seen such a monstrosity before. I saw an opening to the left that I thought we could drive through safely. I was wrong! When we started to move into the dark cloud that stretched across the entire invisible landscape, we started to encounter an extreme downpour that included marble-sized hail that pounded on the roof of the car. I had to slow down to 10 miles an hour, and then I drove slowly to the shoulder of the road and thought of stopping, but then I saw other cars slowly driving onward to get out of the storm. I joined them. Slowly, but surely we made it out of the storm and arrived at a rest area at Thompson Springs. That's when I discovered we had a flat tire, probably when I drove off of the road. I wasn't able to fix the flat tire (the lug nuts were on too tight), but Elsa wisely asked a nearby truck driver for help. His name was Hector, a Mexican born in the United States. He applied his strength and took off the flat tire and put on the spare tire for us. We drove to the nearest town, Green River, and bought a new tire.



7:50 AM: Tracking a SEVERE T-STORM moving northeast from Wayne county into SE Emery county in SE Utah. This storm is producing a large...



10:45 AM- A Severe T-Storm continues across NE Grand county. Heavy rain, lightning, and 60 mph winds are associated with the storm. As the...



This is the rest area in Thompson Springs where we had a flat tire, and Hector helped change the tire for a spare tire. For free! He wouldn't take any money! Truly, a welcome to Utah!




Driving through Utah to Salt Lake City.


LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

www.dinosaurdiamond.org


Points of interest along the Grand County, Utah section of the Dinosaur Diamond include:




Natural Bridge
Take a short detour off the Provo Canyon Road to explore the Moab area. The bridge, which spans the canyon, is a natural rock arch. It is one of the most beautiful natural bridges in the world. The bridge is located on the south side of the canyon, just west of the town of Moab. It is a popular spot for hikers and photographers.



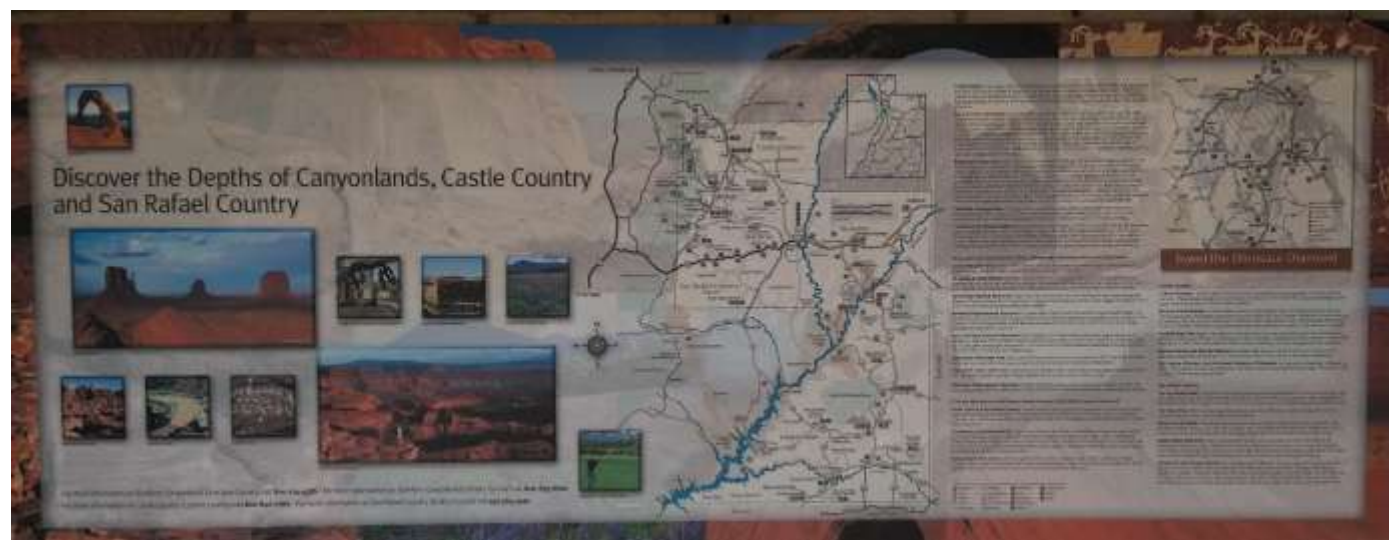
Dinosaur Tracks
The Grand County Dinosaur Area is a world-class dinosaur track site. It features over 100 tracks of various sizes, including those of Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops, and Stegosaurus. The tracks are located in the sandstone walls of the canyon, and they provide a unique insight into the lives of these prehistoric animals.



Museum of Moab
The Museum of Moab is a world-class museum that features a variety of dinosaur exhibits. It includes a large hall with dinosaur skeletons, a smaller hall with dinosaur tracks, and a outdoor area with dinosaur models. The museum is located in the heart of Moab, and it is a must-visit for anyone interested in dinosaurs.



Canyon View
The Grand Canyon of Utah is a world-class natural wonder. It features a deep, winding canyon with steep, rocky walls. The canyon is located in the heart of Moab, and it is a popular spot for hikers and photographers. The canyon is a testament to the power of nature, and it is a truly breathtaking sight.





We stopped at Utah's capitol the next day for a self-guided tour.





Looking away from the capitol building towards downtown Salt Lake City.



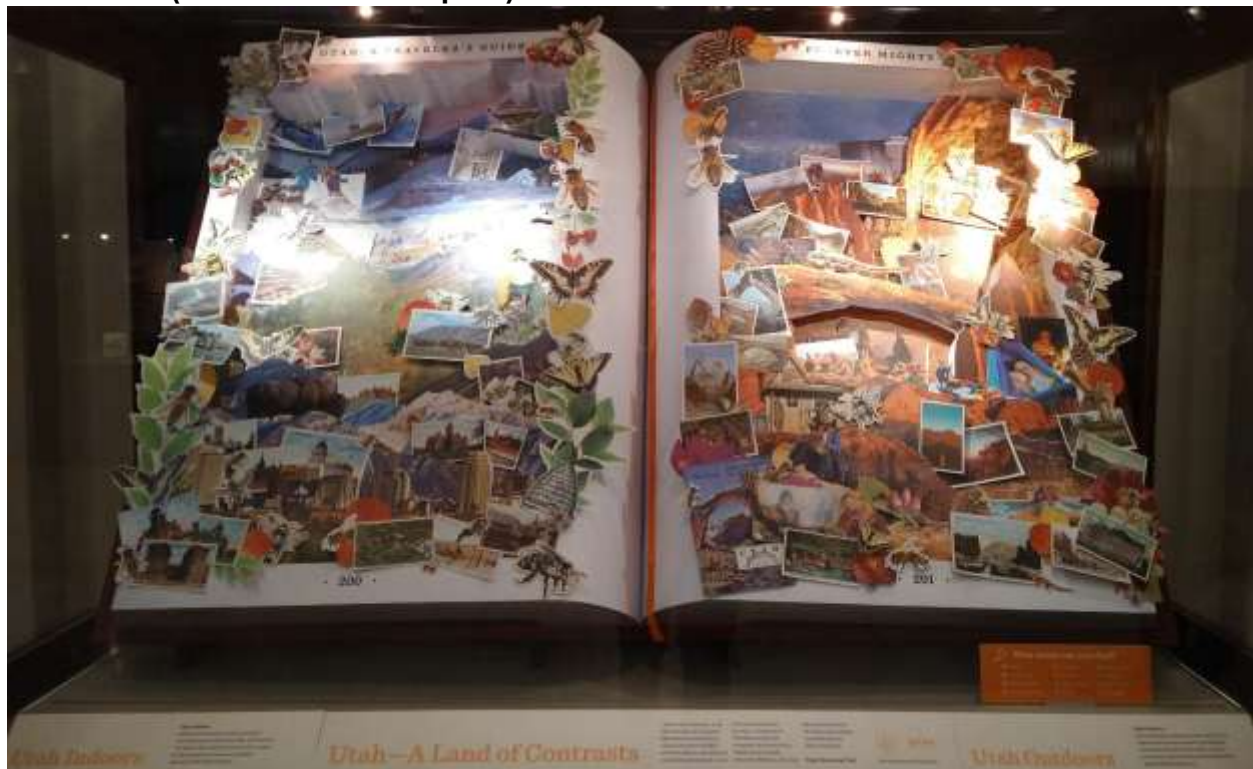




Remnants of copper that once was used on the dome of the capitol.



Movies filmed in Utah: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (Arches NP), Pirates of the Caribbean: at World's End (Bonneville Salt Flats), Footloose (Lehi Roller Mills), Thelma and Louise (Dead Horse State park).





A Paleontologist's Paradise: Utah's extraordinary fossil record; Utah's dinosaur discoveries.

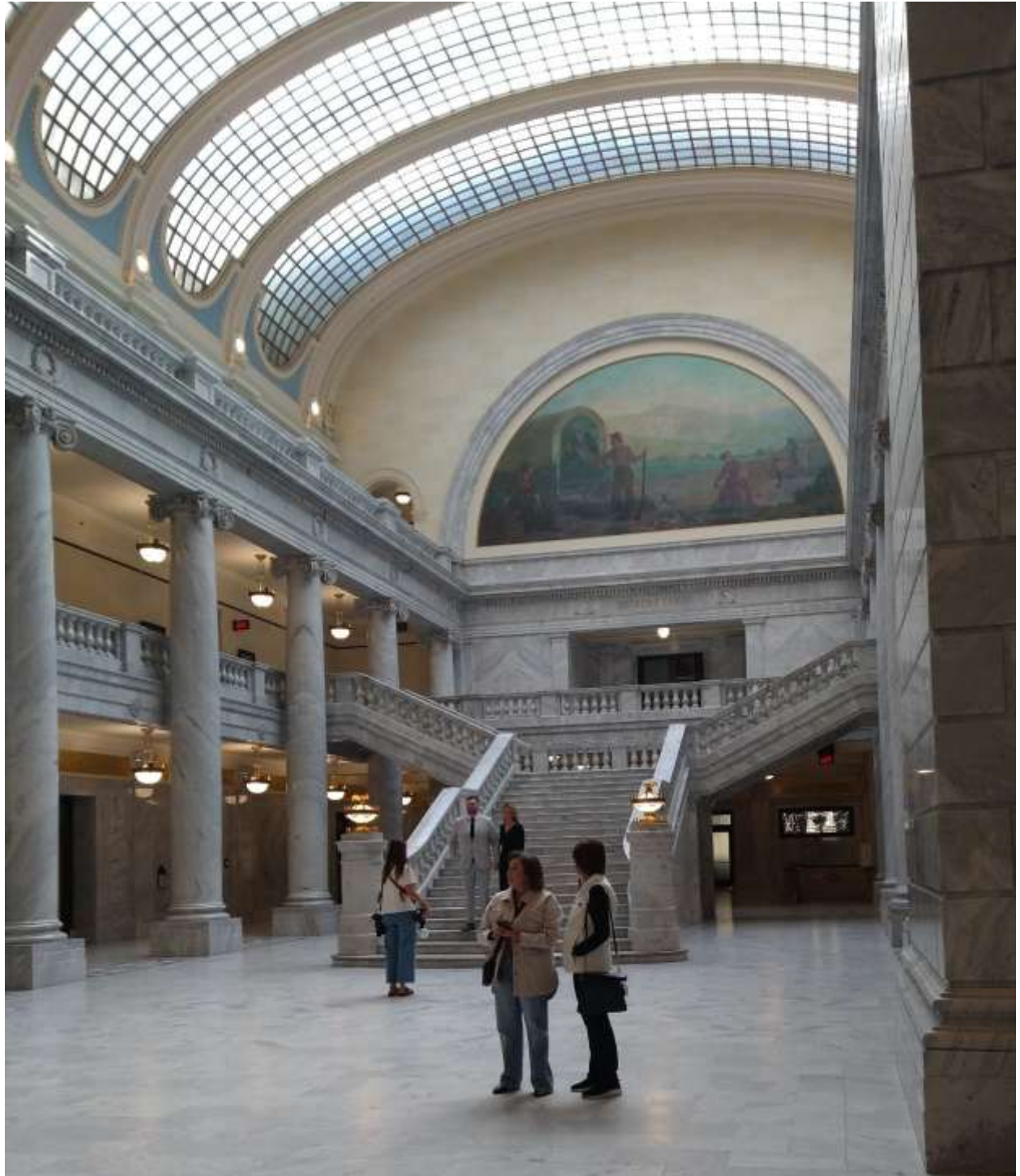


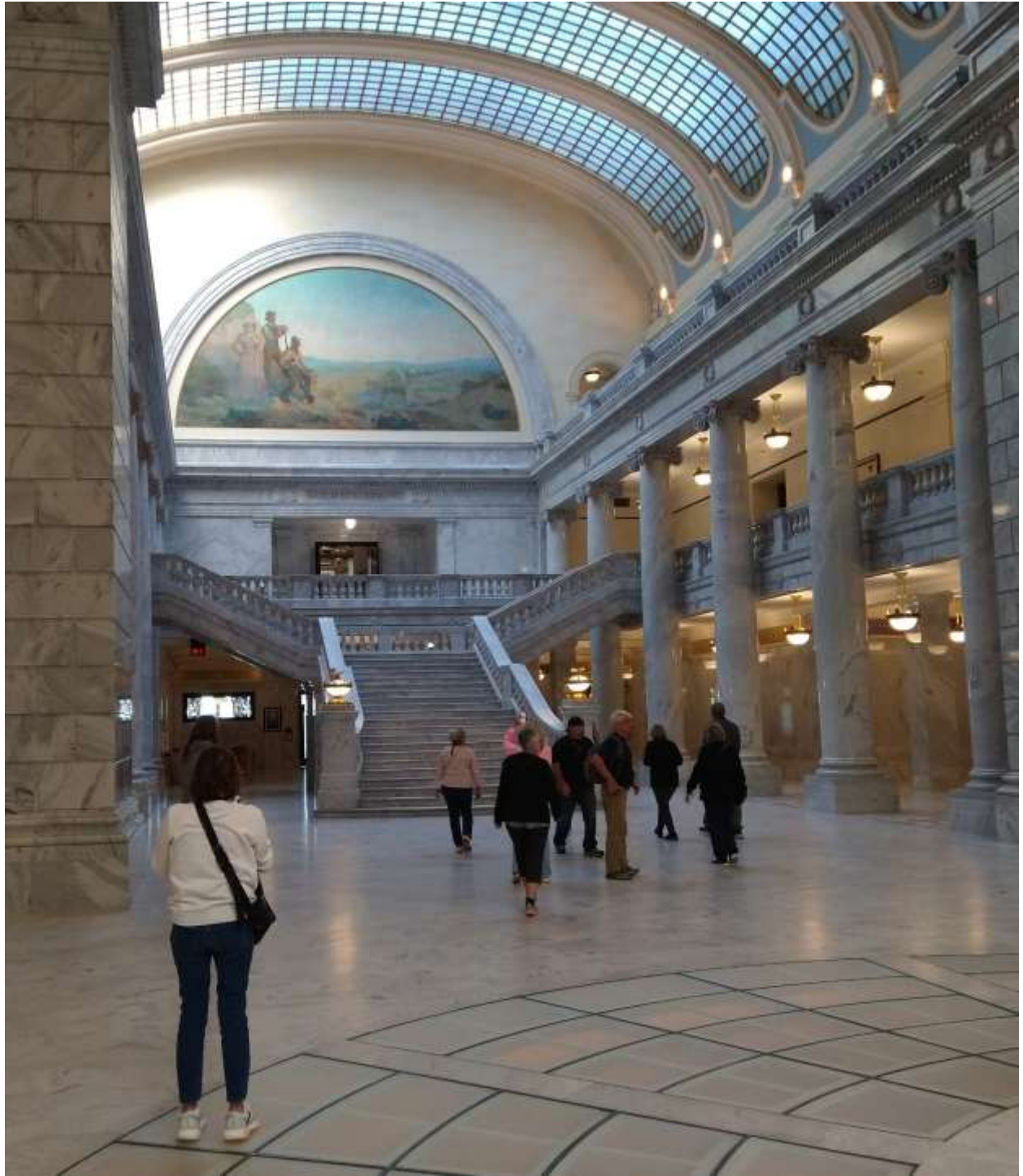
The Great Seal of the State of Utah, 1896



<https://utahstatecapitol.utah.gov/> Self-guided tour brochure

The dome stands 165 feet above the Rotunda floor. It contains a mural featuring seagulls, Utah's state bird, soaring among the sunset-tinted clouds. The largest painted seagulls have a wingspan of six feet. The columns, floor and symmetrical wall panels are all carved out of Georgia marble, which was transported to Utah by railcar. There are 24 monolithic columns, weighing 25,000 pounds each, lining the room.







Land & Community



Science & Technology

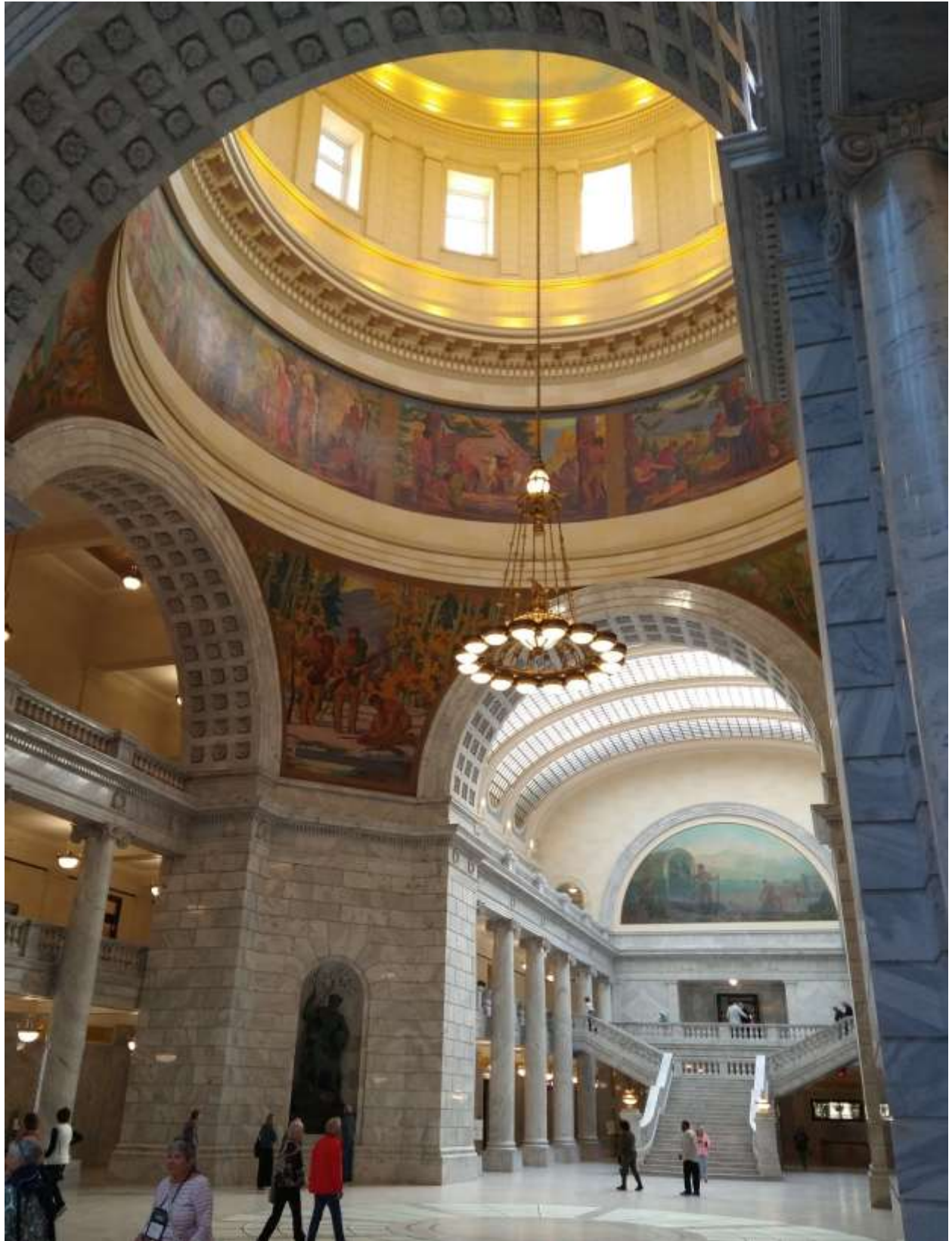


Arts & Education



Immigration & Settlement







Geographical model of Utah





**Statue of Massasoit, historic Indian chief of Massachusetts,
friend of the Pilgrim Fathers**



Monuments, statues, and plaques are dispersed throughout the grounds, including the Mormon Battalion Monument located on the southeast side of the grounds. It was dedicated in 1927 and became the first monument on Capitol Hill.







<https://churchofjesuschristtemples.org/salt-lake-temple/>

4th dedicated temple in operation; closed for renovation; cladding sealing wing and pavilions; installing moat covers; landscaping and interior finish work progressing; renovations underway on Lion House and Beehive House; renovation estimated to be completed in late 2026 to early 2027 with an open house celebration planned for April–October 2027

