



Welcome to The Davenport Hotel! This building has been known as Spokane's living room since it first opened in 1914. Named for its first proprietor, Louis Davenport, The Davenport Hotel was the first hotel with air conditioning, a central vacuum system, a pipe organ and dividing doors in the ballrooms. It is also the place at which the first Crab Louis was served.

The hotel closed in 1985 and demolition was considered. Local entrepreneurs Walt & Karen Worthy purchased the entire block in 2000, then spent two years and \$38 million to make The Davenport Hotel again one of America's exceptional hotels. The Davenport Hotel re-opened to the public in the summer of 2002.

The lobby, ballrooms and public spaces of The Davenport Hotel are now restored; the guest room floors and all service areas are new.

Just as Mr. Davenport said 90 years ago, we hope you are so well pleased with your visit here that you will be glad you came, sorry to leave and eager to return.



### *In the footsteps of history*

As you walk the hallways here at The Davenport Hotel, you are walking in the footsteps of Mary Pickford and Tyrone Power, Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh, Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, Will Rogers and John Philip Sousa. Almost every U.S. president of the 20th century has visited here, as have several royals. Zane Grey, Dashiell Hammett and Vachel Lindsay have all written at and about this hotel. More recently, Cher, Neil Diamond, Cuba Gooding Jr., Jerry Seinfeld and Sting have enjoyed a night at The Davenport Hotel. We invite you to make some of your own history here and take a piece of the legend home by visiting our Signature Shop on the lobby level, near the front desk.

Through this gate, which once led to the hotel's Great Northern Railway office, you may purchase our custom pillow-top mattresses, fine linens, luxurious bath products and seasonal mementos of your visit to "one of America's exceptional hotels."



THE DAVENPORT HOTEL  
10 SOUTH POST STREET  
SPOKANE, WA 99201  
509.455.8888 800.899.1482  
WWW.THEDAVENPORTHOTEL.COM



THE DAVENPORT HOTEL  
ONE OF AMERICA'S EXCEPTIONAL HOTELS SINCE 1914.

# Historical Walking Tour

ALLOW 30 MINUTES

AS YOU TAKE THIS WALKING TOUR, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A WORKING HOTEL AND MANY OF ITS ROOMS ARE IN USE TODAY. PLEASE RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF OUR GUESTS AND DO NOT ENTER A ROOM THAT IS SIGNED FOR A PRIVATE FUNCTION. THANK YOU.

PRINTED 2006



## The Grand Lobby

**We begin our tour at the fireplace.** Whenever someone in Spokane says “meet me at the fireplace,” it is assumed you mean this one. Architect Kirtland Cutter lit the first fire here in September of 1914. Hotel proprietor Louis Davenport decreed that the fire must never be allowed to burn out, as a symbol of hospitality. Originally wood burning, the fireplace now burns natural gas. We burn it year-round as a symbol of hospitality, still following Mr. Davenport’s order.

Speaking of symbolism, notice the painting above the fireplace. It pictures the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria—the ships Columbus used to discover the new world. In allegory, the painting invites you to discover the new world of the Davenport Hotel. Mr. Cutter designed The Davenport Hotel so that it would bring the world to Spokane. As you walk this tour, you will visit, at least architecturally, Spain, France, England, Italy and Russia.

The lobby is inspired by the Spanish Renaissance style. The art glass panels in the ceiling give the hotel’s single largest space an atrium effect. The ceiling beams are cast plaster with faux wood graining. Over time, much of the detail here was lost to the eye due to decades of smoke in the lobby--both from the wood-burning fireplace and cigars/cigarettes. Once the beams were cleaned in the renovation of 2000--with spray bottles of Simple Green and soft toothbrushes--the beautiful burgundy, teal and gold colors appeared as they were when new.

Mr. Davenport explained the hotel’s iconography this way in 1915: “In the old Spanish homes it was the custom to display medallions carrying the portraits of honored ancestors and distinguished members of the family. This accounts for their frequent appearance throughout the lobby. Prominent in the ornamentation is the griffin. This, as used here, has the body of a lion, symbolic of strength, and the wings and head of an eagle, emblematic of alertness, swiftness and rapidity of execution. The dolphin, which figures in the ornamentation is always associated in mythology with sociability.”

From the fireplace, walk to the fountain in the middle of the lobby and turn right. Just before the revolving door you’ll find a gated doorway on your left. Enter the Isabella Ballroom.

This was originally the hotel’s dining room (see archive photo on the wall to your left). In keeping with the Spanish Renaissance style of the lobby, Mr. Cutter named this room for Queen Isabella of Spain. Notice the mirrored walls at each end of the room, which create the illusion of infinite space. The accent frames are gilded with 22<sup>k</sup> gold leaf and hinged to allow easy cleaning of the glass. The hanging light fixtures in the room are the original “electroliers.” As you leave the Isabella ballroom, notice the two mirrored doors on your right. These original doors were installed to hold space for future elevators, should The Davenport Hotel someday require them.



## Isabella Ballroom

Our next stop on the tour is directly above you now, the Marie Antoinette Ballroom. You may either take the steps (here) or the elevator (through the lobby) to the second floor.

The Marie Antoinette Ballroom is of French Neo-Classical design and was Mrs. Davenport’s favorite room in the hotel. The ceiling color suggests either dusk or dawn; the crystal chandeliers suggest the glimmering stars of the heavens. The chandeliers, by the way, are original--each purchased at a cost of \$10,000. (A typical family home at the time cost \$8,000). Notice the pairs of faces all around the balcony, facing one another, engaged in a conversation frozen in time. You’re standing on the original floating dance floor, suspended on cables to help dancers stay light on their feet.

To continue the tour, return to the mezzanine and turn right. In the corner you will see a photo of the Marie Antoinette Ballroom on opening night in 1914 when it hosted a “gorgeously crowded ball.” The newspaper clipping from the next day’s Spokesman-Review gives you a “you are there” perspective on the grand affair.

Continue along the mezzanine and you’ll soon find yourself facing the heavy oak doors to our next room on the tour.

In the Elizabethan room, we visit old England. This room was Mr. Davenport’s favorite room in the hotel. This English Tudor-style room was the first hotel ballroom in the world to employ folding panel doors that divided one large room into several smaller rooms. We still use the original panel doors in this room today. These walls were covered in gold-flocked wallpaper during the 1970s. When stripped off after 20 years, it was discovered that the paper had actually taken much abuse that would have otherwise damaged the wood. The chandeliers are original and each is made with 75 pounds of sterling silver. Some of the hotel’s original 405 telephones survive along the base of the window wall.

To continue the tour, exit this room, turn to your left and go up the stairs (if you would rather ride an elevator, there is one on your left near the stairway).

The Hall of the Doges (pronounced dough’ jez) is Spokane’s oldest ballroom—and the only flying ballroom in the world. Designed by Cutter, the room was constructed above Davenport’s restaurant in 1904--a decade before the hotel opened. It was, then, the largest and grandest ballroom in the West and the most expensive at the time, built at an original cost of \$30,000. Its design was inspired by the Palace of the Doges in Venice. The entire Hall was removed intact by a crane during the renovation of 2000, and placed inside this newly constructed east wing of the hotel.

Next door is the Grand Pennington Ballroom, which recalls the glory of imperial Russia. Created during the renovation, the room is named for the Pennington Hotel that once occupied this site. The new chandeliers are from Spain; the carpeting from England. At the top of each arched window and doorway you’ll notice the initial “W” for the hotel’s present owners, Mr. & Mrs. Worthy.

If you have any questions after taking this tour, we welcome your inquiry at the concierge desk or front desk.



## Hall of the Doges