Empire State Building

**Facts**

- **Official Name**: Empire State Building
- **Other Names**: 350 5th Avenue
- **Structure Type**: Building
- **Status**: Completed
- **Country**: United States
- **City**: New York City
- **Street Address & Map**: 350 5th Avenue
- **Postal Code**: 10001
- **Building Function**: office
- **Structural Material**: steel
- **Energy Label**: LEED Gold
- **Landmark Status**: national
- **Construction Start**: 1930
- **Completion**: 1931
- **Retrofit Start**: 2009
- **Official Website**: Empire State Building

**Rankings**

- **Global Ranking**: #36 Tallest in the World
- **Regional Ranking**: #6 Tallest in North America
- **National Ranking**: #6 Tallest in United States
- **City Ranking**: #4 Tallest in New York City

**Original Companies Involved**

- **Owner**
  - Current: Empire State Realty Trust; Qatar Investment Authority
  - Past: W&H Properties
- **Developer**
  - Alfred E. Smith; John J. Raskob
- **Architect**
  - Design: Shreve, Lamb & Harmon Associates
  - (not specified)
- **Structural Engineer**
  - Design: H.G. Balcom & Associates
  - (not specified)
- **MEP Engineer**
  - Design: Strong & Jones Engineers
  - (not specified)
- **Project Manager**
  - Wordsearch
- **Main Contractor**
  - Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc.
- **Other Consultant**
  - Vertical Transportation: Otis Elevator Company
  - Marketing: Wordsearch

**Height**

- **Occupied**: 373.1 m / 1,224 ft
- **Architectural**: 381 m / 1,250 ft
- **To Tip**: 443.2 m / 1,454 ft
- **Observatory**: 373.1 m / 1,224 ft

**Floors**

- **Above Ground**: 102
- **Below Ground**: 1

**Elevators**

- **# of Elevators**: 73
- **Top Elevator Speed**: 7.1 m/s

**GFA**

- **Tower GFA**: 208,879 m² / 2,248,355 ft²
About Empire State Building

As the tallest building in the world from 1931 to 1971, the Empire State Building is the ancestor of all supertall skyscrapers and makes a lasting impression in the minds of all who have stood beneath, or atop, this international icon. Among the accolades and achievements that this tower claims, perhaps the most impressive is that it took less than 14 months to construct, a timeline that is unimaginable for a building of similar height today. Marveling at the ability of steel-framed buildings to support added weight, architects tested the material at a supreme scale. The art deco style of the building is appropriately capped with an ornamental spire, one that urban legend claims was designed as an anchorage point for dirigibles, but was actually built to ensure the building would be taller than the Chrysler Building. With its thousands of programmable LED lights, it has become one of the most memorable features of the building.

As part of its total redevelopment for 21st Century companies, in 2009 a $106 million energy efficiency retrofit was launched, which has transformed it into one of the most sustainable buildings in the world of any age. These upgrades realize a yearly savings of $4.4 million in energy and operational costs. The retrofit ranged from upgrades to efficient MEP systems to the reconstruction of all 6,514 windows into units that have 400% the thermal performance of normal dual pane windows; from the installation of redundant fiber optics building-wide to the creation of new public areas and amenities; and more. The Empire State Building remains a ground-breaking office property in the national and global real estate market. It was the tallest LEED certified building in the United States when it was awarded the designation in 2011. Not once, but twice has this building shown the world new possibilities in the tall building world: first, with its achievement in sheer height and speed of construction, and second, with its rebirth as a sustainable building. It will continue to be a prime example of how a world-class tower can continue to maintain its iconic status in a changing world.

Empire State Building

CTBUH Initiatives

Top Company Rankings: The World’s 100 Tallest Buildings
13 Oct 2016 – CTBUH Research

Empire State Building Environmental Retrofit Tour
28 Oct 2015 – Tour Report

Networking Reception at Empire State Building
26 Oct 2015 – Conference Activity Report

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Videos

X Information Modeling: Data-Driven Decision Making in the Design of Tall Buildings
17 Oct 2016 – James von Klemperer, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates

A Landmark Sustainability Program for the Empire State Building
26 Oct 2015 – Anthony Malkin, Empire State Realty Trust

Interview: Anthony Malkin
26 Oct 2015 – Anthony Malkin, Empire State Realty Trust

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Research Papers

Developments of Structural Systems Toward Mile-High Towers
1 Sep 2018 – International Journal of High-rise Buildings Volume 7 Number 3

A Landmark Sustainability Program for the Empire State Building
26 Oct 2015 – Global Interchanges: Resurgence of the Skyscraper City

New York: The Ultimate Skyscraper Laboratory

More Papers ➤

Other Building Facts

Tallest building in the world 1931 - 1972. Preceded by the Chrysler Building and surpassed by One World Trade Center

On July 28, 1945, a B-25 bomber crashed into the north side of the building between the 79th and 80th floors, killing 14 people.

Featured in dozens of films, most notably; "King Kong" in 1933 and 2005.

It took just under 15 months from January 1930 to May 1931 to construct.

To submit more information or donate images for this project, please use our submission portal.