



ACADEMY
TRAVEL

TAILORED
SMALL GROUP
JOURNEYS

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

CHICAGO TO FALLINGWATER

OVERVIEW

Take a unique opportunity to view more than 15 of Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings, discovering how his designs for houses, churches and offices changed modern architecture.

On this 13-day journey led by heritage-consultant Rachel Jackson, appreciate the development of modern American history and culture, from the Gilded Age to the mid-century, when American architecture, design and art dominated the world stage. In Chicago's Oak Park, at the Darwin Martin Houses and the Taliesin estate, and on a private in-depth tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic Fallingwater, appreciate the natural inspiration of Wright's organic architecture and how it responded to and encouraged a changing lifestyle.

Encounter Wright's predecessors, contemporaries and followers, including Louis B. Sullivan, Mies van der Rohe, Norman Forster and Santiago Calatrava, to put the master's work into context. The experience is rounded out by the fascinating cultural institutions of the cities we visit, such as Chicago's Art Institute, Milwaukee's Art Museum and Pittsburgh's Andy Warhol Museum.



TOUR LEADER

Rachel Jackson is a heritage consultant with over two decades in practice; conserving significant heritage places in Australia. She has a Masters in Heritage Conservation from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Design, in Interior Design, from UTS.

TOUR DATES

May 12-24, 2025 | 13 Days

TOUR PRICE

\$12,940 per person, twin share
\$2,920 single supplement

TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

Chicago (4 nights), Milwaukee (2 nights), Madison Wisconsin (2 nights), Buffalo (2 nights), Pittsburgh Pennsylvania (2 nights)

INCLUSIONS

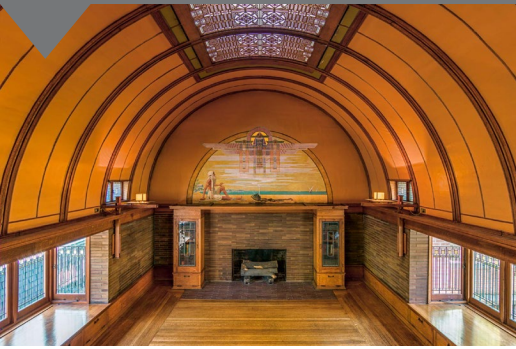
12 nights' accommodation in centrally located 4 and 5-star hotels. All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

KEY SITES VISITED

See over 15 masterworks spanning seven decades of incredible creativity

WRIGHT'S HOME AND STUDIO (1889)

Wright began his career in Oak Park and his first studio is one of his earliest masterpieces



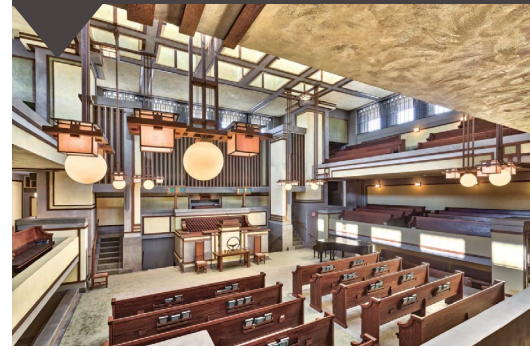
DARWIN MARTIN COMPLEX (1903)

A revolutionary pioneer of many concepts of modern residential living, including an open floor plan



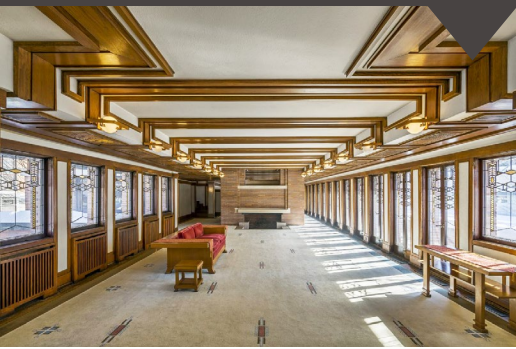
UNITY TEMPLE (1905)

A monolithic cube of concrete and a beautiful experiment in modern materials and religious design



ROBIE HOUSE (1909)

A landmark of the Prairie-Style on the campus of the University of Chicago



TALIESIN (1911-1925)

Wright's Wisconsin estate and architectural school, brimming with innovations and experiments



SC JOHNSON WAX HEADQUARTERS (1936)

This still-working headquarters has been described as the 'most beautiful room in America'



JACOBS HOUSE I (1937)

Widely considered to be Wright's first Usonian structure and forerunner of the ranch house



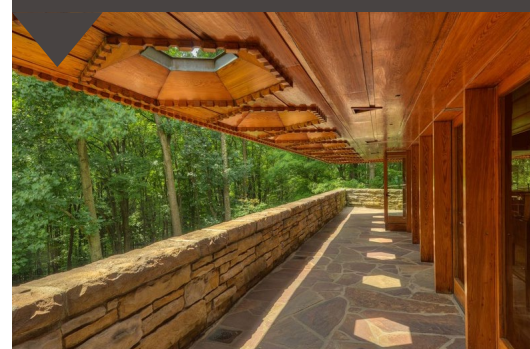
FALLINGWATER (1939)

Wright's unrivalled masterpiece set upon a waterfall in the Bear Run of Western Pennsylvania



KENTUCKY KNOB (1954)

An excellent illustration of Wright's Usonian architecture in the Laurel Highlands





DETAILED ITINERARY

Start & Finish

The tour starts at 6.00pm on Monday 12 May, at the Kimpton Gray Hotel, Chicago. The tour finishes in the afternoon on Saturday 24 May, at Pittsburgh airport.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Fallingwater, Wright's masterwork

Admire the ultimate expression of organic architecture on a private in-depth tour of Wright's most famous design, *Fallingwater*, the "best all-time work of American architecture."

Private visits at Wright's designs

Discover the diversity of Wright's style, exploring over 15 masterworks spanning seven decades of incredible creativity, from the clean Prairie Style of Robie House to the intimate Taliesin estate and elegant Johnson Wax Building.

Architecture of Chicago

Explore the Windy City's famous architectural history and iconic Downtown skyscrapers that revolutionised architecture after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Art in America

Enjoy great collections of art, from Old Masters to Pop, in Chicago's encyclopedic Art Institute and at Pittsburgh's exuberant Andy Warhol Museum.

Natural wonder of the world

Marvel at Niagara Falls, an awe-inspiring and iconic series of waterfalls on the border between the USA and Canada, and centre of a beautiful National Park.

Monday 12 May

Arrive Chicago

After individual travel arrangements to Chicago, we meet in the hotel for introductions and a welcome drink.

Overnight Chicago

Tuesday 13 May

Downtown Chicago

The Great Fire of 1871 destroyed the entire Chicago CBD, leaving the way open for architects to design a new and modern city. The first steel-framed high-rise building rose in 1885 and the skyline today is densely packed with skyscrapers, many by renowned architects. Our walking tour this morning takes us past some of the city's most iconic buildings. We visit the lobby of the Rookery Building, the masterpiece of Daniel Burnham and remodelled by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1905. In the afternoon we take the Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise to gain an overview of the city's historic and modern architectural styles. Tonight, we have a welcome dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Chicago (B, D)

Wednesday 14 May

Wright's Early Years & Farnsworth House

Today we take a private coach tour of Oak Park. This Chicago suburb is where Frank Lloyd Wright lived and worked and where much of his early work can still be found. We have an interior tour of Wright's home and studio, which Wright used as his architecture laboratory for his early designs, as well as Unity Temple, one of his most celebrated designs. We then view the numerous examples of Prairie Style architecture in the surrounding neighbourhood. In the afternoon, we drive west to Plano to visit Farnsworth House, the masterpiece of Modernist residential architecture by Mies van der Rohe, set in a beautiful landscape beside the Fox River. Overnight Chicago (B)

Thursday 15 May

Chicago Art & Architecture

We begin our day with a walk through Millennium Park. Originally occupied by railyards and parking lots, the area was redeveloped into a public space featuring an



Millennium Park



Wingspread

outdoor concert venue, gardens, and iconic art installations. From here we make our way to the highly-regarded Art Institute of Chicago, boasting a fine collection of both European and American painting and over 60 ‘decorated rooms’ – accurately reconstructed furnished interiors from a broad range of times and places. There is time to explore the collection independently and a break for lunch. In the afternoon we travel by coach to The Walter Burley Griffin Landmark District with the largest concentration of small-scale, Prairie-style houses in Chicago. We finish the day with a private interior visit of Robie House, one of the last houses Wright designed in his Oak Park home and studio and also one of the last of his Prairie School houses. Overnight Chicago (B)

Friday 16 May **SC Johnson Complex**

We farewell Chicago and travel north to Racine, Wisconsin to visit the SC Johnson Wax Administration Building and Research Tower, a landmark in commercial office architecture. Subject to availability, we will also tour Wingspread, the expansive low-lying home designed for Herbert Johnson, one of Wright’s great patrons. We continue on to Milwaukee to visit the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Wright’s modernist interpretation of Byzantine architecture, and to take in some of the history and architecture of the city. Tonight we enjoy dinner in one of the city’s fine restaurants. Overnight Milwaukee (B, D)

Saturday 17 May **Milwaukee**

This morning we visit the Milwaukee Art Museum to explore the iconic architecture of the museum itself, examining the buildings designed by Eero Saarinen, David Kahler and Santiago Calatrava. We then tour Wright’s Burnham Block, the most complete collection of his American System-Built homes, designed for moderate and low income families. After time for lunch in Milwaukee’s vibrant Public Market, the afternoon is spent at the extensive Harley-Davidson Museum, with a variety of interactive exhibits covering the more than 100-year history of the brand. Overnight Milwaukee (B)

Sunday 18 May **Madison**

Today we travel west for Madison, Wisconsin, stopping enroute for a private visit of Jacobs House I. Considered the first ‘Usonian’ structure, the home was part of Wright’s ideal of a new world architecture free of previous conventions. Arriving in Madison, we have a break for lunch before touring the Unitarian Meeting House, designed by Wright and recognised as one of the most innovative examples of church architecture. Its most distinctive feature is the soaring glass and wood prow, which Wright said symbolised aspiration. Overnight Madison (B)



Taliesin



Graycliff

Monday 19 May

Taliesin

This remote site in rural Wisconsin was the architect's home from 1911 and is of central importance to understanding Wright. Taliesin was twice burned down and rebuilt. It was also the scene of the horrific 1914 axe murder of Wright's lover, her children and several employees. A complex of buildings, combining Prairie Style and oriental influences, it was here that Wright designed Fallingwater, the Guggenheim Museum and other key works. We tour the entire Estate including Hillside School, Tan-y-Deri, the house, the grounds and the studio with drinks on Wright's private balcony and lunch in the Wright designed Riverview Terrace Café. While in residence at Taliesin, Wright has also done business with the wholesaler Albert Dell German and in exchange for unpaid bills, Wright designed the avant-garde A.D. German Warehouse in Richland Center, Wisconsin, which we visit this afternoon. This four-story warehouse is said to resemble a Mayan temple. The evening is at leisure on return to our hotel. Overnight Madison (B, L)

Tuesday 20 May

Upstate New York

This morning we take a flight from Madison to Buffalo, New York. Located on the shores of Lake Erie, Buffalo rose to prominence in the early nineteenth century, when the Erie Canal was completed, connecting Chicago and the Mid-West with the Hudson River, New York and the world beyond. After New York City, Buffalo is the second most populous city in the state. It has many significant buildings, including Louis B. Sullivan's Guaranty Building and Daniel Burnham's Ellicott Square building. This afternoon we tour some of these sites and dine in a local restaurant. Overnight Buffalo (B, D)

Wednesday 21 May

Wright in Buffalo, Niagara Falls

Between 1903 and 1908, Frank Lloyd Wright built a number of fine examples of his Prairie Style houses in Buffalo, and we survey these today along with the Darwin D. Martin House. Most of the houses were built for executives of the Larkin Soap Factory and are located in the Parkside East Historic District, a neighbourhood laid out by renowned American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted in 1876. (Olmsted is also largely responsible for New York's Central Park.) This afternoon we marvel at Niagara Falls, one of America's foremost natural wonders. Overnight Buffalo (B)

Thursday 22 May

Pittsburgh

We travel along the shores of Lake Erie to visit Graycliff, the summer home built by Wright for Darwin Martin. Travelling south, we stop at Erie to tour the reconstruction of Wright's San Francisco architectural office and drafting studio. We continue onto Pittsburgh this afternoon, a city whose name is synonymous with the coal and steel industry. The city's

HOTELS

Hotels have been selected principally for their central location.

Chicago, Kimpton Gray Hotel

(4 nights)

www.grayhotelchicago.com

Milwaukee, The Pfister Hotel

(2 nights)

www.thepfisterhotel.com

Madison Wisconsin, The Edgewater Hotel

(2 nights)

www.theedgewater.com

Buffalo, Westin Buffalo

(2 nights)

www.marriott.com

Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, Omni William Penn Hotel

(2 nights)

www.omnihotels.com

WEATHER

May is a great time to travel to the United States. Spring is definitely under way, but not the summer heat and humidity. Expect daytime temperatures of 16-25 degrees Celsius, dropping to 8-10 in the evenings. It is likely to rain on a few days of the tour, so be sure to pack an umbrella and waterproof jacket.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade Two

This tour is designed for people who lead active lives. You should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 4-5 kilometres at a moderate pace with short breaks
- stand for a reasonable length of time in galleries and museums
- walk up and down slopes and garden paths at sites
- get on and off a large coach with steep stairs, possibly with luggage

wealth contributed to its rich cultural heritage and few patrons were as generous as Andrew Carnegie, a Pittsburgh-based industrialist who made his fortune out of steel and endowed many of the city's cultural institutions. Overnight Pittsburgh (B)

Friday 23 May

Private Tour of Fallingwater

We depart Pittsburgh early today and make our way to Frank Lloyd Wright's *Fallingwater*, where we enjoy a private interior tour of the house. Completed in 1939, its dramatic setting over a river and revolutionary modernist architecture made the house instantly famous. Built for the wealthy Kaufmann family, who made their fortune in retail, Fallingwater was a private retreat until the early 1960's, when the house and several hundred acres of land around it were entrusted to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. After time for lunch, we tour Kentuck Knob, with its organic floor plan, cantilevered overhangs and expanses of glass integrating the interior with its stunning surroundings. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh. Overnight Pittsburgh (B, D)

Saturday 24 May

Warhol and Farewell

Before departing Pittsburgh today, we visit the Andy Warhol Museum. The sometimes-controversial artist was a Pittsburgh native, and the museum contains a broad sampling of his oeuvre. We then head to Pittsburgh airport where our tour ends, allowing for convenient flight connections home to Australia. (B)

Visa Requirements

To enter the U.S., all travellers must complete an online form, the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA). Print a copy of your ESTA and carry it with you on your flight. <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>



ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Jamal Fairbrother** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

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