



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 12-day journey, 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 Prairie style 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 and Norman Forster, 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 and Pittsburgh's Andy Warhol Museum, and by the fine dining for which America is increasingly known.



TOUR LEADER

Stuart Barrie is a social historian, founding director of Academy Travel and experienced tour leader, with a strong interest in the history and architecture of the USA. Stuart will be accompanied by a trained tour manager for the duration of the tour.

TOUR DATES

November 11-22, 2024

TOUR PRICE

\$11,620 per person, twin share
\$2,840 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 (1 night), Madison Wisconsin (2 nights), Buffalo (2 nights), Pittsburgh Pennsylvania (2 nights)

INCLUSIONS

11 nights' accommodation in centrally located 4 and 5-star hotels. All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

DETAILED ITINERARY



Start & Finish

The tour starts at 6.00pm on Monday 11 November, at the Kimpton Gray Hotel, Chicago. The tour finishes in the afternoon on Friday 22 November, at Pittsburgh airport.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

Monday 11 November

Arrive

Arrive in Chicago and meet your tour leader and fellow travellers for a welcome drink. Overnight Chicago.

Tuesday 12 November

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 dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Chicago (B, D)

Wednesday 13 November

Frank Lloyd Wright – The 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 14 November

Chicago art and 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 outdoor concert venue, gardens, restaurants and some spectacular

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 encyclopaedic Art Institute and at Pittsburgh's exuberant Andy Warhol Museum.

Natural wonders 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.

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. After a private guided tour, there is time to explore the collection independently and a break for lunch. In the afternoon we travel by coach for a private interior visit of Robie House. Our trip takes us through the 'White City' – the site of the 1893 World's Fair. Overnight Chicago (B)

Friday 15 November **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. 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. Overnight Milwaukee (B)

Saturday 16 November **Milwaukee**

This morning we visit the Milwaukee Art Museum to see the Prairie School Archives and later to tour one of Wright's American System-Built homes. We then travel west for a private visit to Jacobs House I, considered the first 'Usonian' home, part of Wright's ideal of a new world architecture free of previous conventions. We arrive in Madison, Wisconsin, our base for two nights and enjoy dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Madison (B, D)

Sunday 17 November **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. In the afternoon we visit the Unitarian Meeting House, designed by Wright and now recognised as one of the most innovative examples of church architecture, before visiting the Monona Terrace Convention Center,

designed by Wright but only constructed in 1997. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Madison (B, L)

Monday 18 November **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)

Tuesday 19 November **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 relax at Niagara Falls, one of America's foremost natural wonders. Overnight Buffalo (B)

Wednesday 20 November **Pittsburgh**

We travel along the shores of Lake Erie to visit Graycliff, the summer home built by Wright for Darwin Martin, which is undergoing extensive renovation. We continue onto Pittsburgh this morning, a city whose name is synonymous with the coal and steel industry. The city's 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. In the afternoon we tour some of the city's historical and architectural highlights. Overnight Pittsburgh (B)

Thursday 21 November **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

HOTELS

Hotels have been selected principally for their central location.

Chicago, Kimpton Gray Hotel

(4 nights)

www.grayhotelchicago.com

Milwaukee, The Pfister Hotel

(1 night)

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

The United States weather in late November is cool, but not unpleasant, with fall colours in full swing. Expect daytime temperatures from 5-12°C, with colder evenings that may require a warm jacket and a scarf. November is one of the drier months, but we recommend a weather-proof jacket and umbrella.

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

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. Continuing to nearby Polymath Park, there is the opportunity to visit a group of houses designed by Wright to harmonise with the American way of life in the 1950s. Overnight Pittsburgh (B, L)

Friday 22 November Warhol and farewell

Before departing Pittsburgh today, we visit the Andy Warhol Museum. The sometimes-controversial artist was a Pittsburgh native, and the recently-opened 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 **Lucy Yeates** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

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