

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2016

Fallingwater House - Frank Lloyd Wright (1937) © Pablo Sanchez via Flickr

America: Museums, Mansions and Masterpieces

WASHINGTON DC – VIRGINIA – PITTSBURGH – CHICAGO



with Ron Ramsey
05–20 May 2016 (16 days)



R
Renaissance
Tours

America: Museums, Mansions and Masterpieces



TOUR LEADER

Ron Ramsey

After 3 years at the National Gallery of Victoria and 14 years at the National Gallery of Australia, Ron was based in Washington DC from 2004 – 2007 as Australia's Cultural Attaché. He was then Director of Newcastle Art Gallery (2007–2014) and is currently Development Manager of the Ian Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne.

During his time in Washington DC Ron made a special effort to explore the hidden treasures of the city and to travel throughout the USA to visit as many Frank Lloyd Wright buildings as possible.

Thanks to its enormous wealth and a tradition of philanthropy America is blessed with more than its fair share of great museums, magnificent homes and outstanding art and architecture.

During this tour, personally designed by Ron Ramsey, explore the beautiful homes and heritage of the Founding Fathers of the United States, go inside the magnificent mansions of the great American philanthropists and discover the extraordinary cultural institutions generously established and endowed by their patronage.

A special focus of the tour will be on the life and legacy of the great American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, and is timed to coincide with the annual Wright Plus Housewalk Weekend in Chicago.

At a glance...

- Delve into the founding and early history of America at George Washington's Mt Vernon, Jefferson's Monticello and private institutions in Washington DC
- Marvel at the magnificence of the private homes of some of America's great philanthropists
- Enjoy leisurely visits to the great museums and art galleries of the USA
- Visit and study Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope – *Leighey House*, *Robie House* and *Fallingwater* as well as his former home/studio and the Unity Temple at Oak Park
- Extend your stay in Chicago for the annual Wright Plus Housewalk Weekend



Itinerary

Thu 05 May 2016

Australia – Washington DC

Suggested departure from Australia on Qantas /American Airlines flights (via Dallas or Los Angeles) to Washington DC. Same day arrival in the evening.

Fri 06 May

Washington DC

Join Ron for breakfast and a welcome briefing before departing on a full day orientation tour of Washington DC. See the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, Library of Congress and the White House. Continue to the Jefferson Memorial and National Mall comprising of the Korean Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

After lunch, visit Hillwood House and Garden, the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post who bought Hillwood in 1955, and soon decided her home would be a museum that would inspire and educate the public. Her estate has the most comprehensive collection of Russian imperial art outside Russia, a distinguished 18th-century French decorative art collection, and 25 acres of serene landscaped gardens. **B L**

Sat 07 May

Washington DC

This morning, begin your exploration of Washington's museums with a visit to the Phillips Collection, housed in founder Duncan Phillips' 1897 Georgian revival home. Founded in 1921 as the Phillips Memorial Gallery, it is America's first museum of modern art, featuring a permanent collection of nearly 3,000 works by American and European impressionist and modern artists. The Phillips is recognised for both its art and its intimate atmosphere.

Lunch at leisure before heading to the Society of the Cincinnati, whose collections document and illuminate the people and events of the American Revolution, the art of war in the eighteenth century, the history of the Society of the Cincinnati and Anderson House and its occupants.

Continue with a visit to the Kreeger Museum. Designed by renowned architect Philip Johnson, the Kreeger Museum houses 19th and 20th century paintings with works by Monet, Picasso, Renoir, Cezanne, Chagall, Miro, and Stella. Also included in the permanent collection are works of prominent Washington artists and outstanding examples of traditional African and Asian art. **B**



The Washington Family by Edward Savage, Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington

Sun 08 May

Washington DC

After a morning talk, spend the day exploring the vast collection of the Washington National Gallery of Art. Home of the famous Mellon Collection, it is one of the great art museums of the world.

This afternoon, drive by the residence of the Australian Ambassador (outside view) before heading to the Washington National Cathedral for a Sunday organ recital. With over 10,000 pipes, the Great Organ was installed by the Ernest M. Skinner & Son Organ Company in 1938. The original instrument consisted of approximately 8,400 pipes. It was enlarged by the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company in 1963, during which time more than half of the original instrument was removed. The present instrument consists of 189 ranks and 10,647 pipes, and is one of the 20 largest organs in the world. **B**

Mon 09 May

Washington DC

Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Washington on your own. Our suggestion is to visit the extraordinary Smithsonian Institution, the world-renowned museum and research complex consisting of 15 separate museums and the National Zoo. The Smithsonian Institution is sometimes referred to as 'America's treasure chest' because of the diverse artefacts it houses. Whether you're interested in American history or Asian art, giant pandas or stamp collecting, there's a Smithsonian museum for you. Or, join Ron for a day trip by train to Philadelphia to visit the new Barnes Foundation (not included in tour price; depending on numbers interested, a coach may be organised). **B**



*House of Fabergé,
Henrik Wigström
(1862-1923)
Catherine the Great
Easter Egg, 1914
at the Hillwood Estate*

Tue 10 May Washington DC – Richmond, VA

Depart Washington DC and travel to Mt Vernon, home of George Washington, first President of the United States. The 21-room mansion estate is an iconic example of 18th century architecture surrounded by a farm, slave quarters and other buildings that show what colonial life was like on the grand estate.

After lunch visit the Pope – Leighey House formerly known as the *Loren Pope Residence*. It is a home designed by American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Commissioned in 1939, the design followed Wright's Usonian principles model of well-designed space for middle-income residents, with a design that brings nature inside, using modest materials and a flat roof. It was completed in 1941 at an official cost of \$7,000 (original target price was \$5,000).

Continue to Richmond, arriving late afternoon.

Enjoy dinner locally. **B D**

Wed 11 May Richmond, VA

After a morning talk, visit the Richmond Fine Arts Museum. Finding its origins in the midst of the Great Depression in 1936, Virginia opened the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond commencing with the collection of 50 paintings donated by John Barton Payne. Since then, the museum has continually received collections, one of which is the institution's earliest and most popular donation from Lillian Thomas Pratt's collection of jewelled objects by Peter Carl Fabergé – donated in 1947. In May 2010, the museum opened a \$150-million dollar building expansion, adding 165,000 square feet and increasing the museum's gallery space by nearly 50 per cent. Included in the new renovation is the Robins Sculpture Garden. A previous director of the museum was Dr. Michael Brand.

Afternoon at leisure. **B**

Thu 12 May Richmond, VA

This morning, enjoy a full day trip to Charlottesville and historical Monticello, home to Thomas Jefferson, America's 3rd President and the author of the Declaration of Independence. Tour the home and its grounds, which were a botanic showpiece, a source of food, and an experimental laboratory of ornamental and useful plants from around the world.

Jefferson was the first landowner in the area to encourage grape planting on the land near Monticello. Enjoy lunch and wine tasting at a local vineyard.

Return to Richmond for an evening at leisure. **B L**

Fri 13 May Richmond, VA – Pittsburgh

Mid-morning flight from Richmond International Airport to Pittsburgh via Washington DC (economy class, luggage restrictions apply). On arrival, transfer to your hotel. **B D**

Sat 14 May Pittsburgh

After a morning talk, head to the Frick Art & Historical Center. It is the original home of Henry Clay Frick, one of America's most successful steel and railroad industrialists, who moved the family to New York in 1905. His daughter Helen, remained attached to Clayton, her Pittsburgh home, and her long-time wish was for Clayton and the surrounding estate to be preserved and opened to the public after her death.

After lunch, head to the Andy Warhol Museum. Andy Warhol was a Pittsburgh native and the museum is the global keeper of his legacy. The collection includes paintings, sculptures, nearly 2,000 works on paper and 4,000 photographs.

This evening, subject to performance schedule, enjoy a possible concert by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at the Symphony Centre or Pittsburgh Opera (not included in tour price, additional cost applies). **B**



Punch Bowl with Three Ladles, 1900, Tiffany Glass (1892-1900)
© Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond



Frick Art & Historical Center © Pittsburgh Tourism

Sun 15 May

Pittsburgh

Early morning departure for a full day tour to the Frank Lloyd Wright designed homes of *Kentuck Knob* and *Fallingwater*.

Begin with a visit to *Kentuck Knob* which features the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed *Duncan House*, and two other homes designed by Peter Berndtson. Following lunch at *Polymath Resort*, head to *Fallingwater* for a tour of the house and grounds. Built by Frank Lloyd Wright, *Fallingwater* was built over a waterfall, and doesn't appear to stand on solid ground. It was designed by Lloyd Wright for his clients, the Kaufmann family. The house once captured everyone's imagination, and was on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1938.

Return to Pittsburgh later afternoon. **B L**

Mon 16 May

Pittsburgh – Chicago

Morning at leisure. Afternoon flight from Pittsburgh to Chicago (economy class, luggage restrictions apply). The home of Frank Lloyd Wright and the birthplace of the skyscraper, Chicago is regarded as the architectural capital of America. Transfer to your hotel for check-in and dinner. **B D**

Tue 17 May

Chicago

This morning join the guides of the Chicago Architecture Foundation for an orientation tour by coach, including the Loop, Hyde Park, Gold Coast, several historic districts, university campuses, parks and residential neighbourhoods. Several stops will be made, including a tour of the interior of Frank Lloyd Wright's *Robie House*.

After lunch, re-join the Chicago Architecture Foundation for a 90-minute walking tour of the historic Downtown area, focusing on some of Chicago's world famous early skyscrapers including: *Rookery* (1888) with its Moorish Revival exterior and restored Frank Lloyd Wright interior; *Auditorium Building* (1889), a masterpiece of engineering, design and acoustics; *Marquette Building* (1895), an outstanding example of the Chicago School of Design; and the *Chicago Board of Trade Building* (1930), one of the city's most glamorous Art Deco skyscrapers. **B**

Wed 18 May

Chicago

Following a morning talk, visit the Art Institute of Chicago housing one of the world's finest collections of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings. The museum has recently doubled its display, with a huge new building on the other side of the railroad tracks designed by Renzo Piano.

Afternoon at leisure to remain at the museum. **B**

Thu 19 May

Chicago

Today visit the suburb of Oak Park which is home to the world's largest collection of Wright-designed buildings. Begin with a visit to the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio which served as Wright's private residence and workplace from 1889 to 1909. Wright used his first home to experiment with design concepts that contain the seeds of his architectural philosophy. In his adjacent studio, Wright and his associates developed a new American architecture – the Prairie style. Finish with a visit to Frank Lloyd Wright's *Unity Temple*, built 1905–08. Afternoon at leisure.

This evening, celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a special farewell dinner, followed by a concert of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Charles Dutoit and featuring works by Stravinsky. **B D**

Fri 20 May / Depart Chicago

Tour arrangements conclude after breakfast.

Suggested departure on QANTAS/American Airlines flights in the early evening, via Los Angeles. **B**

Sat 21 May

In-flight

Sun 22 May

Arrive Australia

Morning arrival in Australia.



Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh



'Thomas Jefferson's estate, Monticello' © YF12s via Wikimedia Commons

Optional Extension

FOR ANNUAL WRIGHT PLUS HOUSEWALK WEEKEND
Tentatively Fri 20 – Mon 23 May 2016 (TBC)

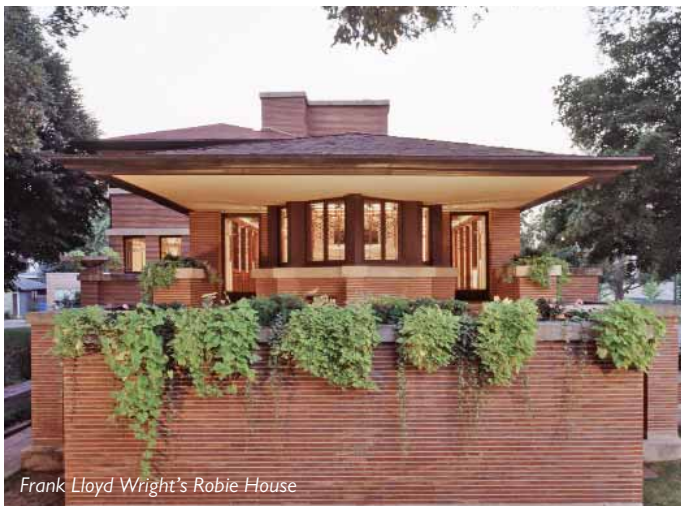
If you want to learn more about the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, extend your stay in Chicago for the 42nd annual Wright Plus Housewalk Weekend.

On Saturday join an 'architectural housewalk' featuring rare interior tours of private homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and his contemporaries, plus entry to landmark Wright buildings in historic Oak Park and Riverside, Illinois.

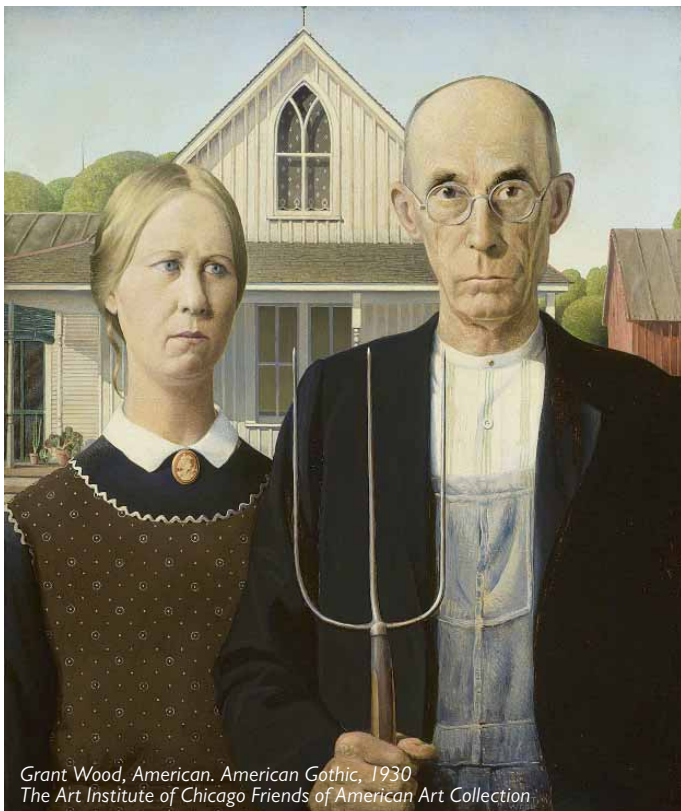
On Friday and Sunday, there are day trips to Wright-designed sites beyond Chicago, to the B. Harley Bradley House in Kankakee, Illinois (Fri) and the S.C. Johnson Administration Building and Research Tower in Racine, Wisconsin (Sun).

www.flwright.org/wrightplus

Detailed tour information available early 2016.



Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House



Grant Wood, American. American Gothic, 1930
The Art Institute of Chicago Friends of American Art Collection

Tour prices

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Per person, twin share | AUD 4,950 10,750 |
| Single supplement* | AUD 2,950 2,650 |
| Deposit per person | AUD 500 |
| Final payment due | 04 March 2016 |

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code AG1605

Fitness level Moderate
Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Suggested airline Qantas/Emirates
Please contact Renaissance Tours for current airfares and flight reservations.

Tour price includes

- Accommodation in centrally located four and five star hotels with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Wine with meals
- Domestic Flights Richmond/Pittsburgh/Chicago (25 Kilos luggage allowance).
- Transfers and sightseeing with local guides, including entrance fees as per itinerary, in comfortable air-conditioned coaches
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader throughout
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (1 piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- International airfares
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, room service etc.
- Travel insurance
- Airport portorage

Your hotels★★★★★ and ★★★★★

Washington DC – Renaissance Mayflower Hotel

Richmond – TBC

Pittsburgh – Omni William Penn

Chicago – Sofitel Chicago Water Towers

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 60 days or more | Forfeit of deposit |
| 59 – 45 days | 25% of tour cost |
| 44 – 31 days | 50% of tour cost |
| 30 – 15 days | 75% of tour cost |
| Less than 15 days | 100% of tour cost |

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for

force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissance-tours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.





R
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Tours

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