



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
National Trust Tours

# PITTSBURGH

## *Art & Architecture in the Steel City*

*featuring Frank Lloyd Wright's  
Fallingwater*

*with Study Leader  
David J. Vater, RA*

September 22–26 2026



Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh  
(photo by Jiuguang Wang)



Heinz Chapel at the University of Pittsburgh

## Pittsburgh:

### Art & Architecture in the Steel City

September 22–26 2026

Join the National Trust on this dazzling exploration of Pittsburgh's exceptional art and architecture. Pittsburgh unquestionably was the steel capital of the world for most of the 20th century. The city enjoyed great prosperity, which was reflected in its urban fabric. The steel industry and its tycoons deeply influenced the city's heritage, leaving a legacy of philanthropy, magnificent art, and architecturally significant buildings dating from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Even as the American steel industry faded, Pittsburgh continued to celebrate and preserve its history, while reinventing itself as a young and vibrant city awash in notable new architecture and collections of outstanding art. Only a short distance away is one of the most celebrated masterpieces of American architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic Fallingwater.

Travel with

## DAVID J. VATER, RA



David Vater is a Pittsburgh native and his ancestors have lived in the region since the 1830s. He is president of his own architectural firm and has served on the Board of Directors of the AIA Pittsburgh's

Foundation for Architecture, the Friends of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and the Society for the Preservation of the Duquesne Heights Incline. In 1998 he authored the nomination that put Chatham Village Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places and assisted with the additional research that made it a National Historic Landmark in 2005. He has been a member of the National Trust since 1978 and served on the National Trust 2006 (Pittsburgh) Convention Committee.



Grand Staircase of the Carnegie Museums  
(photo by Bill Balzco)





## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

### *Steel City Architecture*

Upon arrival in Pittsburgh, transfer independently to the elegant Omni William Penn Hotel, a property of the National Trust's Historic Hotels of America program, with a perfect location in Pittsburgh's Central Downtown Historic District. Set out on a late-afternoon walking tour with Study Leader David Vater, an architect and a Pittsburgh native active in local preservation efforts. Explore the architectural highlights of historic Grant Street and the area surrounding your hotel. Stop at Henry Hobson Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse, one of the nation's most grandiose neo-Romanesque structures; the Frick Building, where the lobby features John LaFarge's masterful stained glass work "Fortune and Her Wheel"; the Pittsburgh City-County Building, featuring intricate tile

work by Rafael Guastavino; the Union Trust Building, with its dramatic stained glass dome skylight; and several other architecturally important sites. Tonight, get to know fellow travelers over a delicious welcome dinner at a historic private social club. (D)

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

### *Gothic Revival & Cultural Gems*

Begin the day with a stroll through the University of Pittsburgh's urban campus and visit the graceful Heinz Chapel and the soaring Cathedral of Learning, both grand examples of the Gothic Revival architectural style with which Pittsburgh is strongly associated. Tour the Cathedral of Learning's distinctive Nationality Rooms, each designed to represent an 18th-century classroom in a different country in honor of the diverse immigrant communities that settled in Pittsburgh. Following lunch,

take a highlight tour of the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, housed in a historic building featuring lavish architectural spaces. See the Hall of Architecture, the Grand Staircase with its series of murals by John White Alexander, the marble-columned foyer of the Music Hall, and select highlights from the fine arts collection. (B, L)

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

### *Industrial Heritage & the Gilded Age*

Tour the Carrie Blast Furnaces, a remnant of the legendary U.S. Steel Homestead Steel Works. Built in 1884 along the Monongahela River, the Carrie Blast Furnaces are a vestige of Pittsburgh's 20th-century domination of the steel industry and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. Continue to The Frick Pittsburgh, a complex of museums and

historical buildings centered around Clayton, the former home of industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Take a docent-led tour of Clayton, a wonderfully preserved example of Gilded Age architecture and one of the few intact homes from Pittsburgh's lost "Millionaire's Row." Enjoy time to wander through the lush gardens and explore the nearby Frick Art Museum or the Car and Carriage Museum. Following lunch at another historic property along Millionaire's Row, be welcomed into one of the Pittsburgh area's most gracious private historic homes, opened exclusively for the National Trust. The owners will discuss the house's history and the extensive renovations they have made to return it to its original grandeur. En route back to the hotel, stop for a picturesque ride on the Duquesne Incline, which began operations in 1877. Disembark atop Mount Washington for stunning panoramic views of Pittsburgh's dramatic skyline

and the convergence of the three rivers below. (B, L)

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

### *Kentuck Knob & Fallingwater*

Take a day trip into the beautiful Laurel Highlands of western Pennsylvania to explore two brilliant creations of Frank Lloyd Wright. Begin at Kentuck Knob, a Usonian home designed by Wright in 1953 built using native sandstone and red cypress to blend harmoniously into the surrounding hills. Tour the house and then explore the grounds, dotted with sculptures by Andy Goldsworthy, Anthony Caro, Claes Oldenburg, and Wendy Taylor, among others. Continue to Wright's breathtaking Fallingwater, an icon of 20th-century architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring a bold system of cantilevered terraces built directly over a cascading waterfall. Take a docent-led tour of this timeless monument to organic

architecture and hear the stories behind this massive architectural achievement. Wright also custom-designed all of the house's furniture, which is still intact. Return to Pittsburgh and reconvene in the evening for a festive farewell dinner at an award-winning local restaurant. (B, D)

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

### *Departures*

Transfer independently to the airport for return flights home. (B)

#### *Accommodations at the*

### **OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL**

Stay four nights at Pittsburgh's elegant Omni William Penn Hotel. Designed in a Renaissance Revival style, the hotel opened in 1916 and was the last building venture of industrialist Henry Clay Frick. After a multi-million-dollar renovation, the hotel offers Old World charm with modern touches, award-winning dining options, and traditional afternoon tea service.



Duquesne Incline  
(photo by Yuhang Du on Unsplash)



# PITTSBURGH

## September 22–26, 2026



National Trust for Historic Preservation

## National Trust Tours

### Tour Information

#### Tour Cost:

Land Package ..... \$3,695

Single Supplement..... \$595

*Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants.*

**Activity Level:** Moderate, good overall mobility required.

**Deposit & Final Payment:** A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on June 16, 2026 and must be paid by check to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

**Flights:** Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

**Tour Inclusions:** 4 nights at the Omni William Penn Hotel; breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, 2 glasses of wine or beer at included dinners; land transportation by private coach; entrance fees to sites and visits listed in the itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert local guides; gratuities for local guides and drivers and at included meals; bottled water on coach; service charges and taxes.

**Tour Exclusions:** Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portage; airport transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

**Terms and Conditions:** ISDI requires that all tour participants be vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate on the tour. Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before June 16, 2026: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between June 17 and August 10, 2026: full refund minus \$1,800 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after August 11, 2026: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or National Trust Tours due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be sent upon tour registration. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

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Call National Trust Tours at

888.484.8785

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[info@nationaltrusttours.com](mailto:info@nationaltrusttours.com)



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**National Trust Tours**

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**Bermuda**  
**with John Meffert**  
*December 1-6, 2026*

**Pittsburgh**  
*September 22-26, 2026*

**Chicago:**  
**Epicenter of American Architecture**  
*May 24-28, 2026*

**An Ode to New Orleans**  
*November 15–19, 2026*

***For more information, visit [nationaltrusttours.com](https://nationaltrusttours.com)***

*Travel with National Trust Tours is open to members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places. Membership is \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. To learn more about the NTHP, visit [www.savingplaces.org](https://www.savingplaces.org).*