



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
National Trust Tours

# Discovering Crystal Bridges

A World-Class Oasis of  
Art & Architecture in Arkansas  
*with historian John Meffert*

March 30–April 3, 2025





# DISCOVERING CRYSTAL BRIDGES

With the unveiling of the spectacular Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in 2011, Arkansas suddenly hit the map for culture lovers around the United States. Its excellent art collection built by Walmart heiress Alice Walton and its dynamic architecture by Moshe Safdie immediately made it one of the most important museums opened in America in the last 50 years. The museum continues to expand and diversify, including its exciting “Momentary” center for contemporary art that opened in 2020. Beyond Crystal Bridges’ Bentonville campus, Arkansas has a beautiful cultural scene well worth exploring, from emerging young artists to soaring glass-enclosed chapels. This one-of-a-kind tour introduces travelers to artistic and architectural masterpieces spread throughout Northwest Arkansas. Tour museums with experts, learn about ongoing preservation projects, and enjoy fine dining in a variety of restaurants.



*Flori Boat (detail), 2016, Dale Chihuly  
Crystal Bridges (Alfredo Carrillo)*

## Travel with John Meffert

A longtime proponent of preservation and the former director of the National Trust’s Southern Office, John Meffert now serves as a consultant on heritage conservation services in his hometown of Charleston, S.C. He has also served as director of the Preservation Society of Charleston, preserving the city’s historic resources.



*Mildred B. Cooper Memorial Chapel,  
Bella Vista, Arkansas (Mike Mahaffey)*



Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art  
(Mike Haupt)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30**  
**Welcome to  
Bentonville**

Arrive independently to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport (XNA) and take a hotel shuttle or taxi to the four-star DoubleTree Suites by Hilton in Bentonville. Check into the hotel and get settled into your room. Enjoy a 5:00 pm lecture by study leader John Meffert. Then drive to one of Bentonville's best restaurants for a lovely welcome dinner together. (D)

**MONDAY, MARCH 31**  
**Crystal Bridges  
Museum of  
American Art**

Today is dedicated to the art haven that is the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Drive to Crystal Bridges, the

brainchild of Alice Walton, daughter of the founder of Walmart, and designed by renowned architect Moshe Safdie. The impressive collection includes works by great American artists. Begin with a guided tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Bachman Wilson House, which is emblematic of the Usonian style. Then an architectural tour of the museum itself, which incorporates the beauty of its surrounding natural elements. Break for lunch at Eleven, the on-site restaurant at Crystal Bridges. Next delve into collection highlights of the American Art galleries during a self-guided tour followed by free time to further explore the museum's collections and to see Yayoi Kusama's *Infinity Mirror* room. Return to the hotel in the mid-afternoon or linger at the museum

longer to continue your personal exploration of its vast collection and extensive sculpture trail and to experience James Turrell's *The Way of Color* skyspace installation at sunset. Gather for a dinner at The Hive. (B,L,D)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1**  
**Eureka Springs  
& Thorncrown  
Chapel**

Drive an hour to the nearby town of Eureka Springs, a Victorian-era spa resort town that still preserves dozens of fine buildings from the 1870s through the 1930s. Stop at Thorncrown Chapel, a beautiful, soaring chapel designed by E. Fay Jones. Then enjoy a special walking tour that will focus on the town's most important architectural jewels. Following lunch together,



return to Bentonville. Return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure or join an optional excursion to Crystal Bridges' newest museum, The Momentary, an old cheese factory turned contemporary art and cultural space. Enjoy free time to see the contemporary exhibitions and then gather for a drink at The Momentary's Tower Bar. Following a casual dinner at a popular nearby restaurant, return to the hotel in the evening. *(B,L,D)*

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2**

## A Day in Fayetteville

Drive approximately 45 minutes south of Bentonville to Fayetteville to the E. Fay and Gus Jones house, the former residence of renowned

architect Fay Jones. Completed in 1956, it was designed by Jones upon his return to Fayetteville after working in the office of Frank Lloyd Wright. Drive through the impressive campus of the University of Arkansas. After feasting on local barbecue, visit the Mildred B. Cooper Memorial Chapel, a beautiful chapel designed by Jones and Maurice Jennings and commissioned by John Cooper to commemorate his late wife. It makes for a fascinating comparison with Jones' more monumental Thorncrown Chapel seen the day before. Enjoy cookies and lemonade in a lovely Bella Vista home. After a break at the hotel, be treated to a memorable farewell dinner at one of the city's best restaurants. *(B,L,D)*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 3**

## Departures

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and take the hotel airport shuttle to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport (XNA) or an independent taxi. *(B)*

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:**

### DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Bentonville

The DoubleTree Suites by Hilton is a top four-star hotel in Bentonville offering spacious, comfortable suites that were beautifully renovated in 2017. The hotel is surrounded by local dining and offers a free five-mile shuttle. The hotel's accommodating staff and stylish, contemporary rooms have earned the hotel a Travelers Choice Award and number two ranking on TripAdvisor.



Sunburst shining through the holes in Buckmaster Fuller's Geodesic creation at Crystal Bridges (Mike Haupt)



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# Discovering Crystal Bridges

March 30–April 3, 2025

## Tour Cost:

Land Package ..... \$3,495

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 Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on December 19, 2024 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.

**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.

**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.

**Tour Inclusions:** 4 nights at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Bentonville; breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 4 dinners, 2 glasses of wine or beer at included dinners; land transportation by private motor coach; hotel airport shuttle from the hotel to XNA upon arrival and departure; entrance fees to sites and visits listed in the itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert local on-site 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; individual transfers between the airport and the hotel for those not using the hotel's complimentary shuttle; 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.

**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 December 19, 2024: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between December 20, 2024 and February 13, 2025: full refund minus \$1,750 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after February 14, 2025: 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.

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**TO REGISTER ONLINE:**

Visit

<https://nationaltrusttours.com>

**TO REGISTER BY PHONE:**

Call National Trust Tours at

888.484.8785

**TO REGISTER BY EMAIL:**

Email National Trust Tours at

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



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# UPCOMING TRAVEL PROGRAMS with NATIONAL TRUST TOURS

## **Charleston: An Insider's View with John Meffert**

*March 16–20, 2025*

## **Deco Detroit: Preservation and Perseverance in the Motor City**

*May 6-10, 2025*

## **The Berkshires: Historic Homes & Gardens of the Gilded Age**

*June 1-6, 2025*

## **Architecture, Art & Craft in Asheville**

*October 2025*

## **Miami Art Deco**

*November/December 2025*

***For more information, visit [nationaltrusttours.com](http://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](http://www.savingplaces.org).*