



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
National Trust Tours

# DECO DETROIT:

## Preservation and Perseverance in the Motor City

May 3-7, 2027



Granbrook  
(Jessica Sheridan)

## DECO DETROIT

2025 marked the centennial of the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts in Paris, an exposition which sparked the global launch of what became commonly known the Art Deco style. The period following World War I and leading up to World War II became synonymous with Art Deco and its influence was truly pervasive, extending from the arts and architecture to jewelry, textiles, and even automotive design.

Detroit has undergone a remarkable renaissance and rebirth. Once the center of the American automotive economy, it is no secret that Detroit fell upon hard times in the late 20th century. Fueled by the passion of its residents and the commitment of its community leaders, today it is truly a city transformed.

In 2015, Detroit was named a UNESCO "City of Design", the first and only U.S. city to receive that designation. Detroit's rise to industrial prominence coincided with the height of Art Deco's popularity and its influence remains a hallmark of the city's downtown ambience.



Guardian Building Lobby.  
(Warren LeMay)



Lobby of the  
Atheneum Suite Hotel



Bronze work at the Fisher Building entrance  
(Anthony G. Reyes)

MAY 3

## Welcome to Detroit

Upon arrival in Detroit, transfer independently to the hotel.

In the late afternoon, gather for a guided walking tour of some of downtown Detroit's Art Deco gems from the city's development in the early 20th century with our local expert. Enter the magnificent Guardian Building, one of the nation's most extravagant Art Deco skyscrapers, for a glimpse of its stunning lobby adorned in imported marble. This evening, celebrate our travels together in the Motor City with cocktails and dinner with fellow travelers. *(D)*

MAY 4

## Art, Art Deco, and the Detroit Music Scene

Begin today at the Detroit Institute of Arts, housed since 1927 in a stately

Beaux-Arts building, for a private, docent-led tour of the collection highlights including the massive Detroit Industry fresco cycle by Mexican artist Diego Rivera. Continue to Albert Kahn's Fisher Building, known as "Detroit's Largest Art Object", to see the building's three-story arcade adorned with mosaics, marble, brass, and frescoes. In the Corktown neighborhood, visit the recently restored Michigan Central Station and see how the grand buildings of Detroit are being reimagined for the 21st century. Late this afternoon, have a private guided tour of the Motown Museum, housed since 1985 in Berry Gordy's home and former record studio. This evening, be welcomed by members of Detroit's Art Deco Society for a cocktail reception at Cliff Bell's, a restored Art Deco jazz club that continues to offer live jazz performances. Following

the reception, have a chance to enjoy dinner and live jazz with fellow travelers, or return to the hotel for a night at leisure. *(B,L,Rec)*

MAY 5

## Albert Kahn and Belle Isle

This morning, drive north of the city to the shores of Lake St. Clair to visit the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, designed by Albert Kahn in 1926. Tour the historic estate's magnificent interiors and manicured gardens and learn about the multiple large scale restoration projects that have been undertaken over the years. Following lunch together at the estate, return to Detroit for a tour of Pewabic pottery and tile manufactory, founded in 1903 and still in operation. Pewabic was a leader in the Arts and Crafts movement and its striking iridescent tiles adorned buildings throughout

Detroit and Southeastern Michigan. Next, cross the Detroit River to Belle Isle Park for an up-close view of the Livingstone Memorial Lighthouse, Albert Kahn's iconic marble structure, as well as the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, and Belle Isle Aquarium. (B,L)

MAY 6

## Cranbrook

Celebrated as the "cradle of mid-century modernism in America," Cranbrook's world-renowned campus is a treasure trove of history, architecture, craftsmanship, and design. Spend a full day touring Cranbrook's expansive campus and see

masterworks by architects such as Albert Kahn, Rafael Moneo, Billie Tsien, and Tod Williams, as well as Frank Lloyd Wright's Smith House and the Art Deco home and studio of Finnish American designer Eliel Saarinen. Enjoy a private lunch in one of Cranbrook's private event spaces, and have a chance to learn from Cranbrook's curators about its historic role in the arts and its continued importance. Return to Detroit via Woodward Avenue, stopping en route at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, a lavish Art Deco church completed in 1936 with the proceeds from the radio ministry of Father Charles Coughlin.

This evening, toast the group's travels together in Detroit at a festive dinner at one of Detroit's top restaurants. (B,L,D)

MAY 7

## Departures via Henry Ford's Estate

Check out of the hotel and take a group transfer to the Detroit airport, stopping en route to see the grounds of Clara and Henry Ford's estate, Fair Lane, where the 31,000 square foot, 56-room house is currently being restored by a team of artisans, conservators, historians, and craftspeople. Continue to the airport for independent return flights home. (B)



Fisher Building, lobby  
(Anthony G. Reyes)



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**Tour Cost:**

Land Package ..... \$TBD

Single Supplement..... \$TBD

*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 January 26, 2027, 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:** 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, as well as Cancel for Any Reason. 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 Atheneum Suite Hotel; breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, 1 reception; 2 glasses of wine or beer at included dinners; land transportation by private motor coach; 1 group transfer upon departure to Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW); 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 portorage; transfer from the airport to the hotel upon arrival; individual transfers to the airport at the end of the tour for those not using the scheduled group transfer; 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 January 26, 2027: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between January 27 and March 22, 2027: full refund minus \$1,900 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after March 23, 2027: 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.

2024-2025 International Seminar Design, Inc.  
CST 2072963-40

**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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**National Trust Tours**

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*March 7–11, 2027*

## **Discovering Crystal Bridges: A World-Class Oasis of Art & Architecture in Arkansas**

*November 7 - 11, 2027*

## **Private Houses & Gardens of Bermuda November 30 - December 5, 2027**

***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).*