



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

The Art That Built L.A.

From Industrial Fortunes to Modern Masters

May 14 - 18, 2026



With Linda Wolk-Simon, *Lecturer*

Trip Highlights

Experience a rare behind-the-scenes look at **Los Angeles's** private collections, landmark architecture, and garden settings with **Linda Wolk-Simon**, a curator and scholar of Renaissance art.

Explore how art, money, and civic ambition have shaped L.A. across generations, and **meet artists in their private studios** to learn about the city's contemporary creativity.

Walk the grounds of the **J. Paul Getty Museum** complex with a private guide, and join Linda for a rare, private viewing of **Old Master drawings** not on public display, including studies by Michelangelo, Rembrandt, and Degas.

See how Cézanne, Gauguin, Pissarro, and Moreau helped build the early modern imagination during a curator-led look at the **Armand Hammer Collection** at the **Hammer Museum**.

Gain exclusive before-hours access to **The Broad**, moving through galleries filled with major works by Warhol, Basquiat, and Johns, and step into **Yayoi Kusama's Infinity Mirrored Room** without the crowds.

Enjoy a private tour of the **Norton Simon Museum**, home to one of California's strongest collections of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painting, including works by Monet, Degas, Renoir, Van Gogh, Cézanne, and Gauguin.

Embark on a guided walk through **The Huntington's botanical collections**, with its Japanese and Chinese Gardens and rare species of camellias, orchids, cycads, and succulents.

Meet a curator for a look at **The Huntington's landmark holdings in 18th-century British portraiture** and works by Van der Weyden, Reynolds, Turner, Constable, Cassatt, Hopper, and Warhol.

Savor lunch at **LULU**, a seasonal restaurant created by Alice Waters at the Hammer Museum, and watch the sun set over the Pacific from a **Santa Monica** rooftop while enjoying a cocktail and dinner.



The Broad, Los Angeles



Traveling With *You*

Linda Wolk-Simon is a specialist in Renaissance art. A longtime curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, she also served as Head of the Drawings Department at the Morgan Library and Director of the Fairfield University Museum. Currently, she teaches at NYU. She has organized exhibitions, lectured extensively, and authored catalogs, essays, articles, and reviews on European art. Her publication *Raphael at the Metropolitan* received an award for excellence from the Association of Art Museum Curators, and she was recently inducted into the National Jesuit Honor Society in recognition of her acclaimed exhibition and book *The Holy Name: Art of the Gesù: Bernini and His Age*.

Dear National Trust Traveler,

Los Angeles has long been synonymous with film, yet its cultural foundations were built by a very different set of visionaries. Industrial fortunes forged by magnates like **J. Paul Getty**, **Eli Broad**, **Henry Huntington**, and **Norton Simon** transformed this desert city into a world capital of the arts. From **May 14 to 18, 2026**, the National Trust and the Museum Travel Alliance invite you to experience that legacy through exclusive access to private collections, architectural landmarks, and museum treasures rarely seen by the public.

Renaissance art scholar **Linda Wolk-Simon** will accompany the program, bringing a curator's eye to the artistic ambitions that defined 20th-century Los Angeles. Our visit to **The Getty's Drawings Collection** will open a week that reveals how great fortunes, channeled into art, redefined Los Angeles's identity. Wolk-Simon reminds us, "The Getty has one of the best drawing collections in the United States, and we will be seeing sheets that have to live in storage because they are too fragile to be kept permanently on view."

Beyond The Getty's hilltop estate, Wolk-Simon explains how Eli Broad's collecting became a civic strategy. "Our before-hours visit to **The Broad** will trace how his commitment to access and spectacle reshaped the cultural core of Downtown Los Angeles." At **The Huntington**, see how railroad magnate Henry Huntington created a private domain modeled on an English country estate. European paintings, American art, rare books, and gardens ranging from Japanese landscapes to desert plantings together illustrate his vast cultural reach.

In Pasadena, a private tour of the **Norton Simon Museum** will show how a businessman assembled a museum with the same acuity he brought to the boardroom. "We'll experience that approach firsthand," notes Wolk-Simon. That same day, a curator-led visit to the 1906 **Gamble House** illuminates how Arts and Crafts ideals of craftsmanship and restraint took architectural form for a Procter & Gamble heir.

Additional highlights include a curator-led viewing of the Armand Hammer Collection at the **Hammer Museum**, a studio visit with contemporary artists, lunch at Alice Waters's **LULU**, and a sunset dinner on a Santa Monica rooftop overlooking the Pacific.

Please call National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785 to reserve your place today. I invite you to join us for this remarkable journey into Los Angeles's cultural foundations.

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

Activity Level:
Light



Pace Level:
Moderato



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.



Photos clockwise from top: The Huntington, Pasadena, photo courtesy of The Huntington; Rene Magritte, *La Folie Des Grandeurs* (*Delusions of Grandeur*), 1967, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Gamble House, Pasadena; Palm trees and the Hollywood Hills

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May 14 - 18, 2026

Thursday, May 14:

Arrival in Los Angeles, California

Following an independent arrival and check-in at the **Downtown L.A. Proper Hotel**, our journey begins with an entrée into the world of Los Angeles art collecting. The evening commences with a visit to a significant private art collection (*pending confirmation*), followed by a welcome reception with fellow travelers. **R**

Friday, May 15:

Los Angeles

The day is dedicated to two monumental expressions of private patronage. We begin our exploration at the **J. Paul Getty Museum**, where a private walking tour will illuminate how Richard Meier's architecture of travertine and light enters into a dialogue with the landscape and the masterworks within. Our tour continues through the painting collection, a survey of European art from the Italian Renaissance to the 17th-century Dutch Golden Age.



Map of the region



The Hammer Museum, L.A. photo courtesy of the Hammer Museum

A private viewing of selections from **the Getty's drawings collection**, an area not accessible to the public, offers a look into the working methods of artists from Da Vinci and Rubens to Degas.

After lunch at **LULU Restaurant LA**—the brainchild of farm-to-table pioneer Alice Waters, set in the courtyard at the **Hammer Museum**—we join a curator to understand the Hammer's dynamic contemporary program. The visit concludes with the **Armand Hammer Collection**, with its emphasis on 19th-century French painting, including works by Cézanne and Gauguin.

This evening, we will enjoy dinner and conversation against the backdrop of a Pacific sunset from a rooftop vantage in Santa Monica. **B,L,D**

Saturday, May 16:

Los Angeles

Our morning is an encounter with the contemporary icons of Grand Avenue. With exclusive early access to **The Broad**, we will examine one of the world's leading collections of postwar art and experience Yayoi Kusama's *Infinity Mirrored Room—The Souls of Millions of Light Years Away* before the museum opens to the public.

Then we enjoy a guided tour of the **Walt Disney Concert Hall** (*pending confirmation*), Frank Gehry's deconstructed masterpiece of stainless steel, where we will consider its architectural significance and acoustic innovation. Inside the home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, observe the pipe organ's unconventional design, featuring wooden pipes normally hidden on most organs.

Wander through innovative eateries, exciting boutiques, and a large array of galleries and museums during a leisurely afternoon exploration of the **Los Angeles Arts District**. Shop at Row DTLA and marvel at the recently remodeled Sixth Street Bridge.

This evening, enjoy special access to an artist's studio (*pending confirmation*) followed by dinner at a local favorite. **B,D**



Japanese Garden, The Huntington, Pasadena, photo by Edie Tyebkhan

Sunday, May 17:

Los Angeles / San Marino / Pasadena

We dedicate the day to the cultural pillars of **San Marino** and **Pasadena**. Our explorations begin at **The Huntington** in San Marino, where a guided walk through the botanical collections reveals the famed Japanese and Chinese Gardens. We will walk among roses, succulents, orchids, tropical plants, cycads, and camellias, including rare species and unusual specimens.

We then turn to **The Huntington's art collections**, with their celebrated holdings of 18th-century British portraiture, including Gainsborough's *The Blue Boy* and Lawrence's *Pinkie*. Additionally, you'll see works by celebrated artists like Rogier van der Weyden, Joshua Reynolds, John Constable, J.M.W. Turner, Mary Cassatt, Benjamin West, Edward Hopper, and Andy Warhol.

We will sit down for lunch in the outdoor **Garden Café** at Pasadena's **Norton Simon Museum**, surrounded by a sculpture garden and Monet-inspired lily ponds. Afterwards, we will participate in a private tour of the museum's superlative collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces, featuring works by Monet, Degas, Renoir, Van Gogh, Cézanne, and Gauguin.



The Broad, Los Angeles

Later, we will enjoy a private, curator-led tour of the **Gamble House**, the pinnacle of the American Arts and Crafts movement, built in 1908 for the son of Procter & Gamble founder James Gamble.

Here, we will examine how architects Charles and Henry Greene synthesized English craft ideals with Japanese design principles to create a new architectural language born of the Southern California climate.

We will conclude our artistic journey through Los Angeles with a festive farewell reception and dinner. **B,L,R,D**

Monday, May 18: *Los Angeles / Return*

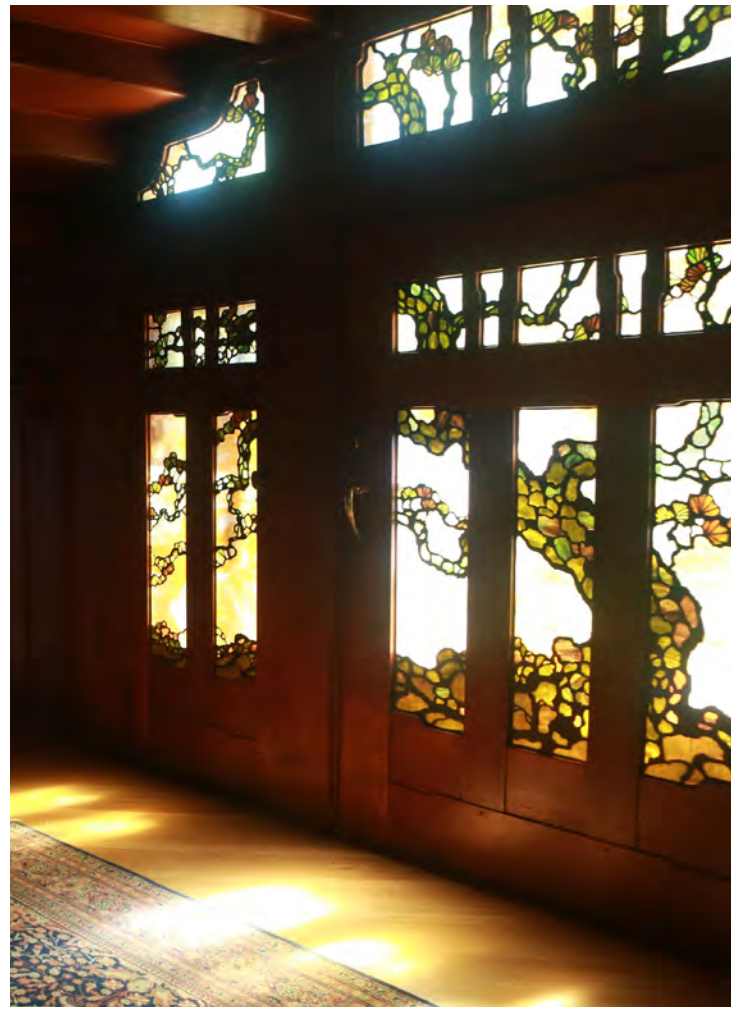
Following breakfast, transfer independently to the airport for flights home. **B**

DISCLAIMER: *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*

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Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena



Gamble House, Pasadena, photo courtesy of Visit Pasadena

Program Rate
\$5,999 per person, double rate
\$6,999 single rate

Rate Includes

- Four nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners.
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: Airfare; airport transfers; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

INSURANCE: National Trust Tours strongly suggests the purchase of travel insurance. For more information on policy options, visit <https://my.travelinsure.com/nationaltrust/plan/> or call 1-800-937-1387.

Accommodations



Downtown L.A. Proper Hotel

Downtown L.A. Proper Hotel

With interiors by award-winning designer Kelly Wearstler (named to the AD100 Hall of Fame by *Architectural Digest*), this beautifully reimagined boutique hotel is placed within a 1926 vintage Renaissance Revival building. You'll be dazzled by the comfort of your room, the beauty of the common spaces, its restaurants, and the rooftop lounge spanning 5,000 square feet with views over the Los Angeles skyline in every direction.



Downtown L.A. Proper Hotel Lobby (top) and Lounge (above)



The Huntington, Pasadena, photo by Edie Tyebkhan

To secure your place,
please call National Trust Tours at
888-484-8785.

A deposit of \$2,000 per person
(of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for
administrative fees) is required.



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J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles



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National Trust Tours

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Front cover: J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. Back cover: Jeff Koons, *Balloon Dog*, 1994-2000, The Broad, Los Angeles (top); and the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles (bottom).
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