



# THE GREAT WRIGHT ROAD TRIP

The Wright Road Trip will allow you to easily explore the career-spanning breadth of Wright's genius -- from the largest Prairie Style house he ever designed at the Darwin D. Martin House to the epic grandeur of his mid-career masterpiece at Fallingwater to the burst of brilliance found at Kentuck Knob that was a highlight of Wright's final years.

Set your compass for exploration, roll down the windows and breathe in mountain air as you embark on the Great Wright Road Trip in beautiful Buffalo, New York on your way to the Laurel Highlands of Western Pennsylvania. You are on the Wright path!



## DAY ONE BUFFALO

### WRIGHT SITE NO. 1

#### THE MARTIN HOUSE: A WELL NIGH PERFECT COMPOSITION

Day one begins in the lovely Parkside neighborhood of Buffalo, site of the Martin House. Built between 1903-1906, the 1.5-acre residential estate features six distinct but interconnected structures: the main Martin House, the Barton House, a conservatory, carriage house, gardener's cottage, and a 100-foot-long pergola. Wright referred to the Martin House as a "domestic symphony" and a "well-nigh perfect composition." Plan extra time to explore the grounds and experience the recently-restored historic landscape.

*For more information: [martinhouse.org](http://martinhouse.org)*





## WRIGHT'S BUFFALO VENTURE: POSTHUMOUS PROJECTS

In addition to the Martin House and Graycliff, Darwin and Isabelle Martin's summer home, Wright's Buffalo venture includes three posthumously-constructed works: a boathouse, mausoleum and gas station.

### WRIGHT SITE NO. 2

#### THE FILLING STATION: AN ORNAMENT TO THE PAVEMENT



In 1927, the Filling Station was intended for a site just blocks from where it now stands. But it wasn't until 2014 that Wright's "ornament to the pavement" was constructed as an exhibit at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum. The station's most striking features are an extensive copper roof and two 45-foot poles that Wright called "totems." The museum's collection is highlighted by the magnificent Pierce-Arrow motor cars that were manufactured in Buffalo until the company's demise in 1938.

*For more information: [pierce-arrow.com](http://pierce-arrow.com)*

### WRIGHT SITE NO. 3

#### BLUE SKY MAUSOLEUM: A FINAL RESTING PLACE OF NOBLE EFFECT

Located in the leafy confines of Forest Lawn Cemetery, Blue Sky Mausoleum was commissioned in 1928 by the Martin Family but left on the drawing board when their fortune was lost during the Great Depression. Posthumously constructed in 2004, the mausoleum's tiered steps provide a modernist counterpoint to the grand Victorian-style monuments that dot the grounds of this historic cemetery.



Forest Lawn Cemetery is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*For more information: [blueskymausoleum.com](http://blueskymausoleum.com)*

### WRIGHT SITE NO. 4

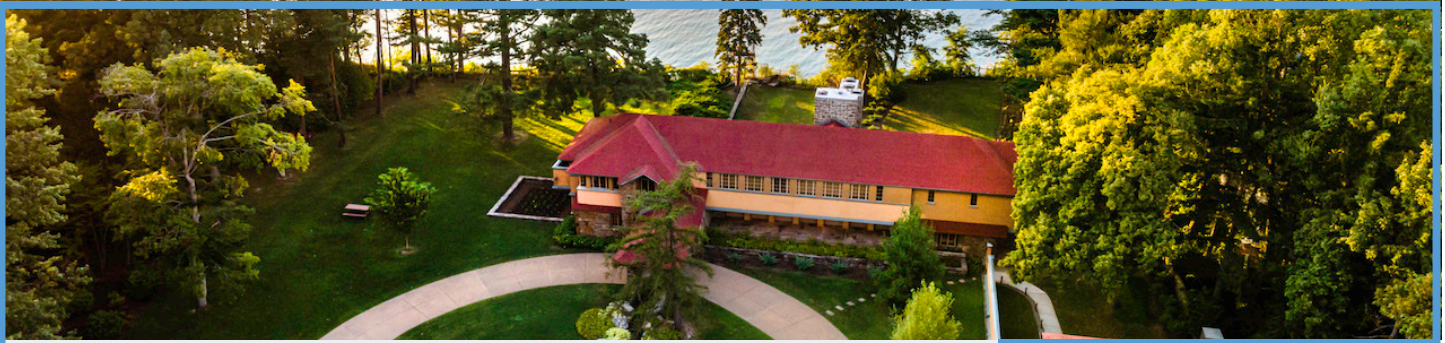
#### FONTANA ROWING BOATHOUSE: FROM WISCONSIN TO WESTERN NEW YORK



Designed in 1905 for a site at the University of Wisconsin but never built, this working boathouse ultimately found a companionable home in 2007 at Buffalo's West Side Rowing Club overlooking the Black Rock Canal and Niagara River.

Open by appointment.

*For more information: [wrightsboathouse.org](http://wrightsboathouse.org)*



## WRIGHT SITE NO. 5

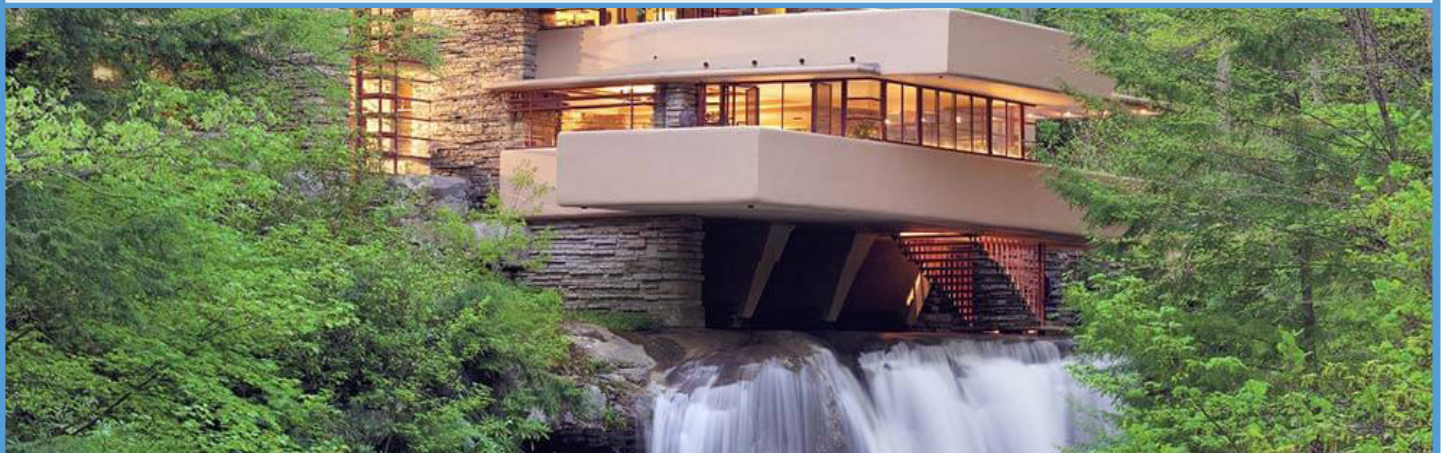
GRAYCLIFF: ISABELLE MARTIN'S SUMMER PLACE

DAY TWO  
LAKE ERIE SHORE

Graycliff was built between 1926-31 for Isabelle R. Martin, wife of Darwin Martin, the Buffalo businessman who was one of Wright's greatest patrons. The house was built as a summer home for the family. Located a short 30-minute drive from Buffalo, Graycliff sits on a gorgeous piece of property overlooking Lake Erie. Graycliff was one of the few commissions Wright received in the 1920s and its design contains elements that would be given fuller expression a few years later at Fallingwater.

*For more information: [experiencegraycliff.org](http://experiencegraycliff.org)*

At the conclusion of your tour, be sure to visit the outstanding gift shop before heading south to the Laurel Highlands via Erie, Pennsylvania. Here you'll pick up I-79 going south to Pittsburgh, and via I-76, your overnight destination in the Laurel Highlands. Approximate travel time: four hours.



DAY THREE  
LAUREL HIGHLANDS

## WRIGHT SITE NO. 6

FALLINGWATER: WHERE NATURE & ART ARE ONE

Fallingwater, now on the UNESCO World Heritage List, is hailed internationally as a masterpiece of 20th century architecture. Fallingwater was also named the "best all-time work of American architecture" in a poll of American Institute of Architects members.

Designed in 1935, Fallingwater is one of Wright's most widely acclaimed works and best exemplifies his philosophy of organic architecture: the harmonious union of art and nature. Since 1963, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has owned and preserved Fallingwater so the public can tour, experience and be inspired by this example of American architecture and history.

At the conclusion of your tour, allow time for your own personal photo shoot to capture the iconic image of Fallingwater as your backdrop. Perhaps this will be the only keepsake you'll need, but we do suggest at least a look-see through the Gift Shop!

*For more information: [fallingwater.org](http://fallingwater.org)*



## WRIGHT SITE NO. 7

### KENTUCK KNOB: DRAMA & SERENITY

Kentuck Knob, completed in 1956, is an extraordinary example of Wright's "Usonian" style, a group of approximately 60 homes he designed from the mid-1930s onward characterized by native materials, flat roofs and large cantilevered overhangs. Situated just below the crest of a hill, Kentuck Knob's construction materials of native sandstone and tidewater red cypress blend naturally with the surroundings. Stretching to the east, just beyond the back terrace, is a breathtaking panorama of the Youghiogheny River Gorge and the beautiful Laurel Highlands mountains.

Not to be missed: A sculpture meadow featuring 35 sculptures by artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Harry Bertoia, Claes Oldenburg, Ray Smith, Michael Warren, Katherine Gili and Sir Anthony Caro. Found object art pieces include a French pissoir, red British telephone boxes, and a large, vertically upright concrete slab from the Berlin Wall. The meadow is reached by a walking path through woods from either the house or the visitors center.

And, for a taste of the region's heritage, try a Hagan's ice cream cone. The original owners of Kentuck Knob, the Hagans, were the founders of Hagan Ice Cream, which can still be found throughout the region to this day.

*For more information: [kentuckknob.com](http://kentuckknob.com)*



## WRIGHT SITE NO. 8

### POLYMATH PARK: A FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT OASIS

## DAY FOUR

POLYMATH PARK

Polymath Park has been described as a "Frank Lloyd Wright oasis" for good reason. On this 125-acre park-like setting, you can find two Wright-designed homes as well as two designed by Wright apprentice Peter Berndtson. Berndtson's Balter House and Blum House are original to the location while Wright's Duncan House and Mantyla House were moved from other locations and reconstructed on site.

*For more information: [Polymathpark.com](http://Polymathpark.com)*



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