



Photo Courtesy of Chris Maddox



EXPLORE THE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRAIL

3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS



Photo Courtesy of Andy Kraushaar

Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, and is recognized as one of America's most influential architects. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of Wright's birth on June 8, 1867, Wisconsin has created the world's first official Frank Lloyd Wright Trail in celebration of his achievements and lasting legacy. Explore the designs and inspirations of Wright through a series of nine stops in his home state. Make it a complete weekend by exploring local restaurants and quaint hotels along the way.

DAY 1

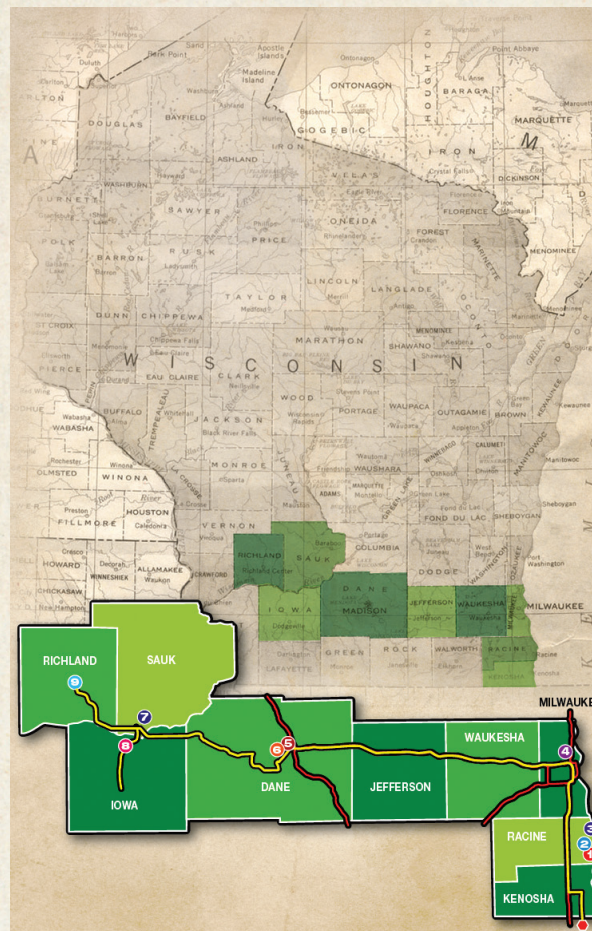
SC Johnson Administration Building, Racine

Start your day at Robert's Roost for a quick breakfast and coffee before heading to the SC Johnson Administrative Building. This structure, along with the SC Johnson Research Tower, serves as the worldwide headquarters of the household cleaning product manufacturer.

The 1939 SC Johnson Administration Building has been called one of the top 25 buildings of the 20th century, and Wright designed everything down to the furniture. Perhaps most impressive is the Great Workroom, with a half-acre of open space and massive tree-inspired columns. You'll get the best views riding the "birdcage" elevators that run from the basement to the penthouse.

SC Johnson Research Tower, Racine

Walk your way over to the SC Johnson Research Tower nearby. Completed just more than a decade later, this tower is one of the world's tallest cantilevered buildings. Like the Administration Building's 43 miles of glass windows, Wright used thousands of Pyrex tubes to reduce glare and refract light in the tower. The building's most renowned exhibit is a replicated 1950s laboratory, where the company's scientists developed early products. Don't miss the Golden Rondelle Theater on the SC Johnson complex that holds a host of free community programs in the historic building, or visit the Racine Art Museum for a collection of contemporary arts and crafts.



Stop for lunch at Corner House or Wells Brothers Pizza, then drive to O&H Danish Bakery where you can pick up an award-winning kringle.

*SC Johnson to Wingspread:
6 miles (10 km)*

Wingspread, Wind Point

Drive just 6 miles north to experience more of Wright's work for the Johnson family. H.F. Johnson Jr., the SC Johnson Company's third-generation leader, commissioned the architect to build his family estate. With four wings jutting out across 14,000 square feet of space, Wright completed his sprawling creation in 1939 and named it "Wingspread."

Though it's the largest of Wright's Prairie School houses, the estate stays true to the architect's organic roots by blending into the surrounding 30 acres of woodland and prairie with the architect's use of natural materials like limestone, brick, stucco and unstained wood.

Racine is home to a variety of art galleries such as the Jura Silverman Gallery with multimedia pieces in a restored warehouse and the Racine Art Museum. Want to stay the night in the Racine area? Harbourwalk Hotel offers picturesque lakefront views of Racine Harbor and sits amid a quaint shopping and dining district.

*Wingspread to Burnham:
26 miles (42 km)*



Burnham, Milwaukee

Wright didn't just build custom mansions and towering workspaces—he had a dream of building homes that were affordable to the typical American family. His American System-Built Homes were a short-lived venture between 1915 and 1917, and just 16 of these models have been identified throughout the Midwest today.

This home is one of six still standing on West Burnham Street and Layton Boulevard in Milwaukee, a developing area that was still considered the edge of town when the houses were built in 1915 and 1916. Tours of the Burnham home are given on select weekends by trained docents. Reservations are not required.

Milwaukee is a foodie's dream, with restaurants of all styles, trends and specialties. Everything from artfully curated meals at c. 1880 by James Beard semi-finalist Thomas Hauck to comfort foods at Smoke Shack is sure to satisfy the hungry traveler. Stay at the posh Kimpton Journeyman Hotel for upscale dining and luxurious accommodations.

Burnham to Monona Terrace: 80 miles (130 km)

DAY 2

Monona Terrace, Madison

Begin your day in Madison on beautiful Lake Monona. Popping out of the Madison skyline, Monona Terrace frames the lake for which it was named on the eastern side of Madison's famed isthmus. Wright envisioned that his "dream civic center" would link the shores of Lake Monona with the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Though Wright first proposed the project in the 1930s, numerous setbacks meant the terrace wasn't completed until 1997, nearly four decades after his death and 59 years after the inception of the project. Today, Monona Terrace is a popular spot for meetings and conventions, community programs and weddings, with an on-site café and gift shop full of Wright memorabilia.

Located right in the heart of downtown Madison, visit the nearby State Capitol, explore the vivacious shops of State Street or stop into The Old Fashioned for a Wisconsin classic: an old fashioned cocktail.

Monona Terrace to First Unitarian Society Meeting House: 5 miles (8 km)

First Unitarian Society Meeting House, Madison

A convenient 10 minutes from Monona Terrace, Wright was a member of this congregation, and his preacher father was one of the founders. This project was completed in 1951, just a few years before his death, and has been hailed as one of the world's most innovative examples of church architecture, as well as a key structure defining Wright's contributions to American culture. In addition to the original meeting house, with its pitched copper roof, deep-red concrete floor and prow of interlacing wood and glass, Taliesin Associated Architects have added two major additions, one in 1964 and one in 1990.

After a full day of touring Wright's architectural masterpieces, unwind with French-inspired, farm-to-table cuisine at L'Etoile. For overnight accommodations, Mansion Hill Inn and Livingston Inn, both beautiful bed and breakfasts, offer cozy hospitality that combines historical finishes with modern conveniences.

First Unitarian Society Meeting House to Taliesin: 40 miles (64 km)

DAY 3

Taliesin and Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center, Spring Green

Fuel up right on the Taliesin premises at the Riverview Terrace Café for breakfast. For the Frank Lloyd Wright fan, nothing tops his 800-acre estate overlooking the Wisconsin River. Taliesin, which means "shining brow"—a nod to Wright's Welsh grandparents—has been rebuilt from two fires since construction was completed in 1911, and other renovations have been ongoing since the architect's death in 1959.

Today, the Taliesin Preservation manages the grounds and offers six touring options of the estate, along with other arts and cultural educational programs and special events like a farm dinner series, biking tour and Winter Festival tours.

Make the quick 5-minute drive to the American Players Theatre to view classic professional plays at the country's second largest outdoor theater.

Freddy Valentine's Public House is a favorite for grabbing a delicious meal in a historic, local setting in nearby Spring Green. Situated in an old, renovated bank, furnishings are repurposed to offer unique décor that adds so much to the experience. Don't miss the original vault.

Taliesin to Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center: 4 miles (6 km)

Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center, Spring Green

Located 3 miles from Taliesin, Wyoming Valley School is a nonprofit organization promoting the arts and culture of the surrounding region. Designed and donated by Wright in honor of his mother, Anna Lloyd-Jones Wright, the School provides spaces for workshops, performances, lectures and exhibits for all ages. While paying homage to Wright, the School offers the necessary opportunities to bring young students and their families together in pursuit of creative education. Workshops in architecture, music, science and painting are some of the offerings available to engage young students and enhance arts education and creativity.

Stay nearby at Round Barn Lodge, featuring country style décor. Unwind and relax with a glass of wine next to the waterfall. Or, if the whole family is tagging along, rent out Aldebaran Farm, which was the home of Wright's uncle, James Lloyd-Jones, and renovated by Wright's architect son-in-law William Wesley Peters.

Spring Green is home to a variety of art galleries such as the Jura Silverman Gallery with multimedia pieces in a restored warehouse and Wilson Creek Pottery, where you can support local, handcrafted usable art.

Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center to AD German Warehouse: 30 miles (48 km)

AD German Warehouse, Richland Center

Completed in 1921, this four-story warehouse is probably the most notable commission Wright took on in his hometown. Once a storage place for sugar, flour, coffee, tobacco and other commodities, today it houses a gift shop, small theater and exhibit of large murals illustrating Wright's architectural work.

The warehouse is notable because it's one of the few major public buildings he designed around the time that it was actually built, and it's his best remaining example of sculptural ornamentation. A frieze of repeated cast concrete motifs encircles the top of the building. Cap off your exploratory weekend with a hearty Wisconsin meal at Press Box or Mellem's Fish House, where you can get an array of fresh seafood and steak.

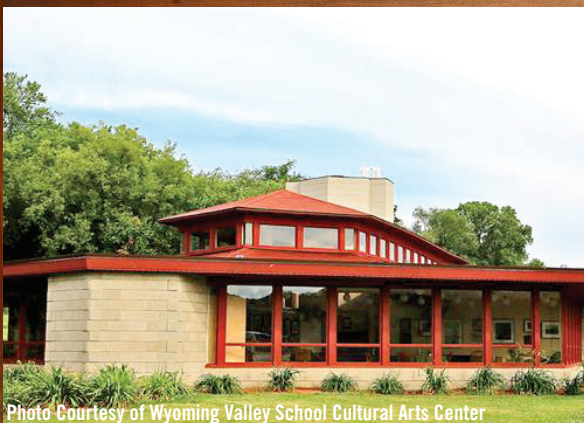


Photo Courtesy of Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center



Photo Courtesy of Kit Hogan

