ILLINOIS’ FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRAIL: CHICAGO TO ROCKFORD

One of America’s greatest architects, Frank Lloyd Wright called Illinois home—and filled it with some of his best works. On a trip from Chicago to Rockford, follow Wright’s career from his earliest designs to his biggest innovations.
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CHICAGO

1. EMIL BACH HOUSE
   This is the only Wright residence in Chicago open for vacation rentals and private events as well as tours.

2. THE ROOKERY
   The elaborate main lobby and light court is one of the most spectacular interior spaces in the state.

3. CHARNLEY-PERSKY HOUSE MUSEUM
   Recognized as a pivotal work of modern American architecture, this house was designed by Louis Sullivan with assistance from Wright, his junior draftsman at the time.

4. FREDERICK C. ROBIE HOUSE
   This quintessential Prairie-style home was named one of the 10 most significant buildings of the 20th century by the American Institute of Architects.

5. REVOLUTION BREWING
   Unwind at the largest independent brewery in the state with any sort of handmade brew, from IPAs to porters to barrel-aged beers.

6. GLESSNER HOUSE
   Designed by American architect Henry Hobson Richardson and completed in 1887, this radical departure from traditional Victorian architecture served as an inspiration to architects such as Louis Sullivan, Mies van der Rohe, and—yes—a young Frank Lloyd Wright.

7. ARCHITECTURE CRUISE
   Chicago’s architecture is known around the world—but there’s nothing quite like seeing it from all three branches of the Chicago River.

OAK PARK

8. HOME & STUDIO
   Discover the beginning of greatness. This landmark structure served as Wright’s private residence and studio from 1889 to 1909—the first 20 years of his career.

9. UNITY TEMPLE
   Reopened in 2017 after a two-year restoration, this church is the only surviving public building from Wright’s Prairie period.

10. CITRINE CAFÉ
    Located in the heart of Oak Park’s Hemingway District, this spot offers cuisine with a Mediterranean influence—perfect for a sunny summer lunch.

11. NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR
   Explore the world’s largest collection of Wright-designed buildings at your own pace on a self-guided audio tour.

12. QUINCY STREET DISTILLERY
    Enjoy small-batch spirits and handcrafted cocktails in a bar with a speakeasy feel—or drink in more architecture with a guided tour of the historic facility.

GENEVA

13. COLONEL GEORGE FABYAN VILLA
    Remodeled by Wright in 1907, “The Villa” is a Prairie-style residence with an accompanying Japanese garden and Dutch windmill, both signs of the owners’ eclectic tastes.

HAMPshire

14. MUIRHEAD FARMHOUSE
    Surrounded by nearly 800 acres of prairie, this home is the only known existing farmhouse to have been designed and built by Wright during his lifetime.

BELVIDERE

15. PETTIT MEMORIAL CHAPEL
    A small structure on the grounds of Belvidere Cemetery, the chapel was commissioned by Emma Glasner Pettit in honor of her deceased husband, William H. Pettit.

ROCKFORD

16. LAURENT HOUSE
    The only building ever designed by the famed architect for a person with a disability, this single-story Usonian home is both functional and beautiful (and decades ahead of ADA accessibility requirements).

17. ROCKFORD ROASTING COMPANY
    Stop in for the ultimate coffee experience with a large range of specialty coffee beans and a complete menu of espresso-based beverages, cocoa, gourmet teas, and other specialty drinks.

18. ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS
    Spread among 12 acres, these Japanese gardens burst with color thanks to koi-filled ponds, winding paths, gentle streams, raked gravel gardens, and more. Seasonal tours of both the garden and the Laurent House are available.