A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC BUFFALO
With architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, H.H. Richardson, Richard Upjohn and Eliel and Eero Saarinen; parks and parkways by Frederick Law Olmsted; history that ranges from the inauguration of a president, to abolitionism, to the Erie Canal, to the birth of the American Arts & Crafts Movement; and excellent shopping, dining and sight-seeing, Buffalo is a great city to explore on foot.

This book features nine self-guided walking tours:
Downtown Buffalo I ....................... 6
Downtown Buffalo II ...................... 16
Michigan Avenue Heritage Corridor ...... 24
The Waterfront ............................. 28
Allentown & Delaware .................... 32
Elmwood Village ........................... 42
Museum District ............................ 48
Parkside ..................................... 56
East Aurora ................................. 62

COVER PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER HYZY
On this tour, you’ll come across the magnificent Shea’s Performing Arts Center, a presidential-themed pub, a church with stunning Tiffany windows and the world headquarters of New Era Cap.
ELECTRIC TOWER
Start off at the Main Street entrance of the **Market Arcade Building** and note its intricate terra cotta exterior. Face away from the Market Arcade and begin walking to your right. You’ll be entering Buffalo’s Theatre District. On your right, you’ll see the **Andrews Theatre**, the theater-in-the-round home of the Irish Classical Theatre Company. On your left, you’ll find the beautiful **Shea’s Performing Arts Center** (see page 10), which hosts touring Broadway productions throughout the year, and the **Alleyway Theatre**. Next, you will see **Town Ballroom** on the right. This theater was once a speakeasy that hosted gangsters like Al Capone. Today, it’s a venue for touring rock acts.
Among the city’s earliest examples of the American Renaissance style, the twin façades of the arcade are richly embellished with buff-colored terra cotta and elaborate bison head keystones above the entry arches. An early indoor shopping mall with three levels, the arcade was built as a shortcut between Main Street and the Chippewa Market, once located across Washington Street. Vacant for years, it was beautifully restored in the 1990s, and is now home to a diverse range of shops, offering everything from men’s and women’s clothing to Buffalo-themed gifts and treats for your dog. Be sure to check out Expo, Buffalo’s first food hall, for a bite to eat next door, too!
Few spots better embody the rebirth of Buffalo than Shea’s Performing Arts Center. More than 3,000 people can be accommodated in the Baroque-inspired auditorium, the only surviving Tiffany designed theater interior. The theater has been meticulously restored since it escaped demolition in the 1970s, including the recent enlargement of the stage house to accommodate Broadway touring productions. Shea’s is now one of the artistic centers of the region.

Continue walking on Main Street, crossing over West Tupper Street. On your left, you’ll see the **Ansonia Building**, featuring glazed terra cotta in a chestnut tree motif. Next, you’ll come to the intersection of Main Street, Goodell Street, Edward Street and Pearl Street. Here, on your right, you’ll see the red terra cotta-clad **Sidway Building** and the light tan **Courier Express Building** (note its Art Deco-style exterior, with the First Amendment and images of printmakers in bas relief). On the left is the **St. Louis Church**, designed by Schickel & Ditmars and constructed from 1886 to 1889.

Turn left on Edward Street. On your left, you’ll pass the **Cyclorama Building**, which was constructed in 1888. Once a venue for Buffalonians to see enormous panoramic paintings, it is now an office building. Cross over Franklin Street. On your right, you’ll come to the **Founding Fathers**, a 19th century livery-turned pub. Inside, you’ll find walls covered with presidential memorabilia and free popcorn and nachos. At the corner of Edward Street and Delaware Avenue, you’ll see the **Mansion on Delaware Avenue**, a lovingly restored boutique hotel.
A great remnant of the Gilded Age in Buffalo, this large Second Empire style house was built for Charles Sternberg. It features an unusual convex mansard roof, stone quoins and a profusion of bay windows. Long vacant and endangered, it was restored as one of the city’s most desirable hotels.

Nearby at 434 Delaware Ave., you can find a more restrained version of this style of building, designed at the same time by H. H. Richardson for William Dorsheimer.
This Gothic church complex is one of the outstanding artistic ensembles of Buffalo. The stained glass windows in the clear span sanctuary—all but one installed between 1886 and 1890—are among the finest in the nation, and include ten by John LaFarge and five by Louis C. Tiffany.

The adjacent parish house (1905) is by the prominent ecclesiastical architects Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson, who also remodeled the interior of the 1870 chapel in 1913.

At this point, if you wish to connect to the Allentown & Delaware Walking Tour, turn right on Delaware and go one block to Virginia Street (see page 34). To continue on the Downtown I Walking Tour, turn left on Delaware.

On your right, you’ll see the **BUFFALO CLUB**, a private social club founded by President Millard Fillmore, America’s 13th president. On your left, you’ll come to **TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**. Cross over West Tupper Street and you’ll be standing next to **BABEVILLE**. Formerly the Delaware Asbury Methodist Church, this building was saved from the wrecking ball by Buffalo songwriter Ani DiFranco and converted into space for a performing arts venue, jazz club, Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, The 9th Ward (a performance space) and offices for DiFranco’s record label, Righteous Babe Records.

Continue walking along Delaware Avenue. On your right, at the corner of South Johnson Park, you’ll see the former **HOTEL TOURAINE**. Constructed in 1902 and expanded in 1923, it is now apartments. Next, you’ll come to the intersection of Chippewa Street, home to many of Buffalo’s dance clubs, bars, and restaurants. Turn left on Chippewa. At the corner of Franklin Street, you’ll find the **CALUMET BUILDING**, with its Art Nouveau glazed terra cotta tile exterior. Designed by Esenwein & Johnson, it was erected in 1906.
Double back to the intersection of Delaware and Chippewa and grab a coffee or a bite to eat at 16 SPOT COFFEE. or a bite at 15 JAKE’S and PATINA 250 in the Westin Buffalo. Turn left on Delaware. You’ll pass two hotels on your right. The 12 HAMPTON INN & SUITES occupies a building that was once home to the American Steamship Company and the 21 EMBASSY SUITES is a converted federal building.

At the corner of West Huron Street, you’ll see the corporate headquarters of 2 NEW ERA CAP, which makes the official caps for Major League Baseball and features a flagship store. Turn left on West Huron. At the corner of Pearl Street, you’ll see the 22 HYATT REGENCY BUFFALO.

**ELECTRIC TOWER**

535 WASHINGTON STREET

Esenwein & Johnson, 1911-1912

Long a local icon, the exterior of the Electric Tower is clad in glazed white terra cotta, giving the building a glistening appearance that also aided in keeping the surface clean in the sooty urban atmosphere of the early 20th century. The design was inspired by another notable Buffalo building by the same name – the 1901 Pan-American Exposition’s centerpiece Electric Tower – a temporary wood structure that was demolished after the fair ended.
Continue to the intersection of Main Street. Here you’ll see the white ELECTRIC TOWER in front of you and the gold-domed former BUFFALO SAVINGS BANK on the left.

At this point, you can turn right on Main Street and head to Lafayette Square to begin Downtown Walking Tour II (page 16). If you turn left on Main Street, you’ll pass through Fountain Plaza (home to a skating rink in the winter and events in the summer), cross over Chippewa Street, past the HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES DOWNTOWN BUFFALO and return to your starting point, the Market Arcade Building.
Discover masterworks by Louis Sullivan and Richard Upjohn, an office building that was one of the world’s largest, a monument to a fallen president and Buffalo’s massive Art Deco City Hall.

LENGTH 1.9 MILES » WALKING TIME 60 MIN
This is the ultimate work of Louise Bethune, who became the first professional woman architect in the nation when she opened her office in Buffalo in 1881. Ornately detailed, this French Renaissance style building of brick and terra cotta opened in 1904. In 2011, the entire hotel was beautifully restored and now also includes apartments, a brewery/restaurant and a café.

Begin at the SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT in the center of Lafayette Square. Designed to honor those who fought in the Civil War, it was dedicated on July 4, 1884 by New York State Governor Grover Cleveland – a man who had served as sheriff of Erie County and mayor of Buffalo, and who would later become America’s 22nd and 24th president. Face the BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, which is the black and white rectangular building set back from the square. The library is also home to one of the original manuscripts of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, housed in the Mark Twain room. As you rotate your view clockwise around the square, you’ll see the HOTEL @ THE LAFAYETTE, the BRISBANE BUILDING (1895, Milton E. Beebe & Son - the building is also home of the Buffalo Niagara Visitor Center, and then the LIBERTY BUILDING (notice the pair of Statue of Liberty figures atop of this 1925 building, which was designed by Alfred C. Bossom). Proceed down Washington Street between the Hotel @ The Lafayette and the Brisbane building, make a right onto E. Eagle, and left onto Main.

On your left, you’ll see ONE M&T PLAZA. With its tall entryway arches and long white vertical lines, it was erected from 1964 to 1966 and designed by Minoru Yamasaki, the same architect who designed the World Trade Center twin towers in New York.

Cross over Church Street and the first thing you’ll see on your left is a statue of Polish-born Revolutionary War general CASIMIR PULASKI, a gift from the country of Poland in 1979. Next to the statue, you’ll find the ELICOTT SQUARE BUILDING. Step inside the building’s atrium and see an incredible mosaic floor. Order a classic Buffalo beef on weck sandwich at Charlie the Butcher.
Billed as one of the largest office buildings in the world when it opened, this was the last work designed by Charles B. Atwood, Daniel Burnham’s chief designer at the Columbian Exposition (1892-1893) in Chicago. The brick and terra cotta Italian Renaissance-style building is organized around a large light court, which allows natural light and air to reach the inner offices. The rich mosaic floor in the ornate concourse was installed in 1931.
This outstanding example of the mid-19th century Gothic Revival style was designed by the premier ecclesiastical architect of the era, who regarded this as his best work. Here the disparate parts of the large building were brilliantly fitted into a constricted triangular site.

ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
128 PEARL STREET
Richard Upjohn, 1850-1851

The current interior was designed by Robert W. Gibson, after the original was destroyed by an 1888 gas explosion. Highlights include a richly detailed chancel and exceptional stained glass windows, including work by Tiffany.

Turn left on Swan Street and you’ll see 9 SAHLEN FIELD, home of the Buffalo Bisons, the Triple-A minor league affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. Walk to the corner of Swan and Ellicott Street, where you’ll see the 10 OLD POST OFFICE (O’Rourke, Aiken and Taylor, 1894-1901), which now serves as the city campus for Erie Community College and features a spectacular atrium.

Keep walking down Swan and right onto Michigan Avenue. At the corner of Michigan and Seneca Street, stop at the 11 BUFFALO TRANSPORTATION PIERCE ARROW MUSEUM, where car aficionados and casual admirers will be in awe of the wealth and array of cars and memorabilia housed on site. From Corvettes to motorcycles, bicycles to, of course, Buffalo-built Pierce Arrows, it’s a walk through automobile history.

There’s even something in store for architectural lovers. As you enter the main room, stand beneath the copper-lined awnings of a lovingly recreated 1:1 scale replica of Frank Lloyd Wright’s long lost FILLING STATION design. Adorned with gravity-fed pumps, angular design features and a fully-equipped lounge, odds are good that you’ve never seen anything like it.

Head west on Seneca Street, turn right on Oak, left on Swan, left on Washington, then right on Seneca. When you get to Seneca Street, look straight ahead at 12 ONE SENeca TOWER, which straddles Main Street. Designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and constructed from 1969 to 1974, it is Buffalo’s tallest building. If you would like to connect
One of the greatest buildings in the history of American architecture, this is Louis Sullivan’s clearest expression of the tall office building as “a proud and soaring thing” in contrast to the layered effect of other skyscrapers of the period. Sheathed in terra cotta embellished with ornamentation of Sullivan’s own highly original design, the exterior is reflective of interior function through its division of commercial space at the base with offices above, culminating in a flaring cornice. This ornament continues inside, in the iron, stained glass and mosaics of the beautifully restored lobby.
to the Buffalo Waterfront Walking Tour (page 28), continue straight on Main Street, travelling under the One Seneca Tower, until you reach Scott Street.

To continue on the Downtown II Walking Tour, turn right on Seneca Street. At the corner of Pearl Street, you’ll find the 1$ PEARL STREET GRILL AND BREWERY, which features a line of house-brewed beers and an extensive menu. Turn right on Pearl. When you get to the corner of Swan Street, notice the oddly shaped 16 DUN BUILDING (Green & Wicks, 1893-1894) on your left, featuring Sato Brewpub, a Japanese-style brewery and restaurant. Turn left on Swan. At the corner of Swan Street and Franklin Street, you’ll see 15 ST. JOSEPH’S CATHEDRAL, the mother church of the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, built from 1851 to 1855 and designed by Patrick C. Keeley. Double back on Swan Street and turn left on Pearl Street.

When you reach the corner of Pearl and Church Streets, you’ll be standing between two of Buffalo’s greatest architectural masterpieces – Richard Upjohn’s 18 ST. PAUL’S CATHEDRAL (see page 20) on your right and Louis Sullivan’s 17 GUARANTY BUILDING (see page 21) on your left.

Turn left on Church and then right on Franklin Street. On your left, you’ll see 16 OLD COUNTY HALL (Andrew J. Warner, 1871-1876), which once served as Buffalo City Hall. When you reach Niagara Street, turn left. Soon, you’ll be at NIAGARA SQUARE, the epicenter of Buffalo’s radial street grid, which was laid out by Joseph Ellicott in 1804.
At the center of Niagara Square, you’ll see the McKINLEY MONUMENT, which was erected in 1907 in remembrance of President William McKinley, who was assassinated during the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. As you look around the square, you’ll see everything from the brutalist concrete CITY COURT BUILDING (Pfohl, Roberts & Biggie, 1971-1974), to the elegant STATLER CITY (George B. Post & Sons, 1921-1923), to the new glass-wrapped U.S. COURTHOUSE (Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates). The highlight, though, is Buffalo’s massive Art Deco CITY HALL.

Leave Niagara Square via Court Street, which will bring you back to Lafayette Square, where you started. From Lafayette Square, you can access the Downtown I Walking Tour (page 6) or the Michigan Avenue Heritage Corridor Walking Tour (page 24).
Michigan Avenue Heritage Corridor

Buffalo Niagara Convention Center

Connect to Downtown I Walking Tour

Buffalo Niagara Visitor Center

Downtown II Walking Tour
Buffalo’s Michigan Avenue Heritage Corridor is rich in stories of abolitionism, the Civil Rights Movement and jazz greats.

Begin at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Lafayette Square, facing the 1 BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY. The road that runs along the left side of the library is Broadway. Begin walking away from the square on Broadway. Cross over Washington Street and Ellicott Street. Near the corner of Broadway and Ellicott, you’ll find 2 DEEP SOUTH TACO – stop in for a gourmet Mexican meal.

Continue on Broadway, crossing Oak Street and Elm Street. On your right, you’ll see 3 CHOCO-LOGO, a chocolate factory. Try some handmade treats from its store.

Continue on Broadway, crossing Oak Street and Elm Street. A couple doors down on the right, you’ll find the 4 COLORED MUSICIANS CLUB & MUSEUM. Founded in 1917 by one of the country’s first African-American musicians’ unions, the club has been at its location on Broadway since 1935. Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie once played on the club’s stage, and it continues to host live jazz musicians today. An interactive jazz museum also opened at the club in 2013.
Turn right on Michigan Avenue. On your left, you’ll see the *MICHIGAN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH*.

Just past the church, turn left on Arsenal Place and walk to the corner of Nash Street. Here, you’ll find the *NASH HOUSE MUSEUM*, which once was the home of Rev. J. Edward Nash, Sr., who served as the pastor of the Michigan Street Baptist Church from 1892 to 1953. To the right of the front of the house, there is a short path with interpretive signage. Follow it back to the Michigan Street Baptist Church.

Return to the corner of Michigan Avenue and Broadway and turn left on Broadway. Follow Broadway back to Lafayette Square to return to your starting point.

From here you can connect to the *Downtown I Walking Tour* (page 6) or *Downtown II Walking Tour* (page 16).
Nowhere does Buffalo’s past meet its future more compellingly than on its waterfront – the hub of the city’s revitalization and a destination for families, history buffs and thrill seekers.

Start at the intersection of Main Street and Marine Drive by the statue of Tim Horton, a famed Buffalo hockey player and founder of the popular coffee-and-doughnut chain. Walk west down Marine Drive, then stop at Pearl Street; you’ve reached 1 CANALSIDE, a revitalized waterfront park that’s rooted in the history of the Erie Canal.

Make a right onto Pearl and walk north until reaching a small set of steps on your right that bring you onto a recreated whipple truss bridge from the Erie Canal era. Proceed onto the bridge and look out; you’ll see a historic replica of the canal that once flowed through the area and serves as a reflecting pool each summer and a
32,000 square foot skating rink every winter that also features ice bumper cars and the Ice Bikes of Buffalo. When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, connecting the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Coast, Buffalo was its western terminus; the waterway fueled its population and industrial growth.

To your right is the **EXPLORE & MORE: THE RALPH C. WILSON, JR. CHILDREN’S MUSEUM**, which opened in 2019 and features a host of Buffalo-centric interactive exhibits for the young and young at heart. Further back is **HARBORCENTER**, which features two NHL sized ice rinks for college and amateur hockey, several restaurants and a 200-room Marriott hotel, and **ONE CANALSIDE**, which includes a Courtyard by Marriott Hotel. Snap a selfie with **SHARK GIRL**, one of Buffalo’s most popular pieces of public art, then turn around and double back on Pearl towards Marine Drive.
Cross Marine Drive to arrive at the entrance of the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park, which features tours of two World War II naval ships and a submarine. If you need to get off your feet, Liberty Hound, accessible through the Naval Park’s gift shop, offers Buffalo classics like beef on weck and a great craft beer selection on a waterside patio. Follow the walkway that runs alongside the ships to see various monuments and memorials to members of the military.

Continue along the walkway, which will lead you past the departure points for Buffalo Harbor Cruises and the Moondance Cat, and through the Erie Basin Marina Garden, which is a University Trial Garden where new plant seeds are tested each year. Next, you’ll come to The Hatch (a favorite local hotdog and ice cream stand) and William K’s, (an upscale restaurant and cocktail bar perfect for viewing sunsets over Lake Erie).

From here, if you look across the Buffalo River, you’ll see the Buffalo Lighthouse, which dates back to 1833. This is the point where the Buffalo River connects to Lake Erie. Continue along the walkway. On your left, you’ll see Lake Erie and the mouth of the Niagara River. On your right, you’ll see the Erie Basin Marina. At the end of the walkway, you’ll come to an Observation Tower – climb to the top for spectacular views of the waterfront and downtown skyline.

Double back on the walkway to return to Canalside and the entrance to the Naval and Military Park. Continue past the park and proceed onto the bridge that spans the Commercial Slip, the original western Terminus of the Erie Canal, and adjacent Canal ruins.

Today, the slip is the landing point for the Queen City Bicycle Ferry, which shuttles cyclists and pedestrians alike to a variety of lakefront parks and trails across the Buffalo River on the Outer Harbor. Proceed over the bridge and onto the boardwalk that parallels the Buffalo River. From here each summer, you can rent a kayak or waterbike, hop aboard the Buffalo River History Tour or set sail on the schooner the Spirit of Buffalo with Buffalo Sailing Adventures.
Sit in one of a host of Adirondack chairs in the greenspace paralleling the boardwalk and enjoy one of the hundreds of summertime events Canalside offers, from weekly concerts and puppet shows to artisan markets and free fitness classes. Across the river, you’ll see the 2 Connecting Terminal Elevator, which was built in 1915 (H. R. Wait, Monarch Engineering), and is now illuminated nightly with a dazzling light show. Similar elevators, many of which are much larger, can be found further up the Buffalo River; Buffalo has one of the largest collection of grain silos in the world.

Once you reach 2 Clinton’s Dish, a snack shack offering light fare along the boardwalk, make a left and then continue onto Prime Street until reaching Main. You’ll be at the 24 KeyBank Center, home of Buffalo Sabres hockey and Buffalo Bandits lacrosse. Make a left onto Main in order to reach your origin point at Main and Marine Drive. Here, you have the option of connecting to the Downtown Walking Tour II (page 16).

Want to keep exploring? Continue past the KeyBank Center on Perry Street to see the historic buildings of Buffalo’s Cobblestone District. The brick warehouses have been repurposed along the city’s original cobblestone streets and include the 25 The Draft Room at Labatt Brew House, 26 Helium Comedy Club and 27 Buffalo Iron Works music venue.

Continue on Perry to Michigan, make a right, walk past the 28 Swannie House, Buffalo’s second oldest tavern dating to 1886, and cross the Buffalo River on the Michigan Avenue Bridge, where you can smell the Cheerios made at the city’s waterfront 29 General Mills plant since 1941.

Make a left onto Ganson, and you’ve reached 30 Buffalo Riverworks, a brewery, restaurant, event space, roller derby rink and adventure park. In the summer, climb and zipline your way up and down the towering grain silos, and enjoy the beer garden carved out of industrial ruins. You can also rent a kayak, waterbike or stand-up paddleboard to explore the concrete canyon of Elevator Alley, or take a tour of the river with Buffalo CycleBoats or Buffalo Tiki Tours.
Stand where Teddy Roosevelt took the oath of office, admire Eliel & Eero Saarinen’s graceful Kleinhans Music Hall, witness the opulence of Buffalo’s “Millionaire’s Row” and hang out in hip restaurants, bars and shops.
CAMPAINE

DREW BROWN

BUFFALO ON FOOT

ALLENTOWN & DELAWARE
This landmark began as officers’ quarters for an army post that once encompassed the block. It became a private home a decade later, and the imposing Greek Revival portico was added at the end of the Civil War. Extensive rear additions were designed in 1896 by George Cary. Portions of the elegant interior have been restored to their appearance in 1901, when Theodore Roosevelt was inaugurated as president in the home’s 1885 library. Today, the site features high-tech, interactive exhibits.

Begin at the **THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, also known as the Wilcox Mansion, at 641 Delaware Avenue. It was here that Teddy Roosevelt took the oath of office as the 26th president of the United States after the assassination of William McKinley at the Pan-American Exposition in 1901.

Facing Delaware Avenue from the front of the house, go left. You’ll pass the venerable **TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB** at 595 Delaware. Designed by Buffalo’s Green & Wicks, it remains an exclusive social club of considerable old Buffalo charm.

Cross over Allen Street. From 471 to 499 Delaware Avenue stands the **MIDWAY**, a group of row houses that features Rowhouse Bakery & Restaurant, a unique marketplace housing a café, juicery, artisanal bakery, full-service restaurant, specialty store and craft cocktail lounge.

When you reach Virginia Street, you’ll have the option of going straight on Delaware to connect to the **Downtown I Walking Tour** (pages 11 and 12).

To continue on the Allentown & Delaware Walking Tour, turn left on Virginia Street. You’ll pass a variety of notable 19th century residences before turning left onto **NORTH PEARL STREET**. North Pearl is one of the
This elegant row of a dozen luxury townhouses constitutes the most urbane streetscape in Buffalo. Such dwellings are unique in this city, where freestanding houses have always been affordable. Though each house is of different design, all present the appearance of a unified composition through similarities in height, width and compatibility of materials, a goal that was achieved through the common consent of the clients and their architects.

George Cary, Green & Wicks, Marling & Johnson, Lansing & Beierl, 1892-1896
finest examples of a Victorian residential street in Buffalo. One of the main attractions of Buffalo’s annual Garden Walk, North Pearl residents clearly pride themselves on cultivating their modestly sized urban gardens.

At 5 ALLEN STREET, go left to continue your walk down what was once a well-trod cow path belonging to farmer Lewis Allen. You’ll find shops selling everything from dresses to furniture to books. Plan to stroll slowly along this stretch of the walk, since the window-shopping is superb. If hunger should hit, you’ll find numerous dining options like Cantina Loco, Billy Club, Allen Burger Venture, Melting Point, Allen Street Poutine, Colter Bay, Allen Street Hardware and more. (Tip: 6 GABRIEL’S GATE at 145 Allen, a stop on the Buffalo Wing Trail, is a place many locals swear by when asked to name Buffalo’s best chicken wings, and 7 NIETZSCHE’S at 248 Allen hosts live music most nights.)

After crossing Elmwood Avenue, you’ll pass the 8 ALLENDALE THEATRE. Built in 1913, the theater was restored in 1999 and is now home to the Theatre of Youth, a critically acclaimed company that entertains thousands of parents and their children every year.

Moving west on Allen, turn right on College Street before turning left into the delightful 9 ARLINGTON PARK. This charming Victorian-era square dates from 1866 and is surrounded by Italianate and Second Empire houses. Linger for a moment in the peace and quiet of this urban sanctuary, secluded from the bustle of the nearby streets.
Built in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, this is also the first major work of the city's premier architectural firm. The Medina sandstone exterior features exceptional carved capitals in the entry porch, which opens into an extraordinary Byzantine interior reminiscent of St. Mark's in Venice. This richly painted sanctuary is lit by some of the finest stained glass windows in the city.
Leaving the square from its northwest corner, go a half block north and turn left onto North Street. A few steps more and you’ll enter Frederick Law Olmsted’s Symphony Circle, so called due to the presence of Eliel and Eero Saarinen’s **KLEINHANS MUSIC HALL** (see page 36) on the circle’s southwest corner. Walk along the left edge of the circle to get a better look at Kleinhans, home to the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Buffalo Chamber Music Society. For much of the year, the reflecting pool at the building’s eastern end offers one of the great urban vistas in Buffalo, creating a mirror for the towering and elegant **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** (see page 37) that lies across Pennsylvania Street.

Cross Porter Avenue and move around Symphony Circle’s northwest edge. Admire the lovely **BIRGE MANSION** on the opposite corner. Built in 1897 for George Birge, an early investor in the Pierce-Arrow Motor Car Company, the Georgian-style mansion was modeled along the lines of a villa Mr. Birge had seen on the Riviera.

Two blocks north on Richmond Avenue, turn left on Summer Street into what is known as the “**COTTAGE DISTRICT,**” a collection of quaint brick cottages dating from as early as the 1850s. “Little Summer,” as it is sometimes called, is another highlight of the Garden Walk, held every summer during the last weekend of July.

Turn right on York Street and return to Richmond. Go left on Richmond, noting the presence across the street of the former home of **TEMPLE BETH EL,** a synagogue dating from 1910. One block north, turn right onto Bryant Street. At the corner of Bryant and Ashland Avenue, you’ll pass by **TRATTORIA AROMA,** a highly regarded Italian restaurant known for al fresco dining on its inviting veranda in the summertime.
This striking modernist presence on Buffalo’s most prestigious avenue is home to the city’s oldest Reform congregation. The ten scalloped wall panels represent the Ten Commandments, while their outward pitch symbolizes arms outstretched in prayer. Inside, the oval sanctuary is lit by two large stained glass windows designed by Ben Shahn, facing east and west, as well as a clerestory beneath the roof. A Judaic museum is also housed in the complex.
Continuing east on Bryant, cross Elmwood before turning right onto **Oakland Place**, a charming enclave of truly gracious and impressive homes representing a wide variety of architectural styles. This street is without a doubt one of Buffalo’s treasures, hidden in plain sight. A stroll down this leafy lane is a step back to a bygone America that prized craftsmanship and quality.

Turn left on Summer Street for one block before making another left onto Delaware Avenue and “Millionaire’s Row,” a stretch of opulent mansions that were once home to the city’s wealthy businessmen, merchants and entrepreneurs. The homes they constructed were symbols of the city’s rising fortunes and the status their owners had attained in the then burgeoning metropolis. Moving north along the avenue you’ll pass the **Clement Mansion** (786 Delaware Avenue) designed by Buffalo’s foremost architect, E.B. Green.

Next door stands the **Knox Mansion**, the work of C.P.H. Gilbert, who is best known for his work along Fifth Avenue in New York City. Directly across the street from these monuments to 19th century commerce stands the counterpoint of **Temple Beth Zion** (see page 39), an uncompromising modernist statement built in the mid-1960s. Tours are available by appointment and include the Cofeld Judaic Museum.

Moving north on Delaware, stop to admire the grandeur of the **CAMPANILE**, one of Buffalo’s finest apartment buildings, at the corner of Bryant Street. Dating from 1929, the building features Italian Renaissance Revival details.

Turn right on Bryant and walk one block to **Linwood Avenue**. Turn right on Linwood to explore another wonderful neighborhood. Consisting of Vernacular, Second Empire, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Stick, Shingle, Queen Anne, Georgian and Colonial Revival style homes, Linwood is yet another architecture lover’s tour de force.

Continue on Linwood before turning right on North Street. At Delaware Avenue, pause a moment to admire the **Williams-Butler Mansion**. Then turn left to return to your starting point, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site.
This palatial mansion of Roman brick and terra cotta recalls the lifestyle of Buffalo’s many millionaires, when this was the eighth largest city in the country. Built for a banker and later occupied by the publisher of The Buffalo News, the home’s rich interiors are largely intact. It was designed by the nation’s leading architectural firm of the period, who also designed the adjacent house at 690 Delaware Avenue.
Stroll along tree-lined, residential streets with lush gardens, relax in cafes and coffeehouses, shop at independently owned boutiques and experience the beauty of parkways designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.
GATES CIRCLE AND CHAPIN PARKWAY
Start at 1 **SPOT COFFEE** in the heart of the Elmwood Village at the corner of Elmwood Avenue and Cleveland Avenue. As you set off east on Cleveland you’ll immediately come across the 2 **CHEMICAL NO. 5 FIREHOUSE**. This striking edifice has been adapted for use as a residence and is one of the few buildings in Buffalo with Art Nouveau details. The station was originally built to accommodate horse-drawn firefighting equipment.

Turn right on 3 **TUDOR PLACE**, a street of beautiful turn-of-the-century mansions. Go left on West Ferry Street, so named for the ferry that once took travelers across the Niagara River to Fort Erie, Ontario on the river’s far shore. To your left you’ll notice one of Buffalo’s most impressive apartment buildings, 4 **800 WEST FERRY**.

Turn left on Delaware Avenue and pass the gracious campus of 5 **CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL**, which touts the late television journalist and best-selling author Tim Russert among its graduates. It was on this site, in the long-demolished Milburn House, that President William McKinley died after being shot at the Pan-American Exposition of 1901.

Continue north on Delaware to Gates Circle, one of many traffic circles that are a part of Buffalo’s 6 **FREDERICK LAW OLMSSTED-DESIGNED PARKWAYS**. The circle’s ornate light standards and fountain originated on the drawing table of Buffalo architect E.B. Green.
Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed New York City’s Central Park, once called Buffalo the best planned city in the nation, which he greatly enriched with the first integrated park and parkway system in the United States. South of Delaware Park (the largest of Olmsted’s three original Buffalo parks), reach Lincoln, Bidwell and Chapin Parkways. These 200-foot wide “linear parks” serve to extend the park lands into the heart of the residential areas. These parkways were originally shaded by a towering canopy of Elm trees.
Walk along the western rim of the circle and proceed to your left down Chapin Parkway, one of the city’s most gracious avenues. Named in honor of Col. Edward Chapin, who was killed during the Civil War, Chapin Parkway is a street of impressive homes dating from the early 20th century, including an example (at NO. 121) of work by Esenwein & Johnson, one of Buffalo’s most notable local architectural firms from its turn-of-the-century heyday.

At West Delavan, go left and make a slight detour to the beautiful home and gardens of Jennifer Guercio at NO. 755. This lovely Victorian home is one of the highlights of the annual Garden Walk Buffalo.

Return to Chapin Parkway and continue left to Soldier’s Circle. Here, you have the option of connecting to the Museum District Walking Tour (page 48).

To continue on the Elmwood Village Walking Tour, proceed down Bidwell Parkway, named for local Civil War hero General Daniel Davidson Bidwell and home to a
Saturday farmers market from May through November and a regular schedule of concerts throughout the summer.

Stop at 9 CAFFÉ AROMA at the corner of Bidwell and Elmwood for a cup of coffee and then browse the well-stocked shelves of Talking Leaves Books next door.

Cross Elmwood Avenue and turn right on Dorchester, a gem of a street that will connect you to tree-lined Richmond Avenue. Turn left on Richmond, which will bring you to Colonial Circle – notice the 10 STATUE OF BIDWELL in the center. Bear left around the circle and take the branch of Lafayette Avenue that runs alongside St. John’s Grace Episcopal Church.

Turn right on Elmwood and window shop your way back to your starting point at Cleveland Avenue. You’ll pass a variety of restaurants, coffee shops, cafes and boutiques, including the 11 LEXINGTON CO-OP, 12 TREEHOUSE TOYS, 13 BUFFALO SHOPCRAFT, 14 BUFFALO FLEECE & OUTERWEAR and many other shops.
Take in world-class modern and contemporary art at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, stand alongside the largest commission of H.H. Richardson’s career, walk past a home by Frank Lloyd Wright and explore Frederick Law Olmsted’s Delaware Park.

LENGTH 2.4 MILES » WALKING TIME 1 HR
Built as the New York State Pavilion for the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, this was the only major building of the fair to be constructed of permanent materials. It is built of white Vermont marble, with a monumental Doric portico overlooking Mirror Lake.

In contrast to the exterior, the striking interior court with Ionic colonnade and grand staircase is built of black marble. Both the east and west wings were expanded to their current lengths in 1925. Founded in 1862, the History Museum has made its home here since 1902.

Begin at the 1 BUFFALO HISTORY MUSEUM (One Museum Court, at the corner of Nottingham Terrace and Elmwood Avenue), home to exhibits about Buffalo’s Native American, pioneer, industrial and ethnic heritage. The museum features an exhibit on the late, great Tim Russert, one of Buffalo’s favorite sons. Take a walk around the exterior of the museum and you’ll find the building’s stunning portico, as well as a beautiful view of Frederick Law Olmsted’s Delaware Park and the JAPANESE GARDEN, which blooms every spring with cherry blossoms.

Walking away from the museum’s Elmwood Avenue entrance, turn left on Elmwood and cross over a bridge that spans both the Scajaquada Expressway and Scajaquada Creek. On your left, you’ll see the 2 ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY, home to one of the world’s finest collections of modern and contemporary art, including works by Pollock, de Kooning and Warhol. The gallery also houses the AK café – a great spot for lunch. The Albright-Knox will be closed for approximately two years (2020-2021) as it undertakes its first expansion in nearly 50 years.

On your right, you’ll see two prominent buildings on the campus of SUNY Buffalo State – first, 3 ROCKWELL HALL (1928, William Haugaard), which hosts concerts and performances throughout the year, then the 4 BURCHFIELD PENNEY ART CENTER (see page 52). Opened in 2008, the Burchfield Penney is dedicated to
A gift of local industrialist John J. Albright, this was intended to be the art gallery of the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, but delays in procuring the marble from Maryland postponed its construction. The design is derived from the Erechtheum, one of the great buildings of ancient Greece, and features twin porches of eight caryatids (columns rendered in human form) that were the last work of the great sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The International style 1962 addition is the work of Buffalo native Gordon Bunshaft, chief designer for the prominent firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.
the work of Western New York artists. The Front Yard project turns the outside of the property into a dazzling display each night.

Just past the Albright-Knox, turn left on Penthurst Place. Then turn right on Penthurst Park, a lovely hidden street with a grassy median. When you reach Forest Avenue, turn right and cross over Elmwood Avenue. When you reach the junction of Richmond Avenue, turn right and see the imposing towers of the 6 RICHARDSON OLMSTED CAMPUS, designed by H.H. Richardson, now Hotel Henry and the future home of the Lipsey Architecture Center Buffalo, the city’s first exhibit space dedicated to telling the story of its remarkable architectural legacy.

Double back to Elmwood Avenue and turn right. You’ll be greeted by a bevy of great casual dining options, including 6 INDIA GATE, 7 COLE’S and 8 LOUIE’S on your right and 9 PANOS on your left.

When you reach the corner of Bird Avenue, turn left. Two blocks down, you’ll come to Soldier’s Circle and the 10 WILLIAM R. HEATH HOUSE (see page 55), by Frank Lloyd Wright. Please note that this is a private residence and not open for tours.

From here, you have the option of connecting to the Elmwood Village Walking Tour (page 42).
Formerly known as the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, this monumental complex of Medina sandstone and brick buildings was designed by H. H. Richardson, and it was the largest commission of that great architect’s career. The grounds were laid out by Olmsted, Vaux & Co., simultaneously with their design for the city’s park and parkway system.

The 88-room Hotel Henry Urban Resort Conference Center opened within the property in 2017.
To continue on the Museum District Tour, turn left on Lincoln Parkway and see some of Buffalo’s most impressive **MANSIONS**, many of which were built during the city’s industrial heyday at the turn of the 20th century. After you pass Forest Avenue and Rumsey Road, you’ll see Delaware Park on your right. Behind the park’s **ROSE GARDEN** is **SHAKESPEARE HILL**, home to Buffalo’s free Shakespeare in Delaware Park series, which runs each summer, and is home to a restaurant with a sweeping view of Olmsted’s legacy, The Terrace at Delaware Park. As you continue along Lincoln Parkway, you’ll also see **HOYT LAKE**, which has summer row-boat rentals.

On your left, you’ll see the grand steps and portico of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. Just past the gallery, turn left on Iroquois Drive. Then turn right on Elmwood Avenue, which will bring you back to your starting point at the Buffalo History Museum.
The first residential commission Wright received in Buffalo, this large red brick Prairie-style house is situated on a long narrow lot, a precursor to the architect’s famous Robie House in Chicago. Despite being located along the sidewalk, privacy is enhanced by the elevation of the main floor, a low key entrance beside the massive chimney, and a broad porch accessible only from the house. *This is a private residence and not open for tours.

William R. Heath House
76 Soldiers Place

Frank Lloyd Wright, 1903-1905
This tour will take you past two homes built by America’s greatest architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, and through a neighborhood and park designed by America’s greatest landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted.
Begin your walking tour at Frank Lloyd Wright’s 1 Darwin D. Martin House Complex at 125 Jewett Parkway. This magnificent estate is the largest residence ever designed by Wright and consists of the Darwin D. Martin House, the George Barton House, the Gardener’s Cottage, a conservatory and a carriage house. The estate is considered to be of extraordinary historical significance because it was designed as a group of interrelated and connected buildings, the only occasion in Wright’s prolific career that he had the opportunity to design a multi-structure residential complex. Visitors are invited to tour the Complex, which recently completed a 25-year restoration. A newly constructed visitors center, designed by Toshiko Mori, interprets the work of Wright and the life of Darwin D. Martin.

As you exit the grounds of the Martin House, turn your gaze to the 2 Wicks House at 124 Jewett Parkway. Dating from 1890, this impressive structure was designed by architect William Sydney Wicks, who made it his home for more than 30 years.

Go left on Jewett Parkway to Summit Avenue. On the opposite corner, note the 3 Church of the Good Shepherd. This modest, yet sturdy, Romanesque chapel is highlighted by stained glass windows from the Tiffany studio.
This is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, which was originated by one of the nation’s greatest architects, H. H. Richardson. His influence is clearly visible in the clean lines and strong massing of the rugged limestone exterior, designed by his former draftsman Herbert C. Burdett after the latter moved to Buffalo. The impressive interior features eleven early Tiffany windows, and is one of the company’s last.
A deer paddock set up in the northeast corner of the new Delaware Park in 1875 was the start of the present zoological gardens, still in its original location. Formal establishment in 1894 was followed by several proposals to erect modern zoo buildings, of which only the imposing brick and stone Elephant House (1912, Esenwein & Johnson) was built. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided the impetus for several buildings built from 1938 to 1942 that still form the core of the zoo, enhanced by new facilities added since.

Proceeding left on Summit Avenue, enter the heart of this Great American Neighborhood. You’ll find Victorian, Queen Anne, Tudor, Bungalow and Shingle style houses one after the other, ample evidence of why Parkside is on the National Register of Historic Places.

At Russell Street, turn left again. Walk past Woodward to Parkside Avenue and Fairy Cakes, Jam and Parkside Meadow. Enjoy a warm meal or brunch at Parkside Meadow, perk up with an espresso from JAM Parkside, or head right for dessert with Fairy Cakes’ delicious and colorfully creative sweets and pastries.

Across Parkside Avenue stands the Buffalo Zoo, the third oldest zoo in the United States. If your schedule allows, stop in and check out the always entertaining river otters and sea lions, or make your way to Rainforest Falls, an enclosed, year-round exhibit that brings visitors up close to vampire bats, anacondas, anteaters, piranhas and other inhabitants of the South American rainforest.

Facing the Zoo entrance, go right on Parkside Avenue. Cross Amherst Street and proceed one more block to Tillinghast Place. Walk down this lovely, tree-lined street to the middle of the block where you’ll find another Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home at No. 57.
Although the **WALTER V. DAVIDSON HOUSE** is a relatively modest house, it has the horizontal lines and expansive eaves that are characteristic of Wright’s Prairie style. Please keep in mind that the Davidson House is a private residence and not open for tours.

Continue to the end of Tillinghast and make a left on Colvin Avenue. Cross Amherst Street and enter **DELAWARE PARK**, part of a series of expansive parks and parkways Frederick Law Olmsted designed for Buffalo between 1868 and 1898. Delaware Park is the largest park in Buffalo’s Olmsted system and the focal point of year-round athletic activity, ranging from rollerblading and soccer in summer to cross country skiing in winter.

Proceed straight into the park and make a left on what locals call the “Ring” Road. On your left, you’ll find the year-round home of the Zoo’s American Bison. These large and impressive animals that once covered the Great Plains by the millions have served as the emblem of the City of Buffalo since its founding.

To conclude your walk, proceed around the Ring Road to the entrance to the Zoo parking lot at Jewett Parkway. Go left on Jewett, cross Parkside Avenue and return to the Martin House.

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**WALTER V. DAVIDSON HOUSE**

57 TILLINGHAST PLACE

Frank Lloyd Wright, 1908

Despite a much lower budget than the nearby Martin House Complex, Wright produced another innovative design using less expensive materials — in this case, frame, stucco and clear glass. The horizontal emphasis of low hip roofs with deep eaves and bands of windows is juxtaposed against the verticality of a two story living room lit by a tall bay window facing east. *Please note that this private home is not open for tours.*
East Aurora

The village of East Aurora, located 20 minutes southeast of Buffalo, can stake claim to the residence of an American president – Millard Fillmore – and the birthplace of the American Arts & Crafts Movement – the Roycroft Campus. Today, its quaint Main Street is filled with shops, restaurants and an old-fashioned movie theater.
The inn began as the original Roycroft print shop, the first building built on the campus. A bindery and related buildings were soon added, and the Gothic style of the first sections gave way to an austere classicism. When the artisans moved across the street into new buildings, the original ones were converted into the Roycroft Inn during 1903-1905. These spaces are among the finest Arts and Crafts movement interiors in the nation, beautifully embellished by the resident artists. After years of neglect, the inn was beautifully restored and reopened in 1995.

As the 20th century dawned, so did the age of the machine. While businessmen licked their lips at the prospect of such efficiency, another much smaller group fought against the tide to ensure that the unique beauty and quality of hand-made items would live on. They called their cause the Arts & Crafts Movement, and no American became more closely associated with its ideals than Elbert Hubbard, who founded the Roycroft Movement in East Aurora.
Beginning as a successful printing shop that practiced the old ways of handmade bookmaking, Hubbard’s venture grew into an entire campus of craftsmen, including a blacksmith, copper and furniture shops, and its own farm, bank and inn. At its height, the campus was one of the main centers of creative expression in the United States – its guestbook included the likes of Susan B. Anthony, Thomas Edison, Theodore Roosevelt, Booker T. Washington, Rudyard Kipling and Harry Houdini.

Perhaps equally impressive to Hubbard’s vision is the fact that much of it is not only still standing – it’s still functional. Visitors spend their days shopping for handcrafted treasures and taking classes in a wide variety of aesthetic mediums, including glass blowing, screen printing, bookbinding and stained glass. And the ROYCROFT INN (40 South Grove Street) is a beautifully renovated inn and restaurant that’s imbued with an equal blend of elegance and rusticity.

Begin your walk at the Roycroft Inn. Looking across the street, you’ll find the rest of the Roycroft Campus, highlighted by the COPPER SHOP, the CHAPEL and the newly rebuilt POWER HOUSE.

After exploring the Roycroft Campus, walk to the corner of Main Street and turn right.
On your left, you’ll see **MEIBOHM FINE ARTS**, which has been in operation for more than 110 years and offers works by an impressive group of American and international artists. On your right, you’ll pass **ARRIBA TORTILLA**, a Mexican restaurant with a great patio, and East Aurora Cooperative Market.

Pass under the railway bridge and turn left on Riley Street. On your left, you’ll come to **RILEY STREET STATION**, a 1917 train station converted into a bar and restaurant. Next door is the **HEALTHY ZONE RINK**, which features the portable ice rink that was originally used on Jan. 1, 2008 for the first NHL Winter Classic at Ralph Wilson Stadium.

Double back to **MAIN STREET** and turn left. The next two blocks are filled with restaurants and cafes, like Griffon Gastropub and Taste (which are both housed in a converted 1918 grain facility), Rick’s on Main, 42 North Brewing Company and The Globe Hotel. You’ll also find independently owned shops, ranging from clothing boutiques like The Dress Shop to Limelite Music, which features an impressive line-up of Gibson and Fender guitars. Head down **ELM STREET** to visit Musejar Art Supply Shop and Red Fish Gallery. Get a smoothie at Kornerstone Café, sushi at Yoshi or grab a meal anytime at Elm Street Bakery.

Along the way, you’ll come to two East Aurora landmarks. On your right, you’ll see the **AURORA THEATRE**, an old-fashioned movie house that opened in 1925. On your left, you’ll find **VIDLER’S 5 & 10**, a deceptively huge store that has been offering everything from cookware to penny candies for more than 80 years.

As you cross over Olean Street, you’ll be leaving East Aurora’s downtown district and entering a stretch of lovely homes. Turn right on Elmwood Avenue, walk up a slight incline, and then turn right on Oakwood Avenue.

At the corner of Olean Street, you’ll pass the **HAMPTON INN**. As you approach the corner of Elm Street, you’ll find the 1825 **GENERAL RILEY HOUSE**, **WALLENWEIN’S** restaurant and the **LITTLE RED CABOOSE** ice cream stand. Continue on Oakwood. At number 363, you’ll reach the **ELBERT HUBBARD ROYCROFT MUSEUM**. Located
in a home built in 1910 by Roycroft Craftsmen, it is filled with beautifully-illuminated books and handmade furniture and copper goods.

Turn right on Center Street and walk a block to Main Street. On your right, you’ll see the **BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**. Completed in 1928, this church features 17 Tiffany windows.

At this point, if you turn left, you’ll find a pair of popular casual restaurants. **PASQUALE’S** offers Italian classics and **BAR-BILL TAVERN**, appearing on the Buffalo Wing Trail, serves some of Western New York’s best wings, featuring a sauce that marries heat and sweetness. Or grab a seat and try an impressive selection of craft beers at **AURORA BREW WORKS**.

To continue on the tour, go straight, crossing over Main Street onto Shearer Avenue. On your right, you’ll see the **MILLARD FILLMORE HOUSE**, a building that was once home to America’s 13th president.

Double back to Main Street and turn left. You’ll pass the **EAST AURORA MIDDLE SCHOOL** on your left, which features statues of Elbert Hubbard (1930, Jerome Connor) and Michelangelo (1908, Paul Bartlett) on its front lawn. Turn right on South Grove Street to return to your starting point at the Roycroft Inn.
Check out our online walking tour at BUFFALOONFOOT.COM