

# Motor City Renaissance: Architecture, Innovation, and Creative Transformation Study Tour

Wednesday, June 3 - Sunday, June 7, 2026

Itinerary (subject to change)

## Wednesday, June 3

After arriving in Detroit on your selected flight, settle in at the historic, newly renovated [Hotel David Whitney](#). Check-in time is 3:00 P.M. From this central location you can walk to [Parker's Alley](#) and many other shops and restaurants, Campus Martius Park, the Riverwalk, and more (we'll provide maps and suggestions).

We'll gather for a welcome dinner in a private room at Shinola's [San Morello](#) restaurant, a 5-minute stroll from our hotel.

## Thursday, June 4

We'll have a private early morning visit to the 1,100-acre [Ford Rouge Plant](#) in Dearborn, where we'll watch F-150 trucks being assembled by teams of humans and robots, and learn about other features like the truck testing track and the green factory roofs. *(Note: assembly is scheduled for that day, but there is always a chance of maintenance shutdowns.)*

Our next stop is The Ford Museum complex, which includes two options: the [Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation](#) and [Greenfield Village](#). Each is terrific but huge, so we encourage you to choose one and explore until it's time for lunch.

A majority of Dearborn residents are of Arab descent, and the city has many interesting restaurant options. We'll sample the Middle Eastern fare at [Malek al Kabob](#) and then make the 20-minute drive back to central Detroit.

Our early afternoon visits: [Michigan Central Station](#), sparkling after its recent billion-dollar renovation; the adjacent [NewLab](#), a tech incubator in a former Albert Kahn-designed post office; the nearby [Guardian Building](#)'s spectacular lobby; and, if time, a ride on the free elevated [People Mover](#), with its 20-minute loop.

After a break, we'll meet for a casual dinner; we are choosing among several options.

## Friday, June 5

Our day will begin on [Belle Isle](#), where we'll visit the newly restored Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and the Aquarium, as well as the acclaimed 3-acre [Oudolf Garden Detroit](#).

We'll then return to the mainland to tour the 1913 home of the [Scarab Club](#), an artists' club, gallery, and studio, with its director. We'll remain in the historic second floor lounge for a casual lunch beneath beams signed by artists including Marcel Duchamp, Margaret Bourke-White, and Diego Rivera.

After our meal, we'll cross the street for a tour of the [Detroit Institute of Arts](#), where highlights include its Rivera murals, its reimagined African American Galleries (2025), and its revitalized modern art galleries (2026).

We'll then make the short drive to [Pewabic Pottery](#) (1903), one of the oldest continuously operating potteries in the U.S., and the nearby [Shepherd](#) arts collective, and conclude our afternoon with a brief combined bus/walking tour of the [Indian Village](#) Historic District, with its significant early 20th century homes.

We'll have a relaxed evening: dinner on your own; join the group leaders for a casual meal; return to the Detroit Institute of Arts, which is open until 9 PM; or whatever you choose.

### **Saturday, June 6**

Our first stop this morning will be to the spectacular [Fisher Building](#) (1928), by Albert Kahn. We'll continue on to Frank Lloyd Wright's [Dorothy Turkel House](#), where its owners will tell us of bringing the house back to life, a four-year project that included restoring 500+ windows.

After lunch in Bloomfield Hills, we'll visit the [Cranbrook Educational Community](#). Highlights of the 319-acre campus include the Eliel [Saarinen House](#), the [Cranbrook Academy of Art](#), Steven Holl's addition to the [Institute of Science](#), and the [Cranbrook Art Museum](#).

That evening we'll meet on a private terrace at the [Monarch Club](#) (across the street from our hotel) for a farewell gathering.

### **Sunday, June 7**

Our bus will be available at 8:30 AM to take guests to the airport.

*Note: Guests are responsible for making travel arrangements to and from Detroit. The trip includes breakfast vouchers for the Hotel David Whitney Thursday through Sunday, lunches Friday through Sunday, and dinners Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Wine and cocktails at dinners are also included. This study tour will include extensive walking.*