

Grand Rapids Post Tour

Grand Rapids: A Perfect Palate of Art, Fall, and Flavor

Experience the vibrant energy of Grand Rapids, Michigan's second-largest city and one of CNN's Top 10 Best American Towns (2024). This 2-night/3-day post-tour (Sept 14 – 16) is a curated celebration of art, design, fall color, and unforgettable flavors.

Stay at the elegant Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, explore the internationally acclaimed Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, and enjoy the simple pleasures of a local apple orchard. Wander through downtown on a guided mural tour, step into the iconic Meyer May House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and ride the whimsical 1928 Spillman Carousel at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

Savor locally inspired cuisine and toast the evening in the city crowned *Best Beer City* by USA Today—five years in a row.

Whether you're seeking inspiration, connection, or just a beautiful escape, Grand Rapids offers a perfect blend of culture, color, and craft.

Story Ideas:

- **A Romantic Escape** – A couple's getaway to indulge in bold fall colors, world-class art, and cozy moments in a walkable, vibrant mid-size city. Think of sculpture garden strolls, cider sips, and evenings lit by city lights.
- **The Ultimate Girls' Getaway** – Grab your best friends and fill your camera roll with art, laughter, and vibrant backdrops. From selfie-worthy murals to boutique bites and craft beverage tastings, this trip is all about fun, friendship, and fabulous memories.
- **A Cultural Deep Dive** – For the art lover or lifelong learner, this itinerary offers an immersive journey through modern art history, an architectural icon by Frank Lloyd Wright, and a city that treats creativity as a way of life.

Tour Details

Length of tour: 2 nights, 3 days

Minimum: 2, Maximum 5

Activity level: 2 – 3, This tour does encourage walking and self-exploration. To fully enjoy the trip, it is best to consider walking at a normal pace.

Transportation: Grand Rapids is conveniently only 2.5 hours by car from Downtown Detroit. We are also located only 3 hours from downtown Chicago.

- **Arrival:** Guests will be picked up in Detroit and driven to Grand Rapids for this tour. We will pick you up at 9:30 am on September 14 and begin the tour in the afternoon. Guests with their own car can meet us at Grand Rapids for the tour. Guests who drive themselves will be offered complimentary parking at the hotel.
- **Departure:** Guests who fly should plan to depart from GRR (Grand Rapids). Guests will be responsible for their own travel back to Detroit airport if they choose not to depart from Grand Rapids.

Accessibility & Travel Arrangements

Experience Grand Rapids will do all they can to accommodate individuals with mobility challenges, however guests requiring transportation in a wheelchair will need to rent and provide a driver for all their transportation needs, including on the tour and to/from Detroit. We suggest working with Creative Mobility Group.

Unfortunately, the historic The Meyer May house is not able to accommodate guests in wheelchairs and a substitute museum will be suggested. In addition, the visit to the apple orchard will have limited accessibility based on individual's wheelchair needs.

Grand Rapids Post Tour Itinerary

The organizers will cover admission to attractions and all gratuities during planned meals and provide two drinks per person during planned social events and meals. Participants will be responsible for any additional alcoholic beverages beyond the two drinks provided and any personal expenses not specified above.

Sunday, September 14th

9:30 AM- 1:00: Travel and Arrival

- Guests will be picked up at 9:30 AM at the Westin Book Cadillac and transported to Grand Rapids.
- Lunch will be provided.

1:00 – 2:30 PM: Lunch and Hotel Check in if rooms are ready [Amway Grand Plaza Hotel](#).

- Activity level: 2

3:00 – 4:30 PM: Tour the [Meyer May House](#)

- Activity level: 4
- Begin your visit with a 35-minute film, "The Renewing of a Vision," detailing the history of the Meyer May House. Following the film, enjoy a 50-minute docent-led tour of this beautifully restored Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home, showcasing its architectural brilliance and historical significance.

4:30 PM – Alternative Hotel Check in

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM: Downtown Mural Tour

- Activity level: 4
- Explore Grand Rapids' vibrant art scene with a guided mural tour through downtown. Discover stunning murals and learn the stories behind each masterpiece.

7:00 – 8:30 PM: Dinner at [Founders Brewing Co.](#)

- Activity level: 2
- Savor locally inspired cuisine and toast the evening at Founders Brewing Co, located in the city crowned *Best Beer City*. Enjoy a delightful dining experience paired with exceptional craft beers.

Monday, September 15th

8:00 – 9:00 AM: Breakfast at Morning Belle. Meet in the hotel lobby at 7:45.

9:15 AM – 12:00 PM: Explore [Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park](#)

- Activity level: 3
- Discover 158 acres of horticultural beauty at one of the world's top 45 most-visited art museums. Marvel at over 200 stunning sculptures that seamlessly merge art and nature while enjoying a tram tour through the gardens. Recognized as the Best Sculpture Park in the United States by USA Today readers in 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- 11:00 -12:00 PM: Enjoy lunch at the James & Shirley Balk Café, located within the Frederik Meijer Gardens.

12:30 – 2:00 PM: Visit [Ed Dunneback & Girls Farm.](#)

- Activity level: 4
- Discover Ed Dunneback and Girls Farm, located on The Fruit Ridge, one of the world's prime fruit growing regions. This fifth-generation family-owned farm near downtown Grand Rapids offers homemade delicacies and locally produced beer, wine, and hard cider.

2:30 – 4:30 PM: Explore the [Grand Rapids Public Museum](#).

- Activity level: 3
- This world-class public museum features exhibits on history, nature, cultural heritage, and more. Guests can ride the 1928 Spillman carousel, catch a show in the planetarium, or dine in the café overlooking the Grand River.

4:30 – 5:30 PM: Hotel Break

- Activity level: 2
- Take a relaxing one-hour break at the hotel to unwind and recharge before continuing with the day's activities.

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM: Dinner

- Activity level: 2
- Enjoy a delightful farm-to-table dinner at one of the city's finest restaurants, savoring fresh, locally sourced cuisine in a welcoming atmosphere.

Tuesday, September 16th

Departure: Attendees are responsible for arranging their own departure from Grand Rapids.