

The Queen City of the *Empire State*

FAM  TRIP

The thing you need to UNDERSTAND about Buffalo, New York, is that the *architecture* is serious.



ALL (WRIGHT!) Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin D. Martin House

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UFFALO IS A CITY of endless, calorie-laden food choices, offbeat museums, quirky neighborhoods and some early-20th-century architectural gems.

Begin your day in the Queen City of the Empire State with a stop at Buffalo's Art Deco-style **City Hall**. Set in an octagonal footprint and topped with a majestic glass dome, the 32-story protoskyscraper boasts a 28th-floor observatory, eight enormous columns with carved friezes, and sculptures of presidents Millard Fillmore and Grover Cleveland, both of whom practiced law here. Free tours are offered weekdays, noon to 1 p.m., by the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier.

Architecture buffs will savor the **Darwin D. Martin House** complex, brainchild of Frank Lloyd Wright. Considered by some the finest example of Wright's Prairie House style, the complex, consisting of five houses, includes a glass-roofed conservatory and a 100-foot-long pergola.

And even those who don't usually ooh and ah over buildings will be awed by the **Buffalo State Hospital**.

Looking like something straight out of a Stephen King bestseller, the spooky Gothic Revival building and grounds were designed to baronial splendor by renowned 19th-century architect H.H. Richardson.

Equally guaranteed to induce a frisson—of excitement rather than horror—is the stately **Albright-Knox Art Gallery**. Built to serve as the Fine Arts Pavilion of the 1901 Pan-

ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY
Sailor With Guitar, by Jacques Lipchitz



American Exposition, it is surrounded by 102 columns, more than any other building in the United States with the exception of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The museum houses a rich collection of 19th- and 20th-century paintings, including *La Musique*, by Henri Matisse. Kick off your shoes and explore the fun house-like *Mirrored Room*, a life-size "environmental sculpture" complete with a mirror-covered table and chair. If you're in town for the weekend, enjoy a leisurely Sunday brunch at the museum's Garden Restaurant, overlooking a contemplative sculpture garden.

For more wanderings out of the ordinary, take a tour of **QRS Music Technologies**, the world's only remaining factory that makes player piano rolls. Head south to the **Buffalo Transportation/Pierce Arrow Museum** to inspect antique cars, bicycles and trucks dating from the 1890s to the 1960s. The **Big Orbit Gallery** offers nontraditional art created by home-grown artists. By night, get an earful of avant-garde music at the gallery's **Soundlab** performance space, located nearby. →

HERE'S THE BEEF
Beef on week, that is, at Homey Schwab's



ONE-OF-A-KIND Room has it—your home wants it.



BULLY FOR YOU
Enjoy adults-only dining at Toro Tapas Bar.

PIERCE ARROW
Cruise the transportation museum.



Allentown and Elmwood neighborhoods are great places to stroll, shop, nosh and people-watch. Everything, even the chairs you sit on to eat your lunch, are for sale at retro **Off the Wall**, a laid-back and enlightened cafe and gallery. Free-spirited book lovers will flock to **Talking Leaves**, Buffalo's oldest independent bookstore, while those in search of the perfect one-of-a-kind coffee table or other home furnishings should head for **Room**.

Wind up your day by splitting an order of hearty paella with a friend at **Toro Tapas Bar**. Accompanied by a glass of sherry or bottle of New York state riesling, it's a perfect way to recharge your batteries. After dinner, follow the locals to the nearby American Falls section of **Niagara Falls**, where you can see both the American and the Canadian sides of the cascades hatbed in colored lights year-round.

—Jill Yesko

No trip to Buffalo would be complete without a bellyful of chicken wings. Sit under the winged buffalo mascot and order your wings prepared "suicidal" at the **Anchor Bar Restaurant**, said to be the originator of this pub grub staple. Less well-known but equally beloved by Buffalonians is the "beef on weck," a slow-roasted roast beef sandwich topped with horseradish and served on a caraway kimmelweck—a salty, kaiser-type roll. It's a specialty of **Homey Schwab's Restaurant**,

enhanced by a side of German potato salad and locally brewed Flying Bison beer. Whenever you're hungry again, **Ristorante Lombardo's** homemade tagliatelle, served with an egg sunny side up and followed by a piece of sinful "frou-frou cake"—layers of white chocolate mousse topped with white chocolate shavings—should not be missed.

East Buffalo's **Broadway Market** offers a unique culinary experience year-round and during the week before Easter: the century-old, 90,000-square-foot covered market is packed cheek by jowl with shoppers in search of comestibles and tchotchkes from jewelry to handicrafts.

FIRST STOP
Take the free tour of Buffalo's 32-story, Art Deco-style City Hall.

On the Monday after Easter, throngs of Buffalonians take to the streets of the city's Polish neighborhoods to celebrate Dyngus Day, a rollicking revival of an all-but-forgotten Polish holiday that signals the end of Lent. During this G-rated mating ritual, boys douse girls, and vice versa, with squirt guns and buckets of water, or swat each other with pussy willow switches. It has something to do with fertility and purification, but for most, it's all about the home-made kielbasa, pierogies (potato dumplings), sweet raisin breads, lambs molded out of butter and acres of chocolate-covered everything—from marshmallow Peeps to potato chips—at the market.

TALKING LEAVES
Buffalo's oldest independent bookstore

Buffalo's artsy and historic



Hall of FAM

ACCOMMODATIONS

BEAU FLEUVE BED & BREAKFAST TNN 242 Linwood Avenue, 800-278-0245 or 716-882-6116, www.beaufleuve.com

DOUBLETREE CLUB BUFFALO DOWNTOWN 125 High Street, 716-845-0112, www.doubletree.com

RESTAURANTS

ANCHOR BAR RESTAURANT 1047 Main Street, 716-886-8920, www.anchorbar.com

HOMEY SCHWAB'S RESTAURANT 789 Center Road, West Seneca, 716-674-9021

RISTORANTE LOMBARDO 1198 Hertel Avenue, 716-873-4291, www.ristorantelombardo.com

TORO TAPAS BAR 492 Elmwood Avenue, 716-886-9457, www.torotapasbar.com

ATTRACTIONS

ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY 1285 Elmwood Avenue, 716-882-8700, www.albrightknox.org

BIG ORBIT GALLERY 30-II Essex Street, 716-883-3209, www.bigorbitgallery.org

BROADWAY MARKET 999 Broadway, 716-893-0705, www.broadwaymarket.com

BUFFALO STATE HOSPITAL 400 Forest Avenue, 716-885-2261

BUFFALO TRANSPORTATION/PIERCE ARROW MUSEUM 263 Michigan Avenue at 201 Seneca Street, Downtown Buffalo, 716-853-0084; www.pierce-arrow.com

CITY HALL 65 Niagara Square, 716-852-3300, www.landmark-niagara.org (information for tours)

DARWIN D. MARTIN HOUSE 125 Jewett Parkway, 716-856-3858, www.darwinmartinhouse.org

NIAGARA FALLS Niagara Falls, New York; 800-563-2557 or 905-356-6061; www.niagarafallstourism.com

OFF THE WALL 534 Elmwood Avenue, 716-884-9580, www.offthewallonline.com

QRS MUSIC TECHNOLOGIES 1026 Niagara Street, 800-247-6557, www.qrsmusic.com

ROOM 988 Elmwood Avenue, 716-886-3541, www.roomforhome.com

SOUNDLAB 110 Pearl Street, 716-883-3209, www.bigorbitgallery.org

TALKING LEAVES 951 Elmwood Avenue, 716-884-9524, www.tleavesbooks.com