



Spirit of the North

Indigenous Culture & Art in Winnipeg

September 24 - 28, 2026



With Craig Hadley, *Executive Director & Chief Curator*,
and Liz Celeste, *Curator of Education and Exhibitions*



Trip Highlights

Experience Winnipeg's Indigenous art and cultural landscape, from historic sites to contemporary galleries.

Travel with **Craig Hadley**, Executive Director & Chief Curator, and **Liz Celeste**, Curator of Education and Exhibitions.

Tour **WAG-Qaumajuq** (KOW-ma-yourk) with a curator to see the world's largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art, featuring over 14,000 works.

Walk through **The Forks** with an Indigenous guide to learn about this National Historic Site's 6,000-year history as an Indigenous meeting place.

Go behind the scenes at the **Manitoba Museum** inside its vaults while learning about the museum's community-led repatriation policy.

Discover contemporary Indigenous art with a guided tour at **Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery**, a nationally recognized Aboriginal artist-run center.

Join a guide for an inside look at the **Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum**, housed in North America's largest oak-log building, to learn about French-Canadian and Métis history.

Explore the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**, focusing on the Indigenous journey toward human rights in the world's first museum dedicated solely to human rights.

Meet local artists and create your own sculpture during **a private storytelling and art workshop** with a local Indigenous artist.

Enjoy an authentic Indigenous culinary experience and savor meals celebrating the region's cultural traditions.



Traveling With *You*

Craig Hadley is Executive Director and Chief Curator of The Dennon Museum Center at Northwestern Michigan College. Previously, he served as Director and Curator at DePauw University. He has held curatorial and education roles at institutions including the Field Museum of Natural History and the Indiana State Museum. He holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology, Museum Studies, and Asian Studies from Beloit College; a master's degree in History and Museum Studies from the University of Missouri; and an Ed.D. from Central Michigan University.



Liz Celeste is Curator of Education and Exhibitions at The Dennon Museum Center at Northwestern Michigan College. She is a dedicated visual storyteller whose work focuses on our connection to the natural world. She holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Wake Forest University and a master's degree in Arts Policy and Administration from the Ohio State University. Previously, she managed art galleries at Stanford University and directed creative programming for the Urban Arts Space in Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Members and Friends,

In honor of The Dennon Museum Center's 35th anniversary and in recognition of our world-class Inuit art collection, please join us from **September 24 to 28, 2026**, for a cultural journey to **Winnipeg, Canada**. This is a special opportunity to discover one of Canada's most significant arts and culture communities alongside Dennon staff and museum members.

As a museum holding one of the largest and most historically complete collections of Inuit art in the United States, we have a deep connection to the art of the Canadian North. This trip allows us to explore that connection in a new way, standing before the world's largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art at **WAG-Qaumajuq**, where over 14,000 works are housed in a luminous three-story glass "Visible Vault" that places the collection at the heart of the building.

Behind-the-scenes access defines this program. We'll enter the **Manitoba Museum's** vaults, which are not usually open to the public, with a curator explaining the museum's repatriation policy and work with Indigenous communities. We'll meet local artists and attend a hands-on storytelling and art workshop, allowing you to create your own artwork to take home.

Our exploration extends to traditional meeting grounds at **The Forks**, a site used by Indigenous peoples for 6,000 years. We'll cross into **St. Boniface**, Winnipeg's French Quarter, to learn about the Métis people—descendants of European fur traders and Indigenous women who developed a distinct culture and identity. At the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**, we'll explore its displays charting how Indigenous communities continue to strive for human rights.

This journey connects the timeless spirit of the North to the dynamic soul of a modern city. **To reserve your place**, contact our tour operator, Arrangements Abroad, at 212-514-8921 or trips@arrangementsabroad.com. We look forward to sharing this experience with you.

Sincerely,

Craig Hadley, *Executive Director & Chief Curator*

Liz Celeste, *Curator of Education and Exhibitions*



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

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Thursday, September 24:

Departure / Winnipeg, Canada

Arrive in **Winnipeg**, a city located at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, a site that has served as a meeting place for millennia. After transferring to your hotel, gather for a **private evening boat tour** along the city's rivers. A welcome reception follows. **R**

Friday, September 25:

Winnipeg

An exclusive, curator-led tour takes you through **WAG-Qaumajuq**, home to the world's largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art, with over 14,000 pieces. The 40,000-square-foot center, opened in 2021, features an undulating façade of Bethel White Granite above a glass-walled lobby.

The interior holds a voluminous 8,000-square-foot main gallery with figural skylights that evoke the Arctic sky. The centerpiece is a three-story glass "Visible Vault" displaying thousands of stone carvings. You will have time to explore the collection on your own before lunch at leisure in **The Forks Market**, housed in converted 19th-century railway horse stalls.



In Celebration (detail), by Pudlo Pudlat, Printmaker Aoudla Pudlat, WAG-Qaumajuq



Manitoba Museum, photo © Manitoba Museum

Afterwards, join an Indigenous guide for a walking tour of **The Forks**. This National Historic Site at the junction of two rivers has served Indigenous peoples for 6,000 years as a site for camping, harvesting, fishing, trade, and ceremony.

Europeans later established a succession of forts here, making it the center of the fur trade. Discover how modern development, beginning in the late 1980s, transformed an abandoned railyard into Winnipeg's foremost public space.

Later, join a local Indigenous artist for a **private storytelling and art workshop** that allows you to create your own sculpture to take home. For dinner this evening, enjoy an authentic Indigenous culinary experience. **B,D**

Saturday, September 26:

Winnipeg

This morning, join a **local artist and environmental activist** for a private tour of her public mural project, designed to build awareness for Arctic conservation. She has transformed a residential back lane into an outdoor gallery, where garage doors and fences display large-scale murals of Arctic animals, such as polar bears, caribou, and narwhals.

Next, experience a tour of the **Manitoba Museum** and its Indigenous Collection, with exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to the museum's vaults. View highlights from the collection of 17,000 items pertaining to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities.

After lunch at leisure, you will cross the Esplanade Riel pedestrian bridge to St. Boniface, Winnipeg's French Quarter. Here, visit the ruins of **St. Boniface Cathedral**, the center of the Roman Catholic mission in Western Canada since 1818.

The French Romanesque basilica, completed in 1908, was destroyed by fire in 1968. Architect Étienne Gaboury designed the new cathedral, blessed in 1972, to be built within the surviving stone façade, apse, and walls.

The adjacent cemetery is the final resting place of Manitoba founder Louis Riel, leader of the Métis, descendants of European fur traders and Indigenous women who developed a distinct culture, language, and identity in the 18th and 19th centuries.

A private guided tour of **Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum** introduces you to French-Canadian and Métis history. The museum occupies the former Grey Nuns' Convent, Winnipeg's oldest building and North America's largest oak-log structure, constructed between 1846 and 1851. The museum's collection of some 30,000 items includes the largest collection of Louis Riel's personal belongings.

Gather for dinner in St. Boniface. A performance at **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre**, Canada's oldest English-language regional theatre, founded in 1958, concludes the evening (*pending schedule*). **B,D**



St. Boniface Cathedral



Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Sunday, September 27: Winnipeg

Rise for a curator-led tour of the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**, which documents the Indigenous journey toward human rights through art and other displays. Opened in 2014, this is the world's first museum dedicated solely to human rights.

Then, explore the collection at the **Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery** with a guide. This nationally recognized, Aboriginal artist-run center cultivates and presents contemporary Indigenous art, providing a platform for emerging, mid-career, and established artists.

After a group lunch, a guided tour of **The Exchange District** will take you through this district of approximately 150 preserved heritage buildings built with local buff brick and Tyndall limestone. Admire North America's most extensive collection of turn-of-the-20th-century commercial architecture, including Richardsonian Romanesque, Beaux-Arts, and Chicago School styles.

This evening, gather for a festive farewell dinner. **B,L,D**

Monday, September 28: Winnipeg / Return

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. **B**

DISCLAIMER: *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Dennon Museum Center and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*

Accommodations

ALT Hotel Winnipeg

This modern hotel is known for its stylish, urban contemporary design, comfortable rooms, and art-filled spaces. Located in the Sports, Hospitality and Entertainment District (SHED), it offers convenient access to the city's downtown amenities. The hotel features free Wi-Fi, a 24-hour fitness center, and rooms with city views.



Lobby, ALT Hotel Winnipeg

Program Rate

\$4,799 Per Person, Double Rate

\$5,299 Single Rate

Rates Include

- Four nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Group arrival and departure transfers
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for participants on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Front cover: The Forks. Trip Highlights: "Visible Vault," WAG-Qaumajuq
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Canadian Museum for Human Rights, photo © Salvador Maniquiz

THE DENNOS MUSEUM CENTER

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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (mobile)

(home)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

I wish to share a room with

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*)

☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

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