

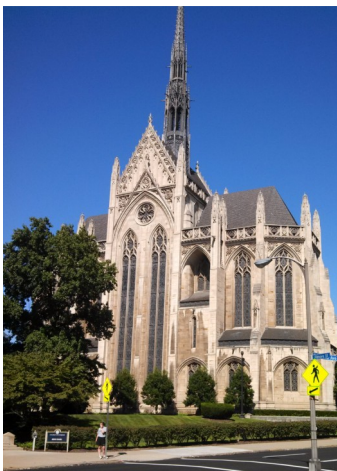


Pittsburgh Places of Worship Tour

The morning will begin with an introduction to Pittsburgh's immigrant history, a chance to try some traditional baked goods, and a coffee tasting. What do churches have to do with coffee? The story goes that coffee was discovered when a goatherd, curious about the unusual friskiness of his goats, tried some of the bright red berries they were eating. He was infused with energy, and shared his discovery with local monks. It's said that the monks used the berries to stay awake during all-night prayers.

Our first place of worship to visit is **Rodef Shalom Temple** which houses Congregation Rodef Shalom, the oldest Jewish congregation in Western Pennsylvania. Tour the imposing, domed Beaux Arts 1907 building and the Biblical Botanical Garden. The Garden displays more than 100 temperate and tropical plants grown in ancient Israel in a setting reminiscent of the land of Israel.

Step onto the University of Pittsburgh's campus for a docent-led tour of **Heinz Memorial Chapel**. This beautiful, non-denominational chapel was a gift to the University of Pittsburgh by Henry John Heinz, founder of the H.J. Heinz Company, to honor his mother. It is renowned for its beautiful stained glass windows (some of the tallest in the world!) with 391 identifiable figures such as William Shakespeare and Florence Nightingale. Tour guests will also enjoy hearing some music on Heinz Memorial Chapel's powerful pipe organ.





Our lunch stop takes place at **The Church Brew Works**, housed in the former St. John's the Baptist Church of Lawrenceville. Built in 1901, it was created to meet the needs of the Polish, Italian and German immigrants that came to Pittsburgh to find work in the steel mills. Later, when the Diocese restructured, the church shut its doors in 1993. Restored with much effort to retain the structure's authenticity, the Church Brew Works opened its doors in 1996.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church has a rich history dating to 1819 when the first church building was constructed. Today's church is on the same site and was completed and dedicated in 1935. The church occupies an entire city block and features breathtaking craftsmanship throughout.

The walls and ceiling of **St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church** are decorated with elaborate tempera paintings by artist Maxo Vanka. The murals tell the story of the Croatian peasants who left their native farm lands at the turn of the 20th century to seek a better life in the post-industrial United States of America. During this docent-led tour of the evocative murals, tour guests will get a fascinating glimpse into Vanka's art and the experiences that shaped his ideas.

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