NIGHTFRAME

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY
EXPERIENCE

NIGHTFRAME

A Mystery Architectural Photography Experience by AKLF

The first of the *Shadowline* curated architectural photography experiences series

Saturday August 8, 2026
Starts at 5:15pm
Concludes at 9:15 pm

Fisher Building Detroit
(DETAILS and FAQ below)

SEE WHAT THE NIGHT REVEALS

Detroit transforms when the light begins to fade. Golden hour warms the stone, softens the edges, and hints at the hidden geometry Albert Kahn left behind. Then the shadows take over — and the real story begins.

Nightframe is a guided architectural photography experience designed for photographers of **all levels** — from beginners learning their first compositions to enthusiasts chasing the perfect angle.

STEP INTO THE SHADOWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Golden hour is only the beginning. This is your chance to explore Detroit's architecture at the moment it's most alive through golden hour, blue hour, and into the early night. The city is ready to show you what it hides.

THE EXPERIENCE

One meeting point.
Four hidden locations.
No map.
No advance route.
Just email clues, highlights, shadows, and the thrill of discovery.

Designed for photographers **of all levels** — from beginners learning their first compositions to enthusiasts chasing the perfect angle. Bring your mobile phone or any time of camera: “point and click”, analog film, 35 mm full frame, or even your pin hole camera.

Each mystery location is revealed upon arrival — chosen for the way its form interacts with darkness, for the way its lines echo Kahn’s influence, and the details that only appear when the city goes quiet.

You’ll learn by observing, framing, and photographing the city’s quiet details.

GUIDED BY AKLF

At each stop location, **AKLF guides** will share:

- Unique perspectives and angles to explore with your camera or cell phone
- Kahn’s building’s geometry
- Architectural details worth capturing up close
- Architectural photography tips and techniques supplemented by informative handouts
- Brief histories behind each structure

This isn’t a classroom. It’s learning by **seeing**, **framing**, and **photographing** the art of the Kahn’s buildings themselves.

Participants will spend approximately **20 minutes** photographing at each curated location. Walking time between each location is ~5-10 minutes on flat, well lit, populated streets in Detroit's New Center. Total walking distance ~1.1 miles. Bathrooms will be available at meeting location (Fisher Building) and at a midway stop during the tour.

THE MYSTERY BEGINS BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Once you register, you'll receive **four teaser emails** — each one a clue pointing toward one of the locations you'll eventually uncover.

During the experience, the answers to those clues are revealed *between* stops, creating a rhythm of mystery and discovery woven into the night.

SHARE WHAT YOU SEE

Nightframe doesn't end when the walk does.

Participants are invited to share their favorite photographs with the **AKLF community** on our website — a growing gallery of perspectives, angles, and interpretations of Detroit's Kahn's architecture.

Whether you shoot with a camera or a cell phone, your images become part of a collective record of how the city reveals itself through different eyes.

THE FIRST IN A SERIES

Nightframe is the opening chapter of a year-long collection of **Shadowline curated architectural experiences** — each exploring a different facet of Albert Kahn's built identity. Each experience is designed for those who see the city not just as a place, but as a composition

Shadowline

Capture.Shadows.Highlights.Discover

NIGHTFRAME
details + FAQ

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

FISHER BUILDING LOBBY -- 3011 W GRAND BLVD, DETROIT, MI 48202 CHECK-IN 5:15 PM.
TOUR DEPARTS AT 5:25 PM EDT SHARP

TOUR PRICING	AMOUNT
AKLF Member	$75 per person
Non-Member	$85 per person

LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS
WAITING LIST AVAILABLE IF FULL

DETAILS ABOUT THE TOUR

NIGHTFRAME is a mystery architectural photography walking tour - five landmark buildings designed by Albert Kahn in Detroit's New Center area.

Each mystery location is chosen for the way its form interacts with darkness and for the way its lines echo Kahn's influence. AKLF has selected locations that will offer a stunning opportunity to capture through your lens and creativity the beauty of five of Kahn's treasured buildings.

It all starts with the teaser emails after your registration. It's an opportunity to question and test your knowledge of Albert Kahn and the history of the city. The locations will be revealed along the way en route. Each stop is a frame.

Nightframe reflects the mystery tour's defining photographic arc - the journey from golden afternoon light into the mystery of blue hour and early nighttime. The city itself becomes the subject as the light fades.

Participants will shoot during late afternoon sun, golden hour/sunset, and blue hour peak—three of some of the most photogenic light conditions. Experiencing late afternoon, golden hour, and blue hour lighting in a single evening offers photographers a rare chance to capture diverse moods and colors of Albert Kahn's architecture.

AKLF guides will share architectural photography tips and historical highlights. You'll learn by observing, framing, and photographing the city's quiet details. Formative and easy-to-understand handouts will also be provided.

We want to see what you see. We want you to share your photographs with our AKLF community. Our AKLF membership will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite photographs. Winners will be proudly displayed on our website and in our upcoming showcases later as well.

Who should attend?

Anyone with an interest in architecture, Detroit history, or photography -- from seasoned photographers with professional gear to first timers with a smartphone. No prior knowledge of architecture or photography is required. The pace is relaxed and the route is fully accessible.

PRICING & REGISTRATION

Tour cost

Non-members: $85 per person. AKLF (Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation) members: $75 per person. Pricing includes the full 4-hour guided tour and all printed architectural photography tips and historical materials.

Become a member on our website https://albertkahnlegacy.org/support-us/

Registration

Register by clicking on the link on the attached email. Space is limited to only 10 participants -- early registration is strongly recommended and closes Saturday, August 1, 2026, at noon. We want to keep the group to a limited size to allow a more intimate experience.

Refund and cancellation policy

We understand that last minute things come up in life. That's absolutely fine; please make sure to email us at info@albertkahnlegacyfoundation.org no later than 5:15 pm on Wednesday August 5, 2026. This allows individuals on the waiting list a fair chance to participate and enjoy the program.

If you cancel before Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 5:15 pm, you are eligible for a refund. Unfortunately, cancellations made after this deadline are not refundable (unless you have a replacement/substitute registrant take your place instead). If not, then if you cancel after this time, unfortunately, we cannot offer a refund. If you have any questions regarding this, please email us.

Inclement weather

We will monitor weather conditions beginning 48-72 hours in advance. If there is significant adverse weather that will affect the tour quality, then the tour will be rescheduled. We will contact you by email and try to call you on your phone number provided during registration.

We will likely have a potential contingency date on Saturday, August 29th (3 weeks later), but the meeting time may be earlier pending lighting and weather conditions. If you are unable to make the contingency date, we will offer a full refund to your credit card. We will miss you though!

If we are unable to offer the tour on this contingency date, then full refunds will be given to all registrants. We will shoot for September or Spring 2027.

MEETING POINT & LOGISTICS

Meeting point

Fisher Building lobby -- 3011 W Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48202. Check-in begins at 5:15 PM. The tour departs at 5:25 PM EDT sharp. Late arrivals may not be accommodated, as the tour is timed precisely to specific light windows and to safely keep everyone together.

Tour end location

The tour lasts exactly 4 hours. The tour concludes at the Fisher Building at 9:15 PM EDT -- the same location where it began. The final 30-60 minutes are spent at the Fisher parking area, so your vehicle (if parked in the Fisher garage) is steps away at tour's end. You will be able to access your tripod from your car if desired for the last segment of the tour.

Path details

Approximately 1.0-mile total across five short segments, averaging about 0.2 miles between stops. Total cumulative walking time is 23 minutes. Terrain is flat urban sidewalks throughout. The route is fully accessible. No stairs, inclines, or uneven surfaces on the designated well-lit path.

Parking

The Fisher Building garage is the recommended option -- enter from Third Street. Evening street parking is also available on W Grand Blvd and Second Ave. The Hotel Saint Regis (3071 W Grand Blvd, directly adjacent to the Fisher Building) offers valet parking as an alternative.

Public transit access

The QLINE streetcar stops at Grand Boulevard, steps from the Fisher Building. The DDOT bus route 16 (Woodward) also serves the area. Check DDOT and QLINE schedules for Saturday evening service.

F A Q

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

Q What camera equipment should I bring?

A Any camera is welcome -- smartphone to full DSLR. For interchangeable lens cameras: a wide-angle (16-24mm) for full-facade shots, a standard zoom (24-70mm) as a general workhorse, and a telephoto (70-200mm) for compressed detail and the copper pyramid. A tripod is encouraged for the Fisher Building blue hour finale.

Q Do I need a tripod?

A A tripod is optional for the first four stops but becomes more essential from 8:42 PM onward at the Fisher Building. Blue hour can require shutter speeds of 2-8 seconds -- handholding will not produce sharp results.

Newer generation iPhone and Android phones have a Night Mode in the Photos app which will allow sharper photos handheld without a tripod.

Q What else should I bring?

A Water (but there is a 10-minute scheduled refreshment / restroom stops on the route), extra camera batteries, and spare memory cards.

Q What should I wear?

A Comfortable walking shoes are essential -- you'll be on your feet for 4 hours on urban sidewalks. A light jacket is recommended; Detroit evenings in August cool noticeably after sunset (8:42 PM). Dress for the full temperature arc from 5:15 PM to 9:15 PM.

THE STOPS

Q How many architectural photography locations are there?

A Four mystery architectural landmark stops designed by Albert Kahn, plus an approximate 50-minute photography grand finale at the Fisher Building parking area -- for a total of five distinct photographic locations.

Q Are the building names disclosed in advance?

A Four hidden locations. No map. No advance route. Just email clues, highlights, shadows, and the thrill of discovery. The four mystery buildings will be revealed en route. The tour is designed to be experienced in sequence -each stop builds on the last.

Q Can we go inside the buildings?

A No, except for meeting at the Fisher Building in the main lobby, there will be no interior access to any of our stop locations- exterior photography only.

Q Are there restrooms/refreshments along the route?

A Yes. Restrooms are available at the Fisher Building lobby (at the meeting time) and in route at a refreshment/restroom stop at 7:25 pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY & LIGHT

Q What makes August 8th special for photography?

A August 8, 2026, places golden hour at 7:42-8:42 PM, sunset at 8:42 PM, and the blue hour peak at 8:52-9:08 PM -- a 90-minute arc of exceptional architectural light that concludes precisely at the Fisher Building. The tour is creatively engineered around these windows.

Q What is golden hour?

A Golden hour is the period approximately one hour before sunset when sunlight becomes warm and amber with long, raking shadows. On August 8th, golden hour begins at 7:42 PM through sunset at 8:42 PM.

Q What is blue hour?

A Blue hour occurs just after sunset when the sky transitions from violet-pink to a deep, saturated royal blue. The Fisher Building's green copper pyramid against that sky is a signature shot of the evening during this time frame.

GENERAL

Q Is the tour accessible?

A Yes. The entire 1.0-mile route follows flat urban sidewalks with no steps or significant inclines on the designated path. Please contact the organizer in advance if you have specific accessibility requirements.

Q Can I bring a guest who is not photographing?

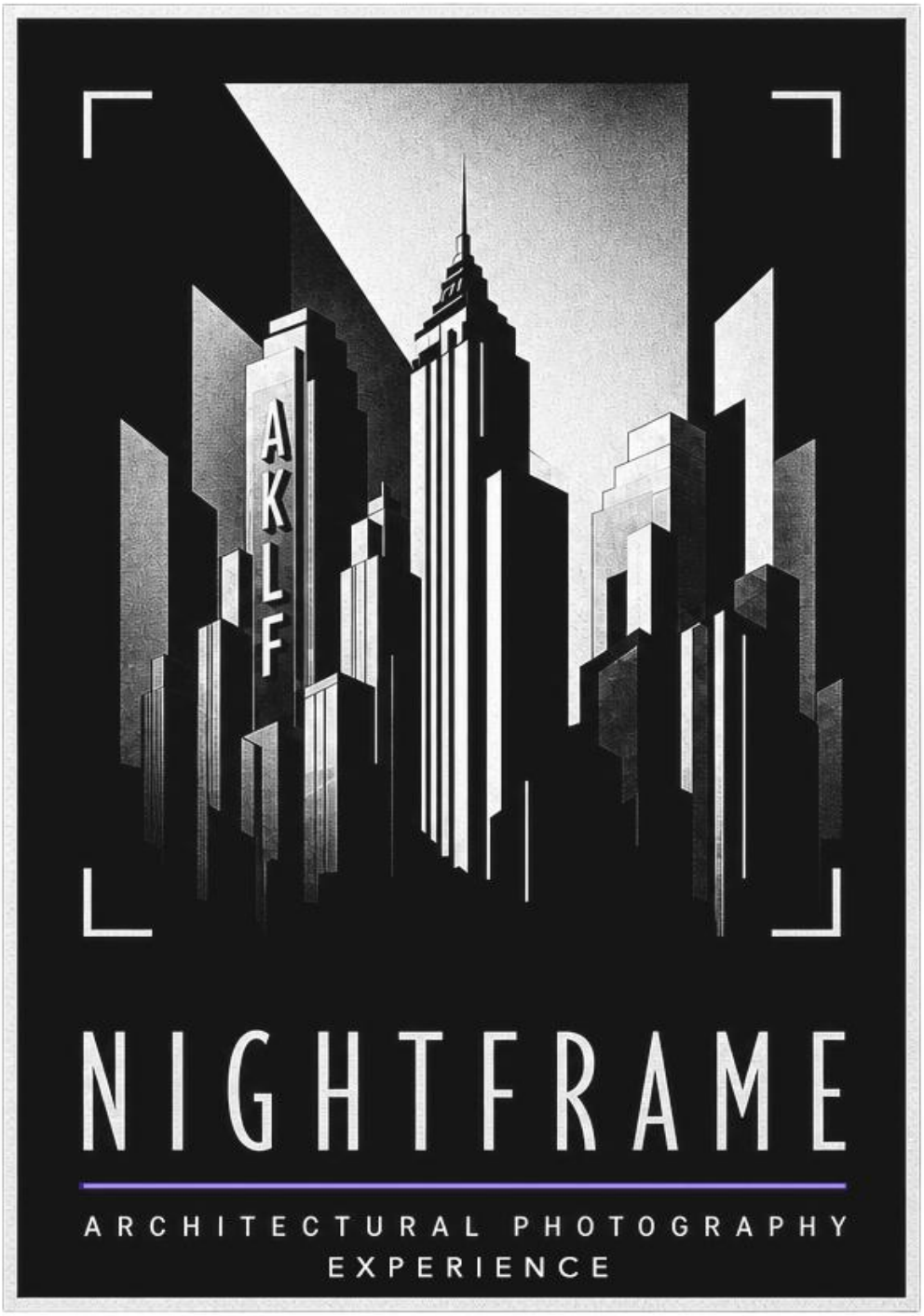
A Yes. Non-photographers are welcome -- the tour is equally rewarding as an architectural and historical walking experience. Standard pricing applies to all participants regardless of camera equipment.

Q Is food available along the route?

A On route a refreshment/restroom stop at 7:25 pm for about 10 minutes. Bring a snack, but participants are encouraged to eat before the 5:15 PM tour start.

Q Who organizes Nightframe?

A Nightframe is an architectural photography tour organized by the Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation. For questions, registration, and group inquiries, please contact the tour organizers directly at info@albertkahnlegacyfoundation.org

Q Will the tour run again?

A Nightframe is designed around the specific astronomical and photographic lighting conditions of August 8, 2026. Future editions, if scheduled, will be announced through AKLF member communications and mailing list.