

SITES & SIGHTINGS | May 10, 2013, 1:20 p.m. ET

## Top Private Art Guides

*Get a custom course in art and culture with private excursions to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, the ancient Roman library of Celsus or to the Met's Chinese Garden Court.*

**CAN'T TAKE THE CROWDS** at Frieze New York, artMRKT San Francisco, Art Basel in Hong Kong or the rest of this month's international art events? A number of travel specialists are catering to clients who want to immerse themselves in art and architecture at their own pace and in line with their own tastes. These experts, often armed with advanced degrees, can offer an exegesis on a mural in Manhattan's Lower East Side, orchestrate a stay in an Italian Renaissance palazzo or get you into a Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece after closing time. While their specialties may vary, they are all equipped to give the most veteran aesthete the thrill of a new perspective.

—Jackie Cooperman



Enlarge Image

Flickr/Getty Images

The Library of Celsus

### *For the Connoisseur's Europe*

Museum patrons and art history aficionados hire James McDonough, a graduate of Oxford University and London's Courtauld Institute of Art, to plan trips that are cultural and cushy in Europe and, occasionally, the U.S. His firm, **Art Tours**, can arrange visits to private palaces in Italy; set up an after-hours dinner in the ancient Roman library of Celsus in Ephesus, Turkey; or find just the right British estate for a family seeking a "Downton Abbey" experience. Every trip is bespoke, with the typical itinerary lasting a week. The company works with a group of strictly vetted art history lecturers, curators and tour guides. *From \$5,000 to \$50,000 per person, including hotels, guides, ground transportation, site visits and itinerary planning, [arttoursltd.com](http://arttoursltd.com)*