

m EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

2023 TRAVEL GUIDE

MINNESOTA

ENTER YOUR DREAM STATE

Beautiful trails, friendly towns,
fantastic restaurants and
four seasons of fun await in
the Land of 10,000 Lakes

PLUS:

Eco-friendly travel
Cultural celebrations
6 national park sites



SHOP.

500
STORES WITH
NO SALES TAX
ON CLOTHING
OR SHOES

DINE.

50+
RESTAURANTS
& OTHER
DINING OPTIONS

STAY.

2
HOTELS
CONVENIENTLY
CONNECTED

PLAY.

15+
ATTRACTIONS
INCLUDING
NICKELODEON
UNIVERSE®



PLAN YOUR FUN

With hundreds of one-of-a-kind destinations, all under one roof—it's all here! Enjoy over-the-top fun including 500 stores, 50+ restaurants and 15+ attractions, such as seven acres of rides at Nickelodeon Universe®, M&M's Mall of America, SEA LIFE aquarium + more! MALLOFAMERICA.COM/VISIT



THE TWIN CITIES GATEWAY

Where good times are always in season!



TWIN CITIES
GATEWAY

tcgateway.com

Anoka • Arden Hills • Blaine • Coon Rapids • Fridley • Ham Lake
Lino Lakes • Mounds View • New Brighton • Shoreview

▼ Niagara Cave, Harmony,
photo by Ryan Taylor

EXPLORE MINNESOTA AND GET INSPIRED

FEATURES

12

Accessible Travel

Go exploring with wheelchairs and track chairs.

14

Eco-Friendly Travel

Get green travel tips for every part of your trip.

16

Twin Cities Pride

Celebrate LGBTQ+ pride with festival fun and more.

18

Memorable Group Tours

Check out unique and unforgettable Twin Cities tours.



20

Arts & Culture

Experience Minnesota's vibrant arts scene and deep cultural heritage.

22 Music, Art & Museums

26 Native Heritage

30 Culture & Cuisine

34

The Great Outdoors

Explore Minnesota by land or water.

36 6 Spectacular National Park Sites

38 A Park for Every Season



THIS TRAVEL GUIDE
BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



The official publication of Explore Minnesota, an office of the State of Minnesota

121 Seventh Place E, Suite 360
St. Paul, MN 55101

888-VISITMN

Director

Lauren Bennett McGinty

Assistant Director

Leann Kispert

Editor

Amy Barrett

Photo Editor

Melanie Graves

Contributors

Wunmi Alowonle

Mecca Bos

C.B. Bylander

Regina Eckes

Jerard Fagerberg

Said Farah

Ashlea Halpern

Cinnamon Janzer

Cory Lee

Jessica Lockhart

Lisa Meyers McClintick

Andrew Parks

Aegor Ray

James Riemermann

Sophia Tran

Erica Wacker

Wanderful Wives

On the cover:

Hikers at Pipestone National Monument, photo by Paul Vincent

Produced by Miles Partnership
6751 Professional Parkway,
Suite 200, Sarasota, FL 34240

Lauren Bourgoing, Vice President

Laurn Peterson, Account Supervisor

Melissa Bartalos, Content Strategist

Courtney Spiess, Content Director

Melissa Juneau, Art Director

Renata Moreira, Graphic Designer

Cynthia Hazell-Cutchin,
Advertising and Data Manager

John Deleva, Sales Executive

Map illustrations by

Teresanne Cossetta Russell

© Miles Partnership 2023. Reproduction without
written permission is prohibited.

INFINITE ADVENTURES

*From Lake Superior to
the Boundary Waters*



Lake County, Minnesota, sits along the Lake Superior North Shore and extends north to the Boundary Waters and the Canadian Border. Boasting four gorgeous state parks with miles of scenic hiking and biking trails, you'll find breathtaking views of the Lake Superior shoreline, unique beaches, excellent resorts, hotels, campgrounds, and endless outdoor adventures!

BEAVER BAY • FALL LAKE • FINLAND/ISABELLA • KNIFE RIVER • SILVER BAY • TWO HARBORS

EXPLORE MINNESOTA BY REGION

MUST-SEE SMALL TOWNS, FESTIVALS AND EVENTS, AND MORE

46

Minneapolis-St. Paul

Stellar culture, sports and restaurants



60

Central Minnesota

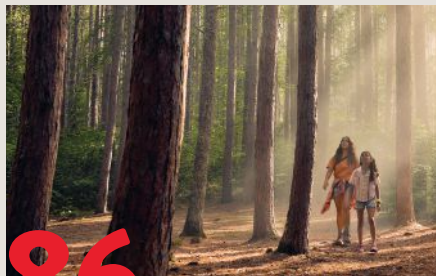
Relaxing lake life, charming towns, golf



98

Southern Minnesota

Rolling prairies, tall river bluffs, big cities



86

Northwest Minnesota

Great fishing, birding and wilderness

72

Northeast Minnesota

Natural beauty, starry skies, thrilling trails



PLANNING TOOLS

Get going with these helpful resources.

- 6** Visitor Information, Minnesota's Climate and Welcome Centers
- 8** Interactive Map of Minnesota

Explore Minnesota is proud to be a member of the following associations:

- American Bus Association
- American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association
- International Gay Lesbian Travel Association
- International Inbound Travel Association
- Great Lakes of North America
- Mississippi River Country
- National Tour Association
- U.S. Travel Association

EXPLORE THE WEBSITE

Learn more about what to see and do during your trip, and where to stay.

ExploreMinnesota.com

HEAD SOUTH

TO THE MIAMI OF MINNESOTA



IT'S MORE FUN HERE

VISIT
WINONATM
MINNESOTA



m EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

VisitWinona.com

VISITOR INFORMATION

The North Star State is easy to reach, whether you're flying, driving or arriving by train. No matter how you get here, we want your travels to be as hassle-free as possible. Read on for travel information and tips.

ARRIVING BY AIR

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP), a major hub of the Upper Midwest, was the best airport of its size in North America in 2021 and 2022. Minnesota is only about an hour away by air from most Midwest cities, and a two- or three-hour flight from the East and West coasts. The Twin Cities can be reached from several countries on direct international flights.

The airport is conveniently located on the south side of the metropolitan area, 12 miles southeast of downtown Minneapolis, 10 miles southwest of downtown St. Paul and just minutes from Mall of America in Bloomington.

Other Minnesota cities served by commercial air service include: Bemidji, Brainerd, Chisholm-Hibbing, Duluth, Fargo-Moorhead, Grand Forks-East Grand Forks, International Falls, Rochester and Thief River Falls.

MINNESOTA BY TRAIN

The Empire Builder Amtrak route crosses the state between the southeast and northwest borders, with stops in Winona, Red Wing, Minneapolis-St. Paul, St. Cloud, Staples, Detroit Lakes and Fargo-Moorhead. This route runs between Chicago and Seattle or Portland.

DRIVING TO MINNESOTA

Minnesota's central location makes it convenient to reach by car from much of the United States. It is midway between the east and west coasts, and the northernmost state along the Mississippi River.

The interstate highway system makes driving to Minnesota from other states a breeze, and eight Minnesota/Canada border crossings provide easy access for our northern neighbors.

DRIVING DISTANCES

In miles to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

Chicago, IL	400
Denver, CO	915
Des Moines, IA	240
Detroit, MI	690
Fargo, ND	240
Green Bay, WI	300
Indianapolis, IN	590
Lincoln, NE	430
Madison, WI	275
Milwaukee, WI	340
Omaha, NE	375
Sioux Falls, SD	240
Winnipeg, CA	450

TAKE THE BUS

Megabus provides express bus service to Minneapolis from several Midwest cities, including Chicago, Madison and Milwaukee. In addition, Greyhound and Jefferson Lines offer service to many Minnesota cities and provide convenient inter-city travel options within Minnesota.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Visitors from other countries are advised to exchange currency at their first convenience, since most Minnesota businesses don't accept foreign currency. Currency can be exchanged at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and at most large banks, or withdrawn from automated teller machines (ATMs).

MINNESOTA'S WELCOME CENTERS

Welcome Centers are located on major highways at key points in the state. Stop in for statewide travel information. Scan the QR code below to see a map and a list or visit [ExploreMinnesota.com/WelcomeCenters](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/welcomecenters).



MINNESOTA'S CLIMATE

Part of Minnesota's appeal is its four distinct seasons, each with its own particular pleasures.

AVG. TEMP.*	HIGH	LOW
JANUARY	24°	7°
MAY	70°	48°
AUGUST	80°	61°
OCTOBER	58°	39°

*Fahrenheit

WHAT TO PACK

Spring and fall, bring layers that can be added, depending on the temperature, and a lightweight coat or jacket. For winter trips, pack warm clothes, including sweaters, fleece or a blazer. You'll need a heavy coat, boots, a warm hat and lined gloves or mittens. As we like to say here, there's no bad weather, only bad clothing!

TIME ZONE

Minnesota is in the Central Time Zone, one hour behind the East Coast, two hours ahead of the West Coast.

EXPLORE MORE

Find more ways to visit Minnesota and plan your trip today!

[ExploreMinnesota.com/GettingHere](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/gettinghere)

EXPLORE MINNESOTA



SCAN ME

For an interactive version of this map, scan this QR code with a smart phone or go to ExploreMinnesota.com.



YEAR-ROUND GETAWAYS



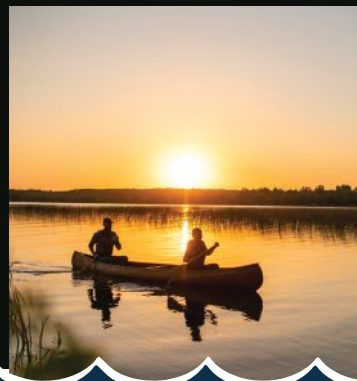
BIG OLE
WELCOMES
YOU!



FOR LODGING
OPTIONS AND
THINGS TO DO! ↗



SCAN ME



ExploreAlex.com



Plan Your 

FAMILY ADVENTURE

AT NORTHERN MINNESOTA'S PREMIERE VACATION DESTINATION

WWW.GIANTSRIIDGE.COM



DISCOVER THE *Range*



IronRange.org

AURORA BIWABIK BUHL CHISHOLM EMBARRASS EVELETH GILBERT HIBBING HOYT LAKES MOUNTAIN IRON VIRGINIA



GO BEYOND THE GUIDE

After browsing this travel guide, go to **ExploreMinnesota.com** to find even more great content packed with inspiring trip ideas.

Start Here

- » 18 Free Things to Do
- » 26 Things You Should Know About Minnesota, from A to Z
- » Walk in the Footsteps of Bob Dylan, Prince, Judy Garland and Other Famous Minnesotans
- » Your Quintessential Minnesota Bucket List

Get Outside

- » 9 Best Paddling Day Trips for Families
- » Fishing Border to Border
- » Minnesota's Guide to Hiking with Kids
- » Where to Go Mountain Biking

Embrace Diversity

- » How to Support Black-Owned Businesses in Minnesota
- » Minnesota's Best Museums, According to Latinx Artist Luis Fitch
- » Road Trip to Native American Cultural Sites in Southern Minnesota
- » Wine and Dine at These LGBTQ+-Owned Restaurants

Seek Adventure

- » 10 Places to Try Igloo Dining
- » All Aboard for a River Rafting Adventure in Northeast Minnesota
- » Cool Caves and More to Explore in the Driftless Area
- » Stargazing Under Minnesota's Dark Skies

Celebrate the Season

- » 8 Spooky Spots
- » 10 Ways to Celebrate the Holidays
- » Where to Watch Fireworks on Independence Day

YOUR Grand Experience STARTS HERE!



DELUXE GUEST ROOMS



INDOOR POOL



FREE BREAKFAST



SUITES W/ KITCHENS

19 Hotel Locations Across Minnesota

Apple Valley	Glenwood	Pipestone
Becker-Big Lake	Luverne	St. Cloud
Cambridge	Montevideo	Stillwater
Cannon Falls	Morris	Thief River Falls
Columbus/Running Aces	New London-Spicer	Waseca
Delano	Parkers Prairie	
Faribault	Perham	



grandstayhospitality.com | 855.455.7829 | [f](#) [@](#)

Over 30 hotels in 6 states and growing!

EVERY GUEST ~ EVERY TIME™

ACCESSIBLE MINNESOTA

By Cory Lee



With Minnesota being known as the “Land of 10,000 Lakes,” you may assume that it isn’t the most wheelchair-friendly state. After all, wheelchairs and water tend not to mix very well. However, Minnesota has a ton of wheelchair-accessible attractions. Here are some of my favorites:

WESTWOOD HILLS NATURE CENTER

This nature center in St. Louis Park has a wonderful interpretive center and more than two miles of paved, boardwalk and crushed concrete trails surrounding Westwood Lake. I could easily roll on all of the trail terrains with my wheelchair. After spending a nice day outdoors, be sure to visit the nearby **REMS Virtual Reality Lab** for some accessible VR adventures. It’s not every day that you can go scuba diving as a wheelchair user, so this virtual reality experience isn’t to be missed!

SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA

Accessibility is fantastic at this highly interactive museum in St. Paul, where exhibits on space travel, dinosaurs and more are spacious and accommodating. You can also see interesting shows in the Science Live Theater or watch a film on a giant screen in the Omnitheater. Personal care attendants get free admission when visiting with a client, and there’s a family restroom on level four.

CARLOS CREEK WINERY

If you’re looking for a place to relax and unwind, Carlos Creek Winery in Alexandria is one of the state’s most scenic places to spend time, and it’s completely wheelchair accessible.

In addition to wine tastings (the blueberry is my favorite), it has delicious food, and you may even enjoy some live music during your visit. Next door at **22 Northmen Brewing Company**, you’ll find a wide variety of beer and **STOKE Wood-Fired Pizza**, which I’d highly recommend. It was seriously some of the most delicious pizza I’ve ever eaten.

After rolling around Minnesota’s attractions all day, you’ll need an accessible hotel, where you can rest and refuel for the next day of exploration. There are many hotels in Minnesota with accessible facilities. I stayed at the **Fairfield Inn & Suites** in Alexandria and the **Hampton Inn & Suites** in downtown St. Paul. Both had roll-in showers, grab bars and enough space for me to maneuver easily around the rooms.

These are only a few of Minnesota’s many accessible offerings. Now the only question is, where do you want to roll in the “Land of 10,000 Lakes?”

MEET CORY

After being diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy at two, Cory’s thirst for adventure never ceased. He has visited all seven continents sharing his accessible – and not so accessible – adventures. A four-time Webby Award winner, he has written for publications including *Condé Nast Traveler*, *National Geographic* and *Lonely Planet*.

FOLLOW

You can follow Cory’s travel adventures at **CurbFreeWithCoryLee.com** or follow him on social media:

Facebook: [@CurbFree](#)
 Instagram: [@curbfreecorylee](#)
 TikTok: [@curbfreecorylee](#)
 Twitter: [@coryleetweets](#)

Photos courtesy of Cory Lee, @curbfreecorylee, unless otherwise noted.

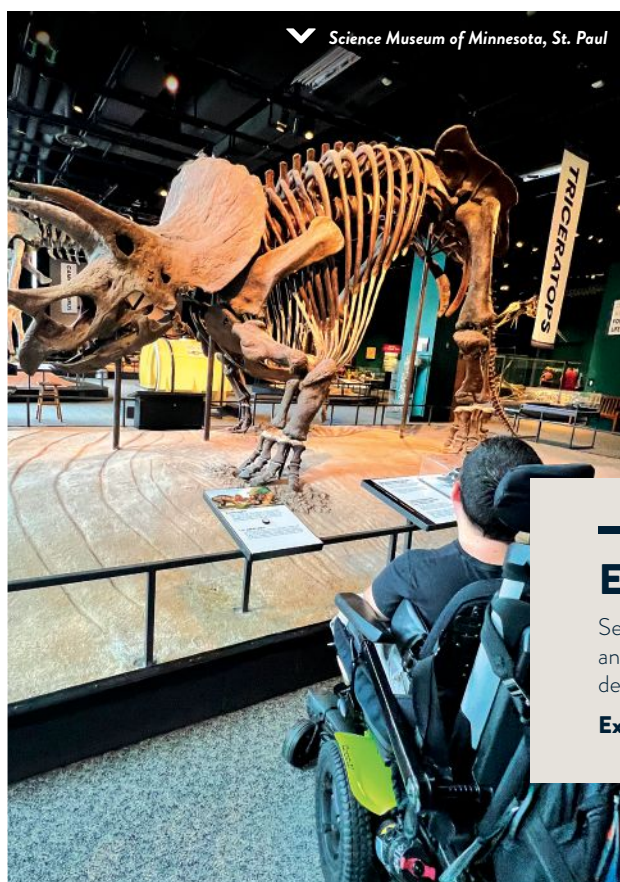




Westwood Hills Nature Center, St. Louis Park



Carlos Creek Winery, Alexandria



Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul



Myre-Big Island State Park, Albert Lea,
photo courtesy of Minnesota DNR

EXPLORING WITH TRACK CHAIRS

All-terrain, electric-powered track chairs are available for free to wheelchair users at several locations statewide. Track chairs make it possible to go exploring in new ways, often on trails not suitable for regular wheelchairs.

Minnesota State Parks with Track Chairs:

- » **Camden State Park** (near Marshall), a quiet spot on the Redwood River.
- » **Crow Wing State Park** (Brainerd), where the Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers meet.
- » **Lake Bemidji State Park** (Bemidji), where unusual plants inhabit a tamarack bog.
- » **McCarthy Beach State Park** (near Hibbing), where the sugar sand beach is now accessible.
- » **Maplewood State Park** (Pelican Rapids), a particularly beautiful spot in the fall.

» **Myre-Big Island State Park** (Albert Lea), where you can see an abundance of spring wildflowers on a 1.5-mile loop around Big Island.

The **Jay C. Hormel Nature Center** in Austin, where there are nine miles of trails, also has three track chairs.

Reservations are recommended. Note that a vehicle permit is required to enter state parks, with a discount available if you have a hang tag for a disability.

EXPLORE MORE

See more of Cory's photos and discover other accessible destinations in Minnesota.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Accessible](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/accessible)

GREEN TRAVEL TIPS: PLAN YOUR NEXT

ECO-FRIENDLY

VACATION IN MINNESOTA

By Erica Wacker

Known for our sky-blue waters, clear night skies and top-rated urban parks, Minnesota is a natural choice for eco-conscious travelers.

Some of our state's most popular pastimes – camping, biking, canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing and birding, to name a few – are environmentally friendly and have a low carbon footprint. Hotels, restaurants and attractions across the state are doing more to reduce their own impacts, making it easy for visitors to have fun and feel good about traveling while treading lightly on our planet.

GREEN THINGS TO DO

Minnesota's largest attraction, **Mall of America** in Bloomington, is also one of its greenest. The mall is heated with help from massive skylights and, believe it or not, the body heat of its millions of visitors. Food waste is given to hog farms, shipping materials are recycled and lost-and-found items are donated. For more sustainable shopping, check out Minneapolis's two zero-waste stores, **Tare Market** and **The Zeroish Co.**

In St. Paul, the **Saint Paul RiverCentre Convention Center Complex** and adjacent **Xcel Energy Center**, home to the Minnesota Wild, major concerts and other big events, are the only venues in the world to earn three separate sustainability certifications.

Nature-focused destinations – including the **National Eagle Center** in Wabasha, **International Wolf Center** and **North American Bear Center** in Ely and the many nature centers and wildlife refuges throughout Minnesota – remind us all why our planet is worth protecting.

EATING LOCALLY

There's no shortage of locally sourced, organic and homegrown fare in Minnesota; you just have to know where to find it. At the **Angry Trout Cafe** in Grand Marais, for example, the fish of the day is caught straight from Lake Superior. In Minneapolis, **Wise Acre** sources ingredients from its own farm 40 miles away, and in St. Paul, popular vegan restaurants include **J. Selby's** and **Insane Vegan**.

REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Minnesota is installing more and more electric vehicle charging stations along major highways and at attractions and hotels statewide; find some at Mall of America, **Canal Park** in Duluth, the **Green Giant Museum** in Blue Earth, downtown Austin (home of the SPAM® Museum) and at city and state parks. Plan your EV road trip using the **Plugshare** app so you know where you can charge along the way and at your final destination.





Wise Acre Eatery,
Minneapolis, photo courtesy
of Wise Acre Eatery



Bowen Lodge, Deer River,
photo by Jens Heig

ECO-FRIENDLY LODGING

It doesn't get more green than sleeping among the trees with only a canvas tent between you and the great outdoors. But if camping isn't your thing, there are other ways to stay overnight sustainably.

Duluth's only waterfront bed-and-breakfast, **Solglint**, has taken steps to be environmentally friendly by installing solar panels, using non-toxic cleaning supplies and serving locally sourced food.

In the Twin Cities, the **Radisson Blu Mall of America** was the region's first LEED-certified hotel. The on-site restaurant, **FireLake Grill House & Cocktail Bar**, sources its ingredients from local farmers markets and butcher shops, and is one of the few restaurants in the state serving Minnesota walleye from the Red Lake Nation.

Elsewhere in the state, lodging properties that back up their green claims through their actions include the **Adventure Inn** in Ely, with EV charging stations and rain barrels; the **Bowen Lodge** in Deer River, with its stabilized shorelines and state-of-the-art peat filtration septic system; and **The Lodge on Lake Detroit** in Detroit Lakes, which boasts eco-friendly bath products and a rain garden that protects the lake from runoff.



International Wolf Center,
Ely, photo by Lucy Hawthorne

EXPLORE MORE

Find eco-friendly campgrounds, hotels and other great places to stay.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Lodging](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/lodging)

EXPERIENCE THE TWIN CITIES

PRIDE FESTIVAL

By Justine and Sam of Wanderful Wives



Full of passion, diversity and spirit, the Twin Cities radiated Pride during the 50th anniversary of its annual LGBTQ+ festival. We couldn't get enough of it.

Our homebase was the **W Minneapolis** in the historic **Foshay Tower**, which felt like a cozy nest perched on top of the city. We enjoyed cocktails in the swanky bars on the bottom and top floors (**The Living Room** and **Prohibition**, respectively); and reveled in the expansive views from the rooftop observation deck. Luckily for us, all the Pride festivities were within walking distance.

The Pride Festival in **Loring Park** blew us away with all the vendors there to educate, advocate and celebrate. But the best part was undoubtedly the local artists who performed: drag queens and kings strutting their stuff, live bands and singers, a queer circus troupe and inspiring dance numbers that left us smiling with amazement and weeping with joy.

Over the course of the weekend, we attended a Cher Drag Brunch at **Crave**, a glitter dance party at **Union Rooftop**, a block party at **Saloon** and a fabulous Carly Rae Jepsen concert at **The Armory**. With so many queer-focused spaces and events, we never stopped wearing our dancing shoes and rainbow swag.

The pinnacle of the Pride celebrations was the parade. Seeing everyone come together – families, local government leaders, community organizers, allies and queer folks of all ages and genders – filled us with so much hope for the future.

Once the festivities quieted down, we set off to explore more of the Twin Cities. Some of our favorite experiences included:

- » Trying the famous “Juicy Lucy” burger at the **5-8 Club**.
- » Meandering through the **Minneapolis Sculpture Garden** with all its larger-than-life art pieces.

Photos courtesy of Wanderful Wives, @wanderfulwives, unless otherwise noted.

- » Walking across the **Mississippi River** on the **Stone Arch Bridge** and enjoying the panoramic city views.
- » Feeling like kids again at **Mall of America**, which had us screaming on roller coasters at **Nickelodeon Universe** and drinking boba teas while perusing the shops.
- » Exploring a plethora of queer-owned businesses and restaurants, including **Hazelwood Food & Drink**, which served up delicious cocktails and satisfied our craving for **#OnlyinMN** cheese curds and walleye fish and chips.

Pride is more than just rainbow flags in storefront windows and an excuse to party. Twin Cities Pride exuded heart – an inclusive, warm and safe community for LGBTQ+ folks and beyond. It's clear they don't call it “Minnesota nice” for nothin' – everyone belongs here!

MEET THE WANDERFUL WIVES

Justine (she/her) and Sam (they/them) are queer wives who live and love to travel. They're outdoors enthusiasts, passionate about sustainability, prefer to be off the beaten path and proud to be living out loud and visible as members of the LGBTQ+ community.

FOLLOW

Follow their adventures and feel their love on Instagram: [@wanderfulwives](https://www.instagram.com/wanderfulwives)





Nickelodeon
UNIVERSE
MALL OF AMERICA

▲ Sam of @WanderfulWives at Nickelodeon Universe at Mall of America



▲ Justine and Sam of @WanderfulWives at Sugar Loaf Bluff at sunset, Winona

A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF WINONA

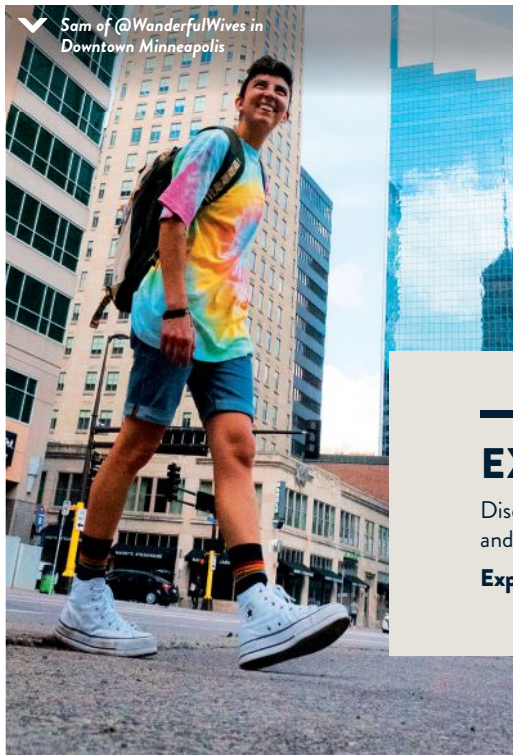
Nothing fills our cup more than being connected to nature. With its waterways and towering bluffs, a slower-paced escape to the charming town of Winona did not disappoint.

We started off with a sunrise walk in **Great River Bluffs State Park** and ended with a sunset hike up **Sugar Loaf Bluff**. There's nothing more magical than when those rolling hills and winding waters are glowing orange. While the sun was up, we enjoyed a serene canoe trip on the backchannels with **Basecamp Provisions** and spotted bald eagles, dozens of turtles and beavers. Afterwards, we spent the afternoon tandem biking and paddle-boarding at the **Winona Lake Lodge**.

In between all those activities, we refueled at **Blooming Grounds Coffee House** on more than one occasion, since we had to try all their tasty bars! **Beno's Deli** was the perfect grab-n-go lunch for a busy day outside, and there's no better way to wrap it up than dinner with a view at **Signature's**. Trying the local beer at **Island City** is also a must, and no trip to Winona is complete without a stop at **Bloedow Bakery**. We'll be dreaming about the maple log for the rest of our days.



▼ Justine and Sam of @WanderfulWives at Twin Cities Pride parade, Minneapolis



▼ Sam of @WanderfulWives in Downtown Minneapolis

EXPLORE MORE

Discover more LGBTQ+ trip ideas and plan your next vacation today!

ExploreMinnesota.com/LGBTQ

MEMORABLE TOURS

THAT WILL EDUCATE
AND ENTERTAIN

There's something about a group of people all doing the same thing makes it more fun. The next time you want to learn, play, feel awe and laugh – maybe all in the same afternoon – consider taking a tour with your favorite group.

U.S. BANK STADIUM

You've watched fans pour into it for the Final Four, Super Bowl and sold-out shows (everything from Garth Brooks to Beyoncé & Jay-Z); now you, too, can check out the magnificent, as-seen-on-TV U.S. Bank Stadium in downtown Minneapolis. A 90-minute tour (\$29 adults, \$19 children ages 5-12) will take you behind-the-scenes of the 65,000-seat stadium. See the team locker room, the stadium art collection (yes, art!), and the Thomson Reuters Press Level, all while hearing Vikings team history.

usbankstadium.com/tour

ST. PAUL GANGSTER TOUR

The tranquil appearance of St. Paul today belies its criminal 1920s and 1930s past. To learn that fascinating bit of city history, when some of the most notorious criminals in the country lived here, consider the Original St. Paul Gangster Tour. The two-hour motorcoach tour (\$40 per person) traces the decade-long bootlegging and criminal activities of gangsters like Baby Face Nelson and Doc and Ma Barker. What were they doing here and why did the gangster era flourish in St. Paul? These questions and many more are answered on the tour.

wabashacaves.com

MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL

Government buildings are often treasure troves of art and history, and Minnesota's State Capitol has both. Take a guided 90-minute tour on your theme of choice. The Art and Artists Tour teaches the origins of the building's many works of art including murals, sculptures, architecture and paintings. The Builders Tour explains how the Capitol was constructed in 1905 and renovated in 2017. The Civil War Tour depicts Minnesota's participation via artwork and historic battle flags. There's even a Voice of the People Tour that includes an opportunity for adults to view a committee hearing during the 2023 legislative session (allow three hours for this one). Free 45-minute public tours take place on the hour Monday through Saturday. Themed tours are \$10 per person, with reservations required at least two weeks in advance.

mnhs.org/capitol





▲ Minnesota State Capitol interior dome, St. Paul



▼ Wabasha Street Caves Tour, photo courtesy of Visit Saint Paul

▼ Treetop Trail Rendering, Minnesota Zoo, Apple Valley, photo by Snow Kreilich Architects



COMING IN 2023

To the Minnesota Zoo

The Minnesota Zoo is constructing a 1.25-mile Treetop Trail that, when it opens in late summer, will be the longest elevated pedestrian loop in the world. The trail will take you 32 feet into the canopy of a hardwood forest for a bird's-eye view of the bison, tigers and bears below (along with your other favorite zoo animals). It will be fully accessible with numerous benches where you can quietly observe the wildlife in all four seasons.

To Twin Cities Stages

If you missed it last time, you'll get another "shot" at seeing *Hamilton* when it returns to the Orpheum Theatre (April 4-May 6), followed by *Tootsie* (June 20-25), *Jagged Little Pill* (Aug. 8-13) and *Beetlejuice* (Sept. 19-24).

Other shows coming to town include:

- » *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Jan. 28-March 12), *Murder on the Orient Express* (May 13-July 2) and *Into the Woods* (June 17-Aug. 20) at the Guthrie Theater.
- » The world premiere of *The Song Poet* (March 9-19), the first Hmong story adapted for the operatic stage, to be performed by the Minnesota Opera at Luminary Arts Center.
- » *My Fair Lady* (March 21-25) at the Ordway.

EXPLORE MORE

Find out how to walk in Prince's footsteps, take a Swedish heritage tour of Minnesota and more.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Tours](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/tours)

ARTS & CULTURE

From Paul Bunyan to Prince, and contemporary galleries to concert halls, Minnesota has no shortage of inspiring arts and culture opportunities throughout the state.

Our museums alone are unlike anywhere else in the Midwest, tackling such disparate topics as Somali traditions and artifacts, Lake Superior rail lines, the ins and outs of the flour industry, and SPAM®, glorious SPAM®.

Art-wise, special exhibits can be as specific as sea-inspired German Expressionist paintings (one of many unique shows at Winona's Marine Art Museum) or as open to interpretation as our complicated relationship with technology (see: the Walker Art Center's provocative *The Body Electric* pieces from 2019). A little bit of everything can also be found within the world class Minneapolis

Institute of Art. Its recent exhibitions have included well-curated looks at paranormal American art, Japanese textiles and San Francisco rock posters from the '60s.

As for live performances, Minnesota's historic, state-of-the-art theaters showcase a full spectrum of entertainment, including Broadway musicals, local plays and cutting-edge dance companies. And then there's the range of music represented by such iconic venues like First Avenue and Orchestra Hall — two mainstays of downtown Minneapolis that host everything from string-laced film scores to captivating rock concerts.

▲ Bluestem Amphitheater performance, Moorhead, photo courtesy of Visit Fargo-Moorhead



EXPLORE MORE

Immerse yourself in Minnesota's art scene and be inspired.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Arts](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/Arts)

MUSIC BENEATH THE STARS

AMPHITHEATERS AND OUTDOOR STAGES MAKE FOR MAGICAL SUMMER EVENINGS

By Lisa Meyers McClintick

The golden light of a sinking sun and a gentle breeze ripple through a gleeful crowd at The Ledge as Sheryl Crow takes the stage and spreads good vibes through classic jams.

Rock stars seem especially fitting at the state's newest venue, which accommodates close to 3,500 people in a picturesque setting tucked between two water-filled granite quarries in Waite Park. Fountains light up at night and beckon visitors to photo ops while others line up for ice cream or tip back a Rock-a-Rita as the stars come out, literally and figuratively.

Here's a sampling of other can't-miss concert settings that embrace natural scenery across the state:

BAYFRONT FESTIVAL PARK, DULUTH

This spacious park boasts a showy backdrop, with ships gliding by as groups like Duluth's own Trampled by Turtles perform. It welcomes 20,000 fans for weekend festivals devoted to world, reggae and Christian music, as well as its annual Bayfront Blues Festival.

VETTER STONE AMPHITHEATER, MANKATO

Located 80 miles from the Twin Cities, this venue's tiered limestone slabs and seats for 3,300 overlook the Minnesota River for bands like Old Crow Medicine Show and tasty events like Ribfest.

HILDE PERFORMANCE CENTER, PLYMOUTH

This 45-foot amphitheater has framed the natural beauty of local wetlands for more than 50 years. Designed by the same architect as the Lake Harriet Bandshell, it seats up to 4,000 guests and has hosted Soul Asylum, Gary Clark Jr. and Cheap Trick.

BLUESTEM CENTER FOR THE ARTS, MOORHEAD

Tucked into a wooded oxbow of the Red River Valley, this elegantly arched landmark hosts up to 3,000 concertgoers for national acts like Tedeschi Trucks Band, Billy Strings and comedian Amy Schumer, along with productions from the nearby Trollwood Performing Arts School.

LAKE PARK BANDSHELL, WINONA

The Beethoven Festival in this scenic Mississippi River town culminates in a free Minnesota Orchestra concert. Winona Municipal Band also performs on Wednesday nights.

TREASURE ISLAND AMPHITHEATER, RED WING

Tucked near the Mississippi River, this casino stage has drawn musicians Lizzo and Kid Rock as well as comedians Steve Martin and Martin Short.

MYSTIC LAKE, PRIOR LAKE

Alice Cooper, Gwen Stefani and the Jonas Brothers have all taken the outdoor stage at this casino that accommodates up to 8,000 people.

SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD, MINNEAPOLIS

The legendary First Avenue teams up with this destination brewery to bring 5,000 fans together alongside midstream artists like Patti Smith, Phoebe Bridgers and Tame Impala.





^ Vetter Stone Amphitheater, Mankato, photo by Aerial Imagery Media



^ WE Fest concert at night, Detroit Lakes, photo by Keith Griner

DESTINATION FESTIVALS

Anyone craving weekends full of outdoor music — often with camping — can festival hop as early as May in Minnesota.

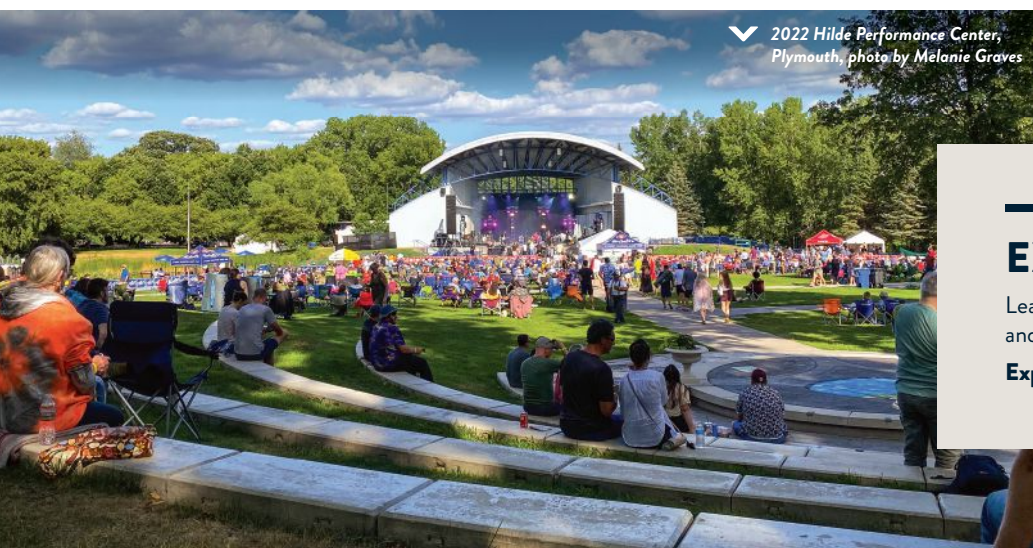
WE Fest bills itself as the biggest country-and-camping festival in America. Celebrating its 40th year Aug. 3-5, WE Fest's past headliners such as Miranda Lambert and Luke Bryan have drawn more than 100,000 fans to Soo Pass Ranch in Detroit Lakes.

Country fans also flock to **Winstock Festival**, which celebrates its 28th year June 16-17 in Winsted. Expect a lineup along the lines of previous live performers Tim McGraw, Reba McEntire and Casi Joy. Moondance Ranch in Walker has a camping-focused country weekend every June, too, followed by its better known **Moondance Jam** with rock stars like Daughtry and Bret Michaels in late July.

Metro area music lovers watch a wide variety of wild performances at the **Twin Cities Jazz Festival** every June. Nearly 30 St. Paul venues hosted such headliners as the Zacc Harris Sextet and Treme Brass Band last year. Kicking the concert season off even earlier in Minneapolis are the weekend-long Whirlygig and Liquid Zoo festivals. Indeed Brewing and Bauhaus Brew Labs host during **Art-A-Whirl**, an annual gathering of eager gallery hoppers and culture vultures looking to catch local acts like Gully Boys and Kiss the Tiger.



^ Bayfront Blues Festival, Duluth



^ 2022 Hilde Performance Center, Plymouth, photo by Melanie Graves

EXPLORE MORE

Learn more about Minnesota's vibrant and diverse music scene.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Music](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/music)

ART SHINES

ACROSS MINNESOTA

MUST-SEE ART MUSEUMS IN EVERY REGION

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL

The **Minneapolis Institute of Art** is often ranked among the country's most comprehensive art museums. It houses more than 80,000 objects and spans 5,000 years, with free daily admission and special exhibits for an additional fee.

Housed in a refurbished church, **The Museum of Russian Art** is the only North American museum dedicated to the preservation of Russian artifacts.

The **Walker Art Center** is world-renowned for its contemporary art collection and exceptional programming. Don't miss the sprawling **Minneapolis Sculpture Garden** across the street.

The **Weisman Art Museum** is known for its grandiose Frank Gehry building on the University of Minnesota campus and special exhibits ranging from modernist paintings to photography. The **Goldstein Museum of Design** also features rotating exhibits and an extensive permanent collection in two separate galleries.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

The **Minnesota Marine Art Museum** in Winona specializes in art inspired by water, including Impressionist works by Van Gogh, Monet and Renoir. Temporary shows highlight regional artists and other nautical themes.

The **Wanda Gag House** in New Ulm is the childhood home of the children's author best known for *Millions of Cats*. It features her lithographs, illustrations and books.

The **Rochester Art Center** presents contemporary exhibitions of international artists in an architecturally stunning building downtown.

NORTHEAST MINNESOTA

The **Tweed Museum of Art** at the University of Minnesota-Duluth is home to a unique collection of commissions by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force and special temporary exhibitions.

Photography buffs shouldn't miss the **Brandenburg Gallery** in Ely, which houses hundreds of images by Minnesota native and *National Geographic* photographer Jim Brandenburg.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA

While the large-scale landscapes of Francis Lee Jaques grace dioramas at several natural history museums – including Minneapolis's own *Bell Museum* – his original work can be found at the **Jaques Art Center** in Aitkin.

Visitors to St. John's University in Collegeville can view selected folios of *The Saint John's Bible* and other rare exhibits at the **Hill Museum & Manuscript Library**.

NORTHWEST MINNESOTA

Rourke Art Gallery + Museum in Moorhead has a collection of more than 3,000 contemporary paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs, including work by African, Native American, pre-Columbian and Hispanic artists, and such internationally known icons as Joan Miro, Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.

The Nemeth Art Center in Park Rapids features works from Gabor Nemeth's private collection. The Hungarian art restorer brought the European paintings to the United States after World War II and offered them to his adopted home in the '70s.





▲ Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Colleville

FUN & LEARNING FLOURISH AT CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS

Kids have plenty of places to play in Minnesota.

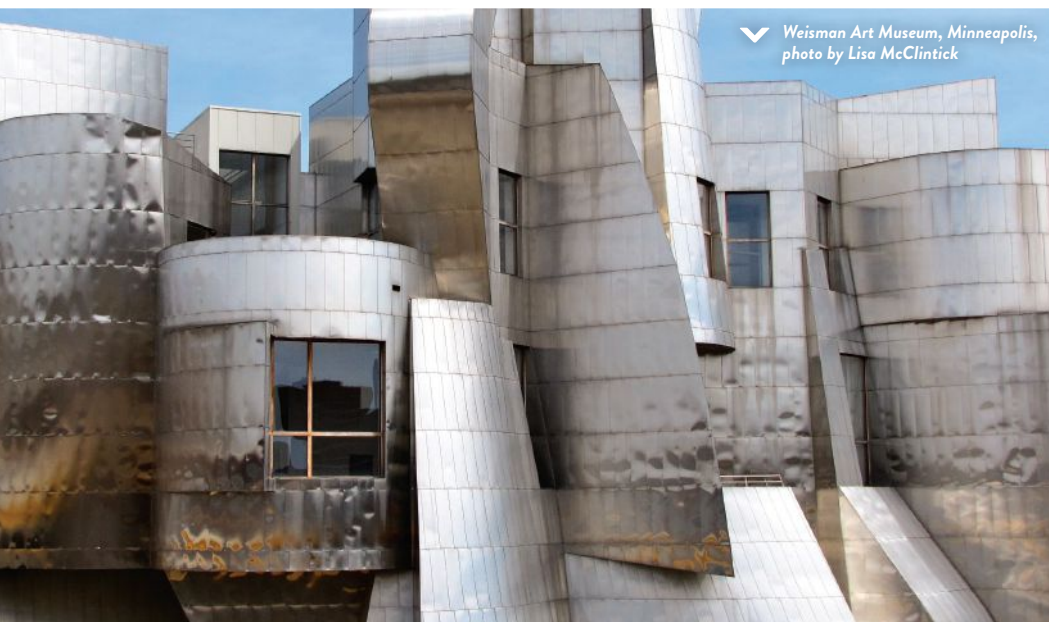
The **Minnesota Children's Museum** in downtown St. Paul features 65,000 square feet of fun and welcomes more than 400,000 visitors a year. The museum is organized into "worlds," focusing on the environment, art, science and exploration.

The 10,000-square-foot **Duluth Children's Museum** boasts a dinosaur dig, engineering lab and magnetic wall. Other highlights include plaster casings paleontologists use to safely transport fossils.

Future scientists will find many ways to stimulate their brains at **The Works Museum** in Bloomington. While families can experiment with catapults and circuits in the Design Lab, the Sensor Zone lets kids explore light, sound and thermal energy. Don't miss the giant kinetic sculpture that incorporates more than 100,000 K'Nex pieces.

The **Children's Discovery Museum** in Grand Rapids lets kids dig for dinosaur fossils, learn about geography and navigate a maze. Tickets include access to the attached Judy Garland Museum. There, Wizard of Oz fans can see 3,000 pieces from the classic movie.

The **Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota** connects visitors to the surrounding area with hands-on exhibits about farming, quarrying and engineering. Babies and toddlers can romp on the Play Porch (inspired by Mankato author Maud Hart Lovelace), while teens and adults can sample STEM lessons in the Makers Space.



▼ Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, photo by Lisa McClintick



▼ Kids at Minneapolis Institute of Art, photo courtesy of MIA



▼ Photography exhibit at Minnesota Marine Art Museum, Winona

EXPLORE MORE

Explore art, history, science and more at Minnesota's museums and galleries.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Museums](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/museums)

EXPLORE MINNESOTA'S NATIVE HERITAGE

By Aegor Ray

According to the Bdewakantonwan Dakota creation story, Dakota people and life began in Minnesota.

Through oral histories, we know that the Anishinaabe migrated here through a passage of the Great Lakes and clashed with the Dakota, but eventually came together in peace.

Today, there are 11 sovereign indigenous nations in Minnesota. The seven Anishinaabe nations are the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, White Earth Band of Ojibwe and Red Lake Nation. The four Sioux nations are the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Prairie Island Indian Community, Lower Sioux Indian Community and Upper Sioux Indian Community.

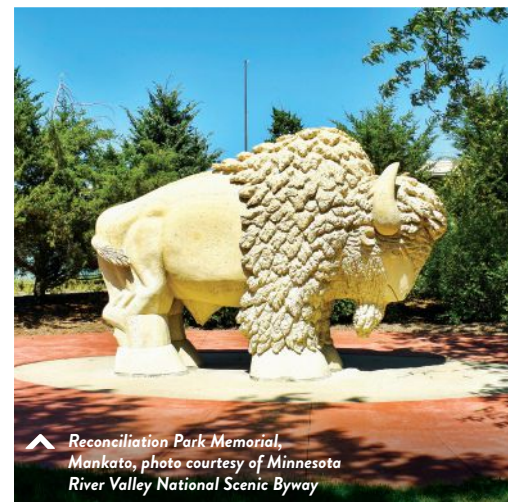
Minnesota is home to many heritage sites that explore Native history, artistry and living culture, including the **Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post** in Central Minnesota; **Grand Portage National Monument** along Lake Superior; **Hočokata Ti**, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux's cultural center and gathering space; and the **Jeffers Petroglyphs** in Southwestern Minnesota, a rocky outcrop of over 4,000 images carved by indigenous societies as long ago as 7000 B.C.

Another such site, **Reconciliation Park** in Mankato, highlights one of the darkest moments in U.S.-Dakota relations. The park is located by the site of the largest mass execution in U.S. history, where 38 Dakota men were hanged as the last act of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. Inspired by the vision of Vernell Wabasha, a Dakota elder, the park features a buffalo monument carved from local Kasota limestone that is surrounded by prairie grasses. This somber monument is a commitment to healing between Dakota and non-Dakota peoples.

Native nations in Minnesota today have survived hundreds of years of calculated violence and, extraordinarily, have preserved their cultural legacies and traditions. At the heart of the original people is sovereignty, community and a profound relationship to the land – its waterways and seasons, all the gifts it has to offer.



**AT THE HEART OF
THE ORIGINAL
PEOPLE IS
SOVEREIGNTY,
COMMUNITY AND
A PROFOUND
RELATIONSHIP
TO THE LAND.**



Reconciliation Park Memorial, Mankato, photo courtesy of Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway



Native American basket made of wild rice and birch bark at Mille Lacs Indian Museum



▲ Prairie Island Indian Community Wacipi (Powwow), photo by Lorie Shaull

INSIDE A POWWOW

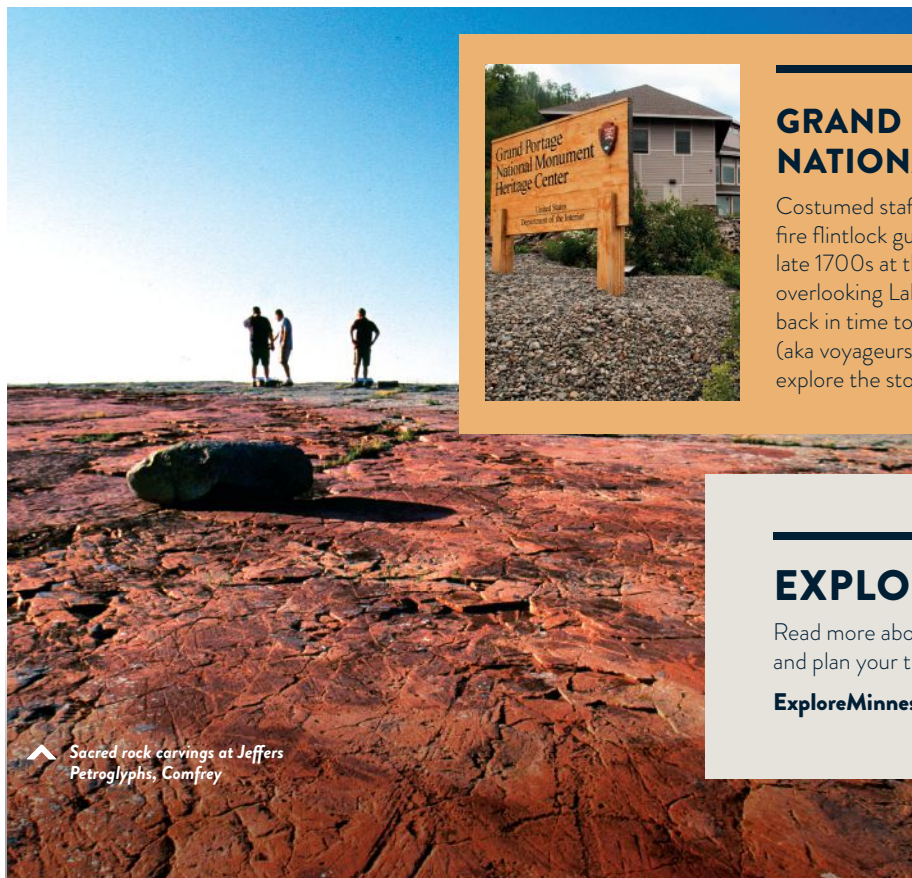
Powwows are an important cultural tradition and intergenerational community get-together where Native people perform traditional music, dance and storytelling. Non-natives are invited to respectfully attend powwows to learn about this deep cultural legacy that preexists the United States.

These days, large powwows may have 25 drums and over 1,000 dancers – in a line stretching for a mile! Participants are expected to memorize songs down to the final beat, and they differ from region to region. Time, skill and artistry go into the songs and dances, which honor memories and share stories of creation.

Bud Johnston, board president of the Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers, emphasizes the symbolic and narrative significance of different dances. Visitors should pay attention to the details in regalia, songs and style, which differ between dances. For instance, dancers and drummers may be accompanied by participants who place a pinch of tobacco onto a drum for a pipe ceremony.

Powwows also feature bustling markets with vendors that sell traditional foods such as fry bread tacos and wild rice, along with specialty crafts, including native beadwork, medicinal plants and tinctures and leatherwork.

Summer is peak season for Minnesota powwows, but indoor celebrations continue through the winter as well. Mille Lacs Band's annual powwow in August features majestic regalia and a celebration of Ojibwe culture. In September, the Mahkato Wacipi celebrates Dakota culture while honoring the memory of the 38 Dakota warriors executed in 1862.



▲ Sacred rock carvings at Jeffers Petroglyphs, Comfrey



GRAND PORTAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Costumed staff build birch-bark canoes and fire flintlock guns as they reenact life in the late 1700s at this reconstructed trading post overlooking Lake Superior. Enjoy traveling back in time to learn about fur traders (aka voyageurs) and Ojibwe people as you explore the stockade and its exhibits.

EXPLORE MORE

Read more about tribal destinations and plan your trip today!

ExploreMinnesota.com/NativeSites

PIPESTONE, MN
EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT - WINNEWISSA FALLS - CIRCLE TRAIL - QUARRIES JUNIOR & B.A.R.K. RANGER PROGRAMS - NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISANS - MUSEUM UNIQUE BOUTIQUES & ANTIQUES - LOCAL EATERIES - FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER CASEY JONES STATE TRAIL - SPLIT ROCK CREEK STATE PARK - CAMPING - GOLF

m EXPLORE MINNESOTA **PipestoneMinnesota.com**

IT WAS ANY GOLFER'S PARADISE

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

Southern
MINNESOTA
Take a Road Trip

m EXPLORE MINNESOTA

SO MN
naturally different®



DISCOVER DAKOTA CULTURE

**Tuktet Nanka
Iyeya Wo**
Find Your Place
Each member of the family had an assigned spot
for sleeping inside the teepee. Your task
is to find your place in the teepee.
Knowing your place is a sign of respect
for the others. Can you find your spot in the teepee?


PUBLIC EXHIBIT

Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake

Explore the lifeways of the Mdewakanton people, past and present.



HOCOKATATI.ORG

Shakopee, MN | 952.233.9151 

OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

Hočokata Ti

TWIN CITIES CULTURE

AND CULINARY ADVENTURES

By Mecca Bos



When I show off my Minnesota to a visitor, they come away with the impression that they've visited an entire world. And it's true – the Twin Cities has worlds within its border, worlds most easily explored through food. Take a tour with me, won't you?

LET'S GO TO: SOUTHEAST ASIA

It can be argued that every region has a sandwich and that ours is the Banh Mi – cold cuts, pâtés, shredded veggies and herbs layered between French-style rolls.

Find them all over the cities, or do a side-by-side comparison down **Eat Street** (a stretch of Nicollet Avenue with numerous international restaurants), where some of the most lauded spots do business. **Lu's Sandwiches** is the gold standard, building them to-order “your way,” cafeteria style.

Some of the tastiest pho in town can be found here, too, at **Pho 79** or **Pho Tau Bay**, old-school eateries light on frills and heavy on flavor.

LET'S GO TO: EAST AFRICA

Minnesota's African population now tops 90,000, and this community – hailing from Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea – has brought rich culinary traditions along with it.

I always say Ethiopian is the ideal meal for a party—if your idea of a party is conviviality, sharing and participation, which mine is.

I recommend starting at **Fasika**, St. Paul's foundational Ethiopian spot, located in one

of the three Twin Cities areas that compose “Little Africa.” Nearby, **Snelling Cafe** offers a mashup of East African and American classics, so you can enjoy beef tibs and a cheeseburger in one sitting.

LET'S GO TO: MEXICO

Nixta Tortilleria and **Mexican Takeout** are the reigning queens of taquerias, because they use nixtamalized corn, which makes for a fragrant dream of a tortilla. Try them with anything on the menu – you can't go wrong.

The best tacos come off the street – fight me. **The Tacos El Primo** truck has been operating in the parking lot at 1405 E. Lake St. in Minneapolis for so long, it's an institution. If I have to choose my last local taco, this is it.

If you see a line for food, get in it. Locals know a line at **Andale Taqueria** in suburban Richfield is worth waiting in for fast-casual greatest hits, plus hearty breakfasts and Mexican desserts.

MEET MECCA

Mecca Bos is a Twin Cities-based food writer, chef and podcaster. She focuses on BIPOC voices and uncovering hidden stories. Tacos and travel are hobbies.

FOLLOW

Read her articles in national and local publications, and listen to her latest project, *The Godfather of Black Space* in Minneapolis, at **KFAI.org**.





▲ Allianz Field food, Tostadas by Nixta, photo courtesy of Minnesota United FC



▲ Veigel's Kaiserhoff, New Ulm, photo by @goodinnhood



▲ Howard's Que, Duluth



▼ ThaiPop, Rochester, photo by Bharath Woola

GLOBAL EATS AROUND THE STATE

Beyond the metro area's borders, these restaurants serve international fare with flair.

NORTHWEST

» **Necce's Ristorante** (Park Rapids) – Feast on pasta, steak and seafood prepared by Tuscan-certified chefs and paired with wines hand selected by Chef Necce in Italy.

» **Compañeros Mexican Restaurant** is one of a surprising number of eateries in tiny Dorset (population 22), known as the Restaurant Capital of the World for its high number of restaurants per capita.

NORTHEAST

» **El Potro** (Grand Rapids) – The extensive menu features tacos, enchiladas, challupas and other Mexican favorites, plus margaritas and fried ice cream.

» **Mexico Lindo** (Duluth) – The mouthwatering menu features street tacos, chimichangas and other specialties, plus desserts like fried ice cream and chimicheesecake.

CENTRAL

» **Oma's Restaurant and Bakery** (Wadena) – Quiche, spätzle and several kinds of kuchen are served here, along with tasty German baked goods.

» **Somali Star** (Willmar) – Order chicken kay kay and eat in or get sambusa to go at this authentic East African restaurant.

SOUTHERN

» **Veigel's Kaiserhoff** (New Ulm) – Established 75 years ago, the Kaiserhoff serves legendary German specialties and barbecue ribs.

» **Thai Pop** (Rochester) – Sip cocktails with your curry at this trendy downtown spot, voted Best New Restaurant by *Rochester Magazine* in 2022.

EXPLORE MORE

Find food halls, fresh walleye, breweries and more.

ExploreMinnesota.com/FoodandDrink

SEE THE WORLD

WITHOUT LEAVING MINNESOTA

Connect with the state's cultural fabric through food, music, traditions and multi-day festivals.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

Numerous **Juneteenth** events on or around June 19 celebrate the end of slavery in the U.S., including a block party on West Broadway in Minneapolis and family activities at various Minneapolis parks, with food trucks, music, a parade and more. In August, **Little Africa Fest** showcases African art, fashion, food, music and dancing in Hamline Park near an area of St. Paul with a growing number of African restaurants and small businesses.

GERMAN FLAVORS

Ranked by *Fodor's Travel*, *USA Today* and *Travel + Leisure* as one of the best in the nation, New Ulm's **Oktoberfest** showcases authentic German food, music and beer during the first two full weekends in October. New Ulm is also home to Schell's Brewery, the second oldest family-owned brewery in the country, which hosts an Oktoberfest of its own at its parklike grounds.

HONG TRADITIONS

Traditional dance, music and crafts draw thousands of people to Minnesota's **Hmong New Year** festivities the weekend after Thanksgiving at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. In July, Saint Paul hosts the **Hmong International Freedom Festival**, a Hmong Olympics of sorts, at Como Park. Athletes compete in soccer, volleyball and games such as sepak takraw (kind of a cross between volleyball and soccer).

IRISH PARADES & FAIRS

On or around March 17, Minnesotans look forward to beloved St. Patrick's Day traditions, such as the state **parade through downtown St. Paul** and the **St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration** hosted by Crosslake in Central Minnesota. The festivities continue when, in August, **Irish Fair** turns Harriet Island into a St. Paul version of the Emerald Isle with traditional Irish music, dance and food.

LATINO CELEBRATIONS

One of the nation's largest **Cinco de Mayo** celebrations takes place on or around May 5 along Cesar Chavez Street in St. Paul, where many Latino-owned restaurants and businesses are located. Highlights include six blocks of Mexican food, music, dancing and cultural activities along with a dazzling parade and a not-to-be-missed jalapeno-eating contest.

SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVALS

Minnesota celebrates its Norwegian and Swedish ancestry with several annual festivals. **Svenskarnas Dag** (Swedish Heritage Day) features Swedish music, dancing, food and handicrafts at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis on the fourth Sunday in June. **Syttende Mai** (Seventeenth of May) events take place in Minnesota towns settled by Norwegians, including Spring Grove, Milan and Sunburg.



▲ **Cinco De Mayo Parade**, photo by Lucy Hawthorne, courtesy of Visit Saint Paul



▼ **Juneteenth Creekevew Park, Minneapolis**, photo by Augustus Isaac courtesy of Meet Minneapolis



▲ *Cinco De Mayo Parade, photo courtesy of Visit Saint Paul*



▼ *Oktoberfest, New Ulm*



▼ *St. Patrick's Day Parade, St. Paul*



St. Patrick's Day Parade, St. Paul, photo by Andrew Stack

SHOP LOCAL AND GLOBAL

Shop and eat your way around the world at these community-oriented and culturally diverse locales.

Hmong Village and Hmongtown Marketplace

You'll find more than 100 stores at each of these St. Paul locations. Come see the extensive selection of arts and crafts, clothing, books and home décor, then visit the food courts for a taste of Southeast Asia.

Midtown Global Market

Discover handmade arts, crafts, jewelry, clothing and home goods at this Minneapolis market. There are also 18 ethnic restaurants serving authentic food and beverages, from Venezuelan empanadas to Vietnamese pho.

Black Market

This unique shopping experience aims to increase the visibility of Black-owned businesses in Minnesota. In addition to checking out the products and services, you can purchase food and enjoy live entertainment. It takes place at the Case Building in St. Paul on the second Saturday of every month.

Community Commons at Mall of America

Mall of America provides space and marketing support to an ever-changing mix of BIPOC-owned businesses in the Community Commons on the south side of its second level. Past tenants have included Dauren (custom apparel), Llakta (Indigenous American arts and crafts) and La Michoacana Purepecha (Mexican frozen treats).

EXPLORE MORE

Plug in the dates of your visit to see what else is happening throughout the state.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Events](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/events)

DISCOVER MINNESOTA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

With pristine lakes, immense forests and rugged bluffs, Minnesota welcomes outdoor lovers of all kinds. And thanks to one of the nation's best state park systems, you have practically unlimited access to nature no matter where you are — from the middle of Minneapolis to the four corners of the state.

ADVENTURES ON LAND

Thousands of square miles of enchanting wilderness cover Minnesota, much of which is protected federal or state land. Golf at one of the state's award-winning public courses, go biking on Cuyuna Country trails, cross-country ski across a pristine winter landscape, seek out rare animals in one of the state's wildlife refuges or go camping under the stars — countless adventures await.

ADVENTURES ON THE WATER

Home to the headwaters of the Mississippi River, the sparkling shores of Lake Superior, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and well over 10,000 lakes, Minnesota beckons boaters, paddlers and other water lovers. Minnesota also offers some of the best freshwater fishing spots in the country, from big lakes like Lake Mille Lacs to scenic trout streams and everything in between.



EXPLORE MORE

Discover exciting hiking and mountain biking trails or the nine best paddling day trips for families.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/GreatOutdoors](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/GreatOutdoors)

SIX SPECTACULAR NATIONAL PARK SITES

By James Riemermann

These national park sites preserve some of Minnesota's most distinctive natural, historic and cultural resources.

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Imagine a luxurious floating vacation home moored on your own private bay or island, with a hot tub and a waterslide. Houseboats can be rented from businesses just outside the designated **International Dark Sky Park**, Minnesota's premier destination for houseboat vacations. Although campsites are accessible only by watercraft, some of the park's hiking trails are accessible by car on the southern border of the park. Guided boat tours and ranger-led programs are available during summer and fall.

MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA

This 72-mile stretch of river, from Dayton to Hastings, passes right through the heart of Minneapolis and St. Paul with a visitor center located at the **Science Museum of Minnesota**. Worthwhile stops along the route include a two-mile self-guided Heritage Trail at the powerful **St. Anthony Falls** in Minneapolis and living history demonstrations at **Historic Fort Snelling**.

ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY

A federally designated "National Wild and Scenic River," this waterway along the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin is widely considered one of the best canoeing rivers in the nation. Near **Interstate State Park** in Taylors Falls, **Wild Mountain** runs guided paddleboat excursions from May through the fall color season in mid-October.

THE ST. CROIX RIVER IS WIDELY CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST CANOEING RIVERS IN THE NATION.

PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT

The American Indian tradition of quarrying pipestone to make into sacred pipes and other items is still practiced here today. Tour the grounds to see 56 active quarry pits, beautiful **Winnewissa Falls** and a museum where craft workers demonstrate the art of creating pipestone goods.

GRAND PORTAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Volunteers and park staff in period attire reenact and describe this site's importance to the French-Canadian fur trade of the early 1800s and to the

Indians who initially guided the voyageurs, based on their centuries of experience. The highlights of the year, **Grand Rendezvous Days** and the **Rendezvous Days Powwow**, take place on the second weekend in August.

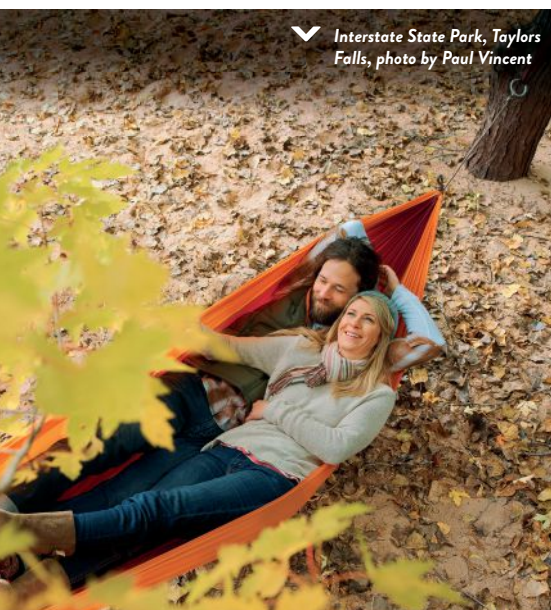
NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Once complete, this multi-state trail will be the longest continuous hiking trail in the United States. One of the most popular segments in Minnesota for day hikes and backcountry camping is the **Superior Hiking Trail** along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

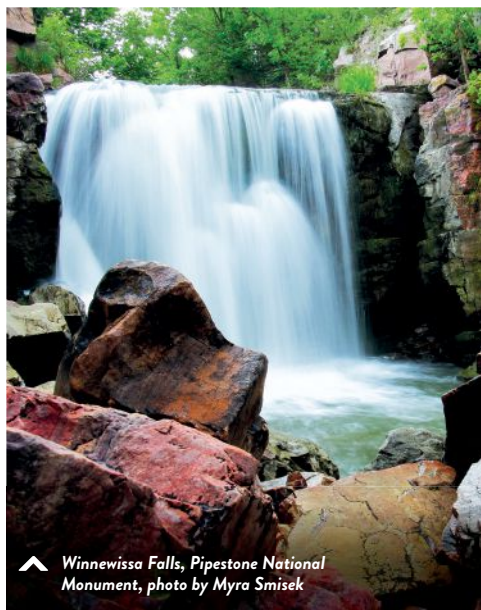




▲ Northern lights with houseboat, Voyageurs National Park



▼ Interstate State Park, Taylors Falls, photo by Paul Vincent



▲ Winnebissa Falls, Pipestone National Monument, photo by Myra Smisek



▲ Bean and Bear Lakes on the Superior Hiking Trail, photo by Alyssa Hei

MINNESOTA'S NATIONAL FORESTS

Expect a lot more than towering pine trees when you visit Minnesota's two beautiful national forests.

Inside these special places, you'll also find an abundance of wildlife; hiking, biking and off-highway vehicle trails; national historic sites; cabins and campsites; and lakes with great fishing, swimming and boating.

Spanning three million acres, **Superior National Forest**, in the northeast corner of the state, is the largest national forest east of the Mississippi River. Its 2,000 lakes and streams (many of which are part of the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness**), offer some of the country's finest fishing. There are extensive trails for hiking, off-highway vehicle riding and snowmobiling. Two downhill ski areas – **Giant's Ridge** and **Lutsen Mountains** – also operate within the forest.

Chippewa National Forest, in north-central Minnesota east of Bemidji, covers more than 666,000 acres, with more than 1,300 lakes and 923 miles of rivers and streams. There are 21 developed campgrounds, some rustic and others with running water and other modern amenities.

Reservations: To reserve a campsite or cabin in one of the developed campgrounds at either of Minnesota's national forests, or to apply for a permit to camp in the Boundary Waters, visit recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.

EXPLORE MORE

Find inspiration and a variety of scenic destinations for your next adventure on land or water.

ExploreMinnesota.com/OutdoorAdventures

A PARK FOR EVERY SEASON

By Amy Barrett

Minnesota has an abundance of outstanding national, state and regional parks that offer scenic escapes throughout the year.

From the wide open prairies in the southwest to the tall pines in the Northwoods, they offer a wonderful variety of flora and fauna. What you can see and do at each park will depend on when and where you go, because Minnesota has four distinct seasons and biomes, each with its own particular pleasures. Here are just a few of the many options for outdoor fun.

SPRING

MINNEOPA STATE PARK HAS REALLY BIG THINGS TO SEE

Biking, bison and a beautiful double waterfall are the main reasons to visit **Minneopa State Park**, just west of Mankato in southern Minnesota. The word *minneopa* is derived from the Dakota language and is interpreted to mean “water falling twice.” The name fits because the upper falls drop about 10 feet, and the lower falls plummet another 40. Both falls are just a short walk from the parking area.

This park is popular with bicyclists because it connects to 50 miles of paved trails – including the **Red Jacket Trail**, the **Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail** and the **Minnesota River Trail** – with lots of great spots along the way to stop for a bite and a cold beverage.

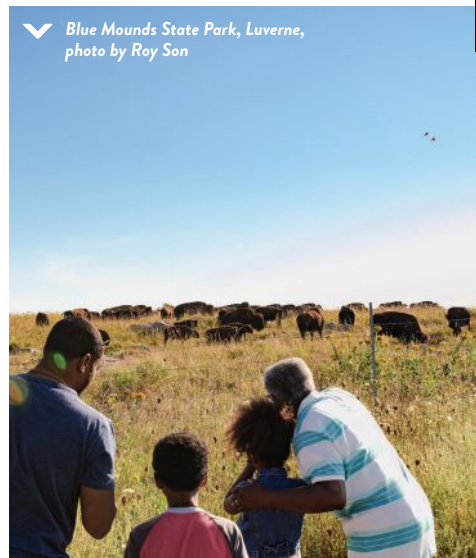
Minneopa State Park is also one of two Minnesota state parks with a resident **bison herd** (the other is **Blue Mounds State Park** in the southwestern corner of the state). Look for the bison as you drive through a 331-acre grassland and tune in to 1610 AM on your radio to learn more about the park’s efforts to preserve these wild animals, millions of which roamed the North American plains before they were hunted to near extinction. Starting in April, you might be lucky enough to see some light brown newborns among the enormous dark brown adults.



▲ *Minneopa State Park, photo by Jim Henderson*



▼ *Red Jacket Bike Trail, Mankato*



▼ *Blue Mounds State Park, Luverne, photo by Roy Son*



▲ *The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, photo by Paul Vincent*



▼ *Stargazing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, photo by Paul Vincent*



▼ *Camping in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, photo by Gary Hamer*

ADVENTURE AWAITS IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS

The **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness**, extending 150 miles along the Canadian border in northeast Minnesota, is one of America's most stunning destinations. With most of its water bodies closed to motorboats, this pristine wilderness offers solitude, beauty and, for those who seek it, adventure like nowhere else.

Once you figure out where you want to begin your paddling adventure, the next step is to apply for a permit for that exact entry point from recreation.gov. You might also want to get a fishing license from mndnr.gov, because the lakes are full of lunkers. Canoes and other gear are available from numerous local outfitters. Some outfitters also offer guided trips. If you like, you can nab the first open campsite you find, or you can portage between lakes to reach more remote areas of the wilderness.

Keep your eye out for moose and bears and listen for loon calls as you explore the area. Far from city lights, the BWCAW has been designated a Dark Sky Sanctuary, so expect to see lots of stars and maybe even the Northern Lights. For a sense of what the Boundary Waters are like read the writings of Minnesota native Sigurd Olson.

SUMMER

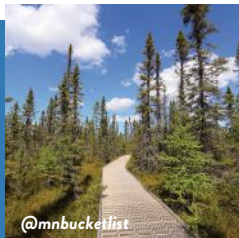
MORE GREAT PARKS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

» Hike a mile-long boardwalk (the longest in the U.S.!) to see rare plants, climb a 100-foot observation tower, go fishing or swimming in Upper Red Lake and explore the Tamarac River in a canoe or kayak at **Big Bog State Recreation Area** in northwestern Minnesota.

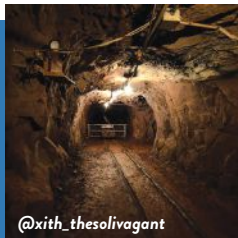
» See a magnificent variety of wildflowers along the trail to Hidden Falls at **Nerstrand Big Woods State Park** in southern Minnesota.

» Hike and bike above ground, then experience what it was like to be a miner by descending a half-mile underground for a guided mine tour in a rail car at **Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park** in northeastern Minnesota, Minnesota's newest state park.

» Cast a line from the fishing pier, hike up to Anderson Hill Overlook or explore six miles of horse trails (BYOH) at **Lake Maria State Park** near St. Cloud.



@mnbucketlist



@xith_thesolivagant



@lorjalmighty



@mneme.the.scientist

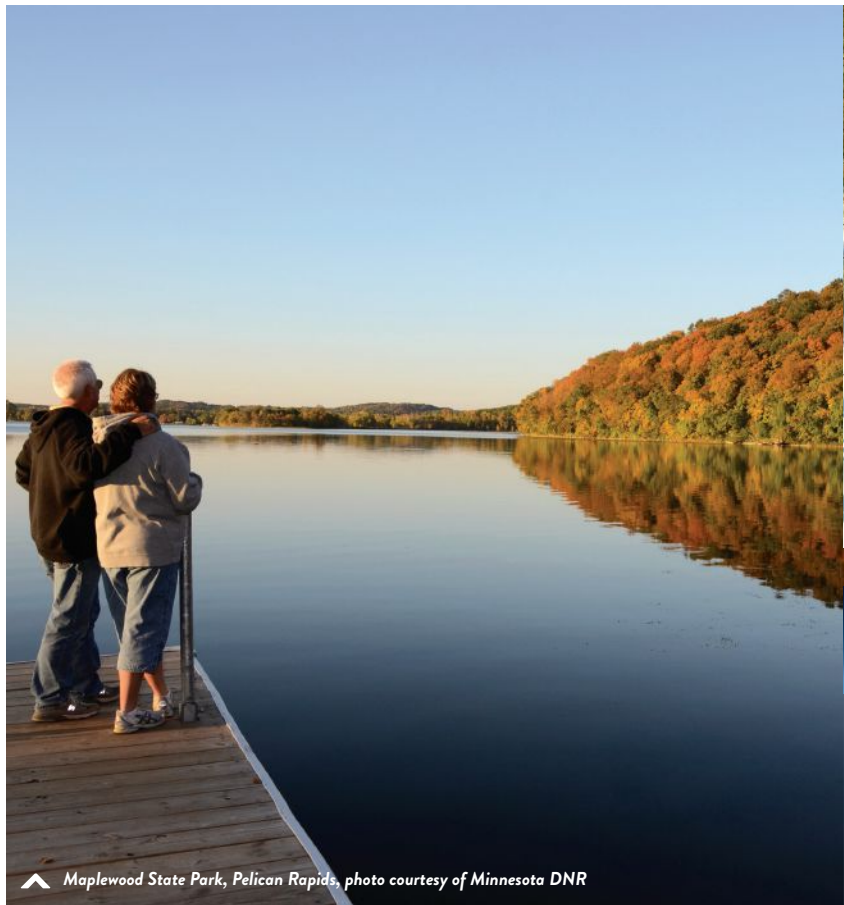
FALL

FIND MAGNIFICENT FALL COLOR AT MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

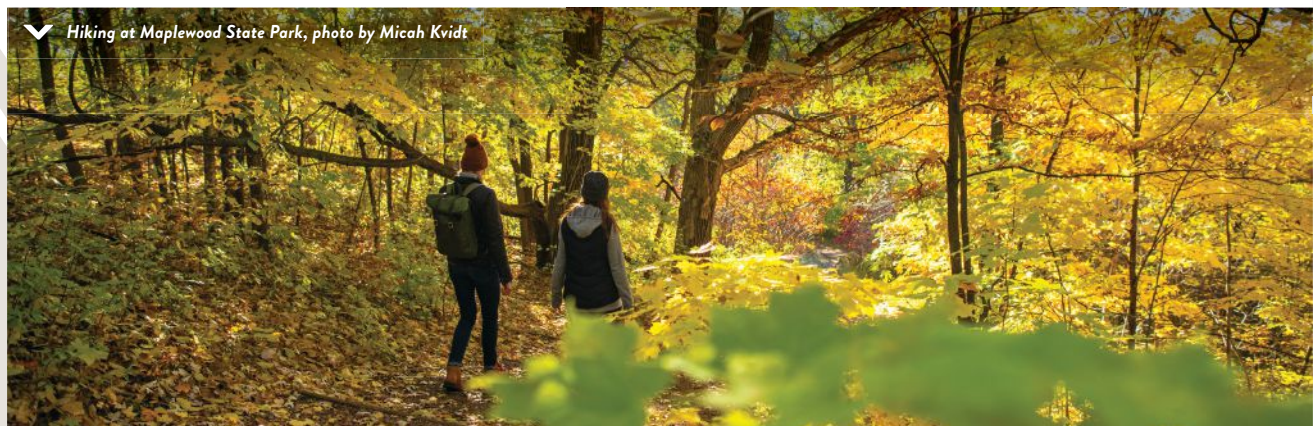
For one of the most magnificent views of fall color in Minnesota, hike the half-mile trail from the picnic area to the top of Hallway Hill at **Maplewood State Park** in Pelican Rapids in the state's central region. You'll be rewarded with a panoramic view overlooking South Lida Lake and the surrounding maple trees and sumac.

Other great views await along the park's five-mile scenic drive. The park's foliage typically bursts into its brightest oranges and reds around the last week of September and the first week of October.

On your way to or from the park, it's worth stopping by **Adams Park** in Fergus Falls for photo ops that include Otto, the adorable 40-foot-long otter, and, on a tiny island in Grotto Lake, a rookery where you can see more great egrets, black-crowned night herons and double-crested cormorants than you've probably ever seen up close in one place in your life.



Maplewood State Park, Pelican Rapids, photo courtesy of Minnesota DNR



Hiking at Maplewood State Park, photo by Micah Kvild

MORE GREAT PARKS FOR FALL AND WINTER

- » **Wild River State Park** in Center City (about an hour north of St. Paul), rents cross-country skis and snowshoes for use on its extensive trail system.
- » See how winter has transformed waterfalls into dazzling ice sculptures at **Gooseberry Falls, Tettegouche** and other state parks along the North Shore of Lake Superior.
- » Follow scenic Highway 61 along the Mississippi River to **Great River Bluffs State Park** for a panoramic view of fall color along the Mississippi River, and stop for apples at the orchards along the way.
- » Hike the colorful trails, do some fall fishing and climb the fire tower for a panoramic view at **Mille Lacs Kathio State Park** in Onamia Minnesota.



@bahozoso



@dmaas10



@wxguide



@katiehadleyxo



▼ Geocaching on snowshoes at Lake Bemidji State Park

EXPLORE A WINTER WONDERLAND AT LAKE BEMIDJI STATE PARK

To fully experience the best that a Minnesota winter has to offer, head to **Lake Bemidji State Park** in the northwest quadrant of the state, where there are lots of ways to play in the snow.

You can look for deer along the winter hiking trail or, for more exercise, rent snowshoes at the park office and go traipsing through the woods. A 150-pound person can burn 500 calories or more in an hour on snowshoes.

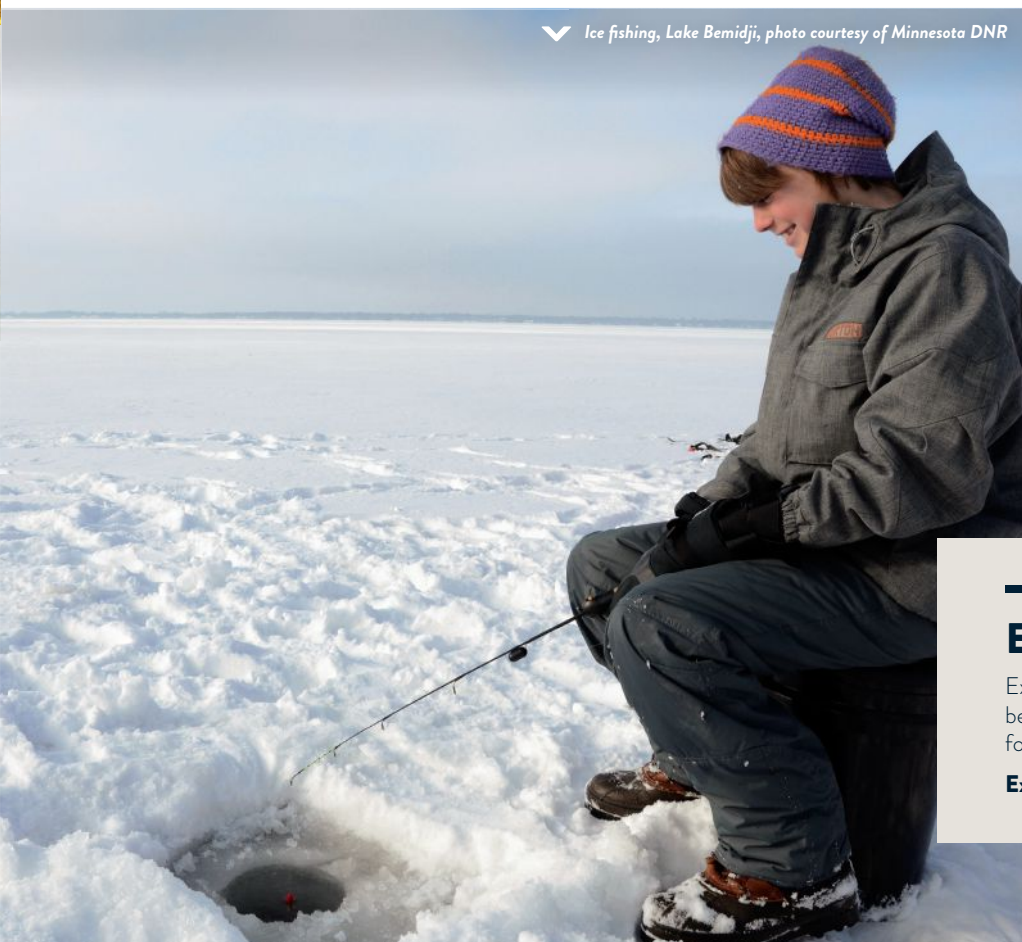
Cross-country skiers will find 8 miles of groomed trails to explore, including the **Paul Bunyan State Trail**, which is mostly flat and therefore perfect for beginners. Equipment is available at the park office if you don't have your own.

Ice fishing and snowmobiling are other popular winter activities here, and nature programs are offered for all ages.

While you're in Bemidji, be sure to stop by to see the iconic statues of legendary lumberjack Paul Bunyan and his companion, Babe the Blue Ox, on the shore of Lake Bemidji near the Tourist Information Center.



▼ Legendary lumberjack Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox in Bemidji, photo by Weston Holland



▼ Ice fishing, Lake Bemidji, photo courtesy of Minnesota DNR

EXPLORE MORE

Explore the untamed natural beauty of Minnesota's parks and forests and plan your trip today.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Parks](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/parks)

WINTER



m EXPLORE MINNESOTA

Stay Safe.
Stay Small.

Book Direct at a
Minnesota Bed and Breakfast
Explore Minnesota and experience local hospitality in an array of accommodations. Search our online directory for your next getaway or purchase a gift certificate. Contact Minnesota Bed & Breakfast Association at MinnesotaBedandBreakfasts.org 952-303-2325



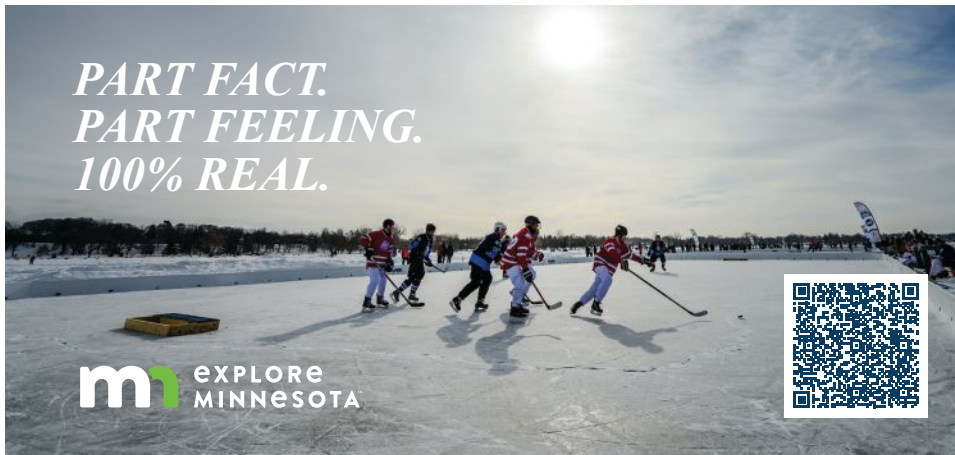
Minnesota
Bed & Breakfast
Association



**THE
MOON
FILLED
THE
ENTIRE
NIGHT
SKY**

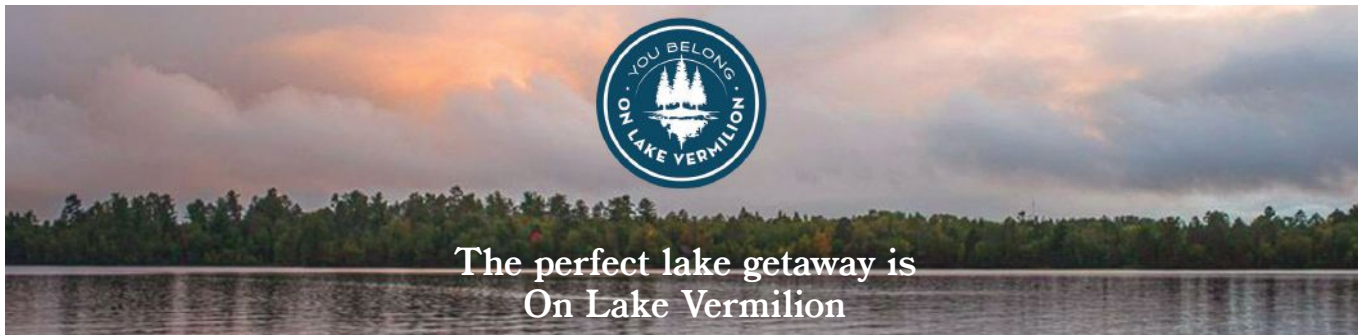


EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA



*PART FACT.
PART FEELING.
100% REAL.*

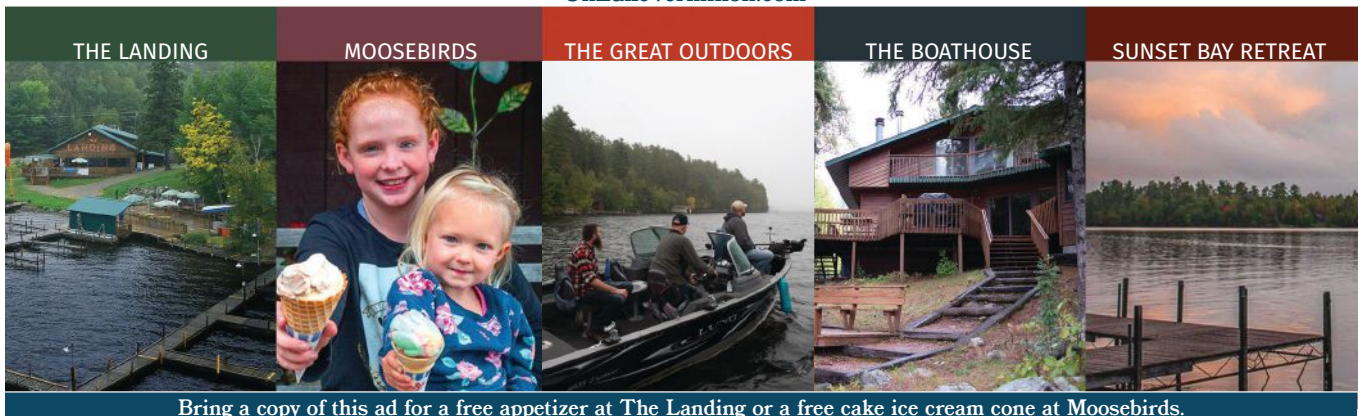
m EXPLORE MINNESOTA



The perfect lake getaway is
On Lake Vermilion

With the area's best restaurant & bar, finest shopping, along with classic and unique lodging options, you're sure to have an authentic Minnesota experience.

OnLakeVermilion.com



THE LANDING

MOOSEBIRDS

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

THE BOATHOUSE

SUNSET BAY RETREAT

Bring a copy of this ad for a free appetizer at The Landing or a free cake ice cream cone at Moosebirds.

You belong where the eagles are!

NationalEagleCenter.org   

Meet live eagles up close! Experience all things eagle with exciting programs, interactive exhibits, and unforgettable field trips and cruises led by the experts. Plus, explore the role of eagles in history and cultures with the world class American Eagle Gallery and Cultural Connections Gallery. Only in Wabasha, MN.

The National Eagle Center is an equal opportunity provider.



Plan your visit to beautiful Bluff Country today!

60+ Miles of Paved Trail through Southeast Minnesota's Driftless Area

Root River & Harmony-Preston Valley State Trails

Miles Between Trailheads	0.5	1.2	1.1	2.1	15.8	24.7	29.5	35.3	24.3	42.1
5.5	4.7	9.3	18.2	23.0	18.8	17.8	25.6	16.2	34.8	27.2
4.4	12.5	18.3	4.4	12.5	20.9	8.9	13.7	19.3	27.1	26.3
4.8	10.6	26.2	17.4	15.8	48.8	12.4	34.6	4.8	53.4	

Legend:
 - Root River State Trail (Green line)
 - Harmony-Preston Valley State Trail (Yellow line)
 - Trailhead (White circle)
 - 5.1 Distance between Trailheads (Number)
 - Trail Mile Marker (Small circle)
 - Area of Caution (Red shaded area)
 - Trail Center (A icon)
 - Parking (P icon)
 - Picnic/Rest Area (M icon)
 - Shelter (S icon)
 - Campground (A icon)
 - Private Campground (A icon with slash)
 - Toilet (T icon)
 - ATV Trail (ATV icon)

Scale:
 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Kilometers

See the Root River Water Trail map for more information

ROOT RIVER TRAIL TOWNS
 BIKE HIKE PADDLE STAY
 southeast minnesota
www.rootrivertrail.org

FIND YOUR DREAM STATE

ACROSS MINNESOTA'S FIVE REGIONS

There are trips and experiences that don't just take you to new places – they transport you to different worlds.

They create magical moments when you can't believe your eyes, and feelings are hard to put into words.

The sunsets on the lake become more magnificent each time you recall them.

The band becomes so loud you can't hear yourself scream.

And you still crave that walleye from the best hidden-gem restaurant you've ever been to.

That's because even though you experience it once, it stays with you forever and the memories grow with time.

#ONLYINMN



▲ Chippewa National Forest, Cass Lake, photo by Paul Vincent



EXPLORE MORE

Find adventures for every season and plan your dream trip to Minnesota.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/DreamState](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/DreamState)



THE ADVENTURE BEGINS IN MINNEAPOLIS- ST. PAUL

The state capital, St. Paul, and neighboring Minneapolis make up the Twin Cities, an incredibly diverse area with dramatic skylines, exciting pro sports, award-winning theater, renowned restaurants and a booming craft beer scene.

Explore bustling Minneapolis neighborhoods like the North Loop, Uptown and Northeast. Or soak up the laid-back vibe in St. Paul neighborhoods like Cathedral Hill, East Side and Grand/Summit.

When it comes to food, the Twin Cities is most famous for the cheese-stuffed Juicy Lucy burger, but you'll find everything from Nordic-inspired fine dining to some of the nation's best Vietnamese and East African cuisine.

The region is also home to big-name attractions like Paisley Park, Prince's

former home and recording studio, world-class performance venues like the Guthrie Theater or First Avenue, and the nation's largest shopping and entertainment center, Mall of America.

For outdoor enthusiasts, the Mississippi River flows right through both cities, and the region's many lakes are perfect for kayaking, paddle boating, canoeing and more. You'll also find award-winning biking and hiking trails around practically every corner – including the world-renowned Midtown Greenway.



▲ Stone Arch Bridge, Minneapolis, photo by Ryan Taylor

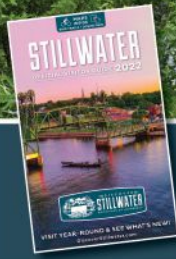


America's Most Picturesque Towns & Best Small Town Food Scenes

-USA Today Travel



New! Distilleries, Winter Events, E-Bikes, Hotels & Shops



EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

Order a FREE Visitor Guide with Bike Trails Map
DiscoverStillwater.com



A DREAM STATE GUIDE TO MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL

By Ashlea Halpern

With its glittering skyline, scores of manicured trails and greenspaces, world-class theater and concert venues, megalithic mall, and restaurants repping nearly every cuisine under the sun, there isn't much Minneapolis and St. Paul lack. Add to that a packed events calendar and a skyway system that makes it easy to get around in any weather, and the Twin Cities' slate of offerings rivals cities thrice their size. Here are five ideas for living your best urban life.

EAT, STAY AND PLAY AT MALL OF AMERICA

When it opened 30 years ago, **Mall of America** was the largest shopping center in the country. It still holds that title today and boasts more attractions than ever. Beyond its 520-plus shops (charging no tax on clothing and shoes, mind you), the mall's bragging rights include a movie theater, comedy club, aquarium, escape room, esports venue, mirror maze, miniature golf, laser tag and more. Kids will be floored by the number of head-spinning rides at **Nickelodeon Universe**, the nation's first indoor theme park, and the **LEGO Store's** towering menagerie of wild animals built from tiny plastic bricks. From full-service restaurants to fast-casual food courts, meal options abound, and there are more than 20 hotels within walking, driving or shuttling distance for when you're finally ready to pass out. Sleek, contemporary picks like the **JW Marriott** and **Radisson Blu** are directly connected to the mall; both sport indoor pools, and the latter is pet-friendly to boot.

PAY TRIBUTE TO PRINCE AT PAISLEY PARK

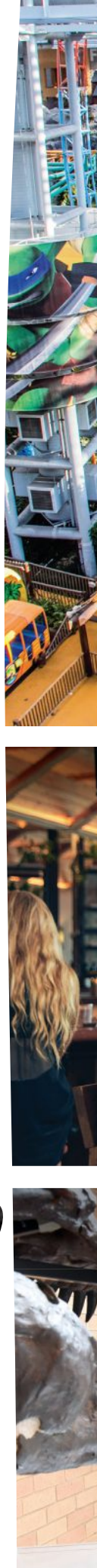
The Purple One's surreal estate became a public museum in 2016 with the help of the very same company that manages Graceland. Timed, prepaid tickets are required throughout the week and range from a basic guided tour of the main floor to the aptly titled Ultimate Experience, a way for superfans to witness additional rooms, film screenings and recording sessions. You can also take a self-guided tour of such Prince-related landmarks as First Avenue (the club where he often performed), Lake Minnetonka (of Purple Rain fame) and the many striking Prince murals throughout Minneapolis.

DISCOVER TASTY, AWARD-WINNING CUISINE

Minnesota opened its first five-star hotel, **Four Seasons Minneapolis** in 2022, anchored by two new restaurant concepts from celebrated chef Gavin Kaysen (**Spoon and Stable**, **Demi**).

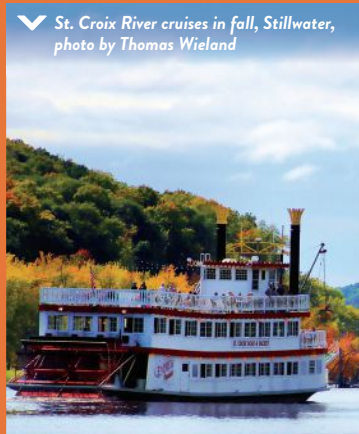
But those aren't the only A-games in town. After Ann Kim (**Young Joni**, **Sooki & Mimi**) earned

continued on page 50 →





^ Nickelodeon Universe



∨ St. Croix River cruises in fall, Stillwater, photo by Thomas Wieland

MUST-SEE SMALL TOWNS NEAR THE METRO AREA

Monticello

The hiking trails at Lake Maria State Park are particularly pretty in the fall, but you'll also enjoy the scenery on cross-country skis in winter. After weathering the chill, warm your bones with a bowl of chicken wild rice soup from Cornerstone Café. Go in summer, and the draws include live music on the Mississippi and free movie screenings in Pioneer Park.

Stillwater

For every season, there's a reason to visit Stillwater. In spring, you can bike the Brown's Creek State Trail; in summer, pick juicy blueberries at the Blueberry Fields of Stillwater; in fall, take a leaf-peeping cruise down the scenic St. Croix River; and come winter, wander through the country's largest ice palace maze. Supporting inspired indie shops like Brick + Linen and Black Letter Books never goes out of season.

Waconia

Welcome to wine country, where you can sample cold-hardy grape varietals from Parley Lake Winery, The Winery at Sovereign Estate and Schram Vineyards Winery & Brewery. Make it a crawl by tacking on a tour and tasting at J. Carver Distillery. Kids in tow? Spend the day nuzzling llamas (and the odd alpaca) at Carlson's Llovable Llamas.



∨ Sookie & Mimi, Minneapolis, photo by Paul Vincent



∨ Minnesota Science Museum, St. Paul, photo by Wameng Moua



∨ Mara Bar, Four Seasons, Minneapolis, photo courtesy of Four Seasons



▲ State Fair Ferris wheel and midway games, St. Paul

continued from page 48 →

the title in 2019, three Twin Cities toques were 2022 finalists for the James Beard Foundation's prestigious Best Chef Midwest award: Yia Vang of **Union Hmong Kitchen**; Mexican chef Jorge Guzmán of cozy Kingfield restobar **Petite León**; and Sean Sherman, aka The Sioux Chef, co-owner of the acclaimed Native American restaurant **Owamni**, which went on to win the Beard Award for Best New Restaurant of 2022.

Another memorable tasting experience awaits at **Travail Kitchen and Amusements** in Robbinsdale, a cutting-edge cantina slinging cumin lamb dumplings one second and "octo tacos" the next. Over in St. Paul, palates are pushed on nearly every plate, including the dynamic Filipino dishes of **Kalsada**, the elevated bar eats of **Gus Gus** and the Nordic/Japanese nods of **Rök Eatery**.

EXPAND YOUR MIND AT ST. PAUL'S SCIENCE AND HISTORY MUSEUMS

It doesn't matter what age you are; St. Paul has several ways to keep your mind sharp within a short drive, starting with the **Minnesota Children's Museum**. Spread between 65,000 square feet and several immersive worlds, it's considered one of the country's best places to learn and play. **The Science Museum of Minnesota** builds on that foundation with the how's, what's and why's of everything from

competitive sports to iridescent light displays. Bringing things back home is the **Minnesota History Center**, which examines all the people and places that have shaped the state, including Somali immigrants, Dakota and Ojibwe tribes, and the many iconic performers that have passed through First Avenue (including local heroes like The Replacements and Prince) over the years.

EMBRACE THE SUMMER TRADITION OF THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

They don't call it the Great Minnesota Get-Together for nothing. Our **state fair** is the largest in the country by average daily attendance. Why does it get such an impressive turnout? In the span of a single day, visitors can take a magic carpet ride down a Giant Slide, watch Princess Kay of the Milky Way get her likeness carved in butter, eat every deep-fried food imaginable (on a stick!), witness a live cow birth, admire paintings and sculptures from some of the most talented artists in the state, and root for the best-dressed lamini at the annual Llama-Alpaca Costume Contest. Add to that a grand slam lineup of headliners for the Grandstand concert series and you can see why people travel from across the Midwest to experience our liveliest summer happening.





Travail Kitchen and Amusements, Robbinsdale, photo by Ryan Taylor



Aquatennial fireworks, Minneapolis, photo by Ryan Taylor

METRO REGION FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

The **Minneapolis Aquatennial** is a four-day festival in July that draws visitors downtown in droves for popular events like the Twin Cities River Rats water ski show, free outdoor movies and music and Target’s fully choreographed fireworks display – considered one of the country’s very best.

The **St. Paul Winter Carnival**, part of the larger **Great Northern** festival, is another metro area mainstay. Its signature events include a snow park full of sculptures and mountainous play areas, an ice fishing tournament and not one but two parades.

Sovereign Estate holds a weekend-long **Grape Stomp Festival** every September in Waconia, less than an hour west of Minneapolis in an area that’s quickly become Wine Country, Minnesota. The festival features live music, tastings that spotlight as many as six wine samples, and ample opportunities to play a part in the production process. The vineyard also has a picture-perfect, full-service restaurant (Gia at the Lake).

As for experiencing Minnesota in the dead of winter, may we suggest... golf? Wayzata’s **Chilly Open** celebrates its 35th year of putting tennis balls on a freshly plowed Lake Minnetonka in February. You don’t need a set of clubs to play either; hockey sticks are fair game on this frozen tundra.



Sampson Brothers performance at Owamni, Minneapolis, photo by Ryan Taylor



Minnesota Children’s Museum, St. Paul

EXPLORE MORE

Visit our website for more ideas on what to do in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

ExploreMinnesota.com/TwinCities



Museums, art, music, culture. Remarkable experiences await.

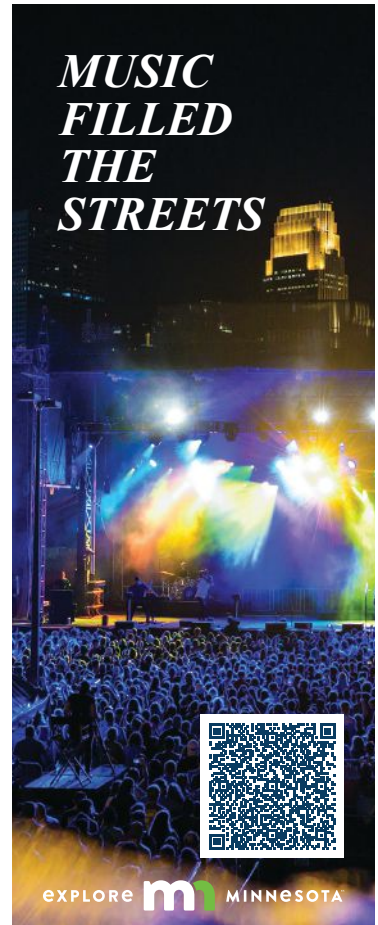
#MYSAINTPAUL



Visit
SAINT PAUL
Official Convention & Visitors Bureau

m
EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

VisitSaintPaul.com



**MUSIC
FILLED
THE
STREETS**



EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

LUXURY ESTATES | LAKE HOMES | CITY LOFTS

MINNESTAY
PREMIER VACATION HOMES



BOOK ONLINE **MINNESTAY.COM**

OR CALL **612-216-5511**

Around here, life is SWEET!



St. Louis Park and Golden Valley are loaded with small-town charm, just minutes from Minneapolis! From outdoor adventures to cultural attractions, we're the perfect spot for experiencing the entire metro region.



Discover St. Louis Park
Minnesota's SWEET Spot

discoverstlouispark.com



A good time all the time.

Plan your road trip to Bloomington, MN for a getaway that's packed with endless ways to play. Explore Mall of America® to experience the thrill of entertaining attractions like Nickelodeon Universe® and SEA LIFE® Mall of America or save with tax-free shopping on clothes and shoes at over 500 stores. With plenty of special deals on hotels near Mall of America, a trip to Bloomington is guaranteed to bring the whole family in on the fun.

Plan your trip at BloomingtonMN.org



BLOOMINGTON

HOME OF MALL OF AMERICA®



RICHFIELD:
RIGHT WHERE YOU
WANT TO BE

VISIT *Richfield*

5 minutes from Mall of America | 10 minutes from MSP Airport | 15 minutes from downtown

Come for the convenience, stay for the family fun...like Wood Lake Nature Center; miles of bike paths; unique local restaurants; even our own women's hockey team!

Be Right Where You Want to Be. visitrichfield.com

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

Small Trains, Big Memories!

Sarah Moon, Eclipse Photography

668 Transfer Road, Suite 8 Saint Paul, MN 55114 (651) 647-9628 www.tcmrm.org

KOA

Bring this ad for a 10% discount!

MINNEAPOLIS NORTHWEST KOA CAMPGROUND
17 MILES TO MINNEAPOLIS
OPEN FROM APRIL 1 TO OCTOBER 15

- Tents, Big RVs, and Kabins
- Pull-thru/50 amp Full Hook-Ups
- Daily, Weekly & Monthly rates
- Pool, Playground, & Free WiFi

10410 Brockton Lane N., Maple Grove, MN 55311
Exit 210, I-94, 1 mile S on Brockton Ln N.
763-420-2255 Ext. 5
www.MplsNWKOAA.com

EXPLORE fun ACTIVITIES!
Conveniently located in the Twin Cities, Inver Grove Heights is the place to connect with friends and family and fun activities.

Explore **VisitIGH.com** for hotels, events, restaurants, attractions and much more!

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

IT WAS A MAGICAL DAY OF DISCOVERY

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA



Valleyfair

TWO PARKS IN ONE

Valleyfair is the Twin Cities' amusement park where families come to play the Minnesota way!

Discover your next adventure on one of eight towering coasters or learn to love thrills on one of PLANET SNOOPY'S™ 16 kid rides. Cool off in the area's premier waterpark, Soak City, to experience ocean-like waves you won't find at one of our 10,000 lakes.

Save on tickets at Valleyfair.com.

© 2022 Peanuts Worldwide LLC, peanuts.com © 2022 Cedar Fair, L.P. VF22-153

Visit SHAKOPEE

WHERE THE
MIDWEST
COMES TO
PLAY

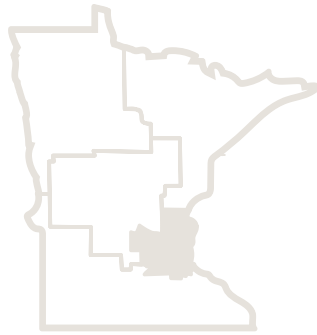
Home to Valleyfair, Canterbury Park,
Renaissance Festival, shopping, dining,
and so much more!

— VisitShakopee.org —






10 INCREDIBLE PLACES TO CANOE AND KAYAK



NEAR MINNEAPOLIS

By Jessica Lockhart

Here's one thing you may not know about Minneapolis: It boasts some of the country's best kayaking and canoeing. There are nearly 1,400 lakes nearby, along with the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix rivers, making it a prime destination for intrepid paddlers.

Here are 10 beautiful places to float your boat in the greater metro area.

WITHIN CITY LIMITS

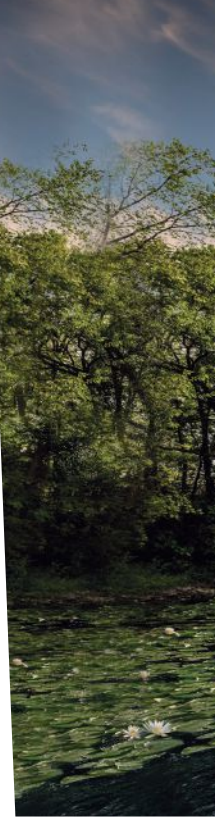
1. The scenic backwaters of the 2,350-mile **Mississippi River** are ideal for beginners. Try the 7.5-mile "nature route" from **Mississippi Gateway Regional Park** to **North Mississippi Regional Park**. Paddle time is about two-and-a-half hours. You can rent kayaks online through the Paddle Share program and use your favorite rideshare app to get back to your car.
2. The most popular destination in the Minneapolis park system is its **Chain of Lakes**. Start at Bde Maka Ska, where you can rent a canoe or kayak, then paddle to Lake of the Isles, Cedar Lake and Brownie Lake. It takes about four hours to do the whole beautiful circuit.
3. **Minnehaha Creek** winds from Lake Minnetonka to Minnehaha Falls, with a few portages and low-hanging limbs along the way.
4. The first seven miles of the **Rice Creek** are beginner-friendly, then the speed increases after Baldwin Lake, where there are some culverts, rocks and fallen trees.

WITHIN AN HOUR

5. The **Rum River's** final 11-mile stretch is one of the only places to catch rocky Class I and II rapids within an hour of Minneapolis.
6. A favorite of families and outdoor enthusiasts, the **St. Croix River** lives up to its "day tripper" name by providing plenty of calm waters, marshes and inlets.
7. The **Snake River** has challenging rapids that run through dense forests and a gentle current flowing through sandstone bluffs in its middle section.

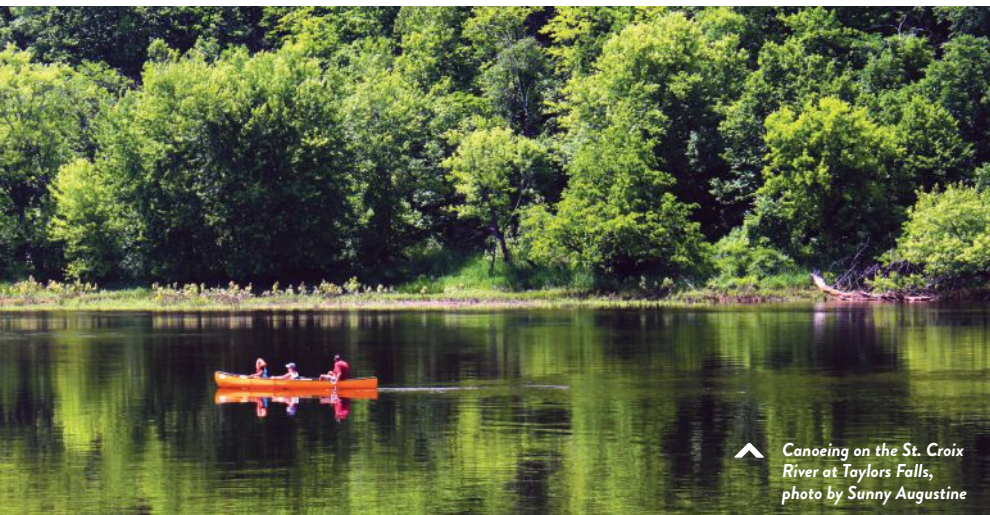
FURTHER AFIELD

8. The **Root River** is ideal for laid-back flatwater paddling. Highlights include massive limestone bluffs – home to more than 40 species of birds – and historic towns alongside the river.
9. With a lively current and the occasional boulder, the **Zumbro River** is perfect for anyone looking to sharpen their skills in forgiving waters that are not particularly deep.
10. Amber waters, rocky bluffs and black spruce provide the backdrop to a remote adventure along the **Kettle River**. For experts – and only experts – **Banning State Park** boasts a white-knuckle ride aptly named "Hell's Gate."





▲ Kayaking the Chain of Lakes, Minneapolis, photo by Ryan Taylor



▲ Canoeing on the St. Croix River at Taylors Falls, photo by Sunny Augustine



▲ Ranger Brian and kids, photo courtesy of Mississippi National River and Recreation Area



▲ U.S. Bank Stadium, photo courtesy of Minnesota Vikings

SPORTS EVENTS

Minnesota is one of the few states with a pro team in every major sport.

Hockey – Starting in October, the Minnesota Wild take the ice at St. Paul’s Xcel Energy Center and the Minnesota Whitecaps, a new NWHL expansion team, face off at Richfield Ice Arena.

Baseball – The Minnesota Twins step to the plate every April at Target Field, named one of the country’s top 10 MLB stadiums, and the minor league Saint Paul Saints are a major source of summer entertainment at CHS Stadium.

Soccer – The Minnesota United FC kick off their season in May at Allianz Field in St. Paul. The Minnesota Aurora, a new pre-professional women’s soccer team, was undefeated in its first regular season at TCO Stadium in 2022, and they start Season 2 in May.

Basketball – Four-time WNBA champs the Minnesota Lynx play from May to September, and the Minnesota Timberwolves hoop it up from October to April at Target Center in Minneapolis.

Football – Come fall, the Minnesota Vikings play indoors at U.S. Bank Stadium, site of the 2018 Super Bowl.

College – The University of Minnesota Golden Gophers compete in Big 10 sporting events throughout the year.

EXPLORE MORE

From urban paddling to pro sports, find top experiences in the Twin Cities and beyond.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Things-to-Do](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/things-to-do)



Museums
Galleries
Events
Gift Shop



Find more information and a calendar of events at www.landmarkcenter.org or call 651.292.3237

LANDMARK
CENTER

www.landmarkcenter.org
75 Fifth Street W. | Saint Paul, MN 55104

#ONLYINMN

Discover the unique mix of adventures that await in the Twin Cities region.



@adamstevhummel



@ilovebeerfromhere.travels.mn



@blaire.moments



@walkingmpls

It's Better in Buffalo!

Kites on Ice Festival, Championship Rodeo, Art & Craft Fair, Buffalo Statue Hunt, Golf, Shopping, Lakes, Brewery, Winery

Go to BuffaloChamber.org for dates and details




EXPLORE  MINNESOTA

Visit Waconia



Destination Waconia.org
#DestinationWaconia



Meeker County Museum
at the G.A.R. Hall



Civil War & History Museum

308 N Marshall Ave, Litchfield, MN
MeekerCoMuseum.org

Make it
MEEKER!



LITCHFIELD VISITORS BUREAU

EXPLORE MINNESOTA | litchfieldmn.com | 320.693.8184 | f

VISIT **Lakeville**
MINNESOTA
VISITLAKEVILLE.ORG



STAY PLAY DINE

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

*THE
BEAUTY
SWEPT
US AWAY*



EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

Visit **ROSEVILLE**
MINNESOTA

**PERFECTLY
POSITIONED.**

PLAY AND STAY
IN ROSEVILLE.

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
ROSEDALE CENTER
PARKS AND NATURE

VISITROSEVILLE.COM

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA



EMBRACE LAKE LIFE IN CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Central Minnesota exemplifies lake life, the state's ultimate way to unwind. Whether it's the sound of laughter rippling across the water or marshmallows roasting over a bonfire, you'll find it here.

Defined by water, Central Minnesota features over a third of the state's lakes. In the Brainerd Lakes area, waterfront resorts make the perfect home base for your next outdoor adventure. Fish the best lake in the country for bass, Lake Mille Lacs, or drop a line in one of 1,048 lakes in Otter Tail County. No boat? No problem! Fish off Minnesota's longest pier in Staples.

Central Minnesota is also known for its small towns and rural charm. Or head to cities like St. Cloud and

Brainerd for great shopping, dining and entertainment.

A notable golf destination, the region has over 70 scenic courses from top designers, the newest of which is a picturesque, 13-hole, par 3 **Gravel Pit** in Brainerd, which also has a 13-hole Extreme Putting Course.

Plus, here you can discover museums and historic sites dedicated to everything from Minnesota's maritime heritage to Ojibwe Indian culture.



▲ Madden's on Gull Lake, photo by Brad Thornberg

ExploreHUTCHINSON.com
 #MuchInHutch

m
EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

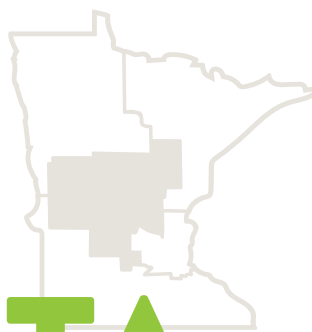
For more information on Hutchinson, MN & the Luce Line Trail,
 please contact us at 1-800-572-6689 or info@explorehutchinson.com

Visit
LITTLE FALLS
 A TRUE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TOWN

littlefallsmn.com
1-800-325-5916

m
EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

A DREAM STATE GUIDE TO CENTRAL MINNESOTA



By Ashlea Halpern

Migratory birds aren't the only ones flocking to Central Minnesota. Beyond its array of protected nature reserves, the area is known for world-class golfing, dazzling flower gardens, incredible fall hiking and some of the Upper Midwest's most exhilarating mountain biking trails.

Here are five suggestions for making the most of your time in the heart of the state.

SHRED THE RED IN CUYUNA COUNTRY

The north-central **Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area** boasts more than 50 miles of singletrack trail riding for a variety of skill levels. Beginner runs are suitable for families and novice cyclists with gentle gradients of 0 to 5%, while expert trails are packed with technical switchbacks, white-knuckle jumps and bone-jangling terrain with gradients of 15% or more. Adventurers come here from spring through fall to “shred the red” (a nod to the iron-rich soil) and return in winter armed with fat bikes. (If you don't have your own, you can rent a set of wheels from **Red Raven** in Crosby or **Cykel** in Ironton.)

STOP AND SMELL THE FLOWERS AT MUNSINGER CLEMENS GARDENS

Located on the Mississippi River, opposite St. Cloud State University, the enchanting **Munsinger Clemens Gardens** bloom with more than 150,000 annuals and perennials. At Munsinger, visitors stroll through 14 acres of flower-lined brick pathways beneath a shady canopy of Scotch and Norway

pinus. Clemens, by contrast, was built in the '90s and features six classical European designs with all-American flora. The centerpiece of the seven-acre escape is the rose garden – an impressionist palette of beautiful hybrid tea, floribunda, grandiflora and mini and shrub roses. A monochromatic white garden, inspired by the all-white grounds at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent, England, is another feast for the eyes, as are the all-yellow, -blue, -red and -purple plantings surrounding the Bridgerton-worthy trelliage garden with its 24-foot central dome. The gardens are open spring through fall.

LEAF PEEP ALONG THE OTTER TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY

In a state known for its lakes, Otter Tail County can lay claim to 1,048 bodies of water – more than any other county in the United States. One of the best ways to experience them is along the **Otter Trail Scenic Byway**. The 150-mile drive loops past two state parks, fantastical roadside sculptures (**Nyberg Sculpture Park** in Vining) and one of the tastiest breakfast joints in Minnesota (that'd be Nootzi's on Main in Dent, where the ooey-gooey caramel rolls are the size of Frisbees). The heritage fishery at **Glendalough State Park** draws anglers in search of crappie, walleye and bass; everyone else can rent a canoe, kayak, paddleboat or stand-up paddleboard from the park to make their way around Annie Battle Lake.

continued on page 64 →





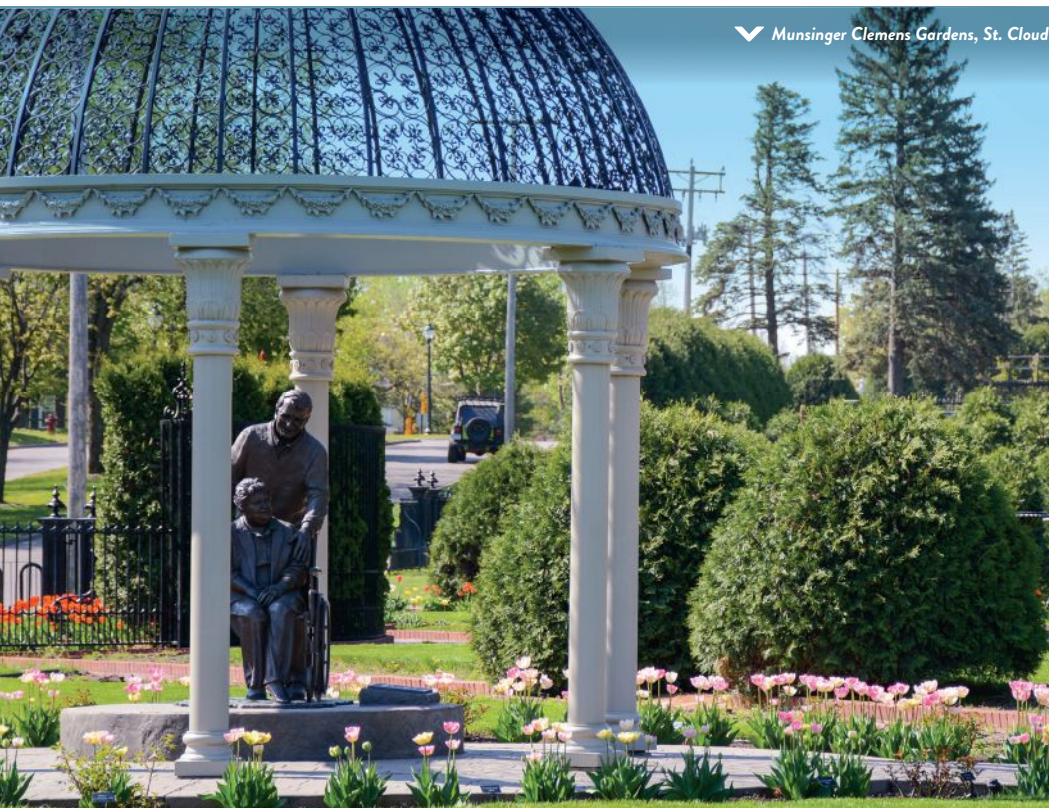
▲ Renting bikes at Red Raven, Crosby



▲ Mountain biking at Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area, Ironton, photo by Roy Son



▲ Fishing at Annie Battle Lake, Glendalough State Park, photo by Jenny Anderson



▼ Munsinger Clemens Gardens, St. Cloud



▼ Tubing Crow Wing River, photo courtesy of Discover Staples

MUST-SEE SMALL TOWNS IN CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Staples

Dower Lake entices swimmers and anglers with its sandy beach and 612-foot fishing pier (the longest in Minnesota), while the Crow Wing River is a hit with canoers, kayakers and sun-worshipping tubers. The route from McGovern Park to Orville's Landing is particularly family-friendly. End your day with a burger at Wahoo Valley and a free concert in Northern Pacific Park.

Morris

Agritourism is big business in Morris. Visitors can sign up for a teat-to-table tour of Riverview Dairy, dive into the area's farming history at the Stevens County Museum or learn about wind power from scientists at the University of Minnesota's West Central Research & Outreach Center. Other draws include art exhibitions at the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Center and birdwatching at the Morris Wetland Management District.

Collegetown/St. Joseph

For souvenirs you won't find elsewhere, stop by Saint John's University in Collegetown to pick up some Johnnie bread and visit Richard Bresnahan's pottery studio. Also worth a peek: the campus' hulking Marcel Breuer-designed Abbey Church, a Brutalist masterpiece. Then bike the Lake Wobegon Trail to St. Joseph, where tasty pastries and Cajun fare await at Flour & Flower Bakery and sister restaurant Krewé.



▲ Hole #7, Deacon's Lodge Course, Breezy Point Resort

continued from page 62 →

For an explosion of fall colors, make your way up Hallaway Hill in **Maplewood State Park**; the summit rewards hikers with sweeping views of Lida Lake and crimson-colored woodlands. Another fine autumnal lookout is 1,750-foot Inspiration Peak, just west of Urbank.

PRACTICE YOUR GOLF SWING IN BRAINERD LAKES

The biggest golf magazines in America have raved about the 450 holes and 20-plus top-ranked courses scattered throughout the **Brainerd Lakes Area**. Among the most acclaimed courses are the Classic at **Madden's Resort on Gull Lake**, which Golfweek named one of Minnesota's best public offerings, and the two Robert Trent Jones, Jr.-designed Legacy courses at **Cragun's Resort**. The **Dutch Legacy** plays around an Audubon International Signature Sanctuary and blends par 3s, 4s and 5s with a minimum five tees per hole, earning it a rare five-star rating by Golf Digest. **Deacon's Lodge**, the Arnold Palmer-designed par 72 championship course at **Breezy Point Resort**, was ranked third in the state by *Golfweek* – you'll understand why when you get an eyeful

of its manicured greens and dramatically contoured fairways dotted with sparkling lakes. Not exactly the next Patty Berg or Lee Janzen? The region is also home to 20 disc golf courses with no tee-time reservations or greens fees required.

EXPERIENCE BIRDING BLISS

The sheer variety of habitats found throughout Central Minnesota make it a birder's paradise. With oak savannah, forest, sedge meadow and marshland, **Sherburne**

National Wildlife

Refuge in Zimmerman has been designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Head there in October to see thousands of sandhill cranes converging on the refuge's marshes. In spring and summer, the **Pigeon Lake Important Bird Area** in Dassel presents ideal conditions for nesting waterbirds such as egrets, herons, cormorants and pelicans. (The scenic overlook off Highway 15 is the best spot to observe them.)

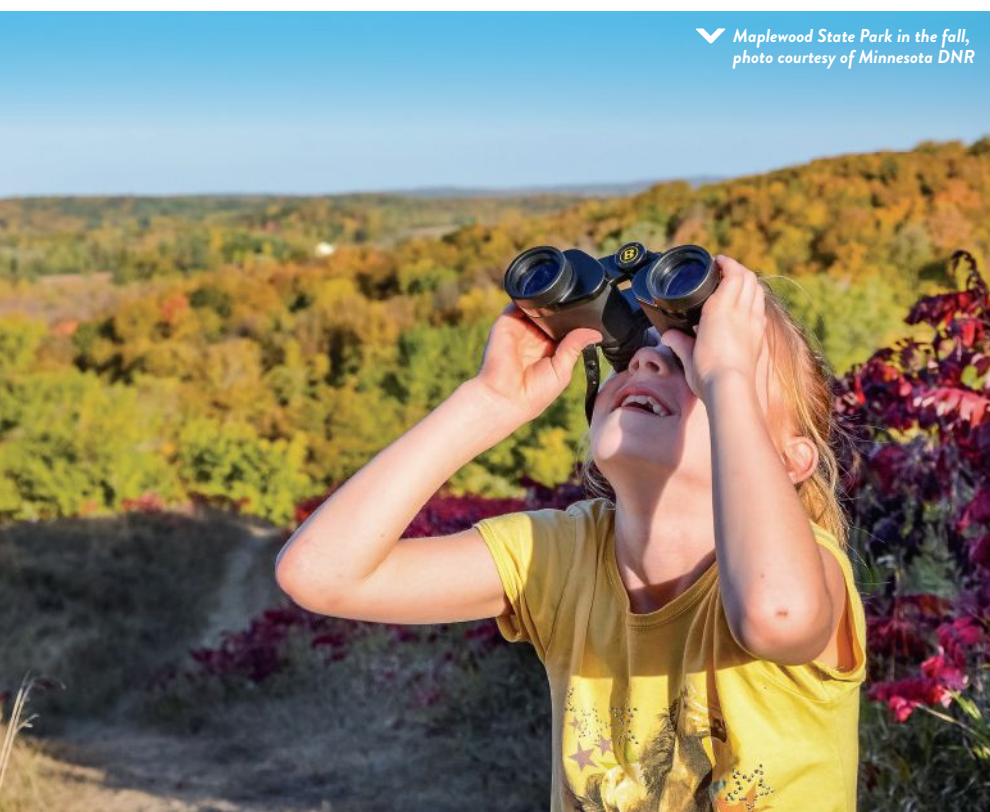
For a glimpse of majestic bald eagles, elegant trumpeter swans and dozens of other fowl, look no further than the 760-acre **Long Lake Conservation Center** in Palisade. To see a bustling egret rookery up close, stop by Adams Park in Fergus Falls.

THE SHEER VARIETY OF HABITATS THROUGHOUT CENTRAL MINNESOTA MAKE IT A BIRDER'S PARADISE.





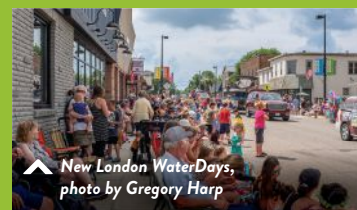
▲ Barred Owl fledgling at the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Zimmerman, photo by Debbie Koenigs



▼ Maplewood State Park in the fall, photo courtesy of Minnesota DNR



▼ Golfing at The Classic at Madden's Resort, Brainerd, photo by Kim Pogue



▲ New London WaterDays, photo by Gregory Harp

CENTRAL REGION FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Every January, Sauk Centre hosts the **SNOFEST Racing Festival**, a yummy combo of snowmobile races and grilled pork chops. Come July, the town doubles in size when it celebrates **Sinclair Lewis Days**, named for the American author who was born there. Festivities include live music, fireworks, a 100-unit parade, food trucks, a craft fair and more.

Prepare to be amazed as water skiers dance, spin, build pyramids four people high and more when the Little Crow Ski Team performs at Neer Park during New London's **WaterDays** on the third weekend in July. Other highlights of this summer spectacular include sidewalk sales, a street dance, lots of activities for kids, fireworks and a good ol' parade down Main Street.

Garlic ice cream, garlic kettle corn and garlic wine are just a few of the many items garlic-lovers can taste at the **Minnesota Garlic Festival**, held in Hutchinson every August. The festival showcases garlic that's grown everywhere from Cannon Falls to Champlin with chefs on hand to demonstrate how to cook with it.

Quench your thirst in September at the annual **St. Cloud Craft Beer and Ciderfest**, featuring a variety of hard ciders, beer alternatives and, yes, beer.

EXPLORE MORE

Visit our website for more ideas on what to do in Central Minnesota.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Central](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/Central)



GENERATIONS OF TRADITION



Nisswa

MINNESOTA

PLAN YOUR VISIT AT
NISSWA.COM

Scan for a copy
of the NISSWA
Destination Guide!



come, join us at the campfire
(or on a boat, in the rec center, or at our lodge with a latte or ice cream...)

800.677.7263
WWW.CAMPFIREBAYRESORT.COM

Find your way to Glenwood, Minnesota...
for great fishing, lake activities, adventure,
relaxation, dining, shopping & lodging!

320-634-3636

on beautiful Lake Minnewaska.

Credit: HappyCamper

Perham.com PERHAM, MINNESOTA
@discoverperham

COME... LIVE YOUR VACATION!

EXPLORE **mi** MINNESOTA

ASK THE
EXPERTS

Get help planning your next trip

888-VISITMN (847-4866)
Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

LIVE CHAT AT
ExploreMinnesota.com

#ONLYINMN

Discover the unique mix of adventures that await in Central Minnesota.



@_vartsana



@awitherington



@blazeair15



@ottertailcounty

Relax. Explore. Enjoy.

WILLMAR
Lakes Area
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

320-235-3552
www.willmarlakesarea.com

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

m EXPLORE MINNESOTA

Visit Greater **ST. CLOUD**

THAT FEELING WHEN ADVENTURE CALLS

feel something real
VISITSTCLOUD.COM

NOTHING TOPS LAKE MILLE LACS FOR BASS

By C.B. Bylander



Make tracks to Mille Lacs.

That's my advice for outstanding smallmouth bass fishing.

Named the nation's number one bass lake in 2017 by *Bassmaster Magazine*, Mille Lacs continues to deliver high-quality fishing experiences.

For those who have never fished this central Minnesota lake, what follows is advice from a former Minnesota Department of Natural Resources professional who has fished the lake for more than 30 years.

SCOUT FROM HOME

Hit the web before you hit the water. You can net a boatload of insightful information by reading the blogs of local fishing guides Tony Roach, Jim DeRosa, Brad Hawthorne and others. Mille Lacs can be daunting due to its size—132,516 acres—so arrive with a plan.

BAIT WISELY

You may have tackle galore, but a quick stop at a local bait shop is smart. **Tutt's Bait and Tackle** in Garrison is a particularly good source for up-to-date fishing information, including the lure colors, sizes and styles currently producing the best results. **Reeds Sport Shop** at Onamia and **Johnson's Portside** at Isle are also fine places for gear and advice.

FISH THE ROCKS

You'll find smallmouth bass along rocky reefs, scattered boulders and wherever crayfish, a preferred prey, are located. Presentations that mimic crayfish are very effective. The Ned Rig, a jig and plastic body combination, is a go-to lure. So is a drop shot rig. Topwater lures can be hot at times, including calm evenings.

STAY AND PLAY

Fishing resorts with food service are on all sides of the lake. For additional amenities, check out **Appledorn's**, **McQuoids**, **Eddy's**,

Izatys and **Grand Casino Mille Lacs**. Campers will find modern facilities at **Mille Lacs Kathio** and **Father Hennepin** state parks, the latter featuring a boat ramp into the lake. The **Mille Lacs Area Tourism Office** in Isle is your best source for recreation information, including options for where to rent boats.

My last trip to Mille Lacs was a good one.

It was August. Hot. Barely a breeze. As the sun sank into the treetops, fishing partner Grant Becker suggested we cozy-up to a rocky shoreline to toss topwater lures. Soon a near-football-sized bass rocketed from below, smacked my Spook and arched into the air. It leapt two more times before surrendering to the net. As I released the brute, I thought again about how Mille Lacs makes memories, and excellent ones at that.

A NEAR-
FOOTBALL-
SIZED BASS
ROCKETED
FROM BELOW,
SMACKED MY
SPOOK AND
ARCHED INTO
THE AIR.





▲ Bass tournament, Lake Mille Lacs, photo courtesy of B.A.S.S.



▲ Launch boats at Eddy's Resort on Lake Mille Lacs, photo by Lisa Meyers McClintick



▼ Bass fishing on Lake Mille Lacs, photo by Brad Hawthorne



▼ Kids fishing at Lake Mille Lacs, photo courtesy of Mille Lacs Area Tourism

EXPLORE MORE

Start planning your trip with helpful fishing information, maps and tips on where to go.

ExploreMinnesota.com/Fishing

CENTRAL SIPS



AND WATERING HOLES

By Regina Eckes

Central Minnesota has an excellent selection of craft beverages to sample, many with creative names reflecting the region's pride and lore.

BEER AND WINE

Between its hints of toffee and chocolate, you'd never guess the Pig Farm Porter at **ABC Brewing** in Battle Lake is named after the nearby home of ghastly happenings from the 1800s. At **Fergus Brewing Company** in Fergus Falls, spend an afternoon sipping the Otter Tail Mango Blonde as the river flows by.

Try These, Too:

- » **Carlos Creek Winery** (Alexandria): 2018 Reserve Frontenac, Red Wine
- » **Copper Trail Brewing** (Alexandria): Bandit, Rauchbier
- » **Jack Pine Brewery** (Baxter): Fenceline, American Pale Ale
- » **L'Etoile du Nord Vineyard** (Miltona): 2018 Prairie Star, White Wine
- » **Outstate Brewing Company** (Fergus Falls): Edge Catcher Hazy, IPA

CIDERS AND SPIRITS

Lizzy's Gin shines bright in the Cucumber Basil Gin Smash and Gin Rickey at **5rocks Distilling Co.** in Brainerd. Discover "spirits of the north" at **Little Round Still** in Wadena with its Boathouse Bourbon and vodka made from premium potatoes.

Don't Miss Out:

- » **1910 Sip House** (Battle Lake): Ethel's Dry Cider blend of Honeycrisp, Sweetango, and Zestar! apples
- » **Milk & Honey Ciders** (St. Joseph): 2020 Flora Cider blend of Golden Russet and Kingston Black apples
- » **Panther Distillery** (Osakis): Spiked Apple Spirits, corn whiskey infused with apple and pure cinnamon



▲ Milk & Honey Ciders, St. Joseph, photo by Micah Kvild



▼ Little Round Still, Wadena

Gull Lake - Brainerd / Nisswa
 1-5 Bedroom Cabins & Condos
 Indoor & Outdoor Pools - Beach
 Great Fishing - Pontoons - Boats
 Family Reunions




www.MNResortCabins.com 218-963-7969

See Website For Specials & Packages



Guestrooms & Suites • 16 Townhomes • 13 Cottages

28,000 Square Feet of Flexible Meeting Space
 Full Service Restaurants & Bars • Big Splash Indoor Waterpark
 Darling Reflections Spa • Atikwa Golf Course
 Full Service Marina • Winter Activities & Rentals



Arrowwood
 RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER

Alexandria, Minnesota
 866-386-5263 ArrowwoodResort.com

PAUL BUNYAN LAND
 AMUSEMENT PARK & CAMPGROUND
 26' Tall Animated Talking Lumberjack



Memorial Weekend through Labor Day
 218-764-2524
www.PaulBunyanLand.com

AN Art Lovers Paradise



IN THE PERFECT Historic Backdrop

Visit Sauk Centre
 MINNESOTA

VisitSaukCentre.org 

VISIT HUTCHINSON, MINNESOTA FOR THESE TWO GREAT EVENTS!

RIVERSONG MUSIC FESTIVAL
 2 Stages + Kids Tent

JULY 14 & 15, 2023
 Masonic West River Park | riversongfestival.org



IT WAS CULINARY MAGIC



[EXPLORE !\[\]\(cbcca3b2abdfe141518c48cf6bc6aba0_img.jpg\) MINNESOTA](http://ExploreMinnesota.com)

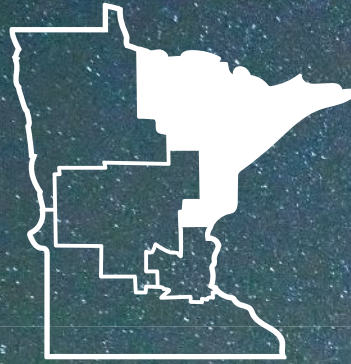


35+ POTTERS from Minnesota and Beyond!
JULY 29 & 30, 2023
 Masonic West River Park | mnpotteryfestival.com

Pottery Olympics Competition • Raku Demonstrations
 Kids' Station • Food & Beverages Available On Site • Rain or Shine




Southwest Minnesota **ARTS** Council
 ExploreHUTCHINSON.com #MuchInHutch
 MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD
 CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT



NORTHEAST MINNESOTA

WHERE WATER MEETS WILDERNESS

Also known as the Arrowhead region, Northeast Minnesota is a land of rugged beauty unlike any other.

Up in the northernmost reaches of the lower 48, plan a houseboat escape at Voyageurs National Park, a 218,000-acre park that's more than one-third water. Or head out for a week in the famed Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, where you can canoe and portage between more than 1,000 lakes in one of America's most remote settings. Both spots offer stellar stargazing and opportunities to see the northern lights.

Nearby, the Mesabi Iron Range is the heart of Minnesota's mining country and home to some of the state's best ATV and bike trails.

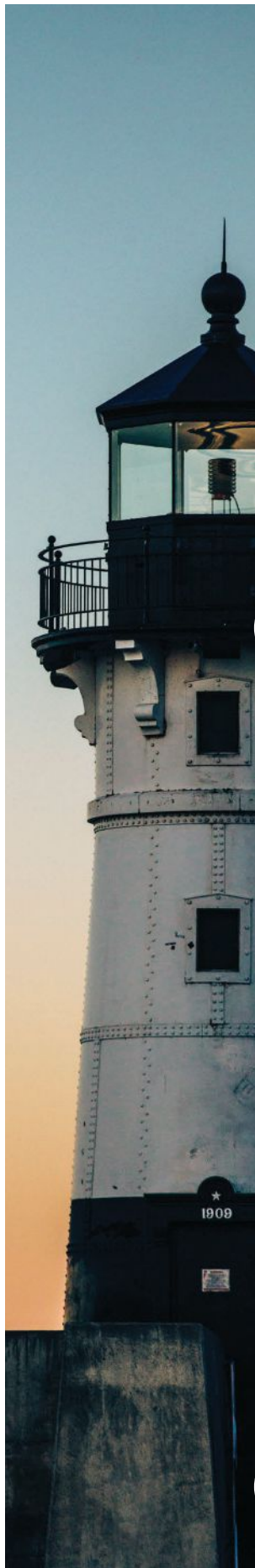
Visit the United States Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth and see the world's largest hockey stick.

For an unforgettable road trip, follow the North Shore of Lake Superior between the bustling port city of Duluth and the Canadian border. Along the way, you'll find some of the state's most iconic scenery and natural beauty, eight state parks with tumbling waterfalls and lakefront trails, and charming waterfront towns.

Whether you want rugged wilderness or a cozy lakeside lodge, you'll find it in Northeast Minnesota.



▲ Campsite in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, photo by Paul Vincent



LOVE IT LIKE WE DO




46.78° N, 92.1005° W ◆

“WELCOME TO DULUTH”
is something we say here. But it’s also something you’ll feel. When you come to Duluth, you discover what makes it so special. Why the air smells better. And the beer tastes better. And the folks just seem happier. It’s because they are. You’ll get it when you get here. The people. The pace. The place. Duluth. Love it like we do.

VISITDULUTH.COM

DULUTH



A DREAM STATE GUIDE TO NORTHEAST MINNESOTA

By Ashlea Halpern

Water, water everywhere – as far as the eye can see. Traveling to Northeast Minnesota is like plunging into the pages of a beloved storybook.

Expect wild beauty (and wild animals!) around every corner, from the thundering waterfalls and soaring cliffs in the state parks sprinkled along scenic Lake Superior to the pristine wilderness that runs 150 miles along the Canadian border. For canoers, hikers, kayakers and anyone else who worships and respects Mother Nature, there is nowhere else like it.

CHASE WATERFALLS IN TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK

The **Superior Hiking Trail** snakes 310 miles along the North Shore of Lake Superior, cutting through seven state parks. One of the most ruggedly beautiful is **Tettegouche State Park** near Silver Bay. With 23 miles of hiking trails, four waterfalls and a clutch of placid inland lakes, the 9,346-acre park is just as suitable for day trippers and weekend campers as it is hardcore thru-hikers.

The overlook at Shovel Point is just 20 minutes from the visitor center and features postcard-worthy views of Palisade Head, which was formed by a volcanic eruption more than a billion years ago. (The high cliffs are also a magnet for rock climbers.) High Falls is another highlight: With a 63-foot drop, it's the tallest in Minnesota.

STARGAZE IN A DARK SKY PRESERVE

In September 2020, the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness** earned its International Dark Sky certification – making it only the 13th place on the planet to receive such a special designation. (At more than a million acres, it's also the largest.) With inky-black skies and upward of 2,000 designated campsites, it's the ideal place to catch a dazzling Northern Lights display. Backcountry adventurers can paddle more than 1,200 miles of canoe routes to find that perfect stargazing spot or simply rent a houseboat in **Voyageurs National Park**, which has four major lakes and miles of interconnected waterways. Local outfitters rent vessels for two to 12 passengers, and they can be as barebones or glampy as you like. Unsurprisingly, the houseboats with waterslides and satellite TVs are especially popular with families.

LEARN A NEW SKILL AT NORTH HOUSE FOLK SCHOOL

For a quarter of a century, the **North House Folk School** in Grand Marais has offered immersive courses in nearly every craft imaginable: basketry, blacksmithing, boatbuilding, moccasin sewing, mushroom foraging and more.

continued on page 76 →





▲ Hikers at Tettegouche State Park, Silver Bay, photo by Ryan Taylor



▼ Waterfall at Gooseberry Falls State Park, photo by Justin Pruden

MUST-SEE SMALL TOWNS IN NORTHEAST MINNESOTA

Crane Lake

Home to fewer than 100 people, the remote township of Crane Lake serves as the southern entrance to Voyageurs National Park and the western entrance to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Make the effort to visit, and you'll be rewarded with pristine wilderness in every direction – not to mention some of the best fishing, paddling and snowmobiling in the state.

Ely

In addition to being a popular gateway to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Ely has the world's highest concentration of dog sled outfitters per capita. Test your mushing skills on an outing with a family-run tour operator such as Chilly Dogs Sled Dog Trips or Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge. The former books both low-key fun runs and demanding backcountry treks, while the latter offers day trips, multi-night camping tours and comfy lodge-based excursions.

Silver Bay

Discover the ultimate jumping-off point for exploring some of the North Shore's most remarkable state parks: Gooseberry Falls, Split Rock Lighthouse and Tettegouche. Also in the vicinity are Onyx Beach, a stretch of beautiful black sand on Lake Superior; Caribou Falls; and North Shore Adventure Park, which has a 400-meter zipline.



▲ Voyageurs National Park, photo by Erik Fremstad, courtesy of Voyageurs Conservancy



▲ Canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, photo by Paul Vincent



▲ Dog sledding at Poplar Lake, photo by Ryan Taylor

continued from page 74 →

The school counts celebrated artisans and authors among its teachers, but students needn't have a lick of experience to sign up. Classes are held on the lakefront campus year-round; lucky are the tutees whose course dates coincide with popular events like the annual **Grand Marais Arts Festival** in July, **Moose Madness** in October or **Winterer's Gathering & Arctic Film Fest** in November. Summer visitors can book a spot aboard the 50-foot Hjørdis, the school's gaff-rigged schooner. Daytime and sunset sails are available, and Captains Bill Hansen and Luke Opel will happily show fledgling sailors the ropes when they set out for a leisurely cruise on Lake Superior.

DOG SLED IN ELY

Ely is the gateway to the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness**, but the town of 3,390 has another claim to fame: the world's highest concentration of dog sled outfitters per capita. So what better place to test your mushing skills than on an outing with a family-run tour operator such as **Chilly Dogs Sled Dog Trips** or **Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge**? The former counts more than 90 Alaskan huskies among its crew, many of them retired racing dogs, and books two half-day tours: a low-key fun run suitable for most ages and fitness levels and a demanding backcountry trek for adventurers

that really want to test their mettle.

Over at Wintergreen, the pack comprises 65 Canadian Inuit dogs, whose hardy personalities guests get to know via day trips, multi-night camping tours and comfy lodge-based excursions. Whichever ice-packed path you choose, whooshing through the snow-blanketed Northwoods in the winter is always exhilarating.

SHOOT THE RAPIDS ON THE ST. LOUIS RIVER

Adrenaline hunters, look no further: Rip-roaring runs abound on the St. Louis River, just 15 minutes from Duluth. Established outfitters **Minnesota Whitewater Rafting** and **Swiftwater Adventures** provide everything daredevils need for a wet 'n' wild day on the river – including experienced guides. The chiller section above the Thompson Dam is a 4.4-mile stretch with Class I, II and III rapids; it takes two to two-and-a-half hours to run. The rowdier section below the dam courses through **Jay Cooke State Park** and is packed with more technical Class II, III, IV and V rapids. Though typically reserved for expert kayakers early in the season, rafts can make it through when the water levels and flow conditions are just right. Expect thrilling three- and four-foot drops and the kind of knockout canyon views that blow up Instagram feeds.





▲ Rafting in Jay Cooke State Park, Carlton, photo by Micah Kvidt



▲ Rendezvous Days performers, photo courtesy of National Park Service

NORTHEAST REGION FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Ely's **Blueberry/Art Festival** features hundreds of wood, pottery and acrylic specialists alongside berry-studded pies, pancakes and products in late July. Many small businesses also host sales and special events during the festival in a community effort dubbed Operation Blueberry. Meanwhile, there's an annual **Biggest Blueberry Contest** every summer (mid-July to mid-August) on the Gunflint Trail with cash prizes for the winners.

Visiting in early August? We have four words for you: **Sax-Zim Bog Bioblitz**, the signature outdoor experience of Meadowlands, Minnesota, featuring expert-led examinations of everything from dragonflies and damselflies to moths and mushrooms. Be sure to stick around after your field trip ends, as that's when the real fun begins (a show-and-tell session with live specimens borrowed from the bog that day).

Also in August, the annual **Rendezvous Days** powwow honors local veterans and highlights traditional food, music, dancing and crafts with the help of its host, the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Ojibwe). The public gathering is held in tandem with Rendezvous Days' other main draw: various activities and history buff highlights around Grand Portage National Monument, including blacksmithing demos, an 18th-century puppet show and a history of wampum workshop.



▼ North House Folk School, Grand Marais, photo by Micah Kvidt

EXPLORE MORE

Visit our website for more ideas on what to do in Northeast Minnesota.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Northeast](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/northeast)



Lakeshore resorts offering a wide range of year-round accommodations, excellent fishing, scenic tours, trips, hiking, wildlife and birding. A family & group vacation destination. Located in the heart of Voyageurs National Park.

1-844-525-3522 www.VisitKab.com

 /KabetogamaLake

 EXPLORE MINNESOTA

Find things to do all year long at ExploreMinnesota.com.

Tag your adventures **#OnlyinMN**



@exploreminnesota



ExploreMinnesota



exploreminn



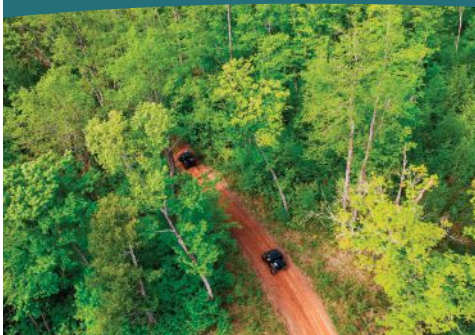
@exploreminn

#ONLYINMN



The Outdoor Recreation Mecca OF THE NORTH

Grand Rapids, Minnesota



VISIT COOK COUNTY MINNESOTA
Naturally Unforgettable

- LUTSEN • TOFTE
SCHROEDER
- GRAND MARAIS
- GUNFLINT TRAIL
- GRAND PORTAGE

READY. SET. TRAVEL.

BOOK YOUR NEXT VACATION AT
VISITCOOKCOUNTY.COM



Pelican Lake

ORR, MINNESOTA

Where Friends, Fishing and Fun Meet.

Pelican Lake and it's 12,000 acres is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the pristine waters and unsurpassed beauty of Northern Minnesota. Indulge in the amenities that our resorts, hotels/motels, B&B's and community have to offer.

**Contact us for a free lodging and vacation guide:
www.OrrPelicanLake.com**





Discover Your Next Adventure – at the Minnesota Discovery Center



Located on the Mesabi Iron Range
mndiscoverycenter.com
 218-254-7959





**YOUR ONE-STOP OUTFITTER™
FOR WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS**

- COMPLETE OUTFITTING
- CANOE/KAYAK RENTAL
- LIVE BAIT
- TACKLE & GEAR

Visit our website at elycanoetrips.com
 Shop at BWCAShop.com



Spirit of the Wilderness
Outfitting Your Needs

218.365.3149 • ELY MINNESOTA BCAW • QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK



Vacation **TRADITIONS**

Begin **HERE!**

Visit and Explore Northern Minnesota's
 Edge of the Wilderness Resort Area
EDGEOTHEWILDERNESS.COM
 1-888-754-0011

Edge of the Wilderness
 RESORT AREA

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

m EXPLORE MINNESOTA™

FREE
TRAVEL GUIDES

Order at
exploreminnesota.com
 or 888-847-4866



International Wolf Center
DISCOVER WOLVES!
 Daily Programs
 Live Ambassador Wolves
 Wolf Den Store



1396 HIGHWAY 169 • ELY, MN 55731 • WOLF.ORG

Sherwood Forest Campground



On beautiful Lake Ore Be Gone, near an OHV park & Mesabi Bike Trail

301 Ore Be Gone Dr., Gilbert, MN 55741
 Phone: 218-748-2221



EXPLORE MINNESOTA

CRANE LAKE

WHERE THE ROAD ENDS
 AND YOUR ADVENTURES BEGIN



Begin your adventure today.

VISITCRANELAKE.COM

**THE SKY
 LOOKED
 LIKE A
 PAINTING**

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

**Plan Your
 Getaway
 Today!**

40,000 acres of pristine beauty.
 365 islands, miles of rocky shorelines and sandy beaches.
 All with the amenities and comforts of a first-class resort.

218-666-5850
 Visit us online at lakevermillionresorts.com

Lake Vermilion
 Resort & Tourism Association

48 HOURS IN DULUTH

By *Wunmi Alowonle and Sophia Tran of Thrifty with a Compass*



Located along the shores of Lake Superior about two hours north of the Twin Cities, Duluth is considered one of the most scenic cities in Minnesota. With over 100 parks and great offerings of local restaurants, it makes an ideal travel destination for a budget-friendly weekend away in the Midwest.

Whether you are looking to escape into nature's beauty or pour some love into the many locally owned businesses that make up the city, check out this 48-hour itinerary for enjoying all that Duluth has to offer.

DAY ONE

- » Start your morning with a cup of coffee from **Duluth Coffee Company** downtown on Superior Street. This local brand focuses on sustainably sourcing from farmers and coffee cooperatives around the world to bring fresh and unique coffee beans back to the community.
- » Downtown Duluth has lots of shops, breweries and eateries to bop in and out of. Grab snacks from one of the many options or hit a local grocery store to pack for a picnic at **Leif Erickson Park**. Bonus: There isn't a fee to visit the park. While you're there make sure you check out **Duluth's Rose Garden**, which features over 3,000 rose bushes and other plants.
- » Spend your afternoon on a self-guided tour of Duluth's breweries (see sidebar for our recommended route).

Finally, burn off the calories with a nice stroll on the **Lakewalk** along beautiful waterfront.

DAY TWO

- » Kickstart your day with a tasty breakfast at **Duluth Grill**, where nothing beats the huevos rancheros skillet with a side of bacon. We love that there is a soy chorizo option for non-meat eaters!
- » Take a nice break by cruising up the **North Shore**. Enjoy this incredible scenic route and make your way to **Gooseberry Falls State Park**. There you can hike one of the four trails and view the many waterfalls. Feeling adventurous? You can bring your bike and pedal the **Gitchi-Gami State Trail**. This paved trail starts at the Picnic Flow parking lot.
- » After a fun-filled day outdoors, fuel up with dinner at **OMC Smokehouse** with options for meat lovers, fish lovers and vegetarians! If BBQ isn't your thing, we'd also recommend **Sir Benedict's** for some tasty sandwiches.
- » Not ready to end the day? Grab a couple of craft cocktails at **Rathskeller** or get ice cream at **Love Creamery**. The customer service is excellent, and there are vegan options for non-dairy eaters.

MEET WUNMI & SOPHIA

Wunmi & Sophia, a best friend travel blogging duo from the Midwest. They highlight ways to enjoy travel without breaking the bank. What can you expect from them? Sharing their travel adventures both local and beyond, top tips for your ultimate girls trip, and celebrating diversity in all forms!

FOLLOW

Follow along their adventures [@thriftywithacompass](#) on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Photos courtesy of Thrifty with a Compass, @thriftywithacompass, unless otherwise noted.





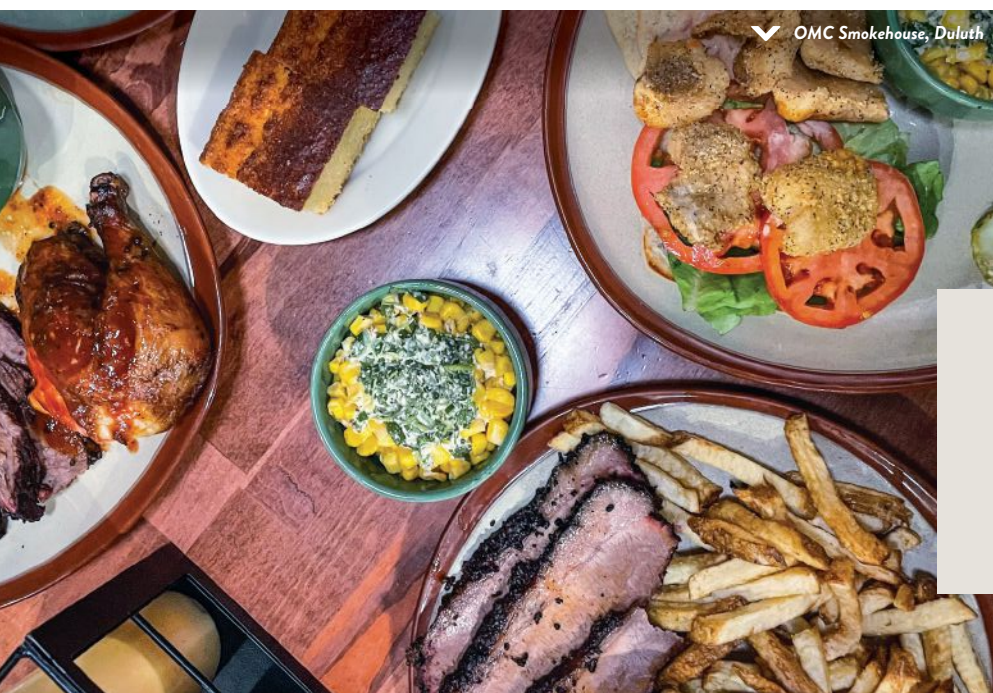
▲ Gooseberry Falls State Park, Two Harbors



▲ Duluth Lakewalk



▲ Love Creamery, Duluth



▼ OMC Smokehouse, Duluth



▲ Patio at Ursa Minor Brewing, Duluth

DULUTH ON TAP

Duluth is known for its brew masters and cider makers, so you must take a self-guided brewery tour. Start in the **Lincoln Park Craft District** on the west side of Duluth, where there are several breweries within walking distance of each other.

- » Your first stop is **Corktown Deli & Brews**, where you can get fresh sandwiches with your suds.
- » Next, walk to **Duluth Tap Exchange**. This pay by the ounce and self-pour taproom allows you to choose from tons of local craft beer, seltzer and wine.
- » Head to **Bent Paddle Brewing Co.** to support a sustainably-focused business. We love the ambiance and the flights of four beers for \$12 — a great value!
- » **Ursa Minor Brewing** has affordable woodfire-grilled pizzas and paninis in addition to small-batch craft beer. The spacious patio is perfect for pups, and the fire pits keep you warm.
- » Head downtown to **Fitger's Brewhouse**. Located right on Lake Superior and inside a market, it's a nice spot to shop and eat. Make sure to try the apricot wheat ale!
- » Last stop: **Blacklist Brewing Co.** With indoor and outdoor seating, it's great for groups and has activities like axe throwing (\$21/hour per person).

EXPLORE MORE

Immerse yourself in the scenic beauty along Lake Superior's rocky, forested North Shore.

ExploreMinnesota.com/LakeSuperior

Stay in Duluth's
Historic Canal Park
Waterfront

**LIFT BRIDGE
LODGE**
DULUTH, MN

1-800-4CHOICE
408 Canal Park Drive, Duluth, MN
218-727-1378
www.liftbridgelodge.com
FORMERLY COMFORT SUITES

Be Lighthouse Keeper for An
Evening at the

**LIGHTHOUSE
BED & BREAKFAST**

Two Harbors, MN
lighthousebb.org

**Along
Superior
Shores**

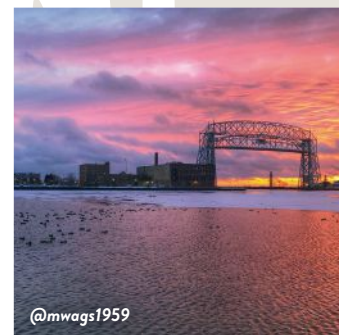
GLENSHEEN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH
Driven to Discover

The University of Minnesota is
an equal opportunity educator and employer.

3300 London Road - Duluth, MN | 218.726.8910 | glensheen.org

#ONLYINMN

Discover the unique mix of adventures that await in Northeast Minnesota.



m EXPLORE MINNESOTA



SIGN UP FOR THE MINNESOTA EXPLORER NEWSLETTER

Travel inspiration and events for the upcoming month.



a charging station for the soul



RAINY LAKE

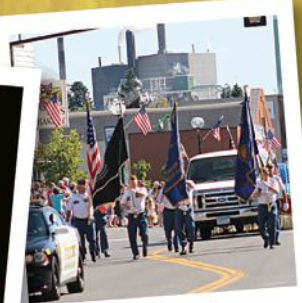
minnesota's vacation paradise

rainylake.org • 218.283.9401

m EXPLORE MINNESOTA



July 4th Celebration



Labor Day Celebration



Home for the Holidays Celebration



Summer and



Winter Outdoor Fun!

Visit CLOQUET MINNESOTA

Just 15 minutes south of Duluth on I-35 • www.visitcloquet.com



NORTHWEST MINNESOTA

WHERE THE PRAIRIE MEETS THE NORTH WOODS

Home to legendary sites like the headwaters of the Mississippi River, Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox and the Northwest Angle, Northwest Minnesota is where tall tales and lasting memories are born.

Walk across the humble headwaters of the Mississippi River at Itasca State Park or meet Minnesota's most famous lumberjack, Paul Bunyan, in Akeley or Bemidji.

Anglers who want to explore Minnesota's largest lakes can go fishing any time of year on waters like Lake of the Woods, Leech Lake, Red Lake and Lake Bemidji — all prime destinations for walleye, muskie and sturgeon. Birders will love the popular, 200-mile Pine

to Prairie Birding Trail, home to over 275 species of birds.

This region is also where you'll find the Northwest Angle, the northernmost point in the lower 48 states. To reach this secluded wilderness outpost, born of a centuries-old mapmaking error, you can either drive through part of Canada or traverse Lake of the Woods by boat or float plane (or, in winter, you can drive across the frozen lake).



Mississippi Headwaters, Itasca State Park, Park Rapids, photo by Kvidt Creative



VisitBemidji.com

A DREAM STATE GUIDE TO NORTHWEST MINNESOTA

By Ashlea Halpern

Home to some of the state's largest lakes, fairytale forests and the headwaters of the Mississippi, the northwestern corner of Minnesota is a playground for outdoor adventurers.

From ATV escapades to world-class fishing, there are countless ways to get on the water and embrace nature – even when it's 30° below zero. Here are five ideas to get you started.

DIP YOUR TOES INTO THE MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS AT ITASCA STATE PARK

The mighty Mississippi River can be traced 2,552 miles from the Gulf of Mexico to a humble wilderness stream at **Itasca State Park** in Park Rapids. One of more than 100 lakes in the 32,000-acre park, Lake Itasca has a sandy swimming beach and boat dock perfect for launching canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards, all of which you can rent by the hour or day. After you've stepped barefoot across the stones at the headwaters of the Mississippi, check out Preacher's Grove, a towering thicket of centuries-old red pines, and Pioneer Cemetery, the final resting place for early Itasca homesteaders. The park also offers a 16-mile paved bike trail and boat excursions aboard the 141-passenger **Chester Charles II**, whose tours trace the same path taken by Ojibwa interpreter Ozawindib when she led Henry Rowe Schoolcraft to the headwaters in 1832.

SKATE THE LONGEST ICE PATH IN AMERICA IN WARROAD

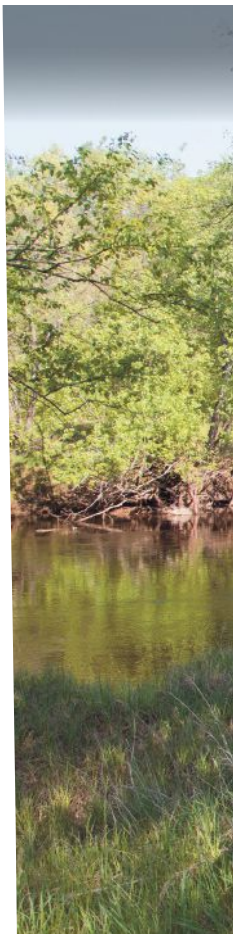
Hockeytown U.S.A. made headlines when it introduced the **Riverbend Skate Path** in

2020. The record-breaking ice track was created when residents living along the Warroad River decided to connect their backyard hockey rinks by plowing a route on the frozen waterway. By its second season, the trail measured 21 feet wide and 5.2 miles long, establishing it as the longest ice skating trail in the nation. Lined with firepits and Christmas trees, it has become a vibrant seasonal hub for the local community. Warroad volunteers groom and maintain it and even helped construct two warming huts where skaters, sledders and broomballers can pull up for a steaming cup of hot chocolate. The path is free to use. Skate, ski and snowshoe rentals are available at **Doc's Harbor Inn**.

ATV IN THE BIRTHPLACE OF POLARIS AND ARCTIC CAT

No part of Minnesota is friendlier toward all-terrain vehicles than the one that birthed ATV manufacturers Polaris and Arctic Cat. Here, riders will find a diversity of landscapes, including dense forest, windswept western prairie and fields of wildflowers. The Bemidji area alone boasts three popular trail systems. The 37-mile **Wilton Trails Northwest** runs along an abandoned railroad grade and offers an easy entry point for newbie riders. The **Round River Drive Trail**, by contrast, links 113 miles of epic sand trails in Paul Bunyan State Forest and has enough steep hills and switchbacks to keep OHV enthusiasts on the edge of their seats. While rumbling along paths in the **Fourtown-Grygla Trail System**,

continued on page 90 →





▲ America's longest skate path, Warroad, photo by Andrew Fisher



▼ Snowmobiling, Detroit Lakes, photo by Paul Vincent



▲ Itasca State Park, photo by Kvidt Creative



▼ ATV ride in Thief River Falls, photo courtesy of Arctic Cat, Inc.

MUST-SEE SMALL TOWNS IN NORTHWEST MINNESOTA

Crookston

This Red Lake River town is home to one of the longest continuously operating movie theaters in the country, the world's largest ox cart (parked at the Polk County Museum) and a whopping 22 public parks. Don't miss the nearby Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, an exceptional place to see wildflowers, prairie chickens, sandhill cranes and maybe even a moose.

Hackensack

This tiny town has a big claim to fame: 127 lakes within a 10-mile radius. That means plenty of fishing, beach resorts and lakeside concerts. Hackensack is one of many charming towns along the Paul Bunyan State Trail (the longest paved bike trail in the U.S.). It's also home to the Deep Portage Learning Center, where programming includes guided natural history walks and renewable energy tours.

Detroit Lakes

You can tell from its name that this town is sure to be a great place to spend time on the water – boating, fishing, swimming, etc. – and it is. But there's lots to do on land, too, from skiing and mountain biking at Detroit Mountain to snowmobiling on more than 250 miles of groomed trails to bargain-hunting at the 3.5-acre Shady Hollow Flea Market.



▲ Ballard's Resort, Baudette

continued from page 88 —————>

remember to cut your engine now and again for a chance at spotting moose, black bear or sandhill cranes.

FISH ALL YEAR LONG AT LAKE OF THE WOODS

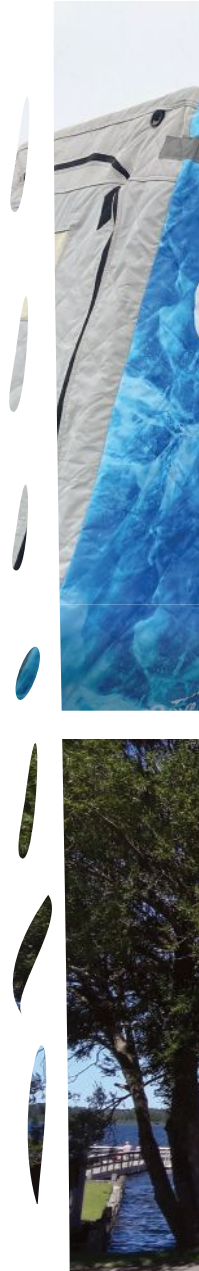
Lake of the Woods is so gigantic, it borders two Canadian provinces and the state of Minnesota. Anglers flock here from far and wide to reel in northern pike, jumbo perch, muskies, sauger sturgeon and, of course, walleye, which are so plentiful that they put this area on the map as the Walleye Capital of the World. The area comprises Lake of the Woods, Rainy River and the Northwest Angle, the northernmost point in the Lower 48, and has an abundance of public access points and lakeside resorts. Summer is the best time to charter a boat with a downrigger, often with a tasty shore lunch included. Come winter, Lake of the Woods is also a popular destination for ice fishing, with many resorts providing fish houses so guests can jig in comfort. If you can't catch a live one, stop

MINNESOTANS ARE A HARDY LOT, AND THEIR WINTER SHENANIGANS ARE THE STUFF OF LEGEND.

by the 40-foot-tall Willie Walleye statue in Baudette for a guaranteed trophy photo.

CUT LOOSE AT A QUIRKY LOCAL FESTIVAL

Minnesotans are a hardy lot, and their winter shenanigans are the stuff of legend: No sub-zero thermometer reading is going to get in their way of a good time. The **Yeti Fest** in Warroad, for example, hosts a toboggan run, hockey puck shoot and candlelit skate race. **Ice Fest** in Thief River Falls celebrates winter with dog sled rides, fat biking, hockey games and much more. The fun rages long after the snow melts, too, such as **Muskie Days** in Nevis, which features a variety of musical acts and dancing in the streets and **Sweetheart Days** in Hackensack, which began 70 years ago as a celebration of Lucette, the wife of legendary logger Paul Bunyan. There's a 17-foot statue of her in town. See the sidebar for the deets on more festivals in Northwest Minnesota.





▲ Polar Fest, Detroit Lakes, photo by Paul Vincent



▲ Snow yoga at Frostival, Moorhead, photo courtesy of Visit Fargo-Moorhead

NORTHWEST REGION FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Much like the rest of Minnesota, Moorhead never lets sub-zero temps get in the way of a good time. Its **Frostival** stretches for six weeks at the start of the year, and finds locals racing cardboard sleds, doing yoga poses in the snow and playing kickball and volleyball in knee-deep powder.

Similar in spirit, February's **Polar Fest** in Detroit Lakes features a sparkling ice palace, ice-fishing derby, polar plunge and snowmobile rally. Not to mention a laid-back marathon aptly named the Freeze Your Buns 5K. Competitors are encouraged to walk or run, and layer up if they'd actually like to feel their toes.

Warmer season wise, August's **Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival** attracts teams of up to 20 paddlers (plus a drummer!) to spirited 200- and 400-meter races. The opening ceremony is led by Concordia's Sen Lin Hu Chinese language village. Other draws include cultural performances, food trucks and a cut-throat cornhole tournament.

As summer winds down, Barnesville shows Idaho how it's done with its **Potato Days Festival**, a weekend of revelry with roots that reach back to 1931. Spuds pop up in the form of pancakes, the National Lefse Cookoff, a golden potato scavenger hunt and mashed potatoes made to eat, sculpt and wrestle.



▲ Lake of the Woods



▼ Lucette statue, Hackensack

EXPLORE MORE

Find all the places mentioned here and plan your trip today!

ExploreMinnesota.com/Northwest



Get Away to

Thief River Falls



www.VisitTRF.com

m EXPLORE MINNESOTA

WE DIDN'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD



THE ONLY CITY ON LAKE OF THE WOODS

WARROAD

visitwarroad.com



EXPERIENCE *North of Normal*

Fargo is an unconventional place. Visit to find a full-sized Viking ship and Stave Church and canoe parades through urban riverfronts just minutes from prairie landscapes. Experience north. North of Normal.



FARGO
MOORHEAD | WEST FARGO

THE WALLEYE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD™

LAKE OF THE WOODS MINNESOTA



LakeoftheWoodsMN.com

DETROIT MOUNTAIN

IS CALLING

By Jerard Fagerberg

Rising 1,612 feet over the northeastern lip of Detroit Lake, Detroit Mountain isn't Minnesota's most majestic peak, but it may be its most recreational.

Most people seek out the mountain's slopes for snow sports, but during the summer, when the terrain turns to dirt, the network of trails begs to be explored at full tilt on two wheels.

I grew up with thrill-seekers, and when my childhood friends wanted to plan a mountain biking trip, I knew Detroit Mountain would be a real crowd pleaser. In our 30s now, and not having been down any single tracks in quite a while, we were hoping our weekend getaway would reignite our adrenal glands.

After a quick three-hour drive from the Twin Cities, we arrived at the mountain, our sedans dusty from the road. Not having brought any bikes with us, our first stop was the rental shop at **Detroit Mountain Recreation Area**. The rentals were brand new—a pristine fleet of suspension Trek bikes that ran \$45 for three hours. Since it was Day One, and we still remembered ourselves as mountaineering riders, we booked a full day at \$90, declining the lift service. Goosebumps rose as we signed the liability waivers.

That first day was a rejuvenation. We warmed up on some short rides, but before long, we were hitting the gravity trails, sailing past one another for lead position. We could feel the terrain through our arms and legs, our bodies absorbing

every root and rock. We even shot up the Sasquatch Trail, pumping breathlessly up its steep 140-foot incline.

At night, having worked up a hearty appetite, we were eager to grab a bite and wash the dirt out of our teeth with a cold one. Detroit Lakes offered plenty of options, including the **Lakeside Tavern & Brewery**, which serves pub grub and its own brews (Harry Man Porter, coffee-infused Burly Bean and Lake Water Lager, billed as “just plain ol’ beer,” to name a few).

The next morning, we felt like we'd been thrown down the mountain. Our muscles felt like snapped rubber bands. A brave few sprung for a half-day rental to work out the aches and pains in the skills park. The rest of us slept in.

Speaking of which, the lodging page on the Visit Detroit Lakes website promises “you'll get your #bestlife's sleep in Detroit Lakes,” and there are plenty

of places to snooze when the day is done, including **Rose Ridge Resort** and a variety of mid-size hotels throughout the area.

Thankfully, our last night coincided with the annual **Music on the Mountain** concert in July. The headliner was Georgia-born country singer Billy Currington. By the time he took the stage, my body was finally uncinching. I watched him strum, his baroque voice bouncing off the face of the mountain. It wasn't adrenaline that came rushing in. It was something easier, and we let it take us home.

**BEFORE LONG,
WE WERE
HITTING THE
GRAVITY
TRAILS, SAILING
PAST ONE
ANOTHER FOR
LEAD POSITION.**





▲ Getting the adrenaline going at Detroit Mountain Recreation Area



▼ Bombardier, Lake of the Woods, photo by Andrew Fisher

EXPLORE THE NORTHWEST ANGLE

Among Minnesota’s many charms and unique attributes is the fact that it contains the northernmost part of the contiguous United States: The Northwest Angle, also known as the “Top of the Nation” or the “Chimney.”

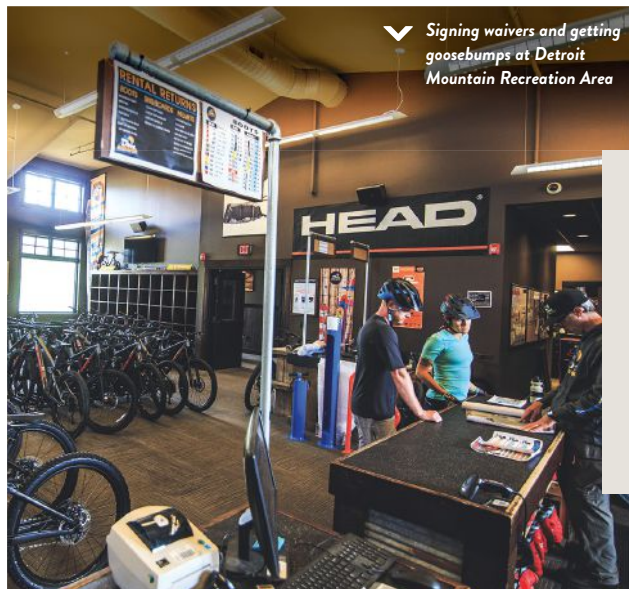
This curious geographic anomaly is completely cut off from the rest of the United States but remains part of Minnesota due to a series of mapping errors dating back to the American Revolution.

The drive through Manitoba to the Angle is a lovely one, full of wilderness and wildlife (just don’t forget to pack your passport). Other ways to reach the Angle include taking a boat, plane, bombardier or snowmobile across Lake of the Woods. Some of the Angle’s resorts can provide transportation in these ways to registered guests.

Once you arrive, you can golf, fish (Lake of the Woods has been dubbed the “walleye capital of the world”) and visit several historic spots in the village of Angle Inlet: the last one-room public school in Minnesota; the northernmost post office in the lower 48 states; the northernmost point marker (located at Young’s Bay Resort); and Historic Fort St. Charles, a restored 1732 French voyageur log fort and fur trading post.



▼ Feeling the pull of gravity at Detroit Mountain Recreation Area

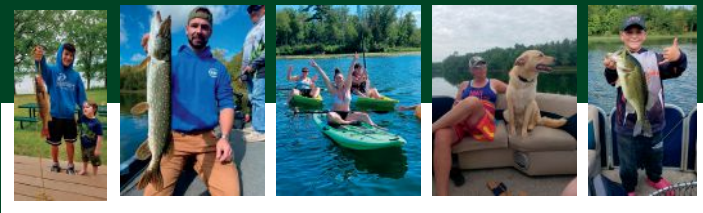


▼ Signing waivers and getting goosebumps at Detroit Mountain Recreation Area

EXPLORE MORE

Find more trails for biking and mountain biking.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Biking](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/Biking)



Cabin, Pontoon & Boat Rentals | Playground/Picnic Pavilion | Pet Friendly
Shevlin, MN Near Beltrami County Snowmobile Trails & Buena Vista Ski Area

28569 Dancing Bear Ln NW Shevlin, MN 56676 | (218) 255 - 5625 | garrisonresort.us

NORTHWEST MINNESOTA'S RIVERLAND ADVENTURE



CROOKSTON | FERTILE | GREATER GRAND FORKS | RED LAKE FALLS | ST. HILAIRE | THIEF RIVER FALLS

#ONLYINMN

Discover the unique mix of adventures that await in Northwest Minnesota.



@burial.plot



@ilovebeerfromhere.mn



@mnisforlovers



@svelure

No noise.
No traffic.
Only memories.



PARK RAPIDS LAKES AREA

218-732-4111

www.parkrapids.com

LEECH-LAKE.COM • 218-547-1313



m
EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

Leech Lake
A REACHAMBER
of Commerce

Vacation your way!!



Jolly Fisherman
Resort
close to Itasca

SPACE TO BREATHE

Free paddle boarding, kayaking, bonfires and fun!
jollyfisherman.com 701-388-8042



LONGVILLE
MINNESOTA

SOMETHING for EVERYONE

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA



www.longville.com Chamber@Longville.com

**IT FELT
OTHER
WORLDLY**




EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

I WISH I COULD STAY HERE



VISIT
Detroit Lakes
.COM

218-847-9202 Ext. 23



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

FROM BIG CITIES TO BLUFF COUNTRY

Traversed by the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, southern Minnesota is where rolling prairies and big cities meet soaring river bluffs.

Explore the state's last remaining native tallgrass prairies and see where the bison still roam at Minneopa and Blue Mounds state parks. To the east, go rock climbing high above the Mississippi River at Sugar Loaf Bluff in Winona — part of the state's iconic Bluff Country, where deep valleys, gentle rivers and limestone bluffs extend past the horizon.

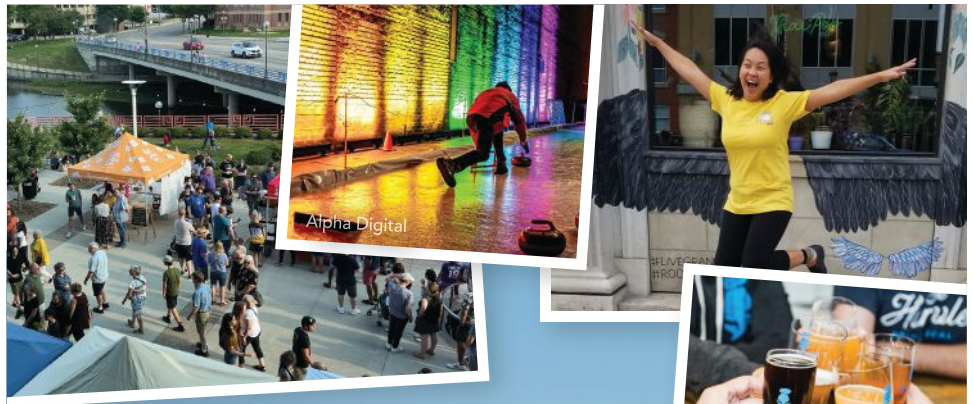
To the west, visit historic sites like Pipestone National Monument

to learn more about the region's Indigenous past, present and future, and extend your trip with a powwow or casino visit.

Visit the region's big cities — Rochester, Mankato and Winona — for historic architecture, vibrant entertainment, nightlife and local festivals. Or get up close and personal with Minnesota's most-loved brands at the SPAM® Museum in Austin and the Red Wing Shoe Company and Museum in Red Wing.



▲ Sunset, Sugar Loaf Bluff, Winona, photo by @wanderfulwives



Rochester is famous for some large institutions (hint: Mayo Clinic), **but locals know it for its unique businesses, stunning nature areas, fantastic entertainment, and an emerging food and beverage scene.**

Show us how you #ExperienceRochesterMN by tagging your photos on social media.



▶ **Don't forget to explore the Ear of Corn water tower.**



experiencerochestermn.com

A DREAM STATE GUIDE TO SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

By Ashlea Halpern

Say the words “Southern Minnesota,” and a wide-open prairie – or perhaps the SPAM® Museum – probably springs to mind. But this part of the state also possesses awe-inspiring caves, majestic river valleys and national monuments rich in Dakota history.

Visitors can find bison roaming freely in our state parks, pluck their own Haralson apples from the trees at a mom-and-pop orchard or watch bald eagles swoop and dive overhead while they paddle the sun-dappled backwaters of the Mississippi River. Here are five ways to kickstart your exploration.

GO UNDERGROUND AND BACK IN TIME

Hikers and horseback riders flock to **Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park** in Preston for its scenic forested trails. Anglers come for the Blue Ribbon trout streams. And there’s a living history village at **Historic Forestville**, where visitors can time travel to an 1800s general store and a homestead done up with original artifacts and interact with costumed interpreters. But the biggest draw in the 3,583-acre park is its eye-popping caverns. **Mystery Cave** boasts 13 miles of passageways plastered with stalactites and stalagmites, unique rock formations and a stunning turquoise lake. **Niagara Cave**, 20 minutes southeast of Mystery Cave, is another must-see with its 60-foot waterfall, subterranean wedding chapel and mining sluice for panning gemstones and fossils.

SEE THE BISON AT TWO STATE PARKS

How lucky are we? Minnesota has not one but two state parks where you can observe bison in their natural habitat. In addition

to having the largest waterfall in Southern Minnesota, **Minneopa State Park** in Mankato is home to a newly re-established American Bison herd. After ogling the range safely from your vehicle, make your way to the park’s 50-foot twin falls. Two hours southwest, **Blue Mounds State Park** is another haven for 100 pure-strain bison. Watch them graze across the tallgrass prairie while keeping your eyes out for another fearsome mammal: the rock climber. Like moths to a flame, rock jocks lose their minds when they see Blue Mounds’ pink-hued Sioux quartzite cliff rising 100 feet above its plains. For visitors who’d rather keep their feet planted firmly on the ground, there are several hiking trails and a paved bike trail.

BIKE THE RAIL TRAILS IN BLUFF COUNTRY

Characterized by its towering limestone bluffs, the Driftless region is a sight to behold – and best experienced on two wheels. The **Root River State Trail** is a 42-mile paved route that runs along a former railroad line between Houston and Fountain, winding gently past farms, forest and the kind of small-town scenes Norman Rockwell loved to paint. Take it slow and stop often to explore. Meet the rescue owls at the **International Owl Center** in Houston, the nation’s only owl-exclusive education center; sample Norwegian lefse from the 36-year-old, family-run **Norsland Lefse** in Rushford; and bop around the art galleries

continued on page 102 →



Blue Mounds State Park, Luverne, photo by Jim Henderson



Welding demonstration at Swensson Farm Museum, Montevideo

MUST-SEE SMALL TOWNS IN SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Montevideo

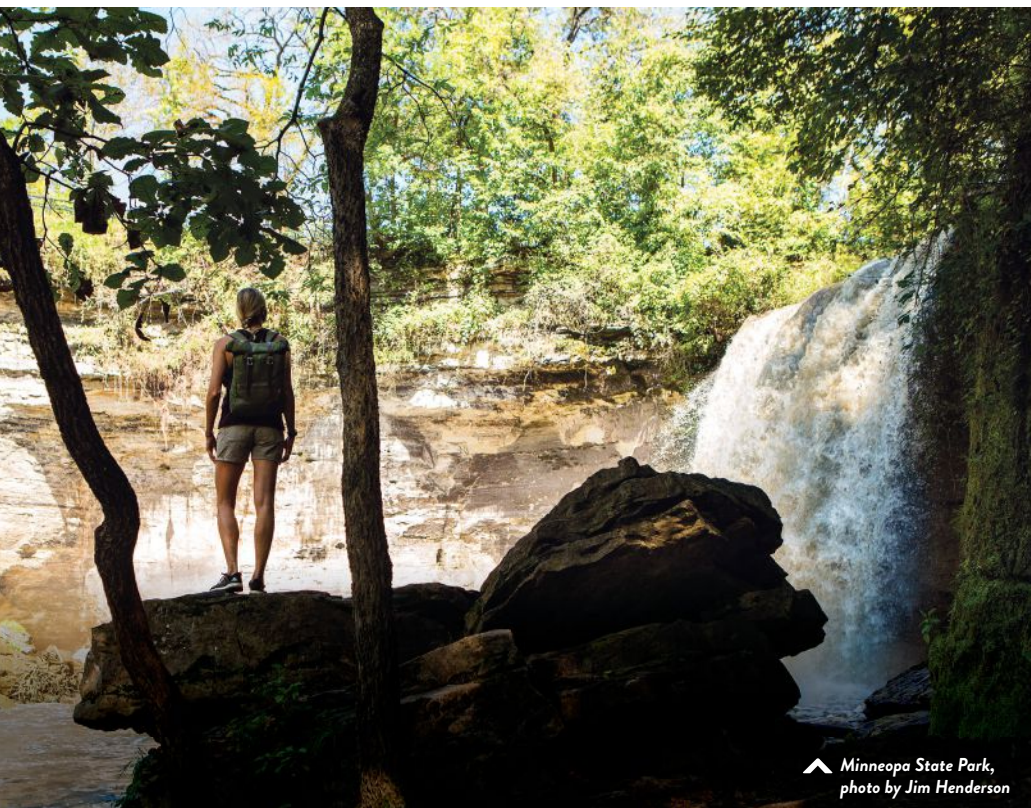
So much history, so little time. Do you take a self-guided tour of the one-room schoolhouse, millinery shop and blacksmith forge at Historic Chippewa City, a late-1800s replica village? Or do you poke around the Swensson Farm Museum with its timber-framed barn, grist mill and (allegedly haunted) 22-room brick mansion? If you're a train enthusiast, make tracks to the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center, which is bursting with railroad memorabilia.

Cannon Falls

Between the Twin Cities and Rochester, Cannon Falls attracts urbanites with the promise of outdoor adventure: Paddle or float down the Cannon River, bike or ski the paved Cannon Valley Trail from Cannon Falls to Red Wing, play golf on one of three championship courses, or try some award-winning wine with dinner in the new restaurant at Cannon River Winery.

Henderson

This idyllic town in the Minnesota River Valley promises quaint shopping, a sweet hummingbird garden overseen by the local Audubon chapter and wildlife galore at the picturesque forest, prairies, meadows and creeks of the Ney Nature Center. For an adrenaline rush, check out Kerfoot Canopy Tour with its treetop ropes course, 170-foot suspension bridge and 14 zip lines.



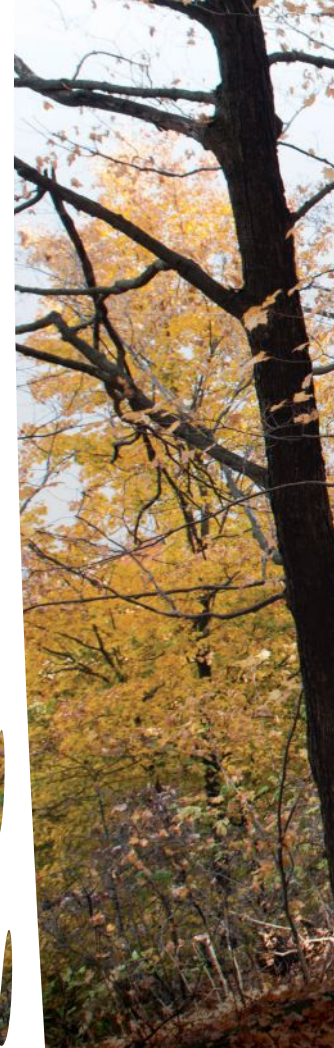
Minneopa State Park, photo by Jim Henderson



Forestville Mystery Cave State Park, Preston, photo courtesy of Minnesota DNR



▲ Biking on Root River State Trail



continued from page 100 —>

in charming Lanesboro. Between Lanesboro and Fountain, bicyclists seeking more of a workout can head south toward food and libations in Harmony on the 17-mile **Harmony-Preston Valley State Trail**.

PICK YOUR OWN FRUIT AT A FAMILY-RUN ORCHARD

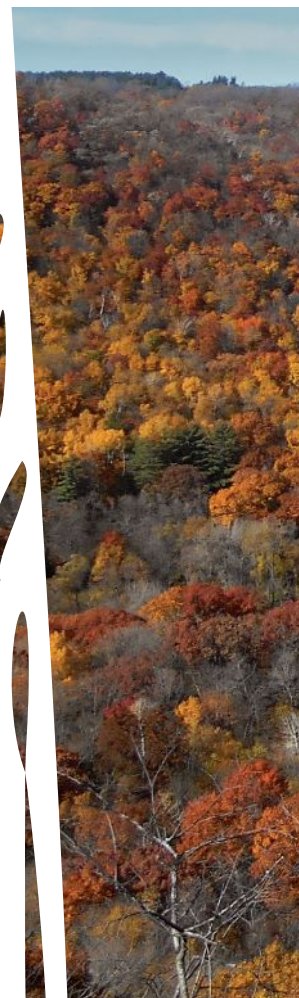
This part of the state is an agricultural hotbed, its fertile land feeding folks near and far. **Sekapp Orchard**, a staple at the Rochester Farmers Market, celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. The U-pick orchard has 8,000 trees and dozens of apple varieties, including tender-sweet Honey Golds for snacking and crisp Connel Reds for baking. Come harvest season, Sekapp welcomes kiddos with a corn maze and straw bale pyramid. At **Northwoods Orchard** in Oronoco, a corn labyrinth, pumpkin patch and farm animal petting zoo await. At Turkey Hill, a U-pick apple orchard in Pine Island, pears, plums and farm-fresh eggs beckon while **Ferguson's Orchards** in Lake City has upwards of 300,000 apple trees and a sweet-as-can-be store selling jugs of apple cider and fresh-baked pies.

TAKE IT SLOW AND STOP OFTEN TO EXPLORE.

DRIVE THE GREAT RIVER ROAD

The Great River Road recently upgraded from a National Scenic Byway to an All-American Road, runs nearly 3,000 miles from the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Itasca State Park to the Gulf of Mexico, but one of the prettiest stretches – US-61 from Red Wing to Winona – is located in Southern Minnesota. Kick things off at the **Pottery Museum** of Red Wing, which showcases more than 6,000 pieces of vintage stoneware. Hike along the

bluffs at **Frontenac State Park** or save your energy for **Great River Bluffs State Park** in Winona; both offer sweeping river views. For another inspiring vantage point, get on the water with **Broken Paddle Guiding**. The Wabasha-based outfitter leads spectacular Flooded Forest kayak tours through the backwaters of the **Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge**. Kids in tow? A ride on the hand-carved Minnesota basswood carousel at **LARK Toys** in Kellogg thrills the young and young at heart alike.





▲ Hiking in Frontenac State Park, Red Wing



▲ The National Eagle Center, Wabasha, photo by Jackie Scherer

FLYING HIGH AGAIN

Live eagles and two floors of interactive exhibits draw around 80,000 visitors a year to **The National Eagle Center** in Wabasha. Long a fixture on the Mississippi River, a major flyway for bald eagles and other migrating birds, the center reopened in 2022 after undergoing a \$27 million renovation.

A big part of the reboot is Preston Cook's private 25,000-piece collection, which the Wabasha resident agreed to donate in 2017. Now featured in a fully refreshed exhibition space, it spotlights nearly six decades of eagle fandom – everything from sheet music and stamps to postcards and photography. After all, the eagle is more than just an awe-inspiring animal; as Cook said at the center's unveiling, "this magnificent, powerful, independent and strong bird represents America [itself]."

It wouldn't be an Eagle Center without up-close-and-personal encounters with its winged "ambassadors," of course. Live demonstrations take place daily in an expanded care facility. If you're looking to spot eagles in their natural habitat, the center offers several options, including a two-hour "floating classroom" (a picture-perfect cruise along Lake Pepin) and seasonal field trips that focus on golden and bald eagles. Book your spot by visiting nationaleaglecenter.org.

▼ Great River Road, photo courtesy of Visit Winona



EXPLORE MORE

Discover all that Southern Minnesota has to offer and plan your trip today!

ExploreMinnesota.com/Southern

Sleepy Eye

Experience It All!



m EXPLORE MINNESOTA

*WE
CAME
BACK
WITH
AMAZING
STORIES*



sleepyeyechamber.com

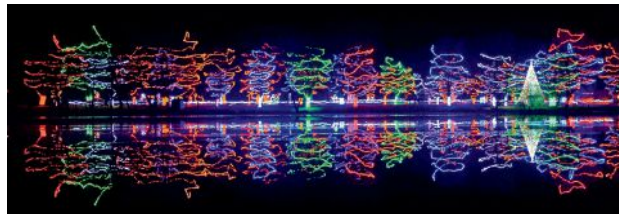


Photo Credit: Sara Hughes

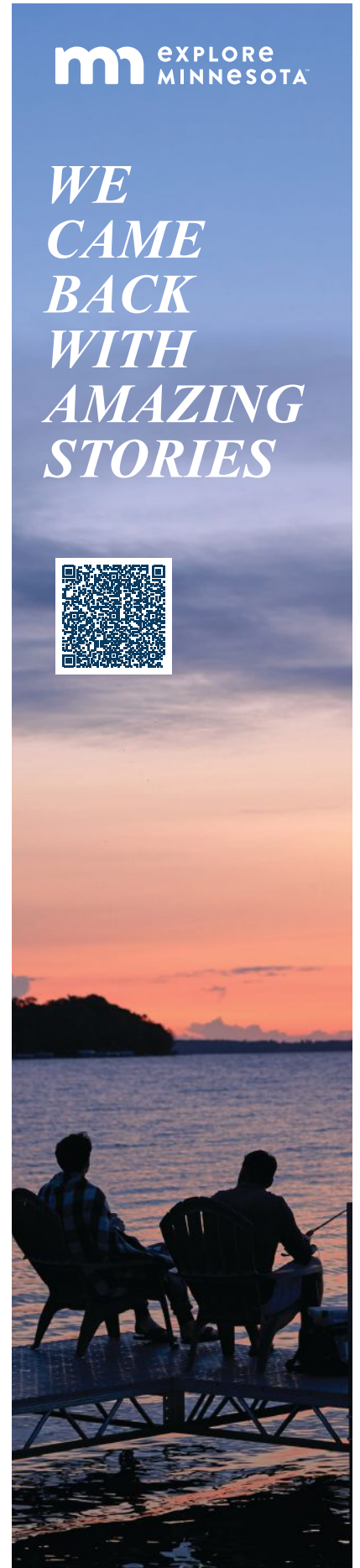
Mankato
Now Playing

SCAN CODE TO LEARN MORE



m EXPLORE MINNESOTA

visitmankatomn.com



A town with more **nutcrackers**



than people!

Visit the 3rd largest nutcracker collection in the world at:



HISTORY CENTER

213 E MAIN STREET IN LUVERNE

Take a peek at our other jaw-dropping attractions in Luverne:

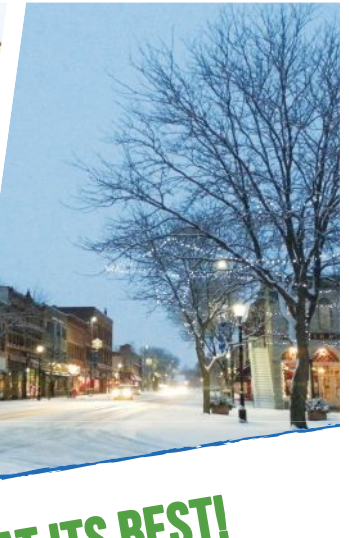
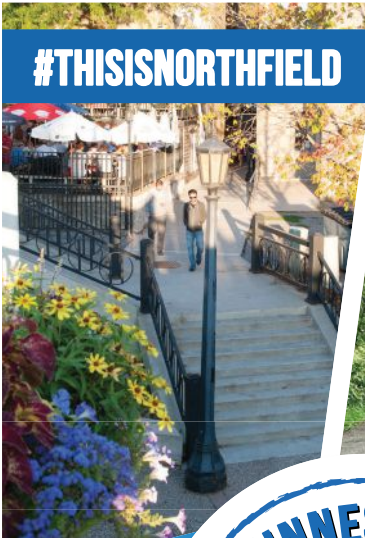
- Hiking and Biking Trails • Charming Shops
- Historic Museums • Delicious Eats • Local Craft Beer
- Serene Tallgrass Prairie • Unique Stays • Arts and Culture



#ONLYINMN

LuverneChamber.com

#THISISNORTHFIELD



visit Northfield

MINNESOTA

AT ITS BEST

EXPERIENCE MINNESOTA AT ITS BEST!

visitnorthfield.com

The charming town of Northfield lies along the banks of the Cannon River. Located just 40 miles south of the Twin Cities, Northfield offers something for everyone all year long. The heart of our community boasts public art, boutique shopping, restaurants, breweries, bike trails, museums and much more. Plan your visit today!

Find Northfield on shurpa.

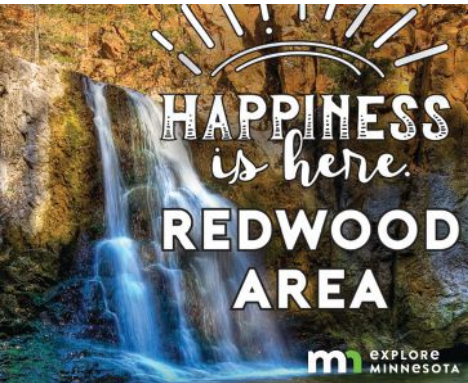


CHECK IT OUT FOR YOURSELF!

- SHOPPING
- FESTIVALS
- CULTURE
- MUSIC
- BREWERIES
- HISTORY

NEWULM.COM



HAPPINESS is here.

REDWOOD AREA

mi EXPLORE MINNESOTA

Redwood Area Chamber & Tourism

WWW.REDWOODFALLS.ORG

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA CHARM

SURROUNDED BY 5 LAKES AND RELAXATION

visit **Fairmont**



Some great places to stay:
VisitFairmontMN.com









COME HOME TO LAURA INGALLS

New Show

"Chasing the Dream"



Wilder Outdoor Theater
July 7-8, 14-15, 21-22

Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum
& INFORMATION CENTER

330 8th Street • Walnut Grove
Open April - October
888-528-7296 • 507-859-2358

www.walnutgrove.org




Request our **NEW** Visitor's Guide!



Discover the River of Stories

For more Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway information, including videos, maps and more, visit

← mnrivervalley.com

EXPLORE **mi** MINNESOTA

Explore Mantorville with us

Home to the Famous Hubbell House!

SHOPPING	COFFEE	HISTORIC SITES
DINING	THEATRE	ART & ARTISTS
BIKING TRAILS	PARKS	ANTIQUES
CHOCOLATES	GIFTS	WALKING TOURS



www.mantorville.com | info@mantorville.com

 | [@CityofMantorville](https://www.facebook.com/CityofMantorville) | [@MantorvilleMN](https://www.instagram.com/MantorvilleMN)

Stay Unwind Relax



Willows ON THE River

Waterfront Condominium Resort

willsontheriver.com
(651) 345-9900
Lake City, MN



JacksonMN.com



GREAT ART INSPIRED BY WATER



The Minnesota Marine Art Museum is dedicated to creating meaningful art experiences that explore our ongoing and historic relationship with water.

Located on the banks of the Mississippi River, MMAM boasts six galleries, an educational and events space, and a destination retail shop across a stunning seven-acre site. From exhibitions featuring today's most ambitious artists to galleries displaying historic works of art, there is something for everyone.

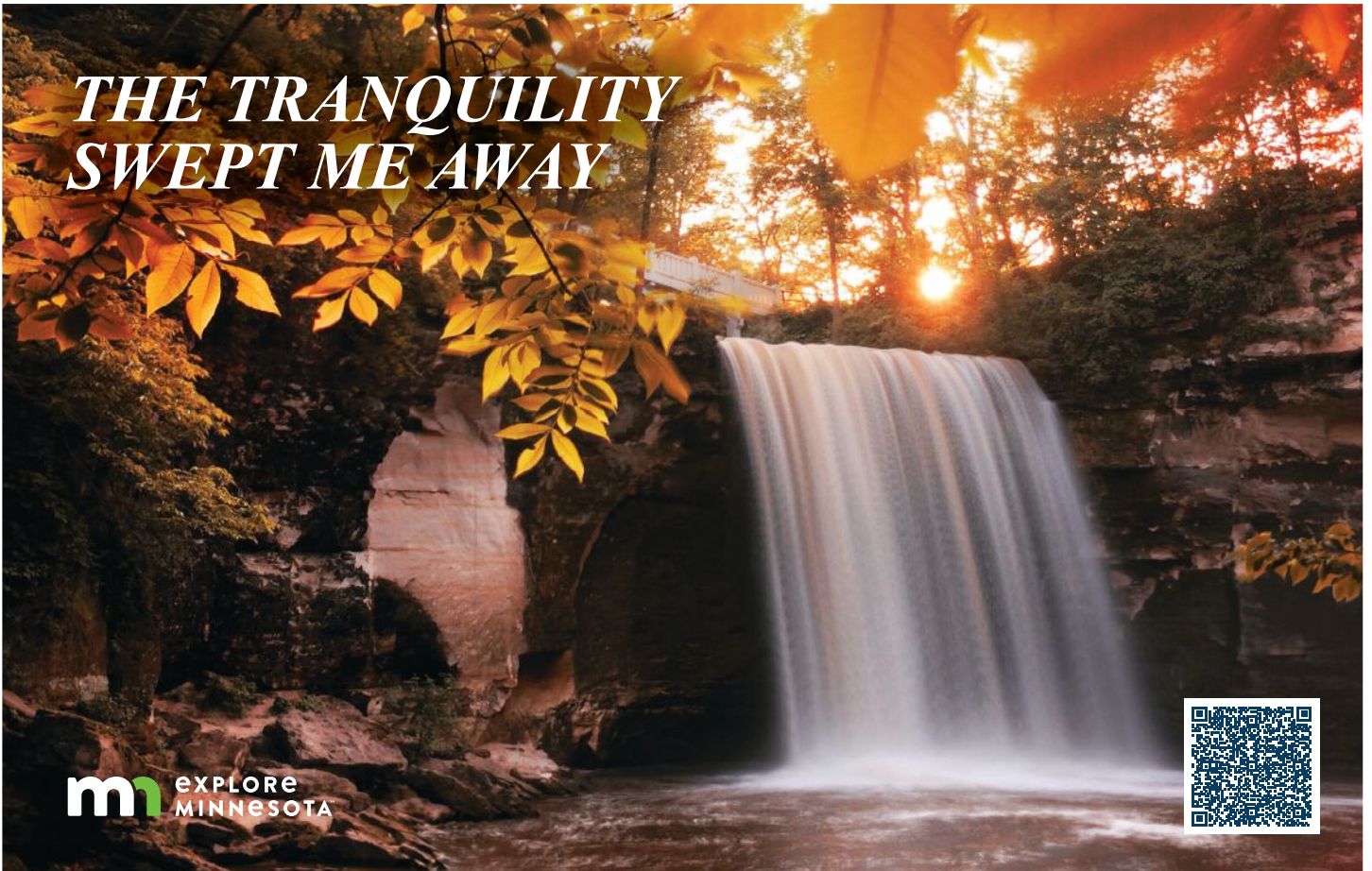
Open Tuesday - Sunday | 10am - 5pm

800 Riverview Drive, Winona, Minnesota

mmam.org | 507.474.6626

MMAM MINNESOTA MARINE
ART MUSEUM

THE TRANQUILITY SWEPT ME AWAY



m EXPLORE
MINNESOTA



SHOP LIKE A LOCAL

AT THESE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA BOUTIQUES

By Cinnamon Janzer

Southern Minnesota is home to some of the state's most whimsical and charming boutique shopping destinations. Historic main streets from Red Wing to New Ulm to Montevideo are the prime places to find one-of-a-kind housewares, clothing, antiques and gifts with that special local touch. The only problem? Figuring out how to get it all back home.

UFFDA SHOP, RED WING

Shopping in southern Minnesota wouldn't be complete without a trip to an authentic Scandinavian store. The Uffda Shop, across from the historic St. James Hotel downtown, specializes in gifts for any occasion and has some of the friendliest staff around.

REFASHION, ROCHESTER

For those who prefer hunting for diamonds in the rough, this store is for you. Three blocks from Mayo Clinic on South Broadway Street, its heaping piles of secondhand options are teeming with quality products at reasonable prices.

ADOURN, CHATFIELD

This vintage and antique store is brimming with rare finds, carefully refurbished and tastefully curated for design lovers everywhere. Located in Chatfield's historic district, it has funky furniture, handmade jewelry and much more.

SALVAGE SISTERS, MANKATO

This lifestyle and furniture boutique on Riverfront Drive carries everything from home goods like must-have mugs and origami wine toppers to colorful socks and baby blankets. There's truly something for everyone.

GUTEN TAG HAUS, NEW ULM

In the German-settled city of New Ulm, step inside Guten Tag Haus to find imported German steins and cuckoo clocks as well as German food and an extensive selection of nutcrackers and Christmas ornaments.

COCO AVENUE, MARSHALL

Dedicated to "the dreamers and free spirits," Coco Avenue on Main Street sells carefully selected home goods and fashion items for those with a discerning eye. From wire baskets that will make your blanket collection pop to cut-out dresses and perfectly frayed jeans, there's no shortage of inspiring finds here.

LIVINTAGE BOUTIQUE, MONTEVIDEO

This shop on North First Street features wares ranging from home furnishings and decorations to clothes and shoes. It has a focus on sharing the work of local artists and creators, so you'll find sophisticated looks that work for any style.

GEYERMAN'S, PIPESTONE

This women's clothing company on Main Street wants customers to "feel beautiful in their own way." Among its accessories and apparel – including a Curvy Collection – you can find plenty to fill your closet.





▲ Coco Avenue, Marshall, photo courtesy of Visit Marshall



▲ Kolacky Days baking contest, photo by Sarah Dolejs Photography

SOUTHERN REGION FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Every July, the **Worthington International Festival** celebrates the many cultures who call this Southwest Minnesota town home. Expect a little bit of everything, from tall cups of bubble tea and lip-smacking, West Texas-style BBQ to lovingly made Liberian, Caribbean and El Salvadorian specialties. Also of note: live folk music, globe-trotting art and enough activities to keep the kids entertained all afternoon.

Kolacky Days is another mid-summer favorite, marking the Czechoslovakian heritage and modern-day culture of Montgomery with authentic Kroj costumes, a Bohemian tractor pull, scenic bike races and — wait for it — the National Prune Spitting Championships. The self-proclaimed Kolacky Capital of the World (thanks in part to beloved local business Franke's Bakery) will be sling fresh pastries as well, of course, so be sure to pick up a bun or two before the day winds down.

Downtown Oronoco's annual **Gold Rush Days** is a free antique show and flea market along the banks of the Zumbro River that made Country Woman's list of the top six antique shows to attend every year. It draws hundreds of dealers from throughout the country to this picturesque hamlet, just 45 minutes south of the Twin Cities.



▼ Uffda Shop, Red Wing



▼ Refashion, Rochester, photo courtesy of Experience Rochester

EXPLORE MORE

Find shopping centers, small-town boutiques and outlet malls throughout the state.

[ExploreMinnesota.com/Shopping](https://www.exploreminnesota.com/shopping)

More than you
imagine...
All year round.

Granite Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau
visitgranitefalls.com

EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

MN

Granite Falls, MN

#ONLYINMN

Discover the unique mix of adventures that await in Southern Minnesota.



CULTIVATING THE BEST EXPERIENCES

MEMORIES HAPPEN HERE.

BOOK YOUR FAMILY PLAY & STAY, GIRLFRIENDS GETAWAY OR ROMANTIC RETREAT IN MARSHALL, MN

m VISIT MARSHALL
VISITMARSHALLMN.COM

Discover Austin Minnesota

FREE ADMISSION

SPAN MUSEUM

m EXPLORE MINNESOTA

HISTORY ▸ FOOD ▸ NATURE
SHOPPING ▸ LODGING

AustinMN.com



SPRINGFIELD
We have a lot to share!
www.springfieldmnchamber.org
spfchamber@newulmotel.net
507-723-3508

Community Center
5 event rooms - Seats 500
Garden patio 507-723-3517

Springfield Golf Course
• 9 Holes • Course side Patio
• Mon. thru Wed unlimited golf
\$35 per person w/cart • 507-723-5888

Riverside Park/Campground
Swimming w/Waterslide
Paved Trails

Microtel Inn & Suites
507-723-8200

Camping
(Reservations 507-723-3517)
Online Reservations @ secure.rec1.com/MN/springfield-mn/catalog

**WWW.
EXPLORE
ALBERTLEA
.COM**

**ALBERT LEA
MINNESOTA**

CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

EXPLORE MINNESOTA

FREE ADMISSION

LARGEST and most EXTENSIVE collection of Red Wing clay products!

POTTERY MUSEUM OF RED WING

Over 9,000 vintage pieces plus a beautiful gift store awaits you!

**240 Harrison Street • Red Wing, MN
651.327.2220**

OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY 9-5, SUNDAY 11-4
Closed Mondays and Major Holidays

PotteryMuseumRedWing.org

Please Call the Museum to Arrange Group Tours

Pontoon Boat Rentals
Experience Pool 4 of the Mississippi River

RENT ME

Fishing Boat Rentals Guided Fishing Adventures!

Pool 4 Adventures
Make great memories with family and friends!
Book online at: pool4adventures.com
(651) 955-7798

Wabasha, MN

**10,000 Lakes.
Only One Lake City.**

VISIT

LAKE CITY MINNESOTA

visitlakecity.org

montevideo

www.montechamber.com
320.269.5527

Western Minnesota
PRAIRIE WATERS

EXPLORE
Hunting & fishing
Rivers & trails
Arts & culture

LIVE
Low cost of living
Strong broadband
Employment
Opportunities

www.prairiewaters.com

#ONLYINMN

Western Minnesota PRAIRIE WATERS
2022-2023 Visitor Relocation Guide
IN THE UPPER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY

IT WAS LIKE ENTERING A STORYBOOK

EXPLORE m MINNESOTA



EXPERIENCE MORE
time together.



ST. JAMES HOTEL
EST. 1875



Welcome to Worthington!



700 2nd Ave. | (507) 372-2919
worthingtonmnchamber.com

Find us on 

Build your
adventure
here.



m EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

VISIT
Red Wing 
redwing.org



MINNE-

Roadtrip

NORTHFIELD
FARIBAULT
OWATONNA

MINNEROADTRIP.COM

Take your group on the **Minne Roadtrip** to experience three unique river communities. Visit picturesque downtowns, historic attractions and small family-owned businesses. Just a short drive south of the Twin Cities on I-35.

See you soon!

NORTHFIELD AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & TOURISM
800-658-2548 | visitnorthfield.com

FARIBAULT AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & TOURISM
800-658-2354 | visitfaribault.com

OWATONNA AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & TOURISM
800-423-6466 | visitowatonna.org