

Special Events and Tours

Minneapolis Attractions

There's no shortage of smaller American cities attracting attention these days for cutting-edge art and architecture. But Minneapolis, it's fair to say, is leading the pack."

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THINGS TO DO

Minneapolis. It's a land of 10,000 things to do. The area enjoys four distinct seasons, offering a true variety of experiences. Take in an outdoor music festival. Be awed by ancient gallery artifacts. Dine at one of the many sidewalk cafés.

Historical Attractions

Get a feel for the historical story behind the Minneapolis area with stops in these can't-miss areas:

RIVERFRONT DISTRICT

Ard Godfrey House

This is the oldest frame house in Minneapolis. Built in 1849, this Greek Revival structure was the family residence for the Maine millwright who helped build the first dam and sawmills to put the waterpower of the falls to use.

Mill City Museum

Built within the limestone ruins of the century-old Washburn A Mill, the museum documents Minneapolis' rise to the flour milling capital of the world. It also highlights the lives of the people who worked in the milling and lumber industry as well as the rise of the city around it. Take an interactive ride on the 8-story Flour Tower.



Mill Ruins Park

The centerpiece of the historic West Side Milling District, this "crown jewel" of the Minneapolis riverfront is a unique area of 19th-century mill foundation walls, canals, tailraces and other historic resources. It celebrates the history of 19th-century ruins long buried beneath many feet of gravel and sand.

Stone Arch Bridge

This Minneapolis landmark connects the two sides of the Riverfront District. Once used by trains carrying freight and passengers, it is now a walking and biking path used exclusively for recreation.

The Depot

The last train left in 1971, but the Milwaukee Road Depot still stands as a monument. For decades, family members and loved ones stood at the atrium of the Depot and waved to passengers boarding the trains of the Milwaukee Road line. The renovated complex houses two hotels, an indoor water park, and an enclosed year-round ice rink.

ST. ANTHONY MAIN

Magical History Tours

Soak in history of the Minneapolis Riverfront area from 10,000 BC to present atop a 2-wheeled Segway. Guided tours include refreshments and discounted dining at Pracna and admission to the Mill City Museum.



Nicollet Island

This island situated in the middle of the mighty Mississippi, is one of the most historic places in Minneapolis. Home to a good view of the 1858 horseshoe-shaped dam and Stone Arch Bridge, Nicollet Island Pavilion and a 19th century residential district with many architectural styles dating from the 1860's to the 1890's (43 historic homes).



MINNEAPOLIS

Basilica of St. Mary

A few blocks from downtown's Loring Park, you'll find the 1st basilica built in the U.S. Recognized as one of the finest examples of Beaux Arts architecture in the country, the Basilica of St. Mary was constructed between 1907 and 1915 and honored by Pope Pius XI in 1926. In 1975, the Basilica was named to the National Register of Historic Places.



Bell Museum of Natural History

Explore Minnesota habitats in the treasured diorama halls, hold a live snake or try on a bighorn antler. Learn about the natural world with programs for adults and kids.

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Foshay Tower

The first skyscraper built west of the Mississippi River and the tallest building in Minneapolis until 1971, the Foshay Tower was intended as a tribute to the Washington Monument. The tower's distinctive obelisk shape and construction method were patented by Foshay and Minneapolis architect Gottlieb R. Magney soon after the \$3.75 million edifice was completed in 1929.



RiverCity Trolley

Climb aboard for a ride into the past as Trolley drivers entertain with the story of Minneapolis' past and present. From the city's early days as the milling capital of the world to today's shopping, dining and entertainment attractions, riders can hop on and off at any stop along the route to explore.

Wells Fargo History Museum

Step off the skyway into Wells Fargo's storied past. Explore a turn-of-the-century bank, see an authentic stagecoach and ride a colorful replica.

ST. PAUL

Alexander Ramsey House

One of the nation's best preserved Victorian-era homes, the Ramsey House features carved walnut woodwork, marble fireplaces, crystal chandeliers and many original furnishings.



Great American History Theatre

Since 1978 History Theatre has commissioned nearly 100 plays and musicals, winning high praise regionally and nationally for its diverse, illuminating and entertaining shows. Producing plays about Minnesota, the Midwest and the diverse American experience, the Great American History Theater tells stories about real people.

Historic Fort Snelling

The restored fort welcomes you to the 1820s. Soldiers, fur traders, servants, cooks, tradesmen, officers and laundresses are eager to share their stories of the development of the U.S. Northwest with you.



Minnesota History Center

Explore Minnesota through museum exhibits that feature large-scale objects, hands-on experiences and multimedia presentations. At the Library uncover your house's history or trace your family's heritage. Shop in the two museum stores and take a break at Cafe Minnesota, serving continental breakfast, weekday lunches and Sunday brunch.

Minnesota State Capitol

The 3rd – and present – Minnesota State Capitol was an ambitious undertaking for a state such as a new state. Channing Seabury, chairman of the Capitol Commission, broke ground for the new building on May 6, 1896. After 9 years and a cost of \$4.5 million, the building was opened to the public on Jan. 2, 1905, one day before the 34th legislature convened.



Minnesota Transportation Museum

The Minnesota Transportation Museum is probably unique among its kind. How many museums do you know with five operating sites spread over a 75 mile area? MTM has an operating streetcar line, an interstate tourist railroad, a depot museum, a former roundhouse that serves as a maintenance base, and a 70-foot wood steamboat in operation, which connects with a second trolley line. In addition they have operated over the road excursions and publish a quarterly magazine.

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Mall of America®

Mall of America is the nation's largest retail and entertainment complex. The 4.2 million square foot complex is home to more than 520 world-class shops; The Park at MOA™, the nation's largest indoor family amusement park; Underwater Adventures® Aquarium, a 1.2 million gallon walk-through aquarium; a 14-screen movie theater and more. The Mall opened in August of 1992 and is located in Bloomington, Minn., just minutes from downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Key attractions include The Park at MOA™, Underwater Adventures® Aquarium, LEGO® Imagination Center, Dinosaur Walk Museum, A.C.E.S. Flight Simulation, NASCAR Silicon Motor Speedway, Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Nordstrom and Sears.



Did you know?

- 258 Statues of Liberty could lie inside the Mall
- If Mount Rushmore was divided into individual monuments, a president could reside in each of the Mall's four courts
- Mall of America is big enough to hold 32 Boeing 747s
- Seven Yankee Stadiums can fit inside Mall of America
- If a shopper spent 10 minutes browsing at every store, it would take them more than 86 hours to complete their visit to Mall of America
- There is no sales tax on clothing in Minnesota
- Despite the temperature extremes of Minnesota, the weather inside Mall of America is always a perfect 70 degrees.
- More than 35 hotels located within five miles of Mall of America offer courtesy shuttle service to the Mall and the airport.