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| 4 <i>Possibilities...Endless</i>               | Iowa           |
| 5 <i>As Big as You Think</i>                   | North Dakota   |
| 6 <i>Great Faces – Great Places</i>            | Illinois       |
| 7 <i>Close to Home – Far from the Ordinary</i> | Minnesota      |
| 8 <i>Keep Exploring</i>                        | Wisconsin      |
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MATCHES: 1 - ND, 2 - IL, 3 - MN, 4 - NE, 5 - KS, 6 - SD, 7 - MO, 8 - Canada, 9 - WI, 10 - IA



## LETTER FROM the publishers

Dear Planner,

Motorcoach travel is expanding throughout the country at the fastest rate in more than 40 years, as the American Bus Association recently reported. With improvements in service, aggressive marketing, high fuel costs, and strong consumer demand, it is an environmentally friendly travel choice. As a result, even more growth will likely occur in the years ahead. Remember that even in these worrisome times, you are in an active and growing industry!

Now is the perfect time for you to develop unusual packages or itineraries that will help your groups leave their troubles at home. Remember to include Spas and Retreats for group members who want to relax from the stress of daily life. Surprisingly, there are many ways to package blissful experiences even on a motorcoach tour, and we highlight these in this issue.

From the beginning of *ITINERARIES MINNESOTA Magazine*, it has been our goal to be the BEST resource for Minnesota group travel. Well, the time has arrived for the BEST to become even BETTER! As of Spring 2009, you will have sample itineraries and package travel ideas from all over the upper Midwest and Central Canada...in the new *ITINERARIES MIDWEST Group Travel Magazine*. Itineraries Minnesota will still be present, along with Itineraries Iowa, Itineraries Wisconsin...and more, for a total of 9 states and central Canada. We believe it's time to pony up and show fellow group travel planners that we are a region with much more than they think!

And through these growth strides, you'll keep finding us not only in print, but online, too. Make sure you visit our website and see how you can plan midwest travel with ease using our hyperlinked digital magazines, too!

We wish for you the best as you finish 2008, and head into 2009! Keep looking up as you point your groups toward the heart of North America.

With warmest regards,

Heather J. Lahren and Mark W. Peterson  
Co-Publishers, *ITINERARIES MINNESOTA Magazine*



Coming Spring 2009!

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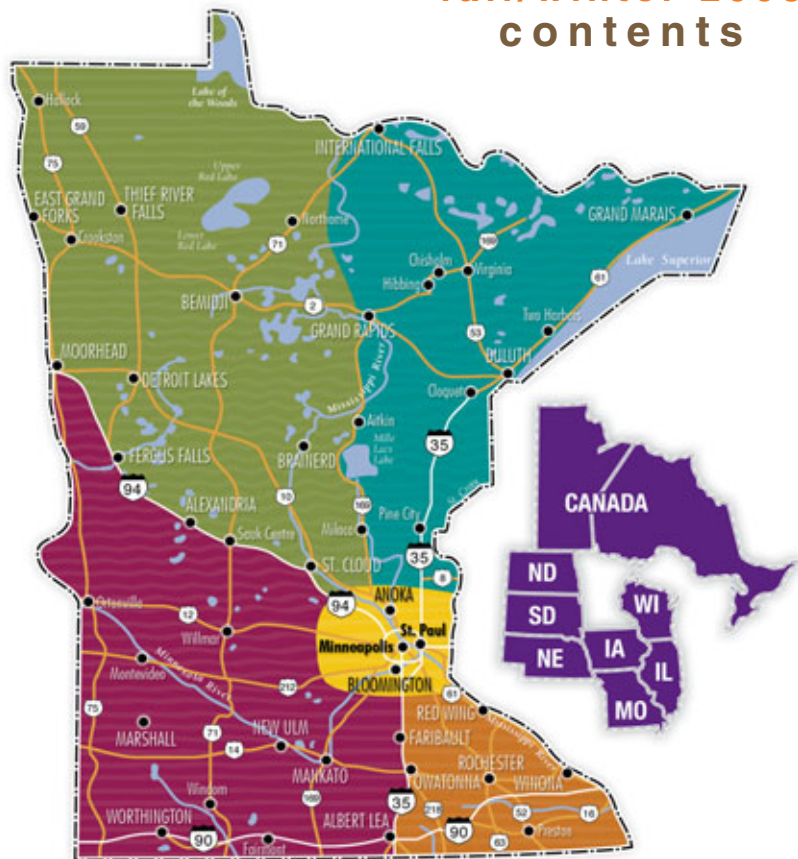
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### MAKING THIS MAGAZINE WORK FOR YOU:

*ITINERARIES MINNESOTA Magazine* is published specifically for the travel trade professional three times a year: Winter/Spring, Summer, and Fall. Minnesota and the upper Midwest are presented topically and by region, and strive to communicate the rich flavors of our destinations through unique sample itineraries, travel ideas, and fresh editorial. This publication is purposefully designed as a planning tool and resource to assist you with your group travel planning. The sample itineraries suggest destinations, are not intended for sale, and are presented in formats that can be easily customized to your needs. Simply call your tour operator or the direct contact at the end of each itinerary, or fax the Reader Response page to us after indicating which destinations you have an interest in and would like more information on. We suggest that you contact our group-friendly advertisers since they specifically seek your group travel business. Their presence in *Itineraries Minnesota* underscores the importance of your business for them.



# fall/winter 2008 contents



7 *Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat*



8 *Festival of Nations*



10 *Spas and Retreats*

## featuring

- 10 Spas and Retreats: Getaways for the mind, body & spirit
- 12 feature itinerary: Go ahead! Relax...

## columns

- 6 travel tips: Working with a Receptive Operator
- 7 profile: Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat
- 8 explore our festivals & events now!
- 9 destination highlight: The Birthplace of Minnesota

## departments

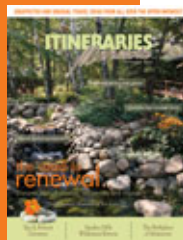
Suggested itineraries, with map coordinates, which can be customized by your tour operator, or contact the person/organization below the itinerary.

- 14 southeast minnesota
- 20 southwest minnesota
- 26 northern minnesota (nw/ne)
- 34 twin cities metro
- 49 upper midwest



## photos provided by

Christine Buss, Heather Lahren, Kathleen Somers, Antler House Inn, Cedar Valley Resort & Outfitters, Custom Chocolates, Dickerson Resort, Grand Marais Tourism, Greater Stillwater Chamber, Festival of Nations, The Homel Institute, International Peace Garden, Lake Pepin Paddleboat, Lanesboro Chamber, New Ulm CVB, North Heights Lutheran Church, North Iowa Band Festival, Owatonna Chamber, Pioneer Auto Show, Red Wing Stoneware, St. Croix Falls Chamber, Smokey Hills Wilderness Resort, SPAM® Museum, Split Rock Lighthouse, The Villa Maria Retreat & Conference Center, Willmar Lakes Area CVB, Just for Me Spa, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Buffalo Area Chamber, Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, American Swedish Institute.



## on the cover

*Close the eyes...choose to relax.*

This photo from the Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat Center (Osage, MN) embodies the literal rejuvenation that groups can experience at a retreat center. The beautiful, unspoiled landscape allows for rejuvenation of the body, mind and spirit. This retreat has a lot of classic up-north charm and a relaxed atmosphere that your group will love.

# Look Like a Hero and Avoid the Hassle

## Working with a Receptive Operator

BY SHARON DIXON

**A**t a quick glance, receptive operators are an elusive bunch, and when seen from a distance, appear to be no more than a tour operator with a fancy name.

But there's more here than meets the eye.

Where do tour operators and planners turn when they're out of their element? When they are going to have a group a long way from home – in a city, region or even a country – where they don't have a clue? Or when they've run out of ideas, even in their own backyard?

They turn to the local heroes – the receptive tour operators!

### Definition:

In the travel industry, a *receptive operator* is a person or company that specializes in particular destinations, providing services at the destination to group travel organizers and tour operators. Some limit their services to the community and area in which they are based; others provide services to entire regions.

So, receptive tour operators serve the servers, so to speak. They step in to assist at the request of a planner or operator. *But what do they really do?*

The most commonly understood receptive services are for, but not necessarily limited to, international travel groups. A tour group from Sweden may want special heritage experiences that only a local would know about – and how about for 3 weeks! Their local tour operator may call a receptive operator in this region with special knowledge about the area's Swedish heritage – one who can put together a fantastic tour that makes the Swedish tour operator look like a hero too!

A tour group from Japan shopping at the Mall of America might need financial services in addition to being able to experience local shopping treasures. Their tour operator could have a local contact that just happens to be a Japanese-American – the perfect ying and yang when going from the yen to the dollar – and back again!

A group of farmers and Ag educators from Brazil visiting Iowa farms may need translation services in addition to being able to provide a list of high quality organic beef farmers to visit. No problem! The receptive operator knows how to get this job done too!

Or a class of special needs students wants to spend a day visiting local historic sites – there will most likely be a receptive operator who understands ADA needs, and will know how to plan for – and execute – this very special tour.

*But do receptive operators limit themselves to international clientele?* Some do, and others may primarily serve the domestic travel industry. And others may even do it all!

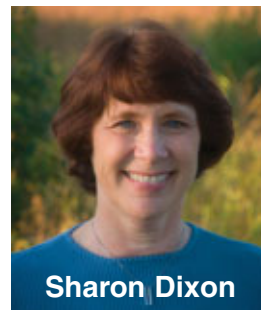
A local receptive operator will know hidden treasures in an area – and should be able to customize a special tour to fit your needs, whether your group is coming from Florida to Iowa, you are a tour operator just down the street, or your bank club wants a weekend out on the town. Just remember, these professional services come with a price. If you are seeking the services of an experienced and knowledgeable receptive operator, remember that the quality of the tour and the memories your group will take home – because of the local receptive operators contribution – will be invaluable for your business!

*How do I find a receptive operator?* Usually a call to the local CVB will provide some excellent names for you. The person – or company – depending on what they specialize

in – will be able to do more for you than just provide information. They will step in and make sure everything is done right (if you ask for that)! They can do much more than just selecting local attractions. They can write exciting, realistic itineraries for your group! They'll also be able to finalize details from arranging meet & greets, to receptions, dining, transportation and accommodations...and they'll know the best local ones, based on your needs and wants.

So when you need a local expert who knows the area, or when you've simply run out of ideas – tap into this great travel industry resource for tour operators and group travel planners...your local Receptive Operator. 🌿

### ----- About the author: -----



**Sharon Dixon**  
Owner, Inbound Iowa, LLC

As a receptive operator, Sharon creates, plans and implements memorable Iowa tours and itineraries for tour operators and travel organizers. She is currently President of the Central Iowa Tourism Region, serves on the advisory board of the AIB Travel School, and has been in group sales and services at the Greater Des Moines CVB.



## Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat



BY KATHLEEN SOMERS

When you hear your group make comments like “inspired”, “refreshed”, and “relaxed” while boarding the motorcoach for the return trip home, you know you have created a winning experience. Such are the words others have used when departing **Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat**, one of the newest offerings of Northern Minnesota to rejuvenate body, mind and soul.

Embraced by the **Smokey Hills Forest** and located just 10 miles west of **Park Rapids**, exists a little slice of paradise. You may have once known this heavenly spot by the name Village of the Smokey Hills, or maybe as The Smokey Hills Artisan Community, offering craft demonstrations, live entertainment, and the sale of items from more than 300 artists in its heyday.

Today it belongs to Todd Payne and wife Kelly. Purchased originally as an investment property, the Payne’s were not really sure what they would do with it. They just knew they liked it. Todd recognized it as a “lost city with potential”. That was back in July of 2005. One day the Payne’s had never even heard of The Village of Smokey Hills, and the next day they owned it. Todd is a man who gets things done.

“I allowed myself to not have it all make sense dollars and sense wise”, he says, as he got very busy refurbishing, rebuilding, modernizing and expanding.

Keeping in mind the mission statement: “A place where hospitality and friendship help invigorate the body, refresh the mind and enrich the spirit” the Payne’s have created something great. It’s a lifestyle thing for Todd and Kelly, a genuine desire to give back to life. And it shows. It shows in the beauty and care found in the 18 modern cabins, each

decorated to a unique “wilderness” theme. It shows in the fresh and flavorful food served at the **Cook House Restaurant**, easily accessed by the refurbished boardwalk. It shows in the pampering and hospitality offered by every staff member, each focused on guests’ comfort.

And then there is the setting. Water tumbling over rocks creates a relaxing sound to help guests unwind as they stroll the boardwalk. The many varieties of trees attract colorful birds happily singing, and gentle sounds that serenade as the breezes softly sway. Yes, just being there is memorable. But as a planner, you will be pleased to know there are many additional ways to soothe your group and leave them feeling particularly grateful for this trip.

Consider the recently completed **Wilderness Spa**, where, with a little pre-planning, your group members can indulge in any number of wonderful delights. Just let the staff know in advance what services your group desires and they can almost always make it happen. Very resourceful those people at Smokey Hills.

Or how ‘bout a Cowboy Cookout! This little gem is available to your group even if you aren’t staying at Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat. Perfect for groups, you’ll meet Mark Bridge. He does the cooking, and then tells an entertaining story of how it’s all done...a cooking lesson spiced with history and trivial fun. For instance, learn how many sourdough biscuits a cowhand consumed out on the trail. You’ll enjoy Cowboy songs, a comedy event, and did I mention, “The food is wonderful!” Mark is cook’n up vittles like bread pudding, roast beef, smokey baked beans, roasted potatoes, and of course, cowboy spice cake, or maybe blueberry cobbler. The food is a

draw in itself, but with the addition of **The Smokey Hills Wranglers**, with their western gear, banjo, guitar and bass cello, its no wonder the cookout has become such a crowd-pleasing draw.

Other facilities on the property include a very nice conference center, theater, game room, fire pits, and Gift Shop. Weather permitting; your group can enjoy a horse drawn wagon ride, petting zoo, volleyball, and basketball. The retreat sleeps 100, in a variety of modern cabins all decorated lovingly with antiques the Payne’s collected over a period of two years. The cabins sleep between 4-14 with one large building accommodating 28 under one roof. There is wireless Internet throughout the complex, a refrigerator, DVD player and microwave in each cabin. You’ll also find laundry facilities on the premises.

So what would you do with your group at Smokey Hills? “We try to tailor our guests experience as best we can” says Todd when talking about groups. “Do you need horse back riding, facials, fly fishing, yoga instruction or cooking classes? Todd can deliver. His early idea of a father/son camp has expanded to include family reunions, church and business retreats, weddings, scrapbooking events, girls getaway weekends, individual stays, and pretty much any alcohol free gathering you can think of. Anything but Bungee Cord jumping, reminds Sandy from the office. 🌿



**Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat. 53014 Hwy 34 | Osage, MN 56570 | [www.smokeyhills.com](http://www.smokeyhills.com) | 218-573-2999**

## Festivals & events throughout the entire upper Midwest

are increasing in popularity for all kinds of motorcoach groups. The American Bus Association even compiles festivals and events that are very “group-friendly”. If you want more information about an event for your package, itinerary, or even daytrip, contact the local Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), tourism office, or Chamber of Commerce for assistance (usually in that order). Always check the directory first in every issue of this magazine to see if their contact information is listed.



### Fasching Festival and Bock Fest

february 21, 2009 – New Ulm, Minnesota

German traditions thrive in New Ulm and just because winter arrives is no reason to stop! “Fasching” (fah’-shing) is the German equivalent of Mardi Gras and the entire city of New Ulm makes sure that this festival is very “group-friendly.” The Concord Singers, New Ulm’s famous “Ambassadors of Fun,” host this day-long festival at historic Turner Hall complete with non-stop music, ethnic food and drink, dancing and a hilarious costume ball. New Ulm can really turn a cold winter month into one hot time!

Then while your group enjoys the Fasching Festival, on that same afternoon some of your group may want to join the more than 7,000 “beer enthusiasts” gathering across town at Schell’s Brewery for the Bock Beer Fest. Take your pick and see you in February!

### North Iowa Band Festival – One of ABA’s TOP 100 for 2009!

may 22-23, 2009 – Mason City, Iowa

Welcome to Mason City (aka River City USA) for the thrilling North Iowa Band Festival! During this annual event, the red carpet is rolled out to 25+ energetic marching bands while they fill the air with the joyful sound of “76 Trombones” and much, much more. Residents and visitors alike enjoy selections that include rock ‘n roll, country, jazz, big band, pop, and classical music. The participating bands compete for the honor of the North Iowa Band Festival Meredith Willson Award. Your group will also enjoy the accompanying craft show, carnival, car show and many different types of food during this event in the birth city of Robert Meredith Reiniger - better known to us all as Meredith Willson – and who wrote the book, music, and lyrics for the hit musical *The Music Man*, which won the Tony Award for Best Musical in 1958!



### Pioneer Auto Show’s MURDO IN MAY

may 15-17, 2009 – Murdo, South Dakota

Make sure you visit Dave Geisler’s weekend extravaganza held each May at his famous Pioneer Auto Show and Prairie Town on Interstate 90 in South Dakota! As one of the state’s oldest and most interesting attractions, Murdo in May offers a 3-day Swap Meet & Car Corral, a Classic Car Auction, and finally a hugely popular Car Show on the final day of this packed weekend. With visitors from across the nation, see the fabulous displays of more than 250 antique, classic and muscle cars, featuring Elvis Presley’s personal cycle and the Dukes’ “General Lee.” And it’s not just cars! See player pianos, toys, guns, music boxes, plus the fabulous Zeitner Collection of rocks & gems. After eating at Geisler’s Classic Diner, shop for antiques & unique gifts to bring home.

### Festival of Nations – One of ABA’s TOP 100 for 2009!

may 1-3, 2009 – Saint Paul, Minnesota

Celebrating its 77th anniversary in 2009, the Festival of Nations is one of the nation’s largest and oldest international festivals representing nations and cultures from around the world. The Festival of Nations offers more than 37 authentic ethnic cafes featuring more than 300 delicious and unique food choices, 60 cultural exhibits, plus bazaar booths, continuous folk dance performances and many folk art demonstrations. As an experience your group will never forget, it has also been selected by *Discover America* as one of the Top 200 Events in America.



# The Birthplace of Minnesota

BY BRITT AAMODT



Whatever trip is on your horizon, chances are your goal is to have fun. But, as you know, traveling in large groups can sometimes be a bit challenging, what with scheduling guides and customized tours, deciding where to dine, and—worse yet—finding a place to park your motorcoach.

The best part of a tour for the group traveler is the destination. The best part of the tour for the group travel planner is the destination representative who can enhance your pre-planning by helping you locate group discounts, ample parking and the kind of local-color hot spots, landmarks, and events that can transform a trip into a cherished experience.

If you're looking for that special destination geared to the group traveler, then **Stillwater, Minnesota** has your name all over it. Called the **birthplace of Minnesota**, Stillwater has had some practice rolling out the red carpet for tourists. Stillwater's Chamber of Commerce provides the kind of insight only a local organization could. Like, got any public restrooms in the town? Or, which joint really has the best burgers in town?

One of the first things you're likely to hear about Stillwater is that it's the place to go for antiques, with dozens of furniture, housewares, book, and clothing shops huddled behind storefronts as historic as their wares. But that's not all Stillwater is known for. (This is where your inside scoop comes in handy.) *Did you know that downtown Brine's Restaurant is home to Minnesota's one and only Frozen Bocce Ball Tournament?*

If you figured winter was for bundling indoors, then you haven't visited Stillwater. Locals consider winter just an extension of summer (with a few more added layers). Spread along the shores of the **St. Croix River**, Stillwater attracts legions of outdoor enthusiasts in search of snowshoeing and cross-country ski trails. Of course, if you're like me, that last thing you want to do is step off a bus and launch into a two-mile winter hike.

The best kind of slog in Stillwater, whether winter or summer, is the downtown stretch. You can park your motorcoach at one end, and have it pick you up at the other. (Your Chamber representative knows exactly where you can park.) But you'll want to allow a generous margin of time for stragglers lured in by every candy shop, art gallery, bead emporium, toyshop, jewelers, and specialty store tucked into the town's many nooks and crannies. Part of the fascination of Stillwater is deciding you've found the cutest, quaintest boutique on earth, only to discover another one down the block.

If you're looking for good eats or fine dining, you have your pick in Stillwater. You can ask the Chamber for breakfast and dinner recommendations, or let your nose do the searching for you. Downtown is always wafting with good smells: popcorn, fresh-baked bread, Italian, Thai, Mexican, barbecue and—the traveler's best friend—coffee!

For a cup of the strong stuff, you can't do much better than **Grumpy Steve's Coffee House**, built into an ancient river cliff with the Joseph Wolf Cave behind it. The cave got its name from Joseph Wolf who early in the 20th century used the cave to craft and store his German-inspired brews. Or if wine is more your style, **Northern Vineyards Winery** on Main Street puts on daily wine tastings.



One of Stillwater's most venerable eating establishments and hotels is **The Lowell Inn**. Opened in 1927, the 23-room inn boasts several uniquely furnished dining rooms—perfect for groups—with lunch and dinner menus. *The Lowell Inn High Tea* is a treat with unlimited pots of fresh-brewed tea to the accompaniment of warm scones, soup, tea sandwiches, and dessert platter.

To get a real taste of Stillwater, ask about Stillwater's "alternative" travel options. You can't have a river town without a paddleboat cruise, and lucky for you the **St. Croix Boat & Packet Company** caters to groups. As does the **Minnesota Zephyr**, with five restored dining cars that offer 5-course white-linen dinners, all while being entertained by the Zephyr Cabaret singing the greatest hits of the 40's and 50's. Arrive early because the **Stillwater Depot**, where you meet to board the Zephyr, has a first-rate gift shop and a full-service martini bar, and their lot is sized for motorcoach groups.

You can bone up on Stillwater's lumberjack history, architecture and its Hollywood connections (the town has been the location for several films, including *Grumpy Old Men*) with a ride on the **Stillwater Trolley**. **Aamodt's Apple Farm**, just outside downtown, offers hot air balloon rides, along with some of the sweetest apple cider this side of the St. Croix.

Don't know where or when to start your Stillwater itinerary? Bet the Stillwater Chamber could give you some ideas. 🌿

## spas and retreats:

# Getaways for the mind, body and spirit

*A business traveler wants to step off the treadmill.*

*A mother of two desires time for herself.*

*A retired couple seeks a window into nature.*

*A teacher hunts for a life-changing experience.*

*A busy volunteer coordinator simply needs a little R and R, and fast!*

**Q:** What does the group travel planner want?

**A:** A vacation destination that meets all her customers' needs, but is flexible enough to function as a main attraction or a fill-in between other itinerary highlights.

**Spa** and **retreat packages** come in all shapes and sizes, and offer a menu of activities suitable for the group travel experience. And in the Upper Midwest, where the topography is as variable as the seasons, you can locate spas and retreats cradled in river valleys, at the end of small-town main streets, in retail districts and in remote backwoods cabins with programs running throughout the year. So, whatever tour you dream up, you can find a reason (and an excuse) to tuck a spa or retreat into your tour package.



## a little spa history

No one knows the origins of “spa” but etymologists—people who study the evolution of words and their meanings—generally trace the word “spa” to the town of Spa, Belgium, which is endowed with natural hot springs that during the Roman Empire earned a reputation for their healing properties. The ingenious Roman builders figured out how to channel the hot springs through *thermae*, or Roman bath houses, that grew over the centuries to include sports facilities, restaurants, libraries, lounging areas and various types of baths.

A typical *thermae* visit might begin with a workout, followed by dips in three progressively warmer baths. The *tepidarium* was the first and generally the largest room. Here a bather would have his body rubbed down with oil before proceeding to the *caldarium* with its rows of private stalls and selection of hot and cold waters. The final room was the *laconicum*, the hottest of the three, where the bather was massaged and exfoliated, and then sent for a cold water wake-up dunk in the *frigidarium*. The rest of the evening might be spent in the library or gorging on the specialties of the house.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Europeans rediscovered the Roman baths and even constructed new baths as sanatoriums for the well-bred. It was believed that the special waters and climate of the baths would restore the ailing back to health. Cure-stay patients spent upwards of two weeks at the spa and underwent a number of treatments, including massage, hot packs and mineral water soaks, overseen by a trained spa doctor.

## today's spa

Nowadays there is a new breed of spa that caters to everyone, not just the well-off. The emphasis remains on wellness but with a modern twist—*wellness for mind, body and soul*. You can find a spa to help you feel well again or to keep you well; and if there's a little relaxation, TLC and pampering thrown in with the exercise ball, tasty meals and cozy organic cotton sheets, who's going to complain?

In fact, many of the Midwest's specialty spas are all about relaxation and pampering in some of the region's most alluring landscapes. Plan for a day, weekend or week at one of these destination spas. The treatments range from wet treatments (sauna, baths, foot soaks), dry treatments (Swedish massage, body wraps), beauty treatments (facials, hair), relaxation exercises (Tai Chi, Yoga), lifestyle programs and classes.

Really there's no end to their inventiveness when it comes to fitness, fun, peace of mind and wellness. Many spas will tailor their programs to your group's specific needs, though not all may be equipped to handle your entire group in a single session. No problem. If you're willing to split your group, the spa can arrange in advance to have several activities available. For instance, why not intermix group and individual activities so that while some discover the latest in Moor mud wraps, Dead Sea Salt scrubs, hot stone massages, meditation classes, ear candling and reiki, others can unwind in the steam room or trek out to nature or into town for nightlife and dancing? However you arrange your group spa experience, be prepared to enter the next level of well-being.

## take your stress on retreat

Vacations provide most of us with an excuse to drop our hectic schedules and open our minds to a fresh experience. Funny thing is we're so frantic trying to tie up loose ends at work, make arrangements for dog sitters, pack bags and clean the house that going on vacation can seem like anything but. Well, put the motorcoach on autopilot and sit back because there's a new word in relaxation vacations and it's called *retreat*.

Okay, enough with the relaxation theme already, right? Not like you want to be propping your customers' eyelids with toothpicks. Lucky for you, retreat vacations are more than soft music and early bedtimes. They're about putting aside the old you for a day or week, and allowing untapped energies and creative insights to bubble to the surface. Sleigh rides through crisp pine-scented air. Early morning meditations. Woodland hikes. Birding. Labyrinth walks. Snow shoeing lake paths. Gourmet meals. Classes in papermaking, nature journaling, nutrition and lefse baking. Who wouldn't feel rejuvenated after that?

## the evolution of the retreat


Retreats began as an offshoot of religious practice. For centuries, seekers have gone on retreat in search of God. The idea was to set aside possessions, obligations and the familiarity of one's home and family in order to undertake a journey of inner renewal. The Chinese word for retreat, *biguan*, reflects this meaning, translating as “closing off the senses to activate the mind.”

Buddha, born into privilege as the prince Siddhartha, went on retreat after discovering that complete happiness didn't come from material wealth. Medieval Europeans called their journeys of faith pilgrimages. And even today, monks and nuns retreat into abbeys to shut out the noise and bustle of the world.

## types of retreats

If you're looking for a unique destination, you can't do much better than a retreat. Retreats come ready to order. Take your group on a meditation retreat or a yoga retreat or a communal experience retreat where everyone pitches in to prepare the morning and evening meals. In the Midwest, you can find structured and non-structured packages; upscale, down-home, artsy, Victorian and outdoorsy settings.

Imagine stepping off your motorcoach for a slice of fresh-baked bread, followed by an excursion through 400 lushly wooded acres populated by deer, raccoon and fox. Depending on where you go, you could be sacking out in single rooms, doubles with fireplaces, guest houses with a kitchenette and living room or sleeping bags. Attend dance workshops. Participate in group exercise. Listen to the sound of rustling leaves and songbirds. Sing. Meet guest artists and try your hand at watercolors. Corral your group for an evening meal by candlelight.

If you're having trouble choosing between spas and resorts, then consider a spa resort, which combines the luxury treatments of spas with the immersive experience of retreats. After a hard day's sightseeing, who wouldn't enjoy a chocolate-mint foot refresher or a plunge in the hot tub? Don't be surprised if the only word you hear is “Ahhh...” 

# GoAhead! Relax...

## A Five-Day Sample Itinerary

**Antler Inn**, depending upon the size of your group (many of which offer discounts for North House students). There is something here for everyone.



### daytwo&three

8:00 am

While you're here, you will be a guest /student of the **North House Folk School**, located on the Harbor in Grand Marais; supporting over 225 courses and attracting students from all over the country. The range of northern craft courses taught each year – from basketry to northern ecology to woodworking, from one day to two weeks in duration, all have one thing in common. In each, there is very meaningful satisfaction that comes from creating with the hands, the heart and the mind. Try your hand at etched metal jewelry or a cozy pair of moosehide mukluks, or sausage making or breads that are baked in North House's harborside wood-fired oven, how fun! (Note: **The Grand Marais Art Colony** is another unique option to consider).

4:00 pm

With your free time in the evenings, you must explore



© Photo courtesy of Christine Bias

the restaurants, the shops, the people, the art and the scenery of this harbor village. Take a stroll along the lake walk or better yet, the sunset sails are a spectacular way to experience a gorgeous Grand Marais sky of red. A full moon sail, timed to capture the moonrise over Lake Superior, is the ultimate ending to a perfect day.

### dayfour

LUTSEN, MN

7:30 – 9:00 am

Have a homemade breakfast before leaving this lovely harbor town and head south about 20 miles on Scenic Hwy 61. Your first stop will be **Lutsen** for an adventure on the mountain.

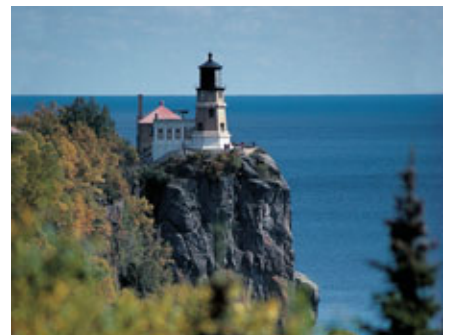
9 – 12:00 pm

Arrive at **Lutsen Resort** for a morning of relaxation at the new spa called **WatersMeet**. Overlooking Lake Superior on the bluff above the historic lodge. Enjoy A Mini-Retreat - A full-body session blending elements of relaxation, massage, comfortable pressure on deeper tissues of shoulders and back, warm towel wrap and intuitive massage. The session includes a relaxing Feet Treat and flows from one therapy form to another like gentle streams flowing into rivers.

12 – 2:00 pm

Now that you are fully relaxed, take a ride on the Midwest's only gondola – mountain tram. Taking riders over the treetops of Poplar River Valley and through vast woodlands, ending up at the top of Moose Mountain, where you'll have lunch at the **Summit Chalet** on its expansive deck or inside the chalet. (Be sure to check hours of operation of mountain gondola).

If your group is interested in hiking, there is an unlimited supply of amazing areas to enjoy. Just a sampling: the **Tettegouche Area, Split Rock**



**Lighthouse, the Temperance River and Gooseberry Falls**, with two waterfalls visible from the bridge and three more are within a short hike. The three lower falls drop over 100 feet and the river path is beautiful. To see Gooseberry in all her glory, visit during spring run-off in April and early May.

2 – 5:00 pm **SCENIC HWY 61** - 65 miles

Board your coach for a ride down Minnesota's scenic



Hwy 61. Choose from several shops along the way to browse through unique gifts reflecting the waters,

### Calling Ahead...

- 1 - **Grand Marais Area Tourism Association**  
www.grandmarais.com . . . . . 888.922.5000
- 2 - **North House Folk School**  
www.northhouse.org . . . . . 888.387.9762
- 3 - **Lutsen Resort / WatersMeet Spa**  
www.lutsenresort.com . . . . . 800.258.8736  
**Lutsen Mountain**  
www.lutsen.com . . . . . 218.663.7281
- 4 - **North Shore Scenic Railroad**  
www.northshorescenicrailroad.org . 800.423.1273
- 5 - **The Suites Hotel at Waterfront Plaza**  
www.thesuitesduluth.com . . . . . 877.766.2665
- 6 - **The Dam Bistro** . . . . . 715.483.5003
- 7 - **Festival Theatre**  
www.festivaltheatre.org . . . . . 888.887.6002
- 8 - **Holiday Inn Express**  
www.hiexpress.com/stcroixvalley . . 877.422.4097
- 9 - **Taylor Falls Scenic Boat Tours**  
www.wildmountain.com . . . . . 800.447.4958

### dayone

GRAND MARAIS, MN

3:00 pm

Ahhh...smell that fresh air, feel the breeze upon your face...this must mean you've stepped off the bus in beautiful **Grand Marais, MN**. You have stepped into Minnesota's own *natural* spa and retreat, and all you have to do is take a seat and enjoy the view.

You have the inspiration of **Lake Superior**, the majesty of **Superior National Forest** and the serenity of the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness**.

Check into a local hotel, resort, or the charming

woods and wildlife of the North Shore. You could easily go home with a hand knit sweater, homemade fudge, some tasty smoked fish and an antique or two. The list is endless! (Don't forget a north shore agate)

**5 – 7:00 pm TWO HARBORS, MN**

Arrive in **Two Harbors** at the **Train Depot** where history comes alive as you board the train on the **North Shore Scenic Railroad** for a ride down to Duluth. Sure to satisfy that little conductor in everyone!

**7 – 8:00 pm DULUTH, MN**

You haven't seen Duluth until you've explored the **St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center's Historic Union Depot**. Built in 1892 and better known as simply the Depot. In 1971, this beautiful landmark was listed on the national register of historic places and underwent major renovations, reopening in 1973 as an area cultural center. The historic part of the building houses exhibits by four different museums and its theater wing functions as a studio and administrative home to five performing arts organizations.

**8 – 8:30 pm**

Check into the **Suites Hotel** in Canal Park for the night. This all suite hotel will make you feel right at home. Dinner is on your own and you can find several places to choose from right out your front door. *If you decide to dine as a group – calling ahead is necessary.* After dinner, sit back and relax and take an old-fashioned carriage ride along the shore of Lake Superior. Always keeping a watchful eye out for that massive arriving or departing ship.

**dayfive**

**ST. CROIX FALLS, WI**

**8 – 9:00 am**

Have breakfast at the hotel and check out.

**9 – 12:00 pm**

Travel down I-35 W to MN-95 to US 8 to the charming river town **St. Croix Falls, WI**, a beautiful 130-mile drive.



**12 – 2:00 pm**

Have lunch at the **Dam Bistro** in St. Croix Falls. This quaint restaurant serves dishes made from local ingredients in a cozy environment, complete with wood floors and a fireplace. Step out on the tiny deck to view the falls of the St. Croix while your group enjoys a glass of wine.

**2 – 4:30 pm**

A short walk over to the **Festival Theatre** for a wonderful variety of plays and concerts in a historic vaudeville theatre. Recent presentations include **Arsenic & Old Lace** and **A Christmas Story** (coming up). Celebrating eighteen seasons in a ninety year-old vaudeville house. This 250-seat theater is intimate, warm and friendly. The view outside is a theatre unto itself: smooth waters of the St. Croix, whispering breezes and - for the lucky - an occasional circling eagle. The St. Croix Valley community welcomes motorcoach visitors and is delighted to provide your tour group with a thoroughly entertaining and carefree

experience. Afternoon Matinees, Thursday and Sunday.

**4:30 – 6:15 pm**

Check into your hotel room at the **Holiday Inn Express** in St. Croix Falls featuring the area's largest swimming pool/spa, a complete 24-hour fitness center, hospitality room with stone fireplace and a complimentary hot/cold breakfast. Relax and get ready for your last evening's events.

**6:15 – 6:30 pm**

Hop back on the bus for a quick 2-mile ride back across the St. Croix River to **Taylor's Falls, MN**.

**6:30 – 10:00 pm**

Here you will board one the **Taylor's Falls Scenic Boat Tours** for a relaxing dinner cruise, a delightful way to spend a summer or fall evening. Your tour guide will point out the unique rock formations left behind as the glaciers retreated thousands of years ago. Among the most outstanding formation is the huge stone cross for which the St. Croix River was named. "St. Croix" means Holy Cross. Plus Lion's Head, Turk's Head and the highlight of the boat tour, **The Old Man of the Dalles** - the most outstanding natural rock face you'll ever see.

This itinerary, while packed with an array of wonderful things that kept you busy, we hope you find yourself feeling refreshed and relaxed in a special way.

Thank you for bringing your groups to Minnesota and the upper Midwest. This sample itinerary contains many ideas you can customize into a fascinating and memorial tour. For assistance in customizing your travel itinerary, or to answer your questions about regional tourism, contact an area CVB or Heartland Tours & Travel in the Twin Cities (MN) at 800-747-8687.

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## calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

### december

- 4 **Winter Walk**, Northfield 800-658-2548
- 4-7 **St. Olaf Christmas Festival**, Northfield 507-786-2222
- 4-7 **The Stars are out for the Holidays. Variety Show Little Theatre of Owatonna**, Owatonna 800-423-6466
- 5-6 **Christmas in the Village**, Owatonna 507-451-1420
- 6-7 **Bluff & Valley Hot Air Balloon Rally**, Caledonia 507-725-3450
- 10-14 **Miracle on 34th Street**, Red Wing 651-388-8700
- 13 **Dickens's Festival**, Lanesboro 507-467-2696

### january

- 18 **Candlelight Ski**, Preston 888-845-2100
- 21-25 **Frozen River Film Festival**, Winona 480-522-7940

### february

- 7 **Southern Fried Chicks**, Red Wing 800-899-5759
- 20-22 **Quilter's Weekend Retreat** Holiday Inn, Austin 800-444-5713
- 22 **"Girls of the Hit Parade" Historic Paramount Theatre**, Austin 800-444-5713
- 27-28 **Grumpy Old Men Festival**, Wabasha 651-565-4158

### march

- 6-8 **Stampin', Scrappin' Weekend** Holiday Inn, Austin 800-444-5713
- 6-8 **International Festival of Owls**, Houston 507-896-4668
- 7-9 **Soar with the Eagles 2008**, Wabasha 877-332-4537
- 12 **Theatre Festival**, Faribault 507-332-7372
- 17 **"The Irish Minstrels" Historic Paramount Theatre**, Austin 800-444-5713



Cedar Valley Resort & Outfitters - Lanesboro

## Cedar Valley Resort & Outfitters - Lanesboro

Welcome to Bluff Country Paradise! Situated along the Root River, on 30 lush acres enveloped by scenic bluffs, with the Root River Trail running through its property, there's no better place to get outdoors and have some fun! Go fishing, canoeing, or hit the trail for biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Or just relax as you overlook the trail winding through the unspoiled natural splendor of the Root River Valley. The wildlife is abundant and includes eagles, deer, wild turkeys, turkey buzzards, and of course in the evenings you'll hear the hoot owls and coyotes. Retreat to one of eight spacious cabins for the evening, ranging from a deluxe eight-bedroom cabin that sleeps up to 40, to three-bedroom cabin villas. All their cabins feature an eight foot covered porch. Offering Therapeutic Massage Bodywork on site, so you can relax in the comfort of your own cabin. This is a perfect location and accommodates any size group!

## other spas & retreats in southeast minnesota

**Dancing Winds Farmstay Retreat** Kenyon  
Located on a Norwegian farmstead from 1856. Hike/ski their native trails or meditate in their 60' outdoor labyrinth. Experience life on working goat farm, help with the animals, plus make your own breakfast with locally-produced foods.

**Dragonfly Dreams Retreat Center** Lake City  
This retreat center will accommodate small groups, up to 8 guests. It was designed with the needs of quilters and scrapbookers in mind. Their craft rooms have 8 tables with ergonomic chairs, computer with internet access and printer; you can also relax in front of the fireplace while watching a movie or chatting with friends.

**Gainey Conference Center** Owatonna  
Create your own retreat! Your group will receive contemporary meeting space, comfortable lodging, classic cuisine and personal service with an exclusive use option. Customize your event for training seminars, leadership development conferences, strategic planning retreats and building team camaraderie, just to name a few.

**"Ladies Get Away Weekends" Stone Mill Suites** Lanesboro  
Great for groups of eight or more. Some options are Shopping, Theater, Massage, Amish Tours & more! Or you can do the Quilting Package, which includes lodging and activities designed especially for a ladies' getaway centered around quilting.

**The Legacy House** Red Wing  
Built in 1908, this Arts & Crafts style home is the ideal setting for gathering with friends to design and archive your legacy. Offering 7000 sq. feet of space to enjoy your crafting, stamping, quilting, beading etc. Relax and unwind in their outdoor whirlpool spa or on the enclosed patio.

**Mabel House Hotel** Mabel  
A truly unique place to visit in Southeast MN's Bluff Country, with their suites & sleeping rooms reflecting the style & charm of yesteryear with the conveniences of today! Feel right at home.

**The Milton House** Mantorville  
Situated on 1/2 acres and surrounded by pure country. It's a place for relaxation. Whether it's scrapbooking, quilting, crafting, knitting, spiritual retreats, seminars, or just "a girl's weekend".

**Moondance Inn** Red Wing  
The location of numerous scrapbook meetings, bridge parties, yoga retreats, self-help seminars, and so much more. Lunches can be arranged, as well as overnight accommodations.

**The Old Barn Resort & Rivers' Bend Golf** Preston  
They have three banquet rooms, or the entire barn, available for quilting/scrapbooking groups, or name the occasion and they can make it happen. They also cater the food and beverages for your special event!



## SPAM™ Town USA!

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates I-17 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

The Austin CVB will make your days in SPAM Town, USA memorable, fun and easy for all involved, including you, the group tour planner.

### 8 – 9:00 am

Start your day at the home of Minnesota's largest donuts, **Super Fresh**. Indulge in one of the most decadent breakfast treats imaginable, they have several flavors to choose from. While you enjoy your donut and coffee browse through the fresh, locally grown produce and baked goods. There is also a large nursery you can shop through.

### 9 – 10:00 am

Your next stop will be at the Hormel Institute.

#### The Hormel Institute

is a world-renowned cancer and lipid research center and home to the 2008 World Cancer Symposium. It has recently undergone a \$20 million expansion and is doing more work than ever to find a cure for cancer. We're sure you will leave feeling inspired.



### 10 – 11:30 am

You can't come to Austin without visiting the world famous **SPAM™ Museum**. Interactive games, a



fabulous movie, a gift shop with over 400 SPAM items, 10 + varieties of SPAM and even a puppet show. Who wouldn't love this place?

### 11:30 – 1:00 pm

Lunch is your next stop. You'll be dining in Austin's oldest home now turned into a restaurant and coffee shop, **The Brickhouse**. Enjoy homemade soups, salads, sandwiches and Bridgette's famous biscotti. If you'd like something a little out of the norm; treat your group to a pasta, fondue or tapas party at The Brickhouse.

### 1 – 4:00 pm

The afternoon's excursion includes a trip out to the

Continued on Page 17

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Thanks for visiting Austin for the 2008 Itineraries Show!

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When you visit Austin, whether with a group or with your family, you can expect full-service from our staff, whether you need a customized itinerary for a multiple-day stay or just some great ideas of places to visit while you are in town!

Austin is home to the Hormel Foods Corporation, the interactive and world-famous SPAM® Museum, and The Hormel Institute ~ where major cancer research is underway. Having just completed a \$20 million expansion, the Institute provides informative and fascinating tours by pre-arrangement through the Austin CVB. There is SO MUCH MORE to see and do...the Historic Paramount Theatre, the beautiful Jay C. Hormel Nature Center, the Hormel Historic Home, a real alpaca farm, a mini-history farm, all for your group's enjoyment!

**Let's plan your visit to SPAM® Town, USA today!**

**Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau**

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### Retreat, Relax, RiverBoats & Stoneware

This sample itinerary is best Spring through Fall. You'll find it at coordinates J-14 and I-14 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

#### DAY ONE

**8 – 9:00 am**

Begin your day with meditation and reflection. **The Villa Maria Retreat and Conference Center** connects with the **Frontenac State Park**. Watching birds, hiking and touching base with you personally and spiritually in this historic area at the head of Lake Pepin is something individuals have been doing since the 1800's.

**9 – 10:00 am**

Travel south on Highway 61 and be amazed as the beauty of the head of the lake unveils itself as you enter the city limits. Colorful sails fill Lake Pepin, one of the best sailing areas in the nation. Tea and breakfast awaits you at the **Chickadee Cottage**, voted Minnesota's Best Roadside Diner.

**10 – 2:00 pm**

Stretch your legs along the **riverwalk** that follows Lake Pepin's scenic shoreline. Or see the local history and architecture on the **Lake City's Residential Walking Tour**. One of the homes on the tour is the home of Ralph Samuelson, Lake City's famous inventor of water skiing.

**2 – 4:00 pm**

Enjoy a ride on the **Pearl of the Lake**, a modern

day replica of the grand riverboats that traveled on the Mississippi River in the 1800's. The name of the riverboat depicts the significance of Lake Pepin, with its history of the fresh water pearl button industry that once thrived in the area.

**4 – 5:00 pm**

Board your motorcoach and travel north on US-61 to **Red Wing, MN**. Check into an area hotel and freshen up for dinner.

**5 – 7:00 pm**

Enjoy dinner in the splendor of the beautifully restored Victorian landmark; the **Historic St. James Hotel**. A brief tour of the hotel will follow.

**7 – 9:00 pm**

Tonight's entertainment is at **Sheldon Theatre**. Located in the heart of downtown, they offer a variety of entertainment and start times that will work well with your groups.

#### DAY TWO

**8:30 – 9:00 am**

Wake up and enjoy a quick treat with a scone or muffin from **Lily's Coffee Shop**.

**9 – 9:15 am**

Ride over to Red Wing's historic depot, now the newly remodeled visitor's center. The local guide from **Roaming Red Wing** will join you.

**9:15 – 10:45 am**

This remarkable tour takes you past an array of buildings that are on the National Register of

Historic Places and will include a stop on top of **Sorin's Bluff**. This spectacular scenic overlook of the city and **Mississippi River Valley** will leave you with long-lasting memories. (Truly magnificent in the Fall)

**10:45 – 11:45 am**

Watch pottery being made at the **Red Wing Stoneware Company**. Groups can interact with their potters as they wheel-throw and decorate their pottery. All of their pots are hand-turned by skilled production potters, giving groups an opportunity to experience how pottery was made before our factories were industrialized in the 20th century.

**11:45 – 2:00 pm**

It's off to **Historic Pottery Place Mall**, home to unique specialty shops, antique malls and restaurants. Just across the street from the Historic Pottery Place Mall is the Red Wing Pottery Salesroom. Here you can see skilled potters make salt glazed pottery the way it was made in the late 1800s.

For more information on this sample itinerary and to customize this tour for your group, call your tour operator or Lake City Chamber 800-369-4123; Lake Pepin Paddleboat 651-345-5188; Red Wing CVB 800-498-3444; or Red Wing Stoneware Company 651-345-5188.



Continued from Page 15: **SPAM™ Town USA!**

**Cedar River Horse Logging Farm**, home of Tim Carroll; the horse whisperer. Tim and his wife Doreen are leading spokespeople for the horse logging industry of North America. At their farm they will show you how they work with the horses to produce many wood products. This is an experience you will never forget.

**4 – 5:30 pm**

Head back to the hotel and get ready to relax. After a day on the farm you deserve it.

**5:30 – 6:30 pm**

Have dinner at your hotel by the **Holiday Inn's** gourmet chef. There are many menu items to choose from. You can choose to have a plated meal or buffet in a private room just for your group.

**6:30 – 9:00 pm**

Relax the night away with massages, pedicures and manicures all right there at the **Holiday Inn** for your convenience. You can enjoy a glass of wine and an assortment of deserts as you are pampered for the evening.

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau, 800-444-5713.

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# directory

## ACCOMMODATIONS

- ▶ **Gainey Conference Center** ..... **507-446-4460**  
 2480 S County Road 45 – Owatonna, MN 55060  
 www.stthomas.edu/gainey  
 A full-service conference and retreat facility. Your group will receive contemporary meeting space, comfortable lodging, classic cuisine and personal service with an exclusive use option. Customize your event from the essential to the elegant!
- ▶ **Holiday Inn Austin** ..... **877-985-8850**  
 1701 4th Street NW – Austin, MN 55912  
 www.hiaustin.com  
 Located fifteen miles east of the intersection of I-90 & I-35. We have 121 rooms and suites, including several poolside rooms for easy access to the Holidome. All guests receive free wireless internet access. Come and enjoy a meal at the Harvest Buffet or take in some live entertainment in Torge's Live Sports Pub & Grill.

## ATTRACTIONS

- Historic Forestville** Preston ..... **507-726-2785**
- ▶ **Lake Pepin Paddle Boat Company, Inc.** ..... **651-345-5188**  
 100 Central Point Rd – Lake City, MN 55041  
 pearl@lakepepinpaddleboat.com / www.pearloffthelake.com  
 "Pearl of the Lake" is a modern day replica of the grand riverboats that traveled on the Mississippi River in the 1800's. We offer dinner cruises or full bar and snacks on all cruises. Enclosed lower deck with air conditioning and an open upper deck!
- Minnesota State Public Orphanage Museum** Owatonna ..... **507-774-7369**
- ▶ **Red Wing Stoneware Company** ..... **800-352-4877**  
 4909 Moundsview Drive, Hwy 61 North – Red Wing, MN 55066  
 www.redwingstoneware.com  
 Come watch stoneware being made! Creating handcrafted, quality stoneware for the oven or microwave. Plus visit our factory store for the special Red Wing & Colbalt Blue designs, hats, cloths, candles, soup mixes and bread and pancake mixes.
- The Village of Yesteryear** Owatonna ..... **507-451-1420**

## CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

- ▶ **Austin CVB** ..... **507-437-4563**  
 104 11th Avenue NW Suite D – Austin, MN 55912 ..... **800-444-5713**  
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 www.exploresouthernminnesota.com  
 You'll be surprised...at what you'll find in southern Minnesota! With many scenic byways, festivals, parks & trails, historic sites, caves, bluffs, waterfalls & so much more, it makes a perfect destination for any group.



- ▶ **Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce** ..... **507-467-2696**  
 PO Box 348 – Lanesboro, MN 55949 ..... **800-944-2670**  
 lvc@acegroup.cc / www.lanesboro.com  
 Visit Historic Lanesboro-the heart of the Root River State Bike Trail. In the deep valley of the Root River, Lanesboro offers biking, hiking, canoeing, fishing, art gallery, professional theatre, shopping, tours, dining and lodging.

- ▶ **Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce** ..... **507-451-7970**  
 320 Hoffman Drive – Owatonna, MN 55060 ..... **800-423-6466**  
 www.owatonna.org  
 Located in south central MN, 45 minutes from Mpls/Saint Paul on I-35. Come "discover our faces & places" - filled with historical, recreational & cultural opportunities as well as nearly 700 guest rooms to accommodate any group.
- ▶ **Visit Winona** ..... **507-452-0735**  
 160 Johnson Street, PO Box 1069 – Winona, MN 55987 ..... **800-657-4972**  
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## The Gainey CONFERENCE CENTER

The Gainey Conference Center, located in Owatonna, MN, is a meeting place for companies and organizations to host retreats, strategic planning sessions, training and other events. Additionally, the original stables (now called "The Mews") that housed Gainey Arabians have been renovated into classrooms that are used for the University of St. Thomas' evening MBA program and other day meetings.

Daniel C. Gainey, president of Jostens, once owned the Gainey home and estate. He bequeathed the ranch to the University of St. Thomas in 1979 for use as a conference center and an educational resource. The university now adjoining Gainey's historic French Norman-style home, built the conference center in 1982.

Additionally, The Daniel C. Gainey Conference Center will soon be home to a guesthouse designed by acclaimed architect Frank Gehry. This 2,300-square foot guesthouse, so architecturally innovative, that it was once featured as Time magazine's House of the Year. It was donated to St. Thomas by real estate developer Kirt Woodhouse. Woodhouse wanted to ensure that the Gehry-designed guesthouse



would be preserved as a work of art. The home will be disassembled into seven pieces and moved by truck to the Gainey Property.

For more information about the Gainey Center or to make a reservation please call (507) 446-4460 or email gainey@stthomas.edu.



## sw mn cities

ALBERT LEA, APPLETON, BENSON, BRECKENRIDGE, CANBY, FAIRMONT, GLENWOOD, GRANITE FALLS, HANLEY FALLS, HUTCHINSON, LAKE BENTON, LE SUEUR, LITCHFIELD, LUVERNE, MANKATO, MARSHALL, MONTEVIDEO, MORTON, MOUNTAIN LAKE, NEW ULM, ORTONVILLE, PIPESTONE, REDWOOD FALLS, SAINT PETER, WALNUT GROVE, WASECA, WILLMAR, WINDOM, WORTHINGTON

## calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

### december

- 4-5 **Christmas at Pioneer Village**, Worthington 507-376-4431
- 4 **Mistletoe Madness**, Morton 507-697-6912
- 5-6 **Ye Old Fashioned Christmas**, Albert Lea 507-377-4371
- 4-13 **"Uh Oh Here Comes Christmas"**, Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, Albert Lea 800-345-8414
- 6 **Christmas in the Village**, Montevideo 320-269-7636
- 6 **Holiday Fest Celebration & Fireworks**, Jackson 507-847-3867
- 6-7 **Holiday Open House** Morgan Creek Vineyards, New Ulm 507-947-3547
- 7 **Christmas in the Village**, Albert Lea 800-345-8414
- 13 **Tour of Homes**, Lake Benton 507-368-4641
- 31-Jan 3 **New Years '09 Celebration** Jackpot Junction, Morton 800-946-2274

### january

- 17-18, 24-25, 31-Feb 1, 7-8 **WinterFest 2009**, Spicer 320-796-8066
- 24-Feb 1 **Ole and Lena Days**, Granite Falls 320-564-3333
- 28-Mar 1 **Diamond Edge Figure Skating Show**, Willmar 800-845-8747
- 29-Feb 1 **St. James Winter Carnival**, St. James 866-375-2480

### february

- 6-15 **Winterfest 2009**, St. Peter 800-473-3404
- 6-8, 10-11, 13-15, 20-23 **59th Annual Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival**, Waseca 507-835-3260
- 11 **Ice Harvest 2009**, Waseca 507-835-7700
- 13-14 **16th Annual Historical Faire**, Albert Lea 800-345-8414
- 14-15 **"The Classics" Old Country Winery Dinner Show**, Willmar 800-845-8747
- 21 **Bock Fest**, New Ulm 507-354-5528
- 24 **Masopust Festival "The Czech Mardi Gras"**, Montgomery 612-756-1075

### march

- 17 **St. Patrick's Day Parade**, St. Peter 800-473-3404
- 26-28 **"The Music Man"**, Windom 800-794-6366
- 27-28 **Blues Fest 2009** Jackpot Junction, Morton 800-946-2274

# Native Prairies southwestern minnesota



Dickerson's Resort - Spicer

## Dickerson's Resort - Spicer

From family reunions to corporate retreats, group events take on an especially fun tone at Dickerson's. Window boxes overflowing with flowers and a plate of fresh-baked cookies on your table tell you this resort specializes in hominess and hospitality. The 13 nicely decorated cocoa-brown cottages stand steps from the shore of shimmering Lake Florida. Each of the fully furnished cottages has a deck with a picnic table and chairs. The cottages range in size from 1 to 5 bedrooms, sleeping up to 10 people. They offer free canoes, hydrobikes, paddleboat, funbugs, kayaks & sailboat. The Dickerson's create additional fun for guests by serving homemade doughnuts on their "Sunday morning mixers" and by hosting beach pizza parties, and marshmallow roasts.

## other spas & retreats in southwest minnesota

### Birdwing Spa Litchfield

Located on a magnificent 300-acre lakeside estate, this is an ideal setting for a tranquil spa retreat for a week retreat or a weekend girlfriend getaway. Some spa packages include fitness activities, wellness presentations, spa meals and salon treatments.

### Breezy Meadow Retreat Marshall

A retreat center for Scrapbookers, Stampers, Quilters & more. They have a creative workshop area that is a completely separate building designed to be a get-away for anyone. Perfect for small groups up to 12 people.

### Crafters Cabin Glenwood

A cabin designed to be inspiring, motivating, and comfortable for smaller, intimate groups of 8-10 people. You will find peace and serenity overlooking the lake and being surrounded by a cozy fireplace.

### Emerald Hideaway Atwater

This new hobby house offers very affordable rates for crafting groups with sleeping accommodations and workstations for 12 individuals (extras can be set-up). Located on peaceful Lake Elizabeth, this is the perfect retreat to enjoy.

### Grand Lodge Willmar

Located on over 20-acres of Minnesota forest. The lodge is 3500 sq. feet with an upscale log theme, a full kitchen and fireplaces; creating a calming ambiance. Perfect for any retreat. Make it a spa day with their on-site Spa Services.

### Healing Hands Wellness Group Waseca

Offering massage, acupuncture, Reiki, Healing Touch, Qigong & Life Coaching. Classes are also offered periodically. Some include Yoga, T'ai Chi Chih, and Reflexology.

### Red Barn Retreats Garden City

Opening May/June 2009 and they will be featuring: Scrapbooking, Quilting, Chip Carving & Sewing Retreats; and a Woodworking Shop all in a quiet, peaceful rural setting!

### Scrapbooking Haven Waseca

Group scrapbookers young and old have a new one-stop shop for scrapbooking supplies and a space to put it all together! Offering special workshop nights for various groups.

### Turtle Dove Tea House & Gardens Albert Lea

Enjoy a fabulous lunch or afternoon tea before or after a crafting event! You can use the space for a party get-together or crafting party. Make sure you save time to visit the gardens and babbling brook right outside.



## "New Ulm - The Second Time Around"

This sample itinerary is best Spring through Fall. You'll find it at coordinates F-15 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

As we know in the group tour business, it's not so much selling or informing the planner on what we have to offer, the real challenge is for them to turn around and sell it...often to an audience that also thinks, "We've been there and done that." With that in mind, here is an itinerary that few planners have ever offered!

### 8 - 10:30 am

Arrive at **New Ulm's Visitor Center** for a mini-apple strudel, coffee and lemonade "Welcome Reception". Take a **City Tour**, and see the **City Cemetery** and hear the story of the **Sioux Uprising** (or Dakota Conflict - New Ulm's biggest and fascinating historical event).

### 10:30 - 12:00 pm

Next, stop at the **Minnesota Music Hall of Fame**. This organization has interesting displays of costumes, posters, sheet music, recordings, awards and photos of their varied members. Inductees represent musical styles ranging from marching bands, old-time, rock and roll, big band and so much more. Don't be surprised if the group is singing a tune or two as they leave!

### 12 - 2:00 pm

How about a noon meal at historic **Turner Hall**? A tour

of this interesting building will take place after the meal, including the recently revealed murals painted of romantic scenes in Germany in 1879, but covered up to show loyalty to America during World War I.

### 2 - 4:00 pm

A game of mini-golf at **Putting Green** will "get the juices flowing". This course is part of a larger environmental park and each of the nine holes features an environmental theme and is paved for easy access.

### 4:00 pm

We will end the day with a chance to let those with a shopping urge enjoy the "**Specialty Shops**" downtown. But for those who don't wish to indulge in that activity, they can use the **new I-pods** for tours of historic downtown New Ulm. These hand-held devices provide a sound and picture show that allows the user to walk at their pace and learn about some unique history as they saunter along. (Many seniors and "non-techies" have commented on how easy these are to use.)

Many of your old favorites can be used to round out the tour if you like. The brewery, winery, historic homes, museum and other great attractions are still here too!

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or the New Ulm CVB, 888-463-9856.

## Jackpot Junction's EXPANSION



A big change has taken place at **Jackpot Junction** and your group will reap the benefits! With the new expansion of **Jackpot Junction Casino and Hotel**, groups from 10 to 1,400 are guaranteed to have a fun-filled gathering. To begin the unveiling, earlier this year the brand new Seasons Buffet opened its doors, and with thousands of satisfied customers already, you won't want to miss this new buffet.

The **Dacotah Exposition Center (DEC)** is exclusively new to Jackpot and has room for 2,700 people. Complete with a ballroom and staging area, the DEC offers close to 45,000 square feet of flexible gathering space. Their accommodations also got a makeover, with a complete remodel designed to double the pool area, now offering a sauna, kiddie pool, poolside rooms, and garden décor, just to name a few new features. With the addition of a six-story hotel wing, Jackpot can now boast 379 on-site hotel rooms. All remodeling should be complete this fall. For more information or group details please call 1-800-WIN-CASH or visit [www.jackpotjunction.com](http://www.jackpotjunction.com).

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# Minnesota's Own Shangri-La

This sample itinerary is best Spring through Summer. You'll find it at coordinates F-17 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

## DAY ONE

**4 – 4:45 pm**

Arrive in **Fairmont, MN** for a relaxing stopover along your journey way. Check into a fine Fairmont hotel.

**4:45 – 7:00 pm**

Board your motorcoach for the **City of Lakes Tour**. Also available by boat, this tour lets groups experience

the beauty of Fairmont's five, tree-bordered fresh water lakes and scenic city parks.

**7 – 8:30 pm**

Arrive at the Fairmont's **Pizza Ranch**, home of The Mile-Long™ Buffet, The Pizza Lover's Pizza®, The Country's Best Chicken®, Cactus Bread®, and Dessert Pizza.

**8:30 pm**

Return to your hotel for a good night's sleep.

## DAY TWO

**8 – 8:30 am**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast to start out the day.

**8:30 – 10:00 am**

Board your coach for a step back in time at the **Pioneer Museum**. Many artifacts from Martin County's history including a Wootton Desk, a 1923 American La France fire truck, a pioneer home display from the turn of the 20th century and much more.

**10 – 11:00 am**

Stroll downtown to the **Fairmont Opera House**, a unique building, which has enriched the architectural, cultural and commercial life of the region for over 100 years. The atmosphere, ghosts, and memories of great actors, entertainers, and shows are all here.

**11 – 12:00 pm**

Before you leave Fairmont, make sure you visit **Heritage Acres Agricultural Interpretive Center**, located on the west shore of Lake Sisseton. A walk through interactive experience of the heritage of past Midwest farms.

**12:00 pm**

Grab a little lunch before you leave town and enjoy your journey.

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or the Fairmont CVB, 800-657-3280.

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# Kandiyohi County

This sample itinerary is best April-October. You'll find it at coordinates E-12 on your 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

## DAY ONE

**10 – 1:00 pm**

Look across the fields and what is that you see? Yes it really is a 36 foot high wine bottle, - (3,000 pounds of steel & fiberglass). You've arrived at the Lake Lillian's K-8 School – but school is no longer in session - The **Olde Country Winery** is now housed inside this old school. See the vineyard, take a tour and relax with a catered lunch over a glass of their fine wine. And coming in 2009, they will introduce their first brandies and cognac.

**1 – 3:00 pm**

Board the bus for a 30-minute ride to Willmar. **J & L Bison Ranch** – Seeing is believing, home to 300 bison that roam over 200 beautiful acres. In addition to visiting the unique gift shop, you will board their bus and be up close and personal with the bison. We're saving the rest of the details for the tour.

**3 – 5:00 pm**

Take a step back in time as you tour the **Mikkelsen Collection**. Consisting of over \$2,000,000 of classic and antique boats, motors, and items from boating history. Several of the boats and motors are the last surviving examples known to exist, and ALL are rare.

**5 – 9:30 pm**

Take the short ride north to Spicer to **Melvin's on the Lake**, located on beautiful Green Lake. You have a choice of dining inside, outside on the patio, or aboard their Houseboat for a

Continued on Page 25

Discover **Fairmont**

- Five lakes: boat, swim, fish
- Quaint shops: antiques, necessities
- Aquatic park: family fun
- Parks: picnic, play, relax
- Trails: walk, bike, bird-watch
- Golf: 2 regulation, 1 disc course
- Agricultural Interpretive Center: experience past Midwest farms
- History: museums, buildings, Red Rock Arts Center, Opera House
- Lodging: hotels, campgrounds
- Restaurants: eat, drink, be merry

Tour Information: 800-657-3280,  
 www.visitfairmontmn.com

**FAIRMONT**

# WILLMAR Lakes Area



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# directory

## ACCOMMODATIONS

- **AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Madelia** ..... 507-642-2004  
620 Haynes Ave NE – Madelia, MN 56062 ..... 800-634-3444  
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- Comfort Inn Albert Lea** ..... 507-377-1100  
**Holiday Inn & Willmar Conference Center Willmar** ..... 877-405-4466

## ATTRACTIONS

- Birch Coulee Battlefield Morton** ..... 507-697-6321  
**Freeborn County Historical Museum Albert Lea** ..... 507-373-8003  
**J&L Bison Ranch Willmar** ..... 320-235-8465
- **Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel** ..... 507-644-7814  
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- Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site Comfrey** ..... 507-628-5591  
**Lac qui Parle Mission Montevideo** ..... 320-269-7636  
**Lower Sioux Agency Morton** ..... 507-697-6321  
**Melvin's On The Lake Spicer** ..... 320-796-2195  
**The Mikkelson Boat Collection Willmar** ..... 320-231-0384  
**MinneSOYta NICE Glenville** ..... 507-448-2753  
**Olaf Swensson Farm Museum Montevideo** ..... 320-269-5527  
**Olde Country Winery Lake Lillian** ..... 320-664-WINE  
**Pelican Breeze II Cruise Boat Albert Lea** ..... 507-383-2630

## Experience Albert Lea

This itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates H-16 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### 9 – 10:30 am

Begin your day with a tour of the **Freeborn County Historical Museum**, rated one of the finest history complexes in Minnesota and home to both the "Minnesota Rock & Country Hall of Fame" and to Marion Ross of the TV show "Happy Days". The Village depicts the lives of early settlers. The site has 14 buildings that include a one-room school, general store, church and jail.

### 10:30 – 12:00 pm

Do you love to quilt or sew? **Calico Hutch Quilt Shop** is a unique quilt shop experience that will keep you busy with their numerous rooms and displays filled with supplies and material. Classes available!

### 12 – 1:30 pm

Stop for lunch at one of a variety of restaurants in Albert Lea.

### 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Do you enjoy beading? Visit **Birds and Beads**, a unique shop filled with an incredible variety of beads available in all sorts of colors, shapes and materials.

### 3 – 5:30 pm

Try your hand at making your own natural soy wax candles at the **MinneSOYta NICE**. This warm and light tour includes a brief discussion of soy wax candle making. While your group is waiting for their candle to cool, take a short tour of the factory.

### 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Check into the **Comfort Inn**, newly renovated in March 2007. Relax and freshen up before the evening's events.

### 7 – 9:30 pm

Board the **Pelican Breeze Cruise Boat** for a Pirate Dinner Cruise. Meet Jack Sparrow and dine on delicious Caribbean Jerk Chicken or Sweet & Sour Pork, Salsa with chips, Tropical Fruit Salad & Rum Cake, all while you cruise the picturesque Albert Lea Lake.

*If you plan your tour in October make sure you have the 2009 Big Island Rendezvous Festival in your schedule! Stages of continuous entertainment surrounded by 10 acres of tents with merchants selling their fine colonial wares, your group won't want to miss it!*

For more information on this sample itinerary please call your tour operator or the Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau, 800-345-8414.

## CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

- **Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau** ..... 507-373-2316  
2566 Bridge Avenue – Albert Lea, MN 56007 ..... 800-345-8414  
cvbdirector@albertlea.org / www.albertleatourism.org  
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- **Fairmont Convention & Visitors Bureau** ..... 507-235-8585  
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- **New Ulm Chamber of Commerce** ..... 888-463-9856  
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- **Redwood Falls Area Chamber and Tourism** ..... 507-637-2828  
200 South Mill Street, PO Box 21 – Redwood Falls, MN 56283 ..... 800-657-7070  
chamber@redwoodfalls.org / www.redwoodfalls.org  
Along the Minnesota River, this area has much to offer its visitors. Alexandria Ramsey Park/Falls/Zoo - 217 wooded acres, 18 hole championship golf course, gaming, many historic attractions, great specialty shopping, convention & lodging facilities.
- **Willmar Lakes Area Convention & Visitors Bureau** ..... 800-845-8747  
2104 Highway 12 East – Willmar, MN 56201 / www.willmar.com ..... ext. 79  
Visit the Willmar Lakes Area. Only 2 hours west of Mpls/St. Paul. 360 lakes, 36 parks, 81 holes of golf – and that's just on the drive in! Let our staff help put together a getaway for your group.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- Big Island Rendezvous and Festival Albert Lea** ..... 800-658-2526

## RESTAURANTS

- Green Mill Willmar** ..... 320-235-9500

Continued from Page 23: *Kandiyohi County*

dinner cruise. All offer an incredible view of Green Lake. (The boat's view is slightly better of course!) Call ahead for cruise arrangements. Stick around for the evening's musical entertainment.

### 9:30 pm

Unpack and relax for the rest of the evening at the **Holiday Inn**, Willmar's full service hotel, offering comfortable rooms, lounge, pool and more.

## DAY TWO

### 9 – 10:00 am

Enjoy a continental breakfast at your hotel.

### 10 – 12:00 pm

Spend the rest of your morning browsing the specialty shops and antique shops Willmar has to offer. This community is rich in tucked away shops that offer unique treasures.

### 12 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch at the **Green Mill Restaurant**. Choose from their selection of signature Mill Street brews while sampling Minnesota's most awarded pizzas, their soups and salads to heartier fare; they have a choice to fit any taste.

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or Willmar CVB, 800-845-8747.



## northern mn cities

ALEXANDRIA, BEMIDJI, BRAINERD, CHISHOLM, DETROIT LAKES, DULUTH, ELY, EVELETH, EAST GRAND FORKS/ GRAND FORKS, FARGO/MOORHEAD, FERGUS FALLS, GRAND MARAIS, GRAND PORTAGE, GRAND RAPIDS, HINCKLEY, LITTLE FALLS, LONG PRAIRIE, NEW YORK MILLS, PARK RAPIDS, PERHAM, ST. CLOUD, TWO HARBORS, VIRGINIA

## calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

### december

- 4-7 & 11-14 **A Christmas Story** Long Lake Theater, Park Rapids 218-732-0099
- 5 **6th Annual Winter Nights and Lighted Parade**, St. Cloud 800-264-2940
- 6-8 **Christmas 1918 with the Lindbergh's**, Little Falls 320-616-5421
- 7 **Kringle Fest**, St. Cloud 866-253-8424
- 11-13 **Sandstone Ice Festival**, Sandstone 612-275-2062
- 13 **Lucia Fest**, Bemidji 218-444-3469
- 13 **Sister's Christmas Catechism**, Detroit Lakes 218-844-SHOW
- 18 **Jingle Bells Drawing & Gala Celebration**, Park Rapids 800-247-0054
- 27-30 **Sleigh Rides**, Moorhead 218-299--5340
- 31 **First Night**, East Grand Forks 218-230-4231
- 31 **Perham Area Chamber's New Year's Eve Gala**, Perham 800-634-6112
- 31-Jan 1 **Ring in the New Year**, Grand Portage 800-543-1384

### january

- 9-10 **Ice Fest**, Breezy Point 800-450-2838
- 15-18 **Ice Box Days**, International Falls 218-283-9400
- 17 **Brrrrmidji Polar Days Festival**, Bemidji 218-444-3541

### february

- 6-16 **Ely Winter Festival**, Ely 800-777-7281
- 7 **26th Annual Logging Days**, Bemidji 800-777-7958
- 13-14 **St. Urho Days**, Menahga 800-247-0054
- 14 **Polar Plunge**, Detroit Lakes 218-847-5700
- 26-Mar 2 **Winter Tracks Festival**, Grand Marais 800-338-6932

### march

- 6 **Pirates of Penzance**, St. Cloud 320-240-0836
- 14 **Celtic Festival**, Moorhead 218-299-5340
- 21-22 **Cinderella MN Ballet**, Duluth 218-529-3742
- 27-29 **Duluth World of Wheels**, Duluth 952-925-4848

# Viking Woods, Lakes & Arrowhead Shores northern minnesota



North House Folk School - Grand Marais

## North House Folk School - Grand Marais

Supporting over 225 courses, 120 instructors and offering a range of northern craft courses taught each year – from basketry to northern ecology to woodworking, from one day to two weeks in duration. They all have one thing in common. In each, there is very meaningful satisfaction that comes from creating with the hands, the heart and the mind. It is also a community gathering place for live music & dances, potlucks, films, festivals, ski swaps, boat auctions, baking outdoors in the firebrick oven – simple, important stuff. And yes, you really can bury yourself in your work here – The Build Your Own Casket class is one of the most popular!

## other spas & retreats in northern minnesota

### Bear Paw Resort Park Rapids

Group Retreats from Quilting, Fishing, Book Clubs, Beading, Photography, Bird Watching, Arts of all types and lots more. Get a group together and enjoy working on your special hobby!

### The Country Garden Retreat Hinckley

Welcoming a wide variety of groups including, business groups, church retreats, women's and men's retreats, scrapbooking retreats, stampers, quilters and knitters. Facilities include a large studio, set up with tables & chairs for crafts or meetings.

### Grand Portage Lodge & Casino Grand Portage

Increase your awareness and understanding of the natural, recreational, cultural, and historic resources in Grand Portage. Activities include an escorted walk to the Witch Tree, Naturalist Walks, Hikes, Sugar Bush Walk with Maple Sugaring Demo, Teepee Presentations, Wildlife Tour and so much more!

### Grand Marais Art Colony Grand Marais

Offering classes in visual arts, printmaking, book arts, ceramics & glass, with classes for the young and mature. They sponsor the annual Arts Fair & Festival and many other events.

### Gunflint Lodge Grand Marais

They have been hosting vacations and fishing trips since the 1920's. Numerous packages available by month or adventure including Women's Retreats, Hobbies/How To's, Horseback Riding and Saturday night sing alongs by the fire.

### New York Mills Regional Cultural Center New York Mills

Providing tours and activity guides for visiting groups. Classes offered are watercolor painting, bookbinding, Tai Chi Chih movement, winemaking and more.

### Raven's Beak Design Grand Marais

Retreats and classes in knitting, crocheting, felting, beading,

miniature punch needle embroidery and more.

### Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat Osage

A new upscale destination for spiritual & church retreats, corporate events, ATV tours, snowmobiling clubs, and scrapbooking clubs with full-service conference center, catering, restaurant & lodging.

### The Spa Within Detroit Lakes

Located in the Lodge On Lake Detroit, they invite small groups to delight their senses and relax their body, mind and soul. Offering a variety of treatments for both men and women; massages, facials, body treatments, nail therapies and more.

### Sunset Beach Resort Perham

Lakeside cabins are available for personal retreats & group workshops. Experience their Prairie Paths labyrinth, wildflowers, grasses, forest trails, rhythms of the lake, and colors of the sunset.

### Whispering Prairie Scrapbook Retreat Foreston

A magnificent place for women's retreats, groups of 12, to relax and rejuvenate, enjoy each other and take in some 'just for you' time. A log cabin on a tranquil, five-acre prairie sure to please any scrapbooking, stamping/card-making or beadwork enthusiast.

### Wilderness Waves Bemidji

The perfect atmosphere for all walks of life whether it's mother/daughter groups, scrapbooking groups, or church group/spiritual retreats. It's also a great place for guys to get together to hunt, fish, golf, ski or snowmobile. Perfect for groups of 6-8 people.

### WindCradle Retreat Grand Marais

Retreats that focus on spiritual, pastoral and theological issues from a new perspective and openness to soul growth. They also have an outdoor sauna on site, massages available for a small extra charge, small prayer chapel with lake view, and connecting trails from WindCradle to the Superior Hiking Trail.



## A Great Escape For Any Group

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates D-7 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

### DAY ONE

10 – 10:30 am

Arrive at **Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat**, a place where you can sit back, relax and enjoy the simple things in life. Check into their custom theme lodges. All rooms feature hardwood floors, bathroom, shower, and complimentary wireless internet.

10:30 – 3:00 pm

Head to the Craft Area, perfect for a day of scrapbooking. They also have equipment and items to purchase for necessary items you might be missing. A coffee shop and restaurant are on site to provide full service catering or a place to grab a snack. Take your break on the covered deck with two large LP fireplaces and cozy chairs to sit around while you enjoy a cup of caribou coffee. For the men in the group or those who aren't interested in crafting, they can take the "Tour the Trails Guided ATV ride", or fish, hunt, snowmobile, use the game room and more.

3 – 5:00 pm

Take a **horse & wagon ride** through **Smokey Hills Forest** (25 min. trip per group). While other members of the group wait they can continue their scrapbooking, visit the onsite gift shop, or see the petting zoo.

5 – 6:00 pm

Freshen up and relax before dinner.

6 – 7:00 pm

Minnesota's Original **Chuckwagon Supper Show** includes tender slices of Dutch oven roast beef or delicious BBQ chicken. Other items include cowboy beans, foil-wrapped potatoes, fresh hot biscuits, cool sliced peaches, Cookie's homemade spice cake, hot Arbuckles's cowboy coffee and delicious lemonade.

7 – 8:00 pm

After your supper, sit back and relax as **The Smokey Hills Wranglers** entertain you with vintage cowboy,



bluegrass & Gospel songs. (Reservations are required 218-573-2999). Dinner show with the Smokey Hills Wranglers is on Saturday evenings or by appointment.

8:00 – 9:30 pm

Head back to your custom themed cabin. Take time to

relax in the classic up-north charm of your surroundings, or enjoy the night sky by the campfire pit.

### DAY TWO

8 – 9:30 am

Enjoy a hearty breakfast with fritter bread, french toast & homemade cinnamon rolls. (A buffet brunch is served at 10 am every Sunday).

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat, 218-573-2999.

**877-766-2665**

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Minnesota's Number One Waterfall! Experience the majesty and scenic wonder of Minnesota's highest waterfall at Grand Portage State Park. Three viewing decks provide guests with various views for photography, or quiet contemplation.

Grand Portage Lodge & Casino has Jacuzzi suites, 95 rooms with comfortable beds, an indoor pool, a sauna, restaurant, lounge and other amenities to make your visit enjoyable. The Casino rolls 24 hours a day and features a Bingo Hall and over 450 slot machines, including video slots. Stop by Grand Portage's Trading Post, our smoke-free facility with a gift shop, grocery store, UPS parcel pick-up and 43 slot machines.

Bring your group and make Grand Portage Lodge & Casino your getaway. Call 1-800-543-1384 for reservations and trail conditions.

*Park Rapids Lakes Area:  
Where the Mississippi River begins  
& adventures never end!*

This sample itinerary is best July 31, August 1-2 & 6-8, 2009. You'll find it at coordinates E-8 and E-6 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### DAY ONE

**8 – 9:00 am**

Arrive in **Historic Downtown Park Rapids** just in time for breakfast at **3rd Street Market** or **Beyond Juice**.

**9 – 9:15 am**

Leave Park Rapids and head north on Hwy 71 to **Itasca State Park**.

**9:15 – 10:15 am**

Stop at the quaint and delightful "**Summerhill Farm**." Tour and shop the seven gift shops with their own special appeal and different varieties of gifts, decorative accessories, clothing and much more.

**10:15 – 10:30 am**

Continue your travel north to **Itasca State Park, Home to the Headwaters of the Mississippi River**.

**10:30 – 11:15 am**

Tour the **Jacob Brower Visitor Center**. Pick up your park brochures and orient yourself about Itasca State Park established in 1891. Visit the **C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corp)** exhibit. A small gift shop is also in the center.

**11:15 – 11:30 am**

Stop at **Peace Pipe Vista**, the overlook that gives you a wide-angle view of **Lake Itasca**.

**11:30 – 2:00 pm**

Lunch at the historically impressive **Douglas Lodge**, where the view of the tranquil settings is second to none. The restaurant serves many wonderful entrees, several with a "Minnesota" flavor including walleye, wild rice or the famous blueberry pancakes.

Another option is to go early and have lunch on the boat tour aboard the Historic "**Chester Charles**" boat on Lake Itasca. After lunch, walk across the **Headwaters of the Mississippi River**, see Eagles nests and visit the new **Mary Gibbs Headwaters Visitor Center** with its interesting displays, snacks and large gift shop.

**2 – 4:30 pm**

Leave Itasca State Park and stop at **Forestedge Winery** for a tour and wine tasting. This homegrown winery provides its visitors with a stroll along nature trails, a pleasant wander through the gardens... and a taste of their 11 varieties of wine. After wine tasting step next door to the **Gallery for Original Arts and Fine Crafts**. Their Art Fair is August 15 and 16.

**4:30 – 5:45 pm**

Dinner at **Brauhaus German Restaurant and Lounge**. Enjoy an authentic German dining experience presented by servers in traditional German attire.

**5:45 – 6:30 pm**

Head to an area hotel, check in and freshen up. Area lodging available includes **C'Mon Inn, Americinn**

**Lodge & Suites, Super 8 Motel & Smokey Hills Wilderness Resort.**

**6:30 – 8:30 pm**

Tonight's entertainment takes place at the Park Rapids High School Auditorium, for the performance of "**Fiddler on the Roof**" presented by the **Northern Light Opera Company** (July 31, Aug 1-2 & 6-8 only).

### DAY TWO

**8 – 9:00 am**

Enjoy the continental breakfast at your hotel.

**9 – 11:15 am**

Board the motorcoach and head back to **Historic Downtown Park Rapids** for a great shopping experience. Known for unique shops and its one of a kind items and where people still park down the center of Main Street. More than 55 unique stores are available offering everything from jewelry, collectibles, and items for the home or cabin, furniture, moccasins and more. Enjoy homemade candy at **Aunt Belle's Confectionary** or hand dipped ice cream cones, cherry-cokes or malts at our authentic 1930's **Minnesoda Fountain**.

**11:15 – 12:00 pm**

Board the bus to visit the **All Veterans Memorial Park** next to the **Park Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce** south on Highway 71. The Memorial honors all branches of the Armed Forces and the wars in which they served.

**12 – 2:00 pm**

The **Northland Bison Ranch Tour** awaits you. Enjoy a tasty **Buffalo Burger** picnic lunch on their beautiful grounds. Bison have been called the most important wild animals in the development of North America. Buses take you up close and personal to these majestic creatures that once numbered in the millions and narrowly escaped extinction.

**2:00 – 3:00 pm**

Take the short ride to **Akeley** for a visit to the **Red River Museum** to see a re-creation of Akeley and the **Red River Lumber Company** during the logging days. A must see is the **Paul Bunyan statue** downtown for a unique photo opportunity in his huge hand.

**3 – 9:00 pm**

Enjoy performances at either the **Woodtick Musical Theatre**, musical review-style stage show combining a variety of music and comedy (8pm W-Sat, 3pm W-Th). Or at **Long Lake Theatre**, theatrical presentations of a true community theater using local actors, stage managers and backstage support (7:30pm W-Sat, 3pm Wed).

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce 800-247-0054.

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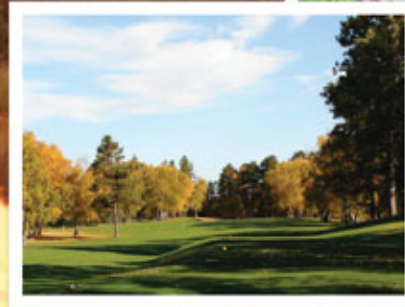
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or visit [www.parkrapids.com](http://www.parkrapids.com).

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## Fiddler on the Roof

Book by: Joseph Stein  
Lyrics by: Sheldon Hornick  
Music by: Jerry Block

July 31,  
August 1, 2,  
6, 7 & 8  
**2009**

Park Rapids Area High School



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Wine Tasting Room / Retail Store

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2009 Art Fair Aug 15-16

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## Woodtick Musical Theater

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[www.longprairie.org](http://www.longprairie.org)  
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## History, Charm & Outstanding Theater

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates E-10 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### 8:30 – 10:00 am

Tour the **Christie Home Museum** and **Veterans' Memorial Park** in downtown Long Prairie. Now a National Historical Site, the Christie Home is a unique three-story Queen Ann style Victorian home built in 1901, and contains the complete original furnishings of two generations of the Dr. George Christie family.

**Veterans' Memorial Park**, located across from the Christie Home since 2002, features a massive five-story high mural depicting the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945 during the Battle of Iwo Jima. The park features walls of veteran's names from several wars and a band shell for free Thursday

Night Concerts in the Park from June 5 through August 21, 2008.

### 10 – 11:30 am

Downtown shopping includes gift, furniture, antique, and thrift shops, followed by visits to **Todd County Museum**, **St. Mary's Catholic Church** (an 1896 brick Gothic structure), the WPA built Post Office with a painted mural depicting wild rice harvesting and the **Old Todd County Court House** (1883).

### 11:30 – 1:00 pm

Enjoy an arranged lunch at **Mikey's Café**. Or, eat on your own at several other restaurants and fast food places.

### 1 – 3:00 pm

Visit local Amish Farms featuring furniture, cedar chests, baskets, leather goods, small crafts, lumber, log cabins, metal products & quilts.

### 3 – 4:30 pm

Visit **Leatherwood Vinegery** for an educational tour and tasting experience. (these wine vinegars are used in marinades, salad dressings, sauces and desserts.)

Nancy Leasman, a noted local artist, and vintner husband, Ron, provide the tour.

### 4:30 – 6:45 pm

Have a relaxing dinner on the edge of town, on the shores of Lake Charlotte, at the Thunder Lodge Sports Bar and Grill before the evening's entertainment.

### 7:00 – 9:30 pm

Attend a production of the famous **Prairie Players** at the **Long Prairie Community Theatre**. Check the Prairie Players Website, [www.prairieplayersonstage.com](http://www.prairieplayersonstage.com) for details. The Prairie Players are in their 10th year of production, having thus far produced 36 theatrical presentations. A Prairie Players theater production is a must-see experience.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Long Prairie Tourism & Visitors Bureau, 320-732-2514.

## Back Roads are the Best Minnesota East to West

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates E-6 & E-7 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota*.

### DAY ONE 133 miles

#### 7:30 – 10:00 am

Depart **Duluth** via US Hwy 2 and MN Hwy 200 through Minnesota's beautiful lakes and forests all the way to **Walker, MN**.

#### 10 – 10:30 am

Arrive in Walker for a refreshment.

#### 10:30 – 12:00 pm

Head to LaPorte to **Forest Edge Winery**. Stroll along their nature trails, visit the gift shop, and taste their elegant wines. Remember to take home some wine to share with friends and family!

#### 12 – 12:30 pm

After your visit, take the short ride to **Itasca State Park**.

#### 12:30 – 3:00 pm

Enjoy lunch at **Douglas Lodge**, the first building constructed to serve visitors of Itasca State Park. Tour

the park via coach or take the boat cruise. Make sure to visit the **New Mary Gibb Interpretive Center**.

#### 3 – 3:45 pm

Depart for **Bemidji**, via the **Great River Road**.

#### 3:45 – 6:00 pm

Check into area hotel & freshen up.

#### 6 – 8:00 pm

Enjoy dinner at Bemidji's favorite restaurant; **The Cattails Bar & Grill!** It's a perfect place for any group, offering a private setting and a special menu option.

#### 8 – 10:30 pm

Take in a theater production at the nationally recognized **Paul Bunyan Playhouse**. Call ahead for performance schedule.

### DAY TWO

#### 8:30 – 9:00 am

After breakfast, take advantage of the second most photographed icon in the nation, **Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox**.

#### 9 – 10:30 am

A friendly hello and smile await you at **Bemidji Woolen Mills**

**Factory & Retail Outlet**. Discover traditional woolen garments, quality woolen yarns, huggable bed pillows and old-fashioned woolen quilt batting - "grandmas favorite"!

#### 10:30 – 12:30 am

Depart for **Buena Vista** for a horse-drawn covered wagon ride to "Top of the World", Northern Continental Divide. Take in the beautiful scenery of lakes and forest. A chuckwagon lunch or refreshments can be arranged.

#### 12:30 – 1:00 pm

Depart for **Clearbrook** to **Riviana Foods**.

#### 1 – 1:45 pm

Take a tour of **Riviana Foods Gourmet House Wild Rice Processing Plant**. Your tour includes a visit to the lab and samples of wild rice. Then it's time to head for home!

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or Bemidji VCB, 800-458-2223.

An unforgettable tour

Journey along the Great River Road Scenic Byway  
Tour the Mississippi River Headquarters  
View the Big Bog Rec Area's orchids and plants  
Visit the historic statues of Paul Bunyan and Babe  
Overlook the Continental Divide in a covered wagon  
Browse the artisan community  
Tour a north country winery

**Bemidji**  
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First City on the Mississippi 800-458-2223



## Three Museums make Hwy 10 a "10"

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates C-8 & A-7 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

### DAY ONE

#### 10 - 1:00 pm

Begin your day in **Perham**, Minnesota at the **ITOW (In Their Own Words) Museum**. This state-of-the-art facility is dedicated to telling the stories of American Veterans "In Their Own Words" via Audio-visual exhibits and stunning documentaries. A deeply moving and inspirational tribute to our veterans, you will leave enriched and uplifted. Arrange for a special "mess kit" lunch, for an unforgettable experience.

#### 1 - 1:30 pm

Just a short drive up **Hwy 10** is **Detroit Lakes**, chosen to be "Capital for a Day" as part of the state's Sesquicentennial celebration.

#### 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Welcome to the **Becker County Historical Museum**, and a walk through history. Explore the county's early history as expressed through Native American artifacts. Visit "Old Three Legs" the most famous wolf in Minnesota and learn about his reign of terror. Complete your tour at a display that highlights our service men and women from Civil War time to the Iraq conflict. A real treasure trove!

#### 3 - 4:00 pm

Homemade pie and coffee at the **Main Street Café**.

#### 4 - 5:30 pm

Check in to the **Detroit Lakes AmericInn Lodge and Suites** with a warm welcome reception.

#### 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Dinner at **The Speakeasy** where you will feel you have gone back in time to a real 1920's speakeasy, complete with costumed wait staff and wonderful Italian cuisine. Bootlegging optional!

#### 7:30 - 10:00 pm

Detroit Lakes offers a variety of entertainment, dictated by the time of your visit. Consider relaxing to live entertainment at the **Historic Holmes Theater**, or maybe a nostalgic band at **The Pavilion on Big Detroit**. Come during **Water Carnival** or the **Becker Country Fair** time, or treat your group to the **White Earth Indian Pow Wow** in June.

#### 10:00 pm

Back at the **AmericInn** there is "kid free" pool time where you can also relax in the large whirlpool or enjoy a dry steam after some laps in the pool. For simpler pleasures consider an ice cream bar in front of the lobby fireplace or a quiet game of checkers.

### DAY TWO

#### 8 - 9:00 am

Breakfast at the hotel includes waffles.

#### 9 - 10:00 am

Continue on **Hwy 10** to **Moorhead**.

#### 10 - 12:00 pm

Once there, head over to the **Clay County Museum**, located within the **Hjemkomst Center**. This beautiful facility hosts a variety of special exhibits and events, and is home to the **Hjemkomst Viking Ship**, permanently housed in the center, and was built by Robert Asp and his family and sailed to Norway in 1984.

#### 12 - 2:00 pm

Experience an English Pub when you lunch at **Ushers House** with its amazing view of the **Red River**.

#### 2 - 4:00 pm

Highflying nostalgia waits at the **Fargo Air Museum** where planes really fly! Home to a world-class collection of WWII aircraft which include the only flying Super Corsair, a Japanese Zero, P-51 Mustangs, TBM Avenger, F 4U Corsair and more! Don't miss the aviation film theatre and then browse the gift area for a souvenir.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Becker County Historical Society 218-847-2938, Clay County Historical Society 218-299-5520; Fargo Air Museum 701-293-8043 or ITOW Veterans Museum 218-346-7678.

# MUSEUMS OF HIGHWAY 10

#### FARGO AIR MUSEUM

1609 19th avenue north fargo, nd  
701-293-8043 fargoairmuseum.org  
hours: tues - sat 9 am - 5 pm  
sun noon - 4 pm

#### CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

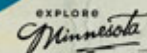
hjemkomst center  
202 1st avenue north  
moorhead, mn  
218-299-5520 info.co.clay.mn.us/history  
hours: mon - sat 10 am - 5 pm  
tues 10 am - 9 pm  
sun noon - 5 pm

#### BECKER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

714 summit avenue, po box 622  
detroit lakes, mn  
218-847-2938  
hours: tues - sat 10 am - 4 pm

#### ITOW VETERANS MUSEUM

805 west main perham, mn  
218-346-7678 itowmuseum.org  
hours: mon - sat 10 am - 5 pm  
sun 1 pm - 4 pm





## "What Woman Want" Weekend Retreat

This sample itinerary is best March 21, 2009 or August 8, 2009. You'll find it at coordinates M-5 on your 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota.

### DAY ONE

3 - 4:00 pm

Check into **Caribou Highlands Lodge** in Lutsen, luxury with the conveniences of home - comfortable, cozy, warm... a perfect place to relax.

4 - 5:00 pm

Treat yourself to a full one-hour therapeutic massage using LaStone Therapy. Stretch out on hot rocks, while

the therapist massages you with warm stones.

5 - 6:30 pm

Relax in the lounge or enjoy one of the three whirlpools, two saunas, indoor pool, three-season heated outdoor pool or many other amenities - each tailored to match the seasons.

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Dinner in the **NEW Restaurant & Bar** set to open Fall/Winter 2008, **Moguls Grille & Tap Room**.

8:00 pm

Meet up in the lodge for a gourmet cup of coffee, or step outside to view the night stars at the evening bonfire with s'mores!

### DAY TWO

7:30 - 8:30 am

Gather your friends for breakfast and prepare for the day.

8:30 - 9:00 am

Drive north on Hwy 61 to the quaint harbor village of **Grand Marais**.

9 - 5:00 pm

**North House Folk School** is a non-profit adult school

with northern crafts courses taught each year ranging from basketry to northern ecology to woodworking. Today you will take a class on creating your own Saami Friendship Bracelet. In this course you'll explore the traditional jewelry techniques of triple braiding a coiled pewter wire and sewing the finished braid to a softened reindeer hide strip. A reindeer antler button finishes off the bracelet.

5 - 6:30 pm

After a long day of learning you'll undoubtedly need some food, and what better place to go than a local tradition. **Sven and Ole's** is known throughout Minnesota (and beyond) for their delicious pizza.

6:30 - 9:00 pm

When your bellies are full with appetizing pizza walk it off with some shopping! Discover handcrafted treasures like textiles, original jewelry, antiques, Scandinavian gifts, original art prints and photographs. Afterwards, check into an area hotel for the evening.

For more information or to customize this sample retreat for your group, call your tour operator or Grand Marais Area Tourism @ 218-387-2524.

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Build a wooden canoe  
Weave a birch basket

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teaching traditional northern craft

**North House Folk School**  
On The Harbor In Grand Marais, MN  
www.northhouse.org 888.387.9762

## Weekend Getaway in Hinckley

This sample itinerary works best weekends spring through summer. You'll find it at coordinates I-10 & I-9 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

### DAY THREE

8 - 9:00 am

Begin your day with fresh brewed coffee and the aroma of muffins or breads baking in the oven at the **Dakota Lodge**.

9 - 10:30 am

You are sure to find a treasure from yesteryear at the **Antique's America Mall**. Admire items from days of old and walk around this enormous establishment featuring antiques from over 70 different dealers. Crafter's will love finding hand made yarn at the "Mother of All Crafts", found in one of the most charming log houses you will ever see.

10:30 - 12:00 pm

Visit the **Hinckley Fire Museum** and witness the devastation the 1894 fire had on this community. The combination of the hot, dry summer and the numerous area logging towns of the 1800's set the stage for this disaster. *Continued on Page 33*

**Have Fun Touring Minnesota's History**

- Grand Casino Gaming
- Historic Fire Museum
- Antiques & Collectibles
- Beautiful State Parks
- Group Dining

FREE Visitors Guide & Tour Planner

EXPLORE Minnesota.com

Just 1 hour north of the Twin Cities.  
106 Old Hwy 61, Hinckley, MN  
320-384-7338 800-952-4282  
www.hinckleymn.com

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MINNESOTA

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**NORTH MINNESOTA 61**



# directory

## ACCOMMODATIONS

▶ **AmericInn Lodge & Suites** ..... **218-847-8795**  
 777 Hwy 10 East – Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 ..... **877-847-8795**  
 detroitlakes.mn@americinn.com / www.americinn.com

Stone fireplace lobby, large screen TV, business center, and lending library. Non-chlorine pool, hot tub, and sauna. All guest rooms & suites w/LCD 32" TV, microwave, refrigerator, voicemail. Free high speed wireless internet. Country Kitchen next door.

▶ **AmericInn Lodge & Suites & Event Center of Moorhead** ..... **218-287-7100**  
 600 30th Avenue S – Moorhead, MN 56560 ..... **877-287-7100**  
 dawn@americinnofmoorhead.com / www.americinnofmoorhead.com

Our two-story waterfall cascades into a tropical courtyard featuring an indoor 9-hole championship miniature golf course, swimming pool, children's pool, & whirlpool. We have a lounge, fitness center and free deluxe hot continental breakfast.

▶ **AmericInn of Thief River Falls, MN** ..... **218-681-4411**  
 1910 Hwy 59 SE – Thief River Falls, MN 56701 ..... **800-634-3444**  
 thiefriverfalls.mn@americinn.com / www.americinn.com

The area's newest and finest lodging facility. Featuring an inviting pool, whirlpool and game area. Cozy fireside conversation area and free hot breakfast.

▶ **Grand Portage Lodge & Casino** ..... **218-475-2401**  
 70 Casino Drive, PO Box 233 – Grand Portage, MN 55605 ..... **800-543-1384**  
 gportage@tbaytel.net / www.GrandPortage.com

Recreation. Attractions. Relaxation. Excitement. Visit Grand Portage Lodge & Casino and experience 24-hour casino entertainment, hospitality and comfort. Hike, boat, fish and camp. Visit the north shore...and get very excited. Click on www.GrandPortage.com.

▶ **The Suites in Canal Park** ..... **218-727-4663**  
 325 Lake Avenue South – Duluth, MN 55802 ..... **877-766-2665**  
 www.thesuitesduluth.com/bus

Complimentary full hot breakfast buffet. Complimentary room for escort. Driver discount rate. Free motorcoach parking. Complimentary welcome reception with personal gifts. All-suite property located in historic Canal Park. Oversized suites to pamper our guests. Indoor pool, whirlpool and sauna. WE add to your "tourific" group adventure!

▶ **Super 8 Motel – Park Rapids** ..... **877-274-3040**  
 1020 E 1st Street – Park Rapids, MN 56470 ..... **800-800-8000**  
 prmnsuper8@aol.com / www.parkrapidsuper8.com

Free breakfast including hot Belgian waffles. Free high-speed internet access. Free coffee in your room. Hot tub and Sauna. Entertainment, shopping, dining, biking, hiking, fishing, swimming, boating, birding, skiing, snowmobiling...it's all here.

## ATTRACTIONS

▶ **Becker County Historical Society** ..... **218-847-2938**  
 714 Summit Avenue, PO Box 622 – Detroit Lakes, MN 56502 / www.beckercountyhistory.org

Preserving and communicating the history of Becker County and its people! Features two levels of exhibits detailing the history, life and culture of the Becker County community. Open Tuesday thru Saturday 10 am – 4 pm.

▶ **Clay County Historical Society** ..... **218-299-5520**  
 Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Avenue North, PO Box 501 – Moorhead, MN 56561  
 www.info.co.clay.mn.us/history

Tour groups can take advantage of special history programs presented by CCHS staff, with appointment. Such as Old Ruby, Welcome to Beerhead, Spinning and more. Exhibits are self-guided and interpretation by staff is available by request.

▶ **Fargo Air Museum** ..... **701-293-8043**  
 1609 19th Avenue North – Fargo, ND 58102 / www.fargoairmuseum.org

Home to a flying collection of world class Warbird aircraft. The museum hosts interactive children's airplane exhibits, aviation film theater, aviation research library, WWII exhibits, and more! Buses and picnics with the planes encouraged!

**Forestedge Winery & Farm** LaPorte ..... **218-224-3535**

**Hinckley Fire Museum** Hinckley ..... **320-348-7338**

▶ **ITOW In Their Own Words...A Veterans Museum** ..... **218-346-7678**  
 805 West Main – Perham, MN 56573 / info@itowmuseum.org / www.ITOWmuseum.org

Audio-visual exhibits and stunning documentaries tell the stories of American veterans...In Their Own Words. This state-of-the-art museum is located in Perham, a thriving town in the west central lakes district.

**North House Folk School** Grand Marais ..... **888-387-9762**

**Northland Bison Ranch** Nevis ..... **218-652-3582**

▶ **Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat** ..... **218-573-2999**

53014 Hwy 34 – Osage, MN 56570 / guestservices@smokeyhills.com / www.smokeyhills.com  
 Formerly "The Village of the Smokey Hills" is now open as an affordable upscale lodging/activity destination. With our onsite restaurant, Conference Center, and 18 cabins we can accommodate 100 plus guests. We are perfect for tour bus stops, scrap booking groups, senior groups, church retreats, or any group outing.

## CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

▶ **Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce** ..... **218-847-9202**  
 PO Box 348, 700 Summit Avenue – Detroit Lakes, MN 56502 ..... **800-542-3992**  
 dlchamber@visitdetroitlakes.com / www.visitdetroitlakes.com

Live theatre, State's first Birding Trail, Scenic Byway, National Wildlife Refuges, Farm Tours... at Detroit Lakes! East of Fargo, North Dakota 45 miles, or 3 hours northwest of Twin Cities on Highway 10. Dining, shopping, and accommodations.

▶ **Grand Marais Area Tourism Association** ..... **877-922-5000**  
 13 N Broadway Ave – Grand Marais, MN 55604  
 info@grandmarais.com / www.grandmarais.com

Our harbor village reveals itself after 110 breathtaking miles on Lake Superior's Hwy 61. Settle in to comfortable lodging, then discover the ambiance, outdoor activities, cuisine, galleries and shopping – some theater or live music? Enjoy!

▶ **Hinckley CVB** ..... **320-384-0126**  
 109 Tobies Mill – Hinckley, MN 55037 ..... **800-952-4282**  
 hinckleycvb@scicable.com / www.hinckleymn.com

Halfway between the Twin Cities & Duluth on I-35, experience small town hospitality & big city entertainment! The Hinckley Fire Museum, Grand Casino, 6 hotels, 16 restaurants, antiques & collectibles shopping, birding & wildlife.

▶ **Long Prairie Tourism & Visitors Bureau** ..... **320-732-2514**

533 Lake Street S – Long Prairie, MN 56347  
 See history kept alive in one of Minnesota's oldest communities when you visit Veterans' Memorial Park, the area museums and historic downtown. Purchase Amish crafts or see a fabulous community theater production.

▶ **New York Mills Civic & Commerce Association** ..... **218-385-3339**  
 Box 133 - New York Mills, MN 56567  
 info@explorenewyorkmills.com / www.explorenewyorkmills.com

New York Mills, gateway to the Finnish Triangle, is home to the Great American Think-Off and Lund Boats. Nearby are 1200 lakes, three state parks, and the best specialty and antique shopping in Central Minnesota.



▶ **Visit Bemidji** ..... **218-759-0164**  
 PO Box 66 – Bemidji, MN 56619 ..... **800-458-2223**  
 gayle@visitbemidji.com / www.visitbemidji.com

Bemidji is the "First City on the Mississippi". Paul Bunyan and Babe his Blue Ox await your arrival on the shore of Lake Bemidji. Recreational and cultural experiences are available year round.

## ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER

**Long Lake Theater** Park Rapids ..... **218-732-0099**

**Northern Light Opera Company** Park Rapids ..... **866-766-7372**

**Woodtick Musical Theater** Akeley ..... **800-644-6892**

Continued from Page 32: *Weekend Getaway*

### 12 – 1:30 pm

Have lunch at **Wildfire Café** in downtown Hinckley. They offer a full menu of soups, salads, burgers, and appetizers.

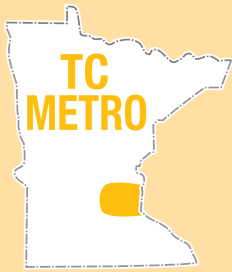
### 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Board your motorcoach and travel to Sandstone, MN. An abundance of activities awaits you at **Audubon Center of the North Woods**. Fun and enjoyable, naturalist-led activities for groups include; Interpretive Nature Hikes, Indoor Climbing Wall, High Ropes Course, Low Ropes Course & more!

### 4:00 pm

Time to head for home.

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or Hinckley CVB, 800-996-4566.



## tc metro cities

AFTON, ALBERTVILLE, APPLE VALLEY,  
 ARDEN HILLS, BLOOMINGTON,  
 BUFFALO, BURNSVILLE, CHANHASSEN,  
 CHASKA, COON RAPIDS, EAGAN,  
 ELK RIVER, EXCELSIOR, JORDAN,  
 LAKEVILLE, MINNEAPOLIS,  
 PLYMOUTH, ROSEVILLE, SHAKOPEE,  
 SAINT PAUL, STILLWATER

## calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

### december

- Nov 1-Jan 18 **A Nordic Christmas**,  
 American Swedish Institute 612-871-4907
- 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 **The Lundstrom's Country  
 Christmas Celebration**, Lakeville 952-898-7200
- Wknds **Hill House Holidays**, Saint Paul 651-297-2555
- 4-6 **Old-Fashioned Holiday Bazaar**,  
 Saint Paul 651-292-3233
- 4-7,11-14,18-21 **Holidazzle Parade**, Mpls 612-338-3807
- 5-6 **Girls' Getaway Weekend**, Stillwater 651-439-4001
- 5-6 **No Coast Craft-o-Rama**, Mpls 612-788-1180
- 6 **Christmas in the Park**, Buffalo 763-682-4902
- 7 **The Victorian Christmas Homes Tour**,  
 Stillwater 651-439-4001
- 13-20 **Holiday Lights Tour**, Bloomington 612-333-8687
- 14 **Skandia Festival**, Saint Paul 651-292-3276
- 15 **Celtic Thunder**, Target Center 612-637-1311
- 20 **"Morris Day & The Time"**  
 Treasure Island Casino 800-222-7077

### january

- 9-TBD **Grand Canyon Adventure**,  
 Science Museum of Minnesota 651-221-9444
- 17 **2009 Roseville Winter Jazz Blast**,  
 Roseville 877-980-3002
- 22-Feb 1 **Saint Paul Winter Carnival** 651-223-4700
- 24 **Chinese New Year Celebration**,  
 Bloomington 952-888-4777

### february

- 6-28 **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers**,  
 Chanhassen 800-355-6273
- 7 **25th Annual Wayzata Chilly Open**,  
 Wayzata 952-473-9595
- 14-15 **Knit Out & Crochet**,  
 Mall Of America 800-879-3555
- 14-15 **Scottish Ramble**, Saint Paul 866-342-6300
- 18 **Batsheva Dance Company**,  
 Minneapolis 612-375-7600

### march

- 2, 9, 16, 30 **Chocolate March**, Afton, Center City,  
 Hastings, Hudson, River Falls WI, Osceola,  
 St. Croix, Stillwater, Taylor Falls 651-436-8883
- 6-8 **MBOTMA's Winter Bluegrass Weekend**,  
 Plymouth 612-285-9133
- 7 **Subway Bedrace for Bridging**,  
 Burnsville 952-888-1105
- 8 **Taste of Chocolate**, Bloomington 952-563-8567
- 15 **Irish Day of Dance**, Saint Paul 651-292-3276

# Skylines & Shorelines twin cities metro minnesota



The Gathering Room - Just for Me Spa & Wellness Center

## Just for Me Spa & Wellness Center - Stillwater

Located in historic Stillwater, is a haven of serenity. They welcome groups of all types and sizes. Pedicure parties, corporate meetings, tours and book clubs love the Gathering Room. Its comfortable furniture, log conference table and fireplace make it the perfect place to start and end your group's day. They offer the ultimate in Spa accommodations: The Retreat, a modernized, beautifully appointed 1870s-era home that sleeps eight in comfortable elegance; the Cottage, an 1850s-era bungalow with plush furnishings that sleeps four; and the Log Cabin, a completely renovated and modernized late-1800s farmhouse that sleeps six. Their Wellness Center features fitness equipment, pool, whirlpool, sauna and a fitness studio. Specially designed packages combine a Spa service with a wellness activity. Refresh, rejuvenate and renew at Just For Me Spa.

## other spas & retreats in twin cities metro minnesota

### The Ann Bean Mansion Stillwater

Daytime parlor rentals or whole-house rentals overnight. They have sleeping accommodations for up to 12 and parlor space for up to 40. Play the perfect host and they'll do the clean up!

### Ava's On Grand Saint Paul

Private spa parties for your groups, offering luxurious skin care, massage, and beauty services. Bring your own wine, cheese and fruit or they can furnish it for you. Their staff will serve you and be at your beck and call.

### The Bird House Inn & Gardens Excelsior

Perfect for intimate, less-formal gatherings such as book club meetings, scrapbooking gatherings, brunches etc., they offer a full service option. Also an ideal setting for overnight retreats to weekend-long getaways.

### Circle Sage Healing & Massage Center Burnsville

Come and relax with a massage. Choose from relaxation, therapeutic, deep tissue, stone, and various other treatments.

### CJ's Creative Cottage North Branch

Your group will cherish their time at this secluded, 6-bedroom home which is snuggled in amongst beautiful trees and flowers...not to mention a state of the art comfortable craft room for you to create your own keepsakes. Groups up to 14.

### Cool Breeze Cottage Waconia

The cottage home provides a productive and memorable experience that gives you an away-from-it-all feeling. Ideal for crafting, spiritual retreats, fitness classes, book clubs etc.

### The Day Spa Edina

A fun, girl-oriented boutique that sells everything from high-heeled flip-flops to reading glasses. A floral carpet, crystal chandelier and window sheers give this spa a soft, slightly European flair. They can host groups up to 35 people.

### Friendship Ventures (3)

These modern, year-round facilities include accommodations for gatherings large or small. Offering three retreat centers with meeting facilities: Camp Friendship in Annandale, Eden Wood Center in Eden Prairie and Camp New Hope.

### Jewel Spa Minneapolis

An intimate environment with five-star treatments. Offering spa parties for group events that can be customized with chocolates, cookies, sparkling juices, assorted teas and more.

### The Mad Hatter Tea Room Anoka

Enjoy the timeless tradition of tea in their beautiful and relaxing tearoom. Arrange a private tea for your group. The tearoom can accommodate up to 26 people.

### The March Minnetonka

A 67,000 sq. ft. structure located on scenic marshlands featuring wellness programs, health & fitness, a spa, catering, an Inn and much more!

### Rendezvous Retreats Forest Lake

A fully furnished and beautifully restored 1912 Arts & Crafts style house you can rent for the day, week or weekend. Perfect for Scrapbooking/Quilting weekend getaways for groups of 9.

### Spalon Montage Chanhassen

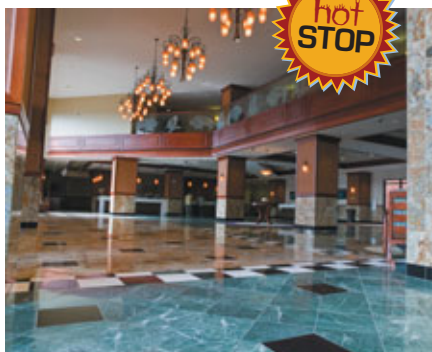
This half spa, half salon is great for a group and serves up to 25 people with their 4 massage rooms, 4 facial rooms and 4 pedicure stations, 20 salon service stations and 6 nail stations.

### Trillium Spa Bloomington

Within the Radisson Hotel. Day Spa packages available, along with massage options, including manicures, pedicures, signature facial treatments & enhancements. One-on-one make-up learning lessons and application sessions are available.

## Play, Stay, Dine & Be Entertained “AT THE ISLAND”!

**T**reasure Island Resort & Casino is the only casino resort in southern Minnesota and the only facility of its kind located on the banks of the Mississippi River. Treasure Island offers guests some of the best gaming, accommodations, food service and nationally known entertainment in the casino industry. Treasure Island features over 2,500 slots, 44 blackjack tables and a 550-seat high stakes bingo hall, all in a Caribbean themed casino. Guests can relax in Treasure Island’s luxurious 480-room hotel, enjoy a meal in one of six restaurants or have a drink in one of their five bar areas.



A recent \$50 million addition including 230 new hotel rooms, an event and convention center and bowling alley, enhanced the resort property, defining Treasure Island as a unique resort destination. The new 30,000 square foot event and convention center allows 3,000 people to enjoy concerts from premier entertainers like Martina McBride and Brooks & Dunn. The space can also be separated into as many as six rooms of elegant, functional meeting space with individual entrances. Moreover, Treasure Island is now home to Island Xtreme Bowl, a 24-lane Brunswick™ bowling alley which also features an arcade, lounge, snack bar and separate party rooms.

During the warmer season, Treasure Island features wonderful outdoor activities as well. Reserve a seat on *Spirit of the Water* and travel down the scenic Mississippi River while relaxing and enjoying a lunch, brunch or dinner cruise. Moreover, **Mount Frontenac Golf Course** is a short 15-mile drive south of Red Wing, sitting atop the Mississippi River bluffs featuring stunning views of Lake Pepin and the Mississippi River Valley.

In addition, Treasure Island offers an RV Park and marina. For more information contact Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Krystal Ohlhaber 800-222-7077 ext 2862.

### *Holiday Shopping*

This sample itinerary is best December 2008. You'll find it at coordinates G-12 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

#### 12 – 2:00 pm

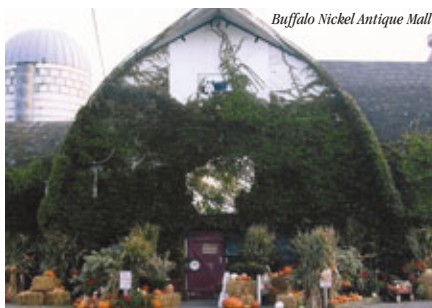
Arrive in **Buffalo, Minnesota**. The abundant mixture of modern stores and vintage, quaint shops make Buffalo an ideal place for holiday shopping. Stroll along the picturesque streets as your group shops for unique gifts at their antique and specialty stores. Some of the stores you will want to visit are: **Annie's Attic, Buffalo Nickel Antique Mall, Lillian's, This & That, Three Sisters Collectibles, Craft Country, Patchwork Alley Quilt & Décor Shoppe, Something Savvy, Suzanne's Stained Glass** and much, much more!

#### 2 – 5:30 pm

Take a break and head to **Buffalo Books & Coffee** for a latte or coffee, then continue your holiday shopping.

#### 5:30 – 7:15 pm

Dine at **WaterStones Restaurant** for your evening meal. Choose from the Dining Room, the Bar, or Trophy



Buffalo Nickel Antique Mall

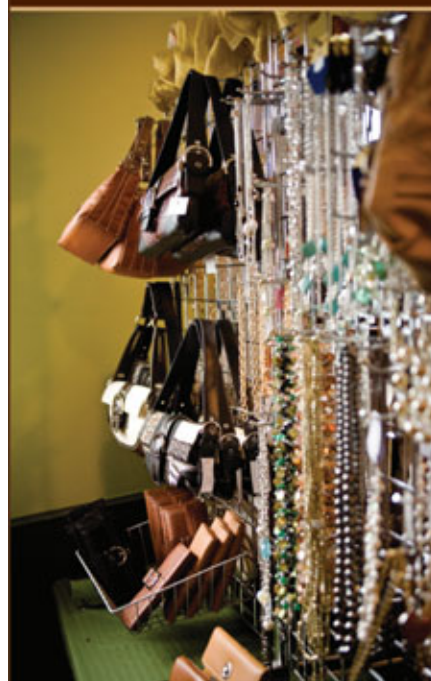
Room. No matter what you choose, your group will be treated to exquisite casual cuisine in a friendly, resort-like ambiance overlooking a picturesque golf course.

#### 7:15 – 9:30 pm

After dinner, see a show at the **Buffalo Community Theater**. For over 20 magical seasons they've charmed audiences with a wide variety of professional-quality productions. Call for current shows.

For more information on this sample itinerary please call your tour operator or Buffalo Area Chamber, 763-682-4902.

## SHOP BUFFALO FOR THE HOLIDAYS



**Don't let your holiday shopping be a hurried rush through the mall this year, come to Buffalo for a day trip!**

Step back in time as you stroll along picturesque streets, shop for unique gifts at our antique and specialty stores, and cozy up with a cup of coffee or cider at one of our coffee shops.

For a list of stores and holiday events, visit [www.buffalo-mn.org/holidays](http://www.buffalo-mn.org/holidays) or call 763-682-4902.

*Buffalo*  
minnesota

## Group Activities at THE MALL OF AMERICA



To get the best shopping, dining and entertainment experience at Mall of America, sign your group up for one of these tours. Let us also help you book accommodations for your group!

### Meet & Greet Service

This is a cost-effective introduction to Mall of America® for first-time and returning visitors. Upon arrival, your group will be met by a Mall of America Representative who will give a warm welcome and brief introduction to the Mall. Package includes: Mall of America souvenir shopping bag, Mall of America Super Savings Coupon Book, Map and Directory.

### MallQuest Scavenger Hunts or Hollywood MallQuest Scavenger Hunts

MallQuest is a fun scavenger hunt activity for corporate events, team-building, and social gatherings of 20 people or more. Each MallQuest team (of five people) receives: Outline of MallQuest Event, Security Approval, Initial contact and approval with all merchants involved, Camera (one camera per team), Film developing and each participant will receive a Mall of America Super Savings Coupon Book.

### VIP Presentation

What makes the nation's largest retail and entertainment complex work?

When was Mall of America built, and why in Minnesota? How was such a radically new facility marketed prior to opening, and how is it marketed now? How and when will Mall of America expand? What does each department in the management office do to bring more visitors annually to Mall of America than to Disney World, the Grand Canyon and Graceland combined? A Mall of America representative will answer these and related questions during a 60-to-90 minute presentation.

### Orientation Tour

The Orientation Tour provides visitors with a 45-minute walking tour that includes the Mall's history, highlights and attractions. This package includes: Mall of America Super Savings Coupon Book, Map & Directory.

### Additional Group Options

Moose Mountain Adventure Golf offers the ultimate group experience for people of all ages. Your group will have the opportunity to experience 18 amazing holes of miniature golf at an amazing group rate. Nickelodeon Universe® is a great location for your next event. From discounted group rates to meeting facilities able to accommodate groups of 15 to 5,000, Nickelodeon Universe can create a package just for you.

For more information about these group options or other options please contact Mall of America, call 800-879-3555 or visit [www.mallofamerica.com](http://www.mallofamerica.com).

## Release Your Energy in Bloomington, MN

This sample itinerary can be customized for any time of the year. You'll find it at coordinates F-9 and D-8 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

### DAY ONE

#### 10:00 am

Arrive in **Bloomington**. Choose from 37 hotels with exceptional accommodations to suit every group.

#### 10 – 5:00 pm

Experience the world's premiere retail and entertainment complex for a day of just that: entertainment, excitement and pampering, dining and shopping. No matter what your interests are, the **Mall of America** has something for everyone! For the electronic guru, visit the brand new **Best Buy Mall of America**, for the label shopper; visit **Burberry**, **Coach**, **Brighton Collectibles** and the major department stores of **Macy's**, **Bloomingdales** and **Nordstrom's**.

#### 5 - 7:00 pm

After all of the excitement around the mall, enjoy a bite to eat at the new **Cantina #1**, a new concept Mexican restaurant. Or, hunker down in a cozy booth in **Bubba Gump Shrimp Company** and enjoy what Bubba himself prided himself on, SHRIMP! But don't forget about the Dixie-style baby back ribs and scrumptious desserts. You better watch the movie before arriving for dinner, as the wait staff will try to

stump you with Forest Gump movie trivia.

### DAY TWO

#### 10 – 1:00 pm

Grab a seat on the **Twin Cities Highlights Tour**. This bus tour departs from Mall of America and whisks you around the Twin Cities. (Multilingual guides are available with advance notice.) Take in the Twin Cities' history and famous spots including Longfellow's legendary **Minnehaha Falls**, the homes and haunts of **F. Scott Fitzgerald**, the gangster hangouts of **Ma Barker** and **John Dillinger**, and the television home of **Mary Tyler Moore**.

#### 1 – 5:00 pm

Head back to Bloomington to take a relaxing walk through the **Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge**. Try looking for the over 260 bird species with a tour guide in the 2,200 acre refuge. 121 birds are known to nest at the refuge, including eagles. This is a great place to see and learn about the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, plus the area wildlife and migrating water fowl.

#### 5 - 7:00 pm

Relax and rejuvenate back at your hotel, and prepare for the evening's activities.

#### 7 – 10:00 pm

Prepare yourself to be wowed by the bright lights off Broadway, when you catch a performance at **The**



**Chanhassen Dinner Theatre**. As the nation's largest dinner theatre, you will be treated to a professional production and a scrumptious meal.

### DAY THREE

#### 10 – 5:00 pm

Begin your third day in luxury at the **Trillium Spa** in the **Radisson Hotel Bloomington** by the Mall of America. Trillium Spa offers a complete array of decadent services, either full day or half day treatments, including facial and body treatments, manicures and pedicures, facials and massages.

For more information or to customize this itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Bloomington CVB, 866-435-7425.



## DINE • SHOP • PLAY

**NICKELODEON UNIVERSE®** – The nation's largest indoor theme park has landed smack-dab in the center of Mall of America.® Experience 24 spine-fingling rides (including five new rides), meet your favorite Nick characters, visit unique retail shops and dine at EATS, the new food marketplace.

**MALL OF AMERICA®** – Enjoy over 520 shops, restaurants and other attractions including Underwater Adventures® Aquarium, Moose Mountain Adventure Golf, NASCAR® Silicon Motor Speedway, A.C.E.S. Flight Simulation and LEGO.® **And there's tax-free shopping on all clothing and shoes!**

For more information, contact Millie Philipp in Mall of America Tourism at 952-883-8843, [mphilipp@mallofamerica.com](mailto:mphilipp@mallofamerica.com) or visit [www.moainformation.com](http://www.moainformation.com)



American Girl

OPENING HOLIDAY 2008!



© 2008 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. SpongeBob SquarePants created by Stephen Hillenburg. Danny Phantom created by Butch Hartman.

**30 YEARS OF MAKING MEMORIES**  
**Chanhassen**  
 DINNER THEATRES



The nation's largest professional dinner theatre presents big Broadway musicals and comedies year 'round!

Playing 2009

**THE PRODUCERS**

Now Playing!

**SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS**



Opens February 6, 2009!

**OKLAHOMA!**



Opens June 5, 2009!

**The DROWSY Chaperone**

Opens October 2, 2009!

Only 15 minutes from the Mall of America

952-934-1547 • 800-355-6273  
 ChanhassenDT.com

*It's more than a great Castle!*

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates G-7 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

Step into the heart of Swedish America. The American Swedish Institute is a historic house, museum, and cultural center located near downtown Minneapolis. Swedish immigrant newspaperman Swan J. Turnblad founded the Institute in 1929.



**12 – 1:30 pm**

Enhance your Swedish experience by adding one of their food packages available only for tour groups. Today experience the **Swedish Cuisine Demonstration**. Apprentice your group to a Swedish chef! Watch their chef demonstrate the art of creating the unique open-faced sandwiches known as smörgås

in Sweden, then use what you've learned to make your own. After a tour of the mansion, enjoy your sandwich along with soup, dessert, and coffee.

**1:30 – 3:30 pm**

During your tour of the exquisite 33-room mansion from top to bottom, including detailed woodcarvings, sculpted ceilings, and eleven floor-to-ceiling *kakelugnar* (Swedish porcelain tile stoves). Learn about the fascinating Turnblad family, the art and architecture of the mansion, and the history of early Minneapolis.

**3:30 pm**


To finish off your Swedish experience stop at the **American Swedish Institute Museum Shop**. The shop brings together a vast selection of art, design and Scandinavian culture books and the finest Swedish design products for your home. They have classic novels, works by the newest Swedish authors, and a large selection of Scandinavian music, from the classic to the most modern. Also they have beautiful gift items for every occasion.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** At Christmas time - the most popular time to visit - you'll also see the mansion beautifully decorated to celebrate the season in true Scandinavian style. Two weeks advance notice is preferred for group tours.

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or the American Swedish Institute 612-870-3344.

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## The Thorn

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates I-6 & G-7 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### DAY ONE

4 – 5:00 pm

Arrive at your hotel in **Roseville**.

5 – 6:45 pm

Choose from a variety of Roseville dining options, including eating at your hotel or at **Plymouth Playhouse**.

6:45 – 9:00 pm

Depart for **Plymouth Playhouse** for *Church Basement Ladies, A Second Helping!* It's 1969. The world is changing and the ladies of the church prepare for changes of their own below the House of God. As always, you'll "laugh until your side dish hurts".

### DAY TWO

8 – 9:15 am

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Board the motorcoach and head for the **Ukrainian Gift Shop** in Roseville.

9:15 – 10:15 am

The **Ukrainian Gift Shop** is home to the world's largest source of Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) & Pysanky supplies. You will witness a demonstration of the making of Pysanky's (tour is complimentary).

10:15 – 2:30 pm

Depart for the Plaza at **Rosedale Center**. Enjoy free time to shop and have lunch on your own.

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Arrive at the **Guthrie Theater** in Minneapolis for a look at what goes on behind the scenes. You'll discover the stunning and expanded features of this state-of-the-art facility and learn how they take their plays from script to stage. You'll visit their various production departments, including shops where costumes, sets and props are expertly crafted by talented artisans.

3:30 – 5:30 pm

Take time to freshen up at your Roseville hotel.

5:30 – 6:45 pm

Enjoy dinner in Roseville at one of their restaurants.

7 – 9:30 pm

Arrive at **North Heights Lutheran Church** to see *The Thorn*. Witness this amazing performance of a cast and choir of over 450 people, including live animals and spectacular special effects!

### DAY THREE

8 – 9:15 am

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and checkout. Before you depart, you'll receive a special send-off...a complimentary rose for each traveler, courtesy of the Roseville Visitors Association

9:15 – 9:45 am

You're in for a sweet treat at **Custom Chocolates**, where you'll stop for a quick tour and enjoy free samples (tour is complimentary).

For more information or to customize this itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Roseville Visitors Association 877-980-3002.




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# MINNEAPOLIS

The City of Landmarks, Lakes & Lore



## Day 1

### MORNING

#### Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway

Your group will discover a true Minneapolis gem as your motorcoach journeys along the Grand Rounds, one of the few National Scenic Byways in an urban area. This 52-mile pathway winds around our famous lakes, our neighborhoods, the Mississippi River and Minnehaha Creek. Stop to enjoy Minnehaha Falls, the scenic wonder made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his poem "The Song of Hiawatha."

#### Mill City Museum

Along the banks of the Mississippi River, discover the birthplace of Minneapolis and watch history come alive at Mill City Museum. You'll learn the story of a mighty river, a young city and how one product—flour—fueled the growth of Minneapolis. Enjoy nostalgic and interactive displays, the famous Flour Tower sensory ride and a viewing of the film "Minneapolis in 19-Minutes Flat."

### AFTERNOON

#### Northland Native American Products

You'll find traditional North Woods gifts, hand crafted birch bark baskets,

canoes and rare gourmet foods from the Ojibwe people and the Minnesota northlands. This gallery features pottery, jewelry, beadwork, sculptures of elders, horses, eagles and the White Buffalo Spirit, along with dance sticks, drums of all sizes and blankets of many colors. Owner Ken Bellanger honors the spirit of native people as he shares stories about the artists and their works.

#### American Swedish Institute – Tour & "Fika"

Step into the heart of Nordic America. The American Swedish Institute is a historic house, museum and cultural center located near downtown Minneapolis. The 33-room mansion is graced with a majestic two-story grand hall, carved stone and woodwork, sculpted ceilings and eleven floor-to-ceiling kakelugnar (Swedish porcelain tile stoves). Choose from a Mansion Tour, an Artisans Tour or a Garden Tour, and then enjoy "Fika"—the Swedish word for a gathering of friends over hot coffee and treats.

### EVENING

#### Dinner at Cue at the Guthrie

Cue is a fine-dining restaurant with a dramatic interior. It specializes in local, sustainable food that comes alive with flavor.

### Performance at the Guthrie Theater

From timeless classics to new works by emerging playwrights, the possibilities at the Guthrie are endless. Its new home on the banks of the Mississippi River opened in 2006. Designed by internationally-renowned French architect Jean Nouvel, this remarkable venue unites history with a fearless drive toward the future.

## Day 2

### MORNING

#### Walker Art Center

The Walker Art Center is a contemporary art museum dedicated to presenting the finest visual, performance, film and media artworks. A new expansion has doubled the museum's area and includes impressive galleries, a 385-seat theater and interactive educational lounges. A new outdoor "skyspace" by James Turrell complements the beloved 11-acre Minneapolis Sculpture Garden across the street.

#### Hard Rock

The Hard Rock Cafe Minneapolis is the perfect place to enjoy amazing food and exceptional beverages served with a "Rock n' Roll" twist. While in the cafe, check out a special section featuring the memorabilia of Minneapolis' native son Prince. Memorabilia from other A-list artists are also on display, including Mick Jagger, Mary J. Blige and Christina Aguilera.

### AFTERNOON

#### Minneapolis Queen

The 125-passenger ship, the Minneapolis Queen, is docked at Boom Island Park in the heart of the historic Minneapolis Riverfront District. Enjoy the sights with a narrated on-the-water tour; the paddlewheeler is the perfect way to experience the beauty of downtown Minneapolis.

### EVENING

Enjoy dinner and entertainment at the lively "Block E" in the heart of the city:

### Dinner & Play at GameWorks

Choose from several dining venues, including the Hopscotch Grill. After eating, get ready for fun! GameWorks is packed with a variety of popular video games, billiards and old-fashioned prize games. There's even a ten lane bowling alley! People of all ages and tenacity for fun are sure to have a good time.

### Entertainment at Shout House Dueling Pianos

Sing along to classic Rock 'n Roll hits from the 1950s to the present. It's a request-driven venue and the music plays non-stop all night. You'll hear great hits combined with energy, comedy and showmanship.

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## 'MARCH' TO INNS Dipped in Chocolate

Inns of the Scenic St. Croix Valley, a group of innkeepers who market their Inns together have again teamed with area chocolatiers and wineries to invite you to a taste treat of the highest order...the **Sixth Annual St. Croix Valley Chocolate March**.



Sundays in March, a tour of these diverse Inns will be highlighted with chocolate tastings and wine samplings provided by the area's outstanding vintners.

From Osceola and Taylors Falls in the north, to Hastings in the south, this unique collection of Inns range from cottage to prairie to Victorian style. Some historic sites have also been added.

Many Inns are offering special weekend packages that include tickets to the March. Chocolate tastings offer everything from truffles to chocolate chai tea. Tickets are \$21 in advance or \$25 at the door (portion of proceeds benefit Second Harvest Food Shelf; March is Minnesota Food Share Month).

Some Inns will be serving their own chocolate specialties while others will be offering area chocolatiers a chance to promote their fine products, all made fresh locally. Participating chocolatiers include but are not limited to **Knoke Confections** (Hudson), **Creative Confectionaire** (Hastings) and **Delightful Edibles** (Woodbury).

Participating wineries include but are not limited to **Alexis Bailly** (Hastings), **St. Croix Vineyard** (Stillwater), and **Northern Vineyard** (St. Croix Falls).

Group tours can be scheduled for weekdays year round, not only on Sundays during the Chocolate March. Most of these itineraries include lunch and three "chocolate stops". The innkeepers are also willing to arrange familiarization tours for group leaders to "sample" various itineraries.

Speaking of "sampling," look at this list: Afton House chocolate specialty dessert, Alexis Bailly wine tasting, Knoke Elda Cherries (dipped in caramel & chocolate), Delicate Chocolate Cookies, Creative Confectionaire Truffles, Rudolph's Chocolate Rum bundt cake, Oprah's White Caramel Hot Cocoa, display from Belize, of fresh cocoa and a seminar, Chocolate Muffins, and fruit dipped in Chocolate Orange Sauce.

St. Croix Valley Chocolate March tickets can be purchased through [www.uptowntix.com](http://www.uptowntix.com) or for more information visit [www.innsofthevalley.com](http://www.innsofthevalley.com). Discounts and incentives are offered when purchasing tickets for groups. Call 651-998-0185.

# A once-in-a-lifetime journey

Take an unforgettable rafting trip down the Colorado River – without leaving your seat- in *Grand Canyon Adventure*. Let the Omnitheater take you on a thrilling expedition to explore the intricate connection between humans, rivers, and our precious water supply. Continue your exploration of the beauty and essential nature of our planet's lifeblood in the *Water* exhibit. Opens January 30. 120 West Kellogg Boulevard St. Paul, MN 55102 [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org) or call 651-221-9444

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# STILLWATER



## DAY 1

11:00 am - Climb aboard the Stillwater Trolley for a 45 minute narrated tour of historic Stillwater. You'll hear fascinating stories from a bygone era as well as learn about the area's lumber barons and the magnificent Victorian mansions they built. Spectacular river views await!

12:00 pm - Enjoy lunch at the popular Dock Cafe, a short walk from the Trolley. Located on the banks of the St Croix river, the Dock offers a great atmosphere and terrific food to go along with one of the best river views in town.

1:30 pm - Shopping time! Explore the famous shops and boutiques of Stillwater's renowned Main Street. The historic architecture adjacent to the beautiful St. Croix River provides a truly unique shopping experience. When you get to the north end of Main Street, stop into the Supreme Bean for a cup of coffee before working your way back.

4:30 pm - Check in to the Water Street Inn, located next to the Stillwater lift bridge. Once you've settled into your room, take some time to have a look around the inn and admire the period Victorian decor. Don't miss Charlie's Pub, located in the hotel, it's the perfect place for a relaxing evening cocktail.

6:00 pm - For dinner its the Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter where your group will enjoy an authentic German Dining Hall experience. A longtime St. Croix Valley favorite, the Gasthaus is conveniently located just minutes from downtown Stillwater among the rolling wooded hills to the west.

## DAY 2

8:00 am - Start the day right with a hearty home-cooked breakfast at Joseph's Family Restaurant. Their fresh-made pies are a delicious local tradition.



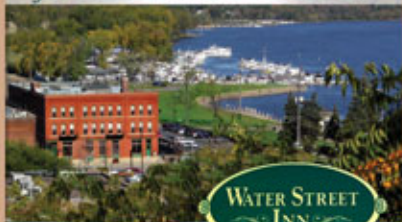
9:30 am - It's time for pure relaxation at your next stop, the Just For Me Spa. With more than 30 rooms and even a pool, Just For Me offers a complete range of services, all focused on your well-being. It's just the place for rejuvenating the mind, body and soul.

1:00 pm - You certainly wouldn't want to miss the St. Croix Vineyards while you're in the area. Located on the outskirts of town, St. Croix Vineyards is one of Minnesota's largest and best known wineries. The beautiful surroundings are surpassed only by the exquisite wines you are about to indulge in. Let the tasting begin, and take home some of Minnesota's finest wines.

3:00 pm - Time to leave already? Hmm...two days might not be enough!

For more information about visiting historic Stillwater, contact your tour operator or Jennifer Severson at the Stillwater & Oak Park Heights CVB, 651-439-4001.

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# SAINT

## Experience Minnesota's Capital City

### Day 1

**1:00 pm** – Start your Saint Paul adventure at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum in Saint Paul. View a detailed model panorama of railroads in Saint Paul/Minneapolis during the 1930's, '40's, and '50's. The building itself was constructed in 1885 and once housed a Northern Pacific Railway repair shop.

**3:00 pm** – Head over to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. One of their best kept secrets is the onsite museum and the Shrine of the Nations; the shrine's six chapels honor the

national patron saints of many of the immigrants who settled Minnesota.

**4:00 pm** – Check into the new Sheraton Saint Paul/Woodbury Hotel and enjoy a welcome reception by their friendly staff.

### Day 2

**9:00 am** – Check out of your hotel and start your day with a hearty breakfast at Anita's Café inside of historic Landmark Center. The building is home to museums, galleries, and tours of its colorful history of gangsters & justice!

**10:30 am** – All a board the Padelford Riverboats! Step onto the Jonathan Padelford, an authentic sternwheeler, and enjoy great views of downtown Saint Paul from the Mississippi River as your lunch cruise sets sail.

**1:00 pm** – Grab your Tommy gun and head to the Wabasha Street Caves. Enjoy the famous Saint Paul Gangster Tour on your coach. Visit former gangster hideouts and shootouts throughout Saint Paul.

**3:00 pm** – Enjoy a variety of hands-on activities like mini-golf, the Mississippi River

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# PAUL

## WHERE MINNESOTA ADVENTURE BEGINS

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**5:00 pm** – Check into Minnesota's landmark hotel. Since its opening on April 18, 1910, The Saint Paul Hotel has been a fixture in Saint Paul's lovely Rice Park District.

**8:00 pm** – Whether you're a fan of mystery, comedy, or musicals, the Minnesota Centennial Showboat is a spectacular destination for live theatre. The Showboat's richest feature is its intimate 225-seat jewelbox theater on the Mississippi River.

### Day 3

**8:00 am** – Rise and shine after a great night's sleep and head down to a delicious breakfast sure to jump start your day!

**10:00 am** – Today you'll visit the James J Hill House. This 36,000 sq. ft. home on historic Summit Avenue was home to the great Empire Builder; responsible for the extensive network of railroads from Chicago to Seattle.

**11:30 pm** – Leave your passport at home. Celebrating its 77th anniversary in 2009, the

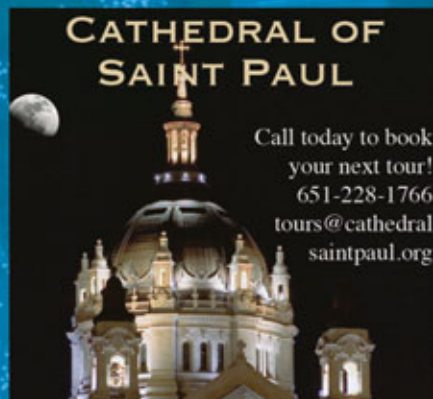
Festival of Nations is one of the nation's largest and oldest international festivals. Enjoy over 37 authentic cafes, 60 cultural exhibits, and 35 folk art demonstrations.

**2:00 pm** – It's time to head home with all your wonderful Saint Paul memories!

Contact Michael Hernandez at 651-265-4906 or [mhernandez@visitsaintpaul.com](mailto:mhernandez@visitsaintpaul.com) for more information.



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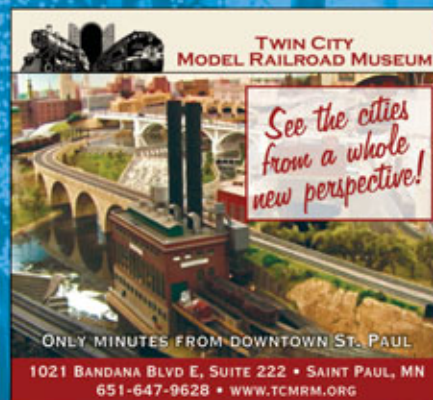
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## Railroads, Gangsters, Art & Celebration!

This sample itinerary is best in April during the "Beyond The Cross" performance. You'll find it at coordinates G-7, H-6, H-8, & G-9 on the 2009 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

### 10 – 11:00 am

The Great Northern Railway's historic **Jackson Street Roundhouse**, a former steam engine maintenance facility, provides a unique opportunity for groups to

experience railroading in the Twin Cities and Upper Midwest! Travel through history with in-depth exhibits featuring local and regional railway history. Experience a genuine operating roundhouse turntable, one of the last of its kind in the country.

### 11 – 1:00 pm

At **Down in History Tours**, your guide, a nefarious gangster hood or his moll toting Tommy guns, takes your group on the **Saint Paul Gangster Tour**. Your group will visit famous gangster crime sites, hide-a-

ways, speakeasies and gathering spots, many of which have changed little since the 1930's. Stops include Ma Barker's home, Dillinger's apartment, nightclubs and locations of infamous robberies, shoot-outs and murders.

### 1 – 2:00 pm

Have a catered lunch at the Caves. Once the site of the famous nightclub, "**The Castle Royal**," a popular haunt of infamous gangsters in the '30s and where many of the big bands played at the **Wabasha Street Caves**.



This once speakeasy, includes historic cave tours.

### 2 – 2:15 pm

Travel south on I-35E towards **Eagan**.

### 2:15 – 4:00 pm

Tour this outdoor sculpture garden designed within a natural setting, **Caponi Art Park**, literally a union of art and nature! Your tour includes information about the Park and how it is being developed, a visit to the sculpture studio and a conversation with the artist-in-residence, identification of birds, trees and other wildlife in the park plus more!

### 4 – 5:30 pm

Load the motorcoach and head for Burnsville to **Susie Q's Accents**. Receive discount coupons and shop for unique gift items and home decor. They feature inspirational items, Tuscan wine items, wall décor, costume jewelry, stationery and decorative plates.

### 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Tonight, allow yourselves to be pampered with a delicious meal at **Chateau Lamothe Wine & Dine & Events**.

### 7 - 10:00 pm

For some immense entertainment, enjoy an inspiring musical production hosted by Lowell Lundstrom that has touched thousands, "**Beyond The Cross**" at **Celebration Church**. Journey back in time, 2000 years ago, when Jesus transformed the lives of ordinary people – one person, one miracle at a time.

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or Minnesota Transportation Museum 651-228-0263, Wabasha Street Caves 612-292-1220, Eagan CVB 866-EAGAN-20, Burnsville CVB 800-521-6055 or Celebration Church 952-898-7200.

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► **Hilton Garden Inn Minneapolis/Eden Prairie** ..... 952-995-9009  
 6330 Point Chase – Eden Prairie, MN 55344 / www.minneapolisedenprairie.hgi.com

Every hotel can offer rooms...we offer an incredible stay! From our newly renovated rooms to our incredible service your group will feel pampered from the minute they step off the bus. Just minutes from your favorite attractions.

► **Hilton Garden Inn Saint Paul/Oakdale** ..... 651-735-4100  
 420 Inwood Avenue – Oakdale, MN 55128 / www.stpauloakdale.gardeninn.com

Guests will enjoy Garden Inn Sleep System Beds for a truly peaceful nights sleep & receive a complimentary all American Breakfast buffet each morning. Our hotel features a pool, whirlpool & fitness center.

► **Holiday Inn Bloomington Airport I-35W** ..... 952-884-8211  
 1201 West 94th Street – Bloomington, MN 55431 / www.holiday-inn.com/bloomingtonmn

Holiday Inn Bloomington I-35W is conveniently located in Bloomington, MN just 5 miles from the Mall of America. Easy access to I-494 and I-35W and major attractions; Mystic Lake Casino, Chanhassen Dinner Theatre and to downtown Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

► **Holiday Inn Minneapolis NW – Elk River** ..... 763-656-4404  
 9200 Quaday Ave NE – Elk River, MN 55330 / jlaron@hjelkriver.com / www.hjelkriver.com

All rooms are oversized and feature a pillow menu, refrigerator and microwave. Guests are sure to have a comfortable, exciting stay! Relax and Play in the Wild Woods Waterpark. Experience the Mississippi Valley Grill & Bar. Our hotel offers spacious group meeting space and a unique dining experience in the Mississippi Wooded Lounge.

► **Holiday Inn Express Minnetonka** ..... 952-912-9999  
 10985 Red Circle Drive – Minnetonka, MN 55343 / www.hiexpress.com/minnetonka

Enjoy a cozy new look in a totally smoke free environment. Conveniently located less than one mile from Highways 494, 62, 212, & 169 gives more accessibility to any venue you may want to visit.

► **Oak Ridge Hotel and Conference Center** ..... 952-368-3100  
 One Oak Ridge Drive – Chaska, MN 55318 ..... 800-737-9588

kellyparkhurst@dolce.com / www.oakridge.dolce.com  
 Oak Ridge Hotel and Conference Center is nestled in 130 wooded acres on scenic Lake McKnight in Chaska; located just 30 minutes from Minneapolis airport and downtown. Enjoy our on-site Seasons Restaurant. Bus parking available.

Saint Paul Hotel Saint Paul ..... 651-228-3887

Sheraton Saint Paul/Woodbury Woodbury ..... 651-209-3280

► **Super 8 Minneapolis/Golden Valley** ..... 763-546-6277  
 6300 Wayzata Blvd – Golden Valley, MN 55416 ..... 800-800-8000

pogorser@cdthotel.com / www.super8mpls.com  
 Downtown Minneapolis & Target Center – 3miles; Convention Center & Metrodome – 5 miles; Lake Minnetonka area – 7 miles; Mall of America – 15 miles; Mystic Lake Casino; Gold Courses; Airport – 15 miles; University of Minnesota; Minnesota Zoo; Walker Art Center; Children's & Science Museum; Minnesota State Fair; Renaissance Festival

Water Street Inn Stillwater ..... 651-439-6000

► **Wingate by Wyndham** ..... 763-576-0700 ext 4906  
 1700 3420 Northdale Blvd – Coon Rapids, MN 55448 ..... 800-364-6581

wingate.coonrapids@yahoo.com / www.wingateinns.com  
 The Wingate by Wyndham is proud to offer the following amenities: full hot breakfast, sundry shop, pool, hot tub, 24 hour exercise center, laundry facilities, computer wireless internet & more.

## ATTRACTIONS

► **American Swedish Institute** ..... 612-870-3344  
 2600 Park Avenue – Minneapolis, MN 55407

info@americanswedishinstitute.org / www.americanswedishinst.org  
 Bring your group to the most unique destination in the Twin Cities! Tour the 33-room Swan Turnblad mansion, indulge in one of our Swedish lunch or dessert packages, then enjoy the museum shop.

Cathedral of Saint Paul Saint Paul ..... 651-228-1766

► **Chocolate March** ..... 651-998-0185  
 Sundays in March, a tour of diverse Inns from Osceola and Taylor Falls to Hastings, will be highlighted with chocolate tastings and wine samplings provided by the area's outstanding vintners. Tickets can be purchased through www.uptowntix.com.

GameWorks Minneapolis ..... 612-656-7300

Grand Rounds Scenic Byway Minneapolis ..... 612-230-6400

Historic Fort Snelling Saint Paul ..... 612-726-1171

James J. Hill House Saint Paul ..... 651-297-2555

Just For Me Spa Stillwater ..... 651-439-4662

Mill City Museum Minneapolis ..... 612-341-7555

► **Minnesota Historical Society** ..... 651-259-3444  
 345 W. Kellogg Blvd – Saint Paul, MN 55102 / www.mnhs.org

Chief caretaker of Minnesota's story and the History Center is home to the Society's vast collections. Within our archives reside artifacts ranging from American Indian moccasins and artwork to furniture and photographs, Civil War-era flags and a wealth of genealogical information.

► **Minnesota Transportation Museum** ..... 715-755-3570  
 114 Depot Road, PO Box 176 – Osceola, WI 54020 / www.trainride.org

Travel back in time along the scenic St. Croix River. Spectacular views of wildlife and natural areas, full dinner or brunch buffet, pizza and box lunches or just coffee and dessert are available on board. Great, unique group destination and bus parking!

Padelford Packet Boat Company Saint Paul ..... 651-227-1100

Paradise Charter Cruises & Minneapolis Queen Excelsior ..... 888-559-8058

► **Science Museum of Minnesota** ..... 651-221-9426  
 120 West Kellogg Blvd – Saint Paul, MN 55102 / groupsales@smm.org / www.smm.org

The Science Museum of Minnesota boasts a 100-year history of science fun and education, including cutting-edge technology, hands-on entertainment and interactive exhibits, perfect for all ages. Visit www.smm.org.

St. Croix Vineyards Stillwater ..... 651-430-3310

Stillwater Trolley Company Stillwater ..... 651-430-0352

► **Treasure Island Resort & Casino** ..... 888-867-STAY  
 5734 Sturgeon Lake Road – Welch, MN 55089 / www.treasureislandcasino.com

Offers groups some of the best gaming, accommodations, food service and nationally known entertainment in the casino industry. Featuring over 2,500 slots, 44 blackjack tables and a 550-seat high stakes bingo hall, all in a Caribbean themed casino.



Twin City Model Railroad Museum Saint Paul ..... 651-647-9628

Wabasha Street Caves ..... 651-292-1220
215 Wabasha Street South - Saint Paul, MN 55107 / www.wabashastreetcaves.com
Down In History has exciting historic tours done by costumed characters. Historic Walking Cave Tours in Saint Paul & Stillwater. Motorcoach Gangster Tours, Irish Tours, Tacky tours, Ghost & Graves Tours, & more. We make history fun!

Walker Art Center Minneapolis ..... 612-375-7600

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau ..... 952-858-8500
7900 International Drive, Suite 990 - Bloomington, MN 55425 ..... 800-346-4289
cvb@bloomingtonmn.org / www.bloomingtonmn.org
Just minutes to the Mpls/St Paul Int'l Airport, downtown Minneapolis and Saint Paul, scenic lakes, parks, hotels, shopping, restaurants, exciting attractions, casinos, and Mall of America. You'll love our ease of access, hospitality and friendly people. "The Third Twin City Awaits you."

Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce ..... 763-682-4902
9 Central Avenue - Buffalo, MN 55313
info@buffalochamber.org / www.buffalochamber.org
Buffalo offers an eclectic mix of cobblestone streets, antique stores, lakes and natural beauty. Nestled between the Twin Cities and St. Cloud. Buffalo gives visitors the opportunity to enjoy a day trip or a weekend getaway!

Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce ..... 651-439-4001
106 South Main St, PO Box 516 - Stillwater, MN 55082 / www.ilovestillwater.com
The Birthplace of Minnesota! Come explore the beautiful St. Croix Valley. Unique shops, galleries and fine restaurants dot our historic downtown.

Meet Minneapolis Official Convention + Visitors Association ..... 612-767-8114
250 Marquette Ave S Ste 1300 - Minneapolis, MN 55401 ..... 800-445-7412 ext. 8114
groups@minneapolis.org / www.minneapolis.org
One call does it all - we are the only CVB that represents the entire Minneapolis/Saint Paul/ Mall of America area. Free itinerary planning, sample itineraries, hotel searches and brochures for groups. Call today!

Roseville Visitors Association ..... 651-633-3002
2100 N Snelling Avenue, Suite 59 - Roseville, MN 55113 ..... 877-980-3002
cdonovan@visitroseville.com / www.visitroseville.com
Roseville is perfectly positioned to everything the Twin Cities has to offer. Just 10 minutes from downtown Saint Paul and Minneapolis, our hotels offer lower hotel tax and free motorcoach parking. Complimentary planning service and FREE roses for group tours.

Saint Paul Convention & Visitors Authority ..... 651-265-4906
175 West Kellogg Blvd, Suite 502 - Saint Paul, MN 55102 ..... 800-627-6101 ext. 4906
mhernandez@visitsaintpaul.com / www.visitsaintpaul.com/tourplan.cfm
A classic group tour destination. In addition to offering a variety of group-friendly activities, we also provide unparalleled service for tour operators and group leaders. Take advantage of our group services such as itinerary planning and meet and greet program that make booking Saint Paul a must!

Tour Minnesota Association (TMA) ..... 952-873-5554
150 Pioneer Trail, PO Box 114 - Chaska, MN 55318
elainembalk@aol.com / www.tourmn.org
Through meetings, events and newsletters, TMA increases awareness of tourism-related issues and trends. These resources help members provide better services, products and added value to tourists and travelers. Visit the TMA website for ideas, information, hot deals and itineraries.

ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER

Actors Theater of Minnesota Saint Paul ..... 651-227-2464

Celebration Church ..... 952-898-7200
16655 Kenyon Ave - Lakeville, MN 55044
Alan.M@CelebrationChurch.net / www.celebrationchurch.net
One of the season's best events! A country Christmas for the whole family (Branson-style musical variety show), with a cast of 60 and live band. Call Alan for details.

Chanhassen Dinner Theatres ..... 952-934-1547
501 West 78th Street - Chanhassen, MN 55317 ..... 800-355-6273
klarson@chanhassendt.com / www.chanhassendt.com

Since 1968 Chanhassen Dinner Theatres have been recognized for quality theatre entertainment and fine dining. The nation's largest professional dinner theatre is AAA Magazine recommended, "Any Twin Cities visit should include an evening at Chanhassen!"

Guthrie Theater Minneapolis ..... 877-225-6211

Minnesota Centennial Showboat Saint Paul ..... 612-625-4001

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts ..... 651-282-3111
345 Washington Street - Saint Paul, MN 55102 / www.Ordway.org
Overlooking Rice Park in downtown Saint Paul, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts best of Broadway and off-Broadway, as well as exceptional classical music, opera, & dance. Visit www.Ordway.org for a full calendar.

Plymouth Playhouse ..... 763-553-1600
2705 Annapolis Lane - Plymouth, MN 55119
groupst@plymouthplayhouse.com / www.plymouthplayhouse.com
Celebrating 31 years of hits, Plymouth Playhouse is best known for producing comedies. This intimate 211-seat theater is located in the Best Western Kelly Inn on the lower level. Church Basement Ladies now playing to sold out audiences.

The SHOUT! House Minneapolis ..... 612-337-6700

State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres ..... 612-373-5665
805 Hennepin Avenue - Minneapolis, MN 55402
groupsales@orpheum.com / www.HennepinTheatreDistrict.com
Located in the heart of the Hennepin Theatre district are the "entertainment gems of Hennepin Avenue." Renovated to their full grandeur, the Theatres present Broadway series, concerts and dance performances.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Festival of Nations Saint Paul ..... 651-647-0191

Minnesota Renaissance Festival ..... 952-445-7361
1244 S Canterbury Road Ste 306 - Shakopee, MN 55379 ..... 800-996-8215
info@renaissancefest.com / www.renaissancefest.com
Queen Margaret welcomes you to our 38th anniversary. Enjoy the group discount program for 15 or more, plus complimentary tickets for driver and coordinators. Weekends and Labor Day in August & September 2009.

RESTAURANTS

Anita's Café & Catering Saint Paul ..... 651-334-7119

Hard Rock Café Minneapolis ..... 952-285-7625

SHOPPING & ANTIQUING

Mall of America ..... 952-883-8843
60 East Broadway - Bloomington, MN 55425 ..... 800-879-3555
mphillipp@mallofamerica.com / www.mallofamerica.com
Mall of America is the largest shopping and entertainment complex in the nation, featuring 520 stores, 50 restaurants and attractions galore. Enjoy no sales tax on clothing and shoes. Valuable coupon books, Meet and Greet Service and other group travel services available.

Northland Visions - Native Art & Gifts of the Northlands Mpls. .... 612-872-0390

TOUR OPERATORS

Heartland Tours & Travel .. TC. 651-777-7170; Roch. 507-288-1330
1825 North Broadway - Rochester, MN 55906 ..... 800-368-4874
info@heartlandtoursandtravel.net / www.heartlandtoursandtravel.net
Our experienced staff can package a wide variety of 1-28 day tours to any destination. We can customize any tour to meet your needs. Call us today and let us plan "Escorted Tours You're Going to Love!"

MetroConnections, Inc Minneapolis ..... 800-747-8687

# Making the journey the destination upper midwest

The Grand Hotel, Grand Hotel, West Bend, IA



## International Peace Gardens - North Dakota & Manitoba

Groups from all over the world are discovering the magic of the International Peace Garden, “a great retreat, where nature and people meet.” Straddling the US-Canadian border between North Dakota and Manitoba, this 2,300-acre botanical wonder is dedicated to peace between the United States and Canada. The 120-foot - four pillared Peace Tower looms over the west hill terraced by waters as a reminder of just that. Interestingly, when viewed from another angle, say the Peace Chapel, viewers can easily distinguish the 4 pillars, which also represent peace in the four corners of the world. Groups will find inspiration and so much more as they enjoy the expansive park features, vistas, and floral displays. In addition to the scenic drive through gardens, woods, and numerous flowerbeds, a popular photo opportunity is found at the 18 ft. floral clock. You will also enjoy the concessions, souvenir shops, the Peace Poles (a gift from the Japanese Government with the words “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in 28 different languages) and a personal favorite, the Game Warden’s Museum. With so much to experience, your group can enjoy the Peace Garden as a one-day stop or a complete destination.

## other spas & retreats in the upper midwest

**Absolute Serenity Day Spa and Rejuvenation Center** Omaha, NE. From massage to facials, acupuncture to body wraps, this day spa offers all the services any small group needs to complete a day of relaxation and rest.

**Broom Tree Resort and Conference Center** Irene, SD Groups can partake in one of their silent retreats or rent out the facility for their own private retreat. The resort is located on 300 acres in eastern South Dakota, complete with accommodations and excellent cuisine options.

**The Dakota Getaway** Finley, ND A scrapbooking retreat & more. Offering 3,200 square feet of cozy living space, with fourteen 5-foot tables and cushioned office chairs. Perfect for groups up to 14. Located on a peaceful 23 acres where you can relax on their deck and enjoy the wildlife.

**Full Circle Retreat** Viroqua, WI This natural sanctuary is located on an open prairie next to a stream. They offer group retreats specializing in art, music, spiritual growth and relaxation. The small group cabin setting and outdoor labyrinth are especially unique.

**Kohler Water Spa** Kohler, WI This award-winning Spa is one like guests have rarely experienced. This relaxing co-ed spa is designed for the occasional nourishing treatment, or step into a robe and experience all-day immersion. Featuring a glass enclosed rooftop deck with whirlpool, fireplace and lounge.

**Lake Doniphan** Excelsior Springs, MO Thirty-five minutes from Kansas City, Lake Doniphan is nestled

on 300 acres of outdoor recreation space for swimming, boating, hiking, beach volleyball, golfing and more; while their conference areas are made to accommodate all group sizes.

**The Raj, Maharishi** Vedic City, IA Offering authentic ayurvedic treatments, cooking and yoga classes. Ayurveda is the world’s most ancient system of preventive health care. This multi-award-winning spa is truly an elegant experience designed to detoxify and offer customized plans to meet guest’s health needs. You’ll go home feeling renewed in body and spirit with benefits continuing to grow long after you’ve returned home.

**The Spa & Country Retreat at Hummingbird Hill** Astorville, Ontario. Fabulous gardens, relaxation and pampering make this an ideal place for a girl’s getaway or just a break from the everyday. Offering horseback riding, theater, dinner cruise, spa services and gourmet meals.

**Techny Towers Conference and Retreat Center** Techny, IL. A short drive from downtown Chicago, the Techny Towers, once an old seminary, this gorgeous architectural landmark now serves as a quiet retreat center for those searching for group retreat space.

**Two Spirits Retreat Bed & Breakfast** Thunder Bay, Canada. Renew your mind and spirit on this 30-acre nature retreat. Connect with nature as you walk through our beautiful hiking trails, meditate as you sit by McVickers Creek, share a picnic in the fields, watch the stars sitting by the campfire, or cross country ski in the breathtaking stillness of our winter trails.



## ITINERARIES *Midwest*

### upper midwest regions

CENTRAL CANADA, ILLINOIS, IOWA,  
MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA,  
SOUTH DAKOTA, WISCONSIN

### calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

#### central canada

- Nov 28-Jan 4 **Canada Inns Winter Wonderland**,  
Winnipeg 204-989-3456
- Dec 6 **Sarah Brightman**, Winnipeg 204-780-3333
- Feb 14-16 **Voyageur Winter Carnival**,  
Thunder Bay 807-473-2344

#### illinois

- Dec 5-7 **Annual Christmas Market**,  
Carlinville 217-854-3552
- Dec 6-7 **Olde Alton Arts & Crafts Fair**,  
Alton 618-259-5660

#### iowa

- Dec 4 **Winter Welcome**, Waterloo 319-234-6357
- Dec 5-6 **Pella Tour of Homes**, Pella 641-628-4311
- Feb 21 **“Color the Wind” Kite Festival**,  
Clear Lake 641-357-5516

#### missouri

- Dec 6-7 **25th Annual Cherokee Antique Row  
Cookie Spree**, St. Louis 314-678-0161
- Feb 6-7 **Schlafly Cod and Cask Festival**,  
St. Louis 314-241-2337

#### nebraska

- Dec 6 **Christmas on the Prairie**,  
Gering 308-436-4340
- Mar 21 **23rd Annual Irish Festival**,  
Stanton 402-439-5100

#### north dakota

- Nov 17-Dec 28 **Winter Quilt Show**,  
Washburn 877-462-8535
- Dec 5-6, 12-13 **Dickens Village Festival**,  
Garrison 800-799-4242
- Dec 13-20 **Santa Fly-In**,  
 Fargo Air Museum 701-293-8043
- Feb 8-9 **9th Annual Norski Days**,  
Ransom 701-975-4331

#### south dakota

- Jan 30-31 **Media One Funski Winter Carnival**,  
Sioux Falls 605-339-0000
- Mar 27-28 **Ladies Great Escape**,  
Oacoma 605-734-6376

#### wisconsin

- Jan 17-18 **Flake Out Festival**,  
Wisconsin Dells 800-223-3557
- Feb 7 **Blue Moon Ball**, Bayfield 800-447-4094
- Feb 19-22 **Beloit International Film Festival**,  
Beloit 608-313-1200



Making the journey the destination

# directory

## ACCOMMODATIONS

AmericInn of Kewanee Kewanee, IL.....	<b>800-634-3444</b>
AmericInn Lodge & Suites Lincoln, NE.....	<b>800-634-3444</b>
Best Western Ambassador Inn & Suites Wisconsin Dells, WI.....	<b>800-828-6888</b>
Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield, WI.....	<b>262-364-1010</b>
Wingate by Wyndham Cedar Falls, IA.....	<b>800-228-1000</b>

## ATTRACTIONS

▶ <b>Dakota Hills Winery</b> .....	<b>701-583-2202</b>
------------------------------------	---------------------

6041 40th Avenue NE – Knox, ND 58343 / [www.dakotahillswinery.com](http://www.dakotahillswinery.com)  
 Open year round. Free wine tasting and tours! Our wines are made from hand picked fruits. We also have a petting zoo, picnic area or bird watching! Located just off US Hwy 2.

▶ <b>International Peace Garden</b> .....	<b>701-263-4390</b>
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RR1 Box 116 – Dunseith, ND 58329 / [www.peacegarden.com](http://www.peacegarden.com)  
 This unique 2339-acre botanical garden is situated partially in North Dakota and in Manitoba!! Walk amidst terraced beds of 150,000 flowers, water features, Bell Tower, Peace Tower, 911 Memorial Site, Peace Chapel, Floral Clock, Game Warden Museum or go bird watching, camping, hiking or dining.

## CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

▶ <b>Rugby CVB</b> .....	<b>701-776-5846</b>
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224 Hwy 2 SW – Rugby, ND 58368 / [www.rugbynorthdakota.com](http://www.rugbynorthdakota.com)  
 Rugby has some great attractions to visit. You can visit historical sites that bring history to life, Victorian Dress Museum, Geographical Center of North America, Northern Light Tower, or Niewoehner Bell Tower. Make plans to stay in Rugby, North Dakota today!

## Visit North Dakota!

ND

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year.

### 10 – 12:00 pm

Arrive in **Rugby, North Dakota**, the geographical center of North America, and spend some time touring the town, including the **Prairie Village Museum**. The Museum and Historical Society display the fascinating history and beauty of “old North Dakota.” Walk along the wooden walkways and through fully furnished pioneer buildings displaying everything from classic cars, antique guns, Native American and Eskimo

artifacts, the hobo jungle and so much more.

### 12 – 1:00 pm

Have a little lunch at **Bob's Pizza Inn**. Don't let the name fool you; he has a full menu with something to please anyone's taste.

### 1 – 2:30 pm

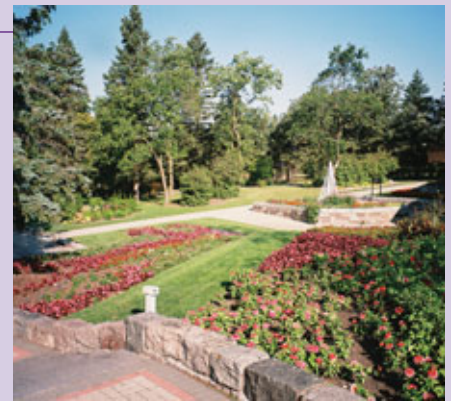
Head east to the community of **Knox, North Dakota** to the pleasant surroundings of the **Dakota Hills Winery**. Taste their delicious wine made from hand picked fruits, that make the difference in their handmade, carefully crafted wines, produced from the ground up. Located on a beautiful century old farmstead with a small pond, complete with a few animals and a pleasant host and hostess, they really mean it when they say, “You really are welcome here.”

### 2:30 – 3:30 pm

Ride up to a one of a kind place; The **International Peace Garden**.

### 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Devoted to world peace, and situated along the world's longest unfortified border of Canada and the United States. Boasting colorful displays of 150,000 flowers, splashing across the grounds terraced walkways. Hear the 14-bell chime echo in the distance as you ponder the beauty of the two floral displays of the American and Canadian Flags, the only two floral designs that remain the same each year. The 120-foot concrete Peace Tower, and the Peace Chapel can be seen at the



end of the formal garden. The Japanese Government presented seven Peace Poles in which the words “May Peace Prevail” are written in twenty-eight different languages. (Don't miss the floral clock – 18 feet in diameter!)

### 5:00 pm

Browse through your souvenirs and relax on the return trip to Rugby, where you will check into **The Econo Lodge** for the night and enjoy a wonderful dinner at the **Hub Restaurant** in their banquet room.

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or Rugby CVB 701-776-5846, Dakota Hills Winery 701-583-2202, or The International Peace Garden 701-263-4390.

Make Plans to Stay in  
**RUGBY**  
*North Dakota*

Geographical Center of North America  
 Northern Lights Tower and Interpretive Center Kiosk  
 Prairie Village Museum  
 Victorian Dress Museum  
 Niewoehner Bell Tower  
 Historic Pierce County Courthouse  
 Historic Amtrak Depot  
 Gateway to International Peace Garden  
 Dale and Martha Hawk Museum in Wolford  
 9-hole golf course, many beautiful parks,  
 3 hotels, restaurants for large groups,  
 shopping, and much, much more!

**(701)776-5846**  
[www.rugbynorthdakota.com](http://www.rugbynorthdakota.com)

*Dakota Hills Winery*  
**Open Year Round**

Free Wine Tasting & Tours  
 Individuals - Families - Groups - Clubs  
 Hand-Picked Fruit - Handmade Wines  
 Producing 30 North Dakota Wines  
[www.dakotahillswinery.com](http://www.dakotahillswinery.com) • 701-583-2202  
 4 miles south of Knox, ND just off of Hwy 2

*International Peace Garden*  
 “Like No Other Place on Earth”

A Unique 2,339 Acre Botanical Garden  
[www.peacegarden.com](http://www.peacegarden.com) • 888-432-6733  
 Fourteen Minutes North of Dunseith, North Dakota

# THE LUNDSTROM'S COUNTRY CHRISTMAS *Celebration*

**SOLD OUT**  
Over 10 Years  
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**TOP  
100  
EVENT**  
AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION

One of the BEST shows in the country.  
We look forward to returning year after year.  
This is a must see for any group! Gary Block Tours

**24 Exciting Shows**  
**Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – Dec 21<sup>st</sup>**

### 2008 SHOW TIMES

Fridays: 7:30pm  
Saturdays: 12, 3:30 & 7:30\*pm  
Sundays: 3:00 & 6:30pm

\*December only

*New  
This Year!* *The Johnson Family*



We are happy to announce The Johnson Family as our special guests this year!  
Their fresh family vocals and arrangements will inspire you greatly!

**877-444-2922**  
**CelebrationTickets.com**



# BEYOND THE CROSS

### 2009 PERFORMANCES

Saturday, April 4, 11 - 12 & 3:30pm  
Sunday, April 5 - 3:00pm  
Thursday, April 9 - 7:30pm  
Good Friday - 7:30pm

## THIS EASTER!

2,000 YEARS AGO  
one man altered the course of  
history. Join us this April for an  
incredible Easter experience,  
"Beyond the Cross."  
This dramatic musical hosted  
by Lowell Lundstrom has  
touched thousands.

Together, we will journey back in time when  
Jesus transformed the lives of ordinary people -  
one person, one miracle at a time...

Celebration  
CENTER

CALL **952.898.7200**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

On the web...  
**Beyondthecross.net**



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Accommodating groups  
for 10 to 2000 people



Home of  
Mall of America

1-866-435-7425  
[sales@bloomingtonmn.org](mailto:sales@bloomingtonmn.org)  
[bloomingtonmn.org](http://bloomingtonmn.org)

