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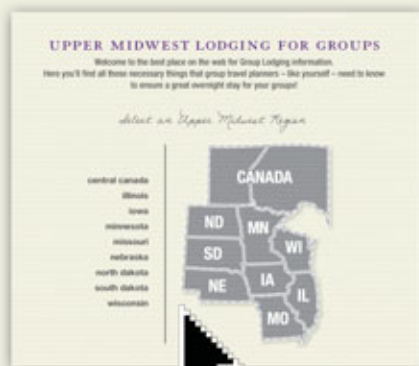
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BEST WESTERN WHITE BEAR COUNTRY INN

LETTER FROM
the publishers



Dear Reader,

Once again, we've learned new ways for boomer groups to have more exceptional travel experiences, and we'd like to share them with you. That means this is yet another eye-opening issue, this time regarding all the possibilities out there for **hands-on experiences** that include—but are not limited to—Segways and “Geocaching”.

Coming up with new and exciting ideas in order to plan interesting, intriguing tours always is a challenge. This issue, we examine how getting your group to roll up their sleeves, get off the bus and get involved can be fun and extraordinarily memorable.

We tackle some of the ideas a group will enjoy, such as making bread, cooking together, geocaching, even ballroom dancing. And don't forget quilting, painting, arts and crafts, learning and educational experiences, volunteerism or taking a segway tour.

Segwaying your way around the Twin Cities is a great way to get off the bus and see, smell, hear and be a part of, all of the sights. What a great way to keep group-members active! These two-wheelers are a delightful way to see a city (Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Door County, Kansas City, Chicago and many more around the world). You'd be surprised what a pleasant ride they offer, as you can see by this issue's cover photo.

Read the article on **Geocaching** (page 8-9) and you will find some unique ways to reward your group. Who wouldn't want to go on a hi-tech treasure hunt? Just think of all the possibilities!

We have some new things to look for in this issue as well.

Have you noticed we went to **perfect bound**? Perfect binding makes it easier for you to add *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine* to your bookshelf for easy reference.

Don't forget to remove the map and place it on your wall. It's another easy reference for planning your tours to Minnesota. The map is supplied to us by *Kings Highways* maps. Please visit their web site for more information and see their ad on page 15 so you can order your very own atlas.

In this issue we are pleased to introduce our new hotel resource website: www.grouplodgingmidwest.com (ad on page 3). When you are looking for those elusive “group-friendly” hotels, use this new website as your first resource. Since we know how important good business relationships are to everyone in the travel trade industry, we consulted with more than a dozen tour operators and bank club directors in order to get the best group lodging information for you to use.

Now look through this issue, and have an enjoyable time discovering new ways to get “hands-on” group travel experiences in the Upper Midwest. We are confident you'll find all manner of new ideas for exciting, memorable trips that include more “doing” than viewing.

Heather Labren and Mark Peterson

Co-Publishers, *ITINERARIES MINNESOTA Magazine*

Coming Winter/Spring 2008

Happy Sesquicentennial, Minnesota!



There's a birthday in the air (can you say ses-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uhl?) Next issue you'll find ideas for historic tours not only from Minnesota, but from cities, states and other Midwest areas that are rich in history. It just happens that one state has 150 candles to make the region shine even more brightly!

ITINERARIES *Minnesota.*

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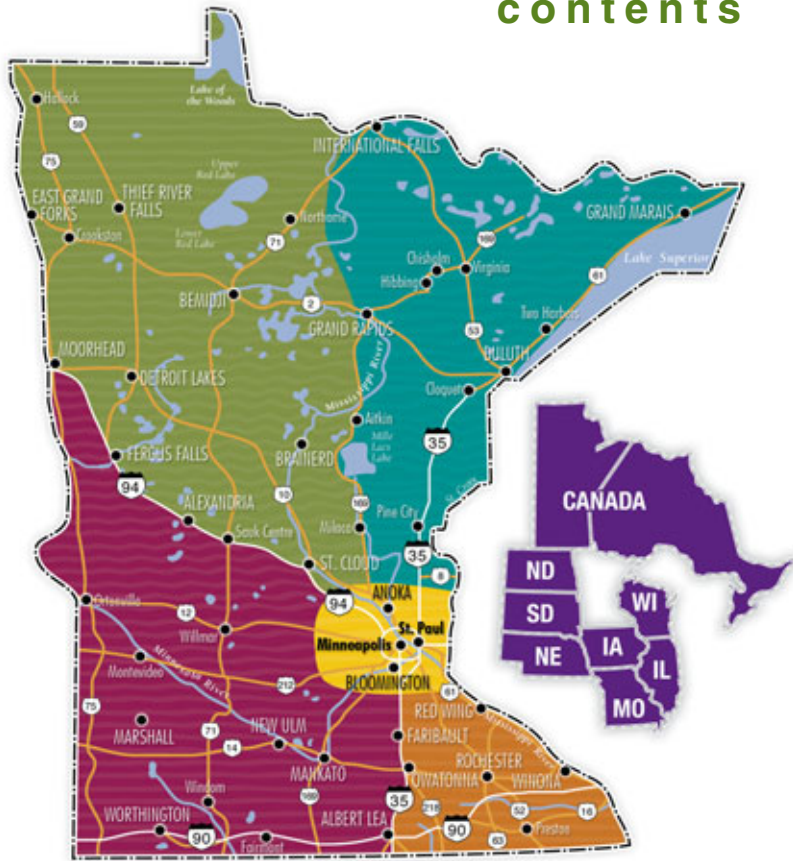
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MAKING THIS MAGAZINE WORK FOR YOU:

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.



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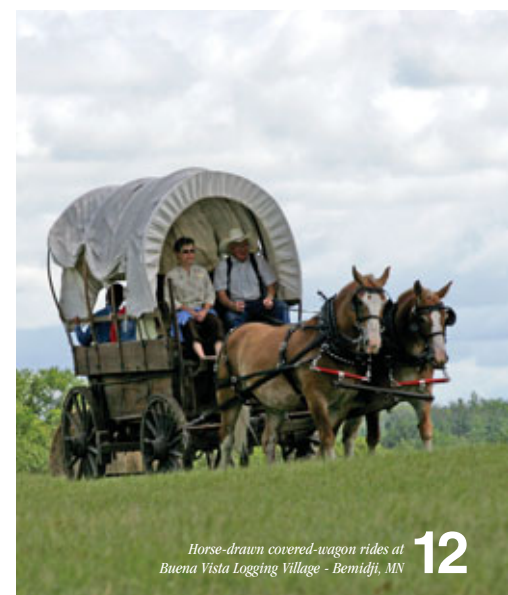
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Suggested itineraries, with map coordinates, which can be customized by your tour operator, or contact the person/organization below the itinerary.

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ITINERARIES *Midwest*



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photos provided by

Heather Lahren, Mark Peterson, Kathleen Somers, Susan Baugus, Afton House Inn, American Swedish Institute, Amethyst Mine Panorama, Biwabik, Bloomington CVB, Bois Forte Band Indian Heritage Center, Buena Vista Logging Village, Canterbury Park, Commonwealth Theatre, Dreamfields Riding Center, Fairmont CVB, Fergus Falls CVB, Festival du Voyageur, Forest History Center, Gammelgarden Museum, Grand Marais, International Peace Garden ND, Ironworld, Lanesboro CVB, Lynfred Winery, Marvin Windows MN, Medora ND, Milan Art School, Milwaukee Road Depot Ice Rink, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Mobile Entertainment, National Eagle Center, Nebraska City, Northfield Chamber, On-Deck Seminars & Charters, Science Museum of Minnesota, Sod House on the Prairie, SPAM® Museum, St. Cloud Area CVB, Stone Mill Suites, Superior Whitewater Raft Tours, Suzy & Hondo Dance Studio, Willmar CVB



on the cover

Get off the coach and onto a Segway!
This group was photographed during a 3-hour, 7-mile guided Minneapolis Segway Tour... what a wonderful summer day activity. Riding a Segway is almost easier than walking, especially when its under a glorious blue sky and you're in short sleeves!

Wabasha Street Caves

jump, jive n' wail...with a ghost or two

BY RICK PEARSON

Thursday night is “Swing Night” at the Wabasha Street Caves along the Mississippi River in downtown Saint Paul. It’s a jumpin’ evening of music and dance your tour members will love.

Nostalgia fills the air...and the ear. And, if you believe in time travel or something akin to it—or just plain old reminiscing—this is a place your group tour members will find the past alive and flourishing.

The big band plays rhythmic, high-energy, horn-led, woodwind-accented dance tunes, one after another. Standards like “*In the Mood*” and “*String of Pearls*” meld with big band versions of “*Cabaret*” and other more contemporary songs. Dancers whirl. Close your eyes just a bit. You’re at a USO Center... Or a Canteen... Or the famed Aragon Ballroom. You can almost hear a young girl asking a young man a long way from home, “Are you stationed here?”

And, yes, generally speaking, the crowd is younger. But don’t let that discourage you from bringing older tours. It’s a joy seeing how college kids have discovered the fun of Swing Dancing, many of them dressed in the style of the period. All of which is a tribute to the timelessness of that troubled but treasured time in America.

“It really got rolling seven or eight years ago,” says Donna Bremer, owner of the Wabasha Street Caves. “We’d been having Swing Night for a couple years, and then a Gap TV commercial with Swing Dancing got young people interested. A group of them started coming regularly. They called themselves the ‘Cave Cats’. They came dressed in 40s style and knew all the dance moves.”

Swing Night has been thriving ever since.

It isn’t just the music and dancing that make the Wabasha Street Caves appealing, though. Built into limestone caves carved out by early settlers first to store Civil War supplies and later to grow mushrooms commercially, the facility meanders through nooks and crannies in the side of the cliffs. High, arching stucco ceilings are the most notable feature, and the 60-foot bar is a standout, too.

The exterior features a formidable lighted castle façade rising against the cliff. Originally opening in 1933 as the Castle Royal, it was a rambunctious and romantic depression-era joint, billed as the “World’s Finest Underground Night Club.”

During the 30’s Saint Paul was a gangster haven. The attitude of authorities was if they didn’t make trouble they were welcome to stay,

so the likes of Ma Barker and John Dillinger were frequent visitors to Castle Royal. Supposedly, one night in 1934 three gangsters were gunned down at dinner. A bullet hole in the marble fireplace from that hoodlum shootout still remains.

In the years before and during World War II, the Dorsey Brothers, Harry James, Cab Calloway, Glenn Miller and other legends played at Castle Royal as part of their Midwest tour.

In the decades since its night-club heyday, the Caves also had brief reincarnations as a teen center and a pizza place. Bremer and her husband bought the facility 15 years ago to renovate as offices for their construction firm, but then decided it also was ideally suited to be an event center (as opposed to a full-time night club). So it now regularly hosts private functions such as corporate affairs, class reunions and weddings, with Thursday Swing Night the only regular time it’s open to the general public.

Four different bands rotate Thursday performances: **Moonlight Serenaders, Minnesota Jazz Orchestra, Beasley’s Big Band and Swingbeat**. If a month includes a fifth Thursday, the **Red Rock Big Band** performs.

And then there are the numerous ghost stories. Yes, there are. Unnerving tales of spectral presences wandering the catacombs have been told for years. Many, many times visitors have heard strange sounds when no one was there. The Caves are, in fact, one of Saint Paul’s most notable haunted places. So beware.

Tour Groups are always welcome. Just call to plan things in advance. Most times, groups come for a complete package: Tour, dance lessons and Swing Night. The cave tour begins at 5 p.m., with dance lessons at 6:15 and live music from 7 to 10 p.m. That’s priced at \$10 per person. For Swing Night dancing only, the cost is \$6 each. Also, be advised the Wabasha Street Caves is a beverage-only facility. Food service is not available, so be sure your group eats beforehand.

A cave tour, dance lesson, music, memories, jumping and jiving in a unique atmosphere...even ghosts, perhaps? What better way for your group to spend a Thursday evening.

Oh, another thing to be sure your tour members understand: No matter what their age...No aerials or lifts on the dance floor.

Sorry about that. 🖐️

**The Wabasha Street Caves. 215 Wabasha Street South, Saint Paul, MN 55107.
Contact Donna Bremer, 651-224-1191, www.wabashastreetcaves.com**



Defeat of Jesse James Days ----->

september 3-7, 2008 – Northfield, Minnesota

One of ABA's Top 100 North American Events for 2008. Get Yer Guns, Boys! They're Robbin' the Bank! On September 7, 1876, outlaw Jesse James rode in to Northfield and was determined to rob the bank. Little did he know the infamous Jesse James would soon meet his match. Shots were fired and men died. Northfielders Joseph Lee Heywood and Nicolaus Gustavson gave their lives in the struggle, but Northfield had triumphed. The bank was safe, and Northfield was the last stop for the James-Younger Gang. Find food, fun, culture, entertainment, a grand parade, and endless craft booths. The Defeat of Jesse James Day Celebration is one of Minnesota's most popular celebrations! (Photo credit: Bridgette Hallcock)

507-645-9268 | info@djjd.org | www.djjd.org



CANADA

Festival du Voyageur ----->

february 15-24, 2008 – Winnipeg, Manitoba

One of ABA's Top 100 North American Events for 2008. Welcoming more than 80,000 visitors every year, Festival du Voyageur. This festival highlights Canada's fur trade era and the joie de vivre of the voyageurs. Experience wonderful shows, delicious traditional dishes and numerous exhibits at Saint-Boniface, the historic French quarter of Winnipeg. Activities abound at Fort Gibraltar, a reconstruction of the original fort that was at the centre of fur trading and the main site of the festival. This unique event displays the beauty of winter through its numerous historical activities. (Photo credit: Festival du Voyageur)

204-237-7692 | info@festivalvoyageur.mb.ca | www.festivalvoyageur.mb.ca



NE

The 136th ANNUAL ARBOR Day CELEBRATION ----->

april 25-27, 2008 – Nebraska City, Nebraska

One of ABA's Top 100 North American Events for 2008. As the home of Arbor Day, Nebraska City takes the celebration of this annual "tree-mendous" holiday very seriously. Not just one day, but an entire three-day weekend is devoted to the tree-planting event. Activities include hayrack rides, fine art show and sale, 5-k run, and best of all, the Arbor Day plant sales. Arbor Day Farm is also a big hit this weekend. Don't miss touring the Arbor Lodge State Historical Park, with its 52-room mansion of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day. See more than 200 varieties of lilacs, an Italian terraced garden, a whispering bench, and a walking trail lined with trees planted by the Morton family. (Photo Credit: Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce)

402-873-3000 | 800-514-9113 | tourism@nebraskacity.com | www.nebraskacity.com



ND

Medora Musical ----->

may 30 - august 31, 2008 – Medora, North Dakota

One of ABA's Top 100 North American Events for 2008. The Medora Musical is a two-hour professionally-produced musical variety show performed in the outdoor Burning Hills Amphitheatre located in the heart of the North Dakota Badlands. It's wholesome, friendly entertainment with a mix of modern country, western, gospel and patriotic music. Singing, dancing and a live band (and live horses) fill the stage with widely-known, popular variety acts. Get a special "behind the scenes" tour, too! With a complimentary Medora tour and reception, Historic Medora is a magnificent itinerary stop for any of your tours, no matter the direction you are heading! (Photo Credit: North Dakota Tourism/Jason Lindsey)

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GEOCACHING

GPS Technology Updates Traditional 'Scavenger Hunt'

BY KATHLEEN SOMERS

Remember how much fun it used to be to get a box of cracker jacks and find the prize? Well, baby, we've come a long way. Geocaching (pronounced geo-cashing), the hot new tourism tool, combines modern technology with outdoor exploration to explode that cracker jack fun in a sort of scavenger hunt way. With so much buzz about this sport (or is it a game?) it's catching on in a big way. Enthusiasts use computers, global positioning systems (GPS) and outdoor exploration to uncover small McDonald-like trinkets, coins, or pins. Seriously! So you may have realized it's not the sticker or small plastic toy that is creating so much excitement. "Geocaching attracts people because it gets them into some of the neatest sights in America" says John Fylpaa, a MN DNR employee who has been introducing young and old alike into the use of the GPS unit through the wonders of geocaching.

Once you do it, chances are you get hooked, and can't wait to do it again. Perhaps that accounts for the rapid growth in popularity of this wholesome outdoor activity. Relatively new, geocaching started (somewhat accidentally) back in 2000 when the government unscrambled signals and made GPS receivers more usable to non-military persons. To test the precision of his own GPS receiver, Dave Ulmer, a computer consultant, hid a target in the woods and posted it on the internet. The idea was simple and remains the backbone of geocaching today: Hide a container and note the coordinates with a GPS unit. Using only those coordinates and a GPS receiver, the finder locates the container. Simple rule: "Take some stuff, leave some stuff."

Within days the idea caught on and today there are about half a million caches hidden worldwide. They're everywhere. Boy Scout troops found the idea very attractive. A combination of technology and outdoors made it a natural. But the appeal was just gearing up. Before long, boys, girls, young, old, tots to grandparents and singles to groups, all were discovering the insatiable fun of geocaching. Caches are so prevalent, you most likely have passed one or more and simply didn't realize.

There's A New Niche in Town

So how does all this apply to the group tourism market? Geocaching has developed thus far through the application of creative minds. It seems to have only one limit. Geocaching must be done outside, as the GPS unit is tied to satellites and won't work indoors. Other



Geocaching at the Forest History Center

than that, play with it and discover how the idea can work best for you and your groups. Keep in mind there are some innately attractive aspects to geocaching. For instance, people are leaving their TV's, computers and doldrums behind in favor of the great outdoors. All that walking, wandering and discovering has led at least one enthusiast to lose so much weight his fellow geocachers failed to recognize him after some months. Now I can't promise anyone will lose weight from geocaching, but it IS good exercise, and so much fun you are likely to not even realize just how much exercise you are getting.

But the real key is that geocaching brings you to places you might not ever get to see otherwise. "Geocaching is really about being outdoors," says Fylpaa. "Most cachers get excited about exploring the more remote areas; places someone else has gone and enjoyed and now wants to encourage others to experience as well." For instance, Casey Weismantel of the Aberdeen, South Dakota CVB has figured out a way to showcase some of the area's interesting, yet off the beaten path attractions to motorcoaches through geocaching. With a variety of options, Weismantel can easily tailor the hunt to a group's size, interest, and time frame. An example might be a Red Hat Group could meet at the CVB for some pre cache instructions. They might subdivide the group into smaller sections. Like a treasure hunt, people are led from one place to another (multi-cache) picking up clues along the way till finally uncovering the cache. Typically you will find a logbook and pencil inside along with some sort of trinket offering. Cachers can take something and leave something behind, or just say thanks and take nothing. For our Red Hat example, Weismantel suggests a red-hat pin or maybe a purple feather. Another idea would be a pin with the city's logo on it or collectable coin to commemorate the trip.

The Days of the Compass are Out the Window!

Since a GPS receiver is an essential tool in this activity, you will want to be clear in advance who is to provide the GPS units. Experienced cachers will likely have their own, but beginners will need to rent or borrow. Increasingly more and more geocaching destinations are

looking into, like Aberdeen, the purchase of many GPS units as more DMOs are realizing some staggering benefits to adding geocaching to a destination. Just as tour operators are noticing more and more laptop computers riding those motorcoaches, soon they will realize more people won't leave home without their GPS's. As Weismantel says "In this day and age, if they don't have a GPS unit by now, they really should. I wouldn't want to travel a long distance without one."

Searching for Fun

Geocaching is never used for profit. But it can be a great tool for educating. One example is the United Nations has planted 20,000 tags (like dog tags, engraved with a goal) in geocaches all over the world in hopes of spreading awareness about Diabetes. Along the same lines as education is team building. When used with groups, geocaching lends itself perfectly to team building events. Another good deed performed through geocaching is CITO, **Cache In Trash Out**. Not only does CITO work well with groups, it appeals to the visited communities as well. The idea is to remove trash along the geocache hunt. Ask the CVB you plan to visit if this is something they would be willing to work with you on. But don't lose sight of the fun!

Repeatedly cachers report "it's the thrill of the hunt" that has them craving more and still more. Logbooks reveal cachers coming from great distances and foreign countries. While they may not come for the sole purpose of geocaching, I have heard of some who do. Either way, it is an emerging activity not to be overlooked for the motorcoach business.

It is a great way to get riders off the bus and moving about. When done in groups, there is an element of competition that adds to the fun. Being the first one in your group to spy the hidden "treasure" is particularly satisfying.

Always keep in mind the age, interest and physical abilities of your group. And remember geocaching appeals to all ages and can be adapted for various abilities, including wheelchairs. Most hunts are rated, from easy to difficult. This refers to how hard the stash is to find as well as the type of terrain you will be exploring. Consult www.geocaching.com. This web site is a complete resource for all your geocaching needs (and questions) and is



a must for getting started.

Multiple searches can be woven into most stops or through the entire trip. If you are not up to planning a custom hunt, you can find suitable geocache searches in many parks and public areas. Never hunt on private land without permission, especially if you are bringing a group. And never assume geocaching is permitted in state and local parks, although that would be your best bet. More and more parks are embracing geocaching as a "...way to get people to discover the parks and landmarks in their community" says Fylpaa.

As part of its Sesquicentennial celebration, Minnesota State Parks, in conjunction with the Historical Society is offering a statewide geocache challenge for 2008. To highlight historical aspects of the park system and encourage more meaningful insights into history, geocaching is the perfect vehicle. Arik Spencer, recreation manager for North Dakota's park system, invites groups to test their cache seeking skills in 7 of the states most picturesque parks. Allen Waterman, president of the Iowa Geocachers Organization reminds us how valuable it is to pair experienced geocachers with newbies. Most popular tourist stops will have a variety of geocache options. It's not unheard of for a given area to have 50 to 100 geocaches. Tour operators should look for that sort of spread when planning stops. Waterman says, "With a couple weeks notice, most local geocachers might be willing to put on a geocache event to subsidize with the tour."

Communities, Park Systems and special interest groups are all realizing the advantage of offering geocache activities as a way of attracting groups and highlighting their interesting or special areas. As interest in the activity skyrockets, groups are finding ways of adding their own spin or unique signature to what seems destined to become a staple in tourism. Do you have your GPS unit yet? 🖐️

The Power of Co-operating

BY KATHLEEN SOMERS & TERRY SVEINE

My first trip to Walt Disney World was not my last. Nor was it my best. Just like reading a book a second or third time can often yield new and better experiences, sometimes the best idea is to plan your prepackaged tours to include the tried and true...with a twist. You may think you know a location, or maybe you have taken a group to a particular destination previously. Been there done that? May I respectfully suggest a step back and look at such places with new eyes.

Terry Sveine, C.V.B. Manager for the New Ulm Chamber, shares the following story:

At a recent Itineraries Minnesota trade show in Des Moines, I was visiting with a couple who lead bank group tours from a small town in northwest Iowa. They were interested in my booth and, as we visited, it became clear they liked what I was showing them.

However, they said it was too far to come from Hospers, Iowa to New Ulm, Minnesota for one of their typical day-trips.

Not wanting to lose their business, I said, "then you need to stay overnight!" They were concerned that there would not be enough to do in our town for two days, although I endeavored to show them that there was plenty to do for two days.

Their concern was a typical tour operator's concern that many of us DMOs need to be aware of – selling the tour operator is only half the battle! We need to realize that they have the challenge of selling your itinerary proposal –as good as it may be– to people who can't meet with you and see first-hand what you're offering.

Back to our couple...I quickly showed them the "Hub and Spoke" booklet I developed a few years ago. This 12-page brochure is a good selling tool that incorporates attractions within a 40-mile radius of New Ulm and includes attractions, touring opportunities and meal stops in small towns that would typically not be known to many tour operators.

Seeing the potential that our well-known "German town" offered, coupled with the uniqueness of a Norwegian village, a gorgeous church with an excellent guide, a hands-on visit to a stained glass shop, seeing an alpaca farm where you feed the animals, and an authentic sod house portraying life on the prairie, all worked together to "seal the deal." We put together an itinerary that fit their needs so well that not only did this itinerary sell out with 53 people on the first tour, they also sold out a second tour of the exact same itinerary with 54 people!

We all want those kinds of results... sold out tours. Does that mean everyone has to go to New Ulm? Hardly. But there is a lesson to be learned here. Sveine suggests communities and DMO's work together because he has experienced first hand the benefits of doing so.

And he'd like you to reap those same benefits.

There is a clear economic impact to participating towns when working together. Smart communities know this and will "jump to" when tour leaders are dangling a fully loaded



motorcoach in front of them. But there's a great benefit for tour planners also. Sveine writes: "One element of attractiveness for operators to this tour is that I do all of the bookings for them. In fact, in the "Hub and Spoke" brochure, mine is the only contact the tour operator sees. Our neighbors realize that our CVB has a budget to attend trade shows and do other marketing that they can't. The neighboring attractions then work with me to develop itineraries and timing elements, and they are eager to service the groups we send them. It is a very solid relationship that works well for everyone involved."

When you are looking for that interesting twist that will help sell your tour, consider what the whole area has to offer. Get your map out and look to see what exists in that 40-mile radius. Often close-by towns have something unique, special and/or amazing. Most CVBs and Chambers will work with you to design a broader more "hub and spoke" style visit as long as they can see the benefit. Don't be afraid to take charge and insist.

Sometimes an area has already figured out the advantages of co-operating for the motorcoach business. Redwing, Wabasha, Winona and Lanesboro combined to offer Southern Comfort. Owatonna, Faribault and Northfield cooperate to showcase their area, and Hutchinson works well with surrounding communities to promote their area. Wine trails are another example of cooperative marketing. But if it's not already there, create it! Planners can take the lead, and have a great deal of fun in the process. I challenge you to pick up the phone and create your own hub and spoke experience. 🖐️

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BY LINDA LINCOLN &
SHAWN SWEENEY

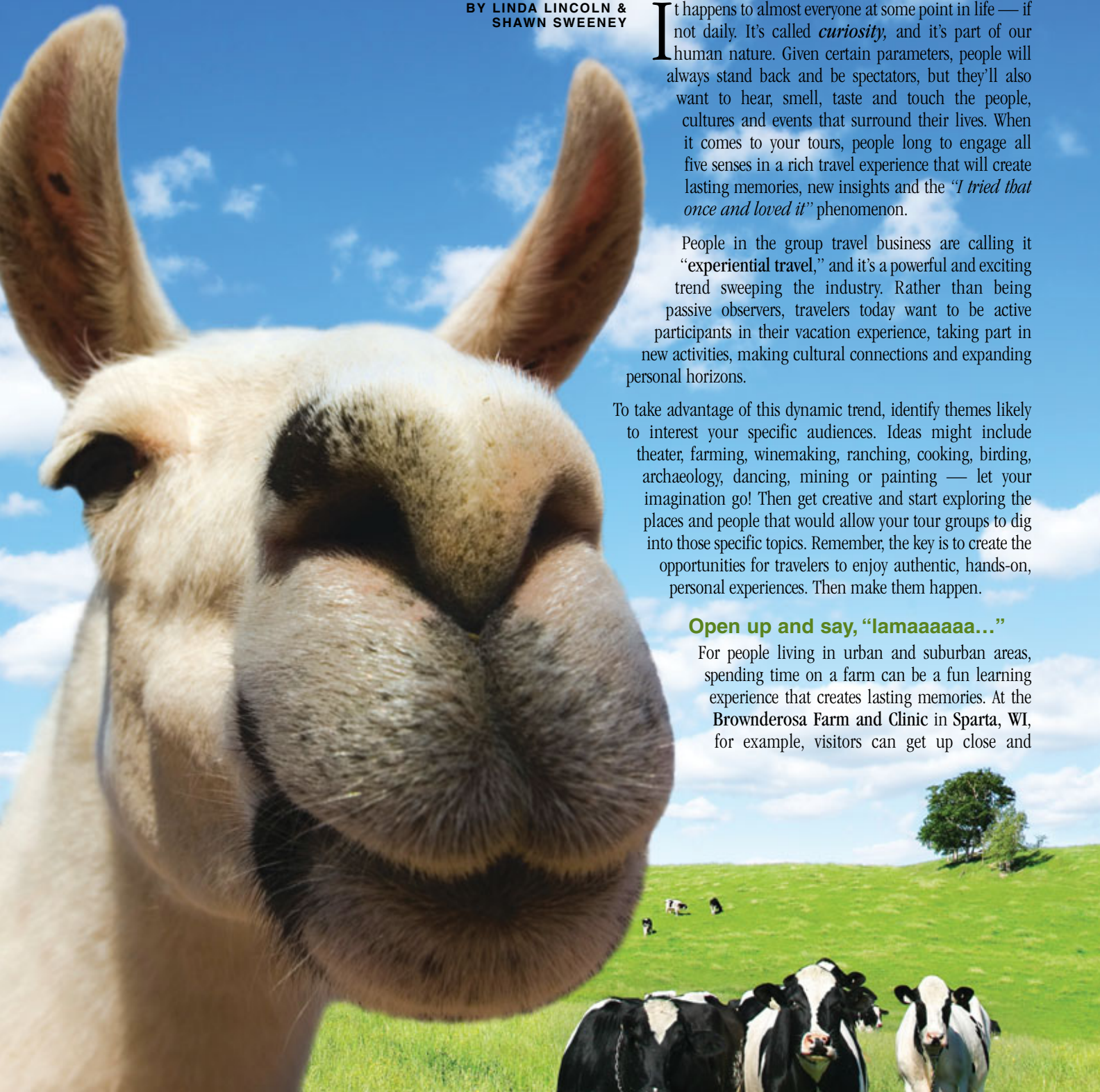
It happens to almost everyone at some point in life — if not daily. It's called *curiosity*, and it's part of our human nature. Given certain parameters, people will always stand back and be spectators, but they'll also want to hear, smell, taste and touch the people, cultures and events that surround their lives. When it comes to your tours, people long to engage all five senses in a rich travel experience that will create lasting memories, new insights and the “*I tried that once and loved it*” phenomenon.

People in the group travel business are calling it “**experiential travel**,” and it's a powerful and exciting trend sweeping the industry. Rather than being passive observers, travelers today want to be active participants in their vacation experience, taking part in new activities, making cultural connections and expanding personal horizons.

To take advantage of this dynamic trend, identify themes likely to interest your specific audiences. Ideas might include theater, farming, winemaking, ranching, cooking, birding, archaeology, dancing, mining or painting — let your imagination go! Then get creative and start exploring the places and people that would allow your tour groups to dig into those specific topics. Remember, the key is to create the opportunities for travelers to enjoy authentic, hands-on, personal experiences. Then make them happen.

Open up and say, “**lmaaaaaa...**”

For people living in urban and suburban areas, spending time on a farm can be a fun learning experience that creates lasting memories. At the **Brownderosa Farm and Clinic in Sparta, WI**, for example, visitors can get up close and



“I’d love to try that someday.”

personal with the llamas, taking them through an obstacle course and then learning about animal care at the on-site veterinary clinic.

Dairy farming is another great hands-on option, literally. At the 120-acre **Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center** near **Waseca, MN**, you can milk cows and then churn your own butter.

And don’t forget about all the produce grown here in the Midwest. In **Warrens, WI**, you can visit a former cranberry-sorting warehouse and learn about how cranberries go from the bogs to your holiday table.

Pull a wine and beer “license to cultivate customers.”

Vineyard and brewery tours are another popular option. At the **Falconer Vineyards** in **Red Wing, MN**, visitors can sample a variety of fine wines and learn about the wine making process. At **Great River Vineyard** in **Lake City, MN**, you can pick your own wine grapes (they’re actually quite sweet to the taste) and take seminars to learn how to grow them yourself.

Let’s talk beer. At the **Vine Park Brewery** in **Saint Paul**, tour groups can visit and actually brew their own beer. A *Vine Park Brew Coach* will help group members brew their recipe of choice, blending the ingredients in the coveted brew kettles. After two weeks of fermenting and aging, the beer will be ready for another two-hour session of bottling and labeling. If a pair of trips to Vine Park is prohibitive, the tour can be adjusted so your group can brew and bottle two different batches in the same trip.

A whole new world to learn and live by.

Cultural institutions also offer a wealth of exciting learning opportunities. At the new **Guthrie Theater** on the **Minneapolis** riverfront, you can go on a backstage tour, attend a production workshop or take a dance or acting class, such as *“Intro to Stage Combat,”* an extremely hands-on approach to stage fights.

Cooking classes are another popular option on an experiential tour itinerary. Cooking instructors are often happy to create a suitable menu for your group, or you could choose from their own creative selections. At **Let’s Cook** in **Minneapolis**, groups can sign up for classes including *Birthday Bash for Elvis*, *Susbi 101* and *NASCAR Appetizer Party* (use



Hands-on Tourism: Experience & Learn

Archeology Dig, Art Classes, Ballroom Dancing, Batting Cages, Behind the Scenes, Belly Dancing, Biking, Boating, Bumper Cars, Butterfly Gardens, Challenge Rope Courses, Charity Work, Climbing, Contests and Competitions, Costuming Tours, Craft Fairs, Create Your Own Ice Cream Flavor, Culinary Classes, Ethnic Dancing, Farm Tours – Milking a Goat, Festivals, Fish feeding at a hatchery, Gardening Classes, Geocaching, Guided Fishing Trips, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Ice Fishing, Industrial Tours, Interactive Museum Tours, Interactive Theater, Knitting, Make Chocolate, Maple Syruping, Mining for Gold or Amethyst, Motorcycle Rentals, Native American Food Classes, Nature Science Classes, Paint Your Own Pottery, Photography, Quilting, Remote-Control Car Racing, Rock Climbing, Sailing Lessons, Scrapbooking, Segway Tours, Shopping, Soap Carving, Skydiving, Snorkeling & Scuba Diving, Spas & Salons, Spelunking, Team Building, Trail Rides, Volountouring, Walking Tours, Women’s Retreats, Waterparks, Wine-making Classes

your imagination or find out for yourselves).

Many travelers enjoy learning about a specific region through its arts and crafts. Visitors can discover much about the people and culture of the **North Shore of Lake Superior**. School your group with classes at the **North House Folk School** in **Grand Marais, MN**. The school offers many courses on producing local crafts, including constructing birch-bark

canoes, making moose-hide mukluks and knitting Scandinavian mittens.

Or maybe your group would like to explore a specific industry or career choice. For a truly in-depth look at mining, visit the **Soudan Underground Mine** on **Minnesota’s Iron Range**. There you can strap on a hard hat and descend 2,341 feet into the earth in an iron cage. When you reach the bottom, you’ll transfer to a rail car for a ride into the mine, where you’ll learn about iron mining in Minnesota. After the mine tour, be sure to visit the **Soudan Underground Laboratory**, where scientists from around the world are currently studying such phenomena as Dark Matter, neutrino beams and WIMPs (Weakly Interacting Massive Particles). Bring plenty of handy wipes!

Green: Sustain our environment. Retain your clients.

Green Tours, an emerging travel trend, mirror the eco-tourism model by adopting responsible travel habits to protect and preserve natural resources. More than 16,000 attended the **Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair** in **Custer, WI**. Attendees engaged in children’s activities, live entertainment and a camping “village” while learning more about renewable energy and sustainable living. Green tours may incorporate trips to wind farms, organic grocers or dining at a restaurant that purchases locally grown produce. The **Austin, Minnesota’s CVB** features a tour of an ethanol farm in **Claremont**, and can arrange for you to step inside one of the **McNeilus** wind turbines.

Nature and wildlife take a front seat for green tours. Among the newest opportunities in Minnesota are the **National Eagle Center (NEC)** in **Wabasha** and the **North American Bear Center** in **Ely**. Teambuilding activities, such as ropes courses and geocaching are becoming mainstream outdoor activities across the Midwest (more about geocaching in this issue’s profile).

Roll up your sleeves and GO!

Your customers aren’t just hopping aboard to see things pass by. They want to be up close to see, smell and hear how it’s been done for hundreds of years, taste something a world away — and hopefully touch the next person they tell about your tour company. 🙌

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A Five-Day Sample Itinerary for Group Tours



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- 1- International Peace Garden**
www.peacegarden.com 888-432-6733
- 2- Sky Dancers Hotel & Casino**
www.skydancercasino.com . . . 866-BIG-WINS
- 3- Langdon Chamber of Commerce**
www.cityoflangdon.com 701-256-3079
- 4-6 Lake of the Woods Tourism**
www.lakeofthewoodsmn.com . . 800-382-3474
- 7- Rainy Lake, International Falls
& Ranier Area Chamber of Commerce**
www.rainylake.org 800-325-5766

DAY ONE

INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDENS – NORTH DAKOTA/CANADA

9 – 11:00 am

Nestled on the U.S. and Canadian borders of **North Dakota** and **Manitoba** lies the one-of-a-kind **International Peace Garden**. Since 1932 the familiar strains of *Westminster Chimes* can be heard reverberating off the bell tower every fifteen minutes as visitors embrace the beauty of the garden and the pride of the American and Canadian Flags; the



only two floral designs that remain constant each year. There are over 2,300 acres of colorful floral displays showcasing over 150,000 flowers. Recently added is the **9/11 Memorial**, a floral display that stands outlined with steel girders from the remains of the New York World Trade Center.



11 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch in a glass-enclosed building overlooking **Lake Stormon**. Food choices range from sandwiches and soups to assorted quiches and lasagna.

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Located in the heart of the **International Peace Gardens** is the **Game Warden Museum**, constructed to educate and honor the work of our Game Wardens, who work every day to preserve and protect our natural resources.

3:30 pm

Head East on Hwy 5 to **Belcourt, North Dakota**.

4 – 6:00 pm

Check into the **Sky Dancers Hotel & Casino**. Enjoy a cocktail in the lounge or rest in your room.

6 – 8:00 pm

At the **Chippewa Trails Restaurant** you can enjoy different buffet themes daily! With prices that can't be beat, you won't be disappointed!

DAY TWO

LANGDON, ND

9 – 10:00 am

Head about 70 miles east to Langdon, North Dakota.

10:30 – 3:30 pm

What could be more hands-on than baking? Spend the afternoon baking loaves of bread from freshly ground wheat while learning about the importance of quality natural ingredients. Your group will enjoy this customized hands-on experience...lunch is included. Located only 22 miles from Langdon on a farm.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Take the short drive to **North Dakota State University's Langdon Research Extension Center**. The Center is an agriculturally-based experiment station where your group will ride in "people carriers" to visit research plots. They are experimenting with new varieties of crops distributed throughout the world. Did you know that a vast majority of french fries processed worldwide originated from this research station?

5 – 7:00 pm

Dinner in Langdon before you head 130 miles east to **Roseau, Minnesota**.

9:30 pm

Arrive in Roseau where you will be guests at the **Americinn Lodge and Suites**. This Northwoods hotel will provide you with the amenities you want most, starting with quiet rooms. Perhaps you'd like to unwind in their pool or whirlpool before turning in.

DAY THREE

ROSEAU, MN

8 – 9:00 am

Begin your day with a complimentary enhanced continental breakfast.

9 – 10:00 am

Head over to the world famous **Polaris Plant**; the birthplace of the snowmobile. Be sure to ask about all of the fascinating stories that go along with its conception, such as the use of a grain elevator conveyor belt for the track and pieces of a Chevy bumper for skis, and where that original machine ended up.

10 – 12:00 pm

Located behind the Polaris plant is the **Experience Center**. The newest attraction in this community known for snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and hockey isn't a museum. Instead, the 5,600-square-foot Polaris Experience Center is a self-guided tour, through the history of a company that's been an integral part of life here for more than 50 years. The Experience Center weaves product displays with lifelike exhibits, enlarged photographs, and interactive video presentations – including a miniature theater with DVD Surround Sound – all telling the Polaris story.

12 – 1:30 pm

Have lunch in the building at **Branigan's Restaurant** and check out **Pam's Pantry**, a gift and gourmet shop specializing in unique items specific to Minnesota.

1:30 – 4:00 pm

Take the short drive to **Warroad** and tour **William S. Marvin Training and Visitor Center** to learn the history of **Marvin Windows and Doors** and literally



experience the window manufacturing process. Located on Highway 11 west, the 6,000 square foot Visitor Center allows guests to discover the rich history, innovations and commitment to excellence of Marvin Windows and Doors. The exhibits include a combination of artifacts and interactive presentations that will impress visitors of all ages.

4 – 6:00 pm

Check into your hotel. Warroad has many accommodation choices for your group. Take a look at one of the many resorts in the area that would really give your group the up-north experience. Whether your group dines on their own, or at a local diner or supper club, Warroad has many choices for groups.

**DAY FOUR
WARROAD, MN**

7 – 9:00 am

Enjoy a local breakfast that is sure to stick to your ribs!

9 – 10:30 am

Tour of the outdoor wood-burning stove manufacturer plant of **Heatmor, Inc.**, which has been manufacturing outdoor furnaces since 1984. Tours are available Monday through Friday. Call ahead for an appointment.

10:30 – 1:00 pm

Nature viewing from the **Point Park's** observation tower will give your group the opportunity for bird-watching as the park is the first stop on the **Pine-to-Prairie Birding Trail**. See the open water of



beautiful **Lake of the Woods**. A sandy bottom and beach style edges allows for your group to get their feet wet. Have your lunch catered in so your group can enjoy the outdoors.

1 – 2:00 pm

BAUDETTE, MN

Highway 11 from Warroad to **Baudette** is officially recognized as a **MN State Wildflower Route**. As you tour there's lots to do and lots to see. Near **Williams**, the **Orchid Capital of the Nation**, you can observe up to 20 varieties of wild orchids from late May through early August. You're sure to see Minnesota's state flower, the pink and white Showy Lady Slipper, growing wild in large numbers in June along the highway.

2 – 6:00 pm

Known as the Walleye capital of the world, stop in



Baudette and get your photo taken with '**Willie the Walleye**', a 40-foot long two-ton lunger that stands guard overlooking **Baudette Bay**. Head over to **Sportsman's Lodge** north of Baudette on **Rainy River**. Your group will spend the afternoon out on the **Leonard-C**, a 42-foot cruise boat. It's a comfortable way to see the sights of the renowned Rainy River, which at this point makes up the U.S.-Canadian border. Enjoy a real shore lunch (fish fry).

6 – 7:00 pm

Continue your day with a drive along the scenic byway called **Waters of the Dancing Sky** to **International Falls**. The beauty of this entire area offers lodging for a variety of groups – from staying at a resort, a cottage, a houseboat or in a hotel, this is an experience in itself! This spectacular part of God's country offers a variety of services, guide services and, of course, hot fishing trips! Each can be customized for your groups needs.

DAY FIVE

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN

7 – 8:00 am

This part of the trip has adventure written all over it. So be sure to enjoy a hearty breakfast...Minnesota-style.

8 – 10:00 am

Boise Paper Solutions Mill Tours and **Woodland Tours**. See the second largest and fastest paper-making machinery in the world at the Boise Paper Solutions Mill, located on Second Street in International Falls. *Touring America Magazine* lists this as one of the top 18 plant tours in America. Tours run June through August, Monday through Friday. Be sure to call ahead for groups.

10 – 6:00 pm

Boreal Explorations EcoAdventures offers life-enhancing adventures and provide the ultimate in

silent sports tours. Through kayaking, sailing, wildlife viewing, skiing, snowshoeing and more, in half to multi-day tour packages, Boreal defies traditional tourism boundaries to take you on adventures of explorations on **Rainy Lake** and **Voyageurs National Park**. Guided trips can be customized to meet the abilities, needs, and interests of all types of visitors. Trips may be tailored toward high endurance wilderness expeditions for those interested in extreme adventure travel, or two-hour relaxing, scenic picnic forays.

(BONUS: If you find yourself with extra time, check out the **HISTORIC GOLD MINES!** Gold fever hit Rainy Lake in the late 1800s, and the National Park Service interprets that sparkle in our history. Visit Bushyhead Island or Little American Island by cruise boat or private vessel. Call (218) 286-5258 for the latest schedules and fees.

6 – 7:00 pm

Head back to your room to freshen up before dinner.

7 – 9:00 pm

Choose from one of the area restaurants offering deck dining with a beautiful view of **Rainy Lake**. And with luck, you can marvel at nature's own light show – the **Aurora Borealis**, aka the *Northern Lights*. Up here, north of the 48th parallel, any clear evening can produce an unforgettable display. 🌌

Thank you for bringing your groups to the upper Midwest. This sample itinerary contains many ideas you can customize into a fascinating tour or package for your own group(s). For assistance in customizing your travel itinerary, or to answer your questions about regional destinations, contact **Heartland Tours & Travel in the Twin Cities (MN)** at 651-777-7170.

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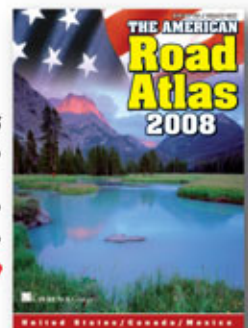
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calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

december

- Nov 29 - **St. Olaf Christmas Festival**, Northfield 507-786-2222
- Dec 2
- Nov 29 - **Ye Olde Fashioned Christmas**, Dec 2 Plainview 507-534-2229
- 1 **Historic Holiday House Tour**, Owatonna 507-451-1420
- 1 **Holiday Lighted Parade**, Winona 507-452-3722
- 6 **Winter Walk**, Northfield 507-645-5604
- 8 **Dicken's Festival**, Lanesboro 800-944-2670
- 8-9 **Bluff and Valley Hot Air Balloon Rally**, Caledonia 507-725-3450
- 29 **Rubber Soul-A Tribute to the Beatles**, Austin 507-437-4563

january

- 19 **Candlelight Ski**, Preston 888-845-2100
- 24-27 **Frozen River Film Festival**, Winona 507-459-8090

february

- 8-17 **Winterfest 2008**, St. Peter 507-934-3400
- 22-23 **Arts Alive!**, Red Wing 651-388-8700
- 22-23 **Grumpy Old Men Festival**, Wabasha 651-565-4158
- 22-24 & Mar 29-31 **Lanesboro FEED MILL Quilt Retreat**, Lanesboro 866-897-8663
- 29-Mar 2 **International Festival of Owls**, Houston 507-896-4668

march

- 3 **Minnesota Storytelling Festival**, Austin 507-437-4563
- 7-9 **Soar with the Eagles 2008**, Wabasha 651-565-4989



SPAM Museum - Austin, MN

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Austin, Minnesota

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other hands-on tours in southeast minnesota

Cornucopia Art Center Lanesboro
Providing art experiences for visitors of all ages, including classes & art workshops, visual art exhibits, often meeting the artists onsite.

Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center Lanesboro
Challenge yourself atop their high ropes course or explore 11 miles of trails. They also host overnight indoor and outdoor learning experiences.

Jay C Hormel Nature Center Austin
See and feel different furs, antlers, bones and fungi in living displays. Naturalist staff members can give programs that include wildflower hikes, cider pressing, maple syruping, and even astronomy. Fun hint: Learn to walk and talk like a snipe!

L.A.R.K. Toys Kellogg
Ride on a one-of-a-kind hand carved carousel of 19 exquisite carousel animals! Afterwards, take a toy tour and enjoy ice cream!

National Eagle Center Wabasha
New interpretive facility that offers a unique hands-on experience to have a nose-to-beak experience with three resident bald eagles.

Niagara Cave Harmony
After your tour you may want to try your luck mining for real gemstones and genuine fossils. Or get married in the underground chapel by the underground waterfalls!

On-Deck Seminars & Charters Pepin, WI
Take an intro to sailing course and keep your life on an even keel. Sail beautiful Lake Pepin where water-skiing was created!

The Outlaw Trail Tour Northfield
Retrace the route the James-Younger Gang took as they stormed and stole through the Northfield area in 1876.

Owatonna Arts Center Owatonna
Visit a wonderful sculpture garden and attend a Raku Workshop to learn the ancient Japanese method of Raku, the firing process for the Japanese tea ceremony.

Quarry Hill Nature Center Rochester
Offering classes on feeding of animals in their live animal displays, tours of Quarry Hill Cave, nature hikes, and more.

Red Wing Pottery Red Wing
Interact with potters as they wheel-throw and decorate pottery. All of their pots are hand-turned by skilled production potters, so your group can experience how pottery was originally made.

Rockie Hill Bison Farm Winona
Take a guided, customized wagon tour amongst the farm's buffalo herd from May - October.

Slim's Woodshed & Museum Harmony
Slim is happy to share his carving expertise and show his treasures with your group.

Welch Village Welch
In the winter groups of 15 or more receive special rates and discounts, and downhill ski lessons before hitting the slopes. Or in the summer spend time canoeing, tubing or kayaking on the scenic Cannon River.

Winona County Historical Society Winona
Take tours and see programs about this rivertown's colorful history. Enjoy the displays about Native American life, area caves, logging, pioneer life, and the river's steamboats.



Three Cities, Two Days, One Memorable Tour

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find Northfield J-17, Faribault J-17 and Owatonna J-18 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota*.

DAY ONE

9 – 10:00 am

Start your day in **Northfield** with a hearty southern Minnesota breakfast.

10 – 11:30 am

Enjoy a stroll along the **Cannon River** and take in the incredible view of the river and falls in the downtown historic district of **Northfield**. Enjoy the charming historic buildings that have been imaginatively adapted for today's businesses.

11:30 – 12:30 pm

A relaxing lunch awaits you at several restaurants, some with delightful patios and deck dining with great views and soothing breezes.

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Visit the **Northfield Historic Society Museum**, the restored bank the **James-Younger Gang** attempted to rob, or explore the **Outlaw Trail and Historic Site Tour**.

2 – 4:00 pm

Shop Northfield's fabulous stores and galleries for special bargains.

4 – 4:30 pm

Take a quick, 20-minute ride south to **Faribault**.

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Enjoy a late afternoon stroll while taking the **Guided Historic Site Tour** in the city that has more buildings on the National Historic Register than any other greater Minnesota city.

6 – 7:30 pm

Order a bountiful dinner from one of many local restaurants calling the Historic downtown their home.

7:30 – 9:30 pm

Enjoy the casual nightlife, take in a play at the newly restored **Paradise Center Theater** or stroll by the river.

DAY TWO

9 – 11:30 am

Visit the **Rice County Historical Museum** and the **Alexander Faribault House**, or enjoy the famous **Faribault Woolen Mills Factory** and its **retail store**.

11:30 – 12:00 pm

Venture south again for another quick drive to **Owatonna**.

12 – 1:00 pm

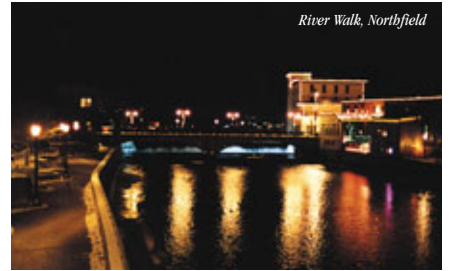
Plan a bountiful lunch at either the **Cabela's** area offering of restaurants on I-35 just north of Owatonna, or come into our quaint, historic downtown for several more restaurant choices.

1 – 3:00 pm

Shop at either Cabela's or **Preferred Outlets** or at several unique **downtown specialty shops**.

3 – 5:00 pm

Plan to visit any one of several significant historic sites,



River Walk, Northfield

including the famous **Louis H. Sullivan Bank** building (Frank Lloyd Wright's mentor) with its stunning Prairie School architecture. Then stroll our **Central Park** and enjoy the **bandstand** and **water fountain**. Visit the **Village of Yesteryear** or the **State Orphanage**.

5:00 pm

Decide to stay another day and retrace your steps because **Owatonna**, **Faribault** and **Northfield** each offer so much more to experience!

Three communities have come together to work with your tour groups. We will develop a customized two- or three-day itinerary based on the interests of your group. Contact:

Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce, CVB Division, 800-658-2548, www.visitingnorthfield.com
 Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, 800-658-2354, www.faribaultmn.org
 Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, 800-423-6466, www.owatonna.org



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Unique Communities Highlight

BLUFF COUNTRY



The scenery of Historic Bluff Country provides a beautiful backdrop for a diverse collection of activities. Rivers and creeks wind through heavily wooded hillsides and rocky bluffs, and productive farm fields contribute to the extraordinary vistas. The eastern border of the region is the magnificent Mississippi River, a resource for fishing, boating, historical research and legends, nature studies and scenic drives.

Towns on the river and inland are noted for their 19th century architecture, antiques, unique shops, art galleries, artisans, theater and food. The countryside provides excellent fishing, hunting, canoeing or kayaking, birding, snowmobiling, horseback riding, motorcycling and other outdoor activities. More than 60 miles of hard-surfaced trails are open to bikers and hikers on the Root River and Harmony-Preston State Bicycle Trails. Cave tours provide unique possibilities for underground exploration.

Tours of the Amish community showcase their skills, crafts, culture and religious beliefs. Lodging facilities range from rustic to elegant, with campgrounds, state parks, motels, bed and breakfasts, whole-house rentals, and historic inns. Some facilities even accommodate horses.

Winding but well-maintained roads invite visitors to enjoy beautiful Historic Bluff Country, which includes the southeastern Minnesota communities of Brownsville, Caledonia, Canton, Chatfield, Dexter, Eitzen, Fountain, Grand Meadow, Harmony, Hokah, Houston, La Crescent, Lanesboro, Mabel, Peterson, Preston, Rushford, Spring Grove, Spring Valley, Whalan and Wykoff.

Contact the Southeastern Minnesota Historic Bluff Country Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau for a sample itinerary. From observing to hands on, we've got a trip just right for you. Call 800-428-2030 or visit us online at www.bluffcountry.com.

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Spas, SPAM and Candles - Variety in Austin

This sample itinerary can be customized for any time of the year. You'll find it at coordinates J-19 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

8 - 9:00 am

Start your day off right with a scrumptious breakfast at one of Austin's newest dining establishments, the **Savory Skillet**, where you will be treated to a homemade cinnamon roll the size of a platter.

9 - 10:00 am

Your first excursion will take you to the **Pajolo Alpaca Farm**, where you'll see dozens of these gentle animals that supply the most luxurious fiber ever. You'll be captivated by the big brown eyes and lovable dispositions of these alpaca, which are native to Chile, Peru and Bolivia. Touch and feel them, and take home a sweater, blanket, socks or toy made from their cuddly fiber.

10 - 11:30 am

You'll next visit the **SPAM® Museum** for some interactive fun. See how many "pretend" cans of SPAM® you can pack in a minute. There are videos, games and displays to enjoy while learning the history of the Hormel Company and its impact on Austin.

11:30 - 1:00 pm

Lunch will take you to **Piggy Blues BBQ** for the best chicken, pork or turkey you've had in ages. While

there, you'll also visit **Piggy Market** for some fun gift items to take home with you. Listen to jazz music and see all the antiques lining the walls of the restaurant.

1 - 6:30 pm

The afternoon includes a pampering spa session, where you can select the service of your choice at the **Golden Tress Salon & Day Spa**. The Spa is well known for its customer satisfaction: enjoy a glass of wine with your pedicure, manicure, facial or massage. Once you're relaxed, you'll ride the bus a short way down the road to the **Eclectic Candle Factory**. There you will learn how to make all natural wax candles, and your own bar of natural glycerin soap to take home. While waiting for your bar of soap & candle to cool, tour the factory and enjoy a cup of coffee, tea and treats.

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Dinner tonight will be at the **Old Mill Restaurant**, where you'll enjoy excellent food and Austin's most scenic, relaxing and historic setting. The Old Mill is the place to go to create a memorable occasion for your group.

8:00 pm

Your group will end its touring day at the **Sola Fide Observatory**, a program of the **Jay C. Hormel Nature Center**. Under the direction of a specialist, you'll get to view the night sky and find numerous stars and constellations...before calling it a day at one of



Austin's seven welcoming hotels.

"Tour planning made easy" is the goal of the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Austin CVB is a full service tour booking organization, "the one-stop-shop" for the city of Austin. One simple call to the Austin CVB is all it takes to book your next unique mystery, day or overnight trip. We will handle all of the bookings and reservations needed for your group to all attractions and restaurants in and around Austin. Hotel reservations must be made directly with each hotel. One check written to the Austin CVB takes care of your payment needs for the day. The Austin CVB is structured to make your days in SPAM TOWN USA memorable, fun and easy for all involved, including you, the group tour planner.

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

*SPAM® - and fun times - are made here...
so are great memories!*

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Austin

MINNESOTA



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. Currently undergoing 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

104 11th Avenue NW, Suite D - Austin, Minnesota 55912

800-444-5713 • 507-437-4563 • www.austincvb.com • visitor@austinnm.com



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WATKINS...from Winona to the World

For almost 140 years, Watkins Incorporated has been a pioneer in natural personal care. Founded in 1868 as the J.R. Watkins Medical Company, Watkins specialized in home remedies using natural botanicals—like camphor, menthol and herbs—to help people feel better and live healthy lives.

Company founder J.R. Watkins traveled the world searching for the finest natural herbs and extracts to formulate his remedies. During his travels, he realized the pure and rich spices from far away lands should be shared with his customers to use in their pantry, thus beginning Watkins long history as the spice company.

To this day, Watkins adheres strictly to the same quality standards set by J.R. Watkins. From natural-



based apothecary—blending the best of nature and today's modern science—to gourmet and organic spices and extracts to natural home care solutions, Watkins continues to provide products that are good for the earth, good for others and good for you.

Nestled in beautiful downtown Winona, The Watkins Museum & Store is an interesting journey into the history of the company and the families that have kept it thriving. The corporate headquarters—an excellent example of the Prairie School of architecture—is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Take a tour of that administration building, and browse the cases filled with antique products. Phone 507-457-6095 for more information and to make your arrangements.



Sail PEPIN

Sail Pepin with On-Deck Seminars & Charters. You will learn underway on beautiful Lake Pepin aboard the sailing sloop *Messenger* out of Pepin, Wisconsin. Catch a brisk afternoon breeze, or glide through the quiet elegance of a Lake Pepin evening...the voyage is yours. Stop at one of the beaches and shore-side picnic facilities for a late lunch.

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- ▶ **AmericInn of Austin** **507-437-7337**
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 Conveniently located off Interstate 90 at 4th street exit we offer rooms with two queen beds. Also a variety of others; fireplace conversation area, indoor pool area and complimentary enhanced continental breakfast.
- AmericInn Lodge & Suites Faribault** **507-334-9464**
- ▶ **AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Wabasha** **651-565-5366**
 150 Commerce Drive – Wabasha, MN 55981 / americinnw@hotmail.com / www.americinn.com
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- AmericInn Motel & Suites Austin** **507-437-7337**
- AmericInn of Kasson** Kasson **507-634-3444**
- AmericInn of Owatonna** Owatonna **507-455-1142**
- ▶ **St. James Hotel** **651-385-5541**
 406 Main Street – Red Wing, MN 55066 / www.st-james-hotel.com
 Experience the charm of historic Red Wing with the classic elegance of the St. James Hotel. Choose from 61 enchanting Victorian guestrooms, each named after a 19th century riverboat, & four distinct dining options.

ATTRACTIONS

- ▶ **Falconer Vineyards** **651-388-8849**
 3572 Old Tyler Rd – Red Wing, MN 55066
 From wine tastings to strolling the vineyard, there's a lot to do. Visit in the fall and see the harvest fruit picked and crushed by volunteers. Bring a picnic lunch and sit overlooking the bluffs, or enjoy the Music in the Vines Concert series, featuring local and national touring artists.
- Historic Forestville** Preston **507-765-2785**
- ▶ **On-Deck Seminars & Charters** **715-442-4424**
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- Orphanage Museum** Owatonna **800-423-6466**
- Village of Yesteryear** Owatonna **507-451-1420**
- ▶ **Watkins, Incorporated** **507-457-6095**
 150 Liberty Street – Winona, MN 55987 / www.JRWatkins.com
 Connecting generations since 1868, Watkins offers natural products for your pantry, bath and home. Visit the Watkins Museum & Store for a journey into Watkins' past and tour the beautiful administration building, part of the National Register of Historic Places.
- Winona County Historical Society** Winona **507-454-2723**

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

- ▶ **Austin CVB** **507-437-4563**
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- ▶ **Faribault Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau** **507-334-4381**
 530 Wilson Avenue – Faribault, MN 55021 **800-658-2354**
 chamber@faribaultmn.org / www.visitfaribault.com
 Faribault is located south of the Twin Cities along the Cannon River Valley corridor only 25 minutes on Hwy 35W. Whether you stay for a day or overnight, you'll be surprised by the choices in Faribault.
- ▶ **Historic Bluff Country** **800-428-2030**
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- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce** **507-645-5604**
 205 3rd Street West Suite A – Northfield, MN 55057 **800-658-2548**
 info@northfieldchamber.com / www.visitingnorthfield.com
 Enjoy the beauty and hospitality of this charming historic river city that offers guided tours, entertainment, shopping, dining, lodging, meeting and event accommodations, recreation, culture and history. Only 25 miles from Twin Cities.
- ▶ **Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce** **507-451-7970**
 320 Hoffman Drive – Owatonna, MN 55060 **800-423-6466**
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New National Eagle Center OPENS IN WABASHA

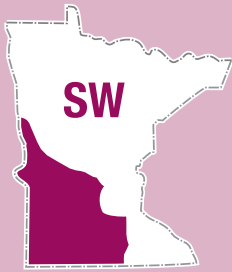


Don't miss the chance for an unforgettable experience of standing in the presence of a Bald Eagle at the newly opened National Eagle Center in Wabasha. These amazing birds will take your breath away. The Bald Eagle has been our national bird, and a national symbol since 1782, when the U.S. national seal was created. Only recently has the Bald Eagle been removed from the endangered species list, an amazing rally from a time when fewer than 500 nesting pairs remained in the lower 48 states. Now these birds are thriving.

More than 10,000 nesting pairs are living in every state except Hawaii. With more than 1,300 pairs, Minnesota

has the largest such population. The Mississippi River at Wabasha has long been a favorite wintering area for hundreds of them, as well as home to countless year-round resident eagles. Wabasha is just a short drive from the Twin Cities, Rochester, Winona, Lacrosse and Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The Center's river deck is available 24/7 for eagle observation, with Center doors open daily from 10 am to 5 pm. You'll meet live, educational eagles in a cage-free viewing area, ask the staff questions, witness an eagle feeding program, and take all the photos you like.

For more information contact The National Eagle Center, 651-565-4989.



sw mn cities

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calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

december

- Nov 30-2 **Winterfest**, Luverne 507-283-4061
 1 **Christmas in the Village**, Montevideo 320-269-7636
 1 **Morgan Creek Vineyard Holiday**, New Ulm 507-947-3547
 6 **Mistletoe Madness**, Morton 507-697-6912
 6-7 **Christmas at Pioneer Village**, Worthington 800-279-2919
 6-9, 13-16 **How to Talk Minnesotan** & 19-21 (The Winter Version), Willmar 320-235-9500
 8 **Tour of Homes**, Lake Benton 507-368-4541

january

- 25-Feb 3 **St. James Winter Carnival**, St. James 507-375-3333
 26-27 **Winterfest**, Spicer 320-796-8066
 26-Feb 3 **Ole and Lena Days**, Granite Falls 320-564-4039
 31-Feb 9 **"She Loves Me,"** Albert Lea 507-377-4371

february

- 1-3, 7-10 **Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival**, & 16-17 Waseca 507-835-7711
 2 **Bock Fest**, New Ulm 507-354-5528
 7-10 **Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival**, Waseca 507-835-7711
 8-17 **Winterfest 2008**, Walnut Grove 800-473-3404
 15 **Fairmont Fruitcake Follies**, Fairmont 507-235-5547
 22-23 & 29-Feb 1 **"Flaming Idiots,"** Montgomery 952-758-5534

march

- 8 **Wanda Gag Birthday Party**, New Ulm 507-359-2632
 17 **St. Patrick's Day Parade**, Pipestone 507-825-3316
 28 **Minnesota Ballet Performance**, Windom 507-831-2752

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Native Prairies southwestern minnesota



Earlbrise Pottery Class - Milan Art School



Painting Class - Milan Art School

Milan Art School

Prairie Waters

A special arts school known for quality learning experiences in loom-weaving, fabric-dyeing and culinary cooking, the Milan Village Arts School was founded in 1988 as a non-profit, member-supported organization dedicated to promoting the arts. An old schoolhouse was moved to downtown Milan that became the school's classroom. Each year, the school hosts a diverse range of classes, reflecting the rich heritage of arts within the community. Classes that are typically taught each year include: Linoleum Block Cutting and Printing, Drawing, Norwegian Knife Making, Watercolor for children and adults, Bentwood Tine, Basketmaking, African Drumming, Soapmaking, Puppetmaking, Rosemaling Design and Painting, Silversmithing/Jewelry making, Chip Carving, Blacksmith Art, Welding, and Acanthus Wood Carving.

other hands-on tours in southwest minnesota

All Natural Fiber Farm Montevideo

Try your hand at spinning and weaving. Learn how to take fiber from animals and turn it into yarn. Spinning wheels, accessories, fiber and products are available for sale.

Donna's Delights Montevideo

Learn how to knit, enjoy yarns and beads, learn something new...great for groups!

Eclectic Candles Albert Lea

A soy candle factory outlet with soaps and lotions where your group can learn how to make things ranging from all-natural wax candles to glycerin soap.

FairRidge Bike Trail Fairfax

This popular paved trail is custom-made for biking, in-line skating, and walking. At the trail head there is a beautiful park, picnic tables and the Railroad Depot Museum.

J&L Bison Ranch Willmar

View the bison in their natural habitat (May through October). See the new bison "babies" when they are still small. Shoppers will love the gift shop and bison meat!

Minnesota's Machinery Museum Hanley Falls

More than 6 acres of 1900's farm life with an authentic farm home, general store, vintage automobiles and farm equipment in mint condition. Rural artwork is displayed throughout.

Shetek Environmental Learning Center Slayton

Year-round nature programs for hands-on environmental learning about wildlife, lakes and rivers, plant life and even outdoor skills.

Sleepy Eye Stained Glass Sleepy Eye

Admire all the stained glass on-site while enjoying a class in creating a stained glass product (all levels welcome).

Sod Houses on the Prairie Sanborn

Step into the days of Laura Ingalls...light an oil lamp, fetch water, sweep the floor and take a prairie sod house tour you'll never forget.



Sod Houses on the Prairie



Morton Mistletoe Madness & Cash!

This sample itinerary is best December 6-7, 2007. You'll find it at coordinates F-17 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

Thursday – December 6, 2007

4 – 5:00 pm

Check into **Jackpot Junction Casino** in Morton, MN, before you join in the **Mistletoe Madness**. Contact Group Sales before you arrive to receive an all-inclusive package with attractive customer incentives, **NEW** lower Sioux Lodge Rates and more.

5 – 7:00 pm

Mistletoe Madness's **NEW** feature is a "pre-holiday pampering" for the ladies. Pampering services available include massages, waxing, and many others.

7 – Midnight

Join the small town friendly holiday cheer, shopping,

holiday treats and music – just what might be needed to begin your holiday season! The best part is all stores will be open till **MIDNIGHT**, the perfect amount of time to get all of your holiday shopping done. Take a break from shopping and walk or drive around and enjoy the holiday lights.

DAY TWO

Friday – December 7, 2007

9 – 10:00 am

Enjoy breakfast at **The Carousel Buffet in Jackpot Junction Casino**. Themed as a county fair with divided areas such as the Midway, 4-H booth, and picnic area,

this place is sure to bring out the kid in all of us.

10 – 12:00 pm

Enjoy a game of Bingo, in the "Most Comfortable Bingo Hall in Minnesota", according to the readers of *Midwest Gaming & Travel Magazine*. Or play at one of numerous video slots or gaming tables Jackpot Junction Casino has to offer.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group contact your tour operator or Morton City Hall/Chamber, 507-697-6912 or Jackpot Junction Casino, 800-946-0077.

FAIRMONT Glows



We invite groups of any size and nature to help us celebrate during "Fairmont Glows". From November 16 through January 1, 2007 our beautiful City of *Lakes* transforms into the City of *Lights* during the holiday season. The festival begins with the Glows Parade Friday, November 16 at 6 p.m. with more than 60 parade units displaying thousands of lights, plus creative floats...and the official arrival of Santa Claus. If you cannot make it for the parade, visit Ward and Lincoln Parks anytime to view the "Glows" lighting celebration, do some shopping, or inquire about a variety of other popular holiday activities. For example, throughout the city, many homes and businesses also are lighted and decorated for the season. So come join us. A visit to "Fairmont Glows" will create many memories – some call it a tradition. For more information contact the Fairmont CVB, 800-657-3280.

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Fall Into Fairmont

Historic buildings, shows at the Opera House, leaf peeping along the bike trails...fall into Fairmont, Minnesota. For more

information, call 1-800-657-3280 or visit www.fairmontcvb.com.



Willmar: Boat and Tractor Museums, Theater and Art

This itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates F-14 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

12 – 1:30 pm

Roll into Willmar and enjoy lunch at one of our many fine restaurants. From soups and salads to hearty fare, we have a restaurant to fit any taste and any appetite.

1:30 – 4:00 pm

Take a step back in time as you tour **The Mikkelson Collection**, the world's largest and finest from Larson Boat Works, featuring the famous Falls Flyers. The exhibit is adorned with every imaginable type of boating memorabilia.

4 – 5:00 pm

Time to check in to your lodgings. Tonight you'll be a guest at the **Holiday Inn**, a full-service hotel with lounge and restaurant. Unpack, freshen up, and get ready to enjoy the evening's activities.

5 – 7:30 pm

Dinner and theater, what a lovely combination. Enjoy dinner at **Blue Heron on the Green**. From surf & turf, to burgers and ice cold beer, your group will be sure to enjoy, but don't get too comfortable, it's show time!

7:30 – 10:00 pm

The show changes throughout the year, but no

matter what the production, you're in for a treat. **The Barn Theater** is a renowned community theater group with a pool of talented and committed volunteers that rival most professional companies. So sit back and enjoy.

DAY TWO

8 – 9:00 am

Breakfast at your hotel, a satisfying continental breakfast available to all hotel guests.

9 – 11:00 am

Make an appointment with **The Schwanke Museum**. You'll be amazed at this 45-year collection of vintage



tractors, trucks and other farm vehicles. Truly a pleasure for the young, the young at heart and anyone who enjoys just a little bit of history.

11 – 1:00 pm

Experience beautiful works of art at **Buffalo Fish**

Fine Art, a gallery featuring the exceptional work of



Minnesota's own artists. This modern gallery with its urban feel will make you feel welcome upon entering. It's the perfect place to find that original gift for someone special (or maybe a treat for yourself?).

1 – 2:30 pm

Swing in to the **Green Mill** for a delicious lunch. Offering everything from salads, sandwiches, pasta, and their famous pizzas, not to mention homemade soups! Yum!

2:30 – 4:30 pm

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

For more information and to customize this tour for your group, contact your tour operator or the Willmar CVB, 320-231-0280.

Big HonzaLand Tours in the Heart of Czech Country

This itinerary is best October – April. You'll find it at coordinates I-17 on your 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Your tour begins at historic **Hilltop Hall**, a magnificently restored turn-of-the-century Concert Hall, where you

will enjoy a mouth-watering Czech heritage meal of pork & dumplings or soup & salad at this historic place. Following lunch you will be treated to a variety show highlighting superb local talent. Depending upon performers' availability, the show can include original and familiar music, storytelling and a family of string players.

1 – 2:00 pm

Tour **Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History**.

Discover a place filled with unnatural attractions to tickle your funny bone. After enjoying colorful Honzonian artifacts, the next stop is Big Honza's Place. The element of humor continues in this quaint restaurant...even the restroom is a one-of-a-kind sight. Your personal guide for the museum and restaurant portion of the tour will be Dr. Monty Gomery, Ph.D. (Promulgator of Honzonian Data), a distinguished graduate of ISU (Imaginary State University).

2 – 4:00 pm

Time and weather permitting, stroll Main Street and visit other specialty/gift shops, the studio of world-famous wood carving artist Marvin Kaisersatt, or the old-time bakery.

4:00 pm

Head for home after a fun, relaxing day.

For more information or to customize this itinerary for your group, please contact your tour operator or John Grimm, Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History, 612-756-1075.

Big Honza's Place Restaurant & Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History

Big Honza's favorite spot to eat is located in one of Montgomery's historic buildings in the heart of town. Like the Museum, this unique restaurant maintains an element of humor - even the restroom is a one-of-a-kind site! Open for breakfast and lunch, you'll find friendly staff, homemade food and desserts, and frozen custard treats.

Hours: Mon-Fri, 6:30am-2pm
507-364-7993



In Montgomery, visit Minnesota's most unusual museum and see some unnatural attractions that are sure to tickle your funny bone!

Group tours to Big HonzaLand include a guided tour of the museum, live music, and a meal.

For your custom tour call John Grimm:
612-756-1075

BigHonza.com
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Willmar Lakes Area CVB | 2104 Highway 12 East | Willmar, MN 56201 | 800-845-8747 ext 603 | www.willmar.com

Visit the Willmar Lakes Area – stay for a night or the whole week.

The Area boasts something for everyone – from theatre and the arts to golf, go-karts and everything in between. Whether your ideal getaway is filled with activity from dawn until dusk, or if you prefer to sit back and be entertained. We're sure to have just what you're looking for.

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Dinner and Theater

*Blue Heron
on the green*

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Pipe Making & Pageantry of Hiawatha

This itinerary works best **July 18-19, 25-26 or August 1-2**, based on dates for the 2008 Song of Hiawatha Pageant. You'll find it at coordinates C-19 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE (Friday)

1 – 1:45 pm

Tour a **Wind Farm** of more than 1,000 working wind turbines rising along a 40-mile stretch of **Buffalo Ridge** near Pipestone.

1:45 – 2:15 pm

Then tour the **Pipestone Performing Arts Center**, a 300-seat theater style facility located in Pipestone's Historic District. The Center is housed in a Sioux Quartzite building dating back to 1897.

2:15 – 3:00 pm

Visit Minnesota's second oldest County Historical Society: the **Pipestone County Museum**, one of the region's finest.

3 – 4:00 pm

To really enjoy the **Pipestone Historic District**, take the walking tour. In the space of a dozen blocks, you can enjoy and learn about Pipestone's rich architectural past, with its 20 unique and beautiful Sioux quartzite buildings listed on the National Register. Visit the antique stores and other distinctive shops along the way.

4 – 5:30 pm

Check into the charming **Historic Calumet Inn** and get

ready for dinner.

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Dine in the elegant dining room of the Historic Calumet Inn.

8:30 – 11:30 pm

Enjoy the **60th and final year** of the **Song of Hiawatha Pageant**, inspired by Henry Longfellow's poem, in a large outdoor natural amphitheater. Reserved seating for 1,200. Elaborate lighting, lovely costumes and a cast of 200 make this a truly unforgettable event.

DAY TWO (Saturday)

10 – 11:30 am

Tour the **Pipestone National Monument**. For centuries, American Indians have used the pipestone quarries to obtain materials for pipe making, a practice that continues today. Visit the 282-acre visitor and cultural center, beautiful three-quarter mile walking trail along Pipestone Creek and Winnewissa Falls, set

in the tall grass prairie. **Pipestone Indian Shrine** provides cultural demonstrations and a wonderful selection of American Indian art and craft items.

11:45 – 12:30 pm

Stop by and wander **Fort Pipestone**, a replica of a Minnesota Fort, and browse for Pipestone souvenirs and gifts.

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch at any of Pipestone's charming restaurants.

1:30 – 2:15 pm

Visit **Keepers Gift Shop & Gallery** (Storytelling/Pipemaking). The **Keepers Traditional Pow-Wow** takes place **July 26**.

For more information or to customize this itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Mick Myers, Pipestone Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, 800-336-6125.

Hands on Experiences in Albert Lea



This itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates I-19 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

9 – 10:30 am

For a perfect hands on experience, how about the fine art of soy candle making--along with soap and lotions--at the **Eclectic Candle and Soap Factory Tour**. This warm and light tour includes a brief discussion of soy wax candle making and soap making. You will learn how to make all natural soy wax candles, and even make your own bar of natural glycerin soap. While waiting for your soap and your candle to cool, take a short tour of the factory. The showroom offers a huge selection of finished candles, soaps, lotions, and candle accessories designed for the clean burning candle lover at heart.

10:30 – 12 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. The passionate staffers are full of ideas and hints for quilting and would enjoy visiting

with you. Classes available!

12 – 1:30 pm

Stop for lunch at one of Albert Lea's restaurants.

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Visit Albert Lea's specialty rubber stamp and scrapbook store! **The Stamp Studio** is located in the historic Albert Lea Art Center. Choose from beautiful metallic papers, fall and winter cardstock, wood mounted fall, holiday and winter stamps. You'll find the latest and most beautiful rubber stamps, designer papers, envelopes, inks, tools and embellishments to supply all your paper crafting needs.

2:30 – 4:00 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. Not only are there several ways to make the jewelry -- such as with a needle and thread or with wire -- but there are thousands of different kinds of beads to select from for your project.

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

CELEBRATING THE 60TH & FINAL YEAR 1948-2008

THE 2008 SONG OF HIAWATHA

July 18-19
July 25-26
Aug 1-2

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www.albertleatourism.org

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Albert Lea CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



directory

ACCOMMODATIONS

- **AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Madelia** **507-642-2004**
 620 Haynes Ave NE – Madelia, MN 56062 **800-634-3444**
 This MLA Property of the Year prides ourselves in exceeding guest expectations with excellent service, top-notch rooms, and a welcoming décor-all at a great value. Features: fireplace & whirlpool suites; a beautiful, indoor recreation area; hospitality room available for business or pool parties; high-speed/wireless internet; enhanced continental breakfast.
- **Holiday Inn** **507-359-2941**
 2101 S Broadway – New Ulm, MN 56073
 sales@hinewulm.com / www.holidayinn.com/newulm
 Our unique Holiday Inn hotel is located in the heart of the Minnesota River Valley in the city of New Ulm. Known for its German heritage and traditions. Featuring a full service on-site restaurant and bar.
- Holiday Inn & Willmar Conference Center Willmar **877-405-4466**
- Microtel Inn & Suites Springfield **507-723-8200**

ATTRACTIONS

- **Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History** **612-756-1075**
 201 First Street South – Montgomery, MN 56069
 info@BigHonza.com / www.BigHonza.com
 Have lunch at historic hilltop hall, while enjoying a live musical presentation of Czech country history. Then marvel at the unique artifacts of Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History guided by the legendary Monty Gomery.
- Blue Earth County Heritage Center Mankato **507-345-5566**
- Birch Coulee Battlefield Morton **507-697-6321**
- Brau Brothers Brewing Company Lucan **507-747-BEER**
- Brown Country Museum Battlefield **888-463-9856**
- Crofut Family Winery & Vineyards Jordan **952-492-3227**
- Fieldstone Vineyards Morgan **507-249-WINE**
- Fort Ridgely Historic Site Fairfax **507-426-7888**
- Harkin Store Historic Site New Ulm **507-354-8666**
- Historic R.D. Hubbard House Mankato **507-345-5566**
- J & L Bison Willmar **320-235-8465**
- The John Lind House New Ulm **507-354-8802**
- **Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel** **507-644-7814**
 PO Box 420 – Morton, MN 56270 **800-WIN-CASH**
 wincash@jackpotjunction.com / www.jackpotjunction.com
 99 miles southwest of Minneapolis. 325,000 square feet of action: video slot machines, table games, bingo, pull tabs, restaurants, full service bars, 276-room on-site hotel, swimming pool, fitness center, live entertainment, RV Park Dacotah Ridge Golf Club.
- Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site Comfrey **507-628-5591**
- Lac qui Parle Mission Montevideo **320-269-7636**
- Little Crow Ski Team New London **320-354-5684**
- Lower Sioux Agency Morton **507-697-6321**
- The Mikkelson Boat Collection Willmar **320-231-0384**
- Morgan Creek Vineyards New Ulm **507-947-3547**
- Olaf Swensson Farm Museum Montevideo **320-269-5527**
- Schwanke Museum Willmar **320-231-0564**

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
 Located 90 minutes from Mpls, where I-90 & I-35 intersect, featuring small town hospitality with big city amenities. Plus additional lakes & 38 city parks hosting various outdoor activities.
- **Fairmont Convention & Visitors Bureau** **507-235-8585**
 PO Box 976 – Fairmont, MN 56031 **800-657-3280**
 director@fairmontcvb.com / www.fairmontcvb.com
 The "City of Lakes" welcome's you. Located at the intersection of Hwy 15 and I-90 we're easy to find. Halfway between Chicago and the Black Hills Fairmont has a little something for everyone.
- **Hutchinson Area Convention & Visitors Bureau** **800-572-6689**
 2 Main Street South – Hutchinson, MN 55305
 www.explorehutchinson.com
 Hutchinson, Minnesota's Hometown™, is rich in history, offers family events & festivals, and the most unique shopping you can ask for! Hutchinson, We're Minnesota's Hometown™!
- **Luverne Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB** **507-283-4061**
 211 E Main – Luverne, MN 56156 **888-283-4061**
 luvernechamber@iw.net / www.luvernechamber.org
 Visit Minnesota's Prairie Playground including Blue Mounds State Park, Touch the Sky Prairie, Brandenburg Gallery, Prairie Heights Bison and a variety of prairie related points of interest.
- **Morton Chamber of Commerce** **507-697-6912**
 PO Box 127 – Morton, MN 56270
 mortoncityhall@mchsi.com
 Visit Morton, located in the scenic river valley for a celebration each season, featuring unique activities for each event; Spring Garden Party, Independence Day, Scarecrow Festival, Beneath the Village Wreath and Mistletoe Madness.
- **Pipestone Convention & Visitors Bureau** **507-825-3316**
 117 8th Ave SE – Pipestone, MN 55614 **800-336-6125**
 pipecham@pipestoneminnesota.com / www.pipestoneminnesota.com
 Song of Hiawatha Pageant held at a small quarry lake on a natural amphitheater. Reserved seating for 1,200...late July/early August. Red Hat Extravaganza and Keepers Traditional PowWow on July 28, 2007.
- **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 **ext. 603**
 www.willmar.com
 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.
- **Worthington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau** **507-372-2919**
 1121 Third Avenue – Worthington, MN 56187 **800-279-2919**
 wcofc@frontiernet.net / www.worthingtonmnchamber.com
 We welcome you to the Windsurfing Regatta, International Festival, Whiskey Ditch Motorcycle Rally, and King Turkey Day. Let us assist you in finding places to visit, sleep, eat, and shop.

ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER

- The Barn Theatre Willmar **320-235-9500**
- The Classics Willmar **320-290-8400**

RESTAURANTS

- Green Mill Willmar **320-231-2301**



nw mn cities

ALEXANDRIA, BATTLE LAKE, BEMIDJI, BRAINERD, CROSBY, DETROIT LAKES, EAST GRAND FORKS/GRAND FORKS, FARGO/MOORHEAD, FERGUS FALLS, FRAZEE, HENNING, LITTLE FALLS, LONG PRAIRIE, NEW YORK MILLS, NISSWA, OTTERTAIL, PARK RAPIDS, PELICAN RAPIDS, PEQUOT LAKES, PERHAM, RED LAKE FALLS, ROSEAU, SAUK CENTRE, ST. CLOUD, THIEF RIVER FALLS, VERGAS, WALKER

calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

december

- 1 **Christmas with the Lindbergh's,** Little Falls 320-616-5421
- 2 **Kringle Fest,** St. Cloud 866-253-8424
- 13 **Lucia Fest,** Bemidji 218-444-3469
- 7 **Winter Wonderland,** Crookston 218-281-4320
- 7-8 **Hometown Holidays,** Barnesville 218-354-2479
- 29-30 **World Power Association Snowcross,** Brainerd 218-824-7220

january

- 11-13 **Ice Fest,** Breezy Point 800-450-2838
- 17-20, 25-27 & Feb 1-3 **"Art,"** St. Cloud 320-203-0331
- 25-27 **Back to Hack,** Hackensack 218-675-6135

february

- 1-16 **Frostbite Festival,** Fergus Falls 218-736-6951
- 1-3 **Winter Fest,** Angle Inlet 218-223-4611
- 2 **25th Annual Logging Days,** Bemidji 218-243-2231
- 2 **Winterfest,** Zimmerman 763-389-3323
- 8 **Polar Plunge,** Detroit Lakes 218-847-5700
- 15-17 **29th Annual International Eelpout Festival,** Walker 320-25-6010
- 15-17 **Nisswa Winter Jubilee,** Nisswa 218-963-2620

march

- 15 **St. Patrick's Day Parade in Crosslake,** Crosslake 218-829-2838
- 28-30 **Totally 80's Weekend,** Fergus Falls 218-736-6951
- 29 **Marsh Madness,** Fergus Falls 218-736-0938

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Suzy & Hondo Dance Studio - Bemidji, MN

Suzy & Hondo Dance Studio

Bemidji, Minnesota

Love to dance...or want to learn to dance? Suzy & Hondo guarantee that even the men will have fun at their studio dance classes, bi-monthly social dances and community education classes in Bagley, Bemidji, Blackduck, Deer River, Grand Rapids and Park Rapids. Since 1998, Suzy & Hondo have offered group and private lessons in social, ballroom, Latin, and swing dances. Also, at Club HONDO! you'll never have to worry about a partner...ever. Just say, "Shall we dance?" You'll meet other dancers and, with each new song, gain more confidence in your abilities.

other hands-on tours in northwest minnesota

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center Alexandria
Bake and decorate your own cookies, make crafts, indoor waterpark, horseback trail rides, and even sleigh rides, All at one of Minnesota's finest resorts.

Erickson's Petting Zoo Alexandria
Try your skill at the 13 acre Big Maze! Feed the animals at the petting zoo, and pick your favorite vegetables from their gardens.

Art As You Like It Waite Park
If you have never tried PYOP ("paint your own pottery") before, you should! Paint pre-formed shapes (you can even throw your own pot)...just add your own design!

Gull Lake Spa Brainerd
Located in Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake is a first-class spa. Relax in front of a cozy fire or enjoy views of the lake while receiving a massage in one of their 8 treatment rooms.

BUENA VISTA Covered Wagon Tour or Sleigh Ride Bemidji
Take a narrated tour, on an authentic covered wagon, on the Continental Divide throughout the summer and fall.

Headwaters Science Center Bemidji
Special demonstrations and science programs for groups, such as the Sensational Senses exhibit – where you can experience your 5 senses in new and unusual ways.

Camp Ripley Environmental Center Little Falls
Volunteerism activities such as planting trees, trail development, earth day clean-up projects and research projects are just some of the activities they offer.

ITOW Veterans Museum Perham
Experience re-dramatizations of events leading up to and during the wars of the 21st century. Learn of the personal accounts of the individual veterans.

Chef & Company Baxter
A gourmet kitchen store that offers cooking classes for everyone interested in great recipes, food preparation, and dining enjoyment.

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Fergus Falls
330 acres of native, restored prairie land and wetlands with professional educators providing environmental tours and thoughtful interpretation of this prairie area.

Creative Memories St. Cloud
Celebrate your memories with photo albums, scrapbooks and journals that you have made. Take "how-to" classes at this popular company.

Paul Bunyan Land Brainerd
At 26 feet in height, Paul Bunyan greets you by name. Really! Guide yourself through more than 30 historic Birch Ridge Village buildings, vintage cars & farm equipment.

Cycle Path & Paddle Crosby
Explore the natural beauty of the Cuyuna Lakes Trail on bike, kayak or canoe. Take guided tours of the Cuyuna Range's unusual history.

Scheer's Lumberjack Show Pequot Lakes
Meet World Champion Lumberjacks you've seen on ESPN, and see power sawing, speed carving, log jousting, axe throwing, and speed climbing.



A Touch of Minnesota

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates Bemidji F-7 and Grand Rapids I-8 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

11:30 – 2:30 pm

Arrive in **Itasca State Park**, headwaters of the **Mississippi River**. Enjoy lunch at historic **Douglas Lodge** or the new **Mary Gibb Restaurant**. Then tour the park via coach with a step-on naturalist, or take a narrated boat tour of **Lake Itasca**. Both tours include a stop at the **Headwaters of the Mississippi River**.

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Depart for **Bemidji, MN** via the first section of the **Great River Road National Scenic Byway**.

3:30 – 6:00 pm

Arrive at the **Buena Vista Logging Village** for a horse-drawn covered wagon ride to the top of the **Continental Divide**. From the top see the waters flow north to Hudson Bay and south to the Gulf of Mexico. Enjoy dinner chuck wagon style.

6 – 8:00 pm

Check into an area hotel and relax for a bit... the night is not over yet.

8 – 10:00 pm

Choose between a couple different evening entertainment

options: **Paul Bunyan Playhouse**...live theater productions (Jun-Aug); **"Hickory Wind Trio"**...performances by popular 'folk grass' group or Native American flute performance.

DAY TWO

8 – 9:00 am

Enjoy breakfast before you depart for **Grand Rapids, MN** via GR Road US Hwy 2 E.

9 – 11:30 am

Arrive in Grand Rapids and tour the **Forest History Center** guided by lumberjack interpreters.

11:30 – 12:30 pm

Dine for lunch at the **Sawmill Inn**, in their Cedars dining room, where exceptional food and superior service awaits your group. They are renowned for fresh hot popovers, homemade soups, walleye a la Ritz, and their featured specialty; a 20 oz. bone-in Ribeye, "the best steak in Rapids".

For more information on this sample itinerary or to customize this tour for your group contact your tour operator at VisitBemidji, Cindy Habedank 800-458-2223 ext. 106; Itasca State Park, Jim Keller – Douglas Lodge Mgr 218-266-2124; or Visit Grand Rapids, Sheri Bialke 800-472-6366.

An unforgettable tour

Journey along the **Great River Road Scenic Byway**

Tour the **Mississippi River Headwaters**

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**

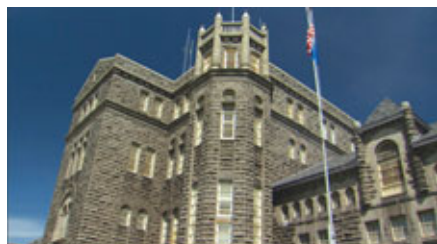
Small Minnesota **Bemidji**

www.visitbemidji.com

First City on the Mississippi 800-458-2223

St. Cloud: Romancing the Stone

This itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates H-13 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.



In **Granite Country** we take our granite seriously, and are without equal when it comes to romancing the stone. So vast are the granite deposits that lie beneath Central Minnesota that some have run more than 11 miles deep. So vast is the influence of the granite industry that even our fabled minor league baseball team was the **St. Cloud Rox**.

Minnesota's first granite quarry was opened in 1868 on

Continued on Page 31

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Real Life Experiences to Real Life Entertainment

This sample itinerary works best in the Spring. You'll find it at coordinates D-10 & E-10 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

DAY ONE

11:30 – 12:30 pm

Arrive at your destination, Perham, MN and make your way down the street to the **Wooden Spoon** in the **Pine's Gift Shop** to enjoy one of the best ice cream cones in town...but don't spoil your lunch.

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy a light lunch at the **Station House**, with its unique décor and delicious food. Or maybe you would prefer to eat at the **Gathering Grounds**, where they specialize in gourmet sandwiches and soups served in the basement level in nooks and crannies among the antiques, or on the main floor with a cozy, comfortable atmosphere.

1:30 – 4:30 pm

Arrive at 805 West Main and be prepared to learn what our local men & women experienced in the fight for our

rights and freedoms. Tour the **ITOW (In Their Own Words) Veteran's Museum** and listen to Veterans tell their stories in their own way. After your enriching journey through the eyes of those who lived the actual events, sit and enjoy coffee and cookies while you discuss what you just heard with friends and fellow travelers.

4:30 – 7:00 pm

Enjoy a relaxing cruise on **Otter Tail Lake** before spending the night in one of the area's fine lodging establishments.

DAY TWO

10 – 11:30 am

After a leisurely breakfast at the motel, arrive at the **History Museum of East Otter Tail County**. Here you will learn about the early settlers in Perham and surrounding areas.

11:30 – 1:30 pm

It's time to visit the **Bay Window Quilt Shop**, which has just been voted among the top ten in North America. Classes available as well. Don't forget to stop across the street at the **"Best of Times"** museum gift

shop before you head out to the other specialty shops around town.

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Have lunch at **Mulligan's at the Lakeside Golf Course** before heading to your next stop.

3 – 4:00 pm

Down the road is the **Cultural Center** in New York Mills. This is the location of the great "Think Off". The Center also provides tours and activity guides for visiting classes. Classes offered at the Center have included: watercolor painting, book binding, introduction to graphic arts, Tai Chi Chih movement, mime, winemaking and much more.

4:00 pm

Have you ever wondered how boats are made? Before heading home, take a tour of the **Lund Boat Factory** in New York Mills where Lund boats are built.

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or New York Mills Civic & Commerce Association, 218-385-3339, or ITOW – A Veterans Museum, 218-346-7678.

Fergus Falls: History to See...and Hear

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates G-13 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

11 – 12:00 pm

Arrive in **Fergus Falls, MN**, located a little more than two hours from the Twin Cities on 1-94. Enjoy some hot coffee and a Meet & Greet.

12 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch at **Big Harvest Mongolian Grill**. Choose from Asian or American specialties. Private dining room for groups.

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Tour the **Otter Tail County Historical Society Museum**, one of Minnesota's finest museums. Make sure to see the newly renovated Agricultural Wing, featuring intriguing activities such as hearing the actual sounds of horse drawn plowing, steam engines,

and barnyard animals. It is so well done you'd think you were on an 1890's farm.

3 – 5:30 pm

Spend the rest of the afternoon at the **Prairie Wetlands Learning Center**, located just south of Fergus Falls. They



offer "hands-on" and "minds-on" environmental education programs for learners of all ages, lead by professional

educators, college interns, and highly trained volunteers. Please call for the latest program and date availability.

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Dinner takes you to **Mabel Murphy's** and features a rustic, cozy atmosphere. Learn about Mabel, an Irish import trying to escape the terrible potato famine, and how she made her way to this region of Minnesota.

7 – 10:00 pm

Your evening's entertainment will be at **A Center for the Arts**. Choose from a wide range of programming, including live theatre, movies, a variety of music, and professional and local dance. Call for event schedule.

DAY TWO

8 – 11:00 am

Before heading home, stop at the **City Bakery** downtown for coffee and rolls, housed in an Art Deco style building and part of the remarkable downtown area. Enjoy a narrated walking tour of historic downtown Fergus Falls and along the RiverWalk. Visit the Kaddatz, another beautifully restored hotel that now houses works of local artists.



For more information, or to book this sample itinerary for your group, please contact your tour operator or Jean Bowman, Fergus Falls CVB, 800-726-8859.



directory

ACCOMMODATIONS

- AmericInn** St. Cloud **320-253-6337**
- ▶ **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** Roseau **218-463-1045**
- ▶ **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 Baudette** Baudette **218-634-3200**
- AmericInn of Bemidji** Bemidji **218-751-3000**
- AmericInn of Crookston** Crookston **218-281-7800**
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Best Western Americannainn** **320-252-8700**
 520 South Hwy 10 – St. Cloud, MN 56304 **800-950-8701**
 bwamericannainn@yahoo.com / www.bestwestern.com/americannainn
 Perfect Hotel for Group Lodging! Complimentary continental breakfast. restaurant/lounge, pool, fitness room, wireless hi-speed internet. One mile from the famous Mungsinger Gardens, two miles from Downtown St. Cloud and St. Cloud State University.
- ▶ **Rodeway Inn** **701-239-8022**
 2202 South University Drive – Fargo, ND 58103 **866-239-8022**
 Groups love our large comfortable rooms and many amenities; First floor rooms, free continental breakfast, internet, swimming and whirlpool. One complimentary room for coach driver, bus parking, and all conveniently located at I-94 and 81.
- ▶ **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

- Bemidji Woolen Mills** Bemidji **218-751-5166**
- Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site** Little Falls **320-616-5421**
- Covered Wagon Rides** Bemidji **218-243-2231**
- ▶ **Forestedge Winery & Farm** **218-224-3535**
 35295 State Hwy 64 - LaPorte, MN 56461 / paul@forestedgewinery.com / www.forestedgewinery.com
 Award winning Specialty wines made from fruits and berries with rhubarb being the signature wine. Groups enjoy nature trails, local art displayed in the gallery, a gift shop, plus tasting. Bring some home to friends.
- ▶ **ITOW In Their Own Words...A Veterans Museum** **218-346-7678**
 805 West Main – Perham, MN 56573 / info@itowmuseum.org / www.ITOWmuseum.org
 Located in the heart of beautiful lake country, Perham's newest museum features unique state-of-the-art exhibits based on the recorded histories of veterans. Lunch in the mess hall is an option for tours.
- Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post** Onamia **320-532-3632**
- North West Company Fur Post** Pine City **320-629-6356**
- ▶ **Shooting Star Casino & Hotel & Event Center** **218-935-2701**
 777 Casino Road – Mahanomen, MN 56557 / www.starcasino.com ext. 7251
 Shooting Star Casino, Hotel and Event Center is northern Minnesota's casino gaming home for slots, Poker, Blackjack, Bingo and more. Located in Mahanomen, Minnesota, Shooting Star is the perfect place for entertainment, a fun getaway or your next meeting, or event.

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.
- ▶ **Fergus Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau** **218-332-5425**
 112 West Washington Avenue – Fergus Falls, MN 56537 **800-726-8959**
 groups@visitfergusfalls.com / www.visitfergusfalls.com
 Arts, nature and history are sure to please. On I-94, 2 hours NW of Mpls, Fergus Falls is an easy stop to/from Winnipeg. Hotels & restaurants eager to host. Call CVB for personalized itineraries.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **St. Cloud Area Convention & Visitors Bureau** **320-251-4170**
 525 Hwy 10, Suite 1 – St. Cloud, MN 56304 **800-264-2940**
 jean@granitecountry.com / www.granitecountry.com
 World-class gardens, history that abounds, unique and famous places to visit. Creativity is key to the success of your group tour. The St. Cloud CVB takes pride in helping you plan the perfect St. Cloud getaway.
- ▶ **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.



Continued from Page 29 : St. Cloud: Romancing the Stone

St. Cloud's east side to build the state reformatory. Granite was quarried to construct the prison and its great granite wall. While tours inside of the prison are not available, the outside of the building is a gothic masterpiece.

Due to its durability, granite is often used for memorials. Yes, you can tour a memorial orchard, but why not think outside of the box? Granite isn't just for memorials anymore. So much has technology advanced that an actual picture (wedding, anniversary, baby, etc.) can be precisely laser etched, virtually lifelike, onto granite. When you have experienced the ordinary tour, try the unexpected experience of granite at **Granite Country USA!**

10 – 11:30 am

Start your granite tour at **Micheli Jones Granite**. Here you have an opportunity to learn about granite itself. Browse the granite gardens with so many fun items such as benches, birdbaths, lanterns, feeders, and stepping-stones. Be adventurous and take the opportunity to try etching on a piece of granite yourself...and take your masterpiece home with you.

11:30 – 11:45 am

Afterwards see an etching demo and a short video of granite.

11:45 – 1:00 pm

Enjoy lunch at one of St. Cloud's great restaurants.

1:00 pm

After lunch, tour **Park Industries**, a manufacturing plant that makes the extraordinary equipment that saws, shapes or polishes granite.

Our granite partners kindly ask you contact the St. Cloud Convention and Visitors Bureau to plan your next granite tour. Contact Jean Robbins, St. Cloud CVB 1-800-264-2940, ext. 129 or jean@granitecountry.com.



ne mn cities

BEAVER BAY, CARLTON, CHISHOLM, CLOQUET, CRANE LAKE, DULUTH, ELY, EVELETH, GARRISON, GRAND MARAIS, GRAND PORTAGE, GRAND RAPIDS, HIBBING, HINCKLEY, INTERNATIONAL FALLS, LUTSEN, MCGREGOR, OAK ISLAND, ONAMIA, PRINCETON, TAYLORS FALLS, TOFTE, TWO HARBORS, VIRGINIA

calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

december

- 1 **Weihnachtsfest**,
Bivabik 218-865-4183
- 6-9 **Festival of Lights**,
Chisholm 218-254-7959
- 8 **Candlelight Tours**,
Pine City 320-629-6356
- 8-9 **An Ethnic Holiday Christmas Event**,
Chisholm 800-372-6437
- 27-30 **Northern Lights in the North Woods**,
Sandstone 320-245-2648

january

- 11-13 **White Oak Sled Dog Classic**,
Deer River 218-246-9393
- 17-20 **Blast on the Border**,
International Falls 800-325-5766

february

- 1-3 **Laskiainen Finnish Sliding Festival**,
Aurora 218-638-2551
- 1-10 **Ely Winter Festival**,
Ely 218-365-6123
- 2 **Polar Bear Plunge**,
Duluth 218-722-4011
- 2-6 **Wolves and Wilderness by Dogsled**,
Ely 218-365-4695
- 8-10 **Carlton Winterfest**,
Carlton 218-384-4464
- 9 **Riders in the Sky**,
Duluth 218-733-7579
- 14-16 **Stars of the North Shop Hop**,
Grand Rapids 800-355-9740

march

- 14-15 **Swan Lake Act II**,
Duluth 218-529-3742
- 15 **St. Urho's Day Celebration**,
Finlayson 800-952-4282
- 16-20 **Wolves in Winter Elderhostel**,
Ely 218-365-4695
- 28-30 **Duluth World of Wheels**,
Duluth 952-925-4848



escortnotes.com

Arrowhead Shores northeastern minnesota



Superior Whitewater Rafting - Carlton, MN

Superior Whitewater Rafting Tours

Carlton, Minnesota

Whitewater rafting is one of Minnesota's hottest outdoor adventures. This exciting 2-hour trip is on the St. Louis River, just 15 miles south of Duluth. Jay Cooke State Park is nearby. Equipment and shuttle service is provided, along with the friendliest guides you'll ever meet. Don't miss this fun chance to enjoy a thrilling adventure on this remote, scenic, whitewater stretch of the St. Louis River. You're invited to join them for an exciting whitewater challenge you will long remember. Regardless of previous experience (or lack of it), you'll love it on the river. This trip is ideal for first-timers, whitewater veterans and groups of all sizes. www.minnesotawhitewater.com

other hands-on tours in northeast minnesota

Audubon Center of the North Woods Sandstone
Experience their wildlife barn, authentic yurt (an ancient shelter used by Central Asian nomads), log cabin, Elderhostel Programs and of course, the great outdoors.

Blandin Paper Mill Grand Rapids
Visit this working paper mill and learn how paper is created, coated and wound onto huge rolls, ready for the printer.

Chilly Dogs Sled Dog Trips Ely
Learn how to harness and hook-up dogs, ride on sled runners, and drive your own dog sled on snow-covered trails.

Ironworld Chisholm
Take a tour of a working taconite mining company and see first hand the process of converting rock into taconite pellets.

Forest History Center Grand Rapids
Join them in the logging camp for log rolling, sleigh loading, cooking demonstrations, storytelling and more. New for 2008 is a geocache course.

Giving Ground Wild Medicinal Herb Workshops & Retreats Brimson
Explore miles of wild herb trails and learn about wild herbs, the natural world, and your health in their hands-on Herbal Retreat.

Grand Marais Art Colony Grand Marais
Take workshops for all ages in visual arts, printmaking, book arts, ceramics and glass.

Grand Portage National Monument Grand Portage
Take the tour of this centennial site, watch a traditional fur trade canoe being made, learn the different methods of preserving vegetables for winter use.

Great Lakes Aquarium Duluth
See divers feed fish in the 85,000 gallon aquarium, touch a stingray or sturgeon and have fun watching playful otters.

Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Duluth
Get up-close views of hawks or songbirds in-hand, which some lucky person then gets to release! Also receive a closer look at what goes on 'behind the scenes' at Hawk Ridge.

International Wolf Center Ely
Howl with the wolves, see wolf research techniques, and track prey as if you were a wolf.

Laurentian Environmental Learning Center Britt
Try dog-sledding, geo-caching, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, all led by qualified staff in the great outdoors.

Soudan Underground Mine State Park Soudan
Take the cage elevator down 1/2 mile, travel back into a real mine and hear the stories of mining a century ago. Above ground, tour the drill shop, crusher and engine house.

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center Finland
Enjoy outdoor learning experiences focusing on ecology, science, human culture, outdoor recreation, team-building and personal growth.

IRONWORLD, Extraordinary History in Northern Minnesota

Ironworld, a vast museum complex in the heart of northeastern Minnesota's **Iron Range**, welcomes groups of all sizes and ages.

Special group rates, lunch and catering options, hands-on learning activities for children or adults, plus demonstrations and educational opportunities make learning about the history, heritage and culture of the Iron Range interesting and fun.

Permanent museum exhibits highlight the story of the immigrants who first traveled to the region, seeking jobs in the start-up iron ore mines that fed the nation's burgeoning steel industry.

Traveling exhibits make the Ironworld experience new and different each time guests return. **January 26 through April 20, 2008, Requiem: By the Photographers Who Died in Vietnam and Indochina**, is featured in Ironworld's **Observation Deck Gallery**, which overlooks a former open pit mine. This powerful exhibition of photographs from the Vietnam era, starting

in the early 1950s and continuing through the fall of Phnom Pehn and Saigon in 1975, is complemented with a film series, lectures, panel discussion and other special events. Groups will have opportunities for additional educational programming.

Beginning **May 22, 2008**, experience what may be the most unique collection of **Bob Dylan ephemera, memorabilia and artifacts** in the country. This exhibit coincides with **Dylan Days**, an annual festival in Dylan's childhood home of **Hibbing**, just five miles from Ironworld.

Also featured in Ironworld's museum is a theater, **Hall of Geology**, full-service **restaurant and Museum Store**. Groups may also wish to mine their own past at Ironworld's research library, the perfect place for amateur or seasoned genealogists, or anyone interested in Minnesota history.

Summer at Ironworld offers an entire new set of experiences, with **ethnic festivals, outdoor concerts** in an **1,800-seat amphitheater**,



a **vintage trolley ride** to a former mining community with tours of historic buildings, plus living history interpreters, weekly tours of an **active mine**, and much, much more. The museum, gallery and research library experiences are available year-round; mine tours, trolley rides and interpreters are seasonal.

Hours are **10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Sunday**. Groups may be admitted on Mondays with advance notice. Contact **Debra Rowbottom**, Visitor Services Director, at **218-254-7959**, extension 221 for more information.



THEY DON'T WANT CREDIT FOR STARTING THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.

{ BUT A "THANKS" FOR PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE WOULDN'T HURT. }



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ironrange.org
 A Great Way to Getaway
 Iron Range Tourism Bureau

This sample itinerary can be customized for any-time of the year. You'll find it at coordinates Tower L-6, Soudan L-6, Biwabik L-7, Gilbert L-7, Virginia K-7 & Chisholm J-7 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

10 – 12:00 pm

Start off the morning in Nett Lake at the **Bois Forte Band Indian Heritage Center**. Fast becoming a



main northern Minnesota attraction, Bois Forte invites visitors to explore the birch bark dwelling, or "tipi," on



the grounds and follow a trail that leads to the remains of an 1866 gold mine.

12 – 1:00 pm

Lunch is served at the **Tamarack Restaurant** inside Fortune Bay Casino. The cozy Tamarack offers a full menu, as well as a spectacular weekend buffet.

1 – 5:00 pm

Descend 2,341 feet below ground in the **Soudan Underground Mine**. Once down in the mine, guests take a rail car and hear stories of the mining days while exploring the dry house, drill shop, and engine house. What's next is your choice: Take a historic tour of the mine itself, or a more physics-based tour focused on the science and engineering lab within.

5 – 6:30 pm

In **Biwabik**, out-of-towners should be sure to take a snapshot with the world's largest authentic looking hockey stick...107 feet tall. It will give you an interesting story to tell, and even better scrapbook page. Your group hasn't finished snapping photos just



yet, because they'll also want to grab a picture when they visit "Honk the Moose." A statue of that beloved children's book character stands in the town square to celebrate its author, Phil Stong.

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Some say **The Whistling Bird Café** in Gilbert qualifies as one of the most unique finds in northern Minnesota. The atmosphere is straight out of the east keys...and so is the food. The specialties are award-winning Caribbean cuisine, Jamaican jerk meats, tropical drinks and fresh seafood dishes, as well as traditional American fare.

7:30 pm

Settle in for the night at the **AmericInn in Virginia**, only a short drive from Gilbert, where the rooms are the cleanest around and feature in-room coffee makers.

DAY TWO

10 – 11:00 am

Wake up and enjoy a complimentary INN-hanced continental breakfast from the AmericInn.

11 – 2:00 pm

Discover first-hand what taconite mining is all about at Chisholm's **Ironworld Discovery Center**. Sit down to a genuine miners lunch before you take the afternoon to tour the museum, meander through the trolley, or stop by the "Monsters of the Deep" exhibit. The Heritage Park trails have a re-created pioneer homestead with living history interpreters.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Iron Range Tourism, 800-777-8497.



Unwind in the Wilderness of Grand Marais



This itinerary is best during the winter. You'll find it at coordinates L-2 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

10 – 4:00 pm

North House Folk School is a non-profit adult school supported primarily through memberships. The campus supports more than 225 courses and 120 instructors, attracting students from all over the country; indeed, the world. The northern crafts courses taught each year range from basketry to northern ecology to wood-working. Today you will take a class on either Swedish Potato Sausage making or Pleasure Driving Fjord Horses. Whichever you choose, you'll be sure to bring home a unique skill can you showcase to friends and family.

4 – 6:00 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. Proud customers everywhere can be seen sporting Sven and Ole's bumper stickers.

6 – 9:00 pm

Take a short stop off at the **Lake Superior Trading Post** to rent snowshoes. Then it's off to the Boundary Waters canoe area wilderness for twilight snowshoeing. A night of snowshoeing guided only by the moonlight is sure to give your group a memorable expedition.

9:00 pm

Check into the **Aspen Lodge** just minutes away from the shore of Lake Superior. If you need to soak off those snowshoeing aches take a dip in their whirlpool or relax in the sauna before a well-deserved night's rest.

DAY TWO

10 – 11:00 am

Wake up and enjoy a continental breakfast in the Aspen Lodge.

11 – 3:00 pm

Your group is off on a fishing excursion aboard the pontoon provided by **Joe's Inland Charter Fishing**. Your captain will instruct you and your group on how to catch the best fish, and your own personal cook aboard the ship will fillet them for delicious meal

aboard the boat.

3 – 6:00 pm

Just a short drive down the trail is **Lutsen Mountain**, and what better way to end your day than with a horse drawn sleigh ride through the proverbial winter wonderland that is Grand Marais.

For more information on this sample itinerary or to plan this tour for your group contact your tour operator or Grand Marais, 888-922-5000.



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Discover our winter wonderland as you experience more than 100 miles of well-groomed touring snowmobile trails, or enjoy great downhill and cross-country skiing. Later, warm up in our newly renovated lodge featuring Jacuzzi suites, 95 room accommodations, an indoor pool, sauna and other amenities to make your visit comfortable and enjoyable. Take advantage of our special winter room rates between November 1 and April 30. Rooms begin at \$59/night and Jacuzzi suites began at \$125/night.

The 15,000 square foot Casino is bright and exciting 24 hours a day and features a **Bingo Hall** and more than 450 slot machines, including video slots. Stop by Grand Portage's **Trading Post**, too, a smoke-free facility featuring a gift shop, grocery store, UPS parcel pick-up and 43 slot machines.

Warm welcomes are guaranteed year round. For more information, call 1-800-543-1384 or visit www.GrandPortage.com.

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www.hinckleymn.com

Hinckley Minnesota

Hinckley: Adventure, History, Gaming Fun

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates J-12 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

9 – 1:00 pm

Start in Sandstone, MN with a visit to the **Audubon Center of the North Woods** offering an abundance of activities. Fun and enjoyable, naturalist-led activities for groups include Interpretive Nature Hikes, Indoor Climbing Wall, High Ropes Course, Low Ropes Course and more! Before you start, enjoy Sunday 'Brunch on the Lake.' Eat fantastic food in a gorgeous lakeside setting.

1 – 3:00 pm

Treat your group with a visit to **Banning State Park**. In the spring, watch daring kayakers and canoeists shoot the turbulent rapids. In the summer, hike along the Kettle River amid dramatic sandstone rock formations with lush lichens, liverworts and mosses. Or visit Wolf Creek Falls,

the Log Creek Arches, Robinson's Ice Cave and others.

3 – 4:00 pm

Take a short bus ride toward Hinckley, MN to the **North West Company Fur Post**.

4 – 5:30 pm

Experience life at a fur post and Indian encampment from nearly 200 years ago.

5:30 – 7:00 pm

For dinner, head to the **Grand Casino Hotel**. Choose from their variety of dining options such as the Grand Buffet, all-you-care-to-eat; Grand Grill Americana, voted Minnesota's "Favorite Themed/Casual Casino Restaurant"; The Winds Steakhouse, elegant dinner in a casual atmosphere; Cherries Grill, perfect stop for a meal on the go; or Silver Sevens Lounge, full-service lounge with live music and a menu of food items.

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



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ACCOMMODATIONS

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▶ **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.

▶ **Sawmill Inn of Grand Rapids** 218-326-8501
 2301 South Highway 169 – Grand Rapids, MN 55744 800-235-6455
 sawmill@uslink.net / www.sawmill.com

The area's largest full-service hotel. 124 rooms including six suites, indoor swimming pool, whirlpool and sauna. Cedars Dining Room and Lounge. Banquet and meeting facilities up to 400. Golf Packages and snowmobile rates available.

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

ATTRACTIONS

Forest History Center Grand Rapids 218-327-4482

▶ **Hinckley Fire Museum** 320-348-7338
 106 Old Highway 61 South – Hinckley, MN 55037

An old depot now serves as the museum, which pays homage to the Great Hinckley Fire of 1894. Visit the museum to learn this unforgettable story of the firestorm that raged through the area destroying this prospering town and neighboring communities.

▶ **Ironworld Discovery Center** 218-254-7959
 801 SW Highway 169 – Chisholm, MN 55719 800-372-6437
 Brian.Kolner@ironworld.com / www.ironworld.com

Groups welcome for trolley rides, museum tours, genealogy programs, special events, entertainment, living history exhibits, meals and more! Active mine tours depart from Ironworld. Arrangements must be made in advance. Discounts available; special needs accommodated.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum Onamia 320-532-3632

Split Rock Lighthouse Two Harbors 218-226-6372

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

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

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▶ **Iron Range Tourism Bureau** 218-749-8161
 403 North First Street – Virginia, MN 55792 800-777-8497
 info@ironrange.org / www.ironrange.org

Visit northeastern Minnesota's Iron Range for fascinating tours that are big on heritage and even bigger on fun! Historic sites, famous people, mine tours, ethnic foods, exceptional lodging, unmatched recreational opportunities and so much more.

▶ **Grand Marais Visitor Information Center & Grand Marais Area Tourism Association** 877-922-5000

13 N Broadway Avenue – 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!

mystery tour

Put yourself to the test and guess where this tour takes place. Find the answer to this Mystery Tour on the Reader Response Insert, and on page 5.

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

10 – 11:30 am

Start your day with a hands-on class at this jewel of the north Art Gallery. Presenting exhibits, workshops, and seminars in the arts for people of all ages and backgrounds.

11:30 – 12:15 pm

Take a short jaunt through the beautiful Minnesota North for a light lunch.

12:15 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch with a north woods atmosphere in this award winning, authentic log restaurant. Offering casual, full-service dining featuring something for every appetite, including walleye, pasta, burgers and sandwiches. Their dining room boasts a massive stone fireplace and handmade wood furniture.

1:30 – 4:00 pm

You're so close to your next venture you could practically crawl there, but you'll walk across the parking lot instead! You did not want to go into this too hungry, so now that your tummies are full, you will spend the afternoon doing a hands-on gourmet cooking class. Perfect for those keenly interested in food, food preparation, and food enjoyment. Instructors will prepare culinary delights in their state-of-the-art kitchen. You will have an opportunity to expand your cooking knowledge by exploring the use of spices, gadgets, appliances, knives, cookware, and fresh recipes. After, try Susanne's tea samples, available only in November, and learn more about teas – how to choose, brew and enjoy tea! They specialize in fine loose teas, tea accessories, & quality affordable gifts.

4 – 6:00 pm

A very short journey north will get you to your next destination. Prepare to be pampered. Here you can recharge, replenish and relax, all while enjoying one of Minnesota's most beautiful lake areas.

6 – 7:00 pm

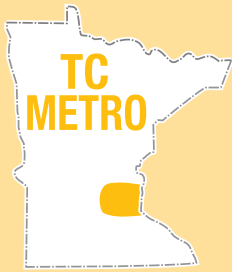
Not far to go at all.... you won't even need the Motorcoach. Check into your room and freshen up.

7 – 9:00 pm

Dinner is served! From sandwiches to slow roasted prime rib and pan fried walleye, lakeside dining, or a relaxing grille, one of their restaurants is sure to become your favorite.

9:00 pm

Your choice, turn in to a very cozy room, take a swim in the pool, take in a bonfire or enjoy a walk near the lake, the evening is yours.



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EAGAN, EXCELSIOR, LAKEVILLE,
MINNEAPOLIS, ROSEVILLE, SHAKOPEE,
SAINT PAUL, STILLWATER

calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

december

- Wknds **Hill House Holidays**,
Saint Paul 651-297-2555
- Nov 30-16 **A Country Christmas Celebration**,
Lakeville 952-898-7200
- 1, 6 & 15 **Christmas Teas**, Shakopee 888-325-2575
- 2 **Old Fashioned Holiday at Holz Farm**,
Eagan 651-675-5500
- 8 **Explore Holiday Customs at a Nordic
Christmas Celebration**, Mpls 612-871-4907
- 8 & 13 **Girls 1940s Wartime Holiday Teas**,
Shakopee 952-445-0378
- 8, 15 & 22 **Holiday Lights Tour**,
Bloomington 612-333-8687
- 9-10 **Winter Wonderland Weekend**,
Eden Prairie 763-424-0504
- 31 **14th Annual New Year's Eve on Ice**,
Roseville 651-792-7007
- 31 **Buck Hill's Annual New Year's Eve Bash**,
Burnsville 952-435-7174

january

- 1-13 **Avenue Q**, Minneapolis 612-373-5665
- 12 **Roseville Winter Jazz Blast**,
Roseville 651-633-3002
- 15-Apr 1 **"The Wonder Bread Years,"**
Chanhassen 952-934-1525
- 18—20 **Winter Fete**, Bloomington 952-563-8693
- 23- Feb 3 **Saint Paul Winter Carnival**,
Saint Paul 651-223-4700

february

- 9 **Ham Lake Snowbowl**, Andover 763-434-3011
- 9-Apr 27 **Animation at the Science Museum
of Minnesota**, Saint Paul 651-221-9426
- 24-25 **Arts of Japan: John C. Weber Collection**,
Minneapolis 612-870-3131
- 29- Mar 2 **MBOTMA's Winter Bluegrass Weekend**,
Plymouth 612-285-9133

march

- 9 **Taste of Chocolate**,
Bloomington 952-563-8567
- 16-17 **Irish Day of Dance**, Saint Paul 651-292-3276
- 29 **American Indians in Science**,
Saint Paul 651-221-9444

escortnotes.com



Milwaukee Road Depot Ice Rink - Minneapolis, MN

Milwaukee Road Depot Ice Rink

Minneapolis, Minnesota



Fun, romantic...and warm in the winter. The Milwaukee Road Depot Rink in downtown Minneapolis has been named one of the top ten best places to ice skate in the U.S. by *USA Today*, and the best place to skate by both *Mpls. St.Paul* magazine and *City Pages*. Located in the historic train station (now a hotel), this modern day indoor rink features floor-to-ceiling glass walls showcasing views of the city skyline. Perfect for gatherings for all kinds. So lace 'em up and glide along where once you might have heard "the sigh of midnight trains in empty stations."

other hands-on tours in twin cities metro minnesota

Abdallah Chocolates & Gifts Burnsville

See the candy-making process close up while they hand-dip and hand-mold scrumptious treats.

The Bakken Library and Museum Minneapolis

Stand your hair on end, make songs using your heart's rhythm, create and see more than 30,000 volts of electricity travel through air.

Firefighters Hall & Museum Minneapolis

Ride a real fire truck and go hands-on with historic items from MN fire departments dating back over 150 years.

Gammelgarden Museum Scandia

Enjoy a variety of events including Swedish Sausage (Korv) Making, Rubber Stamps, or Annie's Swedish Coffee Parties on this authentic immigrant site.



Swedish Cookies at Gammelgarden Museum

Gibbs Museum of Pioneer & Dakota Life Falcon Heights

A variety of special activities such as Ice Cream Making, Candle Dipping, Cornhusk Doll Making or Butter Churning.

Guthrie Theater Minneapolis

Take a Guthrie backstage tour. Visit production departments, shops of costumes, sets and props being specially created for shows.

Harriet Alexander Nature Center Roseville

Tap maple trees, collect the sap and boil it to make delicious maple syrup. Learn syruping methods and taste wonderful maple treats.

Minneapolis Institute of Arts Minneapolis

Play musical instruments, try on clothing and jewelry, explore and handle specially selected art objects from around the world during this free hands-on experience.

Underwater Adventures Aquarium Bloomington

Behind-the-scenes tours about how they care for 4,500 animals. See their food-prep kitchen, laboratory, and the "top of the tanks" – above the aquarium exhibits.

Zorongo Glamenco Minneapolis

Take a Zorongo Spanish dance and music class. An adventure for all ages!

Visit THE PARK



Canterbury Park Racetrack and Card Club is a year-round entertainment destination. Located in Shakopee, Minnesota, Canterbury Park is just 25 minutes from both downtown Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and even closer to other attractions including Valleyfair, Mall of America, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Minnesota Zoo and, each autumn, the Minnesota Renaissance Festival.

The live horse racing season runs from early May through Labor Day at Canterbury Park, with racing under the stars most Thursday and Friday evenings and afternoon racing on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Of course, even when the horses aren't running, the action doesn't stop. Canterbury Park is home to the Upper Midwest's premiere Card Club, open 24/7, spreading Texas Hold'em, Blackjack and more...now in 100% smoke free comfort.

Simulcast racing from America's finest racetracks is telecast daily in Canterbury Park's Racebook. Several multi-screen viewing areas are available, or you can reserve a table with an individual monitor.

Canterbury Park is willing to work with you to meet your group needs. Bring a bus of 30 or more for live racing and we'll cover admission. There are also a variety of add-ons that can make your tour a success including:

- Canterbury Currency for Food*
- Reserved Seating*
- Betting Vouchers*
- Private Party Areas*
- How to Wager Seminar*
- Property Tours*
- And much more!*

So get to Canterbury Park and let the Fun and Games begin.

For more information on setting up a group event contact Vickey Wickenhauser or John Groen at 800-340-6361 or visit www.canterburypark.com.

Experience A SEGWAY



Travel back in time on a Magical History Tour™! Ride a Segway as you enjoy the history of the Minneapolis Riverfront area from 10,000 BC to present without breaking a sweat. Let the Segway do the work as you cover several miles accompanied by a professional guide. Allow your guide to assist your group in experiencing various areas of the river while stopping frequently at historical sites, including:

- Old Saw Mill District • Washington Avenue
- Plymouth Avenue Bridge
- Minneapolis Post Office • Gateway Park
- Milwaukee Railroad Depot • Mill Ruins Park
- West Bank Mill District • Mill City Museum
- West River Road • Bohemian Flats
- Upper St. Anthony Lock & Dam
- St. Anthony Falls • U of M East Bank
- Stone Arch Bridge • Father Hennepin Bluff
- Pillsbury "A" Mill • Hydro-Electric Plant
- St. Anthony Main • Nicollet Island Pavilion
- Nicollet Island Inn • Hennepin Ave. Bridge



- De Lasalle School • Eastman Flats
- Nicollet Island Homes • Old Railroad Bridge
- Paddle Boat Launch • Boom Island

Every Magical History Tour™ starts with training on how to operate a Segway safely and then a 5-7 mile beautiful historic route. The whole experience will last around 3 hours and include a stop for refreshments at the Mill City Museum. For more information call 800-749-5584.

Magical History Tour.com

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"As close to a magic carpet ride as you are going to get."

Twin Cities
BUSINESS MONTHLY

EXPERIENCE SAINT PAUL

DAY 1

4:30 pm - Check into your Saint Paul hotel; get ready for an evening out.

5:30 pm - Enjoy a delicious dinner and then delight in the mystique and magic of **Circus Juventas**, a performing arts circus school which puts youth (ages 3-21) in the spotlight.

DAY 2

8 am - Breakfast and hotel checkout.

9:30 am - Start your day with a grand tour of Landmark Center in downtown Saint Paul. This elegant building has a history that includes the famous Courtroom 317 and

gangster trials. Today, Landmark Center is home to several very unique museums and galleries.

10:30 am - **Traces Museum**, located in the Landmark Center, tells real-life stories of WWII, POWs in Germany, and civilian internments in our own country. See authentic Nazi relics captured in the heat of battle.

11:30 am - Lunch

12:30 pm - Next it's the amazing **Woodturners Gallery**. From the delightfully practical to high design, discover the many colorful and unexpected ways wood can be "turned."

2:30 pm - Ride your coach to the **James J Hill House**. Guides lead

tours in this amazing 1891 Gilded Age red sandstone mansion, telling stories of James J. Hill and his family, builder of the monolithic Great Northern Railway.

3:30 pm - Now its onto the **MN History Center** and the powerful "MN150" exhibit featuring the 2008 celebration of 150 years of Minnesota statehood by exploring 150 people, places and things that have shaken up Minnesota to those that have rocked the world.

Thanks for bringing your group to Saint Paul!

SaintPAUL

Your Next Destination

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For more information contact:
Michael Hernandez – Group Sales
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for details see www.TRACES.org or call 651.292.8700



150 good reasons to talk nice about Minnesota.

Visit the MN150 exhibit at the Minnesota History Center and experience the people, places and things that helped shape our great state.

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Minnesota History Center 651-259-3003 for reservations

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Phone: (651) 699-8229 * www.circusjuventas.org

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5 museums in 1 building

On most any day at Landmark Center, learn WWII history at TRACES, take in the American Association of Woodturners Gallery, study the Gilman Ordway Manuscript collection, view the Ramsey County Historical Society space, discover a rich history in the Landmark Archives, and examine treasures in the Schubert Club's on-of-a-kind instrument museum.

LANDMARK CENTER
75 West fifth Street St. Paul // 651.292.3225//
landmarkcenter.org



Holiday Tours
Alexander Ramsey House
651-296-8760 for reservations



Science Galore, Outdoors to Explore

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates K-7 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

DAY ONE

3 – 5:00 pm

Upon your arrival in the Twin Cities you'll have "An Electrifying Experience" at **The Bakken Library & Museum**. This unique museum focuses on the history of electricity and magnetism. Tours can be adjusted to complement your group's interests, including electricity generated by fish and discover how they use it, explore old medical devices, find herbs, or shrubs and trees used as medicine are just a few to name. After the tour you'll check-in to your hotel in **Roseville**.

6 – 9:00 pm

This evening, discover sharks and stingrays at **Underwater Adventures** in the **Mall of America**. A personal trained guide will take your group through all five amazing adventures--Touch of the Wild Woods, The Tunnel, SeaCrits Gallery, Circle of Life and Starfish Beach--while sharing fascinating stories of the underwater world at the World's Best Shark Encounter. Conclude your evening of fun at **The Park at MOA™**.

DAY TWO

9 – 12:00 pm

Have breakfast at your hotel and then head to **The**

Raptor Center and learn about myths and legends of raptors. Can owls really rotate their heads 360 degrees? Is an owl a sign of good things to come, or not? Some of the program highlights are the following: a tour of TRC and the outdoor housing area; hands-on teaching tools such as feathers, wings, skulls and feet; and interactive questions.

12 – 3:00 pm

Next, you'll explore more wildlife at the **Bell Museum of Natural History**. But first stop for lunch at any area restaurant. Then take a tour of the museum or partake in a special workshop or class on a wide array of topics from nature photography to watercolor technique, aquatic insects for fly fishing enthusiasts to museum preparatory skills.

3 – 6:00 pm

It is now time for the ultimate science experience at the **Science Museum of Minnesota**. Stroll among dinosaurs, feel the pulse of the bloodstream super-highway, create a tornado from a roiling cloud, drive a tug up the **Mississippi**. Experience the thrill of a film in the world's largest convertible dome Omnitheater. Or try to catch the images that magically dance, leap and pop off the screen in our 3D Cinema. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Mississippi River and play mini-golf outdoors in the Big Back Yard.

6 – 9:00 pm

Tonight, come aboard the **Padelford Riverboats** for a Sunset Dinner Cruise. Your journey begins with

dinner and proceeds with a narrative tour about the Mississippi River.

DAY THREE

9 – 12:00 pm

Have breakfast at your hotel and checkout. Before you venture home, visit your friends at the **Minnesota Zoo**. You can watch a dolphin show, ride the monorail, go to the IMAX theatre and see more than 3,000 animals in their natural habitats.

For more information on this sample itinerary or to book this tour for your group contact your tour operator or Carrie Donovan at the Roseville CVB, 877-980-3002.

POMPEII...



A City Suspended

A moment and a city, frozen in time by the sudden eruption of Mount Vesuvius, this is Pompeii an ancient city that used to flourish as a resort location for the Roman Empire back in 79 A.D. This exhibit is currently on display at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Pompeii and the surrounding villages were once a thriving fishing and agricultural community enhanced by foreign trade. There were about 20,000 people and their slaves inhabiting the region when the eruption took place. The society remained unseen, a stitch in time until it's discovery by 17th century scientists who slowly stumbled upon day-to-day artifacts. Through this they were able to piece together the lives of Pompeii citizens, which would eventually lead to the magnificent 10,000 square foot exhibit it is today. An experience you'll get to see perhaps once in a lifetime. A day in the life of a Pompeii citizen was filled with wall-sized frescos, ornate marble and bronze statues of their gods/goddesses, coins and jewelry.

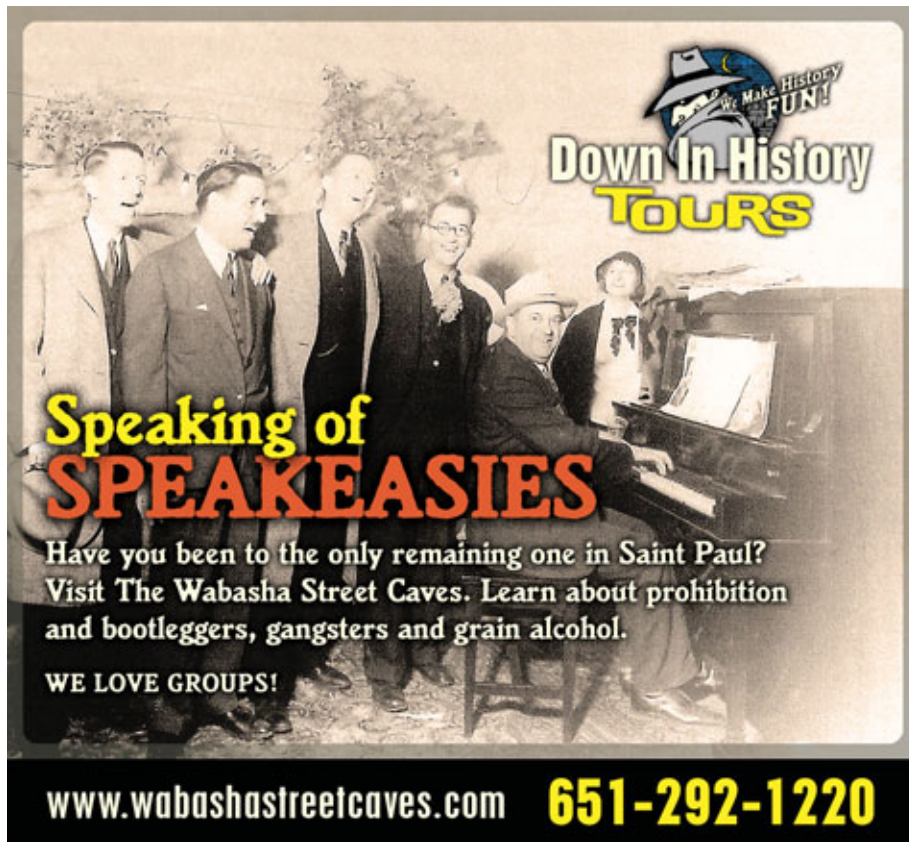
Continued on Page 43

Continued from Page 22

The exhibit, A Day In Pompeii, at the Science Museum of Minnesota encompasses all these things in their over 30 artifacts to give you a



glimpse of how life really was from waking up in the morning to being cremated at death, but by far the most haunting and memorable thing in the exhibit is the eight body casts of victims in the city, unmoving in their final moments on earth, their casts illustrate the bold reality of Pompeii that fateful day. Call 651-221-9444 or visit www.smm.org for more information.



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Speaking of SPEAKEASIES

Have you been to the only remaining one in Saint Paul? Visit The Wabasha Street Caves. Learn about prohibition and bootleggers, gangsters and grain alcohol.

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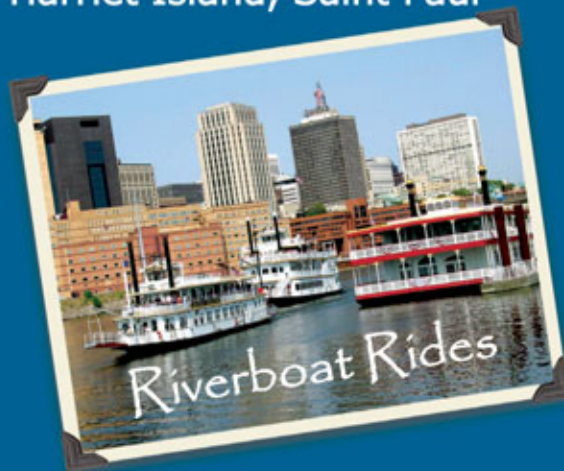
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Mill City MUSEUM



Situated on Minneapolis' newly bustling Mississippi riverfront and built within the ruins of the Washburn A Mill, Mill City Museum is a remarkable and unique mix of new and old. Award-winning architectural design has created a space that sparks imagination and sets the stage for a lively exploration of the region's history—a history that still resonates in people's lives today.

Mill City Museum is truly a must-see destination for all ages and interests. Within the museum, visitors can experience a quirky film by Kevin Kling that explores 500 years of history in 19 minutes, ride on the "Flour Tower" and hear the voices of people who worked in the mill, get their hands wet in the water lab, delight in fresh baked goods in the baking lab, hear a presentation by a costumed actor portraying a character from the past, or simply revel in the sublimely beautiful courtyard.

The museum's downtown riverfront location—with close proximity to the Guthrie Theater, Mill

City Farmers Market, and Stone Arch Bridge (not to mention downtown hotels and shopping), makes it possible for people to use the museum as a launching pad for a diverse and enriching experience in the city's latest cultural hot spot. For more information call the Minnesota Historical Society at 651-259-3149.



Living Pioneer History IN SAINT PAUL

Spend a day at the Saint Paul's Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life, where your costumed guide will tell the story of the life and friendship that flourished between this pioneer family and the Dakotah Indian People.

In 1849, the year Minnesota became a territory, newlyweds Jane and Heman Gibbs moved up the Mississippi River from Illinois and bought 160 acres, the land on which the Gibbs farm house still stands. At first, they lived in a 10 by 12 ft. dugout sod house. The remains of this "soddy" have been excavated, and visitors to the museum can see the excavation site and a replica sod house. In 1854, the Gibbs' built a larger cabin, and additions to the farm house were made in 1867 and 1873.

A trail leading from the Lake Calhoun area to the northern rice lakes crossed the farm, and Jane created her friendship with the local Dakotah who would stop to visit her during ricing season.

Special activities can be arranged for your visit to the Museum, ranging from ice cream making, candle dipping, corn husk doll making or butter churning. . . any of them giving you a wonderful and fun hands-on experience.

Be sure to save time for the various tours they offer. The Restored Landscape Tour, the Pioneer Tour, and the Dakotah Encampment Tour, which highlights the bark lodge, an authentic replica tipi, Native American crop garden, medicine teaching garden, pony travois, wild rice trail and much more.

Enjoy a picnic lunch outside under the trees or in the red barn.

All of this amidst farm animals; historic and contemporary farm equipment, and fences giving you the full Gibbs experience.

For more information call 651-646-8629 or visit www.rchs.com.



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Groups enjoy reserved tickets for both the award-winning Flour Tower multimedia show and our new film, "Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat!" starring local humorist Kevin Kling.

Historic Washburn A Mill tours and Mississippi Riverfront walking tours available.



**Reserve a group tour and save 25%.
Call 612-341-7556.**

704 South 2nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55401
www.millcitymuseum.org



Minnesota Historical Society

Have a Minneapolis Christmas!

This sample itinerary is best November 23-December 29, 2007. You'll find it at coordinates I-8, C-13 & E-10 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

12 – 2:30 pm

Start the tour in style, with a stop for lunch and shopping at the popular Swedish super-center **IKEA**, the area's largest home-furnishing destination, right across from **Mall of America**.

3 – 4:00 pm

Arrive in Minneapolis and **check in to a downtown Minneapolis hotel**, where everything is within walking distance.

4 – 6:00 pm

Stroll part of our seven miles of glass-enclosed **skyways**. There's great holiday shopping in this climate-controlled level one floor above from the street. Or, relax in your hotel and get ready for an exciting four days.

6 – 7:30 pm

What's even better than dinner and a movie? Dinner and theater. Before the show, sample the cuisine at one of the **Guthrie Theater's** restaurants overlooking the Mississippi River.

7:30 – 10 pm

Toast to a holiday tradition and enjoy **"A Christmas**

Carol" at the spectacular new Guthrie Theater.

DAY TWO

8 – 9:30 am

Enjoy breakfast at a damn good restaurant, **Hell's Kitchen**, voted "Best Breakfast in America" by National Public Radio.

10 – 12:30 pm

Be a Swede for a day and tour the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area's only "castle" at the historic **American Swedish Institute**. The castle's rooms are decorated in holiday themes of all the Scandinavian countries. Have an early lunch with a traditional Swedish Smorgasbord set up just for your group.

1 – 4:30 pm

The holidays make us all young at heart. Pamper your inner child and remember a classic story at the **Macy's Holiday Auditorium Show**. Enjoy holiday shopping or relax over a cup of coffee.

4:30 – 6:15 pm

Dine at the **Oak Grill restaurant**, located on the top floor of Macy's.

6:30 – 7:15 pm

Catch the twinkling, glowing **TCF Holiday Parade** from the comfort of a heated VIP area, featuring reserved seats and hot chocolate. The parade runs Wednesday through Sunday evenings, from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

8 – 10:30 pm

See an evening holiday performance at the **Historic State, Orpheum or Pantages Theatres**, or at **Orchestra Hall**. The music and theater scene sparkle around the holidays. Or, have a guide step onto your coach for a **holiday lights tour** of the best displays of the season.

DAY THREE

9 – 10:00 am

Energize for another day with breakfast at your hotel.

10 – 12:00 pm

Tour the newly expanded, Michael Graves-designed **Minneapolis Institute of Arts** and the festive annual exhibit, "Holiday Traditions in the Period Rooms".

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Explore the **Midtown Global Market**, bursting with international flavors and styles. Choose from restaurants and shops from around the world.

2:00 pm

Depart for home wishing you had another day to spend in Minneapolis.

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or Lori Kampa Kearny, Meet Minneapolis Official Convention & Visitors Assn, 800-445-7412 or lorik@meetminneapolis.com.



Contact Lori Kearney:
lorik@meetminneapolis.com
 1.800.445.7412, ext. 8114
www.minneapolis.org/grouptravel

Plan a trip to Minneapolis and take in a Viking exhibit or a Vikings game.
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Step back in time: Minnesota celebrates 150 years

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates K-10 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

DAY ONE

9 – 9:30 am

Experience first hand the fun you can have in **Shakopee, Minnesota**. Shakopee's own hat lady will greet you and welcome your group to her fair city.

9:30 – 10:30 am

Take an intriguing tour lead by **Genealogist Betty Dols** through the **Valley** and **St. Mark's Cemeteries**. She discusses prominent citizens from Shakopee's early days and directs attention to their graves and to the relation of the graves around them. She has a collection of stories ranging from fascinating and funny to tragic and sad.

10:30 – 12:00 pm

Next stop is **Historic Murphy's Landing** where you'll experience the lifestyle and legends of the early years of Minnesota as you ride the trolley along history lane.

12 – 2:00 pm

Enjoy a special meal as you overlook the Minnesota River. You will be entertained by the fun-loving **Czech Area Concertina Band**. Hear songs like "Beautiful Brown Eyes", or "Down in the Valley" and learn the history of the concertina and how they are made right

here in the area.

2 – 3:00 pm

Board the bus and head down 169 where the **Mudbaden Sanitarium** still stands. Hear how people traveled many miles to receive sulphur mud treatments for those suffering from rheumatism and other ailments. At one point it even was claimed the treatments even cured cancer.

3 – 4:00 pm

Stop in **Jordan, MN**, a little village nested in the lovely Minnesota River Valley. Hear the history of the area and stop at **Brewery Antiques**, housed in the historic **Schutz & Hilgers Brewery** built in 1867. Hear its history and enjoy some antique shopping in the downtown stores.

4 – 6:00 pm

The **Cedar Ridge Arabian & Ames Percheron Farm** holds a treat for you as your guide boards the bus to take you on a tour of this beautiful facility, including the horse barns, stall areas, riding and training areas. Add a wagon ride drawn by the magnificent Percheron Horses through 40 acres of trees, wetlands and wildlife.

6 – 7:00 pm

Step back in time and relive the days of the **Old West** at the **OK Corral Restaurant and Saloon**. Find yourself surrounded by authentic western memorabilia while enjoying the genuine Old West hospitality. Savor ranch house delicacies and traditional American fare



Cedar Ridge Arabian & Ames Percheron Farm



Cedar Ridge Arabian & Ames Percheron Farm

prepared just for your group.

7:00 pm

Following dinner the fun begins, as **Elaine and Friends** entertain the group with some special line dancing. Then it's your turn to join them on the dance floor as they teach you some special steps.

DAY TWO

9 – 11:30 am

After breakfast a costumed guide will join you to share some history and add a little humor to the day. The journey starts where Herman Strunk, a German immigrant, staked a claim in 1854 for a brewery. The **Strunk Nyssen Brewery** holds lots of history.

9:30 – 10:30 am

Arrive at the home of Jeanne & Vernon Bjornberg who purchased the **Strunk Nyssen Home**. The Bjornberg's and their nine children completely gutted and restored this home to what it was in the late 1800's. View the beautiful antiques and lovely hand woven rugs that Mrs. Bjornberg made on her loom.

10:30 – 11:30 am

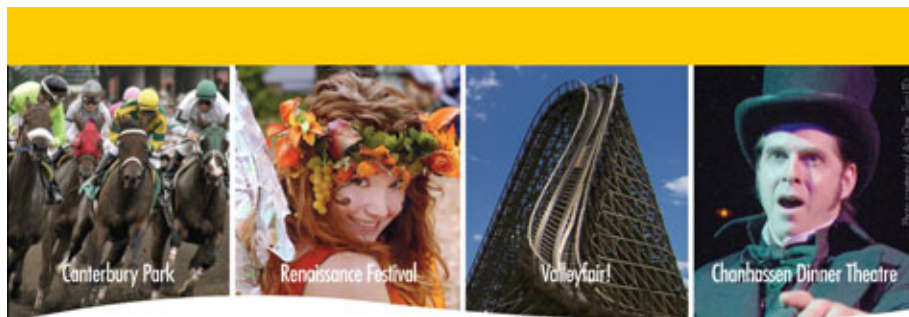
Entrepreneur William Rahr of the Rahr Malting Co. founded the next stop in 1847 as the **Eagle Brewery**, the single largest malt production site in the world. A fascinating place to visit.

12:00 pm

Dine at **Stonebrooke Golf Course** where the food is exquisite and, no matter what the season, the view is beautiful.

From the minute you arrive, until departure, we'll provide you with all you need to make your visit a great success. Smiles are included for everyone in your group.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Carol Anderson at the Shakopee Chamber & Visitors Bureau, 800-574-2150.



Times like these call for tours like these.

A motorcoach trip to Shakopee will open doors to history, horse racing, theatre, concertina music, wine tasting, arts & crafts, ballroom dancing, thrills & chills, carriage rides, horse farm, fantastic dining, comfortable lodging and great memories. Add a costumed guide and the fun will begin. The list could go on and on so call today.

**Itineraries are available for customized tours.
Call for a free Group Tour Planning Guide today.**

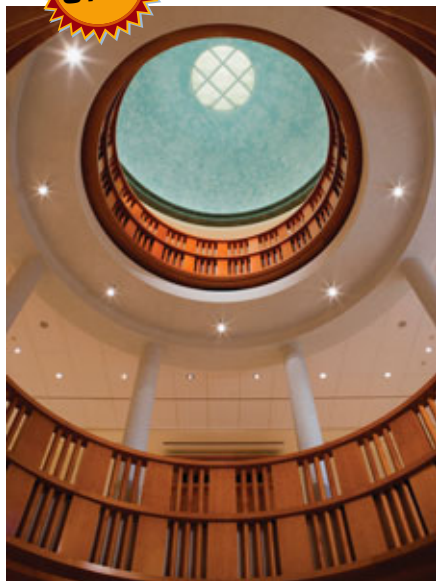
Chamber & Visitors Bureau
Shakopee – Minnesota

1-800-574-2150

www.shakopee.org • info@shakopee.org



Minneapolis *Institute of Arts*



The Minneapolis Institute of Arts is one of the leading comprehensive fine art museums in the country. Located in a beautiful landmark building near downtown Minneapolis, the museum houses nearly 100,000 works of art representing more than 5,000 years of world art and culture. General admission, parking and public tours are all free of charge.

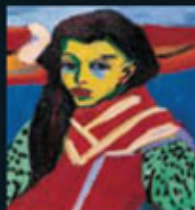
Free Tours: Guided tours are free Tuesday through Sunday at 1 pm; Thursday at 7 pm; and Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm. For groups of 15 or more, call (612) 870-3140. **Audio Tours:** Quick Stops audio tours allow visitors to connect with art at their own pace (\$4 rental for adults, \$3 for children). **Museum Shop:** Distinctive gifts, jewelry, and books are on display in the shop, open during museum hours. **Dining:** ArtsBreak and ArtsCafé by D'Amico & Sons offer delicious on-site dining options. **Museum Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 am-5 pm; Thursday 10 am-9 pm; Sunday 11 am-5 pm; closed Monday.

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Music Box Theatre 1407 Nicollet. Cast may vary.

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Grab a cup of freshly brewed coffee, a homemade brownie (you can take them with you to your seat) and prepare to laugh non-stop. After 11 years, **Triple Espresso** is still the funniest entertainment experience for ages 6 – 96! What is Triple Espresso? The show is about 3 guys, a coffee house, an utter lack of common sense, climbing the ladder of success—downwards, dust storms in Nebraska, dancing in Zaire, things that disappear and reappear, a gorilla in a music contest, hand shadow puppets AND the single most embarrassing moment ever broadcast on national television. This long running, Minneapolis classic has been brewing up a cup of comedy and the audiences keep coming back for refills. For more information call 612-874-1100 or visit www.tripleespresso.com.

Put Volun'tour'ism IN YOUR ITINERARY



Shopping with younger children in stores that sell expensive, shiny, breakable things, we've all admonished them to, "Look with your eyes, not your hands." They knew exactly what we meant: "Don't touch, don't taste, don't even think about it, because I don't want to buy it." It's a sound policy for shopping with kids, one that's saved us all a lot of money through the years.

But when it comes to group travel, the concept breaks down. It takes more than just looking around to get a good feel for a city. To really know what a place is like, you've got to pick it up and roll it around in your fingers. Smell it, taste it... let it get into your system.

So, if you're truly looking for more than just "window-shopping" in your travels, make sure you include volun'tour'ism.

There likely is no better way to explore the heart and soul of the Twin Cities than through a visit to the Union Gospel Mission, a compassionate fixture in the Saint Paul landscape for more than 100 years. Take a tour, and better yet, get involved by volunteering... by Voluntouring. Just ask, there's plenty to do. Don't worry, you won't break anything, except perhaps the loneliness and isolation experienced by many of those living in poverty. And in the process, you'll get a feel for the place... all the way down to your heart.

To arrange your Volun'tour' opportunity, call the Union Gospel Mission at 651-292-1721 ext 109.



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Celebrate the Holidays in Bloomington



This sample itinerary is best during Mall of America's Holiday Music Festival, November 23-December 23, 2007. You'll find it at coordinates J-10 on the 2008 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in this issue of itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

12 – 6:00 pm

Stay warm at **Mall of America!** When you're not shopping at one of the 520 stores, enjoy the sounds of the season with community, professional and school groups from around the Midwest at **Mall of America's Holiday Music Festival** Friday, November 23 thru Sunday, December 23. Times vary according to the day; see www.mallofamerica.com for more information. If you're a pet owner, take a Pet Photo with Santa at **The Polar Junction Café** located at the east entrance of **The Park at MOA**, Sundays, November 25; December 2, 9, and 16.

6 – 9:30 pm

Spend an evening at the **Bloomington Center for the Arts** in December for a holiday performance of the *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* or the *Nutcracker Ballet*. You can also order dinner. Visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org for show times.



DAY TWO

10 – 1:00 pm

Enjoy the outdoors at **Hyland Lake Park Reserve**, a 1,000-acre park offering year-round activities including ice skating, cross-country and downhill skiing. **Richardson Nature Center** is located in the park and offers a variety of educational activities for the whole group including four hiking trails that are great for snowshoeing. Rent equipment and get a snack from Richardson Nature Center or the Visitor Center.



1 – 4:00pm

If you prefer warmer weather and water, stop by **Water Park of America**. This indoor water park features a 10-story waterslide, wave pool, and arcade. If you left your bathing suit at home, have an early dinner instead at the **Split Rock Grille** and enjoy Minnesota specialties' such as Walleye and Wild Rice Soup.

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

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RAMADA

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Without a doubt, if you're planning a night out, consider the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre for mouth-watering food, and even better entertainment. Upcoming events include:



*Now Playing **RESPECT: A Musical Journey of Women:**

A harmonious musical portraying the history of women in the 19th century through 60 of the favorite top-40 hits of the times. This show will leave you dancing in the aisles!

*Opening November 9, 2007 **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat:** This new staging of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's record-breaking production is a family classic ready to please a whole new generation. And here's a twist--Joseph will be picking two children out of the audience at each performance to perform live on stage!

*Opening January 15, 2008 **The Wonder Bread Years:** A hilarious one man show about the happier days of childhood, when candy was currency and the most dangerous kid in school carried a "switch-comb." A must see for anyone that was once a kid.

For information and show times please call 800-355-6273 or visit www.chanhassendt.com.



Hands-On SWEDISH CUISINE

The American Swedish Institute has a brand-new interactive tour experience! Join us for "Hands-On Swedish Cuisine," a one-of-a-kind opportunity to create your own Swedish masterpiece for lunch.

When you bring your group for the hands-on experience at the Institute, you will first learn about the history of smörgås, the traditional Swedish open-face sandwich that has been popular in Sweden for many centuries. These sandwiches are not a typical snack as in America, but a hearty knife-and-fork dish that will more than fill you up! They also give you a chance to exercise your creative side, since they are just as attractive to look at as they are good to eat.

Next, our Swedish chef will demonstrate the knack of creating these sandwiches, explaining which ingredients go together, how to assemble the ingredients in a pleasing design, and how to make a landgång or "gangplank" sandwich!

Then you'll put what you've learned to use, as your group takes to the sandwich stations and uses pre-chopped ingredients to assemble their own works of art. Whether smoked ham paired with creamy fruit salad, a traditional sliced meatball sandwich with beet salad, or another of the many possible groupings, the variety in these sandwiches is endless and everyone will find a combination they can enjoy.

After creating their sandwiches, members of your group will tour our historic mansion while our staff sets tables and prepares the rest of your meal: a hearty warm soup accompanied by your own hand-made smörgås, followed by a traditional Swedish dessert and coffee. Just the thing to warm up chilly fall and winter days! After lunch, enjoy time in our newly-expanded gift shop.

And best of all, the skills used to make these sandwiches are skills your groups can take home and use in their own kitchens. Please join us for this one-of-a-kind experience.

For more information please contact Katy Epler, 612-871-4907.





'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 Fifth Annual St. Croix Valley Chocolate March.

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

From Osceola and Taylors Falls on the north to Hastings on the south, this unique collection of inns ranges from cottage to prairie to Victorian style. Unique this year will be chocolate tastings at three historic estates in addition to the inns. The LeDuc Mansion in Hastings, the Octagon House in Hudson, and the Folsom House in Taylors Falls also will welcome visitors to savor and sample.

Many of the inns are offering special weekend packages that include tickets to the Chocolate March. Chocolate tastings offer everything from truffles to mousse to tortes to chocolate chai tea. Tickets are \$21 in advance or \$25 at the door (a portion of the 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 are Knoke Confections from Hudson, Creative Confectionaire from Hastings, Delightful Edibles from Woodbury and River Chocolates from River Falls.

Participating wineries are Alexis Bailly of Hastings, St. Croix Vineyard of Stillwater and Northern Vineyard of St. Croix Falls.

Please note that group tours can be scheduled for weekdays throughout the year, other than only on those three 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 and develop their own version...

Speaking of "sampling," look of this list: Afton House chocolate specialty dessert, Alexis Bailly wine tasting, Knoke Elda Cherries (cherries dipped

in caramel, then chocolate), Delicate Chocolate Cookies, Truffles from Creative Confectionaire, Rudolph's Chocolate Rum bundt cake, Oprah's White Caramel Hot Cocoa, display from Belize of fresh cocoa and seminar, Chocolate Muffins, fruit dipped in River Chocolate Orange Sauce.

And, a recipe...

Chocolate Cream Cheese Frosting

3 ounces softened cream cheese
6 tablespoons softened butter
2 cups + 2 tablespoons powdered sugar
1/3 cup cocoa
1 teaspoon vanilla
Mix with electric mixer until creamy.
Spread on cooled cake.

Tickets for the coming St. Croix Valley Chocolate March can be purchased through www.ticketworks.com, or for more information visit www.innsofthevalley.com. Discounts and incentives are offered when purchasing tickets for groups. Call 651-998-0185 for more information.



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- AmericInn Airport/Bloomington Richfield 800-634-3444
AmericInn Hotel & Suites Moundsview 763-786-2000
AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Shakopee 952-445-6775
AmericInn of Anoka/Coon Rapids 763-323-0010
AmericInn of Chanhassen Chanhassen 952-934-3888
Best Western Chaska River Inn & Suites 952-448-7877 ext 507
Best Western White Bear Country Inn 651-429-5393
Doubletree Guest Suites 612-492-2203
Holiday Inn Express 651-636-5800
Holiday Inn Minneapolis NW - Elk River 763-656-4404
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel 952-496-6528
Oak Ridge Hotel and Conference Center 952-368-3100
Ramada Mall of America 952-854-3411
Super 8 Minneapolis/Golden Valley 763-546-6277

- Wingate by Wyndham 763-576-0700 ext 4906
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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

- Alexander Ramsey House Saint Paul 651-296-8760
Alexis Bailly Vineyard & Winery 651-437-1413
Hwy 61 at 170th Street - Hastings, MN 55033 / info@abwvines.com / www.abwvines.com
Why go to Napa? Visit Minnesota's oldest winery and vineyard for a tour of our wine cellar and a tasting of our award-winning wines. Tours by appointment, Mondays-Thursdays, seasonal. Discount for seniors.
American Association of Woodturners Saint Paul 651-484-9094
American Swedish Institute 612-871-4907
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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.
Bachman's Floral, Home & Garden Center 612-861-7692
6010 Lyndale Avenue South - Minneapolis, MN 55419 / www.bachmans.com
Free group tours of America's largest floral retailer. Watch designers at work. See gorgeous holiday displays, blooming plants & gardens (in season). Dine onsite at Patrick's French cafe. Shopping discount & complimentary rose. Custom demonstrations & room rental available.
Canterbury Park 952-445-7223
1100 Canterbury Rd - Shakopee, MN 55379 / cby@canterburypark.com 800-340-6361
Canterbury Park is home to live horse racing May - Labor Day and Texas Hold'em, Blackjack and more 24/7, and Simulcast racing year 'round. Canterbury Park - Fun & Games like no place else.
Chocolate March 651-998-0185
Three Sundays in March 2008. Hastings, Hudson, Osceola and Taylor Falls. Tickets available online at www.ticketworks.com or for more information visit www.innsofthevalley.com.
Circus Juventas Saint Paul 651-699-8229
Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life 651-646-8629
2097 West Larpenture Avenue - Falcon Heights, MN 55113 / www.rchs.com
Compare the lives of 1800's MN pioneers and the Dakotah people who lived in MN before Europeans arrived. Costumed guides share the original farmhouse, replica dugout sodhouse, bark lodge, tipi, heritage orchard, prairie.
Historic Fort Snelling Saint Paul 612-726-1171
Historic Murphy's Landing 952-445-6900
2187 East Highway 101 - Shakopee, MN 55379
hmlstaff@threeriversparkdistrict.org / www.Murphy'sLanding.com
Experience the charms and challenges of 1800s-era life along the Minnesota River Valley at this 88-acre living history museum. Costumed staff spins tales, demonstrate crafts and depict the daily lives of MN's European settlers.
James J. Hill House Saint Paul 651-297-2555
Landmark Center Saint Paul 651-292-3225
Mill City Museum 612-341-7556
704 S Second Street - Minneapolis, MN 55401
mcmschedulingoffice@mnhs.org / www.millcitymuseum.org
Mill City Museum is a remarkable and unique mix of new and old. Award-winning architectural design has created a space that sparks imagination and sets the stage for a lively exploration of the region's history—a history that still resonates in people's lives today.
Minneapolis Institute of Arts 612-870-3131
2400 Third Avenue South - Minneapolis, MN 55404 / www.artsmia.org
Visit the Minneapolis Institute of Arts' world-class collection, ranging from ancient sculpture to contemporary photography. Ranked as one of the top comprehensive U.S. art museums. Free general admission every day.
Minnesota Historical Society Saint Paul 651-259-3003
Minnesota History Center Saint Paul 651-259-3400
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum 952-443-1411
3675 Arboretum Drive - Chaska, MN 55318 / www.arboretum.umn.edu
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Minnesota State Capitol Saint Paul 651-296-2881

directory

- ▶ Minnesota Zoo** **952-431-9200**
1300 Zoo Boulevard - Apple Valley, MN 55124 / www.mn zoo.org **800-366-7811**
The Minnesota Zoo Welcomes Groups! Open 363 days a year and located in Apple Valley just minutes south of Mall of America. Advance group reservations required, 20+ = 20% discount on zoo admission.
- Oliver H. Kelley Farm** Elk River **763-411-6896**
- ▶ Padelford Packet Boat Company** **651-227-1100**
Harriet Island - Saint Paul, MN 55107 / jim@riverrides.com / www.riverrides.com
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- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Segway Magical History Tour** **952-888-9200**
125 Main Street SE - Minneapolis, MN 55414 / www.magicalhistorytour.com
Cruise along the historic Mississippi riverfront on a Segway! The three hour Segway tour includes training, practice, helmet, and a free entrance ticket to the Mill City Museum. Tour Departs 2 - 4 times daily and reservations required! 952-888-9200. www.magicalhistory.com.
- Sibley House Historic Site** Mendota **651-452-1596**
- Traces - We Bring History to Life** Saint Paul **651-292-8700**
- Union Gospel Mission** Saint Paul **651-222-4949**
- ▶ 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!

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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!
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- ▶ Saint Paul RiverCentre Convention & Visitors Authority** **651-265-4906**
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- ▶ Shakopee CVB** **952-445-1660**
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Discover Shakopee the place that our groups love to visit. With a wide range of attractions such as Valleyfair, Canterbury Park, Historic Murphy's Landing, Renaissance Festival, and Czech Area Concertina Club. There's always something exciting happening in Shakopee.

ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER

- ▶ 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. 10 performances Dec 2-4, 9-11 & 16-18. Call Alan for details.
- ▶ Chanhassen Dinner Theatres** **952-934-1547**
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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!"
- History Theatre** Saint Paul **651-292-4323**
- ▶ Ordway Center for the Performing Arts** **651-282-3111**
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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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Triple Espresso Company** **612-874-1100**
1411 Nicollet Ave - Mpls, MN 55403 / meganp@tripleespresso.com / www.tripleespresso.com
Triple Espresso—a highly caffeinated comedy. Every Wednesday through Sunday at the Music Box Theatre in Minneapolis. A clean comedy play for both theatre-goers and non-theatre goers alike. The funniest entertainment experience for ages 6 - 96!

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- ▶ 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 36th anniversary. Enjoy the group discount program for 15 or more, plus complimentary tickets for driver and coordinators. Weekends and Labor Day in August & September 2008.

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MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA,
SOUTH DAKOTA, WISCONSIN

calendar of events

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

central canada

- Nov 30 **Canad Inns Winter WonderLand,**
-Jan 6 Winnipeg 204-888-6990
- Dec 3 **The Rankin Sisters, A Maritime Christmas,**
Thunder Bay 800-667-8386
- Dec 8 **CLE Christmas Craft Show,**
Thunder Bay 800-667-8386

illinois

- Nov 1 **Tony n' Tina's Wedding,**
- Dec 31 Chicago 312-664-8844
- Dec 15 **Night of Luminaria,** Galena 815-777-9050

iowa

- Dec 7 **1st Fridays Art Walk,**
Fairfield 641-472-2111
- Jan 26 **Winterfest,** Amana 800-579-2294

missouri

- Nov 3 **Silver Dollar City's,** An Old Time Christmas,
-Dec 30 Branson 800-831-4386
- Dec 1 **David Benoit's Charlie Brown Christmas,**
Springfield 888-476-7849

nebraska

- Dec 27-30 **Super Science Slam,**
Aurora 402-694-4032
- Jan 11 **Spring Flower Show,**
-May 11 Omaha 402-346-4002

north dakota

- Dec 7-9 **Dicken's Village Festival,**
Garrison 800-799-4242
- Jan 25-27 **Mardi Gras,** Dickinson 701-483-4988

south dakota

- Nov 16 **Winter Wonderland at Falls Park,**
-Jan 1 Sioux Falls 605-336-1620
- Jan 5 **Snowshoe Stomp,** Lake City 605-448-5474
- Feb 2 **Walk in the Park: Eagles & Bagels,**
Fort Pierre 605-223-7722

wisconsin

- Jan 1 **Polar Bear Swim,**
Jacksonport 800-527-3529
- Jan 19-20 **Flake Out Festival,**
Wisconsin Dells 800-223-3557

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Making the journey the destination upper midwest

Amethyst Mine Panorama - Thunder Bay



Amethyst Mine Panorama

Thunder Bay, Ontario - Canada

Amethyst Mine Panorama, North America's largest amethyst deposit, is an active, working quarry. Take a walking tour of mine site, hear an informative talk on history and geology of the mine. "Dig-your-own" your own amethyst gems (pails, digging tools and running water are provided), and digging is safe and easy at this very popular "surface mine". Visit the Amethyst Gift Shop with 100% Canadian amethyst mined from Amethyst Mine Panorama and gift items produced at the Amethyst Gift Centre. Also tour the Amethyst Gift Centre's workshop while you are there.

other hands-on tours in the upper midwest

Dick Tracy Museum Woodstock, IL

See Dick Tracy original artwork, memorabilia and the Crimestopper Club Room. Experiment with forensic science at this museum built in the honor of the creator of this famous comic strip.

Fort William Historical Park Thunder Bay, Canada

Sit around a tranquil fire in a wigwam with a hot cup of Labrador Tea as you learn of the Anishinabe people who were key to the success of the North West Fur Trade Company and the development of Canada.

FortWhyte Alive Winnipeg, Canada

Learn about the unique characteristics of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures through artifacts and native games. Visit a Tipi encampment and bison herd.

Happy Jack Peak & Chalk Mine Scotia, NE

More than 6,000 feet of honeycombed caverns. Features the only publicly accessible chalk room and pillar mine in North America.

Heartland Spa Lilman, IL

Learn about nutrition, fitness and stress management during a stay at the all-inclusive spa. One of the "Top 10 Spas" in America.

Jail Museum Dubuque, IA

Send your group on an educational treasure hunt through an 1857 jailhouse. They will "break out" when they have gathered all the clues to attempt a successful escape. Scavenger hunts available.

The Journey Museum Rapid City, SD

Walk through 200 years of Lakota culture in an exhibit area devoted entirely to American Indian achievements. Listen to tales told by a Lakota elder via hologram.

Knife River Ranch Golden Valley, ND

Experience a real working cattle ranch with cozy cabins and lodge!

Try your hand at branding, roundups, trailing cattle and bull runs. Canoe, swim and fish on Knife River plus great birding, too!

Ko-Thi Dance Company Milwaukee, WI

Study the techniques of traditional African and Caribbean drumming and dance through classes, available for people of all ages.

The Mammoth Site Hot Springs, SD

The world's largest mammoth research facility where your group can tour an active paleontological dig site to view Ice Age fossils.

Pioneer Trails Regional Museum Bowman, ND

Have you wondered what it is like to be a paleontologist? Your group can spend a day onsite with our museum personnel as they gather specimens – even dinosaur fossils!

Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts Mineral Point, WI

From rustic willow chairs to mosaic sculpture to screenwriting, groups delight in unique classes in magical settings of tree-shaded gardens and an ancient spring.

Simple Threads Quilt Shop Rock Lake, ND

Quilting classes for beginners to experienced quilters.

Tall Grass Prairie Bread Company Winnipeg Canada

Learn the history of their successful business and get a first hand look at the people and product in action. Tall Grass is proud of its organic baking techniques including grinding all their own grains on-site for the utmost freshness and taste.

Thunder Oak Cheese Farm Thunder Bay, Canada

Watch the entire cheese-making process in operation at the only farm in Ontario that produces Gouda cheese.

Whirlwind Ranch Lebanon, MO

A working Alpaca ranch that offers educational seminars, a gift store and group tours. Reservations required.



Two Days of Discovery in Thunder Bay



This itinerary works best in the Summer.

DAY ONE

9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Check into an area hotel before your group starts at North America's largest amethyst deposit, **Amethyst Mine Panorama**. Take a walking tour of the mine site and hear interesting and informative talk on the mine's history and geology, specifically the mineralogy of amethyst. Plus experience the joy and excitement of mining your own amethyst on the "dig-your-own" amethyst adventure.

1 – 2:30 pm

Have lunch at **Hoito Restaurant**, a café style restaurant with individual tables and home-style food, including many Finnish dishes.

2:30 – 5:00 pm

Relax and enjoy a beautiful summer tour of the **Belluz Farms – Valley Berry Patch**. You'll pass through their strawberry fields, cornfields, and pumpkin patch. From "The Top of the World" (the highest point in Slate River Valley), view the entire Nor'wester Mountain Range in its full summer glory. Then your group members will have the opportunity to pick their own fruits, vegetables or pumpkins, depending on the season.

5 – 7:00 pm

Experience Thunder Bay's only Resto-lounge featuring tapas style food menu at **Lot 66**. Private dining room available for groups.

7 – 10:00 pm

The night's entertainment is at **Magnus Theatre**. This professional theatre company stages classical and international works, with a strong commitment to the production of new Canadian plays.

DAY TWO

9 – 10:00 am

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at your hotel.

10 – 11:30 am

Stop at the only farm in Ontario that produces Gouda cheese. This creamy Dutch cheese has long been a favorite of cheese lovers around the world and has been made at **Thunder Oak Cheese Farm** since 1995. Arrive just in time to watch the cheesemaking process.

11:30 – 1:00 pm

Head to the largest public art gallery in Northwestern Ontario, the **Thunder Bay Art Gallery**. Take the "Opening Your Eyes" Tour. The tour content and activities will be tailored age appropriately and to a variety of learning styles. It includes a gallery orientation and exercises to make participants feel comfortable in communicating about, and engaging in, art in a gallery setting while learning about the current exhibitions.

1 – 2:00 pm

Have lunch at Thunder Bay's best-kept secret, **Mama Alfa's Pizzeria**. The freshest ingredients, their special recipes, and an enjoyable atmosphere – a combination that assures your dining experience will be memorable.



Amethyst Mine



Dreamfields Riding Center barn



Dreamfields Riding Center

2 – 4:00 pm

Saddle Up! at **Dreamfields Riding Centre**. Their standard trail package includes one hour in the saddle, orientation and a short lesson before your group rides through rocky meadows, rolling hills, boreal forest, beaver ponds and teaming wildlife. A perfect way to end your experience in Thunder Bay!

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Thunder Bay Tourism, 800-667-8386.

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Ladies of Leisure: Women's Luxury Weekend Itinerary in DuPage County

This sample itinerary is best any time of the year.

Ladies, put on your stylish red hats for a well-deserved DuPage weekend of feminine delights and gracious elegance!

DAY ONE

9:30 – 10:00 am

Check into one of the many affordably priced hotels DuPage County has to offer. You'll feel like a queen, delighted at the gracious level of comfort, amenities and service you'll enjoy...a real value, too.

10 – 1:00 pm

Hunt for antiques, art, and one-of-a-kind boutique fashions at one of DuPage County's quaint downtown shopping areas.

1 – 3:00 pm

Stroll the exquisite gardens and sublime 1930's mansion of the **Robert McCormick Museum**. Enjoy a traditional Afternoon Tea on the East Portico (inspired by Thomas Jefferson's Monticello), featuring scones with Devonshire cream and fruit preserves, finger sandwiches, cold canapés, pastries, chocolates and piping hot tea served in fine china services. Ah, lovely.

3 – 6:00 pm

Next, you may choose to spend a delightful hour at the

award-winning **Lynfred Winery's Wine Tasting Tour**,



with freshly-baked breads to cleanse the palate.

Or, opt for making truffles, flourless chocolate cake and airy chocolate mousse in a Chocolate Lover's Cooking Class at **Indian Lakes Resort**, taught by renowned Chef Brent Lomprez!

6 – 9:00 pm

Climb aboard a romantic, old-fashioned trolley car and head to Chicago for a wedding—**Tony n' Tina's Wedding**, a hilarious theatrical satire of an Italian-American wedding! All through the ceremony, reception, dinner and dancing you'll toast the happy couple and their lunatic wedding party!

DAY TWO

10 – 5:00 pm

Shop 'till you drop at any of our world-class shopping centers—**Oakbrook Center, Westbrook/Fox Valley, Stratford Square, Chicago Premium Outlet, Elmhurst City Centre or Yorktown**—featuring such fashion meccas as Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Tiffany & Co., Macy's, Von Maur, Carson

Pirie Scott and hundreds more. Or discover "finds" at the Five Star Indoor Swap Mart, a bargain hunter's paradise! Lunch on your own at a myriad of bistros, cafes and charming tearooms.

5 – 10:00 pm

Take a well-deserved nap, get dressed up to the nines for a fabulous full-course dinner and Broadway show at the glittering **Drury Lane Dinner Theater!**

DAY THREE

9 – 10:30 am

Have a delicious brunch at the supremely elegant **Wyndham Drake Oak Brook Hotel** overlooking the **Oak Brook Polo Club** field.

10:30 – 4:00 pm

More shopping? Certainly. Head for historic downtown districts for more shopping and antiques. By now your feet are aching—time for pure serenity, relaxation and rejuvenation for the skin, body and senses at the grand French County-style **Herrington Inn & Spa!** Indulge in a soothing aromatherapy massage, or a skin revitalizing facial, a luminous body polish, or a stimulating foot massage up to the knees—ahhh, bliss. Dine at the Herrington's AAA four-diamond award-winning **Atwater's Restaurant**, with beautiful views of the Fox River and glorious garden courtyard.

Be a lady of leisure for an unforgettable getaway weekend with the girls in DuPage County, The Magnificent Miles West of Chicago™!

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group, contact your tour operator or DuPage CVB, 800-232-0502.

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ILLINOIS



The Art & Soul of Cooking Tour

This sample itinerary is best weekends during spring or summer.

DAY ONE

5 – 7:00 pm

Start your weekend with dinner and beer tasting at **Rockbottom Brewery**. Then check into a local hotel for a night's rest.

DAY TWO

10 – 1:00 pm

After breakfast you'll create truffles, mousse and flourless chocolate cake in a hands-on **Chocolate Lover's Cooking Class** taught by renowned Chef Brent Lomprez at **Indian Lakes Resort**.

1 – 5:00 pm

Spend a delightful afternoon at the award-winning **Lynfred Winery's Wine Tasting Tour**, with freshly-baked breads to cleanse the palate.

5 – 7:00 pm

Over a delicious dinner at the **Sedona Grille**, Chef Klaus Lotter will teach the fundamentals of wine-and-food pairing. Then return to your hotel for an evening of relaxation.

DAY THREE

10 – 1:00 pm

On the third day, shop at one of **DuPage County's** magnificent shopping centers to stock your own kitchen.

1 – 3:00 pm

Cook your own lunch at the **Weber Grill Restaurant Cooking Class**. Learn grilling tips from the pros, and take home a pack of Weber BBQ spice rub compliments of the chef.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Lynfred Winery, 630-529-WINE.



A Day of Amazing Variety



Downtown Lanesboro



Commonwealth Theatre



Stone Mill Suites

This itinerary is best during summer months.

9 – 11:00 am

A great place to go for breakfast **The Surf Ballroom** is the site of the last performance of rock legends Richie Valens, Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper who soon after were killed in a plane crash just outside of **Clear Lake**. The restaurant has been made to commemorate the icons by being restored to its 1959 splendor, and hosting a stone memorial out front.

11 – 3:00 pm

Take a stop at **Diamond Joe Casino**, which has the area's largest selection of progressive jackpot slots, a little more than 900. Coin machines not your thing? They also have eight table games and an all-new poker room featuring more tables and chances to win. Before you leave, be sure to sit down for dinner at the on-site restaurant appropriately named **The Kitchen**.

3 – 5:00 pm

Board the bus for a short ride up to the Minnesota town of **Harmony**.

5 – 6:30 pm

You're in Harmony to visit **Niagara Cave**, one of the most fascinating and unique geological attractions in the Midwest. The one-hour guided tour will take visitors to an underground waterfall nearly 60 feet high, stalactites both delicate and massive, calcite flowstone, fossils that have been dated to more than 400 million years old and a wedding chapel in which over 300 weddings have been performed, plus much more. Be sure to bring a jacket, the cave is always a brisk 48 degrees.



6:30 – 8:00 pm

A short twenty-minute ride to **Lanesboro** where you'll dine at the **Riverside on the Root** overlooking the scenic **Root River**.

8 – 10:00 pm

The night will end with your watching a performance at the **Commonwealth Theatre**. They are always performing a well-known play here so no matter what time of year you show up, everyone in your group will be pleased.

10:00 pm

Check into the **Stone Mill Suites** in the heart of Lanesboro. The suites are in what used to be the old feed mill, and the 10 themed rooms reflect that history.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Lori Bahl, Diamond Jo, 800-582-5956 or Lanesboro Chamber 800-944-2670.

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Making the journey the destination

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ACCOMMODATIONS

▶ **AmericInn of Kewanee, IL** **309-856-7200**
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lincoln.ne@americinn.com / www.americinn.com

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sales@bestwestern-dells.com / www.bestwestern-dells.com

Easily accessible from I-94/90, we have plenty of free bus parking. We have interior corridors, reasonable group rates and various restaurants with in walking distance. For more information, please call Group Sales.

▶ **Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield** **262-364-1010**

375 South Moorland Road – Brookfield, WI 53005

amy.landis@sheraton.com / www.sheraton.com/milwaukeebrookfield

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wingate1dos@yahoo.com / www.wingatehotels.com

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ATTRACTIONS

▶ **Amethyst Mine Panorama and Gift Centre** **807-622-6908**

400 East Victoria Ave - Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7C 1A5

info@amethystmine.com / www.amethystmine.com

Enjoy the largest amethyst deposit in Canada, offering a large, public digging area, and is the main source of "pick your own" quality amethysts. Our gift shop offers beautiful hand-crafted gifts, carvings, clocks, gemstones and jewelry.

▶ **Diamond Jo Casino** **877-323-5566**

777 Diamond Jo Lane - Northwood, IA 50459 / www.diamondjo.com

Located on the Iowa-Minnesota Border, The Diamond Jo Casino offers the newest slots and exciting table games, a new entertainment center, and a variety of dining options. Plan a trip for your group with customized itineraries, group packages, and coach parking. Call for details.

▶ **International Crane Foundation** **608-356-9462**

E11376 Shady Lane Road - Baraboo, WI 53913 / cranes@savingcranes.org / www.savingcranes.org

Experience the beauty of the world's cranes amidst colorful tallgrass prairies. Discover how ICF and cranes inspire wetland conservation. Guided tours, paved trails, art gallery, gift shop, Whooping Crane wetland. Open April 15 – Oct 31.

▶ **Lynfred Winery** **630-529-WINE**
15 South Roseville Road – Roselle, IL 60172 **888-298-WINE**

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CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

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2012 Esmond Rd - Eau Claire, WI 54701 **800-223-0652**

info@circlewisconsin.com / www.circlewisconsin.com

Circle Wisconsin is the statewide destination marketing organization that specifically promotes to the Motorcoach group travel industry. Our objective is to create a positive image of Wisconsin as a great place to do business, and Circle Wisconsin is an organization built on the high quality of its members and the level of service they are proud to provide.

▶ **Cranberry Country Lodge Convention Center and Waterpark** **608-374-2801**

319 Wittig Rd - Tomah, WI 54660 / sales@cranberrycountrylodge.com / www.cranberrycountrylodge.com

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▶ **Mason City Iowa Convention & Visitors Bureau** **641-422-1663**
25 West State Street - Mason City, IA 50401 **800-423-5724**

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▶ **Tomah Convention & Visitors Bureau** **800-948-6624**

805 Superior Avenue, PO Box 625 - Tomah, WI 54660

kmurray@tomahwisconsin.com / www.tomahwisconsin.com

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▶ **Tourism Thunder Bay** **800-667-8386**

2nd Floor, Victoriaville Civic Centre - 111 S Syndicate Ave, PO Box 800 - Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5K4

cpresenger@thunderbay.ca / www.VisitThunderBay.com/GroupTravel

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▶ **Winneshiek County CVB** **563-382-2023**

507 West Water St, PO Box 11 - Decorah, IA 52101 / wctc@alpinecom.net / www.decoraharea.com

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FESTIVALS & EVENTS

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1351 Main Avenue West - West Fargo, ND 58078

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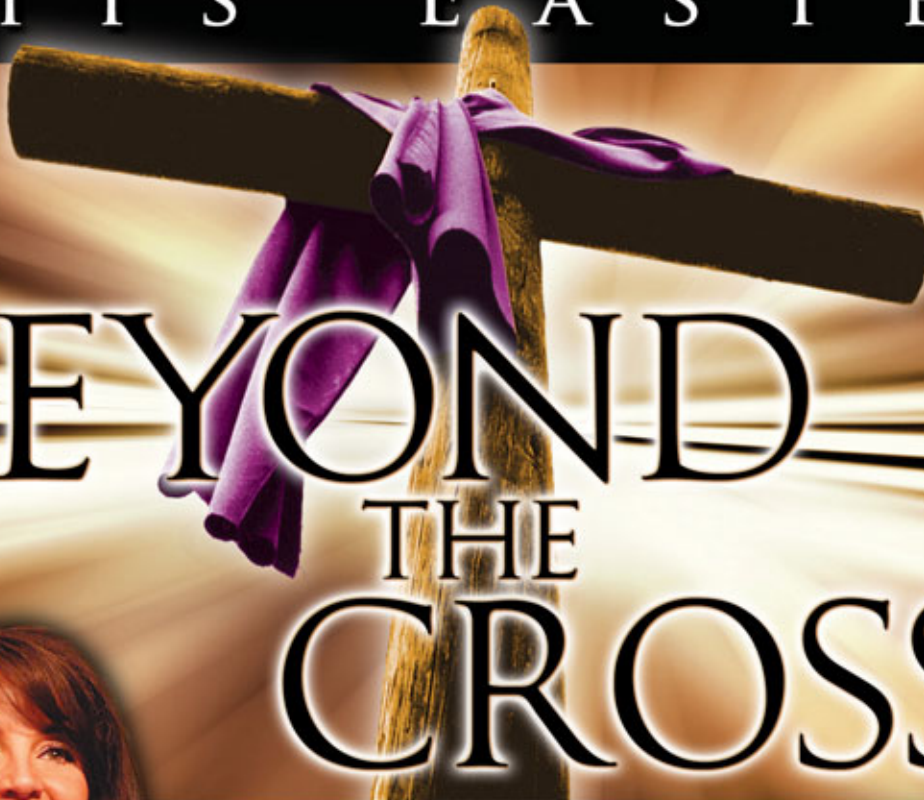
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