

MINNESOTA'S GROUP TRAVEL MAGAZINE

ITINERARIES

Minnesota
summer 2006

The Inside Scoop on Midwest Architecture

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A Taste of Fergus Falls - October 16-17



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OVER 100



Fergus Falls



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NOTES: WHAT TRAVEL PLANNERS SAY FROM PAST EVENTS

"The Speed Touring was an excellent way to learn more – and accommodations were great! You guys are very helpful." —BANK CLUB DIRECTOR, IOWA

"I wait every year to go to your fall event before I start planning my following year's itineraries" —TOUR OPERATOR, MINNESOTA

"We have so much fun at your events and learn about some hidden places we would have never known existed if we hadn't attended your shows." —GROUP LEADER, WISCONSIN

"Coming to your shows is always time well spent. Thank you and I look forward to the next event!" —TOUR OPERATOR, NEBRASKA

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Itineraries Minnesota, Inc. is not a tour operator, and independently promotes group travel in Minnesota and through the Upper Midwest.



Annual Showcase
GROUP TRAVEL SHOW



For more information and to register for FREE today:
www.itinerariesminnesota.com or 1-877-832-7267.



letter from | the publishers

Dear Reader,

Prairie School, Bungalow Art Deco; these are just some of the architectural styles that Minnesota and the Upper Midwest have to offer, but there were a wide variety of ways to approach historic architecture. One rang truest: that tour groups enjoy the statistics, but remember the stories. In that context we sought out the many structures that have made history in the yesterdays of our time, or are making history today. It was so much fun to discover the accompanying stories, such as the Dayton House (Worthington, MN), the Foshay Tower (Minneapolis), or the House on the Rock (Spring Green, WI) that we are confident you will find many stops, each with their own unique stories, that will help "sell out" your tours.

Page 3 describes this year's ANNUAL SHOWCASE in Fergus Falls. We encourage you to attend this "working session" in October where you will be able to sit down with group-friendly destination representatives to discuss ways they can contribute to your tour itineraries. Don't miss it – you'll be surprised at how productive our shows are! We have heard this from tour planners over and over again...

Have you won a "Gift Trip" yet? Keep faxing in your checked off Reader Response page with each issue to keep your name in the running. The destinations you read about in this magazine look forward to these "Gift Trips", and are eager to display the hospitality they have in store for your groups!

We encourage you to let us know what you think about this issue, and to send us more ideas for future issues.

Heather Lahren and Mark Peterson
Co-Publishers, ITINERARIES MINNESOTA Magazine



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Birding Festival - Grand Marais

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FALL 2006...

Birding and Wildlife... why tour groups are flocking here!

150,000 geese in one lake, face-to-face (and safe) encounters with wolves, and the National Eagle Center (honoring the American Bald Eagle) are inviting you to include them in your tours. But why? Next issue will tell you that, along with the what, where, when and more!

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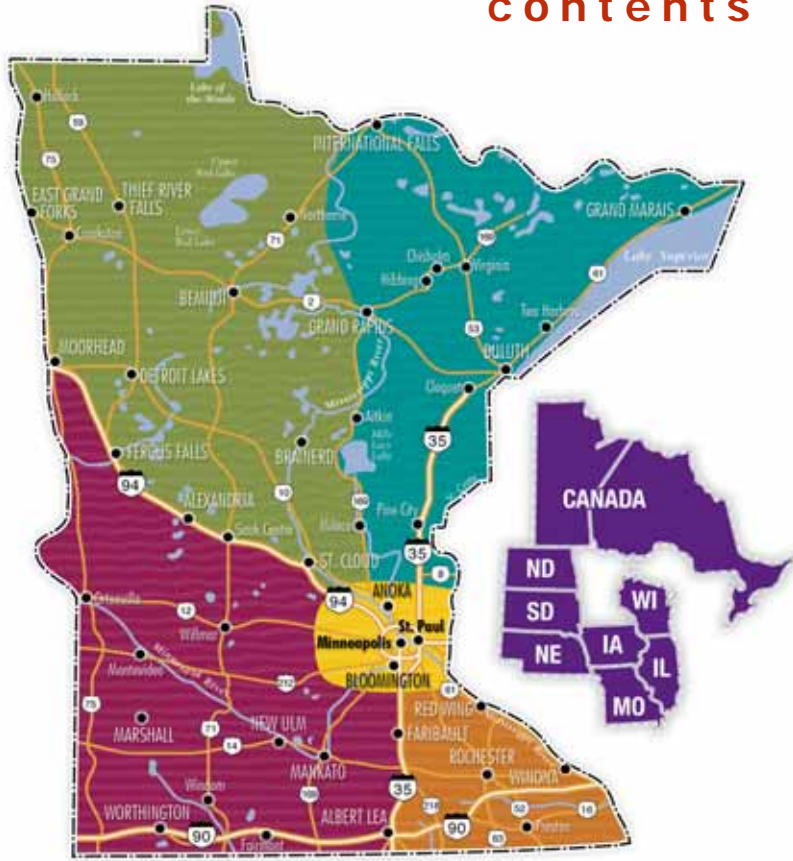
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MAKING THIS MAGAZINE WORK FOR YOU:

ITINERARIES MINNESOTA Magazine is published specifically for group travel planners three times a year: Fall, Winter and Spring/Summer. It presents Minnesota topically, attempts to share the rich local flavor of Minnesota communities and is designed as a reference planning tool to assist you with your groups' travel plans. It also offers sample itineraries and destinations with unique and new ideas for your trips. These sample itineraries are suggestions, are not intended for sale, and presented in a format that can be customized according to your needs. Simply call your tour operator or the contact at the end of each itinerary to help customize your itinerary and plan your trip. We suggest that you also contact advertisers since they are specifically catering to your group business. Their presence in this magazine underscores the importance of your business for them.



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photos provided by

Leon Kosek Photography (Cover Photo), Mark W. Peterson, Amy VanEck, Heather Lahren, Walker Art Center, House on the Rock, Dayton House, Worthington CVB, Greater Minneapolis Convention & Visitors Association, Minneapolis Public Library, Historic Chippewa City, Minnesota Historical Society, Warrens Cranberry Festival, Redlin Art Center, Watertown (SD) CVB, American Swedish Institute, Foshay Tower, Fireside Dinner Theatre, Taliesin Estate, Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater, Historic Stillwater, Winona CVB, SPAM® Museum, Lanesboro CVB, The Historic Dayton House, Fairmont CVB, Glensheen Mansion, Debra Chial, Ironworld Discovery Center, Grand Portage Lodge & Casino, Richard I. Bong WWII Heritage Center, Hinckley CVB, Guthrie Theater, Underwater Adventures, Bloomington CVB, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota Renaissance Festival, Minnesota State Fair, Ten Chimneys.



on the cover

Feature:

The regal American Swedish Institute glows in the Minneapolis night sky. Read more about this renowned landmark in this issue's Profile. Photo by Leon Kosek.

Transportation:

Minn-Dakota Coaches will be providing the FAM transportation for the 2006 Annual Showcase Group Travel Show in Fergus Falls. The coach shown on the cover is from their quality fleet of motorcoaches.



Ready for a Minneapolis facelift? *Take five.*

BY LORI KEARNEY

Minneapolis unveils five rejuvenated artistic icons that are nothing less than “must see” attractions, which makes now a great time to make a trip to the Twin Cities. In fact, *Travel + Leisure* magazine cited the amazing amount of art and architecture happening in Minneapolis as a reason they named it the only U.S. city on its list of five up-and-coming destinations to visit in 2006.

Internationally recognized architects who have been commissioned by five local arts institutions are making history with new and expanded buildings for each of the spaces. Appropriately, this effort is dubbed the “Minneapolis Arts Explosion.”

WALKER ART CENTER

The Walker Art Center opened its expanded facility in April 2005 on the outskirts of Minneapolis where it originally stood, and was designed by the Pritzker Prize-winning Swiss architects, Herzog & de Meuron.

Doubling the Walker’s size, the visually stunning expansion is covered with embossed aluminum mesh panels that reflect natural light, actively mirroring changing weather conditions and shifting appearance. Asymmetric windows punctuate the new building, revealing activity inside the Walker connecting visitors to bustling Hennepin Avenue. Inside find: gallery space for the region’s largest library of contemporary art, interactive educational lounges, intimate 385-seat theater and refurbished cinema, street-level and roof-top terraces and plazas, 20.21; a new Wolfgang Puck restaurant.

GREAT FOR GROUPS The new Walker is tailor-made for the masses. Groups of 10 to 90 can experience the Twin Cities’ latest artistic makeover with one of the many knowledgeable guides.

CHILDREN’S THEATRE CO.

In October 2005, The Children’s Theatre Company (CTC) opened its 45,000-square-foot expansion. The expansion and renovation is allowing CTC to better serve the young and young-at-heart, as well as add new programming specifically for pre-schooler and teen audiences. Inside find: Cargill Stage, expanded scene shop, connection route to the existing lobby and audience amenities.

Michael Graves and Associates is the design force behind the CTC project. Graves has received more than 160 design awards for worldwide architectural projects, including the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal and the National Medal of Arts.

GREAT FOR GROUPS The Children’s Theatre Company is right next to the new Mpls Institute of Arts – so groups can see both on one stop.



MPLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Minneapolis Central Library opened in May of 2005 and is a place for learning, literacy, imagination and discovery that was designed to evolve with technology.

Argentinean architect and winner of the Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects, Cesar Pelli, created a space that is actually two buildings joined by a 60-foot cantilevered roof and atrium. Celebrating the area’s natural resources, Pelli used Minnesota limestone and unique imagery on each side of the glass building’s façade including water, snow-covered evergreens, prairie grass and birch trees. The natural theme is topped off with an environmentally friendly “green roof.” Inside find: Teen Central, fireside reading dens, community meeting rooms, auditorium and theater and bookstore.

GREAT FOR GROUPS With more than 350,000 square feet and 39 miles of shelving to accommodate the collection of two million pieces – there is space for everyone!

MPLS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

In June, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA), one of the nation’s leading encyclopedic art

museums, opened a major expansion. Also designed by Michael Graves & Associates, the MIA includes 49,000 square feet of renovated galleries and a new 13,000-square-foot wing, increasing overall gallery space by 40 percent.

The architectural idea behind the new space was to make sure that it fit with the neoclassical design of the existing building and kept the focus on the art inside. The result? Modern, clean lines featuring columns inside and out. Inside find: Galleries for 20th-century and contemporary paintings, expanded Native American and Oceanic galleries, three-story atrium, topped off with an oculus, reception hall and library.

GREAT FOR GROUPS Admission to the MIA, one of North America’s top comprehensive fine arts museums, is free every day!

GUTHRIE THEATER

The 255,000-square-foot riverfront home for Tony Award-winning Guthrie Theater opened its doors to the public in June, sporting a new look from award-winning French architect Jean Nouvel (his first American project).

To fit in with the surrounding Historic Milling District, the Guthrie celebrates the past by featuring silk-screened images of past stars on the blue metal exterior. Jim Dayton, of Minneapolis-based James Dayton Design agrees, “The Guthrie is wonderfully scaled, tucked into the neighborhood of the mills, and has the presence of many of those older buildings.” Inside, find: 1,100-seat auditorium, 700-seat proscenium stage, 250-seat studio theater, Cue, a 170-seat restaurant.

GREAT FOR GROUPS After a backstage tour, groups can check out the 178-foot cantilevered bridge suspended out toward the Mississippi River for an amazing view!

All of this new art and architecture adds to an already sizzling cultural scene. Groups visiting Minneapolis can enjoy three Tony Award-winning theaters, more than 10 dance companies and 20 classical music groups, one of the largest urban sculpture gardens in the country and much more! 🚗

To plan your group getaway and see architectural history unfold, contact Lori Kampa Kearney with the Minneapolis Convention & Visitors Association at 1.800.445.7412 ext. 8114, 612.767.8114 or lorik@minneapolis.org.

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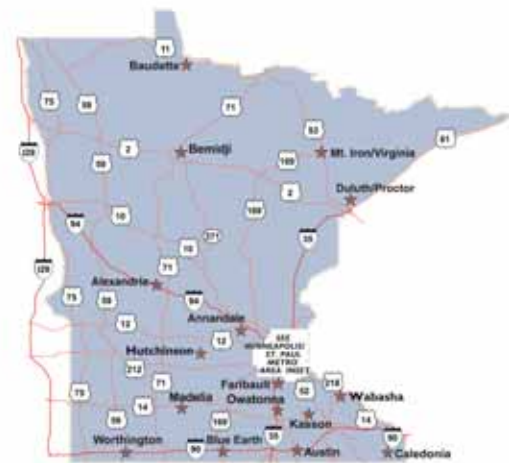
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Twin Cities Building Blocks: *History in the Making.*

BY KIRSTEN HORNSETH

Whether it's the home of a city founder for a step back in time or a contemporary development, our local **Twin Cities architectural history** is something to behold. And, the Twin Cities present countless opportunities for knowledgeable guides to surround tourists with timeless brick-and-mortar history.

The Twin Cities offer a number of places that give structure to a visit in the area. Adjacent to Minneapolis' downtown is the **Mill District**, one of the area's newest hot spots. It's hard to believe that this now trendy area was once the flour-milling capital of the world. Visitors can explore the **Mill City Museum**, built within the ruins of a flourmill, to learn more about the workers who fueled the growth of Minneapolis and the upper Midwest.

The nearby **Stone Arch Bridge** is the only bridge of its kind on the **Mississippi**, built to aid railroad expansion that grew in conjunction with the mills' growth. Now part of the two-mile **St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail**, it offers fantastic views of **St. Anthony Falls** — the only waterfall on the river.

Flour milling left the banks of the Mississippi years ago, and after a long rest, the area is now re-emerging as an arts district. Public expression of the area's commitment to the arts comes alive this summer with the world-famous Guthrie Theater's new Minneapolis facility. The exterior dazzles with photographic images of the theater's history wrapped around it.

Across the river in **Saint Paul**, much of the city's historic architecture

offers a porthole to the state's founders. Railroad tycoon **James J. Hill** was a resident of Saint Paul, and his home is testament to the "Empire Builder's" success. Guided tours of the **Gilded Age** mansion take visitors back through the years to explore the lives of one of the country's wealthiest families, as well as the servants who worked for them. Tours often include the ingenious mechanical systems that were demanded by the **Great Northern Railway** founder.

The nearby **Alexander Ramsey House**, while much smaller in scale, includes details often missed in other historic homes. Ramsey was Minnesota's first governor and served as a senator — his home is testament to the family's societal position. Much of the two train-cars full of furnishings Anna Ramsey bought in New York in the 1870s are still in the home, one the best-preserved Victorian-era houses in the country. Costumed guides are often on hand to provide stories of their lives, either as servants or as members of Minnesota's first family.

Because of Ramsey's constant involvement in politics, it's no surprise that his home is near the state's capitol. The 1905 Cass Gilbert-designed statehouse is one of the most magnificent buildings in the upper Midwest, thanks to the architect's famous attention to detail. He carefully oversaw the work of sculptors, decorators and furniture designers responsible for nearly 1,600 pieces of furniture in 74 different styles of chairs, tables and desks, many designed by Gilbert himself. Today, the capitol overlooks downtown Saint Paul with such other notable buildings as the **Ordway Center for the Performing Arts**, the **Landmark Center** and the recently renovated **St. Paul Library**.

While many of Minnesota's architectural landmarks are stately testaments to prosperity over the years, many other more humble spots are equally enthralling. Along the **North Shore of Lake Superior**, **Split Rock Lighthouse** offers a glimpse of 1920s lighthouse life in one of the state's most remarkable areas.

South of downtown Minneapolis, the **Minnehaha Depot** recalls the days in which trains were the city's main link to Chicago. Known by Milwaukee Road employees as the "Princess," the charming gingerbread-trimmed station sits not far from the city's famed **Minnehaha Falls**, which provides some of Mother Nature's own architecture.

Regardless of the location, a historic architecture stop on your tour will leave your travelers with a deeper sense of how this part of the country came to be. The experience of encountering a piece of living history can leave deep impressions, lasting memories and a better sense of how our past formed our present. 🚗

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HISTORIC CHIPPEWA CITY *Christmas in the Village*

December 2, 2006 | Montevideo, MN | 320-269-7636

This award-winning annual event has this late 1800's village buzzing with holiday excitement. Though the summer visitor season is its most active, Historic Chippewa City is cheerily dressed up for the holidays, and comes alive for this Christmas celebration on the first Saturday in December! Each year experience a different theme, and in 2006 your group can experience a "Dustbowl Christmas" featuring the 1930's era. Celebrate this era's holidays with a variety of quality entertainment, crafters, displays and exhibits, and even a bake sale!

Chippewa City is made up of 24 buildings that are historic all by themselves, including retail shops, bank, law office, post office, harness shop, blacksmith shop, log cabins, schoolhouse, trading post and many others...all with authentic period furnishings and equipment.



CHRISTMAS *at the Alexander Ramsey House*

Nov 24-Dec 30, daily | Saint Paul | 651-296-8760 | mnhs.org

Tour one of America's most authentic and completely furnished Victorian homes. A guide will lead highly visual and narrated tours of this one-family-owned mansion of the former Minnesota Governor, Alexander Ramsey and his family, where you'll find original family heirlooms, decorations and furnishings as they were at that time. Your group can even experience the holiday aromas wafting through the house during their tour. The table will be set for a Ramsey family Christmas dinner circa 1875 and your group can even take a special cooking class with recipes directly from one of Anna Ramsey's original cookbooks. Also, they'll be able to sample freshly-baked cookies, and a comfortable tea is available for your group if pre-arranged. A unique gift shop with beautiful Victorian-style ornaments and decoratives is located on-site.



THE 34TH ANNUAL *Warrens Cranberry Festival*

Sept. 22-24, 2006 | Warrens, WI | 608-378-4200 | cranfest.com

Take a tour of a real cranberry marsh. Bring your group to one of America's biggest annual festivals, with more than 100,000 visitors coming every year to the "Cranberry Capital of Wisconsin" on the last weekend of September. During the "Cranfest", ride a guided tour bus on a Cranberry Marsh Tour to see how cranberries are raised and harvested. After the tour, visit the Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center Exhibit Hall in downtown Warren. But your group's fun is only beginning. The festival boasts over 1,500 booths of arts & crafts, antique & flea market, and farmer's market items covering more than three miles of booth frontage with vendors coming from all over the nation. The Cranberry Festival is a great place to do some early Christmas shopping. In addition to 350 craft vendors, enjoy mouth-watering fall produce from flavored honey, candy, Amish noodles, apples, and a variety of cranberry items; fresh cranberries, juice, wine, Craisins, cranberry sauce, jams and jellies.



HAVE A "SUNSET RETREAT" WITH *Terry Redlin and Ronnie Milsap! Free!*

Redlin Art Ctr | Watertown, SD | 1-877-TREDLIN | redlinart.com

Each year, Terry Redlin sets aside a few hours to meet, greet, and sign prints and collectibles for fans at the Redlin Art Center. This year, meet the artist on Saturday, August 5th or Sunday, August 6th. The first 400 people in line each day will be invited to have one item signed by Terry Redlin. Visit the Gift Shop and the gallery, and see works of Redlin art that have put the Redlin Art Center on the map as a recognized stop for so many tour groups!

Last year, Lee Greenwood sang his famous God Bless the U.S.A., and the year before Mannheim Steamroller performed at the Redlin Center. This year your group can enjoy Ronnie Milsap, who has had an astounding 40 number one hits and has sold well over 23 million records! Don't miss his FREE concert at the Redlin Art Center on Saturday evening. And after Ronnie's performance, enjoy the spectacular Fireworks Finale!

This alcohol-free weekend event is open to the public and tour groups are invited. For more information, call or email redlinac@redlinart.com.



HOW DID MINNEAPOLIS COME TO HAVE A CASTLE?

BY KATHLEEN SOMERS

Visby Window



How did Minneapolis come to have a castle? It was no accident. We have a unique man with one foot in the old country and one planted firmly in the future to thank for such a wonderful gift. Swan Johan Turnblad is the name of our benefactor, and his is a captivating story.



Swan Turnblad in Waverly

A self made millionaire in the early 1900's, and one of the country's most successful Swedes, **Turnblad** built the mansion at **2600 Park Avenue** which now houses the **American Swedish Institute**. His rags-to-riches story is inspiring, plus good background information for those fortunate enough to visit the ASI.

Having immigrated to the US with his parents when he was only 8 years old, **Turnblad** grew up south of the **Twin Cities** near **Red Wing**. Always interested in publishing and printing, he moved to the Twin Cities when he was still a teenager, taking a job at the fledgling *Svenska AmerikanskaPosten*. **Turnblad** had entrepreneurial aspirations, and after only a couple years at the newspaper, he was made managing editor. Under his leadership it became the largest Swedish language newspaper in the US with a circulation of over 50,000. In a later interview, **Turnblad** credited coming to the US at a relatively young age and growing up mostly American with his good business sense. He used American practices, such as offering premiums, and including a section in English to appeal to the children of immigrants. But **Swan Turnblad** never lost his connection to his Swedish roots. He and his wife Christina traveled to Europe often, and he considered both Sweden and the US as home.

Turnblad loved technology. He was a forward thinker, as proved by the fact he was the first to use colored presses for his newspaper. He was also the first to have a car in **Minneapolis**. It was electric and the year was 1898. He picked it up in Chicago and drove all the way to Minneapolis. Sometimes **Turnblad** liked to stand out. But the couple rarely entertained. They had one child, Lillian, born in 1883, who later worked at the newspaper as well. The family had a luxury apartment over the newspaper building where Christina kept a cozy and comfortable home. So it seems somewhat surprising that **Turnblad** would build a 33 room mansion. But he had his reasons.

At the turn of the 20th century, Park Avenue was nick-named the **Golden Mile**. It was the place to have a grand home in Minneapolis if you wanted to impress people. Park Avenue was the first street to be paved. It was much like Summit Avenue in Saint Paul. And in 1908 **Turnblad** took his place on the Golden Mile when he completed construction on what is now the home of the **American Swedish Institute**. Inspired by European castles, the chateausque design stood out as unique even then among the finest of homes on Park Avenue. The limestone exterior has three turrets, five chimneys, and of course... gargoyles. It took four years to complete construction of the castle-like mansion. While the building itself is magnificent, and the interior will amaze you, the layout is large and open and a complete contrast to the cozy home the **Turnblad** family kept over the newspaper. Even today the mansion remains much as it was

originally with only the lower level having changed dramatically to accommodate offices. Did **Swan Turnblad** envision something other than a family home?

Visitors to the mansion will note several architectural standouts. It took 18 woodcarvers 2 years to execute the magnificent oak, mahogany and walnut interiors. The dining room table is so massive it had to be carved there in the room, and remains today as one of the few original pieces of **Turnblad** furnishings. There are ceilings of painted plaster, a two story grand entrance hall, and 11 Swedish stoves called *kakelugnar* tiled in colorful porcelain and each one different. A most spectacular stained glass window (**Visby window**) of hand blown enamel-painted glass depicts a famous Swedish painting. **Turnblad**, being the progressive thinker he was, had the house equipped with electricity, but as a precautionary move he also installed gas fixtures. Similarly, central heating was installed but those lovely *kakelugnar* were originally working stoves... just in case. Clearly **Turnblad** expected his house to last. Yet the family lived there off and on for only about ten years.

Turnblad envisioned a place dedicated to keeping Swedish heritage alive. Towards that end he established the American Swedish Institute, originally named *American Institute for Swedish Arts, Literature, and Science*. Plans were in the works to donate the mansion, the carriage house and the Posten building when Christina died in 1929. Later that year the Institute was founded and **Turnblad**, with his daughter, moved to an apartment building across the street from his newly founded ASI. That apartment building remains today.

In a newspaper interview, **Turnblad** suggests he had always intended his mansion should be a museum. He is quoted as saying "Many persons may have wondered what a small family like ours, a family which had no great social ambitions, wanted with so big a home. Perhaps they can guess now." And in another interview he said; "I had this idea in mind when I first began to build the home. I wanted it to endure for a hundred thousand years. And I wanted to have it so arranged that it might easily be converted to its later uses." In 1972 the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

You can tour the house when you visit the **American Swedish Institute**. Group tours include lunch and a guide through the mansion's three floors. Be sure to check out the bookstore with its authentic selection of games, cookbooks, CD's, books, and other Swedish merchandise. There is also a gift shop that expands during the Holidays to accommodate the wildly popular Christmas tours. To schedule your group tour contact **Katy Epler**, ASI Tourism Manager at 612-871-4907. 🚌



TO THE MIDWEST'S GREAT INDOORS ...AND BEYOND!

BY SHAWN SWEENEY

Our coveted Midwest has always been known for its adventurous and breathtakingly beautiful outdoor parks, wildlife, scenery, natural landscapes and, of course, a few sparkling lakes here and there. But what's been uncovered is mostly covered — and groups are hopefully going to welcome the stories to follow, and want to witness them for themselves.

On that note, history is historically boring to many. Your often times more “senior” clientele likely had much meaner, more monotonous and repetitious history teachers than you did. So instead of noting the architectural age of a building, calculating the tonnage of a steel bridge and how long it took to build or any other... [zzzzzzz]

Here's the wake-up call. Today's tour groups love to visit the unusual architectural structures from castles to mansions, and lighthouses to Native American tipis.

You know they want interesting destinations with real stories to bring home with them. They want to hear these stories firsthand, not from a souvenir program destined to quickly become history itself. From part of Frank Lloyd Wright's humble beginnings in his Cloquet (MN) gas station design and unconventional thinking, to his famous Taliesin Estate in Spring Green (WI) and beyond, there are more architectural stories — and anomalies, than you might expect to see in our humble heartland.

Let's be Frank

Built by **Frank Lloyd Wright** in '56 (sorry, we have to include some historic background), in the charming town of **Cloquet**, stands a very special filling station. Known today as a gas station, this building was designed by the world-renowned architect as part of his Utopian, utilitarian and "Prairie School Architecture" vision of a new America.

The structure remains as it was built by the **McKenney Family** of Cloquet, who were friends of Wright, and who still own the station. And it still has even the Ladies Lounge upstairs above the attendants area, which looks out over the driveway and the beautiful St Louis River – as Wright imagined it to do. This special perch was intended as a sophisticated waiting room to use while cars were being refueled or repaired. Even a special ladies restroom was in the lounge. "After our visitors hear the reasons for the lounge, they are eager to make the climb", says Mike McKinney, 3rd generation owner of this famous landmark, "and its fun to own such a historic landmark. We get calls and visitors every day." Welcome back to yesteryear when gentlemen were, well, gentlemen, mechanics were honest and bathroom tissue was soft and cushy – if for only a moment.

Ready to rock?

Okay, history can be fun, especially with a good story. Take the **House on the Rock** in **Spring Green (WI)**: **Alex Jordan** — a budding architect — was dismissed at **Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin home** (now the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture™), near Spring Green with the declaration, "I wouldn't hire you to design a cheese crate or a chicken coop." Soon after, Jordan chose a pinnacle rock south of Taliesin to build a parody of Wright's fancy-pants architecture in the form of a strange "Japanese house." The ceilings were dangerously low (padded now to accommodate tourists) and the structure seemed to cling precariously to the odd contours of the Rock.

When it was time to take over the family trade (and pursue a little personal retribution, it seems), **Alex Jordan, Jr.** decided to right his father, and teach Frank Lloyd Wright a thing or two about architecture. Jordan, Jr. took the project over in the 1940s and never dreamed it would attract a half-million visitors a year at \$15+ a head. We said we'd cut some history, but you can do the math on this one.

Saint Paul's infamous gangsters and more — you got a problem with that?

Suddenly running into the wrong thug in that quintessential dark alley doesn't sound so

bad. With the **Saint Paul** gangster hearsay, real bullet holes and other nasty nuances that tell the real tales of the 1920's **Wabasha Street Caves**, you might expect your tour guide to be donned in a protective Kevlar vest. The truth is, the gangsters were mostly from Chicago, and were welcome to hide out in the caves and conduct business as long as the law wasn't broken while in Saint Paul.

Today, you can learn about the Caves' unusual architecture and stories with catered dinner outings, receptions and specialized tours, like the hugely popular **Gangster Tours** that motor around Saint Paul. Gangster-attired step-on guides tell lively stories of the rogues who took respite in the former gangster haven, the very capitol city of Minnesota. "We've had tour groups from all over the world take our tours and then stop by the caves for retirement parties, unique get-togethers, catered lunches, and even swing dances," says Donna Bremer, owner of the fun and historic Wabasha Street Caves. Just know that at the Wabasha Caves, the establishment now, "BANS GUNS ON THESE PREMISES."

Back to the future

As you know, group travel is not all about history and buildings. It is about building the future of group travel. "Every day, baby boomers (mostly empty nesters) are selling off their labor-intensive suburban properties, gravitating [to the cities all over America] towards "urban cabin" lock-and-go condominiums — spending more free time traveling — with more and more of this travel with tour groups," says Lori Kearney, national account executive for group tourism at the **Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association**.

Castles in their backyard

"These people are the ones who jet down to the Caribbean — my goal is to show 'em what's right under their noses when they're home, not on the beach," Kearney went on to say.

Under their very noses they'll discover architectural gems like the **American Swedish Institute** (Minneapolis, MN's Swedish Castle), the fascinating **Ten Chimneys Country Estate** (home of theater greats Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne in **Genesee Depot, WI**), to the **Earth Lodges of the Mandan Indians** (**Bismarck-Mandan, ND**), to the **Corn Palace** (**Mitchell, SD**), and even the town of **Pella, Iowa** where Dutch architecture reigns and everything is coming up tulips!

So get the "inside" scoop on the most interesting and enticing architectural masterpieces and discover your motorcoach tours filling over and over again! 🚌



Home on Summit Avenue - Saint Paul



Fort Snelling Architecture - Saint Paul



Stone Arch Bridge - Minneapolis



Reflection of Foshay Tower - Minneapolis



Red Barn in historic Lydia, MN

WIDOW'S WALKS, ESTATE STROLLS, AND CURTAIN CALLS

A Two-State Sample Itinerary for Group Tours



Calling ahead...

- 1 - Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
www.fortchamber.com 888-733-3678
- 2 - Spring Green, Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
www.springgreen.com 800-588-2042
- 3 - Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
www.prairieduchien.org 800-732-1673
- 4 - Greater Menomonie, WI Chamber of Commerce
www.menomoneiechamber.org . . 800-283-1862
- 5 - Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
www.ilovestillwater.com 651-439-4001

DAY ONE

10:30 – 3:30 pm

The Fireside Dinner Theatre

Arrive at **The Fireside Dinner Theatre**, Wisconsin's



number one year-round motorcoach attraction. Popular with groups, and located just off I-94 in **Fort Atkinson**, **The Fireside** will not disappoint your group with their elaborate, unique and delicious meals. The 700-seat theatre-in-the-round with professional staff and state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems compliment their Broadway-quality productions. After your lunch and matinee, enjoy an on-site shopping adventure with

three permanent gift shops and two more seasonal stores that offer the region's most complete selection of gifts and collectibles for all ages and occasions. Check out their complete 2007 season for evening and matinee performances.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

House on the Rock



Rest while your coach takes you to the world-renowned **House on the Rock**, which was built in **Spring Green, WI**, and opened in 1961 after years of thumbing its architectural nose at **Frank Lloyd Wright** in a very un-neighborly fashion. This incredible stopover is known for its architectural uniqueness and interesting stories.

5 – 10:00 pm

House on the Rock Inn

Your group will love the convenience of staying at **The House on the Rock Inn**, while visiting the **House on the Rock** attraction (group packages are available). After you've checked in, enjoy dinner on your own and then explore their gift shops.

DAY TWO

7 – 9:00 am

Enjoy continental breakfast before you head out for a fun

filled day — you'll be amazed!

9 – 1:45 pm

House on the Rock

A few short hours will never allow your group to explore all there is to experience at the **House on the Rock**. Choose from several very different tours for your group. Be sure to allow about 1-2 hours per tour. Stroll past music machines, sea monsters, and rooms filled with scrimshaw old armor and even waterfalls! One visit is not enough to take in the hundreds of amazing sights, including the *world's largest carousel* — so see all you can, and come back again to see what you've missed!

1:45 – 2:15 pm

Taliesin Estate

Now turn your motorcoach in the direction of **Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Estate**, starting at the **Visitor Center**.



Taliesin living room

Frank Lloyd Wright's international acclaim as one of the greatest architects of the 20th century is an excellent reason for tour groups to visit his masterpiece. **Taliesin** is named after the Welsh bard Taliesin, whose name means, "radiant brow." Wright positioned the home on the "brow" of his favorite hill from his childhood.

2:15 – 4:15 pm

Hillside and Taliesin

Enjoy the **Highlight Tour**. Only very recently has the public been able to tour the interior of the Taliesin house that was the architect's residence for nearly 50 years. This tour is a new way to experience the interiors of two historically significant, yet distinctly different Wright-designed buildings all in one tour. Created for Wright enthusiasts and the casual visitor, the Highlights Tour couples the



Taliesin Midway Farm

history and masterful design of two architectural landmarks into one very enlightening two-hour tour.

4:15 – 5:30 pm

Head west about 70 miles to **Prairie du Chien**, the second oldest community in the state of **Wisconsin**.

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Cruising the Mississippi River

Head down to the **Mississippi River** and choose from one of many riverboat dinner cruises. It will depend on the day of the week, which determines the best cruise for your group. Then sit back and enjoy an evening of relaxation on

the mighty Mississippi with a fabulous meal and even better sightseeing. Your U.S. Coast Guard-licensed Captain will safely navigate your group through the meandering channels and endless backwaters.

8:30 pm

Check into one of the numerous group-friendly hotels (with group rates) for your evening.

DAY THREE

8 am

Start your day with breakfast in **Prairie du Chien**.

9 – 12:00 pm

Villa Louis

Roll on down to **Villa Louis** on **St. Feriole Island**. This Victorian estate was home to three generations of the **Dousmans** family who garnered a fortune in the French and British fur trade. Cross the threshold into the elegant front hall of the Villa Louis mansion and step inside the world of upper class Victorian America. The vibrant hues and rich textures that surround you speak of one family's rise to wealth and leisure living. Six historic structures stand for your group to tour.

12 – 1:30 pm

Huckleberry's Restaurant

Lunch at **Prairie du Chien's Huckleberry's Restaurant**. In addition to fantastic food, they also offer a charming gift shop. What a great stop for your group. Eat and shop all in one stop.

1:30 – 5:30 pm

Rest and enjoy your coach ride north to **Menomonie**. The Wisconsin scenery on the way is beautiful all year round.

5:30 – 10:00 pm

The Creamery

Welcome to **Menomonie**! Check into your hotel. Just a short drive from Menomonie is a wonderful dining experience that is an attraction all on its own. **The Creamery** in **Downsville** has a menu that changes seasonally. A serene rural environment, great food, large gift shop and bakery, all make up The Creamery complex.

DAY FOUR

7 – 9:00 am

Enjoy a leisurely morning at your hotel before you head downtown.

9 – 12:30 pm

Historic Downtown Menomonie

A guided walking tour of historic downtown Menomonie is your ticket to a deeper look into the rich heritage of this former logging town. Many old buildings still exist and can be viewed while walking along Main Street.

9 – 12:30 pm

Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater

Meet up at **Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater**. One of America's top historic theaters, the 110-year old **Mabel Tainter Memorial** represents the Victorian era's best. The Tainter features a Victorian theater, art gallery, public



reading room and gift shop. It's a premier example of a restored vintage American theater.

2 – 3:30 pm

Historic Stillwater, MN

Head west to **Stillwater** just across the border in **Minnesota**. In 2005, Stillwater was designated as a **Preserve America City**. This historic birthplace of



Minnesota boasts the largest concentration of antique malls, fine restaurants, unique gift shops and historic small-town architecture in the state.

3:30 – 4:45 pm

Joseph Wolf Caves

Tour **Joseph Wolf Caves** and learn about the limestone caves in **Stillwater** that were used as a brewery in the late 1800's. Why does a good brew master have bad teeth? What is a cave kiss? Find out the answers to these questions and more on this 35-minute guided walking tour. Then enjoy coffee at **Grumpy Steve's**.

4:45 – 5:30 pm

Stillwater has many choices for lodging. From B & B's, flag hotels and historic hotels, Stillwater has it all.

5:30 – 10:00 pm

Discover the **Minnesota Zephyr**, an elegant dining train

offering a chance to experience a journey back in time and the opportunity to reminisce and relive the late 1940's era.

DAY FIVE

9 – 10:00 am

Enjoy breakfast or a breakfast buffet to start your day.

10 – 11:00 am

Overlooking the St. Croix River

Hold on to your seats as the **Stillwater Trolley** cruises down the hills and narrow streets. Experience the breathtaking view from the bluffs overlooking the **St. Croix River**. See the many beautifully restored Victorian homes, historic buildings and church steeples — a special time just for your group!

11 – 12:00 pm

Minnesota's First Courthouse

Minnesota's first courthouse, **Washington County Courthouse** was first erected in Stillwater in 1849. The current structure was completed in 1870. Listen to stories about the lumberjacks who spent their winters in the northwoods and often ended up before the judge and sometimes in the county jail.

12 – 3:30 pm

Your group will enjoy the time to explore the unique shops, galleries, fine restaurants and sheer beauty in this historic downtown.

Thank you for bringing your groups to this region. This sample itinerary contains only a few ideas you can customize into a tour for your own group. For more information and assistance, contact your tour operator, our advertisers or local CVB's throughout the region. If you are a group leader looking for a tour operator, contact Holt Tours for customized assistance at 320-286-5315.

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winona

SE REGION CITIES

calendar of events

september

- 7 **Kellogg Watermelon Festival**
Wabasha 651-565-4158
- 10 **7th "Keepsake Quilters" Quilt Show**
Austin 507-437-4563
- 15-16 **Winona Heritage Fair** Winona 507-454-2723
- 16 **Shaina Noll** Paramount Theater
Austin 507-437-4563
- 16-17 **Tree Frog Music Festival**
Faribault 507-334-4381
- 17 **Fall Festival** Wabasha 651-565-4158
- 21-
Oct 22 **Rookery Blues:** Jon Hassler Theater
Plainview 866-548-7469
- 22 **Lynn Miles** Theatre du Mississippi
Winona 507-459-8090

october

- 3 **Golden Generation Show**
Rochester 507-281-6184
- 7 **Harvest Day** Preston 507-765-2785
- 7-8 **Johnny Appleseed Days**
Lake City 800-369-4123
- 6-21 **Farmamerica Haunted Corn Maze**
Owatonna 507-835-2052
- 10-14 **Big Muddy River Rendezvous**
Winona 507-452-4930
- 11 **Classic Car Drive In**
Rochester 507-282-6702

november

- 18-
Dec 23 **A Christmas Carol**
Lanesboro 507-467-2525
- 24 **Red Wing Holiday Stroll**
Red Wing 651-388-7737
- 24-25 **Old World Christmas** Winona 507-452-3722
- 30-Dec 3 **Ye Old Fashioned Christmas**
Plainview 507-534-2229

december

- 7 **Winter Walk** Northfield 507-645-5604
- 29-31 **New Years Antique Show**
Rochester 507-288-0320

january

- 5-Feb 4 **The Pillowman:** Jon Hassler Theater
Plainview 866-548-7469

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

escortnotes.com



Watkins Museum - Winona

WATKINS MUSEUM

The **Watkins Museum** is located in the former Watkins Print Shop building in **Winona** and offers a glimpse into the company's past with its historical exhibits. What began in Plainview, MN, in 1868 when J. R. Watkins perfected his direct sales strategy and guaranteed satisfaction, by offering the first trial mark bottle and money back guarantee, became by the 1930's the worlds largest direct selling company. The museum highlights the success of Watkins and the corporation through literature, product packaging, photographs, and more. Some of the featured exhibits include a collection of Mary King Cosmetics, Watkins Farm Products, displays of early Watkins Household Products, and a scale model of the city of Winona as it appeared in the 1950's. Also featured is a Watkins family tree and chronological time-line that helps visitors follow the fascinating history of Watkins.

other historic structures & buildings in southeast minnesota

Archer House Northfield (1877)

An aged French style hotel that has been restored with individually decorated rooms that offer a touch of home.

Hormel House Austin (Built 1871; restored 1920's)

Greeted by four impressive Italian pillars, the Hormel house was built in 1871 and has since undergone many renovations to make this home ideal for touring.

The Hubbell House Mantorville (1854)

Formerly a hotel, this historic restaurant has evidence abound of the frontier travelers and their stories.

Jailhouse Inn Bed & Breakfast Preston (1869)

Once the Fillmore County Jail, this historic landmark has now been restored and is ready for a stay with 12 differently themed rooms such as the Cell Block and Drunk Tank.

LaDuc Mansion Hastings (1865)

Built by some of Minnesota's first settlers, this 15 room manor sits on a 4.5 acre estate and is definitely worth a visit.

Maywood Mansion Rochester (1911)

This old brick estate features 38 rooms adorned with antiques owned by Dr. Charles Mayo in the early 1900's.

Pickwick Mill Winona (1858)

The old gristmill is built of Limestone and timber, amazingly without any nails, and was used to produce food for the Union army in the Civil war.

Sheldon Theatre Red Wing (1904)

The country's first city owned theatre, this structure has been beautifully restored to its original 1904 splendor.

St. James Hotel Red Wing (1875)

This unique Victorian get-away offers rooms themed with prominent riverboats and hand stitched quilts.

Wells Fargo Bank Owatonna (1908)

This beautiful bank was constructed in 1906 and features terra cotta bands around the outside, leading into a extravagant interior with painted agricultural murals and huge stained glass windows that make this bank experience similar to that of walking into a cathedral.

Zumbrotta Covered Bridge Zumbrotta (1869)

Minnesota's only lasting covered bridge is in this small town where it's a celebrated landmark and architectural jewel.



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- As visitors enter the museum lobby, they walk directly beneath a towering wall of SPAM that is comprised of 3,390 cans.
- A 400-foot long conveyor belt runs through portions of the museum carrying more than 800 cans of SPAM.
- A five-foot replica of a SPAMBURGER hamburger is suspended in the exit corridor, adjacent to a 17-foot burger-flipping spatula.
- The museum houses a letter from President Dwight D. Eisenhower that was written during World War II about the role SPAM played in feeding the Allied Forces.
- The museum gift store- the SPAM Shop - sells 275 different SPAM items and that number continues to grow!
- The museum features a SPAM Exam, an interactive quiz show that allows participants to show off their SPAM knowledge.
- There's a rendition of Monty Python's classic SPAM skit, which has fun highlighting the ubiquity of SPAM in Britain since World War II.
- A section of the museum, called Global SPAM, features a world map showcasing the countries where SPAM is sold and eaten. In South Korea, for example, SPAM is considered a delicacy!
- A simulated SPAM production line gives visitors the chance to put on hard hats and frocks just like the folks who work in the real SPAM plant.
- One vignette in the museum features life-sized representations of Hormel Foods founder George Hormel and his son Jay. The vignette includes George Hormel's own desk (circa 1903) and an original timeclock from the early days of Hormel Foods.

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Architecture & Fall Colors Itinerary

This itinerary is best all year long. You'll find it at coordinates J-19 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

A special self-guided walking (or drive-by) tour has been developed by the Sesquicentennial committee to highlight some of the treasures and attractions of the community!

11:15 – 11:30 am

Let's start downtown, with **Hastings Shoe Store**. Built in 1868, it was the site of the original courthouse and county offices.

11:30 am – 12:00 pm

There is a lot of history in the building that **Bendixen's Jewelry** calls home. It was built in the mid 1880's. There are several distinctive architectural details, especially at the second level exterior.

12 – 1:00 pm

A great place for a trendy lunch these days, the **Brick House Coffee House**, was built in 1858, the same year that Minnesota became a state. It is one of the oldest homes in **Austin**, with a 1930's addition that was carefully built to the original style.

1 – 1:30 pm

St. Augustine's Catholic Church's parish was established in 1857. The cornerstone of the present Gothic design building was laid in 1894. Beautiful stained glass windows are one of its most distinctive features.

1:30 – 1:45 pm

The **First United Methodist Church** started in 1856, and also is celebrating its 150th birthday right along with the city of Austin!

1:45 – 2:15 pm

The **Arthur Winfield Wright House** is now a private residence. Records show it was built before 1874 and is the earliest, most intact example of Italianate styling in **Mower County**. The detailing is unusual with narrow gables, paired corbels, and heavily corniced window and door moldings.

2:15 – 2:45 pm

The **Hornel Historic Home** was built in 1871, and bought in 1901 by George and Lillian Hornel. The stately 18-room home had extensive remodeling in the Classical Revival style and houses many original family heirlooms and photographs.

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

Southwest Minnesota. Downhome fun.

This itinerary works best September 21 - October 22, 2006. You'll find it at coordinates M-17 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

9:30 am

Arrive in **Kellogg** and meet your step-on guide for the day.

10 – 11:15 am

First stop is **The Lark Toy Company**, the largest specialty toy store in the country. Antique toy collections, books and unique toys abound along with one-of-a-kind gifts in the store's many mini-shops. Experience a ride on one or more of the nineteen hand-carved and painted animals and mystical figures.

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Off to the **Bouquet Factory Outlet** for shopping. Wood, decorative and seasonal accessories and gifts provide affordable fun to go. Then make your way to **Wabasha**.

12:15 – 1:30 pm

Lunch at **Riverboat Lanes** for their famous fried chicken and/or pizza. Yummy!

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Witness all the majesty of the great American bald eagle when you visit **The National Eagle Center**. Get up close and personal for a great photo

opportunity with the house eagles and the educational displays, for a most memorable stop.

2:30 – 4:45 pm

Optional time to either stroll the downtown area and browse the unique shops or golf nine holes at **Coffee Mill Golf Course**. The course is located on top of a bluff that overlooks the magnificent **Mississippi Valley**. From virtually every hole there is a different panoramic view of the valley.

4:45 – 6:00 pm

Check into **AmericInn of Wabasha**.

6 – 8:00 pm

Dinner at Minnesota's oldest inn, **The Historic Anderson House**. The comfortable décor is reminiscent of Minnesota's past and is highlighted with touches of Victorian elegance. Visit a room for a possible future weekend getaway.

8 – 10:00 pm

Enjoy entertainment at the **Jon Hassler Theater**. View the "Rookery Blues" Rookery State College (a.k.a. "Paul Bunyan's Alma Mater"), an academic backwater populated by students seeking draft deferments during the height of the Vietnam War and misfit teachers who couldn't get a job anywhere else.

DAY TWO

8 – 9:00 am

Enjoy continental breakfast at the AmericInn before you head home.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group, contact your tour operator or the Wabasha-Kellogg CVB, 800-565-4158.

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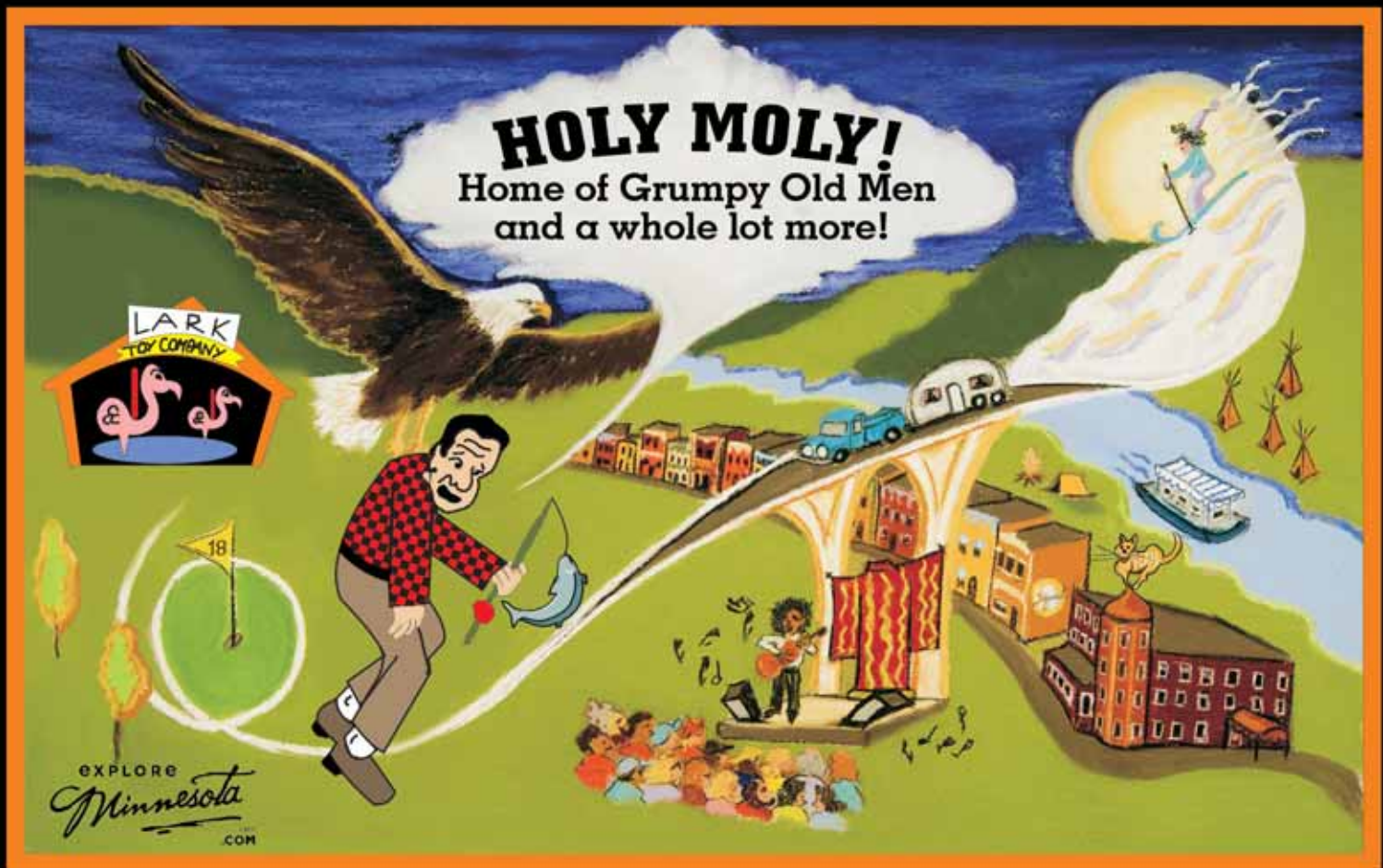


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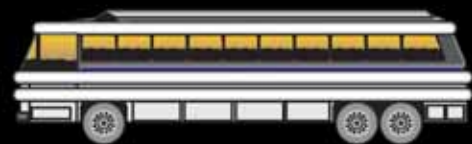
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Witness the Wonders of Winona

This itinerary works great any time of year. You'll find it on coordinates N-18 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

DAY ONE

10 – 10:30 am

Tour and shop the famous **Watkins Museum & Gift**, and bring home a bottle of Watkins Vanilla Extract – made using the same recipe that won world recognition at the Paris Exposition in 1928!

10:30 – 11:00 am

From Watkins, walk across to the **Polish Cultural Institute**. Take a journey through the cultural and religious heritage of the Kashubian Poles who settled in Winona by large numbers.

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Shop the historic downtown area or take a peek at the beautiful stained-glass windows in the downtown area's many historic buildings.

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch at a restaurant or deli of your choice in the

historic downtown area.

1:40 – 2:30 pm

Learn how lumber and grain made Winona a wealthy town in the 1800s at the **Winona County Historical Society**. Shop at the gift store and purchase the perfect souvenir to commemorate your trip.

2:45 – 3:45 pm

Take an art tour at **Winona State University's Library** and be awe-inspired by their collection of Mississippi Pearls, Frederic Remington bronze sculptures, Mexican pottery, American Indian weavings and Minnesota's largest collection of duck decoys.

4 – 5:00 pm

Check into **Quality Inn of Winona** and rest up before dinner and your night out.

5:15 – 6:30 pm

Dinner at one of the many delightful restaurants of your choice.

7 – 9:00 pm

Enjoy a concert or play at the beautiful campuses of Winona State University or **Saint Mary's University**. Or tour the historic **Masonic Temple Theatre**.



DAY TWO

8:30 – 9:30 am

Enjoy free breakfast at the onsite **Perkins** restaurant in the hotel.

9:30 – 10:30 am

Winona is known as the "**Stained Glass Capital of the United States**." Take a tour of a stained glass studio and watch artists demonstrate the creation of a magnificent stained glass window from concept to completion.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group, contact your tour operator or Visit Winona, 1-800-657-4972.

WATCH THE CAST OR MAKE YOUR OWN.



Winona, Minnesota
HISTORIC ISLAND CITY

FOR FIVE WEEKS THIS SUMMER, SEASON 3 OF THE GREAT RIVER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL WILL ELECTRIFY AUDIENCES WITH ITS NATIONALLY RE-
KNOWNED CAST. MEANWHILE, WINONA'S LAKES AND BACKWATERS OFFER
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CLUDE, HUCK FINN DAYS, THE BLUFF COUNTRY STUDIO ART TOUR, AND
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Owatonna, Faribault, Northfield Shopping & History Tour

This itinerary works best Spring through Fall. You'll find Owatonna (J-18), Faribault (J-17) & Northfield (J-17) on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

9 – 11:00 am

Begin in **Owatonna**. Stop at the World's Foremost Outfitter, **Cabela's!** Hundreds of mounts from around the world create a unique shopping atmosphere. Enjoy breakfast in Cabela's deli-style restaurant, which offers a wonderful variety of coffee, rolls, muffins and juice.

11 – 12:00 pm

Take a tour of **Steele County Historical Society's Village of Yesteryear** — home to 15 structures from the 19th century life in Owatonna and Steele County.

12 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch at any one of Owatonna's restaurants.

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Stop at **Wells Fargo Bank**. The Louis Sullivan designed bank is an architectural beauty of prairie architecture, both inside and out. Built in 1908 with major restoration completed by 1958.

2:30 – 5:00 pm

See the **State School Public Orphanage Museum**. Witness photos and artifacts, and read personal stories from children that were orphans here from 1886 to 1945.

5 – 5:30 pm Check into the **Comfort Inn** in Owatonna.

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Dine in any of the delightful Owatonna restaurants. Many of the nation's favorites all are close.

DAY TWO

8 – 9:00 am

Enjoy complimentary breakfast and check out.

9 – 9:30 am

Head on the bus and travel north on I-35 to **Faribault**.

9:30 – 11:00 am

Enjoy a downtown walking tour and/or driving tour of the National Register of Historic Places. Visit more than 40 buildings dating back to 1868.

11 – 12:00 pm

Stop for lunch at a nearby restaurant or café.

12 – 1:30 pm

Shop at the **Faribault Woolen Mills Outlet Store** for wonderful wool blankets, clothing, antiques, collectibles and much more.

1:30 – 2:00 pm

Back on the bus and continue North on I-35 to **Northfield**.

2 – 3:30 pm

Enjoy shopping in Northfield's clothing and antiques stores, and specialty shops featuring unique Scandinavian wares.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Visit **Northfield Historical Society's Museum**. Enjoy rotating exhibits on the history of the city, its region and the state.

Three communities have come together to work with your tour groups. This is a great opportunity to develop a customized two- or three-day itinerary based on the heritage and history interests of your group! Contact your tour operator or any of our local Chamber of Commerce for your next tour.

Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Deb Kotek - 800-423-6466, www.owatonna.org

Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism
Todd Ginter - 800-658-2354, www.faribaultmn.org

Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Kathy Felbrugge - 800-658-2548,
www.visitingnorthfield.com



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800-658-2354 | faribaultmn.org

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800-423-6466 | Owatonna.org

AC-Air Conditioned AS-Alcohol Served BH-Baggage Handling CA-Call Ahead DC-Dining/Casual DF-Dining/Fine E-Entertainment GB-Group Buffet
 GD-Group Discounts GT-Guided Tours H-Handicapped Access KO-Kids OK MG-Meet/Greet Service 24-Open 24 hours YR-Open Year Round
 PM-Parking/Motorcoach PO-Parking/Onsite PA-Pets Allowed RO-Restaurant Onsite RN-Restaurant Nearby SA-Smoking Allowed SP-Swimming Pool

ACCOMMODATIONS

- AmericInn Lodge & Suites** Faribault 507-334-9464
- AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Caledonia** Caledonia 866-465-5026
- ▶ **AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Wabasha** 651-565-5366
 150 Commerce Drive - Wabasha, MN 55981
 americinnw@lakes.com / www.americinn.com
 45 rooms- beautifully decorated theme suites with fireplaces and whirlpools. Welcoming lobbies with fireplace and cozy conservation areas. Free enhanced continental breakfast. Enjoy our spacious recreation area with pool, whirlpool and sauna. Rooms starting at \$59.95.
- AmericInn Motel & Suites** Austin 507-437-7337
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- AmericInn of Owatonna** Owatonna 507-455-1142
- ▶ **Austin Holiday Inn & Conference Center** 507-433-1000
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- ▶ **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, and four distinct dining options.
- ▶ **Quality Inn** 507-454-4390
 956 Mankato Ave - Winona, MN 55987 800-562-4544
 winonaqi@dticentral.com / www.qualityinnwinona.com
 Quality Inn features 112 rooms, indoor pool/spa, CG's cocktail lounge, free breakfast at our onsite Perkins restaurant. Visit an authentic turn of the century town along the Mississippi River and experience "Sugarloaf" -Minnesota's only registered mountain.
 AC, AS, BH, CA, DC, GB, GD, H, KO, 24, YR, PM, PO, PA, RO, RN, SA, SP

ATTRACTIONS

- Historic Forestville** Preston 507-765-2785
- ▶ **LeDuc Historic Estate/
 Dakota County Historical Society** 651-437-7055
 1629 Vermillion Street - Hastings, MN 55033
 leduc@co.dakota.mn.us / www.dakotahistory.org
 There are four group tour options: house tour, historic walking tour of Vermillion Falls (picnic lunches available), step-on guide for rivertown tour of Hastings. High tea with tour can be arranged for groups of 25-50.
 AC, GD, GT, KO, YR, PM, PO, RN, H
- Orphanage Museum** Owatonna 800-423-6466
- ▶ **SPAM® Museum** 507-434-6582
 1937 Spam Boulevard - Austin, MN 55912
 stradford@hormel.com / www.spam.com
 Visit the SPAM® Museum in Austin, MN. Visitors will be welcomed to the world of SPAM® family of products with a variety of interactive and educational games, fun exhibits and remarkable video presentations. Admission is free!
- Village of Yesteryear** Owatonna 507-451-1420
- Watkins Museum & Store** Winona 507-457-6095
- Winona County Historical Society** Winona 507-454-2723

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 E, GT, MG, YR
- ▶ **Faribault Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau** 507-334-4381
 530 Hilson Ave - Faribault, MN 55021 800-658-2354
 chamber@faribaultmn.org / www.faribaultmn.org
 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... Your Front Porch to Adventure!



- ▶ **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.
 DC, DF, E, GB, GD, GT, H, KO, MG, YR, PM, RN
- ▶ **Northfield CVB** 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 30 minutes south of the Twin Cities.

- ▶ **Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce** 507-451-7970
 320 Hoffman Drive - Owatonna, MN 55060
 www.owatonna.org
 Located in south central MN, 45 minutes from Mpls/Saint Paul on I-35. Come "discover our faces & places" - filled with historical, recreational & cultural opportunities as well as nearly 700 guest rooms to accommodate any group.
- ▶ **Visit Winona** 507-452-0735
 67 Main Street - Winona, MN 55987 800-657-4972
 www.visitwinona.com
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ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER

- ▶ **Jon Hassler Theater** 507-534-2900
 412 W. Broad Street, PO Box 276 - Plainview MN 55964 866-548-7469
 chmartin63@yahoo.com / www.jonhasslertheater.org
 Located in the heart of southeast Minnesota's Great River Ridge country, the Jon Hassler Theater produces a full season of live, professional theater since 2000. Dinner/Theater packages available.
 AC,CA,DC,E,GD,H,KO,PM,PO,RN



Native Prairies

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Dayton House - Worthington



HISTORIC DAYTON HOUSE

The **Historic Dayton House** stands at 1311 4th Avenue as a visible representation of **Worthington's** early days and as a symbol of civic leadership and business success. George Draper Dayton built this house in 1890. It is unique both in the time of its grand appearance in a small prairie town in the late 1800s and in its ownership for well over a century. Three families related through business and marriage—the Daytons, the Smallwoods, & the Cashels—owned and lived in the house over time. Each contributed in unique ways to the community and its surroundings. The house was of New England design with two chimneys, widow's walk, Ionic pillars and an immense porch. Later on the Historic Worthington Inc. purchased the home and planned a restoration process in 2001 that was completed in summer 2004. For more information, call 507-727-1311 or visit www.daytonhouse.org.

other historic structures & buildings in southwest minnesota

Calumet Hotel Pipestone (1888)

Antiques grace the rooms of this hotel that is made almost entirely of Sioux Quartzite mined from Pipestone.

Dayton House Worthington (1890)

This historic mansion, restored with original furnishings, once belonged to the Dayton department store entrepreneur.

Hinkly House Luverne (1892)

A Queen Anne style residence once home to the famous quartz miner R.B. Hinkly, this museum helps depict his life.

Holt House Granite Falls (1884)

A rare octagon house from the late 1800's with specialty shops full of antiques and lawn gnomes.

Hubbard House Mankato (1905)

Victorian charm and brilliant gardening come together with a visit to the Hubbard house and carriage stalls out back.

Mayo House Le Sueur (1859)

This small white dwelling was hand built by Dr. William Mayo himself and is where he started his first medical practice.

Schell Brewery New Ulm (1860)

This beer brewery is the oldest in the state and is available for touring and sampling of brews.

Saint Casmir's Church Stone Home Wells

A site 53 years in the making, this home features gazebos, bell towers, stone fences, and picturesque gardens.

Sod House Sanborn (built 1987; replica 1880's)

At the sod house visitors can take a tour for the day, or stay the night in a real sod house and experience prairie living.

Spicer Castle Spicer (1895)

Located on Green Lake, this bed and breakfast offers out of the ordinary architecture and the serenity of a lakeside cabin.

St. Julien Cox House Saint Peter (1871)

What makes this home so special is that it is one of the only Italianate houses fully restored in the state and tour guides are in costume.

Twine Ball Museum Darwin (1950)

No road trip would be complete without a visit to the world's largest ball of twine constructed by a single person.

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calendar of events

september

- 3 **Willmar Airfest** Willmar 320-214-9669
- 9 **Backyard Barbeque & Blues Fest**
Jackpot Junction Casino & Hotel
800-946-2274
- 10 **Historic Downtown Walk**
Albert Lea 507-373-2316
- 15-16 **Celebrate Art! Celebrate Coffee!**
Willmar 320-231-8560
- 16 **King Turkey Day**
Worthington 507-372-2919

october

- Wknds **Pumpkin Festival**
Litchfield 320-693-7750
- 7-8 **20th Annual Big Island Rendezvous & Festival** Albert Lea 507-402-2920
- 28 **Heritage Festival**
Albert Lea 507-373-2316
- 31 **Halloween at Pioneer Village**
Worthington 507-376-3125

november

- 10-11 **Holiday Festival** Willmar 320-231-4141
- 17-19 **Beneath the Village Wreath**
Morton 507-697-6912
- 17-Jan 1 **Fairmont Glows** Fairmont 507-235-5547
- 14 **Parade of Lights** New Ulm 888-463-9856
- 30-Dec 1 **Christmas at Pioneer Village**
Worthington 507-376-4431
- 30-Dec 1 **Torchlight Parade and Fireworks**
Montgomery 507-364-5577
- 30-Dec 3 **Festival of Trees** Mankato 507-345-5262

december

- 1-3 **Winterfest** Luverne 888-283-4061
- 2 **Holiday Fest** Jackson 507-847-3867
- 2 **Opera House Christmas Show**
Lake Benton 507-368-4620

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

escortnotes.com



Martin County Courthouse



Red Rock Center for the Arts



Fairmont: A story with every stone.

This itinerary works best in the Fall. You'll find it at coordinates G-19 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

Take a step back in time and enjoy Fairmont's wide array of architecture and historical sites.

9 – 11:00 am

The **Martin County Courthouse** is classical in architecture. The first story is built of Marquette raindrop sandstone from Michigan. The painted mural in the dome represents peace, war, inspiration, genius, sentence and execution.

11 – 12:00 pm

The **Fairmont Opera House** is a unique building that's enriched the architectural, cultural, and commercial life of the region for more than 100 years. The atmosphere, ghosts, and memories of great actors, entertainers and shows all are here waiting for you.

12 – 1:00 pm

Stop for lunch at a variety of restaurants Fairmont has to offer.

1 – 2:00 pm

The **George Wohlhuter Mansion** was built in 1899 for \$35,000 and is Victorian style with four Corinthian columns and carved oak. Rose mahogany paneling and woodwork, Italian marble and colored and cut glass windows are found throughout the mansion. Six fireplaces and a third floor ballroom complete the structure.

2 – 3:00 pm

The **Chubb House** was inspired by Greek Revival architectural techniques, overlooks Lake Sisseton, Chubb house, and was built in 1867 of brick made from the banks

of **Buffalo Lake**.

3 – 5:00 pm

Red Rock Center for The Arts, originally the First Church of Christ Scientist, was designed by prominent Minnesota architect Harry W. Jones and is an excellent example of the Richardson Romanesque style of architecture. The building

was constructed of massive Sioux quartzite (red rock) blocks quarried in southwest Minnesota.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group contact your tour operator or the Fairmont CVB 1-800-657-3280.

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JACKPOT JUNCTION PRESENTS... The Backyard Barbeque & Bluesfest

September 9, 2006

Introducing the first annual **Jackpot Junction Backyard Barbeque & Bluesfest** featuring six of the biggest Blues stars in the world **Saturday, September 9** in the Amphitheater. Gates open at noon, Showtime 2:00 p.m. World Class Blues starring **Jonny Lang, Buddy Guy, Dr. John, Blind Boys of Alabama, Maria Muldaur, Bobby "Blue" Bland** and much more.

Over the years, Jackpot Junction's management has received thousands of requests to present a Blues Festival. They decided if they were going to do it, they would do it first class! Headlined by Minnesota's own boy wonder **Jonny Lang**, the festival will feature five-time Grammy Winner and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer **Buddy Guy**, Jazz & Blues Legend live and direct from New Orleans **Dr. John**, Gospel and Blues giants the Grammy winning **Blind Boys of Alabama**, Country Folk and Blues icon **Maria Muldaur** who will perform her musky voiced hits "Midnight at the Oasis" and "I'm a Woman", and finally **Bobby "Blue" Bland** who, along with such artists as **Sam Cooke, Ray Charles, and Junior Parker** created the modern soul-blues sound. This is an event not to be missed — what a great time for a group to be passing by!

A world-class Bluesfest line-up at **Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel** is sure to please Minnesota's most demanding fans. Tickets are available at the **Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel Gift Shop**, all Ticketmaster locations or charge by phone **651-989-5151** (ticketmaster) or www.ticketmaster.com. For further information call **1-800-WIN-CASH** or log on to our website www.jackpotjunction.com.



A Rendezvous TO REMEMBER

Tour Available October 6, 7 & 8, 2006

Enjoy the fall colors in Southern Minnesota as you visit the Midwest's largest Early America Reenactment. The **Big Island Rendezvous and Festival** allows visitors to step back in time to see how their ancestors lived in the wilderness 200 years ago.

Visit the **Big Island Rendezvous** and see the Civil War Cannon exhibition that shoots live rounds at targets twice each day. Demonstrations and street performers engage you with blacksmithing, woodworking, candle making, spinning, weaving, pottery and other colonial crafts — all for sale. Musical stage performances throughout the day include folk, bluegrass and old-time country and dance.

While you're at the **Rendezvous**, choose from a variety of ethnic cuisine such as **Kettle Korn, smoked turkey legs, funnel cakes, fry bread, beef stew, homemade root beer** and much more to tantalize your taste buds.

Spend the day taking in the sights, tastes, sounds and smells that make the **Rendezvous** a family-oriented learning experience to be enjoyed by all ages. For more information, call the **Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau** at **800-345-8414**.

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SESQUICENTENNIAL SUMMER BASH - JULY
FREEBORN COUNTY FAIR - AUGUST
BIG ISLAND RENDEZVOUS & FESTIVAL - OCTOBER

800-345-8414
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Rock Carvings and Turkey Days

This three day, two-city itinerary is best September 14-16, 2006. You'll find Comfrey (F18), Windom (E18), and Worthington (D19) on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota*.

DAY ONE

10 – 12:00 pm

Start your trip in **Comfrey** at the **Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site** (operated by the Minnesota Historical Society) with its hundreds of ancient rock carvings that are thousands of years old. These petroglyphs, etched by American Indians, show humans, weapons, and animals in many scenes.

12 – 1:30 pm

Travel South on US Highway 71 to **Windom**.

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Dine at one of Windom's local restaurants.

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Next stop is **Cottonwood Historical Society**. Art lovers will enjoy the **Remick Gallery** highlighting local artists. The history buffs will enjoy the Exhibit Hall.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

View a wide variety of bird species such as the Great Blue Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Bobolink, Meadowlark, plus a variety of mammals at the **Windom Wetland Management District**.

5 – 6:00 pm Travel SW to **Worthington**.

6 – 6:30 pm

Check in at the **Travelodge Hotel** and freshen up.

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Dinner at **Stephanie's Restaurant & Lounge** in the hotel.

DAY TWO

9 – 10:00 am Enjoy a hot breakfast at the hotel.

10 – 12:30 pm

Call to schedule a tour of the **Historic Dayton House**, a visible representation of Worthington's early days, and a symbol of civic leadership and business success.

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Enjoy lunch at a Worthington restaurant.

2 – 3:00 pm

Tour the **Nobles Art Center**, call ahead to arrange a tour. There is a different exhibit each month of arts and cultures of other communities, nations and civilizations of Nobles County and the surrounding area.

3 – 4:00 pm

Shop for antiques, collectibles, primitives, elegant and depression glass, china, Fiesta, Franciscan and quilts at **Remember When**.

4 – 4:30 pm

Return to hotel and freshen up for dinner.

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Head over to **Michael's Restaurant** for an evening of fine

dining. Then head back to the hotel, the evening is yours.

DAY THREE

King Turkey Day - Saturday, September 16th, 2006

9 – 10:30 am

Start your day at the **King Turkey Day Festival** with a FREE pancake breakfast, located at the firehall. Enjoy fresh pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee.

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Continue your day at the King Turkey Day Festival by shopping on **10th Street**. Baseball fans can stop by the **King Turkey Day Baseball Card Show** at the **Northland Mall**.

12:30 – 1:00 pm

Next, head over to 10th Street to reserve your spot for the day's extraordinary activities. Vendors supply food, candy, beverages, and beer near parade route.

1 – 2:00 pm

Cheer at the **Great Gobbler Gallop turkey race**. Yes, turkeys do race. A turkey feather makes a great souvenir.

2 – 3:30 pm

After the dust and feathers have settled, end your day with the **King Turkey Day Parade!** Featuring bands, color and precision units, floats, politicians, beauty queens, and clowns who will make any group smile!

For more information on this sample itinerary, contact your tour operator, the **Windom CVB 507-831-2752** or the **Worthington CVB 800-279-2919**.

Worthington

YOU'LL COME TO LOVE US



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Willmar: A wake in history. A splash for today's visitors.

This itinerary is best on weekends in the Spring through the Fall. You'll find it at coordinates F14 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

12 – 1:30 pm

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

1:30 – 4:00 pm

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

4 – 5:00 pm

Time to check into your hotel. During this visit, you'll be a guest at the **Holiday Inn** – a full-service hotel with relaxing lounge and restaurant. Unpack, freshen up and get ready to enjoy the evening's activities.

5 – 6:30 pm

Join your group at **The Green Mill**. Famous for pizza, The Green Mill has a menu that goes on and on including everything from Italian pastas to steaks, seafood and everything in between.

7 – 8:30 pm

Witness the **Little Crow Ski Team Show**, a professional,

high-energy water show that will have your group on the edge of their seats as they watch graceful ballet skiers, high octane jumpers and bare-footers, 42 giant pyramids and much more.

9 – 10:30 pm

Willmar's own, "**The Classics**" provide the evening's entertainment with the likes of Rat Pack classics that transport you from "Chicago" to "New York" with many stops along the way. Foot-tapping and finger-snapping almost always accompany this musical journey.

DAY TWO

9 – 10:30 am

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

10:30 – 12:30 pm

First stop, **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, young at heart and anyone who enjoys just a little bit of history.

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Try something new for lunch. Whether you appreciate the

view of the cars driving by, the 18th green of a nearby golf course or a sparkling lake – dining with a view always tastes just a tiny bit better.

2 – 4:30 pm

Off to the "Ranch" with **J & L Bison Ranch**. Talk about a step back in time – you'll have the opportunity to view the herd in their natural habitat. Educational as it is astonishing, there's much to know and learn about this sacred animal. We'll save the details for the tour!

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Back to your hotel. Relax and freshen up before you head off for evening entertainment.

6 – 8:00 pm

Dinner and the theater – what a lovely combination. Enjoy dinner at **Blue Heron on the Green** – from surf and turf, to burgers and ice-cold beer. You'll find something you're sure to enjoy but don't get too comfortable, it's show time.

8 – 10:30 pm

The show changes throughout the year, but no matter what the production, you're in for a treat. **The Barn Theater** is a community theater group with a pool of talent and committed volunteers that rivals most professional companies. So, sit back and enjoy – you're sure to enjoy this performance from the first scene to curtain call.

For more information and to customize this tour for your group, contact your tour operator or the Willmar CVB, 800-845-8747 ext. 603.

YOUNGER BROTHERS CAPTURE
September 15th - 17th 2006

1800's Family Weekend of Fun

- Shoot out & Capture of Younger Brothers Gang at the historic monument site
 - Bank Robbery at high noon
- Kids Games, Pony Rides, Mercantile Market, & Entertainment along Main Street
- Tour of the Historical Center and the Yates Museum
 - Posse Parade
- Steak Supper with Western Entertainment
 - Visit one of our many specialty shops
- Stay & Play at the Watona Park - campground, 9 hole golf course, & outdoor pool with waterslide or the new Americinn Lodge & Suites
- Blackbeard's, The new Cayman Island Restaurant

For more information contact:
Madelia Area Chamber & Visitors Bureau
127 W Main St • Madelia, MN • (888) 941-7283
www.madeliamn.com



MADELIA: The more things change, the more they stay the same.



Formerly the Flanders Building, the **Farmers State Bank Building** was built in 1872 and served as the Watonwan County Courthouse. In 1878 the courthouse was relocated to St James. In 1984 Farmers State Bank acquired the Flanders Building, and had the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the building facing Main Street was restored to closely resemble the original façade. The lower level interior was renovated for use by the bank. Flanders Hall, the second floor, remains essentially unchanged.

The **Christensen Building** was built in 1872 by William Estes, an early settler of Madelia. Originally a general store, the building was later used by businesses such as a newspaper and auto dealership. Everett Christensen Jr. purchased the building in 1985 and began extensive restoration. The building now houses a unique two-room hotel in the top floor and the **Madelia Area Chamber and Visitors Bureau** on the main floor. For more information call 888-941-7283.

WILLMAR

Lakes Area

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in Willmar!

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Lakes Area
Kandiyohi County



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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418 Benson Ave SE - Willmar, MN

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on the green
The Barn Theatre

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Holiday Inn

2100 East Hwy 12 • Willmar, MN 56201
320-235-6060 • www.torgersonproperties.com



Lund-Hoel House MUSEUM

Step back in history with a visit to the Lund-Hoel House. Established in 1891 by John Lund. The main part of the house was completed in 49 days. Surrounded by a "hardhead" (fieldstone) fence, additional living space was added many times to include servants quarters, balconies, a turret, and porches. Although considered extravagant at the time, foolish by many, the house boasted a gas plant to light the house at night with original gas fixtures on display. The rooms were designed without continuity or harmony with many styles of millwork. All bedrooms except the servant's quarters had their own balcony.

Restoration started in 1975 when many family heirlooms were brought back to the house, and the Victorian Garden was restored to its original beauty. Lund-Hoel House is located on the Hwy 75 Byway scenic route, crossroads of Hwy 68 & 75 in Canby, MN.

A Day in Hutch

This itinerary is best all year long. You will find it at coordinates G-15 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

10 – 12:00 pm

Historic Hutchinson has made it their mission "To restore, to preserve and to protect the living and structural history and spirit of the Hutchinson area and to showcase these assets now and for the future." And they are doing just that! With dedication and hard work, Historic Hutchinson has created and restored a historical tour that will capture the interest of anyone.

The oldest building in Hutchinson, which is in the process of being restored, is a highlight on the tour. The **Harrington Merrill house** was built in 1858 after Lewis Harrington chose a beautiful grove in the northern part of the village of Hutchinson.

12 – 2:00 pm

Have lunch and check into your hotel. Hutchinson is known as Minnesota's Home Town, your group is sure to love the small town hospitality.

2 – 3:30 pm

A short drive in the country will take you to **Clay Coyote Pottery**, where hand-thrown pottery dishes for everyday use are made. They create tableware, cookware, bakeware, serving pieces, and some decorative pieces such as vases, bird feeders, and bird houses. Take a short tour and learn the story of how Clay Coyote began.

3:30 – 4:00 pm

Make the short drive to the community of **Montrose** for an

Authentic German Dinner.

4 – 6:15 pm

Bayrischer Hof has many authentic German foods and beverages to choose from. One of the state's best German Restaurants for lunch and dinner, not to mention Great German beer and wine. Bayrischer Hof offers fun musical entertainment most Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year. Spring through fall, they feature special outdoor celebrations and entertainment.

6:15 – 7:30 pm

Head Back to Hutchinson and a quick stop at your hotel to freshen up.

7:30 – 10:00 pm

For evening entertainment, we insist that you take in a movie at the recently renovated art deco **Historic State Theatre on Library Square**. Red and Linda will welcome you to this lovingly restored theater with the best popcorn and the largest main screen outside of the Twin Cities.



For more information or to customize this tour for your group please contact your tour operator or the Hutchinson CVB, 800-572-6689.

Big Honza Land, in the heart of Minnesota Czech Country

This itinerary is good all year long. You'll find it at coordinates I-17 on your 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

Your tour begins at historic **Hilltop Hall**, a magnificently

restored turn-of-the-century Concert Hall where you will experience:

12 – 1:00 pm

Worldly buffet luncheon that includes ethnic specialties.

1 – 2:00 pm

Variety show featuring original and familiar music, story

telling, and family string players.

2 – 3:00 pm

Visit to the **Arts and Heritage Center**.

3 – 4:00 pm

Visit to the showcase studio of world-famous wood carving artist, **Marvin Kaisersatt**.

4 – 5:00 pm

Big Honza's Malt Shoppe & Bunzo Factory — a coffee and gift shop featuring a full line of specialty coffees and teas, delicious ethnic pastries, frozen custard delights and unique gifts.

5 – 7:00 pm

Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History — a museum filled with unnatural attractions that are sure to tickle your funny bone! Arrange a personal guided tour with Monty Gomery, PHD (Promulgator of Honzonian Data), and distinguished graduate of ISU (Imaginary State University).

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

BIG HONZA'S MUSEUM OF UNNATURAL HISTORY

During your guided tour, see the following unnatural attractions:

- Airplane/Corn Shredder
- Cast-Iron Watermelon
- Fishing Pole
- Honzafied Zinnias
- Navel Lint Sweater
- 2 Person Alarm Clock
- The Honzertina, The World's ONLY Chain-Drive Rider Concertina & much more!

In Montgomery, visit Minnesota's newest and strangest museum.

Group tours include a live musical presentation and Czech heritage meal at Historic Hilltop Hall.

Call John Grimm
612-756-1075

big_honza@hotmail.com
www.bighonza.com



AC-Air Conditioned AS-Alcohol Served BH-Baggage Handling CA-Call Ahead DC-Dining/Casual DF-Dining/Fine E-Entertainment GB-Group Buffet
 GD-Group Discounts GT-Guided Tours H-Handicapped Access KO-Kids OK MG-Meet/Greet Service 24-Open 24 hours YR-Open Year Round
 PM-Parking/Motorcoach PO-Parking/Onsite PA-Pets Allowed RO-Restaurant Onsite RN-Restaurant Nearby SA-Smoking Allowed SP-Swimming Pool

ACCOMMODATIONS

AmericInn Belle Plaine	952-873-6017
AmericInn Lodge & Suites Blue Earth	507-526-4215
AmericInn Motel & Suites Worthington	507-376-4500
AmericInn of Hutchinson Hutchinson	320-587-5515
AmericInn of Madelia Madelia	507-642-2004
Holiday Inn & Willmar Conference Center Willmar	877-405-4466
► Spicer Castle Inn	320-796-5870
11600 Indian Beach Rd - Spicer, MN 56288	800-821-6675
swanson@tds.net / www.spicercastle.com	
Experience the hospitality of a by-gone era at our historic Inn overlooking beautiful Green Lake in Central Minnesota. Lunch/Dinner Cruises, Lunch/Dinner Murder Mysteries, Lunch/Dinner and Group Tours. Seating up to 100.	
AC, BH, CA, DC, DF, GB, GD, GT, YR, PM, PO, RO, RN	

ATTRACTIONS

► Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History	612-756-1075
201 First Street South - Montgomery, MN 56069	
big_honza@hotmail.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.	
AC, E, GB, GD, GT, H, MG, PM, PO	
Birch Coulee Battlefield Morton	507-697-6321
Brown Country Museum Battlefield	888-463-9856
Fort Ridgely Historic Site Fairfax	507-426-7888
Harkin Store Historic Site New Ulm	507-354-8666
J & L Bison Willmar	320-235-8465
► 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.	
AC, AS, CA, DC, DF, E, GB, GD, H, KO, MG, 24, YR, PM, PO, RO, SA, SP	
Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site Comfrey	507-628-5591
Iac qui Parle Mission Montevideo	320-269-7636
Little Crow Ski Team New London	320-354-5684
The Mikkelson Boat Collection Willmar	320-231-0384
Nicollet County Historical Society Saint Peter	507-934-2160
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
143 West Clark Street - Albert Lea, MN 56007	800-345-8414
alcvb.smig.net / www.albertleatourism.org	
Located 90 minutes from Mpls, where I-90 & 35 intersect, featuring small town hospitality with big city amenities. Plus additional lakes & 38 city parks hosting various outdoor activities.	

www.itinerariesminnesota.com

► Fairmont Convention & Visitors Bureau	507-235-8585
PO Box 976 - Fairmont, MN 56031	800-657-3280
director@fairmontcvb.com / www.fairmontcvb.com	
Fairmont is situated on five beautiful, tree bordered, fresh water lakes. A recent visit from the Travel Channel called Fairmont, "Minnesota's own little Shangri-la & Minnesota's hidden little secret!!!"	
► 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.com	
Luverne - Minnesota's Prairie Playground. Located on Interstate 90 in southwest Minnesota, we welcome visitors to enjoy the grandeur of the prairie including Blue Mounds State Park, live buffalo herds, the Brandenburg Gallery, and much more!	
► Madelia Area Chamber & CVB	507-642-8822
127 West Main Street - Madelia, MN 56062	888-941-7283
mchamber@madtelco.net / www.madeliamn.com	
Located along the picturesque Watonwan River, Madelia is a quaint rural community. Home to the Magnificent Seven, and capture of the Younger Brothers, Madelia offers unique history, specialty shops, fantastic dining, 9 hole golf course, and new AmericInn Lodge & Suites.	
► 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	507-825-4126
117 8th Ave SE - Pipestone, MN 55614	800-336-6125
pipecham@pipestoneminnesota.com / www.pipestoneminnesota.com	
Song of Hiawatha Pageant, an exciting, colorful, pageant set on a small pond surrounded by prairie and redstone cliffs. A story about a small Indian boy-"Hiawatha". Top Minnesota Event...In late July/early August. Red Carpet Group Service.	
► Redwood Falls Area Chamber of Commerce	507-637-2828
200 South Mill Street - 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, 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
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Viking Woods & Lakes

Welcome to Northwestern Minnesota!

NW REGION CITIES

alexandria
battle lake
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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



Paramount Theatre - St. Cloud

calendar of events

- september*
- 9 King of Trails Marketplace Crookston 218-281-4320
 - 9-10 Pioneer Days Crookston 218-281-1038
 - 15 Bad Boyz Car Show St. Cloud 320-251-4170
 - 15-17 Great Pumpkin Patch Festival Park Rapids 800-247-0054
 - 16 Fall Color Tour by Covered Wagon Bemidji 218-243-2250
 - 19-21 30th Annual North Country Arts & Crafts Workshop Bemidji 218-586-8600
 - 22-23 Fergus Falls Art Crawl Fergus Falls 218-739-5780
 - 22-Oct 1 Fall Has It All Walker 800-833-1118
- october*
- 6-7 North Star Fall Walleye Classic Baudette 219-634-9457
 - 7 & 8 Boone & Erickson: Paramount Theatre St. Cloud 320-257-3102
 - 12-14 National Wildlife Refuge Week & Fall Festival Fergus Falls 218-736-0938
 - 16-17 Itineraries Minnesota 2006 Annual Showcase Fergus Falls 877-832-7267
 - 19-21 Christmas Tour of Homes Nisswa 219-963-2620
- november*
- 10 Christmas Arts & Crafts Celebration Park Rapids 218-732-9439
 - 24 Nisswa City of Lights Nisswa 800-950-9610
 - 24 Night We Light Celebration Bemidji 218-444-3541
 - 25: Dec 5 Christmas at the Lindbergh House Little Falls 320-616-5423
- december*
- 1 4th Annual Winter Nights and Lights Parade St. Cloud 320-251-4170
 - 22 & 23 The Messiah: Paramount Theatre St. Cloud 320-257-3102
 - 31 First Night, East Grand Forks 218-230-4231
- january*
- 12-14 3rd Annual White Oak Dog Sled Classic Deer River 800-355-9740

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

escortnotes.com

PARAMOUNT THEATRE

Paramount Theatre - Originally the Sherman Theater, first opened on Christmas Eve 1921. Although it was not the first theatre of its kind in St. Cloud, it was said to be the grandest, with seating for 1,700, a decorative lobby and foyer, a majestic theatre organ, and a stage to accommodate large sets. It was not renamed to the Paramount until 1930 when the theatre underwent its first renovation, adding sound equipment to accommodate the new "talkies" and featuring a new marquee. On January 15th, 1985, the Paramount fell victim to fire. The damage was fairly extensive, estimated at \$60,000 at that time. It was not until the early 1990's that the Paramount was patched and upgraded enough to provide a home to live theatre once again. Today the Paramount Arts District is the cultural center for St. Cloud and the surrounding area. For more information call 320-240-0836 or visit www.paramountarts.org.

other historic structures & buildings in northwest minnesota

- Beltrami County Courthouse** Bemidji (1903) This three-story courthouse was built out of sandstone and red brick to replace the then current courthouse, a corner store.
- Bonanzaville West** Fargo/ Moorhead (1869) Fargo's first home is their oldest standing structure, this house was once used as a hotel and later a jail. This site also features other aged buildings.
- A Center for the Arts Fergus Falls** (1921) Originally a stage theatre, the building was gutted for show of movies, and was renovated in the 1990's for great legitimate theatre once again.
- Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site** Little Falls (1906) Tour the home of this famous aviator, see hundreds of photos, and go inside the full-size replica of the Spirit of St. Louis.
- Comstock Home** Moorhead (1882) Solomon Comstock played a big part in the city's history, and his house offers insight on his impact and a look at the home's original furnishings.
- Douglas County Courthouse** Alexandria (1895) An edifice built on a small budget, the courthouse is classically designed in the 1800's style for only \$35,000.
- Douglas Lodge** Itasca State Park (1904) Built in the state's oldest park, this lodge was made from the Itasca pine that surrounds it in the early 1900's.
- Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center** Fergus Falls (1906) Designed by a Minneapolis architect, the beautiful castle-like building was once used as a hospital for the insane. [, and could be slated to be destroyed.?

- Gluek Brewing Company** Saint Joseph (1857) One of the top brewing companies in Minnesota offering tours illustrating the whole brewing process with top equipment.
- Grand View Lodge** Nisswa (1918) This resort has 50 plus years of hospitality and offers guests everything from golf, to a spa, to fishing on Gull Lake.
- Phelps Mill County Park** Otter Tail (1888) Constructed when milling wheat was big business, this mill closed in 1939 but still remains a landmark for Otter Tail County.
- Roseau Pioneer Farm & Village** Roseau -This agriculture museum takes visitors through an old barn, a school, a church, a print shop, and an former post office.
- SOO Line Railroad Depot** Thief River Falls (1914) A tribute to the time of passenger trains, this historic depot was restored along with a MIKADO locomotive.
- St. John's Abbey** Collegeville (1961) A gorgeous, towering, modern style church complex that both joins and separates St. John's College from the seminary.
- Terrace Mill Terrace** (early 1900's) -Along the Chippewa River. The flour mill, built in 1903 is open for tours, June 30 through Labor Day, and weekends in June.
- This Old Farm** Brainerd -A Museum of buildings as they would have looked decades ago, the 27 foot tall Paul Bunyan, rides, and a gigantic corn maze.



Rock Solid Tour

This itinerary works best spring through fall. You'll find it at coordinates H-13 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

Granite is hard to miss. It adorns our churches, museums, fancy restaurants and even our kitchens and bathrooms. It's unique colors, astounding beauty, durability and hardness impress with every passing year — and Granite County offers some of the BEST granite deposits in the world.

3:30 - 5:00 pm

One of the best times to visit **Musinger/Clemens Gardens** is in early fall. The flowers are beautiful, the crisp fall air and fresh waters of the Mississippi make this stop a must...don't take the gardens for granite in the fall!

For more information or to customize this tour for your group, call your tour operator or contact Jean Robbins, St. Cloud Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-264-2940 ext. 129.

9 - 10:30 am

Monument Works – Granite, it's not just for cemeteries anymore! Granite photography, granite gardens and lawn ornaments.

10:30 - 12:00 am

Quarry Park and Nature Center – Bring your hiking shoes to view the site of 21 amazingly abandoned granite quarries.

12 - 1:30 pm

Lunch at one of **St. Cloud's** great restaurants.

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Granite Counter Tops – Custom fabrication of granite, and ideas of how to use granite in your home.

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Granite Equipment – Tour the largest manufacturer of stone-working equipment in North America.



MEMORABLE MUSEUMS!
Tantalizing Tours

GORGEOUS GARDENS!
Quarries in Quantities

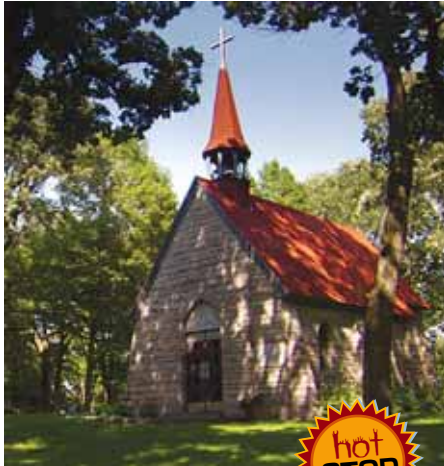
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Memories 40 Billion Years in the Making!
In Mid-Minnesota, astounding accommodations abound amidst a vast variety of restaurants, shopping and thrills. Enjoy everything, but don't forget to stop and smell the granite.

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(800) 264-2940 EXT. 129 GRANITECOUNTRY.COM



Grasshopper CHAPEL

You are entering a small, humble chapel on a secluded and forested hill in Central Minnesota. It's like you're in another world.

Now picture yourself as a central Minnesota family farmer in 1872 with lush July crops watching with unbelieving eyes as huge dark clouds of hungry grasshoppers descend on your fields, continuously eating everything in their path. Then imagine this plague of ravenous insects lasting for 5 long years.

You tried many things to protect your crops from the grasshoppers. You set fires, scooped the invading insects out of the fields using a tar-covered shovels, and laid down blankets which were quickly eaten away. Unfortunately, there was very little you could do. Crops, gardens, clothing and trees were devoured. Fences, houses and barns were damaged. By 1877, Minnesota Governor John S. Pillsbury had seen enough and declared a

statewide day of prayer. Farmers and townspeople joined together in churches and homes throughout Minnesota to pray to God for the end of the horrific devastation.

After an unusual April snowstorm miraculously dealt a blow to the plague, the remaining grasshoppers left in the 5th year, darkening the skies as they flew off. Better yet, they never returned.

The people in the Cold Spring area built the Assumption Chapel – now called the Grasshopper Chapel - in thankfulness for their answered prayers. Visitors often speak of the special feeling of gratitude that permeates the air in that special place.

For more information about bringing your group to the Grasshopper Chapel, contact Jean Robbins at the St Cloud CVB, 1-800-264-2940.

A Great Fall Tour: Great River Road to the Great Lakes.

This itinerary works best in the Fall. You'll find it on coordinates F-7 & F-8 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

Work your way upstream via the **Great River Road National Scenic Byway**, to the **Headwaters of the Mississippi River**. Explore river towns dressed for fall with colorful foliage and deep blue waters.

DAY ONE

9 – 11:30 am

Depart **Minneapolis** via **Great River Road National Scenic Byway** US Hwy 94.

10 – 11:30 am

Arrive in **St Cloud**. Tour **Munsinger/Clemens Gardens** on

bank of the **Mississippi River**.

11:30 – 12:30 pm

Enjoy lunch at a variety of group friendly places in **St. Cloud**.

12:30 – 3:30 pm

Depart for **Itasca State Park – Headwaters of the Mississippi**.

3:30 – 5:30 pm

Arrive **Itasca State Park** – stop at **Jacob V. Brower Visitors Center**. Tour Park with step-on naturalist guide – step across **Headwaters of the Mississippi River** (light refreshment break available at historic **Douglas Lodge**).

5:30 – 6:00 pm

Depart for Bemidji via **Great River Road National Scenic Byway**.

6 – 6:45 pm

Arrive **Bemidji**, check into motel.

6:45 – 9:00 pm

Enjoy an incredible dinner and evening at the **Country Club** overlooking **Lake Bemidji**.

8 – 10:00 pm

Evening entertainment of **'Hickory Wind Trio'** – special performance by the popular 'folk grass' trio.

10:00 pm Return to motel.

DAY TWO

8 – 8:30 am

Photo stop at legendary huge statues of **Paul Bunyan** and **Babe** the Blue Ox. View Paul's memorabilia and the **Fireplace of States** in adjacent TIC.

8:30 – 10:00 am

Tour **Bemidji Woolen Mills Factory and Outlet** store – stock up on warm Woolen outerwear to enjoy the cool, crisp Minnesota fall air.

10 – 12:00 pm

Next stop, the **Headwaters Science Center** for a presentation such as 'All About Raptors' and a chance to explore the exhibit floor.

12 – 2:30 pm

Board coach, depart for **Buena Vista Logging Village** Chuck wagon-style lunch and then board horse-drawn covered wagons to ride to the **'Top of the World'**. From the top of the **East/West Continental Divide**, see spectacular fall foliage from the Vantage point of the birds – above the trees. Don't forget your camera!

2:30 pm Head back home.



For more information or to customize this tour for your group please contract your tour operator or the Bemidji CVB, 800-458-2223 ext 106.



Arts and History Tour

This itinerary is best all year long. You'll find it at coordinates C-11 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

9 – 10:00 am

Meet at the **City Bakery** for coffee and orientation downtown. The Art Deco style building is a great introduction to historic downtown.

10 – 12:30 pm

Enjoy a narrated walking tour of historic downtown **Fergus Falls** along the famed **RiverWalk**. Visit the **Kaddatz**, a beautifully restored hotel now home to the beautiful works of local artists.

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Buffet lunch in the **Lake Region Arts Council Gallery and River Inn**, an historic renovated hotel that's now home to shops, art gallery, apartments and more.

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Tour the **Otter Tail County Historical Museum**. Award-winning interpretive exhibits, wildlife, period rooms, agriculture and 1919 Main Street.

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Check into an area hotel and freshen up for dinner.

5:30 – 9:00 pm

Enjoy the melodies of the **Prairie Wind Players** at the **Historic Roosevelt Hall** in charming downtown **Barrett** — a unique and intimate theatre setting awaits you.

DAY TWO

9 – 10:00 am

Continental breakfast at your hotel.

10 – 10:30 am

Experience **Barnhard Arts Center**. This unique building is a refurbished fieldstone two-room schoolhouse built by the WPA in 1940, and converted to an art gallery and studio in 2002.

10:30 – 12:30 pm

Then on to **Phelps Mill**. This unique, picturesque spot was originally called the Main Roller Mills. It's no longer in operation but is now the focal point of a beautifully landscaped county park. The original milling equipment is still stands with descriptions about its workings.

12:30 – 2 pm

Lunch at **Rumors in Amor**.

2 – 3:30 pm

The **New York Mills Regional Cultural Center** is a nationally recognized art center in a beautifully renovated historic

building. The Center offers a wide array of programs including gallery exhibits and musical performances.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Visit the **Centennial Monument** in **Central Park**. The monument, which is situated precisely on the **Continental Divide**, is flanked by the flags of England, France Spain — and also is adorned with the current American flag and the American flag of expansion with its 15 stars. Return to Hotel in **Fergus Falls**.

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Dinner at **Mabel Murphy's**. Tudor-style architecture and cozy rooms — not to mention fabulous food!

7 – 9:00 pm

Enjoy a performance at **A Center for the Arts**. Built in 1921 as a vaudeville theater, the building has been renovated and updated to include a full sound and light system, enhanced stage and dressing room areas and a gorgeous lobby.



Phelps Mill

For more information and to customize this tour for your group, contact your tour operator or Jean Bowman, Fergus Falls CVB 1-800-726-8859.

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My way and the byway

This itinerary is best Spring through Fall. You'll find it on coordinates D-9 & F-9 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

Witness the prairie-to-forest transformation of spectacular autumn colors while traveling the **Lake Country Scenic Byway** in prime season – mid-September to mid-October.

DAY ONE

9 – 10:30 am

Enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast at the **Detroit Lakes** hotel, then off to tour the **Becker County Museum** for a glimpse of the area's history.

10:30 – 11:45 am

Head north off the **Lake Country Scenic Byway** through woodlands, marsh, rivers and lakes to the 43,000 acre **Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge**. Bird- and wildlife-watching are visitor favorites. After browsing the **Visitor's Center**, check out a short film on the area.

11:45 – 12:30 pm

Nestled in the pines at **Two Inlets** is a replica of France's



Two Inlets



Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes. Construction began in 1959, with a **Rosary Shrine** added in 1981.

12:30 – 4:30 pm

Take a narrated ride to the **Mary Gibbs Headwaters Center** at **Itasca State Park**, and then grab a bite. Take some time on your own to browse the gift shop and stroll the wooded path to the famous Mississippi headwaters.

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Travel south to **Park Rapids** and check out the unique gift and specialty shops on **Main Street**. Spend the evening in this charming northwoods town.

6 – 9:00 pm

Enjoy a delicious dinner at one of the many dining establishments **Detroit Lakes** has to offer. Then head back to your hotel for a good night's rest.

DAY TWO

9 – 1:00 pm

After breakfast, head to the **Hubbard County Museum** in **Park Rapids** with its many rooms full of interesting artifacts. Stop at the **All Veteran's Memorial** before heading back on the Byway. Stop somewhere along-the-way for lunch.

1 – 3:00 pm

After lunch, learn how wine is made and sample any of the numerous varieties made from area fruits and berries at **Forestedge Winery**.

3:00 pm

A visit to **Next Innovations** in **Walker** shows you how "spinning" lawn and garden ornaments are laser cut out of metal. Head downtown for time on your own to browse the unique shops, dine and check into the hotel for the evening.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group please contact your tour operator or the Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce, 800-542-3992.

Crookston, Minnesota

This itinerary works best during summer, from **Memorial Day** through **Labor Day**. You'll find it at coordinates B-6 on your 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

8 – 9:30 am

Rise and Shine! Have breakfast at **RBJ's**, known for their homemade, spreadable fruit and the wonderful flavors of

their jams, jellies and syrups.

9:30 – 10:00 am

A short ride east of **Crookston** takes us to the **Glacial Ridge National Nature Conservancy**. Learn about the natural prairie plants, animals and history.

10 – 12:00 pm

Tour the **Polk County Historical Society Museum**. Eight buildings house a collection of interesting artifacts. Visit the 1910 Summer Kitchen, BN Railroad Caboose, 1890 School House, 1891 Frame House, Blacksmith Shop and much more!

12 – 1:00 pm

Enjoy the delectable lunch buffet at **Happy Joes Pizza Parlor** offering soups, salads, pastas and pizza.

1 – 3:00 pm

Take a self-guided walking tour of historic downtown. "This [area] is by far the most architecturally intact, and probably the best concentration of the late 19th century commercial buildings left in the Red River Valley region," says Susan Roth, research historian with the state Historic Preservation Office. Shop at many of the unique shops, and treat yourself to a homemade candy treat or ice cream soda at **Widman's Candy Shop** in business since 1911.

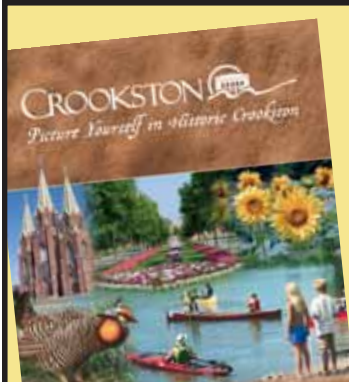
3:15 pm – 6:30 pm

Check-in time at one of the comfortable hotels — relax, enjoy their pools and have dinner.

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Board the bus to the **Historic Grand Theatre** to enjoy the feature film. Built in 1910, it is the oldest continuously operating movie theatre in the United States — once a live Theatre which hosted such famous people as Mark Twain, Mary Pickford and Boris Karloff.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group contact your tour operator or the Crookston CVB, 800-809-5997.



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ATTRACTIONS

- Bemidji Woolen Mills** Bemidji 218-751-5166
- Covered Wagon Rides** Bemidji 218-243-2231

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► **Crookston Convention and Visitors Bureau** 218-281-4320
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Crookston, where the past lives comfortably with the present. Experience historic treasures and nearby Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge. Located on U.S. Highway 2, Highway 75 King of Trails Scenic Byway and Prairie Passage Route.

► **Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce** 218-847-9202
 PO Box 348, 700 Summit Avenue - Detroit Lakes, MN 56502 800-542-3992
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► **Fergus Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau** 218-739-0125
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► **New York Mills Civic & Commerce Association** 218-385-3339
 Box 133 - New York Mills, MN 56567
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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 & antique shopping in Central Minnesota.

► **St. Cloud Area Convention & Visitors Bureau** 320-251-4170
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Did you miss the great recipe on Page 3?



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Glensheen Mansion - Duluth

GLENSHEEN, THE HISTORIC CONGDON ESTATE

Glensheen (1908) was built for the family of Chester A. Congdon, reportedly the richest man in Minnesota at the time of his death in 1916. This 39-room mansion on the shores of **Lake Superior** reflects the grand "boom time" in **Duluth** at the end of the last century. But look closely and you'll see evidence of a family home, where Chester and Clara celebrated generations of children and grandchildren.

Visitors explore room after room of exceptional original furnishings, artwork, and family treasures. The 7.6 acre estate includes a carriage house, boat house, formal gardens, and meandering pathways—all on the shores of Lake Superior. As seen on A & E television network's "America's Castles" and Court TV's "Power, Privilege, and Justice."

Glensheen is located at 3300 London Road in Duluth and is open seven days a week during through mid-October, with the first tour at 9:30 am and the last tour beginning at 4 pm. For more information: Call **1-888-454-GLEN** or visit www.glensheen.org.

other historic structures & buildings in northeast minnesota

Aerial Lift Bridge Duluth (1905, 1930)

The most famous attraction in Duluth is by far the massive lift bridge that raises up over 5,000 times a year for ship traffic.

Bob Dylan's Childhood Home Hibbing

One of the most famous folk singers ever, grew up in Hibbing and now the public is able to come and get a glimpse of his early days.

Duluth Paper Mill Duluth (1987)

Get a look inside the fast paced days at the paper mill, where they'll show you newest technologies being used.

Gunflint Lodge Grand Marais (1927)

This ideal Minnesota get away features rentable cabins for a calming vacation in the north woods.

Hibbing High School Hibbing (1920's)

A truly impressive school reminiscent of an old theater that by today's standards would cost over \$50 million dollars to replace.

Judy Garland Museum Grand Rapids (1920's)

Red Poppies grow freely outside the small, white home and

museum of Minnesota's own Judy Garland.

Naniboujou Lodge and Restaurant Grand Marais (1928)

A 77 year old lodge on Lake Superior offers a quiet retreat with the biggest stone fireplace in Minnesota to rest your feet by.

Northwest Company Fur Post Pine City (replica 1804)

Travel back to the days of 1804 to visit an old fur post where you'll learn about the fur trade from a guide dressed in clothes of the time.

Phillips 66 Gas Station Cloquet (1976)

This is the only gas station designed by famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and has an observation deck overlooking the St. Louis River.

Ore Docks Two Harbors (1911)

Massive is a great word to describe these elderly steel ore docks that continue to load iron ore onto boats everyday.

Split Rock Lighthouse Two Harbors (1910)

Come and gaze at the historic lighthouse, and two other restored buildings that date back to 1910.

calendar of events

september

- 11-3 **15th Annual Bayou Boogie**
Grand Portage Lodge and Casino,
Grand Portage 218-475-2401
- 2 **International Outrigger Canoe Regatta**
Grand Marais 800-720-2809
- 8 **Fall Harvest Moon Festival**
Ely 800-777-7281
- 16-17 **Bargains are Great on Highway 38**
Grand Rapids 218-832-3831
- 30-Oct 1 **3rd Annual October Fest**
Hinckley 888-390-2329
- 30-Oct 1 **Octoberfest** Hinckley 800-952-4282

october

- 6-28 **Ship of Ghouls** Duluth 218-727-0022
- 7 **Dessert Wine Experience**
WineHaven Winery & Vineyard,
Chisago City 651-257-1017
- 7-8 **Alpacas of Minnesota**
Taylor Falls 651-583-2915
- 10-11 **Edmund Fitzgerald Beacon Lighting**
Two Harbors 218-226-6372
- 14 **Pumpkin Fest** Aurora 218-229-2245
- 20-22;
26-28 **Chisholm Field of Screams**
Chisholm 800-422-0806

november

- 23-Dec 31 **Bentleyville** Cloquet 218-879-1551
- 24-26 **Duluth National Snocross**
Spirit Mountain, Duluth 800-438-5884

december

- 7-17 **Suessical** Grand Marais 218-387-1284
- 28-30 **Mush with Dogs, Howl with Wolves**
International Wolf Center,
Ely 800-359-9653

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

escortnotes.com



Experience the wonders of Ironworld

This itinerary is best May 27 – September 4, 2006. You'll find it at coordinates J-17 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

11 – 12:00 pm

Step back into the past aboard **Ironworld's authentic trolley**, and embark on a journey through time. The



Glen Mine

picturesque 2.4-mile railway winds around the beautiful **Pillsbury mine pit** and deposits you at the **Glen** location, a re-creation of an early iron mining community. Disembark at **Wilpen Depot** to experience what life was like for our early miners and their families.

12 – 1:00 pm

Savor the aroma of a home-cooked meal at an authentically restored 1908 house — and imagine sharing your life with others at the 1905 **Hill's Finn Boarding House**.

1 – 3:00 pm

Board the trolley for the trek back to the main park where you'll find interpretive sites filled with authentic relics from the hard-scrabble days of the past. Get a real sense of the

rugged, subsistence lifestyles of early Native Americans, pioneers and homesteaders. Discover the fascinating culture and architecture of the Sami people and much more.

3 – 4:30 pm

The park also offers the museum, which features two floors of exhibits that highlight geology, mining, immigration and other aspects of the industrial and cultural history of the region. Learn about the taconite mining process and the evolution of the industry on the Iron Range.

4:30 – 5 pm

Feel free to join in and ask questions. Listen, learn, see and feel a history that mines the past and celebrates the present.

For more information or to customize this tour contact your tour operator or the Ironworld Discovery Center at 800-372-6437.



AMERICINN VIRGINIA Wins Best Property!

During the 11th annual 2006 AmericInn Convention more than 450 owners and managers recognized the outstanding lodging property of the year.

Lodging Property of the Year Award is awarded to the AmericInn that has excelled in the area of quality assurance and guest satisfaction. AmericInn of Mountain Iron/Virginia, MN - **Jim Makowsky, GM** (in photo)

Housekeeping Employee of the Year Given to the housekeeping employee that demonstrates expertise and excellence in the hospitality industry and in the AmericInn Lodging System. **Jacqueline L. Lovett - AmericInn of Mountain Iron/Virginia, MN** (in photo)

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www.ironworld.com

Ironworld is open May 27-September 4. The Research Center is open throughout the year.



Historic Glensheen Mansion



GLENSHEEN MANSION, An Architectural Dream

Tour over 7 acres of freshly manicured landscapes with formal gardens, a carriage house with a carriage collection, the gardener's cottage, boathouse, clay tennis court and more at **Glensheen**, Duluth's premier historic estate. This 39-room Jacobean Revival mansion was built in 1905 for the family of Chester A. Congdon. The mansion showcases exotic woods, rich textiles, and beautiful art glass. The guided Main House Tour covers the first and second floor living spaces. An additional Third Floor and Attic Tour features the Midwest's finest intact collection of Arts & Crafts furnishings. Glensheen is located on the shores of beautiful **Lake Superior** and offers wooded paths that meander through the 7.6 acre site.

For more information about bringing your group, contact **Mary Nelson, Duluth CVB, 800-438-5884**.

The Great RENDEZVOUS PLACE

Just two and a half hours north of Duluth, discover **Grand Portage** at the end of a journey that spans legendary **Highway 61** and highlights spectacular scenery along the north shore of **Lake Superior**, the largest freshwater lake in the world.

A Perfect Destination

Visit the **Pigeon River's High Falls** in **Grand Portage State Park**, enjoy **Isle Royale National Park**, an **International Biosphere Reserve** with daily boat service and discover the rich history of aboriginal culture and the fur trade at **Grand Portage National Monument's** reconstructed stockade.

Grand Portage Lodge & Casino welcomes visitors year round for business, relaxation or play. With 95 recently renovated rooms, an indoor pool, sauna and other amenities, your North Shore experience is sure to be comfortable and relaxing.

Spectacular Events

There's something for everyone of all ages at **Grand Portage Lodge & Casino** this summer and fall. Check out **Rendezvous Days in Grand Portage August 11-13**, an annual celebration of Ojibwe culture, and **Bayou Boogie** kicks off **September 1-3** and features Louisiana music, dancing, feasting, Mardi Gras parades, storytelling and crafts. **Free Admission!**

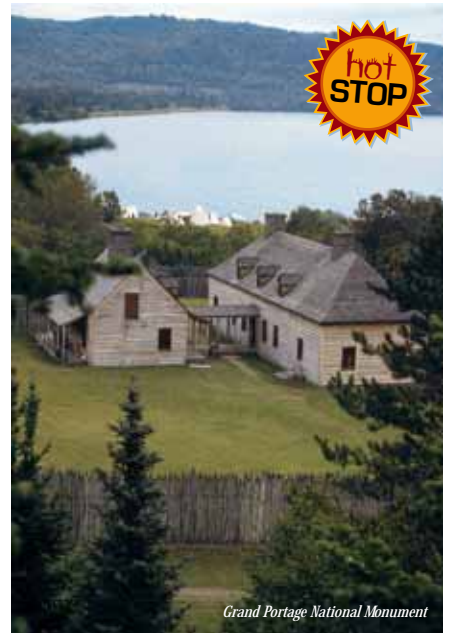
Exhilarating Promotions

Grand Portage Lodge & Casino's 15,000 square foot Casino rolls 24 hours a day and features a **Bingo Hall** and over 450 slots. Stop by **Grand Portage's Trading Post**, our smoke-free facility with a gift shop, **Hot Stuff Foods™**, grocery store and 43 slots.

Exceptional Entertainment

Comedy, drama, kickboxing, live music and more. Every month of the year, **Grand Portage Lodge & Casino** offers entertainment in an inviting and intimate setting.

For more information, call **1-800-543-1384** or log onto **www.GrandPortage.com**.



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Visit Duluth, Minnesota

This Itinerary works best in any time of the year. You'll find it at coordinates L-9 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.



Duluth Harbor Entry



P. 38 at Richard I Bong Heritage Center



Historic Glensheen Mansion

DAY TWO

9 – 10:00 am

Arrive in **Duluth** and check in to the **Hawthorn Suites** located in **Canal Park**. Learn what they have to offer you during their Welcome Reception.

10 – 11:30 am

Head over the bridge to **Superior, WI** for a tour of the **Richard I Bong WWII Heritage Center**. Start off with an introductory film, *"So We Have a War."* Follow the story of WWII from Hitler's rise in Europe through the attack on Pearl Harbor to the events in the North African, European and Pacific theaters of war and life on the home front.

11:30 – 1:00 pm

Head back to **Canal Park** and lunch at Duluth's only brewpub, **Fitger's Brewhouse & Grille**. The friendly pub features handcrafted beer, gourmet sandwiches, excellent salads, weekly specials and more! After lunch take a walkthrough of their brewery facility.

1 – 3:00 pm

Tour **Glensheen Historic Estate**. This historic Congdon mansion premier estate boasts more than 7.6 acres on Lake Superior shore. Glensheen is a 39-room, Jacobean-style mansion with custom original furnishings

and a grand staircase. Grounds include formal gardens, carriage house, gardener's cottage and more.

3 – 4:30 pm

Visit **The Great Lakes Floating Maritime Museum** and tour the **S.S. William A. Irvin**. Experience the rare combination of maritime force and grace of this proud flagship of the U.S. Steel's Great Lakes Fleet.

4:30 – 5:00 pm

Head back to **Hawthorn Suites** and freshen up for dinner.

5 – 7:00 pm

Dine at your choice of excellent dining options **Duluth** has to offer.

7 – 9:00 pm

The night and town is yours for the taking — or head back to hotel for a good nights rest.

DAY TWO

9 – 10:00 am

Enjoy a complimentary breakfast at **Hawthorn Suites**.

10 – 12:00 pm

Tour the **St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center** constructed in 1892, and served as Duluth's busiest railroad station and "Port of entry." It takes four full floors

to explore Duluth's history and heritage. Museums include the famous **Lake Superior Railroad Museum**, "Depot Square," and others you'll have to wait to witness.

For more information or to customize this itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Visit Duluth, 800-4-DULUTH.

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An homage to a great AMERICAN HERO



Dick & Marge Bong in the P-38

During World War II, at a time when America was desperate for heroes, a young man from Poplar, Wisconsin, took to the skies and emerged as the greatest flying ace our country has ever seen. In September 2002, the **Richard I. Bong World War II Heritage Center** opened on the western shores of beautiful **Lake Superior in Superior, Wisconsin**. Named in honor of America's Ace of Aces, the heritage center was dedicated to all those who fought and died — and the women who worked and waited during World War II.

Our centerpiece is a restored P-38 Lightning similar to the fighter plane flown by Dick Bong. From our entry into the war, to the impact on daily life on the homefront, and through the final Allied victories on VE Day and VJ Day, the American WWII story is told through the personal accounts of those who participated in the war effort.


Visitors of all ages find plenty of amusement: Group treasure hunts and custom-made videos engage you in every aspect of the war. Join us in early August for our annual **Bong WWII Heritage Festival**. Come back in late September for our anniversary celebration and enjoy the splendid fall colors of our Northland region. For more information call **888-816-WWII** or visit www.bongheritagecenter.org.



**Richard I. Bong
WORLD WAR II
HERITAGE CENTER**

Open year round, on the bayfront in Superior, Wisconsin. Named in honor of WWII Ace of Aces, Richard Bong from nearby Poplar, the center features a rare P-38 Lightning fighter plane. Exhibits and documentaries outline the story of the war.

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Carve out your niche in Hinckley

This itinerary is best all year long. You will find it at coordinates J-12 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

10 – 12:00 pm

Visit the **Hinckley Fire Museum**, which interprets the **Great Hinckley Fire of 1894** that destroyed Hinckley and neighboring towns. One of the worst natural disasters in Minnesota history with winds over 75 mph, a firewall five miles high and air temps of 1500 F. Learn how Hinckley rebuilt a community and became the fine town it is today!

12 – 1:30 pm

Have lunch at the world-famous **Tobies Restaurant & Bakery**. Be sure to try one of their delicious cinnamon or caramel rolls, or bag one up for the road.

1:30 – 3:30 pm

Visit local antique, thrift and gift shops at the **Antiques America Mall** with more than 70 dealers and 10,000 square feet of antiques and treasures. Some of the stores include: **Mother of All Fiber Crafts** (local handmade goods from local artists and crafters), and **Kettle River Carvings & Gift Shop** featuring one-of-a-kind chainsaw carvings by Hinckley's own **Dennis Roghair**. Dennis is featured in the book "Art of Chainsaw Carving," and his



Kettle River Carvings & Gift Shop

work also is showcased at the **Minnesota State Fairgrounds** where he carved 27 of the 40 carvings throughout the grounds. You can see him at work in his Hinckley studio, plus many others.

3:30 – 8:00 pm

Head to **Grand Casino - Hinckley** for a real treat of great entertainment and superb dining at the **Grand Buffet**. Satisfy everyone's appetite in the group with the famed all-you-can-eat buffet. Enjoy live entertainment at **Silver Seven's Lounge**, a live bingo hall seating 350 people, more than 2,100 slots and 28 blackjack tables.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group call your tour operator or the Hinckley CVB, 800-952-4282.



ACCOMMODATIONS

AmericInn Carlton 218-384-3535

AmericInn Duluth/Proctor 866-381-1406

AmericInn Lodge & Suites Virginia 218-741-7839

▶ **Grand Portage Lodge & Casino** 218-475-2401

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▶ **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.

AC, AS, BH, DC, DF, GB, GD, H, KO, MG, 24, YR, PM, PO, PA, RO, SA, SP

ATTRACTIONS

▶ **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.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum Onamia 320-532-3632

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

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

▶ **Iron Trail Convention & Visitors Bureau** 218-749-8161

403 North First Street - Virginia, MN 55792 800-777-8497

admin@irontrail.org / www.irontrail.org

A Great Way to Getaway! Unbeatable accommodations, unmatched recreational opportunities and our "Up North" hospitality make the Iron Trail the perfect location for groups and meetings any size, any time of year! Call today!

AC, AS, CA, DC, E, GD, GT, H, KO, MG, PM, PO

ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER

▶ **The Richard I. Bong WWII Heritage Center** 715-392-7151

305 Harbor View Parkway - Superior, Wisconsin 54880 888-816-WWII (9944)

info@bongheritagecenter.org / www.bonheritagecenter.org

Travel back to a time when ordinary people became extraordinary heroes. Thrill to the sight of our P-38 Lightning fighter plane; pour over WWII memorabilia and be inspired by this story of great courage and sacrifice.

MINNESOTA mystery.tour

Put yourself to the test and guess the area of this tour.
Find the answer to the Mystery Tour on Page 3
or on the Reader Response Insert.

This sample Itinerary is best during summer weekdays, WED-FRI.

DAY ONE

9 – 10:00 am

Wake up and enjoy breakfast at **Quality Inn** onsite **Perkin's**.

10 – 12:00 pm

Witness the administration building's amazing marble rotunda where your group can check out the freestanding dome complete with 24-karat gold leaf. The building was completed in 1912 at the then extravagant cost of \$1.2 million. Learn about the noted **Prairie School** architect **George Washington Maher** who utilized Italian tile and marble, Tiffany-style glass, and other exquisite details in the building's interior. Check out the amazing museum and store that displays a large collection of memorabilia from this city's rich history. Specialty products like vanilla and pepper are sure to bring back memories for your group.

12 – 1:00 pm

A few blocks away, your group will learn about an old Egyptian-style Bank complete with Tiffany stained-glass windows, and have a look at the museum upstairs which features an immense gun collection and big game trophies.

1 – 5:00 pm

Give your group time to stroll downtown on a self guided tour. Most of the buildings are Italianate or Queen Ann style and date back to 1857 to 1916. This historic downtown has plenty of notable shopping and dining venues.

5 – 6:00 pm

Back to your hotel to freshen up for the big evening ahead.

6 – 9:00 pm

Enjoy an evening on one of a few authentic steamboats still operating on the **Mississippi River**. The **Julia Belle Swain** makes this community it's second home and offers cruises **June thru October** (2-3 hours).

DAY TWO

7 – 8:00 am

Have a full breakfast at the hotel.

8 – 9:00 am

Witness real artists at work as they make and restore stained glass windows, a treasured art in this city known as the "**Stained Glass Capital of the World.**"

9 – 10:30 am

The town's newest museum features the **Henry Bosse Mississippi River Photographs and Maps**, **Leo Smith Folk Art Collection**, and marine art paintings of National and International significance.

10:30 – 1:00 pm

Take a short scenic drive to your next stop. Built in the 1850's by Willard Bunnell, the first permanent white settler, this house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Minnesota, it offers a commanding view of the Mississippi River. **Carriage House Gift Shop** offers traditional handicrafts. Enjoy a box lunch.

1 – 3:30 pm

Surround yourself with beautiful scenery on the final stop. Check out one of the oldest water powered gristmills in Minnesota built by Thomas Grant and Wilson Davis from 1856 to 1858. The mill was constructed as a gristmill and sawmill on the banks of **Big Trout Creek** — and ran 24-hours a day during the Civil War.

4:00 pm

Board the bus and set course for home.

**Group tour guide available by appointment. Tour guide recommended for groups.*



Skylines & Shorelines

Welcome to Twin Cities Metro MN!

afton
albertville
apple valley
arden hills
bloomington
burnsville
chanhassen
chaska
eagan
excelsior
lakeville
minneapolis
roseville
shakopee
saint paul
stillwater

METRO REGION CITIES

calendar of events

- september*
- 2-24 **Minnesota Renaissance Festival** Shakopee 952-445-7361
Wknds
 - 2-4 **Valley Fair Green Giant Corn Fest** Shakopee 952-445-7600
 - 7-10 **Inver Grove Heights Days** Inver Grove Heights 651-450-1313
 - 6-10 **Burnsville Fire Muster** Burnsville 952-895-4428
 - 15 **Raw Stages Festival III- New Works Festival** Saint Paul 651-292-4323
 - 16-Oct 2 **Bird Watching Trek** Shakopee 952-854-5900
 - 30 **Lone Oak Days at Holz Farm** Eagan 651-675-5500
- october*
- May 31-8 **Lennart Nilsson: Life, American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis** 612-871-4907
 - 7-Nov 5 **Wellstone!** Saint Paul 651-292-4323
 - Coming the 13th **GREASE!** Chanhassen Dinner Theater, Chanhassen 952-934-1525
 - 13-14 **Fall Splendor of Quilts** Chaska 952-215-4907
 - 25-Jan 14 **Knitting with a Smile:** Inger Fredholm, American Swedish Inst, Mpls 612-871-4907
- november*
- 4-5 **Mid-America Remodeling and Design Expo** Minneapolis 612-798-7256
 - 10-12 **Edge Life Expo** Minneapolis 952-278-3140
 - 17-18 **Victorian Christmas at the Historic Courthouse** Stillwater 651-430-6233
 - 18 **Time of Giving** Burnsville 952-435-8181
 - 24-Dec 17 **TCF Holiday Parade** Minneapolis 612-376-7669
- december*
- 1-17 **A Country Christmas Celebration** Lakeville 952-898-7200
 - 22 **Folkways by Candlelight** Shakopee 763-694-7784
 - 31 **New Year's Eve 2007** The Park at MOA, Bloomington 952-883-8500

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

escortnotes.com



Guthrie Theater - Minneapolis

GUTHRIE THEATER

The brilliant color, innovative studio, and an exciting new stage can only belong to the brand new **Guthrie Theater** overlooking the **Mississippi River** in **Minneapolis**. Sir Tyrone Guthrie saw the Mississippi as the beautiful, life giving amenity that it is and now his dream is being realized with the help of famous French architect Jean Nouvel, designer of the Guthrie. Nouvel set out to bring harmony and modernity to the building covering it in a blue he calls "the color of the twilight sky at dusk." Also unique to the building is its 2 story gathering space, and "endless bridge" that features windows set at distinctive heights to accent the view of the landmark it looks out on. The theater features 700 seats that gaze out over a stage sure to exceed audience expectations, and with its individual architecture the contemporary Guthrie is destined to become a Minnesota landmark.

other historic structures & buildings in tc metro minnesota

- American Swedish Institute** Minneapolis (1903)
This place is both a museum for Swedish heritage, and a historic house from the early 1900's.
- Forepaugh's** Saint Paul (1870)
A well-designed Victorian house now serves as the restaurant for fine French food in an interesting environment.
- Foshay Tower** Minneapolis (1929)
This structure stands at 447 feet tall, and is made with limestone, Italian marble, and other superior building materials.
- Historic Murphy's Landing** Shakopee (1969; replica 1840-1890's) A living history museum, this park allows visitors a hands on experience on the lives of people from the 1800's.
- Huber H. Humphrey Metrodome** Minneapolis (1982)
The home of the Twins since 1982, this stadium remains the only air supported building still in use.
- IDS Tower** Minneapolis (1972)
The tower is rich in Minneapolis history, and features the popular crystal court with a 150 foot fountain.
- James J. Hill House** Saint Paul (1891)
Once residence to one of the most powerful men in Minnesota, the Hill house is now open for a glimpse at what life was like in the gilded age.
- Lowell Inn** Stillwater (1927)
This especially lavish hotel features attractively detailed

- rooms, and elegant meeting and dining facilities.
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts** Minneapolis
This art museum is designed to let its visitors develop a better understanding of the art they view, and now has 40% more exhibition space.
- Old Log Theater** Greenwood (1960)
The establishment has been entertaining people between it's wooden walls for over 50 years in this log home style theater.
- State Capitol** Minneapolis (1905)
The Quadriga (gold statue on the outside of the building), and the rathskeller café are two popular sights at the capitol.
- Wabasha Caves** Saint Paul (1930's; 1970's)
Come and take a tour of the street caves on foot or by bus and learn about the architecture and times past.
- Walker Art Center** Minneapolis (2005)
A museum full of fine art ranging from classic to modern, this building gives the visitor a very contemporary, comfortable feel.
- Washington County Courthouse** Stillwater (1870)
The oldest courthouse in Minnesota features stories about Native Americans, early lumberjacks, and civil war soldiers.
- Weissman Museum** Minneapolis (1934)
The exterior of this museum is a shiny, sharp looking feast for the eyes, and the art inside is great too!



Underwater Adventures Aquarium - Touch Pool

Shop till You Drop

This itinerary is good all year long. You'll find it at coordinates J-10 on your 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

DAY ONE

All Day Shop till You Drop- Mall of America, Minnesota's #1 attraction; Shop at more than 520 specialty stores which join four department stores; Bloomingdale's,



Macy's, Nordstrom and Sears to create a world class shopping experience and remem-

ber that there's no tax on clothing! New store additions and renovations of the current specialty stores include a Build-A-Bear, Sigurd Olson, Lindt chocolates, and Landau for premier costume jewelry

DAY TWO

8 – 11:00 am

Experience Nature and Wildlife- Take a relaxing walk through the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (it is located just minutes from the Mall of America in Bloomington). Experience seeing over 260 bird species with a tour guide in the 2,200-acre refuge. This is a great



place to learn about the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, plus the area wildlife and migrating water fowl.

11 – 2:00 pm

Underwater Adventures Aquarium- Experience Underwater Adventure where over 3,000 living sea creatures are featured through seven amazing displays. Come face-to-face with your favorite fish in an angler's paradise, jaw-to-jaw with the colossal alligator gar, nose-to-nose with giant sea turtles and touch a living shark or stingray!

2 – 6:00 pm

Take in a Ride- Next take a stroll through "The Park at Mall of America" amusement park. Choose from more than 30 rides and attractions in the largest indoor family amusement theme park in the nation.

6 – 8:00 pm

Pedal to the Medal- If you have a need for speed, jump into the fastest ride in the cities. Ride in a real racecar that reaches up to 250 kilometers per hour in a simulator

environment at the NASCAR Silicon Motor Speedway at Mall of America.

8 – 10:00 pm

Wine and Dine- Enjoy good company, food, and wine while experiencing the best the season has to offer by tasting seasonal wine and country cuisine at the Napa Valley Grille or the California Café at the Mall of America.

DAY THREE

8 – 12:00 pm

Twin Cities Highlights Tour- The tour departs from Mall of America. Take in the Twin Cities' history and famous spots including Longfellow's legendary Minnehaha Falls, the homes and haunts of F. Scott Fitzgerald, the gangster hangouts of Ma Barker and John Dillinger, and the television home of Mary Tyler Moore. Also get a glimpse of Charles Schultz's (Creator of Peanuts Comic Strip) hometown of Saint Paul, and try to spot Snoopy and Charlie Brown statues.

12 – 3:00 pm

Finish your shopping experience- Now that you have scouted the Mall of America, head back and get your last minute purchases, or a new set of luggage to carry your goods home.

For more information and to customize this tour for your group, contact your tour operator or Julie Giorgio, Bloomington CVB, 866-435-7524.

Chanhassen

"Any Twin Cities visit should include a visit to Chanhassen Dinner Theatres!"

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For over 35 years Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, the largest professional dinner theatre in the US, has been recognized for providing quality theatre entertainment and dining year-round. Guests relax and enjoy tableside service with entrees selected from a delicious menu. Specialty cocktails and desserts are also available. Book your tickets now for the fabulously boisterous musical comedy *SINGIN' IN THE RAIN*, the outrageous adult musical comedy, *MIDLIFE: THE CRISIS MUSICAL*, or the original 1950's rock musical *GREASE*, opening in our main dinner theatre on October 13, 2006! Evening performances and matinees. Fantastic group rates. AAA recommended. www.chanhassentheatres.com, or call 952-934-1525.

LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM



Unveils Plans for Spectacular Seasonal Attractions

Explore secret gardens and scarecrows, mistletoe and mazes, amazing activities and exhilarating events at the **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum** designed to delight groups of visitors while highlighting the unique elements of the state's distinctive seasons. In the midst sits the magnificent new **Oswald Visitor Center** that allows guests to revel in Minnesota's brilliant hues, glorious displays, and memorable scenery all year long.

Autumn at the Arboretum is an explosion of oranges, yellows and reds as the fall foliage draws thousands of visitors to savor all that the season offers. Groups can tour the grounds at their own pace, join in a free guided walking tour, or sit back and enjoy the Arboretum's **Three-Mile Drive** with its motorized **Trumpet Creeper Tram** tour. Other special fall events include artistic scarecrow displays and tasty apple picking festivities.

During the holiday and winter seasons, exhibits inside the cozy **Oswald Visitor Center** will continue to strengthen the Arboretum's rapidly growing reputation as a cold-weather destination. Witness the popular **Festival of Trees** exhibit featuring nature-based decorations and plant displays — followed by orchid and bonsai exhibits.

For more details about any of the **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's** activities, contact **Sylvia Matson** at 952 443-1411 or smatson@arboretum.umn.edu.



The Minneapolis INSTITUTE OF ARTS



The Minneapolis Institute of Arts is one of the leading comprehensive fine art museums in the country. 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 tours are all free of charge.

Interactive Learning

Quick Stops audio tours of the permanent collection are available (\$4 rental for adults, \$3 for children). Interactive directories and learning stations throughout the museum provide free, in-depth information about the museum's art and events.

Museum Shop

Distinctive gifts, jewelry and books are available in the shop, open during museum hours.

Dining

ArtsBreak and ArtsCafé by D'Amico & Sons offer delicious on-site dining options.

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. (The museum is wheelchair accessible. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request.)



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THE FOSHAY TOWER: A landmark and a bounced check.

The Foshay Tower is without a doubt one of the most recognizable landmarks in the Twin Cities and west of the Mississippi River. Plumbing magnate Wilbur Foshay built this homage to the Washington Monument in 1929. However, he was not around very long to enjoy it. After he had commissioned the one and only John Philip Sousa to write a rousing march for the tower's pretentious three-day opening, his check to the composer bounced and Foshay found himself being carted off to prison shortly after the building's completion. At 447 feet housing 32 stories, the Foshay Tower was the tallest building in the Midwest for more than 40 years. It was dwarfed by the new IDS Tower in 1973 and by other skyscrapers built since then, but it still offers the only bird's-eye view of the city open to the public. The open-air observation deck on the 31st floor is the only one of its kind in town and on a clear day you can see for 30 miles. Be sure to visit the museum while you're up there, and check out the photos, videos and sheet music for John Philip Sousa's Foshay Tower-Washington Memorial March. The 32-story obelisk was so novel that the architects had the design patented, and Wilbur Foshay's limitless ego led him to have his name carved in 10-foot letters at the top. The observation deck and museum are open April-October. For more information about bringing your group, contact **Lori Kearney** at the GMCVA, 612-767-8114.



The Mini-Apple is bigger than you think!

This itinerary is good November 24 - December 17. You'll find it at coordinates I-8 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

DAY ONE

3 – 4:00 pm

Arrive in **Minneapolis** and check in to your choice of downtown Minneapolis hotels within walking distance of

almost everything you want to see.

4 – 6:00 pm

Work out while you shop by walking our seven miles of skyways – there's great holiday shopping in this climate-controlled second-floor level of the unique city.

6 – 10:00 pm

See the **Annual Holiday Revue** at the nation's largest dinner theater, **Chanhassen Dinner Theatres**.

Bachman's Floral.

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

Stay for lunch at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts or explore a nearby restaurant.

2 – 5:00 pm

Enjoy afternoon holiday tea at the **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**, Minnesota's largest public garden (1,000 acres), which flourishes all year long.

5 – 7:30 pm

Even better than dinner and a movie, dinner and theater! Sample the cuisine at one of **Guthrie Theater's** new restaurants overlooking the **Mississippi River**.

7:30 – 10:00 pm

Toast to a holiday tradition and see *A Christmas Carol* at the new and expanded **Guthrie Theater** (Open June 2006).

DAY FOUR

8 – 9:00 am

Enjoy the home-style cooking of **Keys Nicollet Mall Café**.

9 – 11:30 am

Tour the historic homes of **Alexander Ramsey** and **James J. Hill**, which are beautifully decorated with appropriate period dress for the holidays.

11:30 – 2:30 pm

Stop for lunch and shopping at Swedish super-center **IKEA**, the area's largest home furnishing destination right across from **Mall of America**.

2:30 pm Depart for home.

For more information, or to customize this sample itinerary for your group, please contact your tour operator or **Lori Kampa Kearney** at the Greater Minneapolis CVA at 1-800-445-7412 ext. 8114.

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www.americanswedishinst.org

DAY TWO

9 – 10:00 am

Breakfast at **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/St. 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 Swedish Smorgasbord set up for your group.

1 – 5:00 pm

Find your inner child and remember a classic story at the **Marshall Field's** (soon-to-be Macy's) **Holiday Auditorium Show**. Enjoy holiday shopping or relax over a cup of coffee.

5 – 6:30 pm

Dine at the **Oak Grill**, on the top floor of Marshall Field's.

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Watch the **TCF Holidazzle parade** in the comfort of a heated VIP area, featuring reserved seats and hot chocolate. The parade runs Wednesday through Sunday evenings, from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

7:30 – 9:00 pm

See the city sparkle on a **Holiday Lights Tour**.

DAY THREE

8 – 8:45 am Breakfast at your hotel.

8:45 – 9:45 am

Stop to smell the roses with a tour and seminar at



Divas Days 2007

This itinerary is good May 3-5, 2007. You'll find it at coordinates I-6 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

"Delightfully, Inspiring, Vacation in Anoka" is what DIVA stands for with this women's weekend held in May. Groups by the busload will enjoy the following:

DAY ONE Friday - May 3, 2007 3 - 6:00 pm

Check into one of the **Visit Minneapolis North** group-friendly hotels to get ready for an unforgettable weekend! **6 - 7:00 pm**

Groups will delight in the delicious array of enticing restaurants before heading to downtown **Anoka** for the festivities.

7 - 10:00 pm

Friday evening is the kick-off event for this **Women's Weekend** you don't want to miss. Attendees will delight in the fun, food, prizes, and sisterhood as the weekend unfolds. Groups will also get a great snapshot of the hospitality of Anoka, Minnesota.

DAY TWO Saturday - May 4, 2007 8 - 9:00 am

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at your hotel to start your day. **9 - 10:00 pm**

Your group will have a day of adventure from the city tours, shopping, fashion show, shopping, **Mad Hatter Tea Room**, shopping and many other zany things - did we say shopping, too? Downtown Anoka is filled with many unique antique and specialty shops not found anywhere else in the world. There are places where you can fill your stomach and your shopping bag - plus, groups will get special offers in the downtown area. End the day with an evening event with food, fun and more fashion.

10:30 pm

Back to the hotel for a great night's sleep.

DAY THREE Sunday - May 5, 2007 9 - 10:30 am

A delicious Sunday brunch will be served to your group at **Greenhaven Country Club** before you head back home.

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or Brent Haugen, at Visit Minneapolis North 800-541-4364.

The Mystery Tour Guru is on the case to help you with your tours in the Minneapolis area!

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- Finding the right lodging for your groups

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MINNEAPOLIS MADE EASY

DAY ONE

- Decide on a trip to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area - including Mall of America.

DAY TWO

- Get started and call Lori Kearney at the Greater Minneapolis Convention + Visitors Association (she's the only one-stop shop for the entire metro).

- Ask Lori about:
 - custom itineraries
 - hotel rates
 - free brochures, maps
 - promotional items

DAY THREE

- Pat yourself on the back! A complete Minneapolis/St. Paul trip planned with one call!

Lori Kearney
1.800.445.7412, ext.8114
lorik@minneapolis.org
www.minneapolis.org/grouptravel



Discover Your Own DALAHAST



Talkin' Bout a REVOLUTION

Nobody does revolution quite like the St. Paul Saints. After 13 seasons of cutting edge promotions, innovative ideas, and non-stop fun, the Saints are going all out in number 14. After all, why stop at updating the players, promotions, and presentation when you can go whole-hog and revamp the entire league?

After 13 years as the bellwether of the Northern League, the Saints are amongst the founding fathers of the newly resuscitated American Association. The panache of Jefferson, the reliability of Washington, and the quirky genius of Ben Franklin all rolled into one, fighting the good fight for independence in baseball.

On July 22, the Saints offer up a tribute to the legendary Eddie Gaedel, the smallest man in the history of the game, and revisit the notorious concept of **Disco Demolition**. Of course with the retro boom, albums are far too valuable to destroy. But that won't stop the Saints from throwing a **VHS Demolition night August 24**. And if you happen to be one of the 37 people who bought a Beta machine instead, and spent the 1980's watching the same nine movies over and over again, feel free to bring it along.

Affordable, and more fun than you can imagine. See you at Midway stadium. Call 651-644-6659.

The bright, happy, little animal we now know as the Dala Horse (Dalahäst) probably originated in the 1700's, and, was created by Swedish woodcutters in the province of Dalarna.

The decoration on the Dala horse (the first horses were not painted or were only one color) has its roots in furniture painting and was perfected over the years. It is now a world-renowned symbol of Swedish culture.

The Dala horse is the 2006 season's focal point for visitors at the 11-acre Swedish heritage site, the **Gammelgården Museum** with its authentic buildings (including the oldest Lutheran sanctuary in Minnesota). 20 uniquely decorated 5-foot-tall horses have been located around the Scandia area, and discovering them can be a wonderful challenge for you and your group. Also enjoy a collection of 120 smaller, more intricately designed Dala horses which are on display **June 3-December 22**, in the **Valkommen Hus** (the Welcome House) at the **Gammelgården Museum**. Visit **Gammelgården** during the **August 2006 Spelmansstamma** event and experience Swedish immigrant history. For more information about events, lunches, and scheduling tours, call 651-433-3430.




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the GUTHRIE: then and now, transformed into pure wow.



An eager invitation from community leaders brought internationally acclaimed stage director Sir Tyrone Guthrie to **Minneapolis** in 1960 as he searched for the ideal home for his new theater. Guthrie recognized that he had discovered the enthusiasm and commitment needed to sustain a great American theater. On May 7, 1963, the **Guthrie Theater** debuted with a modern-dress production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, directed by Guthrie himself.

Originally conceived as a four-play summer festival, the season had grown to a year-round program that presented material encompassing an increasingly diverse range of work — and its directors decided the Guthrie must have a new home.

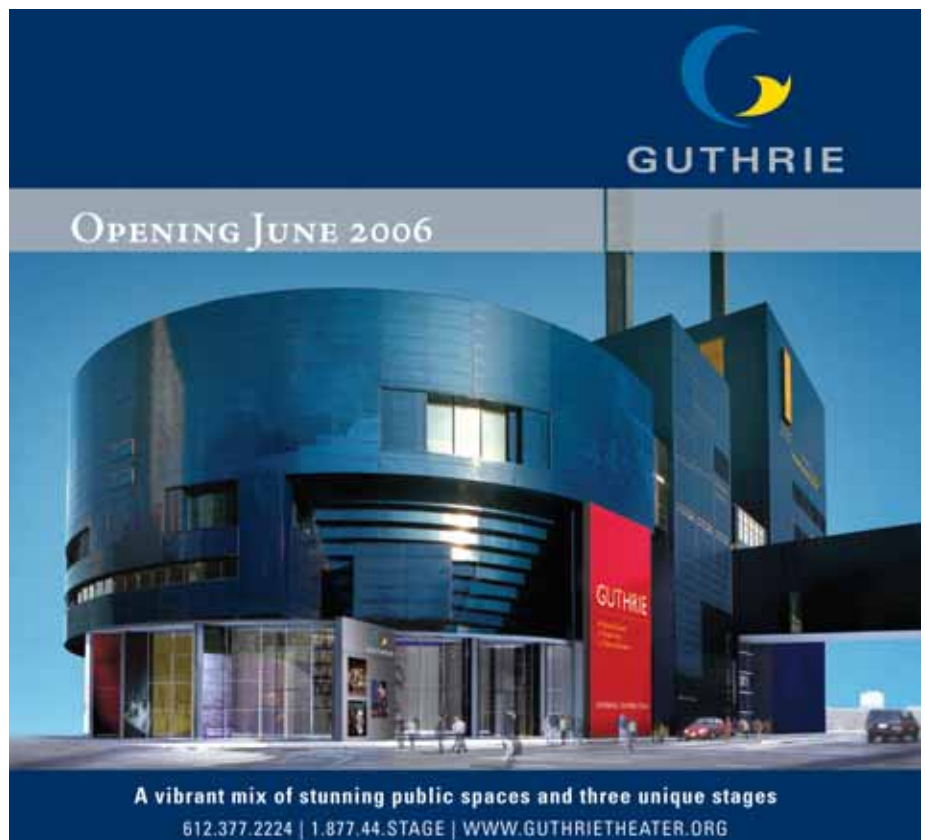
Once a site on the banks of the **Mississippi River** was identified as the future home of the Guthrie, internationally renowned French architect Jean Nouvel was commissioned to design a building uniting history with a fearless drive toward the future.

Nouvel places enormous importance on designing buildings harmonious with their sites and surroundings. Thus, the size, scale and history of the historic mills adjacent to the site directly influenced the design of the new Guthrie. The exterior of the building is the color of the twilight sky at dusk—the liveliest time within a theater, as patrons rush to the plays and the actors begin their ritual of transfiguration. Taking full advantage of the spectacular views of the Mississippi River, Nouvel designed a daring

178-foot, two-story cantilevered gathering space high above ground level, sure to become an architectural landmark.

Today, as yesterday, history and modernity are friends. The new Guthrie is poised to become a clear historic marker of the vitality and inventiveness of theatrical culture in the region.

On **June 25, 2006** the New Guthrie marked its official public opening with a daylong **Community Celebration**. For more information please call **866-80-GROUP** or visit www.guthrietheater.org.



Discover the legends of Saint Paul, and its classic neighbors.

This itinerary is a great tour year found in 2006. You'll find it at coordinates K-10 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

DAY ONE

1 – 2:00 pm

Rejoice in the **St. Paul Catholic Cathedral**. Graced with exquisite artwork, stained glass windows, gold gilding throughout and the holy central rose window.

2 – 3:00 pm

Continue one block to the **James J. Hill House on Summit Avenue**. Take a guided tour through this magnificent Gilded Age mansion once owned by James J. Hill, builder of the Great Northern Railway.

3 – 3:30 pm

Marvel at the breathtaking mansions and churches on **Saint Paul's** prestigious Summit Avenue drive-by tour. Take a glance at the 20-room Minnesota Governor's English Tudor mansion built in 1912.

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Check out **The Alexander Ramsey House**, one of the best-preserved Victorian style homes in the country, and home to the late Alexander Ramsey, Minnesota's first territorial governor.

5 – 6:00 pm

Check into your **Eagan** hotel to unwind before dinner.



St. Paul Catholic Cathedral

© Photo courtesy of Leon Kosak

6 – 7:30 pm

Have dinner at one of the area's best restaurants, Jensen's Supper Club. Prime rib, seafood, piping-hot popovers and spirited jazz await you.

8 – 10:00 pm

Sit back and enjoy a short movie at the 1920's-style theatre in the home of a talented Eagan entrepreneur who designs and builds home movie palaces.

DAY TWO

9 – 10:30 am

St. Paul's **Historic Fort Snelling** lets you experience Army stockade life as it was in 1827. Take in a historical skit, sing along with soldiers and watch military drills.

11 – 12:00 pm

Tour **Sibley's 1838 home** in **Mendota**, a restoration-buff's dream with furnished 19th-century interiors. Henry Hastings Sibley, the state's first governor, resided in this limestone home for 20 years.

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Enjoy authentically prepared Classic French cuisine at **Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts** in **Mendota Heights/Eagan** with a multi-course lunch prepared by students.

2:30 – 3:30 pm

See carving demonstrations by the talented artist, Jock —

Life As It Was...Pioneers & Pow Wows

This itinerary works best weekdays all year. You'll find it at coordinates L-9 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

DAY ONE

10 – 12:00 pm

Immerse yourself with the many lively exhibits, multimedia theaters and characters from the past at the **Minnesota History Center**, the finest building constructed in Minnesota since the State Capitol.

12 – 1:00 pm

Stop for lunch at **Café Minnesota**, where history repeats.



Delight in daily chef-prepared cuisine and the sensational sauté station — all in a unique museum café.

1 – 3:00 pm

Learn about life during the **Saint Paul's** pioneer days at historic **Fort Snelling**. Once the furthest West outpost of the U.S. Army, Snelling was built on the bluffs above the **Minnesota** and **Mississippi Rivers**.

3 – 4:00 pm

From the home of the first territorial governor to the home of the state's first governor, our next stop is the **Sibley House** where you'll discover life in the 1800's.

4 – 5:00 pm

The **Machine Shed Restaurant** is a tribute to the American farmer and is a great stop for any meal.

5 – 5:30 pm

Check into an area hotel and freshen up for a night of entertainment!

5:30 – 10:30 pm

Head to the **Chanhassen Dinner Theatre** for dinner and a musical comedy that will have you dancing in the streets



Alexander Ramsey House

and — *"Singin' In The Rain"*.

10:30 pm

Head back to the hotel for a good nights rest.

DAY TWO

9 – 10:00 am

Enjoy a hot breakfast at your hotel.

10 – 11:00 am

From life at the fort to living the life of luxury, the next stop is a visit to the **Alexander Ramsey House**. This Victorian home has to be seen to be believed.

11 – 1:00 pm

Discover the secrets of the **Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life**.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group contact your tour operator or Mark Dziuk, Saint Paul CVB 800-627-6101 ext. 4906.

a Master Woodcarver at his **Norwegian Termite Studio**.
3:30 – 4:00 pm

Drive back to your hotel and head to the East side of Eagan where you can view the oldest church in Eagan built in 1902.

4 – 5:30 pm

Kick your shoes off and relax in your Eagan hotel room before you, "Gotta Bingo."

6:00 pm

Experience "**We Gotta Bingo**" the new, interactive "churchy" comedy show and dinner at the new **Lowry Theater** in Downtown Saint Paul — fantastic Italian dinner, live polka, full bar and Bingo, of course!

DAY THREE

9 – 9:30 am

Check out of your Eagan hotel and sail away to the Mississippi River.

10 – 1:00 pm

Travel down the mighty Mississippi and enjoy the Sunday Brunch Cruise aboard the **Jonathan Padelford Boat** with full brunch buffet.

For more information or customize this itinerary for your group, contact your tour operator or the Eagan Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-866-324-2620.



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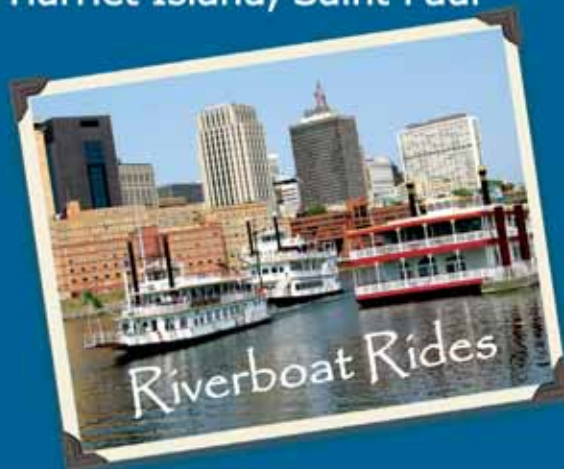
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Wabasha Street CAVES



Since the dawn of time, historic architecture has been natural architecture: the curve of a canyon, the peak of a mountain, the arch of a cave. Nature has even created indoor architecture, carving caves and caverns out of bedrock with flowing water.

As man grew smarter, he looked to this natural architecture to inform his building projects. Thus, man carved mines out of bedrock to help build cities. Man also looked to the arches found in nature to use in his buildings. The arch was used in the Egyptian, Babylonian and Greek civilizations, as well as in the Roman aqueduct systems.



The arch has been utilized right here in our own towns. The Wabasha Street Caves in Saint Paul were mined out for silica, which was used in the production of glass. The miners understood the natural strength of the arch and imitated it when creating the silica mines. The Joseph Wolf Caves in Stillwater were also mines. Beer was brewed in the caves consistently cool atmosphere. These Caves also feature archways and a strong, flat ceiling of solid limestone.

Human beings have always appreciated the ingenuity of nature's historic architecture. First, man imitated nature's forms and shapes and then put them to good use. Caves have long been used for storage and the Saint Paul and Stillwater Caves are no exception. They have been used for beer brewing, mushroom farming, food storage, aging of cheese, and mining of silica. They are also an historic and fun learning experience. For more information on the Wabasha Street Caves and the Joseph Wolf Caves, see the postcard insert in this magazine.

Food, Fall Colors and a Festival

This itinerary is best during September and October. You'll find it at coordinates F-12 on your 2006 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

12 - 4:30 pm

Delight in the dazzling colorful fall foliage at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Start with a light lunch in the Tea Room or Visitor Center restaurant. Enjoy an amazing tour of Minnesota's largest public garden aboard the Trumpet Creeper Tram weaving through display gardens and natural settings. The new, spacious visitor's center stands ready to greet a group of any size and offers browsing in the gift shop.

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Check into your Shakopee hotel - freshen up.

5:30 - 7:00 pm

End your day with a fine dining evening at Dangerfield's Restaurant. Request the river view with complimentary fall colors. This facility is rumored to have been one of Minnesota's largest illegal gaming houses during Prohibition.

DAY TWO

7:30 - 8:30 am Breakfast at your hotel/motel.

8:30 - 9:00 am

St. Mark's Catholic Church is an architectural pillar in the center of downtown Shakopee, with a survival story — a fire within just weeks of an interior renovation completion nearly wiped it out. It has since been beautifully restored.

9 - 5:00 pm

Spend the day 16th Century-style in a heavily wooded fall setting with a visit to the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. Enjoy fantastic food, drink, and games and more than 275 master artists who display their wonderful hand-crafted products. Plus, live entertainment provided on 12 outdoor stages. Weekends from August 19 - October 1.

5:00 pm Depart for hotel — freshen up.

6 - 10:00 pm

Spend a wonderful evening at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre enjoying the hit musical *Singin' In The Rain*.

For more information and to customize this tour for your group, contact your tour operator or the Shakopee CVB, 800-574-2150 or ccschultz@shakopee.org.

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*A rebirth, at age 36...
Huzzah and Cheers for 36 years of the Renaissance!*

This Sample itinerary is designed for this year's Renaissance festival, August 19-October 1, 2006. Open weekends, Labor Day, and Friday, September 29 from 9am to 7pm, you'll find it on coordinates D-13 on your 2006 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.



8:45 – 9:00 am

Welcome to the **Minnesota Renaissance Festival!** Celebrate 36 years at the opening gate show as **King Henry** and his friends welcome you to the celebration.

9 – 9:30 am

Put on your 16th Century best for the daily – and famed – costume contest. The contest begins every morning at 9am near the main ticket office. First prize? Complimentary tickets to the festival, of course.

9:30 – 11:00 am

Begin your journey through the 16th century village filled with more than 275 nationally acclaimed artisans who work right in front of you, and boast wonderful handcrafted items you won't find in a retail store.

11 – 12:00 pm

Stop in at any of the 12 stages and enjoy a variety of theatrical, comedy and magic shows. Don't miss performances by the infamous **Tortuga Twins** and **Puke & Snot**.

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Enjoy fantastic food and drink fit for a king at any of the eight common areas. Be sure to try the guest favorites including turkey legs, queen's apples, scotch eggs, soup in a bread bowl, gigantic dill pickle on a stick, and many other 16th century delights.

2 – 2:30 pm

Find a spot under some shade to watch the afternoon **Grand March Parade**. This parade wraps around the festival grounds and includes appearances by the **Royal Court**, **Mayor's Entourage**, **Rat Catcher** and the rest of the village. The Parade ends with a royal reception at the **Bakery Stage**, a perfect opportunity to catch the entire cast in action.



2:30 – 4:00 pm

Head down to our games area and test your skill by throwing tomatoes at the village idiot or climbing the **King's Tower**. Take on your worthiest opponent in the

Sliding Joust or challenge them to a showdown at the **Dueling Buckets**.

4 – 5:30 pm

Catch the last full contact armored jousting tournament of the day! Cheer on your champion as they fight for the affections of one of the village's fair maidens.

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Keep eating! You couldn't possibly have hit all the fantastic food and drink booths yet!

6:30 – 7:00 pm

Unwind to the beat of the village drums as they beckon you towards the gate during the **Drum Jam** on **Bad Manor Green**.

7:00 pm

Bid farewell to the quaint village as the cannon signals the end to another great day at the **Minnesota Renaissance Festival!**

For more information and to customize this tour for your group, contact your tour operator or **The Minnesota Renaissance Festival's Group Sales 1-800-966-8215**.

2006 Minnesota

Renaissance Festival

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Take a cruise on SPIRIT OF THE WATER



You maybe think a Casino is a Casino, but at Treasure Island Resort & Casino (Hastings, MN) plan on discovering surprises to enhance the “fun” for your group. In addition to the obvious gaming and celebrity performances by the likes of Louie Anderson, Gilbert Gottfried, Pat Boone, Rick Springfield and the Chippendales, take your group out onto the beautiful Mississippi River on Treasure Island’s private yacht, the Spirit of the Water.

Docked at Treasure Island’s Marina, this elegant cruise liner has two decks, each equipped with a bar, restrooms, and indoor and outdoor seating for private charters, perfect for any occasion from traveling tour groups who want to relax, to reunions, or fun corporate events. Because Spirit of the Water is perfect for a variety of cruises, there are packages with a variety of perks (like playing chips and dinner cruises) available for tour groups. For information, contact Treasure Island group sales at 800-222-7077.

The best 12 days of summer...the Great Minnesota Get-Together!

This itinerary is best August 24-September 4, 2006. You'll find it at coordinates G-12 on the 2006 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2005 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.



Early morning is the best time to...

- Visit the barns and watch exhibitors groom their animals for judging.
- Feast on freshly baked cinnamon rolls, scones or pancakes, and try some gourmet coffee from one of many vendors.
- Take a guided barn tour or a self-guided garden or tree sculpture tour.

Mid-morning is the best time to...

- Take advantage of Midway and Kidway discounts every weekday.
- Experience the Miracle of Birth Center where newborn lambs, calves and piglets arrive daily.
- Meet Princess Kay and her court, and see the famous head sculptures, carved in butter, in the Empire Commons Building.

Mid-day is the best time to...

- Catch the free entertainment on one of seven free stages spread throughout the fairgrounds.

- Do a little Christmas shopping at the Grandstand, Heritage Square, the Merchandise Mart or the Home Improvement Building.

Mid-afternoon is the best time to...

- Visit the Coliseum—it's air-conditioned!
- Stroll through the largest juried art show in Minnesota in the Fine Arts Building and cast your vote for the People's Choice Award.
- Pull up a bench and watch the daily mall parade at 2 pm.

Late afternoon is the best time to...

- Walk through the Pet Center and get your family pet a treat, or toy while learning about specific breeds and watching demonstrations.
- Catch the lumberjack show at The North Woods.
- Discover the past at the State Fair History or Letterpress Museums.

Early evening is the best time to...

- Meet your group for a catered meal at the Blue Ribbon Picnic Area—call us for information and reservations (available for lunch too!).
- Cheer on your favorite act in the Amateur Talent Contest on the Bandshell stage.

After dark is the best time to...

- See one of your favorite performers at the newly remodeled Grandstand.
- Walk the Midway and share in the excitement of Adventure Park.
- Watch the nightly fireworks spectacular—a State Fair tradition and the best way to end the day!

For further information call your tour operator or the Minnesota State Fair, 651-288-4414.

SUMMIT AVENUE TOURS

A Glimpse in History



Step back into the Gilded Age with a tour of Saint Paul's historic Summit Avenue! Hailed as "one of the best preserved Victorian thoroughfares in the United States," Summit Avenue provides a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the movers and shakers who built the Northwest. Guided tours last 90 minutes (length adjustable) and begin at the opulent mansion of railroad tycoon **James J. Hill**. Tours stroll along the shaded sidewalks and charming city parks for approximately 3/4 mile and return via side streets, ending at the magnificent **St. Paul Cathedral**. Step-on guides can be pre-arranged for year-round tours so your motorcoach group can enjoy the entire 4.5 miles of beautifully treed and shaded Summit Avenue from the **Mississippi River** to the **St. Paul Cathedral**.



James J. Hill House

In its heyday the four-and-one-half-mile-long boulevard included 13 churches, 9 schools, and 440 residences, 373 of which survive. Hear about the fascinating history of the avenue as you pass by the governor's mansion, **F. Scott Fitzgerald's** home, several residences designed by **Cass Gilbert** (who also designed the State Capitol building) and other local landmarks. Remember, Summit Avenue is especially picturesque during the holidays, the **Saint Paul Winter Carnival**, spring lilac season and the fall colors. **Summit Avenue Tours** available April-October. 651-297-2555 or www.mnhs.org/hillhouse.



Get a Rare Glimpse of DAKOTAH CULTURE AND ART

On Sunday, June 11, visitors to the **Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life** got a rare glimpse of Dakotah culture and art when the museum featured demonstrations of Dakotah-style plaited quillwork by award-winning artist **Antone LeBeau**, and Beadwork by **Mimi Alexander**. LeBeau's **Porcupine Quillwork** is a rare, time-consuming, nearly lost art form that preceded beadwork in time, and Alexander's **Lakota-style Lazy Stitch** beadwork also highlights a beautiful lost form of ornate beauty and craftsmanship.

LeBeau is a **Cheyenne River Sioux, Lakota Sun Dancer and Pipe Carrier**. He approaches his work with reverence, respect and spirituality. With a long history of award-winning work, LeBeau has been accepted into the prestigious **Santa Fe Indian Market**, and honored at the **Heard Museum in Phoenix**, the **Northern Plains Art**

Show in Sioux Falls, and the Eitlejorg Museum Indian Market in Indianapolis.

Mimi Alexander demonstrates Lakota-style **Lazy Stitch** beadwork, an art lost when European beads became available. Beadwork became

faster and easier to perform, and it eventually replaced early quillwork – the original beautiful art that ordained many extraordinary clothing articles and cultural objects used by the Dakotah of the 1800's.



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 GD-Group Discounts GT-Guided Tours H-Handicapped Access KO-Kids OK MG-Meet/Greet Service 24-Open 24 hours YR-Open Year Round
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▶ **Gammelgarden Museum** 651-433-5053

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 Experience Swedish Immigrant life in Scandia-first Swedish settlement in Minnesota, 40 miles NE of the Twin Cities. Guided tours through 5 historic log buildings on 11 acres. Visitors Center, gift shop; restrooms and picnic area. Open May 1 thru October.

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

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GT, MG

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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
501 West 78th Street - Chanhassen, MN 55317 800-355-6273

www.chanhassentheaters.com

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

AC, AS, DC, GB, H, YR, PM

▶ **Guthrie Theater** 612-225-6000
818 South 2nd Street - Minneapolis, MN 55415 877-44-STAGE

carolr@guthrietheater.org / www.guthrietheater.org

The Guthrie features a vibrant mix of stunning public spaces and three unique stages presenting timeless classics and triumphs of the modern stage alongside new works. Group discounts, guided tours, on-site restaurant. Possibilities beyond imagination.

AC, AS, DC, DF, E, GD, GT, H, YR, PO, RO, RN

▶ **History Theatre** 651-292-4320

30 East 10th Street - Saint Paul, MN 55101

groupsales@historytheatre.com / www.historytheatre.com

▶ **Ordway Center for the Performing Arts** 651-282-3111

345 Washington Street - Saint Paul, MN 55102

pwright@ordway.org / www.Ordway.org

Overlooking Rice Park in downtown Saint Paul, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts best of Broadway and off-Broadway, as well as exceptional classical music, opera, & dance. Visit www.Ordway.org for a full calendar.

AC, AS, GD, FT, H, YR, PM, PO, RN

www.itinerariesminnesota.com

▶ **Plymouth Playhouse** 763-553-1600

2705 Annapolis Lane - Plymouth, MN 55119

groups@mninter.net / 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.

▶ **St. Paul Saints Professional Baseball Club** 651-644-6659

1771 Energy Park Drive - Saint Paul, MN 55108

www.saintsbasesball.com

The Saints enter their 14th season providing outdoor summer family entertainment. Known for outlandish promotions and affordable family fun. Season runs May through September. Groups, pre-game picnics, and special events available. Fun is Good.

▶ **State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres** 612-373-5665

805 Hennepin Avenue - Minneapolis, MN 55402

groupsales@orpheum.com / www.HennepinTheatreDistrict.com

Located in the heart of the Hennepin Theatre district are the "entertainment gems of Hennepin Avenue." Renovated to their full grandeur, the Theatres present Broadway series, concerts and dance performances.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

▶ **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 2006.

▶ **Minnesota State Fair** 651-288-4400

1265 Snelling Avenue North - Saint Paul, MN 55108

groupsales@mnstatefair.org / www.mnstatefair.org

The great Minnesota get together. Twelve days of fun ending Labor Day. Local, national, and internationally-known entertainers, horse shows and rodeo performances. Mighty Midway & Kidway rides, competitions, exhibits, attractions & concessions.

AS, DC, E, H, KO, MG, M, RO, SA

SHOPPING & ANTIQUING

▶ **Mall of America** 952-883-8843
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mphilipp@simon.com / www.mallofamerica.com

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TOUR OPERATORS

▶ **Heartland Tours & Travel** .. TC. 651-777-7170; Roch. 507-288-1330
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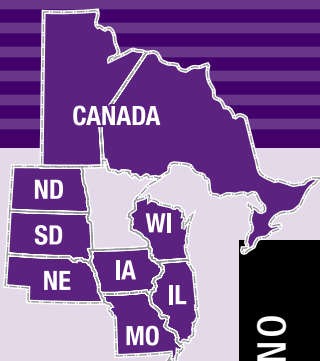
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Ten Chimneys - Genesee Depot, WI

calendar of events

- Canada*
- Sep 29-Oct 1 **Fall Automotive Extravaganza**
Thunder Bay 807-625-0110
 - Oct Wknds **Fall Migration Dinners**
Winnipeg 204-989-8364
- North Dakota*
- Oct 10-14 **Norsk Hostfest** Minot 701-852-2368
 - Dec 31 **Christmas in the Park**
Grand Forks 701-775-5759
- South Dakota*
- Sep 23-24 **Wine Train Into the West**
Hill City 605-574-2222
 - Oct 2 **Buffalo Roundup** Custer 605-255-4515
- Nebraska*
- Sep 8-17 **Fall Fun Fest** North Platte 308-532-1120
 - Nov 3 **60th Annual "Light of World" Pageant** Minden 308-832-1811
- Iowa*
- Sep 15-17 **Nodaway Corn Carnival**
Nodaway 712-785-3344
 - Nov 22-26 **Disney On Ice** Des Moines 515-564-8000
- Wisconsin*
- Sep 2-4 **Dairyland Surf Classic**
Sheboygan 920-457-1209
 - Nov 3-4 **Wine Tasting Weekend**
Bayfield 715-779-5111
- Missouri*
- Dec 1 **Christmas on the River**
Parkville 816-587-2700

TEN CHIMNEYS

Ten Chimneys: The Tour of a Lifetime™ Ten Chimneys is the National Historic Landmark estate lovingly created by Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. Conveniently located just off of I-94 (30 miles from downtown Milwaukee), Ten Chimneys offers tours Tuesday-Saturday, from May through mid-November.

Guests at Ten Chimneys enjoy one of the country's most inspirational historic house tours, as you walk in the footsteps of Noël Coward, Laurence Olivier, Helen Hayes, Katharine Hepburn, and the like. Highly trained docents share stories that interpret not only the objects and décor of the estate, but also the lives and values of its remarkable creators.

Unique among historic sites, Ten Chimneys offers a virtually barrier-free tour of an estate replete with original furnishings and overflowing with the romance of the Golden Age of Theatre. You will feel as if Alfred and Lynn have just stepped out for a moment...but will be right back to welcome you through their gracious home. **262-968-4110 • www.tenchimneys.org.**

other historic structures & buildings on the way

- Amana Colonies** Amana IA (1800's)
Over 20,000 acres of history lie in this communal town started by European settlers in the 1850's.
- Bridges of Madison County** Madison County IA (1880's)
The famous bridges made popular by Robert Waller's novel and movie, each bridge has its own story to tell.
- Gateway Arch** Saint Louis MO (1965)
Take an elevator to the top of the famous gateway arch to get a view of the city 630 feet higher than everyone else.
- Heartland of America Park and Fountain** Omaha NE
A distinctive fountain that shoots water 100 yards into the air, pedestrian bridge, and gondola rides.
- The House On The Rock** Spring Green WI (1940's)
A house unlike any other with massive collections, eye popping rooms, and the largest carousel in the world.
- The International Peace Garden** Dunseith ND
This enormous garden spans all the way to Canada, and has plenty of flowers, sculpture, and a 9/11 memorial.
- Monona Terrace** Madison WI (1997)
A stunning display of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture, the public convention center is located on the shore of the Monona Lake.

- Mount Rushmore** Keystone SD (1941)
One of the most famous American sculptures ever, this massive monument of presidents should be seen by everyone.
- Sears Tower** Chicago IL (1973)
Stand atop the highest building in North America, the 110-story building has over 3 million square feet of breathing space.
- St. Benedict Center and Benedictine Mission House** Schuyler NE (1997) -A retreat and conference center that's open to all, this eye catching building holds art from around the world.
- Ten Chimneys** Genesee Depot WI (1915)
Once home to famous theater couple Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne this house is a landmark full of original furnishings and famed documents.
- Winnipeg Art Gallery** Winnipeg, Ontario (1971)
This gallery is truly one of a kind with its triangular shape, Manitoba stone exterior, and rooftop sculpture garden.
- Wrigley Field** Chicago IL (1914)
Home to Cubs baseball, this ballpark is among the oldest in Major League Baseball, and always a favorite for touring.

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

escortnotes.com



Ten Chimneys: Culture, History, Revelation – and plain fun

This two-day sample itinerary is best from late spring to early autumn.

Ten Chimneys is one of the premier cultural attractions in the country — and an unparalleled experience for guests with a wide range of interests. Theater, history, decorative arts, gardening, antiques and architecture all make a trip to Ten Chimneys an inspirational journey. That said, there's a reason Broadway legends **Alfred Lunt** and **Lynn Fontanne** chose to build their home and retreat in **Southeastern Wisconsin**. If you're looking for a multi-day trip, your choice of first-class cultural attractions is abundant.

DAY ONE

Your excursion begins. **Ten Chimneys Foundation** will provide engaging and educational video options for those who want to show them on the motorcoach. Check in for a multi-day stay at a hotel or resort in **Downtown Milwaukee**, or just West in **Waukesha County**. There's so

much to do in this area, you'll be able to stay at one hotel for your entire trip.

DAY TWO

Experience the whimsy and magic of **Ten Chimneys** during the day, including lunch overlooking the beautiful **Kettle Moraine** landscape. That evening, enjoy a show at one of the many exceptional theatre venues within 30 miles of Ten Chimneys – for example: **Milwaukee Repertory Theater**, **Fireside Dinner Theatre**, **Skylight Opera Theatre**, or the **Sharon Lynn Wilson Center**.

DAY THREE

During the day, explore the **Milwaukee Art Museum** (with the internationally heralded Calatrava addition), or travel back to the 1800s at **Old World Wisconsin**, or take in one of Milwaukee's many **Lakefront Festivals**. Then, consider

an evening at the **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra**, or **Florentine Opera**, or **Milwaukee Ballet**.

DAY FOUR

To conclude your visit, try a **Brewery Tour**, or pick from any of the previously mentioned options, before checking out of your hotel and heading back home. You're sure to feel refreshed and invigorated, just as Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne did when they left Ten Chimneys and Wisconsin to head back to Broadway.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group contact your tour operator, or call Kristine for Ten Chimneys 262-968-4110. For all other attractions and additional options, contact Wendy at Visit Milwaukee, 800-231-0903.



metroConnections EXPANSION

The Minneapolis based metroConnections company announces their expansion to a new Chicago office. The destination management company (DMC) offers conference services, event production with the implementation of theme events and transportations & tours with shuttle programs and sightseeing tours. The company has been among the top 25 DMCs in the United States in the past two years, and the top DMC in the Twin Cities since 1984.

Metroconnections aims to carry the famous service to the Chicago area and will try to bring new business to the metropolitan market. For group planning information or to book your group in Chicago, visit www.metroconnections.com for online booking or call 1-800-747-8687.

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Downtown Sioux Falls and Las Vegas Style Gaming

This itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year.

DAY ONE

8 – 9:30 am

Begin your tour by visiting **Sioux Falls'** name-sake, the **Falls of the Big Sioux River** at **Falls Park**. The triple waterfalls are in the center of the city, and include three lookout platforms. Be sure to stop in the new **Visitor Information Center** at Falls Park, which has a 5-story observation tower and gift shop.

9:30 – 10:00 am

A tour of the restored 1800 quartzite **Old Courthouse Museum**, home to three floors of information on the region's history.

10 – 11:00 pm

Enjoy the new **Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science!** This former high school is constructed of the rock Quartzite, which is quarried in Sioux Falls, and only diamond is harder than quartzite. The Washington Pavilion is a cultural, educational and entertainment center that houses four areas.

11 – 11:45 am

Wells-Fargo CineDome Theater: Experience edge-of-your-seat thrills on the giant screen,

located in the **Kirby Science Discovery Center**. Soar over towering cliffs, sail mighty oceans, get a bird's eye view of amazing landscapes, or climb majestic mountains -- all without leaving your theater seat! There's nothing quite like a CineDome experience.

11:45 – 2:00 pm

Tour the **Kirby Science Discovery Center:** Over 80 hands-on science exhibits. Enjoy lunch at their quaint eating establishment; **Leonardo's Cafe**.

2 – 5:00 pm

Continue on by strolling down Historic Sioux Falls and enjoying all the exquisite little shops. Enjoy unique shopping at its finest! A "must-stop" downtown shop is **Zandbroz Variety**, featuring an old fashioned soda fountain with taste-tempting ice cream!

5 – 6:00 pm

Travel north to the **Royal River Casino** in **Flandreau, SD** for Las Vegas Style Gaming! Check into your hotel room upon arrival.

6 – 7:30 pm

For dinner, head to the award-winning **River's**

Bend Buffet which offers a variety of food, including a themed buffet during the week. Such as Hawaiian, Steak, Italian or Asian. All are sure to satisfy your appetite.

7:30 pm

Time for Las Vegas Gaming with Poker Room, Blackjack, slots, even racing! Come and try your luck.

DAY TWO

9 – 10:00 am

Check out of your hotel room, and head back down to the **River's Bend Restaurant** for a hot, delicious breakfast.

10 – 12:00 pm

Try your luck again at the casino before you head home!

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or the Sioux Falls CVB, 800-333-2072 or Royal River Casino and Hotel, 800-833-8666.

Welcome to Thunder Bay, Canada!

This two-day sample itinerary is best from late spring to early autumn.

DAY ONE

9 – 12:30 pm

Enjoy breathtaking vistas from **Canada's** longest suspension footbridge at **Eagle Canyon Adventures**. **Thunder Bay** is in the heart of amethyst country! Visit such area mines as **Amethyst Mine Panorama** or **Ontario Gem Mining Company**, and choose your own specimen right from an open pit mine.

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Sample the wonderful fare available in Thunder Bay's numerous restaurants.

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Scenic **Marina Park** offers a wonderful view of Thunder Bay's harbour set against the background of the **Sleeping Giant**.

3 – 5:00 pm

Stop at **Kakabeka Falls**, a spectacular 130 foot-high waterfall and steep, rock-walled river canyon. Excellent viewing advantages are provided from a

boardwalk and observation pods on both sides of the river.

5 – 6:00 pm

Check into one of the area's hotels, such as the **Valhalla Inn** or the **Best Western Nor'Wester**.

6 – 7:30 pm

Bon appetit! Thunder Bay offers a wide variety of dining experiences including fine dining establishments and family restaurants.

7:30 – 10:00 pm

Enjoy superior casino gaming at **Thunder Bay Charity Casino**. Group programs available with 48-hour notice.

DAY TWO

9 – 10:00 am

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel.

10 – 12:00 pm

Watch the entire cheese-making process in operation at world-renowned **Thunder Oak Cheese**

Farm. Note: Cheese is made Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 10:00 am, or call to confirm time.

12 – 3:00 pm

Nearby is **Founders' Museum & Pioneer Village**. An early 1900's Heritage Village has been recreated with intriguing artifacts on display throughout the site. A catered lunch can be arranged.

3 – 5:00 pm

Tour **Fort William Historical Park**, one of Canada's top ten historic sites (**Toronto Star**). At this impressive living history attraction, experience Canada's fur trade adventure while meeting engaging, costumed characters from the early 1800's.

5 – 7:00 pm

Dine at the Fort! Enjoy an authentic **Voyageur's Feast** in the **Great Hall**.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group, call your tour operator of Thunder Bay Tourism at 1-800-668-9360.

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NorthofSuperior.org
1-800-265-3951



OntarioTravel.net
1-800-668-2746



Making the journey the destination

Don't Forget Your Hat in Des Moines!

This itinerary works best spring thru fall.

DAY ONE

10 – 12:00 pm

Begin your day shopping, after enjoying a cup of Cappuccino from one of the many shops in the **Historic Valley Junction**. The Junction, as the locals call it, is a charming, renovated railroad district with a collection of over 120 unique retail shops and diverse restaurants.

12 – 2:00 pm

Travel to the **Living History Farms** for lunch, a hearty home-cooked meal served up family style, just like it was on a farm in 1900.

2 – 4:00 pm

After lunch at **Living History Farms**, get a hands-on, get-involved tour specializing in what the textbooks can't teach. Historical interpreters greet visitors with lively narrations at three working farm sites and a recreated frontier town to show what daily life was like in early Iowa.

4 – 6:00 pm

It's time to relax with high tea at the **Salisbury House**, and

don't forget your hat! This 42-room mansion is filled with a collection of original art, rare books, and antique furnishings...modeled after the King's castle in Salisbury, England.

6 – 7:00 pm

During your visit, stay at the group-friendly **Holiday Inn/Airport Hotel** in Des Moines.

7 – 8:30 pm

Have a delicious dinner tonight at the **Crystal Tree Restaurant**, located in the hotel. Hint: try their fabulous prime rib or seafood.

8:30 pm

Relax in the pool or whirlpool, or challenge someone to a game of ping-pong in the game room before turning in.

DAY TWO

8 – 9:00 am

Rise and shine for breakfast in the hotel.

9 – 10:00 am

See the **Jordan house**, a 16-room, Victorian house from

1850. It was a station on the **Underground Railroad**. You'll appreciate both the **Underground Railroad Exhibit** and the many artifacts from the regular railroad.

10 – 12:00 pm

Moving on to **Terrace Hill**, the home of Iowa's governor, built in 1869. Terrace Hill is the finest example of Second Empire architecture (a.k.a. General Grant Style) in the Midwest. Includes dormer windows, square towers, exquisite Italianate detail, and pavilions.

12 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch at the **Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery**. Known for their smoked salmon fish and chips and tenderloin with roasted garlic. All complimented by handcrafted beers, brewed on site.

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Complete your visit to **Des Moines** by visiting the **State Capital Building**, built between 1871 and 1886. This magnificent building represents, both inside and out, one of the nation's finest examples of 19th century architecture.

For more information or to this itinerary for your group, contact your tour operator, or the Des Moines CVB at 800-451-2825.

Experience the Wonders of Watertown

This itinerary is best spring through fall but can be customized for anytime of the year.

DAY ONE

9 – 10:00 am

Start your day along I-29 just 45 minutes south of **Watertown** with a morning walk through the beautiful **McCrary Gardens in Brookings**. This is one of the top 10 small botanical gardens in the U.S., and offers an impressive picturesque view of northeastern **South Dakota**.

10 – 12:00 pm

The morning finishes with a stop at the **South Dakota Art Museum** before boarding the bus for a drive to Watertown.

12 – 4:00 pm

After an enjoyable lunch in Watertown, witness world-famous **Terry Redlin's** more than 150 awe-inspiring original art pieces at the **Redlin Art Center**. Step inside the new **Comforts of Home** cabin as if you were stepping inside one of Terry's images. Enjoy ice cream treats or refreshments at the old-fashioned soda fountain available for pre-scheduled tours. Take a scenic walk through the **Wildlife Park** outside the gallery.

4 – 5:30 pm

Spend the remainder of the afternoon touring the beautifully restored **Arthur C. Mellette House**, Victorian home of South Dakota's first Governor. Continue re-living history of the early 1900's while strolling through the **Codington County Historical Museum** in uptown Watertown.

5:30 – 9:00 pm

After a satisfying dinner at one of Watertown's charming restaurants, enjoy an evening of excitement at the **Dakota Sioux Casino**. Head out for a shopping expedition at the **Watertown Mall** or set up for a preplanned special event just for your group. Stay overnight in one of Watertown's safe and comfortable accommodations.



Redlin Art Center

DAY TWO

8 – 4:30 pm

After a home-style breakfast in one of Watertown's finest restaurants or continental breakfast at your motel, enjoy a countryside drive to historic **Sisseton** (60 miles). Visits include: **Fort Sisseton State Park**, a remarkably restored 1864 Calvary outpost, **Sica Hollow State Park**, a scenic ravine steeped in Sioux Indian legend(s) and crisscrossed by a **National Recreation Trail** or the **Nicollet Tower** and the **Stavig House Museum**, where stories of Scandinavian immigration and settlement of the community of Sisseton are told through historic letters and photographs.

4:30 – 8:00 pm

After returning to Watertown in the late afternoon, enjoy a delightful dinner followed by a leisurely stroll through beautiful landscaped areas where bird watcher's flock. You'll also discover the best-kept secret in South Dakota — the **Bramble Park Zoo** and new educational indoor **Discovery Center**.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group contact your tour operator or the Watertown CVB, 605-886-5814.

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ATTRACTIONS

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- ▶ **Ten Chimneys** 262-968-4110
 PO Box 225 - Genesee Depot, WI 53127
 The Tour of a Lifetime™. Tour the National Historic Landmark estate of Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. Open Tuesday-Saturday, May through mid-November. Ages 12+. 24 hr+ reservations recommended. Group rates available. www.tenchimneys.org. AC, CA, GD, GT, H, PM, PO, RN

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

- ▶ **North Dakota Tourism Division** 701-328-2625
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- ▶ **Thunder Bay Tourism & Economic Development** 800-668-9360
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 Approximately 30 minutes from the Minnesota border, Thunder Bay offers a wide selection of attractions, accommodations, restaurants and shopping opportunities. Contact us for marketing tools or any of your group tour planning needs!

- ▶ **Watertown CVB** 605-886-5814
 PO Box 1113 - Watertown, SD 57201 800-658-4505
 karen@watertownsd.com / www.watertownsd.com
 Recapture and make new memories this fall as you make a stop at the Terry Redlin Art Center. New exhibits and babies at the Bramble Park Zoo & Discovery Center. Lakes, camping, fishing. Family fun awaits you. Visit www.watertownsd.com or call 1-800-658-4505.

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BY KELLY KLIMA

This year's 2006 Great North Group Travel Show & FAM was held once again in Des Moines, IA, but at a new location — the Holiday Inn Conference Center.

Regional Tour Operators, Bank Club Directors and Community Ed Planners spent time with as many group-friendly exhibitors as possible at the event to soak in all the "insider" info they could take in. The private **Planning Room Interviews** were held Monday night with **Platinum Exhibitors**, where attendees were able to talk with exhibitors for 10 minutes at a time to discuss custom tours at each crowd-welcoming destination. The innovative **Speed Touring**, where exhibitors actually rotate to the attendees, took place Tuesday morning. Booth visits were held at the **Noon Luncheon**, and in the area **FAM** of downtown Des Moines, attendees received a hands-on-tour of the **Greater Des Moines area**. Closing of the show was "**Entertainment to Go!**" who preformed an act of Broadway singing and stories. The show was entertaining, and fantastically funny! Attendees also received various prizes, and one lucky winner, **Donna Barrett** from **Guthrie State Bank in Panora, IA**, won the Grand Prize for 45 guests to attend the amazing **American Swedish Institute!**



On the way out the door, attendees & exhibitors voiced their positive feedback on the 2006 Great North Group Travel Show:

"Overall, I thought the quality of leads were GREAT...really interesting people!"

"I do feel very confident that I'll get business out of it."

"The quick snapshots of what people had to offer in Speed Touring were great. I know what works for my groups, so I was able to hone in on targeted exhibits instantly."

"Just when I think you guys are out of interesting places, I'm wrong again. Looking forward to the fall show and tapping the Canadian market."

"Thank you again for bringing not only a great group of people together, thanks for bringing the right people together."

We want to express a special thank you to all for coming, and to the **Eagan CVB** for sponsoring the delicious hot breakfast. Also, thanks to all the sponsors and exhibitors, and special regards to the **Platinum and Gold Exhibitors**, for their contributions in making this show such a successful experience for everyone!

Platinum Sponsors:

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You can find hotlinks to exhibitor websites on www.itinerariesminnesota.com.

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Jenny Jenny Anderson
Group Tour Director

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