

MINNESOTA'S GROUP TRAVEL MAGAZINE

# ITINERARIES

## *Minnesota*

winter/spring 2007

## Unexpected turns.

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May 7-8



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**2007 Great North Group Travel Show & FAM**  
**May 7-8. Cranberry Country Lodge. Tomah, WI.**  
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**Starting at just \$95 -includes accommodations, meals and all Great North show events. Call 877-832-7267 or visit [www.itinerariesminnesota.com](http://www.itinerariesminnesota.com) to register today.**

## Monday, May 7

12 – 12:45 pm

**REGISTRATION & WELCOME TO THE GREAT NORTH GROUP TRAVEL SHOW!**

1 – 4:00 pm

**ONE-ON-ONE NET-WORTHING SESSION**

Individual suppliers introduce themselves as they sit down with you during this "Speed Touring" session.

4 – 5:00 pm

**MARKETPLACE RECEPTION**

Casual chat-time with the suppliers you met during the introductions. Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar in the Great North Marketplace.

6 – 9:00 pm

**DINNER EVENT FOR GROUP TRAVEL BUYERS**

Host: Tomah Area CVB

## Tuesday, May 8

8 – 9:00 am

**SPONSORED BREAKFAST**

Special Guest Speaker: Getting the Most Out of Traveling the Byways and More. Great River Road!

9 – 12:00 pm

**ITINERARY PLANNING TIME**

In-depth face-to-face meetings with suppliers. Time to "seriously" have fun planning itineraries with suppliers.

12 – 2:00 pm

**GREAT NORTH LUNCHEON & THE GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY**

Enjoy the Great North Show's feature luncheon with suppliers.

2 – 4:30 pm

**TOMAH AREA FAM TOUR for buyers**

Host: Tomah Area CVB

4:30 – 5:30 pm

**"COME BACK AGAIN SOON" SEND-OFF**

Final Drawing for the SHOW GIFTS from the suppliers.



LETTER FROM  
the publishers

Dear Reader,

*When the journey itself becomes the destination. What a concept! Linking destinations using Scenic Byways and Historic Highways seemed natural...and according to Patricia McNally of the National Scenic Byways Program in Washington, DC – this is the hot, new trend in motorcoach travel. Instead of tour operators and group travel planners hurrying on the interstate to the next stop, we discovered that you are incorporating routes that are giving your groups views of a lifetime... towering river bluffs, waterfalls, prairies, acres of apple blossoms and incredible terrain painted in fall colors! It makes me want to hop on a coach just thinking about it!*

*Make sure you reserve May 7-8 for the Great North Group Travel Show & FAM in Tomah, Wisconsin – cranberry country! We have lots of events planned that are geared for you, the travel trade professional, and even one for Student & Youth Field Trip Planners on Monday evening! Then there's the added bonus with the Tomah FAM after the show...you've just got to see this destination...! (Have you ever tried Cranberry Wine?)*

*It's all about TRAVEL TRENDS. As you may have noticed, we have added a new section in our magazine, and we are interviewing tour operators and planners like yourself about new destination concepts in the travel trade industry. It's all about what customers are looking for in future tours... destinations, themes and more. If you have something to share, email us at [info@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:info@itinerariesminnesota.com).*

*Thank you for faxing your Reader Responses to us. We appreciate learning who you are, what itineraries you would like to see, and what you want to read about through the upper Midwest and Minnesota. Keep 'em coming every issue!*

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



Coming Summer 2007  
**Breweries & Wineries...**

We are revisiting Midwest wineries this summer (the last time was our very first issue 5 years ago) and also adding breweries as suitable destinations. What a treat, especially since your groups already have a designated driver! Experience new group-friendly treasures that include hops, fruit, grapes, and there might even be a vegetable or two in the mix...plus lots of fresh sample itineraries.

# ITINERARIES Minnesota

8014 Olson Memorial Hwy #215  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427  
320-230-4840 | 877-832-7267 | Fax: 763-201-7945  
[info@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:info@itinerariesminnesota.com) | [www.itinerariesminnesota.com](http://www.itinerariesminnesota.com)

**Heather J. Lahren** | CO-PUBLISHER  
[heather@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:heather@itinerariesminnesota.com)

**Mark W. Peterson** | CO-PUBLISHER  
[mark@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:mark@itinerariesminnesota.com)

**Kathleen Somers** | DIR OF SALES & OPERATIONS  
[kathleen@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:kathleen@itinerariesminnesota.com)

**Kelly Surla** | OPERATIONS MANAGER  
[kelly@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:kelly@itinerariesminnesota.com)

**Lynn Gottwalt** | TRAFFIC MANAGER  
[lynn@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:lynn@itinerariesminnesota.com)

**Jill Ressemann** | MARKETING SUPPORT  
[jill@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:jill@itinerariesminnesota.com)

**Arne Teske** | DESIGNER  
[graphics@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:graphics@itinerariesminnesota.com)

**Carinna K. Hard Bullemer** | ART DIRECTOR  
HARD AT WORK Design, inc. | [carinna@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:carinna@itinerariesminnesota.com)

**Shawn Sweeney** | SENIOR WRITER/EDITOR  
[editor@itinerariesminnesota.com](mailto:editor@itinerariesminnesota.com)

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

**Heather Lahren** | ITINERARIES MINNESOTA, Inc.

**Mark Peterson** | ITINERARIES MINNESOTA, Inc.

**Kathleen Somers** | ITINERARIES MINNESOTA, Inc.

**Lynn Gottwalt** | ITINERARIES MINNESOTA, Inc.

**Jill Ressemann** | ITINERARIES MINNESOTA, Inc.

**Richard Haskett** | National Scenic Byway Foundation

**Kelly Murray** | Tomah CVB

#### ADVISORY BOARD

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**Brad Toll** | Packer Country CVB, Green Bay WI

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#### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to ITINERARIES MINNESOTA Magazine  
8014 Olson Memorial Highway #215, Minneapolis, MN 55427

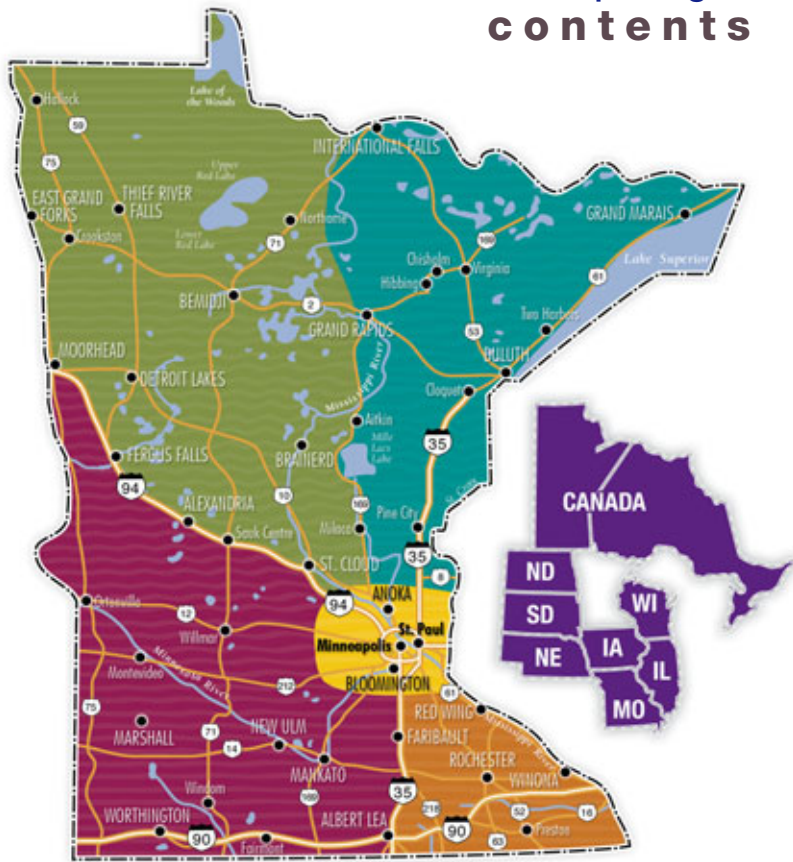
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#### MAKING THIS MAGAZINE WORK FOR YOU:

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



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## on the cover

### cover photo

One Great Stretch ©Todd Williams 2007, by professional photographer Todd Williams, graduate of Bemidji State University and now playing his trade in New York City. [www.toddwilliamsusa.com](http://www.toddwilliamsusa.com)

### transportation

Pictured is one of their new 56-58 passenger Renaissance and J4500 motorcoaches, the most deluxe in North America. Available for contract coach service by Richfield Bus Company and for tours through Heartland Tours & Travel. [www.richfieldbus.com](http://www.richfieldbus.com)



# Getting the Most Out of *Traveling the Byways*

BY RICHARD HASKETT | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY FOUNDATION

If you are an established tour operator, or experienced bank club director, you may already travel using Scenic Byways to link your destinations and enhance your tour group's trip: after all, they usually display most of the significantly scenic, historic, cultural, natural, archeological and recreational resources in Minnesota and throughout the upper Midwest. Byways often are the routes with the developed infrastructure you need to offer successful group travel. They are likely to have established organizations and services that can aide in developing profitable travel packages and itineraries for you.

Don't be surprised if you don't yet understand Byways. Created in 1991, the Byway program is still relatively new. During the past fifteen years it has grown primarily because of the grass roots efforts by local communities to identify, develop and operate Byways. Compared to the 100 years we've had to learn about National Forests from the US Forest Service and the 90 years the National Park Service has been telling us about National Parks, the Byway Program is still in its kindergarten years. As the number and visibility of byways grows (*now totaling 22 in Minnesota and an amazing 73 in the upper Midwest*), so is the effort to provide information and generous entertainment for visitors.

## So let's see how you get the most from these Byway resources.

**First, learn what a byway is and how it can enhance a tour.** Not all designated highways and memorial routes are Scenic Byways. One of the best sources of information about where byways are located is [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org). This site is operated by the National Scenic Byways Program in Washington and is the single best overall source of information. It shows several kinds of byways. The most highly prized are "All American Roads," designated by the US Secretary of Transportation only if the locally nominated route has nationally significant resources and is a destination unto themselves. Minnesota has one, the North Shore Scenic Drive. National Scenic Byways are also designated by the Secretary of Transportation and must exhibit at least one intrinsic quality of national significance. Minnesota has six National Scenic Byways: Edge of the Wilderness, Paul Bunyan, Minnesota River Valley, Grand Rounds, Historic Bluff Country and the Great River Road. To this collection of treasured places are branded and marketed as "America's Byways®." In addition, the Minnesota Scenic Byway Commission designates Minnesota State Scenic Byways. To date there are thirteen of these; ranging from the Gunflint Trail and Waters of the Dancing Sky in the north to Shooting Star Scenic Byway in the south. And finally, two federal agencies, the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management designate their best roads as Scenic Byways; Minnesota has the Avenue of Pines and Lady Slipper National Forest Scenic Byways. See the graph below to see how many upper Midwest states offer how many byways.

**Next, learn who to contact.** Again,

[www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org) is a great source. Click on a state, select a byway and look in the lower left corner for contact information. Don't overlook the "Itineraries" button in the upper left menu too. A linked companion site, [www.bywaysonline.org](http://www.bywaysonline.org), also provides administrative and marketing contacts by name. And don't overlook a most informative connection, [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) (or the state of your choice). Minnesota has consistently been among the national leaders in integrating byway information into its mainstream tourism marketing efforts. Just click on "Destinations" and open "Scenic Byways" on the drop down menu.

**How about your tour groups?** How do they get more out of the Byway experience? First, remind them that the byway exists in recognition of its unique intrinsic qualities. Help your guests identify them. In the

iters in learning about its intrinsic qualities, byways usually develop significant interpretive programs and services. Learn the basic byway story and pass it along to your guests. Find out where interpretive signs, panels and demonstrations or performances are located and when the byway and its communities present annual or seasonal events.

Byways are beginning to publish special publications maps and custom publications such as "Birds of the Byway" or guides to vistas and overlooks, local history, attractions, walking trails, or unique stories. Ask about them.

**Lastly, to get the most out of the Byway, stop the coach!** Don't make the mistake of believing byways are about what you can see through the window. The highway is only the route by which you access the many experiences collected into the overall Byway experience. Call

MIDWEST BYWAYS & BACKWAYS						
STATE	ALL AMERICAN ROAD	NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY	NAT'L FOREST SCENIC BYWAY	STATE/OTHER BYWAY	BACKWAY	WEBSITE
Illinois	1	6				<a href="http://www.enjoyillinois.com">www.enjoyillinois.com</a>
Iowa		2		10		<a href="http://www.traveliowa.com">www.traveliowa.com</a>
Minnesota	1	6	2	13		<a href="http://www.exploreminnesota.com">www.exploreminnesota.com</a>
Missouri		2	3	2		<a href="http://www.visitmo.com">www.visitmo.com</a>
Nebraska				9		<a href="http://www.visitnebraska.org">www.visitnebraska.org</a>
North Dakota			2	3	3	<a href="http://www.ndtourism.com">www.ndtourism.com</a>
South Dakota		2	1	2		<a href="http://www.travelsd.com">www.travelsd.com</a>
Wisconsin		1	2			<a href="http://www.travelwisconsin.com">www.travelwisconsin.com</a>

nomination process each byway must name its scenic, historic, cultural, natural, archeological and recreational qualities and their significance. Interestingly enough, a Scenic Byway need not be particularly scenic if it has other strong qualities. A good example is the Selma to Montgomery (Alabama) March Route. While some might consider it scenic, its major intrinsic qualities are historic and cultural. To aid vis-

ahead and tell the doughnut shop, museum, Chamber of Commerce or CVB that you are coming. Give them a chance to live their theme, "Come closer. We have stories to tell." ★

For more information about Byway promotion, development and usage, contact Richard Haskett, National Scenic Byway Foundation 651-330-6375 or [RCRHaskett@comcast.net](mailto:RCRHaskett@comcast.net).



## Nordic Summer -----> may to september 2007

As the anchor event for Minneapolis-Saint Paul's "Nordic Summer" campaign, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts serves as the exclusive U.S. venue to present "Mirror of Nature: Nordic Landscape Painting 1840-1910," a major special exhibition of Nordic landscape paintings. From the classic castle of the American-Swedish Institute to unique Norwegian Churches, Minneapolis has the perfect combination of all things Scandinavian for your next tour group. With world-class exhibits and customized Nordic heritage itineraries, Minneapolis should be on the map for your next group exploration.

For details on Nordic Summer contact Lori Kampa Kearney at 800-455-7412 ext. 8114 or [lorik@meetminneapolis.com](mailto:lorik@meetminneapolis.com).



## Civil War Battle and Encampment -----> august 16-19, 2007

Step back in time and learn about the Civil War era. See and feel the fashions worn during this time period. Discover why Iowa was the number one provider of volunteer infantry in the Union Army. Witness the life of a soldier and visit live military camps at the annual Civil War Battle & Encampment in Mason City, Iowa featuring live entertainment, reenactment of battles, cannon/mounted cavalry demonstrations and more. The event caters to motorcoach groups, offering reserved seating to view and experience the battles as they unfold. Plus, historical group tour presentations provide groups with hands-on experience of the Civil War Era.

For more information contact Sue Armour at the Mason City CVB (IA) at 800-423-5724 or go to [www.masoncitytourism.com](http://www.masoncitytourism.com).



## Milwaukee's Irish Fest -----> august 16-19, 2007

Milwaukee's Irish Fest brings the Emerald Isle to the shores of Lake Michigan each summer. Renowned as the world's largest Irish culture festival and chosen as one of American Bus Association's Top 100 Events in North America for group travel in 2007, this event features Irish and Irish American talent and showcases Irish music and dance, history, drama, sports and culture. An extensive marketplace allows you to take a piece of Ireland home with you. Held annually during the third weekend in August, the event hosts over 100,000 guests from around the globe.

For more information contact Wendy Dobrzynski, VISIT Milwaukee group tour manager at 800-231-0903 ext. 4222 or [wdobrzynski@milwaukee.org](mailto:wdobrzynski@milwaukee.org).



## The Meander/Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl -----> october 5-7, 2007

Here's an opportunity to use those Scenic Byways! The 4th Annual Meander / Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl – recognized by the industry as one of the finest in Minnesota - will be held October 5, 6, and 7, 2007, throughout the five county Western Minnesota Prairie Waters Region. Communities along and adjacent to the Minnesota Valley Scenic Byway showcase the fine arts representative of the diverse culture and ethnic background of nearly 50 artists from the area. Quality arts featuring rosemailing, watercolors, oils, printing, quilting, pottery, hand-made furniture - and much, much more. All galleries and shops are indexed on a map for easy routing. The Meander continues to be one of the finest art crawls in Minnesota, and motorcoach groups are welcome.

For more information contact Tom Watson at the Prairie Waters CVB at 866-866-5432 or go to [www.artsmear.com](http://www.artsmear.com).





## THE GREAT RIVER ROAD

# *Motoring the Mighty Mississippi*

BY KATHLEEN SOMERS

The grandest of all America's National Scenic Byways is the one that parallels the great Mississippi River as it twists and winds through unique landscapes of forests, lake country, rolling farmland, urban bustle, and soaring bluffs. The continent's greatest river cuts through Minneapolis/Saint Paul, St. Louis and ultimately through the rich Delta area of New Orleans finding its way to the Gulf of Mexico. Officially designated the Great River Road in 1938, this national parkway makes it easy to enjoy its 2,350 mile route by simply following the green Pilot's Wheel road signs. And in case you might have wondered, the Great River Road is both a National Byway and a State Scenic Byway.

While it's true America's most scenic drive winds through ten states, the longest stretch for any state, an amazing 575 miles, meanders in beautiful Minnesota. It's interesting to note that the river actually flows north before taking itself south and into more river-like qualities. The byway doesn't actually follow every bend and curve of the river. But it does afford your group the best option for getting to know the mighty river. And getting to know the byway is tantamount with getting to know the culture, history and communities of this huge and lengthy ribbon of water.

Just how do you get to know **Great River Road**? One section at a time. For example, in Minnesota consider the road in six distinct regions, each offering new and exciting experiences, and each anchored on either end by larger cities with a variety of lodging and dining options. Journey from **Itasca** to **Bemidji** to **Grand Rapids**, **Little Falls**, **Elk River**, and then southward on to **Hastings** and the jaw dropping sites of the **Mississippi Bluffs**, to see it all. You'll find interpretive centers along the way telling river stories - enhancing your experience. Plus a chance for worthwhile breaks during your motorcoach itinerary. So come on! Let's get started.

Beginning at the beginning would mean a trip to the headwaters in **Itasca State Park**. Mile marker zero is in the parking lot of the new **Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center**, where you'll find a gift shop, outdoor interpretive displays and a café featuring healthy sandwiches, wraps, soups and other foods perfect for people on the go. Just a short walk brings you to the actual point

where the legendary river hooks north out of **Lake Itasca** and the fifteen stepping stones drawing visitors from all over the world.

Traveling the first thirty miles of the Great River Road offers at least five bridges to cross the Mighty Mississippi. This is noteworthy because the farther south one goes on the byway, the wider the river and the fewer opportunities to cross it. **Paul Bunyan Playhouse**, located in **Bemidji** is Minnesota's oldest summer theater offering entertainment large enough to satisfy Paul Bunyan himself even without his blue ox, Babe. It's said, the statues of Paul and Babe are the most photographed attractions in America. And while in the vicinity, visit the nearby **Tourist Information Center** and see its amazing "**Fireplace of States**" constructed with stones from 48 states.

There are three state historic sites along this next section of the byway. **Forest History Center** in **Grand Rapids** where a turn-of-the-(last)century logging camp comes alive with the camp blacksmith, lumberjacks, cook, and so much more. I can't be enthusiastic enough about this beautiful place where history is made present and learning is made fun. There are many programs to delight at the **Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site** in **Little Falls**. One takes you back in time to enjoy the boyhood home of Charles Lindbergh as seen through the eyes of local farmers who worked for the family. Meet living history characters portraying Gustav Gertz, Hannah Stevens, and even




AMERICA'S BYWAYS®



Charles Lindbergh's mother, Evangeline. Further south in Elk River is the **Oliver H. Kelly Farm**, a living history 1860's farm with fields, barn animals, a kitchen garden plus farmhouse, all staffed by costumed guides authentically re-enacting the farms work.

Meandering south, the byway finds its way into Minnesota's **Twin Cities** where fine dining, great theater, and a variety of museums abound. Learn the role of the river in these twin cities' history at the **Mill City Museum**.

From **Hastings** to the **Iowa** border the **Mississippi Bluffs** will amaze. Besides wonderful river vistas, you'll find several river towns graced with late 1800's architecture. **Wabasha** is the oldest city in Minnesota and also boasts one of the best birding areas in the state. Plan to visit the new **National Eagle Center** scheduled to open summer 2007.

Come take a closer look. A river and its road... to be treasured, explored and for your group to enjoy! 





# You'll love our *Tomah FAM Tour!*

BY KELLY MURRAY

There's a surprise waiting for you midway between Minnesota's Twin Cities and Wisconsin's Milwaukee. Situated where interstates 94 and 90 divide, you'll find the charming town of **Tomah**. Now seriously, what's so great about Tomah? Well for starters, it's the berries... cranberries, that is. Did you know Wisconsin is the number one producer of cranberries in the nation...or, that cranberries are native to Wisconsin? Do you know the difference between a cranberry bog and a cranberry marsh? Well, pack your appetite for learning and bring your sense of adventure because the **Great North Group Travel Show & FAM** is on May 7th and 8th in Tomah, Wisconsin. After the

May I interest you in some cranberry muffins, pie or cookies? Take a break at the old fashioned ice cream shop offering, what else, cranberry ice cream, right there inside the center! The gift shop offers all things cranberry, from glass to wine and everything in between. It's fun to discover all the various uses for Wisconsin's little round health food.



Wisconsin is the number one producer of cranberries in the nation.



unique Great North Show, you just might be surprised with all you can learn about the healthy little cranberry...and how much fun you can have in the process...all on the **TOMAH FAM Tour**.

The famous **Cranberry Tour** will take you to the **Wetherby Cranberry Company** where you and your group will experience a truly unique tour in cranberry country. One of the family-members who own Wetherbys will guide your group through the production facilities as well as their cranberry marsh. Your group will be able to get off the motorcoach and seeing first-hand the work involved in harvesting the delicious ruby fruit. As they are guided through the sorting and packaging warehouse, your group will be treated to the workings of a 100-year-old cranberry mill in operation along side the latest in high-technology sorting tables and bagging machines. Your guide is a former school teacher who knows how to entertain your group while giving them a good education at the same time.

On a 3-acre campus in a quiet rural setting not far from Wetherbys is the **Wisconsin Cranberry Discover Center**. It's the only place in the nation dedicated to preserving the heritage of the cranberry industry. The Center offers guided tours of their museum with several hands-on displays, a taste-test kitchen featuring the latest in cranberry products.

But cranberries are not the only fun you'll find in Tomah. You can experience the intriguing lifestyle of the Amish through the eyes of an experienced tour guide. The **Amish Tour** will take you to **Down a Country Road Amish Gift Shop** and a quieter, simpler way of life where a buggy and colorful quilts airing on clotheslines are common sights. Other stops include **Amish Country Corner** where you can experience the warm and homey feeling of hand crafted Amish furniture in an unusual country craft setting. **This Old Barn** is where you will enjoy handcrafted and homespun pleasures and handmade gifts crafted by local artisans.

Saint Paul may have its Peanut's Characters and Paul Shultze, but Tomah has **Gasoline Alley** and its creator **Frank King**, native son. These exhibits can be found among others at the **Historical Society Museum**. Other museums to be found in Tomah include the **Little Falls Railroad & Doll Museum**, and **The Little Red Schoolhouse Museum** — all popular group travel destinations.

To learn more about the Tomah area — and the May 8th FAM Tour - contact **Kelly Murray**, **Tourism Marketing Coordinator** at the **Tomah Convention & Visitors Bureau** at 1-800-948-6624 or [kmurray@tomahwisconsin.com](mailto:kmurray@tomahwisconsin.com). ★

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BY SHAWN SWEENEY

**W**ord puzzles. Books. Magazines. Sunflower seeds. And, of course, the legendary “Slug Bug” game that instantly turned inattentiveness into a sore shoulder.

These are just some of the roadworthy pastimes that have helped many of us through the “**Are We There Yet?**” factors of growing up with travel. But now that you and your customers are all grown up, or so everyone would like to think, we want to let you in on a secret: Your groups want you to slow down. They want to smell the roses, and they’re extremely observant as passengers when it comes to the Midwest’s natural roadside surroundings and history — and they all want to experience the **joy of the journey**.



Researcher Linda Limback, formerly with the Tourism Center and the University of Minnesota, backs this up with some facts to think about. Through focus group studies, she says that as a travel experience, tourists prefer traveling the slower scenic routes either on their way to a destination or while they are at a destination. Limback also noted that people watch for the unique and branded scenic, historic and memorial byway and highway signs that can draw more attention than the classic red and white octagon. Today's traveler even watches for certain revelations of roadway design in the form of perfect perspectives and vistas of wildlife areas, historic sights and other points of interest.

*Meet Minnesota's  
Fab Four:  
The earliest to grab  
our nation's attention.*

Go ahead and belt it out, "Baby, you can drive my bus..." because northeastern Minnesota has a lot to sing about. And all with group tour buses in mind. In one trip, you can stop the bus to show your guests the fantastic panoramic views of Duluth from **Duluth Skyline Parkway**. The last of the new-age, "Are We There Yet?" can head for the Internationally recognized **North Shore Scenic Drive** (Old Highway 61), a stretch that transforms ageless, "wiggly" travelers into fans of jaw-dropping vistas and breathtaking scenery. Designated as an *All American Road*, the highest level of federal byway designation because of its natural beauty and landscape, history and culture, this timeless path remains preserved along the shore of Lake Superior. **Superior National Forest Scenic Byway** is the shortest but most memorable route between Superior and the Iron Range communities. Toward the end of the northern stretch, which some call the backbone of this foursome, is the famed **Gun Flint Trail** teeming with wildlife, unspoiled beauty and a smooth

and rhythmic, paved highway with bus-friendly scenic stops along the way.

The mysterious fifth band member? The small town of Grand Marais, full of history and well worth the ride. When you get there, just ask them firsthand how it all started if you really want the truth.

*The Paul Bunyan  
Scenic Byway:  
One tall tale,  
one beautiful roadway.*

Scotland's Loch Ness Monster has nothing on Minnesota's own **Paul Bunyan and his Blue Ox, Babe**. The young at heart still believe that the towering, and equally rarely sighted, lumberjack roams the **Brainerd** area that has grown, but still remains the heart and soul of Minnesota lake country. Along the **Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway** which winds through **Pequot Lakes, Crosslake, Ideal Corners, Swanburg, Manhattan Beach, Jenkins, Breezy Point, Pine River** — you'll discover sites among the sights that are much more worthy than a typical "potty break."

In Pine River, a small town overshadowed by the fabled giant, discover a coach-friendly on/off that offers spectacular scenery and a chance for travelers to literally put themselves in Paul's shoes (his gigantic baby shoes, that is). Oh, and the byway's towering pines, glistening lakes and perfectly placed designated stops are ideal for historical fact sharing, entertaining photo opps and unique places for the perfect picnic.

*Remember the joy  
of the journey.*

You've probably driven a road marked as a scenic or historic highway or byway or memorial highway (say that fast). Just simply know that they have crossovers and differences, but that they're flagged for great reasons whether it was in the family station wagon in Minnesota, in a different state,

chartering a group or otherwise. And, understand that at its core are people, perseverance and passion.

The **Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway** is evidence of an author whose heart was by guided readers of her famous children's books through South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. There's heritage that demonstrates pride of its European roots down **Czech Memorial Highway** and other ethnic paths. And history that to this day still winds its way from the Gulf of Mexico into Canada, through Iowa and Minnesota via Highway 75 (known as the **King of Trails**), where ox carts once oh-so-slowly wheeled north and south. And let's not forget the **Yellowstone Trail** that started in South Dakota, and now runs west and east from Puget Sound right on through Wisconsin, Minnesota and both Dakotas — the first transcontinental highway to meander through the northern United States.

But also remember, it takes more than just inspiration to save a roadway. Both the Federal and State levels of government continue to be actively involved in saving the memories, vistas, history, unadvertised facts and unbelievable artifacts that are easily seen through the tinted safety glass and comfort of a 10-ton motorcoach.

Hopefully, this issue of Itineraries Minnesota will show you that there are different and creative ways to take advantage of our region's incredible highlights. And that they're smoother to see when there's a place for you to park and more fulfilling if your guests have something to experience during their stretch. Bring back childhood smiles throughout this summer's trips where everyone aboard will experience the joy of the journey. Take a detour through the Midwest's premiere scenic byways and historic highways. ★



# Scenic Byways and Historic Highways

## Legends, Culture and the Art of Nature

A Four-Day Sample Itinerary for Group Tours



### Calling ahead...

- 1 - Tourism Thunder Bay**  
[www.visitthunderbay.com](http://www.visitthunderbay.com) . . . . . 800-667-8386
- 2- Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior**  
[www.grandportage.com](http://www.grandportage.com) . . . . . 800-543-1384
- 3- Grand Marais Area Tourism**  
[www.grandmarais.com](http://www.grandmarais.com) . . . . . 888-922-5000
- 4- Two Harbors Chamber**  
[www.twoharbors.com](http://www.twoharbors.com) . . . . . 800-777-7384
- 5- Visit Duluth**  
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With 22 beautiful Scenic Byways and numbers of historically significant highways, Minnesota is home to America's All American Road; the world-renowned **North Shore Scenic Drive Byway**. This itinerary starts in **Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada** - 194 miles (314 Kilometers) north of Duluth - and follows **U.S. Highway 61** south into Minnesota's spectacular north country. Did you know there are more than 100 waterfalls along this Scenic Byway route?

### DAY ONE

#### Thunder Bay, Ontario - Canada

Perched on **Lake Superior**, the world's largest freshwater lake, and surrounded by pristine forests and rolling mountains, **Thunder Bay** (population: 120,000) offers 7 major shopping areas, culture and attractions enjoyed by citizens and visitors alike.

#### 9 - 11:30 am

Thunder Bay is in the heart of **amethyst country**. These semi-precious gemstone are found in quantity only here and six other countries in the world. An optional itinerary stop would be to visit one of the area mines for a unique pick-your-own gemstone - and take it home with you - adventure.

#### Noon - 1:30 pm

Lunch at the popular 87-year-old **Finnish Hoito Restaurant**, with its famous plate size Finnish pancakes plus viili, karjalanpiirakka, and karjalanpaisti. The Hoito is in the bottom-floor of the historic **Finnish Labour Temple**, now housing a museum, stage, and dance hall.

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

Next is the award-winning **Fort William Historical Park**,

an authentic 1815 fur trading post with costumed voyageurs, artisans, and Ojibwa. See a Native camp, plus fur stores, and a farm! Bake a loaf of bread, take tea with some gentlemen, feed sheep, and even challenge a voyageur to a dice game.

#### 3 - 5:00 pm

Visit the awesome **Kakabeka Falls**; also known as



"**Niagara of the North**", Ontario's second largest after Niagara Falls. Hear the ancient legend about the Ojibwe princess, **Greenmantle** (Maiden of the Mist), who led a Sioux war party over these falls, saving her village. Also enjoy other Thunder Bay legends: the **Sleeping Giant**; **Three Sisters**; and **Quimet Canyon**, among others.

#### 5:00 pm

Check into one of the Thunder Bay's hotels, like the **Valhalla Inn** or the **Best Western Nor'Wester**.

#### 6 - 7:30 pm

Dining at one of area's fine restaurants.

#### 7:30 pm

Enjoy an evening at the **Magnus Theatre**, the **Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra**, or at the **Charity Casino**.

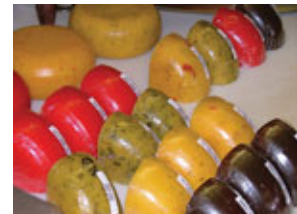
### DAY TWO

#### 7:30 - 8:30 am

Hotel checkout and breakfast.

#### 9:15 - 10:15 am

**Thunder Oak Cheese Farm** is the only farm in Ontario that produces authentic Dutch Gouda cheese. The Schep family makes their cheese on Monday and Friday around

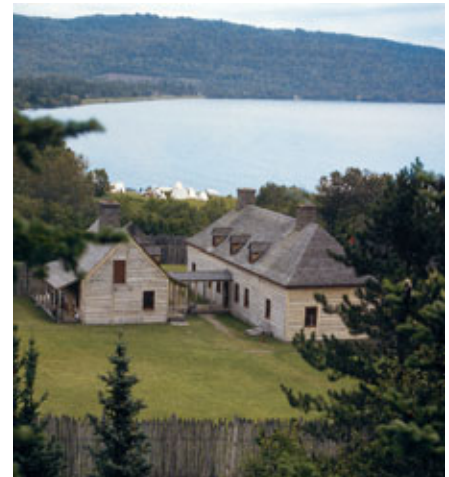


10 am. Have a cup of coffee, watch them at work, and visit their store and gift shop.

Note: International Travel will require passports by 2008!

#### 10:45 am - 1:45 pm

Make your way down **Historic Hwy 61** for lunch on Minnesota's beautiful **North Shore Scenic Drive Byway** at **Grand Portage Lodge & Casino** in the **Island View Dining Room** (Maybe even do some gaming while you're here!). This is where the early Ojibwe people first used the "grand portage" to link inland winter camps to summer homes on Lake Superior. Later Grand Portage became the inland headquarters for worldwide fur trade activity. The Ojibwe people still make their home at Grand Portage and celebrate traditional culture. The **Grand**



**Portage National Monument** includes the archeological remains of the **Northwest Company Depot** as well as a full restoration of the trading post, stockade, Great Hall, and more. Look out over the bay and imagine a flotilla of huge, heavily-laden canoes arriving from as far east as Montreal.

#### 2 - 2:30 pm

Next stop: **Naniboujou Lodge**. On the National Register of Historic Places, Naniboujou boasts Minnesota's largest native rock fireplace, a 200-ton work of art that stands in the 30 x 80 foot Great Hall. Naniboujou was originally a



private club enjoyed by the likes of Babe Ruth and Jack Dempsey. Probably the most memorable aspect of the lodge is the wondrously painted dining room with Cree Indian designs over the walls and the twenty-foot-high domed ceiling (resembling the shape of a canoe). This work of art continually amazes and intrigues, echoing the elegance and style of another era. Itinerary consideration: group teas are served here.

#### 2:30 – 5:00 pm

Now it's on to Minnesota's own New England – **Grand Marais** (population: 1426). Discover stunning views, great food, eclectic shops and galleries with locally-produced crafts, jewelry, and inspired artwork – all in Grand Marais' walkable downtown. (Also, Grand Marais is the southern-most point of the **Gunflint Trail Scenic Byway**.)

#### 5 – 7:00 pm

Check into the **Best Western Inn and Suites**, where all rooms face the lakefront with spectacular views. After dinner, take in a Grand Marais activity or just listen to Lake Superior. (Please see NE Section for more specific ideas).

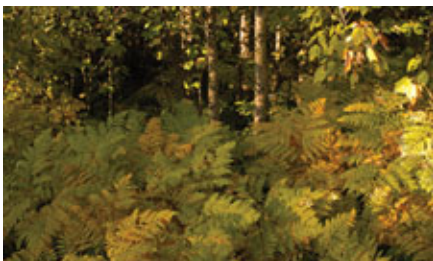
### DAY THREE

#### 7:30 – 8:30 am

Checkout and breakfast (or a tasty donut from the **World's Best Donuts Shop**).

#### 8:30 – 9:15 am

Travel down Hwy 61 to **Cascade State Park** to see the beautiful **Cascade River Waterfalls**, lush with moss and



ferns that grow on black volcanic rocks.

#### 9:30 – 10:00 am

Lutsen is the next adventure. Enjoy the beautiful scenery out your window as you head toward Minnesota's **Sawtooth Mountains**.

#### 10:00 am – Noon

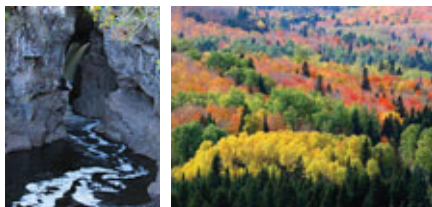
Get ready for an adventure! Ride the **North Shore Mountain Tram** (Mid-America's only gondola lift) to the top of **Moose Mountain** with views of 100 miles across Lake Superior.

#### Noon – 1:30 pm

Lunch atop the mountain in the brand new **Summit Chalet**, the **Mountain View Grill**! Offering a massive sun-deck to relax and take in the view, enjoy a quality lunch.

#### 1:30 – 2:00 pm

Take the gondola lift down the mountain for the trip to the **Temperance River State Park**.



#### 2 – 3:30 PM

Keep your hiking shoes handy to see the **Temperance River Gorge** in all its glory! The **Temperance River** carves out a narrow and twisted quarter mile long gorge (with several waterfalls) shortly before it empties into Lake Superior.

#### 3:30 – 4:00 pm

Enjoy the coach ride down Minnesota's North Shore Coastline, passing by some true roadside beauty along the lakeshore; including **Tettegouche State Park**, home of the **High Falls of the Baptism River**, passing ships on the water and also **Palisade Head**; a 200 foot cliff high above the lake.

#### 4 – 6:00 pm

Explore the historic **Split Rock Lighthouse and Visitor Center** perched 130 feet above the lake. Now a popular tourist attraction, view films and exhibits about the lighthouse, and stories of big storms and shipwrecks.

#### 6 – 6:15 pm

Just down the road is **Grand Superior Lodge** for a night of true north woods luxury! Combining relaxed rustic north woods living, with a full complement of luxuries. Check into the lodge and freshen up before dinner.

#### 7:00 pm

Dinner tonight will be in Grand Superior's **Splashing Rock Restaurant**, offering a savory dining experience

amidst warm northwoods decor and spectacular views of Lake Superior.

### DAY FOUR

#### 8 – 9:30 am

Checkout, with breakfast just down the road on Highway 61 at the world-famous **Betty's Pies**! Enjoy!

#### 10:00 – Noon

Next is the very popular **Gooseberry Falls State Park**, with its total of 5 impressive waterfalls. Take time at the beautiful visitor's center showcasing naturalist programs, interactive exhibits, and a gift shop.

#### Noon – 5 pm

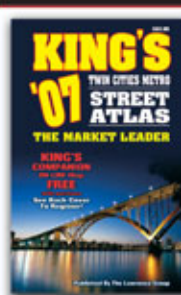
Continue on to **Two Harbors**, an area rich in Lake Superior history. Take a walking tour of downtown and explore the shops, watch ships load with taconite in the harbor, or tour the **Edna G. Tugboat**.

#### 5:30 pm

Arrive at **Hawthorn Suites** at **Waterfront Plaza** in **Duluth's Canal Park** for your final overnight. There's plenty to see in the vibrant city of Duluth including the historic **Aerial Lift Bridge**, **Great Lakes Aquarium**, and the **Depot**, home to an extensive train museum, galleries, and a gift shop.

Thank you for bringing your groups to our region. This sample itinerary contains just a few of many itinerary ideas you can use to customize a tour package for your groups. 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 Heartland Tours for customized assistance at 651-777-7170.

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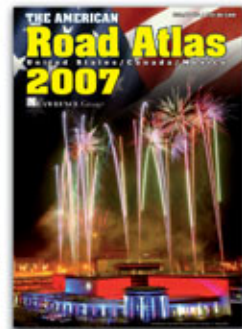
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# THE Road Ahead...

## **Bob Oliver** NORTHWEST IOWA TRANSPORTATION

Bob Oliver owns Northwest Iowa Transportation and he conducts tours internationally. Bob believes 85% of travelers are out to be entertained, and learning that takes place is purely incidental. Furthermore, he's noticed the immediacy of the internet has changed the ways old-fashioned general tours are marketed. "People look for themes, or packages that conform to their take on life." Bob recommends finding a niche, like music, religion, wine, or genealogy and use this as your group's reason to travel. "The key to it is to discover people's passions and turn them into travel." Bob is introducing new itineraries and putting more research towards the group's needs . . . and his groups (whatever the size) are finding their trips increasingly satisfying. The future of group travel is in "people with like interests identifying and achieving the travel objectives, and then bonding forever by the experience."



## **Kory Neuzerling** LAMERS TOUR & TRAVEL



Kory Neuzerling from Lamers Tour & Travel in Wisconsin Rapids, WI recognizes a change in the way her coaches are filling up. "Groups seem to be getting smaller" and consisting more of new baby boomers learning the fun of touring for the first time, in addition to her regular seniors. They are asking for more free time to do their own thing on their tours. Kory is finding that clients are now doing more of their own research before boarding the coach. Sometimes they even bring their laptops right on the bus with them! Kory has noticed they are "thinking about their vacations instead of just waiting for it to happen." This new breed of take-charge (and more technologically sophisticated) traveler is requesting time away from the group to break out on their own. "If we don't give them that option they are not as interested in our packages." This could be a tough transition, says Kory, but she is also making lemonade out of this potential lemon - "it's a wonderful thing. Clients return from these trips more fulfilled."

## **George Fernau** GONE AGAIN TOURS

George Fernau of Gone Again Tours, Florissant, MO has been moving people literally around the world since 1972, owning his own business for the past fifteen years. There's been a lot of change in the tour business during that time and George has a reputation for consistent high standards of professionalism and quality. He has noticed that customers and pre-formed groups are responding more to his quality services – especially as the travel world becomes more complex. He is also finding a strong trend in travel safety. He works with hotel destinations and his group members to keep doors secure and personal items safe during stays in new places – and that is definitely a growing group travel need. As part of his love of the business, George gives back by offering half-hour classes on travel safety to groups whenever he can. This is a trend that everyone can benefit from.



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River Bluffs & Rolling Hills

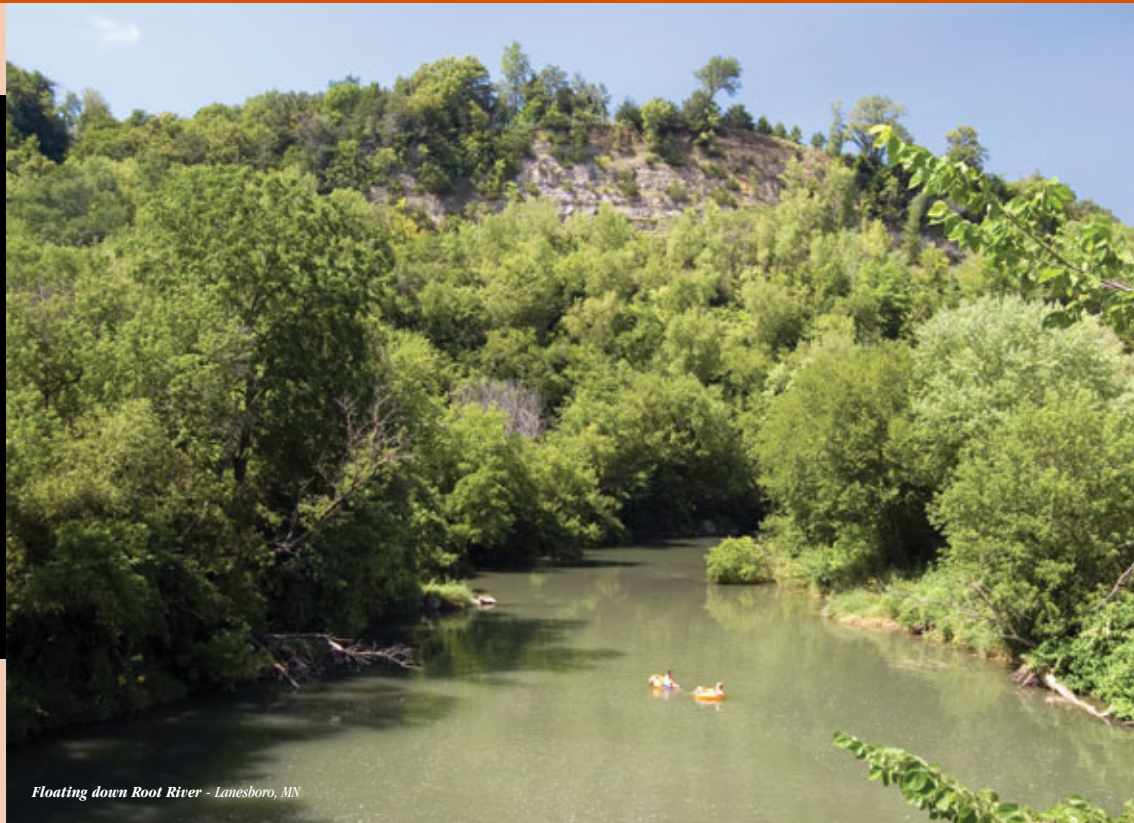
Welcome to **Southeastern Minnesota!**

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NORTHFIELD  
OWATONNA  
PLAINVIEW  
PRESTON  
RED WING  
ROCHESTER  
WABASHA  
WELCH  
WINONA

SE REGION CITIES

calendar of events

- april*
- 20-21 **World Festival**, Rochester 507-282-5116
  - 21 **Arts Alive**, Faribault 507-333-1620
- may*
- 4-6 **100 Mile Garage Sale**, Winona to Red Wing and Alma to Bay City, WI 507-452-0735
  - 5 **Scenic Byway Celebration**, Harmony 800-428-2030
  - 12 **Annual Rummage Sale & SPAMBURGER Day**, Austin 800-444-5713
  - 18-20 **Wings of Freedom Air Show**, Red Wing 715-273-3001
  - 17-19 **Bluff Country Gathering**, Lanesboro 800-940-2670
- june*
- 2 **Rhubarb Festival**, Lanesboro 507-467-2696
  - 13-17 **Steamboat Days**, Winona 507-452-0735
  - 14-17 **Faribault Heritage Celebration** 507-334-4381
  - 21-24 **St. James Rail Road Days**, St. James 800-375-2480
  - 22-24 **37th Annual Water Ski Days Festival**, Lake City 651-345-4123
  - 23-Jul 22 **"Grand Opening" Jon Hassler Theater**, Plainview 866-548-7469
- july*
- 2-4 **Grand Old Fourth**, Austin 507-437-4563
  - 7 **20th Annual Jazz in the Park**, Winona 800-657-4972
  - 26 **Northfield Crazy Daze**, Nfld 800-658-2548
  - 27-29 **Houston Hoedown Days** 507-896-3010
  - 27-28 **Julia Belle Swain Visit**, Wabasha 800-565-4158
  - 27-28 **Riverboat Days Festival**, Wabasha 800-565-4158
  - 29-Aug 6 **Great River Shakespeare Festival**, Winona 507-474-7900
- august*
- 2-12 **ArtsWirl**, Northfield 507-645-8877
  - 3-5 **Buffalo Bill Days**, Lanesboro 507-467-2696
  - 3-5 **River City Days**, Red Wing 651-388-4863
  - 4-5 **Berne Swissfest**, Berne 507-356-4340
  - 7-12 **Mower County Fair**, Austin 507-433-1868
  - 14-19 **Steele County Free Fair**, Owatonna 507-451-5305



Floating down Root River - Lanesboro, MN

## Historic Bluff Country Scenic Byway

88 miles – Travel this scenic alternative to I-90 on Highway 16 between LaCrescent and Dexter.

This area is a land of wooded hills, steep coulees, meandering streams and peaceful valleys. The scenic Root River winds through the countryside, and Amish buggies are a common sight. [www.bluffcountry.com](http://www.bluffcountry.com)

### other scenic byways & historic highways in southeast minnesota

#### Amish Byway 60 miles

*Highway 52 from Harmony to Prosper, IA*  
The Amish community, estimated at about 700 residents, driving quaint vehicles of bygone days. And if you travel the Amish Byway: Drive carefully and please take no photographs of the buggies that would include Amish faces. [www.bluffcountry.com](http://www.bluffcountry.com)

#### Apple Blossom Drive Scenic Byway 19 miles

*From LaCrescent north to Minnesota State Highway 61*  
High above the Mississippi River, see blufftop overlooks, orchards, scenic vistas, wooded ravines and rolling fields dotted with barns-these are the highlights of this country drive. [www.bluffcountry.com](http://www.bluffcountry.com)

#### Great River Road - Southern Minnesota Scenic Byway 140 miles

*Along State Highway 61 and the SE MN following the Mississippi River from Hastings to La Crescent*  
The southernmost portion of the longest byway in Minnesota. Enjoy the Mississippi River lined by high, wooded bluffs,

especially at Lake Pepin. Eagles are a common sight, and riverboats routinely entertain tour groups on the river. [www.mnmississippiriver.com](http://www.mnmississippiriver.com)

#### Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway 60 miles

*From DeSmet (SD), through Minnesota (mostly Hwy 14) to Pepin (WI)*  
Travel the scenic route that Laura wrote about in her "Little House" series. This highway links the Laura Ingalls Wilder Sites in Pepin, WI; Walnut Grove, MN; Spring Valley, MN; Burr Oak, IA and DeSmet, SD. 563-735- 5916

#### Shooting Star Scenic Byway 31 miles

*Highway 56 between I-90 and Highway 63 near the Iowa border from Rose Creek to Le Roy*  
See authentic rural countryside, prairie grasses and fields of wildflowers on ribbons of quiet country roads, named wildflowers that bloom here. The byway links four farm towns, each with historic buildings. [www.bluffcountry.com](http://www.bluffcountry.com)

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

[escortnotes.com](http://escortnotes.com)



For more Minnesota Scenic Byway information go to [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) and [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org).



## AUSTIN SUMMERS: *music to your ears.*



**A**ustin, Minnesota is quickly becoming the place to be for foot-tapping summer events and a ton of other events and reasons to get together. If you've experienced them before, we'll see you this summer. If you haven't, you don't know what you're missing.

This summer, Austin hosts the 6th annual "Hambone Blues Jam" on Saturday, June 30, 2007. Where else can you hear 12 straight hours of incredible Blues music with one ticket? The event continues to grow in numbers each year, as well as in the variety of musicians on the bill. When you spend part of your summer weekend at the "Jam," you'll experience non-stop music on three stages, both indoors and out. Tap your feet to kickin' country and bluegrass harmonies, guitar solos and other musicians jammin' on harps, horns and keyboards.

Austin has a great reason to celebrate Fourth of July for four straight days! Each year, the occasion features entertaining activities for the entire family. Games in the park, musical entertainment at the easily accessible Veterans Park Bandshell, street vendors with great eats and a full parade on the actual Fourth of July are just a handful of reasons why you should find your independence in Austin July 1 - 4, 2007.

Come August, it's time for the Mower County Fair. This fair has run for well over a hundred years, and the admission is still FREE! The fair will run this year from Tuesday through Sunday, August 7 - 12. There are new and updated buildings, a great midway with carnival rides and games, paved streets and walkways, dozens of food vendors for great fair "eats," amazing grandstand entertainment, antique tractors and machinery on display, and dazzling horse shows.

See you in Austin this summer! For more information call 800-444-5713.

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### **Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau**

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## Meet Minnesota's Southern Comfort

This itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find Red Wing K-16, Wabasha M-17, Winona M-18 and Lanesboro M-19 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

### DAY ONE

**8:30 – 11:45 am**

Start in **Red Wing**, a city nestled amidst the scenic bluffs of the **Mississippi River**, with historic streets lined in flower baskets. Enjoy coffee and a roll from **Clara's** or **Brashler's Bakery**. A local guide will meet you at Red Wing's historic depot. You'll pass an amazing array of buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places during this scenic tour, and witness pottery-making at the **Red Wing Stoneware Company** or **Pottery Salesroom**.

**11:45 – 1:30 pm**

Delight in lunch at the **Historic St. James Hotel** where you'll be treated to classic elegance dating back to 1875. Guests are offered a variety of menus and atmospheres. Perhaps you'll choose the Veranda, noted for its enthusiastic service.

**1:30 – 5:00 pm**

Spend the afternoon at the **Pottery Place**, where you'll find a host of antique stores, specialty shops, plus a Museum. Next view a multimedia presentation of history at the **Sheldon Theatre** before enjoying unique shopping

or historical walking tours.

**5 - 7:00 pm**

Choose one of several fabulous local restaurants for dining, while a Mark Twain storyteller joins your group for added entertainment.

### DAY TWO

**7:00 am**

Travel South on Hwy 61 to **Wabasha/Kellogg**.

8 – 11:00 am

A step-on guide joins you for a **Historic City and Church Tour**. The coach stops at **Wind Whisper West Kimono Gallery**, the only Japanese Wedding Kimono store in the world, and the **NEW National Eagle Center**. Meet **Angel, Harriet** and **Columbia**, the Center's resident eagles.

**11 – Noon**

Visit the **Arrowhead Bluffs Museum**, which features an exclusive Winchester collection, large wildlife exhibits, and an historic collection of Native American and pioneer artifacts.

**Noon – 2:00 pm**

Have lunch at the **Rocking Horse Café** before finding your inner child at **The L.A.R.K. Toy Company**, and **Antique Toy Collection Museum**. Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts.

**2 – 4:00 pm**

Cruise the "Ole Mississippi" on the **Pearl of the Lake Paddleboat**. Spectacular vistas included.

**4 – 7:00 pm**

The pace relaxes a bit when you check into **The AmericInn** with its extra quiet rooms. A special **Welcome**

**Reception** awaits your group fireside in the lobby prior to leaving for dinner at the **Historic Anderson House**. So rich with history and home-cooked food to delight, you'll find it the perfect dining experience for a perfect day.

**7:00 pm**

"**Under the Bridge Entertainment**", with horse-drawn carriage rides and the **Jon Hassler Theatre** in the spotlight.

### DAY THREE

**8:30 am – Noon**

Continue South on **Hwy 61** to **Winona** and tour a stained glass studio and watch craftsmen at work. Experience breath-taking views from atop **Garvin Heights** lookout, and sight-see Winona's numerous parks and amazing downtown architecture and stained glass displays.

**Noon – 1:30 pm**

Lunch in historic downtown.

**1:30 – 4:00 pm**

The **Watkins Museum/Store** is a must see, and the **Minnesota Marine Art Museum** has three galleries to wow you.

**4:00 pm**

Check into your hotel. Winona has many opportunities for dining, theatre, or a cruise on the Mississippi.

### DAY FOUR

**7:30 am – Noon**

After breakfast head SW to beautiful **Lanesboro**. Ride **Molly the Trolley** for the guided tour of Lanesboro. Visit the Historic Downtown District, including the **Scenic Valley Winery, Historical Museum** and **Comucopia Art Center**.

**12 – 2:00 pm**

Enjoy the range of dining experiences including upscale mid-western cuisine, home-cooked meals, local pastries and German deli.

**2 – 5:00 pm**

Take the **Amish Tour** to learn of days gone by — or the **Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center** and **Pioneer Life** program for those ah-ha learning experiences.

**6 – 10:30 pm**

Enjoy a leisurely meal at one of Lanesboro's fine dining experiences and entertainment extraordinaire at the **Commonweal Theatre Company**.

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

For more information or to customize this tour for your group please contact your tour operator or the Kathy Silverthorn at Red Wing VCB (800-498-3444, [www.redwing.org](http://www.redwing.org)),Carolynn Klees at Wabasha-Kellogg Chamber/CVB (800-565-4158, [www.wabashamn.org](http://www.wabashamn.org)), Pat Mutter at Visit Winona (800-657-4972, [www.visitwinona.com](http://www.visitwinona.com)), and Julie Kiehne at Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce (800-944-2670, [www.lanesboro.com](http://www.lanesboro.com)).

Welcome to Wabasha.  
Welcome to the end of the day.™

*FREE Breakfast Bar with Belgian Waffles*








64 ROOMS | \$65 PLUS TAX FOR WEEKNIGHTS, MORE FOR WEEKENDS DEPENDING ON THE SEASON  
CUSTOM GROUP TOUR PACKAGES AVAILABLE | FREE ROOM WITH EVERY 10 ROOMS BOOKED  
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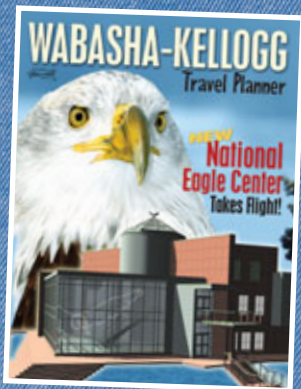
150 Commerce Drive | Wabasha, MN | Located on Highway 61 | 651-565-5366 | [www.americinn.com](http://www.americinn.com)

WABASHA | RED WING | WINONA | LANESBORO



Explore four scenic and historic towns packed into one bag.

And bring back your memories.



FOR WABASHA INFORMATION:

**Wabasha-Kellogg Chamber/CVB**

Wabasha, MN 55981  
651-565-5366 ext403 | 800-565-4158  
americinnw@hotmail.com | www.wabashamn.org



FOR RED WING INFORMATION:

**Red Wing Visitors & Convention Bureau**

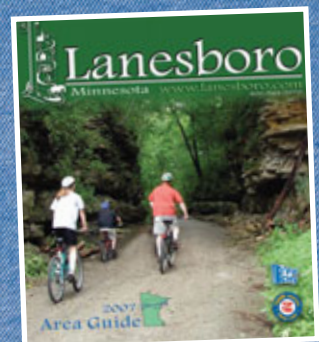
420 Levee Street - Red Wing, MN 55066  
651-385-5934 | 800-498-3444 | Fax 651-388-3900  
kathy@redwing.org | www.redwing.org



FOR WINONA INFORMATION:

**Visit Winona**

160 Johnson Street - Winona, MN 55987  
507-452-0735 | 800-657-4972 | Fax 507-454-0006  
pmutter@visitwinona.com | www.visitwinona.com



FOR LANESBORO INFORMATION:

**Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 348 - Lanesboro, MN, 55949  
507-467-2696 | 800-944-2670  
lacc@lanesboro.com | www.lanesboro.com



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1/800/428-2030 hbc@means.net

www.bluffcountry.com



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- Root & Mississippi Rivers
- Cultural, Historic, Amish Attractions
- Time Together



NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY MINNESOTA HWY. 16

PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



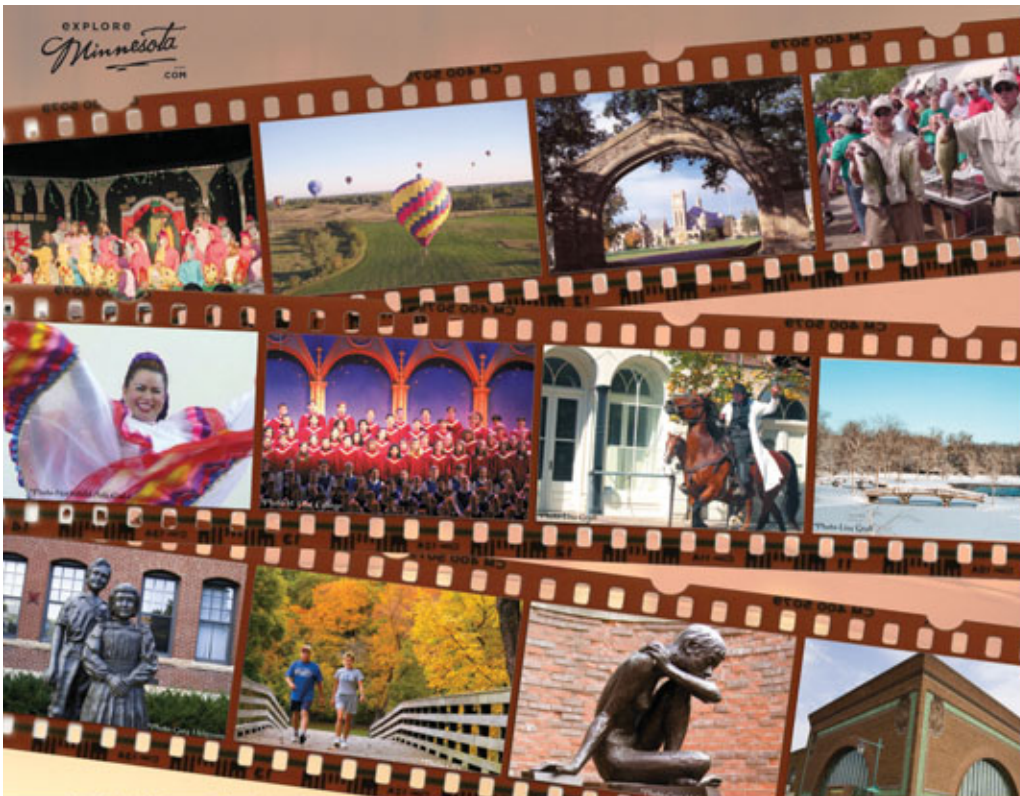
Be moved. Get moving. FARIBAULT IS ALL YOURS.

Faribault is full of wonderful experiences, whether it's beautiful scenery, lakes, trails, history, art, heritage or festivals. You can find 39 city parks, 3 golf courses, and a full outdoor Paintball course. Faribault is the hub for the 39-mile Sakatah trail system that passes scenic lakes and prairies. Ten area lakes and two rivers create the scene for restful walks and more.

A visit to Northfield is a unique experience, whatever the reason or season. Enjoy history, culture, shopping, dining and a playing field that appeals to sports enthusiasts, weekend athletes and nature-lovers alike. The Carleton Arboretum offers 800 acres of secluded woods and trails that meander through local hills and along the scenic Cannon River Valley. Nearby you'll find the Cannon River Wilderness, Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, and the Maltby Family Nature Preserve with a 36-acre wildlife sanctuary.

Owatonna offers something for everyone...especially for those seeking a variety of year-round recreation. The city maintains over 700 acres of parkland and walkways within 24 parks. One of the most popular is Kaplan's Woods Parkway with 225 acres for hiking, biking, inline skating, cross-country skiing, water fun and more at Lake Kohlmier. Other park areas not only provide recreational opportunities but also preserve the small-town appeal of nature with prairies grass, trees and wildflowers.

For more information contact Faribault 800-658-2354; Northfield 800-658-2548; or Owatonna 800-423-6466.



Northfield | Faribault | Owatonna  
"Together in Southern Minnesota"

great cities  
great tours

- Arts
- Culture
- Nature
- Recreation
- Heritage
- History

Contact us for customized tours

Northfield Area Chamber/CVB  
800-658-2548 | visitingnorthfield.com

Faribault Area Chamber/Tourism  
800-658-2354 | faribaultmn.org

Owatonna Area Chamber/Tourism  
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

## You heard it here first!



**Fun is in the air!** Enjoy Historic Bluff Country's numerous group-friendly festivals and events year-round. Starting in May, your group can experience Trout Days (Preston), Syttende Mai Fest (May) the 4th of July Parade and Fireworks display (Harmony), or the old-fashioned Independence Day celebration at Forestville, Bluff Country's living history museum. Throughout the season there's so much variety that groups will enjoy, you won't believe it! Enjoy a Hot Air Balloon rally, a county fair, a Henrik Ibsen festival, a threshing festival, an antique treasure hunt, classic car shows, a festival honoring Buffalo Bill, others for owls, steam engines, culture, Christmas parades, and the arts, or even a special walk through a storied cemetery!

**Guess What? Give your group a totally unique MYSTERY TOUR in Historic Bluff Country!** Think of your favorite horse pasture. That's right, in Spring Grove, MN your group can have a wonderful meal and enjoy a Broadway Musical you won't forget. All while your group is seated comfortably under the stars! Ye Olde Opera House has been entertaining groups in their horse pasture for over 25 years.

All of this right here in Southeastern Minnesota's Historic Bluff Country! For more information, contact your tour operator, or for about specific festivals and to help make arrangements for your group, call 1-800-428-2030, or [www.bluffcountry.com](http://www.bluffcountry.com).

### 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](mailto:americinnw@lakes.com) / [www.americinn.com](http://www.americinn.com)

64 rooms- beautifully decorated theme suites with fireplaces and whirlpools. Welcoming lobby with fireplace and cozy conservation areas. Free enhanced continental breakfast. Enjoy our spacious recreation area with pool, whirlpool and sauna. Rooms starting at \$65 plus tax.

AmericInn Motel & Suites Austin ..... **507-437-7337**

AmericInn of Kasson Kasson ..... **507-634-3444**

AmericInn of Owatonna Owatonna ..... **507-455-1142**

► **St. James Hotel** ..... **651-385-5541**

406 Main Street - Red Wing, MN 55066 / [www.st-james-hotel.com](http://www.st-james-hotel.com)

Experience the charm of historic Red Wing with the classic elegance of the St. James Hotel. Choose from 61 enchanting Victorian guestrooms, each named after a 19th century riverboat, & four distinct dining options.

### ATTRACTIONS

Historic Forestville Preston ..... **507-765-2785**

Orphanage Museum Owatonna ..... **800-423-6466**

Village of Yesteryear Owatonna ..... **507-451-1420**

Watkins Museum & Store Winona ..... **507-457-6095**

Winona County Historical Society Winona ..... **507-454-2723**

### CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

► **Austin CVB** ..... **507-437-4563**

104 11th Avenue NW Suite D - Austin, MN 55912 ..... **800-444-5713**

[visitor@austinmn.com](mailto:visitor@austinmn.com) / [www.spamtownusa.com](http://www.spamtownusa.com)

SPAM Town, USA. Southern Minnesota Tourism at its best! Home of Fortune 500 Company Hormel Food Corporation. Tourists will be delighted with the new SPAM Museum, Historic Hormel Home, Paramount Theatre, other exciting attractions. **E, GT, MG, YR**

► **Faribault Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau** ..... **507-334-4381**  
 530 Wilson Avenue - Faribault, MN 55021 ..... **800-658-2354**

[chamber@faribaultmn.org](mailto:chamber@faribaultmn.org) / [www.visitfaribault.com](http://www.visitfaribault.com)

Faribault is located south of the Twin Cities along the Cannon River Valley corridor only 25 minutes on Hwy 35W. Whether you stay for a day or overnight, you'll be surprised by the choices in Faribault.

► **Historic Bluff Country** ..... **800-428-2030**

PO Box 609 - Harmony, MN 55939 / [www.bluffcountry.com](http://www.bluffcountry.com)

Discover the magic of Bluff Country, where you can indulge in your favorite activities amid magnificent wooden terrain and picturesque communities. Call 800-428-2030 for a free guide for all of Bluff Country.



Root River Trail



Lanesboro



Amish Country

► **Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce** ..... **507-467-2696**

PO Box 348 - Lanesboro, MN 55949 ..... **800-944-2670**

[lvc@acegroup.cc](mailto:lvc@acegroup.cc) / [www.lanesboro.com](http://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 Area Chamber of Commerce** ..... **507-645-5604**

205 3rd Street West Suite A - Northfield, MN 55057 ..... **800-658-2548**

[info@northfieldchamber.com](mailto:info@northfieldchamber.com) / [www.visitingnorthfield.com](http://www.visitingnorthfield.com)

Enjoy the beauty and hospitality of this charming, historic river city that offers guided tours, entertainment, shopping, dining, lodging, meeting and event accommodations, recreation, culture and history. Only 25 miles from Twin Cities.

► **Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce** ..... **507-451-7970**

320 Hoffman Drive - Owatonna, MN 55060 ..... **800-423-6466**

[www.owatonna.org](http://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.

► **Red Wing Visitors & Convention Bureau** ..... **651-385-5934**

420 Levee Street - Red Wing, MN 55066 ..... **800-498-3444**

[kathy@redwing.org](mailto:kathy@redwing.org) / [www.redwing.org](http://www.redwing.org)

WOW! Describes the beauty of a 150 year old rivertown. Features Pottery and Shoes for decades with unique specialty & antique stores, Sheldon Theatre and the Historical St James Hotel. Truly a WOW destination!

► **Visit Winona** ..... **507-452-0735**

67 Main Street - Winona, MN 55987 / [www.visitwinona.com](http://www.visitwinona.com) ..... **800-657-4972**

Charming historic river town with a big heart offers guided tours, scenic beauty, recreation, professional theater/arts, shopping, and great festivals/events and attractions. Offering Paddlewheel steamboat cruises, Stained Glass Tour, Amish Tours, & Great River Shakespeare's Festival.

► **Wabasha-Kellogg Chamber/CVB** ..... **651-565-4158**

PO Box 105 - Wabasha, MN 55981 / [www.wabashamn.org](http://www.wabashamn.org) ..... **800-565-4158**

Located on the Mississippi River, featuring The National Eagle Center, The Lark Toy Company, and The Historic Anderson House. Step-on guide available upon request.

### ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER

► **Jon Hassler Theater** ..... **507-534-2900**

412 West Broad Street, PO Box 276 - Plainview, MN 55964 ..... **866-548-7469**

[chmartin63@yahoo.com](mailto:chmartin63@yahoo.com) / [www.jonhasslertheater.org](http://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**

### RESTAURANTS

The Pizza Ranch Owatonna ..... **507-449-9990**



Native Prairies

# Welcome to Southwestern Minnesota!

Minneapolis Falls



ALBERT LEA  
 APPLETON  
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 MANKATO  
 MARSHALL  
 MONTEVIDEO  
 MORTON  
 MOUNTAIN LAKE  
 NEW ULM  
 ORTONVILLE  
 PIPESTONE  
 REDWOOD FALLS  
 SAINT PETER  
 WALNUT GROVE  
 WASECA  
 WILLMAR  
 WINDOM  
 WORTHINGTON

SW REGION CITIES

## calendar of events

- april*
- 27-29 **30th Annual Pioneer Power Swap Meet**, Le Sueur 507-931-2296
- 28-29 **Salt Lake Bird Watching Weekend**, Madison 320-598-7301
- may*
- 4-6 **Maifest**, New Ulm 507-233-4300
- 5 **6th Annual Wings On The Prairie**, Windom 507-831-2220
- june*
- 1-3 **Buffalo Days**, Luverne 507-283-4061
- 1-15 **West Central Dairy Days**, Willmar 320-231-8112
- 8-10 **MN Inventors Congress/50th Inventors Expo**, Redwood Falls 800-INV-ENT1
- 8-10 **Sesquicentennial Celebration**, Fairmont 507-235-5164
- 8-10 **Windsurfing Regatta & Unvarnished Music Festival**, Worthington 800-279-2919
- 11-17 **Annual Jaycee Water Carnival**, Hutchinson 800-572-6689
- 17 **Festival of Bands**, Albert Lea 800-345-8414
- 20-22, 27-28 **Song of Hiawatha Pageant**, Pipestone 507-825-3316
- 22-24 **Whisky Ditch Motorcycle Rally**, Worthington 507-372-2919
- july*
- 3-4 **4th of July Celebration**, Albert Lea 800-345-8414
- 4 **4th of July Music Festival & Fireworks**, Fairmont 800-657-3280
- 6-8 **Redwood County Fair**, Redwood Falls 800-657-7070
- 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 **Wilder Pageant**, Walnut Grove 888-859-3102
- 12-14 **SonShine Music Festival**, Willmar 320-235-6723
- 13-15 **Park Days/Madelia's 150th Anniversary Celebration**, Madelia 888-941-7283
- 20-22 **Bavarian Blast**, New Ulm 507-233-3867
- 31-Aug5 **Freeborn County Fair**, Albert Lea 800-345-8414
- august*
- 3-5 **Giant Celebration**, Le Sueur 507-665-2501
- 5-7 **Hickory St. Ribfest**, Mankato 507-345-4519
- 8-12 **Nobles County Fair**, Worthington 507-376-5143

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

[escortnotes.com](http://escortnotes.com)

## Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway

330 miles – Follow a series of highways along the Mississippi River between Brown's Valley on the western border of the state to Belle Plaine.

Called one of the best National Scenic Byways in America, see historic sites and museums telling the story of the area's Dakota people and pioneer settlers. [www.mnrivervalley.com](http://www.mnrivervalley.com)

## other scenic byways & historic highways in southwest minnesota

### Colleges, Cows & Corn 72 Miles

Meander through rolling farmlands, historic towns including the Alexander Faribault House in Faribault and an 1870's steam-powered sawmill near St. Peter. [www.visitfaribault.com](http://www.visitfaribault.com)

### Glacial Ridge Trail Scenic Byway 245 miles

Several loops in the countryside between Willmar and Glenwood, with extensions to Alexandria and Sauk Centre. Numerous lakes are sprinkled among hills and ridges carved by glaciers long ago. Take a home tour of Nobel Prize novelist Sinclair Lewis and see the famed Kensington Runestone. [www.willmar.com](http://www.willmar.com)

### King of Trails Scenic Byway 414 miles

Follow highway 75 (north-south) in Western Minnesota the entire length of the state to Canada. Originally a major Indian trail, you'll find many treasures,

including the Pipestone National Monument, a buffalo herd, fields of massive wind turbines, and 19th Century architecture. [www.highway75.com](http://www.highway75.com)

### Luverne – Lake Shetek – Walnut Grove 115 Miles

Wind through southwestern Minnesota cross windswept ridges and fertile valleys thick with crops and remnants of the tallgrass prairie that greeted the pioneers in their wagons. [www.pipestoneminnesota.com](http://www.pipestoneminnesota.com)

### The Sioux Trail: New Ulm to Lac Qui Parle 120 miles

Nature and birding await visitors on this byway filled with Native American history. Part of a National Scenic Byway along the broad, lush valley of the Minnesota River. See historic sites including Fort Ridgely, the restored Harkin general store; and the Chippewa Pioneer Village. [www.newulm.com](http://www.newulm.com)



For more Minnesota Scenic Byway information go to [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) and [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org).



*Rediscover an old friend with a new twist.*

This itinerary is best Summer, Fall or Spring. You'll find it at coordinates G-17 & E-16 on your 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2007 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

How about a destination you may have seen before, but never fails to impress group visitors and always offers surprising new twists? Welcome to the **Minnesota River Valley NATIONAL Scenic Byway**. Or, should we say, welcome back.

**9:30 – 10:00 am**

Start your day with a stop at the **Visitor Center in New Ulm**. They'll greet you by rolling out a real red carpet and then offer mini-apple strudel, coffee and lemonade as your costumed guide welcomes you.

**10 – 12:30 pm**

The guide will then lead the group on a two-hour tour of this charming town, explaining sites associated with this city's strong German heritage, the role of the Minnesota River in the town's settlement and her part in the Dakota Conflict of 1862. End the tour with a mini-concert by the **Concord Singers** in front

of the performing **Glockenspiel**.

**12:30 – 2:00 pm**

Settle in with a variety of lunch choices. After eating, allow a little time for visiting some of the many specialty shops, including unique import stores, before leaving town.

**2 – 2:45 pm**

Drive the Scenic Byway north of New Ulm to visit the 1870s-era **Harkin Store** and discover this charming general store that opened over 100 years ago.

**2:45 – 3:15 pm**

Follow the Byway upriver to **Redwood Falls** for a variety of nearby attractions.

**3:15 – 6:00 pm**

Complete your day with a city tour with a stop at **Ramsey Park** to see the waterfalls and zoo, the nearby **Gillfillan Estate Farm Museum** and the smile-inducing **Rich-Nes Alpaca Farm**.

For more information or to customize this itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Terry, New Ulm CVB, 888-463-9856.



Glockenspiel

**Want  
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**New Ulm offers new "Hub & Spoke" Itineraries**

Remember the great time your group had the last time they came to New Ulm? Come again with new things to see!

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Ask for the new "Hub and Spoke" brochure – today!

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- Farm Tours
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- Museum & Cathedral
- Vineyard Tours

**New Ulm C.V.B. • 1-888-463-9856 • nuchamber@newulmtel.net • www.newulm.com**



# FAIRMONT celebrates 150 years!

Head to Fairmont, Minnesota as part of the festive "City of Lakes" Sesquicentennial. Join us for great food, fun and educational activities all happening June 8-10, 2007.



Discover three full days with a little something for everyone. A host of festivities await you including ghost tours, trolley rides, stage entertainment, a tractor pull, quilt show and much more. Enjoy a variety of delicious summer foods and great entertainment throughout the weekend. Make sure to get a good spot at the best parade in Southern MN on Saturday, June 9 at 6:00 p.m. Whether you celebrate for the day or stay for the weekend, there's a ton to see and do. For more information, contact Fairmont CVB: 800-657-3280.

*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 F-14 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in this issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### DAY ONE

#### 12 - 1:30 pm

Roll into **Willmar** and enjoy lunch at one of our many fine restaurants. From soups and salads to 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 contains 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 full menu that includes everything

from Italian pastas to steaks, seafood and everything in between.

#### 7 - 9:00 pm

Witness the award-winning **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.

#### 9:30 - 10:30 pm

Willmar's own, "**The Classics**" provide the evening's entertainment with Rat Pack-style 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.

#### 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. 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 at one of Willmar's many group-friendly restaurants.

#### 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 impressive 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, and before you know it 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 rival many 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.



## The Only Thing Missing is You.

Halfway between Chicago and the Black Hills lies Fairmont, Minnesota. For information on things to see and do in

Fairmont, call 1-800-657-3280 or visit [www.fairmontcvb.com](http://www.fairmontcvb.com).



# WILLMAR

## Lakes Area

See You in Willmar!

**Willmar**  
Lakes Area  
Kandiyohi County



Willmar Lakes Area CVB | 2104 Highway 12 East | Willmar, MN 56201 | 800-845-8747 ext 603 | [www.willmar.com](http://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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2100 East Hwy 12 • Willmar, MN 56201  
**320-235-6060** • [www.torgersonproperties.com](http://www.torgersonproperties.com)



R.D. Hubbard House



## Take a Drive Back in History

This itinerary is best on a Saturday and follows the Minnesota River Valley Byway. You'll find it at coordinates F-16 on the 2007 Annual Showcase Group Travel Map distributed in fall 2006 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### DAY ONE

#### 12 – 1:00 pm

We start off our trip in **St. Peter** at the **Soderland Pharmacy Museum**. Once an early 19th century pharmacy, this museum has retained the looks of the old shop and soda fountain. All visitors are treated to 1919 Root Beer on tap and learn about the importance of the small town pharmacy in America.

#### 1 – 2:30 pm

Thirty minutes from St Peter you'll arrive in **Mankato** to tour the **R.D. Hubbard house**, a truly beautiful house to behold. It's been restored to its 1905 splendor with Tiffany lamps and marble fireplaces. The stables out back hold classic cars and horse drawn carriages, while award winning gardens grace the estate.

#### 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Visit the oldest brewery in Minnesota; the **Schell Brewery** will take sightseers on a one-hour tour to show off the process used to make this flavorful, award-winning brew.

#### 4 – 6:30 pm

Travel to **Morton** and check-in to **Lower Sioux Lodge** at **Jackpot Junction Hotel & Casino**. Then head downstairs to the **Carousel Buffet** for dinner. The restaurant offers

all kinds of entrees in an amusing, fair themed setting complete with carousel horses.

#### 6:30 pm

Take the rest of the night off to play the slots, yell "BINGO", take in a show, or just retire to your room for a peaceful night's rest.

### DAY TWO

#### 10 – 11:00 am

Walk down to **Dakotah Restaurant** and enjoy a big, hot breakfast before the bus departs for another day.

#### 11 – 12:30 pm

The **Redwood County Historical Museum** offers a unique look at many of the different inventions that got their start in Minnesota. While some are the genius ideas of our time, others just never caught on and are known only to those who visit.

Continue your drive along the **MN River Valley Road!!!**

For more information on this sample itinerary contact **Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel**, 800-946-0077 or **Minnesota River Valley Byway**, [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org).



## America's Dreamtown

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates D-17 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

Recently named one of America's *Best Small Towns*, **Marshall** offers a fun and memorable time to groups.

### DAY ONE

**9 – 10:30 am**

**Planetarium:** this tour includes the Spitz 512 star projector system with a 30-foot dome where the night sky, past present or future, can be accurately simulated.

**10:30 – 12:00 pm**

**Schwan's Corporate Museum:** get a closer look at how this company has impacted the region and the industry.

**12 – 1:30 pm**

Lunch at the **Landmark Bistro**, a unique upscale dining experience in a warm contemporary setting. Located on the ground-level floor of a historic 1926 downtown building, this eatery features a display kitchen and inviting lounge with fireplace, wood floors, and high ceilings.

**1:30 – 3:00 pm**

Leisure shopping time in downtown Marshall. Check out **Forever Sara** for a variety of fine antiques, home décor or gift items, then head on over to **Orphanage Antiques** with its display area covering two floors.

**3 – 4:40 pm**

**Lyon County Museum:** a comprehensive history of the county, an American Indian artifacts exhibit, and a centerpiece exhibit of the 1950's including a real soda fountain! Allow time to relax with an old fashioned ice cream treat.

**4:40 – 5:30 pm**

Check in to the **Best Western Inn**, Marshall's only full service hotel offering free high-speed internet.

**6:30 pm**

Enjoy a satisfying dinner at the hotel restaurant.

### DAY TWO

**8 – 9:00 am**

Complimentary breakfast at the hotel before checking out

**9 – 12:00 pm**

**Red Baron Museum:** Take a ride with the Red Baron himself in the Imersa-Dome, then hop onto the MaxiFlight simulator and see how it feels to fly a Stearman biplane, ride a rollercoaster, or fight in combat. Dress as a Red Baron pilot and say "pizza" as you smile for the camera.

**12 – 3:00 pm**

**Holmberg Orchard** and its seasonal **Apple Core Lunch Stand:** tour through the orchard and sample a variety of delicious apples. Visit the old Posen Township schoolhouse for a slice of warm apple pie while browsing country-style gifts.

For more information or to customize this tour for you group, contact your tour operator or Andrea at The Schwan Historical Museum, 507-537-8236.

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Red Baron Museum® facility

Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday, Monday and all major holidays.



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## Gardens & Seas in Albert Lea

This itinerary works best during Spring & Summer. You'll find it at coordinates I-19 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

### 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Start your day off right with a **Historic City Tour of Albert Lea**. On this tour you'll see the beautiful historic buildings of downtown, our two spectacular lakes and much more.

### 12 – 1:00 pm

The **Itasca Rock Garden** is a privately owned garden that's a must see. In this garden you'll see two small structures resembling castles, two stone bridges and a pond.

### 1 – 3:30 pm

Enjoy a fabulous lunch at the **Turtle Dove Tea House**. After lunch be prepared to take notes at a basic rock gardening session put on by an area expert. Before leaving the Turtle Dove be sure to enjoy shopping in the beautiful 1880's Victorian home and visit the gardens and babbling brook outside.

### 3:30 – 4:00 pm

Continue your quaint shopping across the street from the Turtle Dove Tea House at **Something Special in the Nest**. This specialty shop is nestled in the oldest church in Albert Lea. The age-old charm included in this building is the plank floors, and high curved ceilings.



### 4 – 6:00 pm

Visit two of Albert Lea's most beautiful privately owned gardens. Whether you visit a water garden, perennial garden, annual floral garden, or rock garden, we have chosen Albert Lea's very finest. Gardens and floral types may change due to the time of year the tour takes place. Enjoy the colors, senses and smells of the season.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group please contact your tour operator or the Albert Lea CVB, 800-345-8414.



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

800-345-8414  
albertleatourism.org

## It's okay to be different. And kinda fun.

This sample itinerary is best April through October. You'll find it at coordinates I-17 on your 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

### 10 – 12:00 pm

Tour the **Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History**, in

the friendly Czech town of **Montgomery, MN**. Find a place filled with unnatural attractions sure to tickle your funny bone! Dr. Monty Gomery PHD (Promulgator of "Honzonian" Data), and distinguished graduate of ISD (Imaginary State University) will be your personal tour conductor.

### 12 – 1:00 pm

Enjoy a mouth-watering, Czech heritage meal, pork &

dumplings or soup & salad at the Museum.

### 1 – 2:00 pm

Follow it up with a variety show that highlights superb talent featuring original and familiar music, story telling and family string players.

### 2 – 3:00 pm

See the world-famous wood carving artist, **Marvin Kaisersatt**. Take a look at his numerous creations that are showcased in his studio. Located next to the museum.

### 4 – 5:00 pm

After enjoying colorful "Honzonian" artifacts, stop at **Big Honza's Malt Shoppe & Bunzo Factory**. A quaint coffee shop serving salads, soups, sandwiches and, of course, Bunzos (descriptions available in person). Also featuring European specialty coffees, ethnic pastries, malts, plus souvenirs and unique gifts.

### 5:00 pm

Begin your trip home, exhilarated, and perhaps enlightened.

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

**Big Honza's Malt Shoppe & Bunzo Factory** **Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History**

Big Honza's favorite spot to eat is located in one of Montgomery's historic buildings in the heart of town. Like the Museum, this unique coffee & gift shop maintains an element of humor - even the restroom is a one-of-a-kind sight!

**Proudly featuring:**

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- Delicious Ethnic Pastries
- Homemade Soups, Salads, & Sandwiches
- Frozen Custard Delights

**Hours:** M-F 7:30 am - 8:00 pm  
Sat 10:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Sun CLOSED  
507-364-7993

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

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

Museum open during Malt Shoppe hours April through October.

Call John Grimm  
**612-756-1075**

info@bighonza.com  
www.bighonza.com



## ACCOMMODATIONS

AmericInn Belle Plaine	592-873-6017
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
Microtel Inn & Suites Springfield	507-723-8200

## ATTRACTIONS

▶ <b>Big Honza's Museum of Unnatural History</b>	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. <b>AC, E, GB, GD, GT, H, MG, PM, PO</b>	
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
▶ <b>Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel</b>	507-644-7814
PO Box 420 - Morton, MN 56270 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. <b>AC, AS, CA, DC, DF, E, GB, GD, H, KO, MG, 24, YR, PM, PO, RO, SA, SP</b>	
Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site Comfrey	507-628-5591
Lac qui Parle Mission Montevideo	320-269-7636
Little Crow Ski Team New London	320-354-5684
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

▶ <b>Albert Lea Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	507-373-2316
143 West Clark Street - Albert Lea, MN 56007 alcvb.smg.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.	
▶ <b>Fairmont Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	507-235-8585
PO Box 976 - Fairmont, MN 56031 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!!!"	
▶ <b>Hutchinson Area Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	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™!	
▶ <b>Luverne Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB</b>	507-283-4061
211 E Main - Luverne, MN 56156 luvernechamber@iw.net / www.luvernechamber.org Visit Minnesota's Prairie Playground including Blue Mounds State Park, Touch The Sky Prairie, Brandenburg Gallery, Prairie Heights Bison and a variety of prairie related points of interest.	

▶ <b>Morton Chamber of Commerce</b>	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.	
▶ <b>Pipestone Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	507-825-3316
117 8th Ave SE - Pipestone, MN 56614 pipecham@pipestoneminnesota.com / www.pipestoneminnesota.com Song of Hiawatha Pageant held at a small quarry lake on a natural amphitheater. Reserved seating for 1,200...late July/early August. Red Hat Extravaganza and Keepers Traditional PowWow on July 28, 2007. <b>E, GD, GT, H, YR, PM, PO, RN</b>	

▶ <b>Redwood Falls Area Chamber and Tourism</b>	507-637-2828
200 South Mill Street, PO Box 21 - Redwood Falls, MN 56283 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.	

▶ <b>Willmar Lakes Area Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	800-845-8747
2104 Highway 12 East - Willmar, MN 56201 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.	

▶ <b>Worthington Area Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	507-372-2919
1121 Third Avenue - Worthington, MN 56187 wcofc@frontiernet.net / www.worthingtonmnchamber.com We welcome you to the Windsurfing Regatta, International Festival, Whiskey Ditch Motorcycle Rally, and King Turkey Day. Let us assist you in finding places to visit, sleep, eat, and shop.	

## ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER

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

## RESTAURANTS

Green Mill Willmar	320-231-2301
▶ <b>The Pizza Ranch</b>	
www.pizzaranch.com At any of these Central & Southern Minnesota locations: Delano, Luverne, Olivia, Tyler, Edgerton, Montevideo, Owatonna, Waconia, Glencoe, New Prague, Redwood Falls, Waseca, Le Sueur, Norwood - Young America, Slayton, Worthington, Litchfield. Visit our website for specials and phone numbers.	
The Pizza Ranch Edgerton	507-442-3811
The Pizza Ranch Glencoe	320-864-5321
The Pizza Ranch Le Sueur	507-665-2222
The Pizza Ranch Litchfield	320-693-9393
The Pizza Ranch Luverne	507-283-2379
The Pizza Ranch Montevideo	320-269-6738
The Pizza Ranch New Prague	952-759-9440
The Pizza Ranch Olivia	320-523-2270
The Pizza Ranch Redwood Falls	507-644-5936
The Pizza Ranch Slayton	507-836-8856
The Pizza Ranch Tyler	507-247-5999
The Pizza Ranch Waseca	507-833-9080
The Pizza Ranch Worthington	507-376-3711



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- PERHAM
- RED LAKE FALLS
- ROSEAU
- SAUK CENTRE
- ST. CLOUD
- THIEF RIVER FALLS
- VERGAS
- WALKER

calendar of events

- april*
- 25-May 30 **International Migratory Bird Day**, Fergus Falls 218-736-0938
- 29 **Mississippi Music Fest**, St. Cloud 320-328-2205
- may*
- 12 **International Migratory Bird Day**, Zimmerman 877-721-4295
- 17-09 **Waters of the Dancing Sky Wildlife Festival**, Baudette 800-382-3474
- 17-20 **Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds**, Detroit Lakes 800-542-3992
- june*
- 7-30 (Wed-Sat) **"The Nerd" Long Lake Theater**, Park Rapids 218-732-0099
- 9 **Great American Think-Off**, New York Mills 218-385-3339
- 16 **Wild Flower Route Celebration**, Baudette 218-386-2477
- 22-24 **Lake 'n Pine Craft Fair**, Park Rapids 800-247-0054
- 22 **Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival**, Moorhead 218-299-5452
- 24 **Swedish Midsommar Festival**, Bemidji 218-444-3469
- july*
- 4 **Old Fashioned 4th of July**, Baudette 800-382-3474
- 7 **72nd Annual Northwest Water Carnival**, Detroit Lakes 800-542-3992
- 14-15 **Phelps Mill Festival**, Fergus Falls 218-739-5377
- 18-21 **10,000 Lakes Fest**, Detroit Lakes 800-493-3378
- 21-22 **40th Annual Art in the Park**, Bemidji 218-444-7570
- august*
- 9-25 (Wed-Sat) **"Greater Tuna" Long Lake Theater**, Park Rapids 218-732-0099
- 11-12 **This Old Farm Pioneer Village Festival**, Brainerd 218-829-2838
- 24-25 **Potato Days Festival**, Barnesville 800-525-4901

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

escortnotes.com



Itasca State Park

## Lake Country Scenic Byway

88 miles – Follow Hwy 34 from Detroit Lakes to Walker, and a spur north from Park Rapids to Itasca State Park on Hwy 71.

Travel through large expanses of tall pine, ending at Leech Lake. See the birthplace of the Mississippi River in Itasca State Park. [www.lakecountyscenicbyway.com](http://www.lakecountyscenicbyway.com)

### other scenic byways & historic highways in northwest minnesota

#### Avenue of Pines Scenic Byway 46 miles

Highway 46 between Deer River and Northome, through beautiful Chippewa National Forest, by many lakes including the huge Lake Winnibigoshish. [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)

#### Glacial Ridge Trail Scenic Byway 245 miles

From Willmar to Glenwood, Alexandria and Sauk Centre, see unique landscapes carved by glaciers long ago. Visit museums, home tours, the Kensington Runestone and more. [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)

#### Great River Road 320 miles

Start at Lake Itasca where the Mississippi River begins and wade across the young river. Travel through woods, cities, and 7 state parks to the Twin Cities. [www.mnmississippiriver.com](http://www.mnmississippiriver.com)

#### King of Trails Scenic Byway 414 miles

Follow highway 75 in southern Minnesota the entire length of the state to Canada. Originally a major Indian trail, visit the Pipestone National Monument, a buffalo herd, and hundreds of massive wind turbines. [www.highway75.com](http://www.highway75.com)

#### Ladyslipper Scenic Byway 28 miles

On Hwy 39 between Blackduck and Hwy 2; about 25 miles east of Bemidji through the Chippewa National Forest, crossing the Mississippi River as it flows from Cass Lake as a small stream. [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)

#### Otter Tail Scenic Byway 150 miles

Linking Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids, Perham and Battle Lake.

This circular drive in pastoral Otter Tail county visits 2 state parks and Inspiration Peak's scenic overlook. [www.visitfergusfalls.com](http://www.visitfergusfalls.com)

#### Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway 54 miles

A double-circle route from Pequot Lakes to Crosslake, 30 miles north of Brainerd. Named for the legendary giant lumberjack, find great birding, biking trails and Paul's fishing bobber (Pequot Lakes' water tower). [www.paulbunyanascenicbyway.org](http://www.paulbunyanascenicbyway.org)

#### Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway 229 miles

Across the top of Minnesota mostly on Hwy 11 through Baudette and Int'l Falls. The roadside blooms with wildflowers (including Ladyslippers) and Voyageurs National Park is a series of near-wilderness lakes best explored via excursion boat. [www.watersofthedancingsky.org](http://www.watersofthedancingsky.org)

#### Walleye Way 80 miles

Scenic drive passing through farm towns and lake areas. As this beautiful 80-mile route threads through innumerable lakes, remember to fish for walleye on Mille Lacs Lake. [www.millelacs.com](http://www.millelacs.com)

#### Headwaters Lake 130 miles

Scenic drive through large expanses of forest and onto the Great River Road. A 130-mile circuit traversing rolling expanses of forests, lakes and wildflowers. [www.parkrapidscvb.com](http://www.parkrapidscvb.com)



For more Minnesota Scenic Byway information go to [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) and [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org).



## ITOW In Their Own Words



One of the most memorable museums you will ever visit, an experience that will have your group talking for years afterwards, is located right in the heart of lake country. ITOW, In Their Own Words, is a Veterans museum, but it's not like any you've ever visited. Based on recorded interviews of veterans, Perham's newest museum offers a unique opportunity for group tours. Instead of paintings hanging on the walls, you'll find screens with recorded tales told by the veterans themselves. There's a WWII fox hole complete with simulated bombs and shaking floor. Allow your group plenty of time, as this is so moving they will be captivated by the entire experience. Veterans and auxiliary members will be on hand to greet you. You might also choose to stay for lunch in the mess hall, served in mess kits, or arrange for lectures by visiting scholars. There is also a small gift shop. Call Millie to arrange a very special tour tailored for your group, 218-346-7676.

In Their Own Words...  
A Veterans Museum

805 West Main  
Perham, Minnesota  
218.346.7678

OPEN  
Mon-Sat 10-5, Sunday 1-4

General Admission \$4.00  
Free admission for Veterans

www.ITOWmuseum.org

## Explore the Road to Itasca...and Beyond

We invite you to discover the old-fashioned charm of the Lake Country Scenic Byway. You'll travel 88 miles through prime northern Minnesota vacation country. The Byway unites the famed vacation areas of Walker, Park Rapids and Detroit Lakes along Highway 34 and scenic Itasca State Park on Highway 71 north.

### Here's Some Of What You'll Discover When You Travel The Lake Country Scenic Byway...

- Itasca State Park-famed source of the Mississippi Headwaters
- Over 1,000 crystal clear lakes, rivers and streams along the Byway
- Premier hiking and biking trails, including the Heartland and Paul Bunyan Trails
- One of the state's best birding and wildlife regions, with the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and the nation's largest breeding population of bald eagles in The Chippewa National Forest.
- Unique attractions, events, festivals and much more!



**Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber**  
1-800-542-3992

**Park Rapids Area Chamber**  
1-800-247-0054

**Leech Lake Chamber, Walker**  
1-800-833-1118

**For more information** visit the Web site at: [www.lakecountryscenicbyway.com](http://www.lakecountryscenicbyway.com) or call **Itasca State Park**, 1-218-266-2100, or one of the Chambers of Commerce listed at right.





## Lake Country Scenic Byway



This itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates D-9, F-9 and G-8 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

This 88-mile adventure takes you from tall grass prairies to deciduous forests.

### DAY ONE

11 – Noon

**Cass County Museum** in Walker provides insight into the original inhabitants of the county — the Ojibwe.

Noon – 3:30 pm

After lunch in Walker, stroll their sidewalk shops, then head north to **Forestedge Winery**. Along the way, look for the **Chippewa National Forest's** majestic bald eagles.

3:30 – 4:45 pm

Next stop: **Red River Museum** in Akeley, home of the 50-foot statue of **Paul Bunyan**. Be sure to look for the sunbather on **Hooch Lake**.

4:45 – 6:00 pm

See the world's largest Tiger Muskie as you travel through **Nevis**. Just north is the **Northland Bison Ranch**. Ride a small bus right into the herd!

6:00 pm

Your next stop is **Dorset** — the "Restaurant Capital of the World," for an evening meal and window-shopping. Check into a **Park Rapids** hotel.

### DAY TWO

9 – 1:00 pm

After breakfast, head north to **Itasca State Park**. A step-on guide will join you. Explore the **Mary Gibbs Headwaters Center**, enjoy lunch, and walk to the **Mississippi Headwaters**.

1 – 2:30 pm

Before heading west, visit the many unique shops in **Park Rapids**.

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Pass the tall pines of the **Smokey Hills State Forest**, and arrive at **Aho Dairy**, to see how this family dairy delivers over 3,500 gallons of milk a day from 500 Holstein cows.

4:30 – 5:00 pm

Arrive in **Detroit Lakes**.

5 – 9:00 pm

See 40 hand-decorated four-foot sunfish around the city, and enjoy the sunset over dinner and beautiful **Detroit Lake** before turning in at an area hotel.

### DAY THREE

9 – 10:00 am

After breakfast, visit **Pet Care Systems** on the north side. See how wheat from area farmers is made into environmentally friendly kitty litter.

10 – 1:00 pm

Explore the **Becker County Museum**, tour the **Historic Holmes Theatre** and afterwards, dine in their ballroom.

1 – 4:30 pm

Exit on the **Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge**. With over 43,000 acres, you're likely to see abundant wildlife and birds.

For more information on this sample itinerary call your tour operator or the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce, 800-542-3992; Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, 800-247-0054 or the Leech Lake Chamber in Walker, 800-833-1118.



## THE LANDMARK

It's not often you get to see a quaint country church perched on wheels and rolled down Broadway, but that's exactly the sight Park Rapids area folks were treated to in 2005 when a group of concerned individuals saved the former United Methodist Church from demolition. Now in its new home on Beacon Street next to the Long Lake Theater, The Landmark will provide 100 additional seats to theatergoers. With the huge success of the Long Lake Theater, owner Bruce Bolton recognized a need for additional entertainment in the form of a second theater. The grand opening celebration for The Landmark is slated for spring of 2008. While the area's thirst for more shows running simultaneously may not be satisfied till next year, you'll be pleased with the

creativity and talent offered this season.

Long Lake Theater is a summer stock theater located at the south end of Long Lake in Historic Downtown Hubbard, about eight miles south of Park Rapids. Showcasing a wide range of talented actors, directors, and musicians. This summer's run (2007) includes *The Nerd* in June, *Musical* in July, *Greater Tuna* in August, and *Dog Logic* in September. This small town theater is big on groups, so fill your motor coach and bring your group for a fun and memorable time. Be sure to dine at the *Hilltop Inn* either before or after the show. For more information you can visit [www.longlaketheater.net](http://www.longlaketheater.net). The season is short but the entertainment is big... and getting bigger.



Once upon a Byway

Minneapolis / Fergus Falls / Bemidji / Grand Rapids Loop

This itinerary is best during Summer and Fall. You'll find it at coordinates H-13, C-11, F-7, & I-8 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

**DAY ONE**

9 – 12:00 pm

Depart **Minneapolis** for **Fergus Falls** via I-94 then onto the **Ottertail Scenic Byway**.

12 – 1:30 pm

Lunch in **Battle Lake**.

1:30 – 5:00 pm

Arrive in Fergus Falls and tour **Historic Phelps Mill**.

5 – 6:00 pm

Check into **Best Western Bigwood Event Center**.

6 – 8:00 pm

Dinner at hotel.

**DAY TWO**

8:00 am

Depart Fergus Falls via Hwy 59.

9 – 10:30 am

Check out **Sunfish Capital** with more than 20 sunfish sculptures around town.

10:30 – 11:30 am

Arrive in **Park Rapids** and take Hwy 71, **Lake Country Scenic Byway**, to **Itasca State Park**.

11:30 – 12:30 pm

Enjoy lunch at the **Douglas Lodge** at Itasca State Park.

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Tour Itasca State Park via cruise boat.

2:30 – 3:30 pm

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

3:30 – 5:00 pm

First stop is at **Headwater Science Center**.

5 – 6:00 pm

Check into an area motel.

6 – 7:00 pm

Dinner at the **Country Club** overlooking **Lake Bemidji**.

7 – 8:30 pm

Entertainment from the "**Hickory Wind Trio**," a special performance by the popular 'folk grass' group.

**DAY THREE**

8 – 9:30 am

Depart for **Grand Rapids** via **Great River Road National Scenic Byway**.

9:30 – 11:30 am

Arrive Grand Rapids. Tour **Forest History Center**

guided by lumberjack interpreters.

11:30 – 12:30 am

Lunch at any restaurant.

12:30 – 5:00 pm

Tours for the afternoon include: **Itasca Heritage Center**, **Blandin Paper Mill** and **Hill Annex Mine State Park**.

5:00 – 8:30 pm

Check into **Sawmill Inn**, dine at its cozy restaurant.

8:30 pm

Attend '**Mississippi Melodies Showboat**' performance, an incredible live theater on the banks of the **Mighty River** (July only).

**DAY FOUR**

8:00 am

Depart for **Minneapolis** via **Great River Road National Scenic Byway** or Hwy 169 after breakfast at the hotel.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group contact your tour operator or the Bemidji CVB, 800-458-2223 ext 106; Fergus Falls CVB, 800-726-8959; Itasca State Park, 218-266-2124; Grand Rapids Chamber, 800-335-9740.



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Fergus Falls: Music to your ears. Inside and out.

This itinerary is best Spring through Summer. You'll find it at coordinates C-11 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

11 - 12:00 pm

Bus Arrives. Check into your motel and grab a cup of coffee for orientation.

12 - 1:30 pm

You're in for a treat at Mabel Murphy's Eating Establishment surrounded by the Tudor-style architecture and cozy rooms.

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Tour Otter Tail County Historical Society Museum with its award-winning interpretive exhibits, wildlife, period rooms, agriculture and 1919 Main Street.

3 - 5:00 pm

Explore birding at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, one of 43 birding sites on the Pine to Prairie Birding Trail, covering northwest MN from Fergus Falls to Roseau.

5 - 7:00 pm

Dinner at the hip and cool Jazzy Fox. Enjoy fabulous regional cuisine and dazzling jazz from the piano.

7 - 9:00 pm

Delight in "Songs from the Tall Grass" performed at A Center for the Arts, just one example of their many fabulous touring performances. Afterwards, return to motel.

DAY TWO

8 - 9:00 am

Breakfast at any of several restaurants to be arranged.

9 - 12:00 pm

Travel to Otter Tail Lake and tour breathtaking Lake

Country Gardens on the west end of Otter Tail Lake. Tea and cookie break included.

12 - 5:00 pm

Enjoy lunch and an afternoon of scenic beauty aboard the Otter Tail Cruises touring boat.

5 - 7:00 pm

Dinner at The Peak Supper Club near Urbank. Specialty dishes, turtle, great ribs and buffets. View Inspiration Peak, the second highest elevation in Minnesota.

7:00 pm

Your tummy is full and your journey is complete as you head for home.

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

Waters of the Dancing Sky Byway. Lake of the [incredibly beautiful] Woods.

This sample itinerary is best May through August. You'll find it at coordinates G-3 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

DAY ONE

10:00 am

Make your way East across the top of Minnesota on the Waters of the Dancing Sky Byway; traveling MN Hwy 11 to your first stop in Warroad.

10 - 12:00 pm

Located on the beautiful shores of Lake of the Woods, you'll find the Seven Clans Casino. Stop in and try your luck at one of their slots or blackjack tables!

12 - 1:00 pm

Have a scrumptious lunch in their Lakeview Restaurant.

1 - 2:00 pm

Travel to Baudette; the Walleye Capital of the World.

2 - 2:30 pm

A must see is "Willie" Walleye, the 40-foot mascot at

Bayfront Park. Have your picture taken with him!

2:30 - 4:30 pm

Just as the International Bridge links Minnesota with Ontario at Baudette and Rainy River, the Lake of the Woods County Museum connects visitors with the area's history. View numerous exhibits including a section on settlers from days gone by.

4:30 - 5:00 pm

Continue your journey to the Sportsman's Lodge. Located in a beautiful and remote natural area on Lake of the Woods. Truly a sportsman's paradise!

5:00 pm

Check in to your room with all the comforts of home.

6 - 10:00 pm

Have dinner in one of their two restaurants and relax in

the lounge with the evening's entertainment.

DAY TWO

7:00 am

Rise and Shine for your guided fishing excursion! They pride themselves on offering a professional team of fishing guides, who cater exclusively to your group. With shore lunch of your fresh catch included.

Note: If you'd prefer lodging near town, the AmericInn in Baudette offers quiet rooms, a warm smile, great service, an inviting pool, free breakfast, and quiet nights!

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or the Lake of the Woods Tourism, 800-382-3474.

Advertisement for 'Songs from the Tall Grass' featuring photos of people and text: August 24-26 and September 28-30. Includes logos for Fergus Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau and Explore Minnesota.

Advertisement for Lake of the Woods featuring a photo of a heron and text: Call now for your FREE Getaway Guide 1-800-382-3474. Includes logo for Minnesota Lake of the Woods.



**AC**-Air Conditioned **AS**-Alcohol Served **BH**-Baggage Handling **CA**-Call Ahead **DC**-Dining/Casual **DF**-Dining/Fine **E**-Entertainment **GB**-Group Buffet  
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**PM**-Parking/Motorcoach **PO**-Parking/Onsite **PA**-Pets Allowed **RO**-Restaurant Onsite **RN**-Restaurant Nearby **SA**-Smoking Allowed **SP**-Swimming Pool

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

- AmericInn Alexandria** ..... **320-763-6808**
- AmericInn of Baudette** Baudette ..... **218-634-3200**
- AmericInn of Bemidji** Bemidji ..... **218-751-3000**
- ▶ **Best Western Americanna Inn** ..... **320-252-8700**  
 520 South Hwy 10 – St. Cloud, MN 56304 ..... **800-950-8701**  
 Newly renovated, this hotel offers amenities that every traveler will enjoy. Restaurant/Lounge on Site, Complimentary Continental Breakfast, Wireless HI-Speed Internet, Pool, Sauna, Fitness Room, Meeting Rooms, Catering, & the Friendliest Staff in Town!
- ▶ **Bigwood Event Center - Best Western Hotel** ..... **218-739-2211**  
 921 Western Ave – Fergus Falls, MN 56358 ..... **800-293-2216**  
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**ATTRACTIONS**

- Bemidji Woolen Mills** Bemidji ..... **218-751-5166**
- Covered Wagon Rides** Bemidji ..... **218-243-2231**
- ▶ **ITOW In Their Own Words...A Veterans Museum** ..... **218-346-7678**  
 805 West Main – Perham, MN 56573 – info@itowmuseum.org / www.ITOWmuseum.org  
 Located in the heart of beautiful lake country, Perham's newest museum features unique state-of-the-art exhibits based on the recorded histories of veterans. Lunch in the mess hall is an option for tours.
- ▶ **Lake Country Scenic Byway**  
 PO Box 249 – Park Rapids, MN 56470 / www.lakecountyscenicbyway.com  
 Discover 88 miles in northern vacation country joining Detroit Lakes, Park Rapids, Walker and Itasca State Park. Explore rivers and lakes. Forests and trails. Birding and recreation. Attractions and events. The Mississippi headwaters and small, charming communities.

**CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS**

- ▶ **Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce** ..... **218-847-9202**  
 PO Box 348, 700 Summit Avenue - Detroit Lakes, MN 56502 ..... **800-542-3992**  
 dlchamber@visitdetroitlakes.com / www.visitdetroitlakes.com  
 Live theatre, state's first Birding Trail, Scenic Byway, National Wildlife Refuges, Farm Tours...at Detroit Lakes! East of Fargo, North Dakota 45 miles, or 3 hours northwest of Twin Cities on Highway 10. Dining, shopping, and accommodations.
- ▶ **Fergus Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau** ..... **218-739-0125**  
 112 West Washington Avenue - Fergus Falls, MN 56537 ..... **800-726-8959**  
 cvb@cpinternet.com / www.visitfergusfalls.com  
 Arts, nature and history are sure to please. On I-94, 2 hours NW of Mpls, Fergus Falls is an easy stop to/from Winnepig. Hotels & restaurants eager to host. Call CVB for personalized itineraries.

- ▶ **The Lake of the Woods Tourism** ..... **218-634-1174**  
 PO Box 518 - Baudette, MN 56623 ..... **800-382-3474**  
 www.lakeofthewoodsmin.com  
 No matter what the season, your group will treasure the memories of a true, "Up North" Vacation. This year you could experience legendary Lake of the Woods.
- ▶ **New York Mills Civic & Commerce Association** ..... **218-385-3339**  
 Box 133 - New York Mills, MN 56567  
 info@explorenewyorkmills.com / www.explorenewyorkmills.com  
 New York Mills, gateway to the Finnish Triangle, is home to the Great American Think-Off and Lund Boats. Nearby are 1200 lakes, three state parks, and the best specialty & antique shopping in Central MN.
- ▶ **St. Cloud Area Convention & Visitors Bureau** ..... **320-251-4170**  
 525 Hwy 10, Suite 1 – St. Cloud, MN 56304 ..... **800-264-2940**  
 jean@granitecountry.com / www.granitecountry.com  
 World-class gardens, history that abounds, unique and famous places to visit. Creativity is key to the success of your group tour. The St. Cloud CVB takes pride in helping you plan the perfect St. Cloud getaway.
- ▶ **Visit Bemidji** ..... **218-759-0164**  
 PO Box 66 – Bemidji, MN 56619 ..... **800-458-2223**  
 gayle@visitbemidji.com / www.visitbemidji.com  
 Bemidji is the "First City on the Mississippi". Paul Bunyan and Babe his Blue Ox await your arrival on the shore of Lake Bemidji. Recreational and cultural experiences are available year round.



**ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER**

- ▶ **Long Lake Theater** ..... **218-732-0099**  
 12183 Beacon Road – Park Rapids, MN 56470  
 www.longlaketheater.net  
 Hilarious comedy, zany musicals and heartwarming drama! Now in its 6th season, Long Lake Theater delivers quality, live theater entertainment in an intimate, 100-seat venue. Past performances include "On Golden Pond," "Nunsense" and "Steel Magnolias."  
**AC, AS, GD, H, PM, PO, RN**

**FESTIVALS & EVENTS**

- ▶ **Barnesville Potato Days** ..... **218-354-2888**  
 PO Box 345 – Barnesville, MN 56514 ..... **800-525-4901**  
 spudlady@potatodays.com / www.potatodays.com  
 There's old-fashioned fun in Barnesville as the lowly spud takes center stage for the annual Potato Days Festival. Barnesville is proud to celebrate their potato heritage with two days of "spud"tacluar excitement Aug. 24 & 25, 2007.  
**E, H, KO, MG, PM, RO, RN**



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- HINCKLEY
- INTERNATIONAL FALLS
- LUTSEN
- MCGREGOR
- OAK ISLAND
- ONAMIA
- PRINCETON
- TAYLORS FALLS
- TOTFE
- TWO HARBORS
- VIRGINIA

## calendar of events

- april*
- 19 **Taste of The North**, Two Harbors 218-834-5924
- may*
- 11-13 **Wolves, Eagles and Bears, Oh My!**, Ely 218-365-4695
- 23-27 **Dylan Days**, Hibbing 800-444-8846
- 26 **4th Annual Arts At The Lake**, McGregor 218-426-3648
- june*
- 1-3 **Birders Rendezvous**, International Falls 218-286-5258
- 7-10 **McGregor Area Birding & Nature Festival**, McGregor 877-768-3692
- 8-9 **Iron Range Blast**, Chisholm 763-753-1698
- 8-10 **Judy Garland Festival**, Grand Rapids 218-327-9276
- 15-17 **18th Annual Bluegrass Festival**, Grand Rapids 218-326-4456
- 16-17 **Land of the Loon Arts and Crafts Festival**, Virginia 218-749-5555
- july*
- 3 **Gala Night Parade and Fireworks**, Gilbert 218-748-2232
- 4 **Duluth Fourth Fest**, Duluth 218-722-4011
- Wknds **Mississippi Melodie Steamboat**, Grand Rapids 218-326-4158
- 26-29 **North Shore Dragon Boat Festival**, Grand Marais 888-922-5000
- 27-28 **27th Annual Blueberry Art Festival**, Ely 800-777-7281
- 28 **Rib Fest**, Hinckley 800-996-4566
- 28-29 **Hoyt Lakes Water Carnival**, 218-225-2654
- august*
- 3 **Braham Pie Day**, Braham 320-396-4956
- 10-12 **Rendezvous Days**, Grand Portage 800-543-1384
- 15-19 **115th Itasca County Fair**, Grand Rapids 218-326-6470
- 23-25 **Boundary Waters Blues Festival**, Ely 800-777-7281
- 31-Sep 2 **Bayou Boogie**, Grand Portage 800-543-1384

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

[escortnotes.com](http://escortnotes.com)

## Superior National Forest Scenic Byway

61 miles – Between Silver Bay, Hoyt Lakes, and Aurora.

Aurora see 250-year-old White Pines, linking the Iron Range and the Lake Superior North Shore. [www.superiorbyways.com](http://www.superiorbyways.com)

### other scenic byways & historic highways in northeast minnesota

#### Avenue of Pines Scenic Byway 46 miles

On Highway 46 between Deer River and Northome through the beautiful Chippewa National Forest, by many lakes including Lake Winnibigoshish. [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)

#### Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway 47 miles

On Hwy 38 between Grand Rapids and Effi. This winding, rolling drive passes through Chippewa National Forest. [www.edgeofthewilderness.org](http://www.edgeofthewilderness.org)

#### Gunflint Trail Scenic Byway 57 miles

On County Rd 12 from Grand Marais – road ends at Seagull Lake. Beginning on Lake Superior, this road heads north through the rolling hills and forests of the Superior National Forest. You may see deer, moose, wolves or bear. [www.gunflint-trail.com](http://www.gunflint-trail.com)

#### The Iron Trail 110 miles

See stunning views of huge man-made mini-canyons, mini-mountains, pit lakes created by a century of intensive mining of iron ore. [www.ironrange.org](http://www.ironrange.org)

#### Minnesota Highway 1 68 miles

Bisecting the rugged, heavily-forested Arrowhead region, Highway 1 runs between Ely to Lake Superior. [www.ely.org](http://www.ely.org)

#### North Shore Scenic Byway 154 miles

Duluth to Grand Portage on Hwy 61. The spectacular scenery of the North Shore of Superior, including seven state parks, has earned this byway a national designation as an "All-American Road." More than 100 waterfalls enroute. [www.superiorbyways.com](http://www.superiorbyways.com)

#### Rushing Rapids Scenic Byway 9 miles

9 miles on Hwy 210 between Carlton to Fond du Lac – (SW of Duluth). The St. Louis River tumbles through a rocky gorge in Jay Cooke State Park. Visit several scenic overlooks in the park. [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)

#### St. Croix Scenic Byway 123 miles

Several roadways follow the St Croix River and parallel I-35 north. A wild and scenic river deeply carved into the terrain, the St. Croix flows between wooded riverbanks southward past picturesque rivertowns. [www.stcroixscenicbyway.org](http://www.stcroixscenicbyway.org)

#### Skyline Parkway 38 miles

A high roadway running on a ridge far above Duluth. This roadway above the city of Duluth offers a superb bird's eyeview of the lake, the harbor, and the city. [www.superiorbyways.com](http://www.superiorbyways.com)

#### Veterans Evergreen Memorial Drive 50 miles

On Hwy 23 between I-35 west of Askov to Duluth. With evergreens planted along the road to honor the region's veterans, this country drive is a peaceful alternative to I-35. [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)

#### Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway 220 miles

Running across the top of MN, between International Falls and the ND border. From Voyageurs National Park, a series of near-wilderness lakes, to the North Dakota border. [www.watersofthedancingsky.org](http://www.watersofthedancingsky.org)



For more Minnesota Scenic Byway information go to [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) and [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org).



North Shore Scenic Byway



Photo courtesy of Dennis O'Hara/ML



Photo courtesy of Dennis O'Hara/ML

## GRAND MARAIS: Beautiful things come in small packages.

Some say it takes several hours to get to Grand Marais, and twice as long if you do it right. Why? Because you have to take Minnesota's most popular byway, the North Shore Scenic Drive, to get here. And you'll want to take it all in.

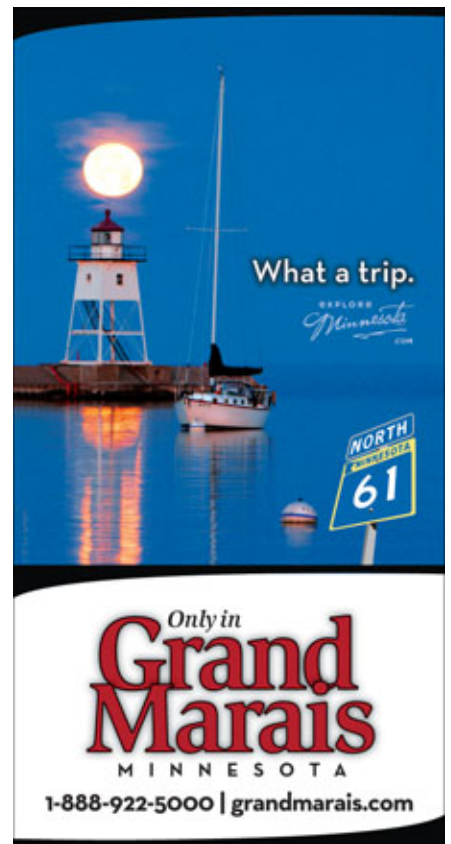
Along this historic stretch of Highway 61, Lake Superior meets the forested Sawtooth Mountains where a world of warm hospitality and unmatched natural beauty awaits you.

Here, you'll find personality in every nook and cranny of this authentic harbor village, from colorful restaurants and impressive galleries to comfortable lodging choices and truly unique shops. For those who want to witness the essence of creativity, you'll find talented casts and undiscovered artists at theatrical performances, concerts, and poetry readings (as well as art classes) with Superior as your natural backdrop.

Just down the road is a wonderful neighboring stretch that shares the title as another of Minnesota's scenic byways — the Gunflint Trail. This famous road is the official foyer to the millions of acres of pristine national forest that make up the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Make the trip to Grand Marais and discover for yourself what happens when rustic meets refined. Just be sure to catch what you missed on the way back home. You'll end up seeing it twice, if you're lucky.

For more information contact Grand Marais Area Tourism Association, 888-922-5000 or visit [www.grandmarais.com](http://www.grandmarais.com).



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For itinerary samples, lodging specials and free Getaway Guide, call **800-777-8497** or visit:



## Discover Northeastern Minnesota's Wild North

This itinerary is best during the week, May – September. You'll find it at coordinates M-6 & K-7 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### DAY ONE

**10 – 11:30 am**

Start your discovery in **Ely** at the **International Wolf Center**. Learn the history of this controversial creature of the north woods through exhibits and presentations. Pre-arranged classes and activities available for groups.

**11:30 – 12:30 pm**

Just East of Ely discover **Dorothy Molter Museum**, and learn about **The Root Beer Lady of Knife Lake**, a true pioneer and last resident of the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness**.

**12:30 – 1:45 pm**

Dine at one of Ely's distinctive eateries.

**1:45 – 5:00 pm**

Shopping galore in Ely, from fine art to Steger mukluks.

**5 – 7:00 pm**

Check into the **Burntside Lodge** before the tour, which offers guided historical pontoon rides on beautiful **Burntside Lake**. Note: must make your appointment beforehand.

### DAY TWO

**8 – 9:00 am**

The lodge offers omelets, thick-sliced cinnamon French

toast, blueberry pancakes and more.

**9 – 9:45 am**

Head south on MN-169 to **Virginia**.

**9:45 – 10:15 am**

Stop at the **Olcott Parks Greenhouse** to witness a bounty of blossoming flowers.

**10:15 – 10:45 am**

Virginia's colorful ethnic history includes **Kaleva Hall** in **Finntown** where you can time your visit for a mid-morning snack of Finnish baked goods (by pre-arrangement).

**10:45 – 11:30 am**

Head south on Hwy 53 to the **Mineview in the Sky** for a 20-story view of the **Rouchleau Mine** group, one of the area's deepest mines.

**11:30 – 1:30 am**

Back on Hwy 53 South to **Eveleth** to see the famed **U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame**. Then witness the 107-foot long **World's Largest Hockey Stick** in downtown.

**1:30 – 2:30 pm**

Head home after lunch in Eveleth/Virginia.

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



**3 – 4:30 pm**

Visit the **Hinckley Fire Museum** and see first hand, the devastation the 1894 fire had on this quaint community. With all the logging towns that sprang up in the late 1800's and the hot, dry summer of 1894, a fire was bound to start. Yet no one suspected that one as big and devastating as the Hinckley fire would ever happen. Over 400 people perished in the blaze and the town was leveled.

**4:30 – 6:00 pm**

Enjoy a picnic dinner at **Memorial Park**, also known around town as "the pit", a place where many citizens took cover during the 1894 fire.

**6:00 pm**

Check into your hotel room at **Grand Casino Hinckley** and enjoy the rest of your night in the Casino. With over 2,100 slots, 28 blackjack tables and a mighty BINGO hall you're sure to win some spending cash, or at least have fun trying.

**Note:** If you're in the Hinckley area on July 28th – join them for their Rib Fest!

For more information or to customize this itinerary contact your tour operator or the Hinckley CVB 800-996-4566 or the Braham Pie Day Office at 320-396-4956.

## Pies, Picnics & Poker

This itinerary is best on the first Friday in August, during **Braham's Annual Pie Day, August 3, 2007**. Braham is known as the **Homemade Pie Capital of Minnesota**. You'll find it at coordinates J-12 and J-13 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota magazine*.

**7 – 8:00 am**

Travel 50 miles north of the Twin Cities and arrive in the city of **Braham** for the **13th Annual Pie Day!** This event includes crafters; small quilts display, a pie art show, unique foods, performances, and demonstrations from folk artists, storytellers, and musicians.

**8 – 11:00 am**

Participate in the amateur pie-baking contest, or stroll around **Freedom Park** and the **Pie Collector's Car Show**, craft fair, and quilt display.

**11 – 1:00 pm**

Grab lunch from one of the many food vendors staged at the park; then sit down and enjoy the **Pie-Alluia Chorus**, specializing in singing songs about pies, or songs altered to include pies in them. Feel free to sing along to any familiar song.

**1 – 2:00 pm**

Witness the pie-eating contest and cheer on your favorite pastry consumer.

**2 – 3:00 pm**

Exit Braham on I-35 North for the short ride to **Hinckley**.

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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

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Grand Portage Lodge & Casino welcomes visitors year round for relaxation or play. We have Jacuzzi suites, 95 room accommodations, an indoor pool, a sauna and other amenities to make your visit comfortable and enjoyable. The 15,000 square foot Casino rolls 24 hours a day and features a Bingo Hall and over 450 slot machines, including video slots. Stop by Grand Portage's Trading Post, our smoke-free facility with a gift shop, grocery store, UPS parcel pick-up and 43 slot machines.

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- SAINT PAUL
- STILLWATER

### calendar of events

- april*
- Now-Jun 9 **Irving Berlin's Easter Parade**-Chanhasseen Dinner Theatres, Chanhasseen 952-934-1540
  - Mar 16- Apr 15 **Omnifest 2007**, Saint Paul 651-221-9444
  - 10-15 **Edward Scissorhands**-Ordway, Saint Paul 651-224-4222
  - 14-May 20 **The Baron**-History Theatre, Saint Paul 651-292-4323
  - 28 **Valborgsmassafton**, Scandia 651-433-5053
- may*
- 3-6 **Festival of Nations**, St Paul 651-647-0191
  - 17-19 **Joshua Bell & Carnival of the Animals**-St Paul Chamber Orchestra, 651-291-1144
  - 19 **Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games**, Farmington 952-470-6300
- june*
- 9 **Annie's Swedish Coffee Party**, Scandia 651-433-5053
  - 15-Oct 15 **Les Miserables**-Chanhasseen Dinner Theatres, Chanhasseen 952-934-1540
  - 16 **Midsummer Celebration**, Mpls 612-871-4907
  - 22-24 **Back to the 50's Weekend**, Saint Paul 952-278-3140
  - 30-Jul 5 **Taste of Minnesota**, St Paul 651-772-9980
- july*
- 1 **Canada Day Picnic**, Bloomington 612-804-9566
  - 3-4 **July 4th Funfest**, Eagan 651-675-5546
  - 7-8 **Rediscover Minnesota at the Minnesota Zoo**, Apple Valley 800-366-7811
  - 8-11 **Arboretum Auxiliary Summer Garden Tours**, Chaska 952-443-1400
  - 13-22 **Aquatennial**, Minneapolis 612-338-3807
- august*
- Wknds- Sept **Minnesota Renaissance Festival**, Shakopee 952-445-76361
  - 3-5 **Uptown Art Fair**, Minneapolis 612-823-4581
  - 8-12 **Burnsville Fire Muster**, 952-896-6714
  - 23-Sep 3 **Minnesota State Fair**, St Paul 651-288-4400

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

[escortnotes.com](http://escortnotes.com)



Old Mill Ruins - Minneapolis

## Grand Rounds Scenic Byway

53 miles – Following the beautiful loop of city and parkway roads in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, called “the city of lakes,” is known nationally for its gorgeous parks. This drive is the only city byway in the United States, tracing the Mississippi River, Minnehaha Creek and waterfalls, and a chain of several lakes, all bordered by trails and greenways. See the wildflower garden at Theodore Wirth Park and a wonderful rose garden at Lake Harriet. Follow the byway on your way to Orchestra Hall, Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, or Guthrie Theater on the historic downtown riverfront, near the 1883 Stone Arch Bridge. [www.meetminneapolis.com](http://www.meetminneapolis.com)

### other scenic byways & historic highways in tc metro minnesota

#### Great River Road South Scenic Byway 171 miles

The river flows through a steep, wooded gorge along this route. See Historic Fort Snelling sitting high above the Minnesota & Mississippi Rivers. Visit other historic sites, museums, theaters and concert venues, and boat excursions that explore the Mississippi. Late 1800's architecture follows you down this byway. Frontenac State Park and Lake City sit on the shores of Lake Pepin – part of the Mississippi River. Scenic overlooks on the bluffs offer great views along this splendid river valley. [www.MnMississippiRiver.com](http://www.MnMississippiRiver.com)

#### St. Croix Scenic Byway 123 miles

Several roadways follow the St Croix River and parallel I-35 north. A wild and scenic river deeply carved into the terrain, the St. Croix flows between wooded riverbanks southward past picturesque rivertowns. The river tumbles through a rocky

gorge at the Interstate Park at Taylors Falls. Five state parks along or near the route lie along the banks of the St. Croix. There are also several historic sites near the byway: the Gammelgarden Swedish pioneer museum in Scandia, the Marine mill ruins, the 1855 Folsom House in Taylors Falls, North West Company Fur Post at Pine City and the Hinckley Fire Museum. [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)

#### Lake Minnetonka Loop 40 miles

Lake Minnetonka, the largest lake in the Twin Cities, offers a circle tour of beautiful destinations and historic towns. Enjoy hiking and bird watching, a scenic 3-mile drive around the incredible Minnesota Landscape Arboretum; lake views and gardens at Noerenberg Memorial Gardens; and lake cruises, including the historic Steamboat Minnehaha. [www.meetminneapolis.com](http://www.meetminneapolis.com)



For more Minnesota Scenic Byway information go to [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) and [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org).

## Girlfriends Weekend Getaway

This sample itinerary is best in the Spring, Summer & Fall. You'll find it at coordinates K-7 on your 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2007 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### DAY ONE

#### 1 – 4:00 pm

Arrive at **Williams Sonoma** in the all-new **Plaza at Rosedale Center** for a one-hour cooking demonstration by local chefs. After the demonstration, enjoy shopping at the newly completed \$55 million expansion of Rosedale.

#### 4:15 – 5:00 pm

Check into your **Roseville Hotel**.

#### 5:00 pm

Tonight, come aboard one of the **Padelford Riverboats** for an evening dinner cruise.

### DAY TWO

#### 8 – 9:00 am

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

#### 9:30 – 12:00 pm

Arrive in **Minneapolis** and pamper yourself to signature "spa treatment" at the rejuvenating **Aveda Institute** in Minneapolis.

#### 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch at the **Old Spaghetti Factory** in downtown Minneapolis.

#### 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Arrive at the **Minnesota Center for Book Arts**. Tour this unique facility and learn about the literary arts. Various classes (e.g. papermaking) are available for groups.

#### 3:30 – 3:45

Depart the Minnesota Center for Book Arts for your Roseville Hotel.

#### 3:45 – 5:00 pm

Arrive at your Roseville Hotel. Take time to freshen up for this evening's activities.

#### 5:00 – 10 pm

Depart for dinner at **Forepaugh's** and take in a theater performance at the historic **Ordway** in **Saint Paul**.

#### 10:00 pm

Arrive at your hotel in Roseville.

### DAY THREE

#### 9 – 10:00 am

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and check-out. Prior to departure, you'll receive a special send off from the **Roseville Visitors Association**, a complimentary rose for every guest!

#### 10 – 3:00 pm

Today, you'll discover the birthplace of Minnesota with a

city tour of **Stillwater**. After your tour, enjoy lunch at the **Lowell Inn** in Stillwater, then finish with a wine tasting and tour of **Northern Vineyards Winery**.

#### 3:00 pm

Depart with your souvenirs, smiles and memories.

For more information on this sample itinerary, please contact your tour operator or Carrie Donovan at the Roseville Visitors Association, 877-980-3002.



## Ginny likes Minneapolis, Earl likes St. Paul. Roseville, perfectly positioned.

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For more information, contact the Roseville Visitors Association at (877) 980-3002 or visit us at [www.visitroseville.com](http://www.visitroseville.com).



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## Down In History TOURS

**D**own In History Tours has a variety of tours to suit any theme. Whether you are planning a visit for the Nordic Summer and want to include the Uff Dah! Tour in your plans, or have a family reunion planned for the Ryans and want to fill time with the No Blarney Tour, Down In History can give you a show on wheels to make the experience unforgettable. Most themes also have a lunch that can be added, and all of the 2-hour motorcoach tours are done by character actors in period costume. The Saint Paul Gangster Tour is their most well known tour, but they also offer the Mill City Mobs-Tour, Victorian Tour, Rivers & Roots Tour, and the ever-funny Twin Town Tacky Tour. Want to add a walking tour? No problem, since Down In History also does the historic Wabasha Street Cave Tour. [www.wabashastreetcaves.com](http://www.wabashastreetcaves.com).

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Rivers & Vines, Art & Wine

This itinerary is best Spring through Summer. You'll find it at coordinates K-10 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

**DAY ONE**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Walker Art Center & Sculpture Garden is where you will



start your tour. It offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy important works of art by leading American and International artists in a setting of plazas, walkways, and plantings.

12 – 1:30 pm

Head towards **Saint Paul** and be amazed at the many his-

toric mansions along **Summit Avenue** – including the nationally renowned **James J. Hill Mansion**. See **St. Paul Cathedral** and the **Minnesota State Capitol** up close.

1:30 – 4:30 pm

Arrive at the **Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and Como Zoo**. A new \$2.1 million exhibit (opened in November 2006) visit an authentic neo-tropical rainforest and explore the relationships between plants and animals. Enjoy lunch at **Zöbota Café**, featuring chef specials, unique grilled sandwiches and more.

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Next it's time for a little shopping. **Woodbury Lakes** is the East metro's newest outdoor lifestyle shopping center. Stroll amongst some of the Twin Cities' finest retailers and restaurants in a brand new shopping experience.

6 – 8:00 pm

Return to your **Eagan** hotel for a break and then it's out to one of Eagan's premiere dining spots – **Jensen's Supper Club**. Enjoy one of their martinis or a glass of wine while enjoying an excellent dinner.

**DAY TWO**

9 – 10:00 am

Enjoy a hot, continental breakfast at your hotel before you check out.

10 – 1:00 pm

The first stop today on your **Rivers & Vines, Art & Wine** adventure will be **Stillwater**, Minnesota. Situated near the **St. Croix River** (the divider between Minnesota and Wisconsin). You'll enjoy strolling the streets of this historic river town before you start your wine tour at **Northern Vineyards Winery**, one of six wineries that make up the **Minnesota Wine Trail**. Enjoy complimentary wine tasting.

1 – 3:30 pm

The next stop will be the **St. Croix Vineyards & Winery** (lunch along the way) Located just west of Stillwater, Minnesota; this winery offers complimentary wine tasting in a restored century old barn. Feel free to stroll through their picturesque vineyard.

3:30 – 6:00 pm

On to **Cannon Falls**. Located in the scenic **Cannon Valley**, at the junction of the **Big and Little Cannon Rivers**. Here you'll make the third stop on the Minnesota Wine Trail at the **Cannon River Winery**. Enjoy wine tasting as well as a guided tour of the winery. Take a final stroll through historic downtown Cannon Falls.

6:00 pm

Head for home!

For more information or to customize this itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or the Eagan CVB, 866-EAGAN-20.



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Contact Denise Olsen at 1-866-EAGAN-20 or email her at dolsen@eaganmn.com.

## Nordic Culture in Minneapolis

This sample itinerary is best in the summer. You'll find it at coordinates I-6 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

Bring your tour group to **Minneapolis** this summer to celebrate our Nordic culture!

### DAY ONE

#### 1 – 4:00 pm

Start the tour off right with a classic **Swedish Smörgåsbord** buffet at the **American Swedish Institute**. Everyone will feel like royalty dining in this Swedish castle. While there, get to know Swedish culture with a tour of the mansions 33 rooms.

#### 4 – 5:00 pm

Check into your hotel (Contact Lori Kearney at Meet Minneapolis at 1.800.445.7412 ext 8114 to find the best group rates).

#### 5 – 8:00 pm

Following a hearty pre-show dinner, enjoy non-stop laughs as the **Plymouth Playhouse Theater's** long-running musical comedy **Church Basement Ladies**, a celebration of true Scandinavian-Lutheran humor.

### DAY TWO

#### 8 – 9:00 am

Eat a hearty breakfast before you start the day!

#### 9 – 12:00 pm

Relax while a guide from **metroConnections** steps aboard your coach for a Swedish Minnesota sightseeing tour.

#### 12 – 2:00 pm

Bring your group to **Midtown Global Market** where you can choose from over 50 food and gift shop vendors from around the world.

#### 2 – 3:30 pm

Stroll the **Nordic Landscape Paintings Exhibit** at the **Minneapolis Institute of Arts** during the only U.S. stop for this exclusive exhibit.

#### 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Continue the trip of all things Nordic at fun local spots. Start at **Ingebretsen's**, an old world marketplace of Nordic and Scandinavian gifts, foods, needlework and clothing since 1921. Surf into **Olsen Fish Company**, specializing in lutefish and Scandinavian products since 1910. Take a break at **Scandia Bake Shop**.

#### 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Let your group dine on Minnesota favorites at **Macy's Oak Grill** restaurant.

#### 7 – 10:00 pm

Enjoy a performance of the **Minnesota Orchestra**,

directed by Finnish conductor **Osmo Vänskä**.

### DAY THREE

#### 9 – 12:00 am

Have a hot breakfast at your hotel before taking a behind-the-scenes tour of the hidden Nordic treasures at the **Minnesota History Center**.

#### 12 – 1:30 pm

Cap your day at the Minnesota History Center with a Nordic-themed lunch.

#### 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Visit the **Old Muskego Church**, on the campus of **Luther Seminary**. Built in 1844 in Wisconsin by Norwegian immigrants, the church was moved piece by piece to its current location behind the library in 1904. The place just drips with history and is still used occasionally for festival services and weddings.

#### 3:30 pm

Head for home!

To customize an itinerary and for more information please contact your tour operator or Lori Kampa Kearney, Meet Minneapolis™, 800-445-7412 ext. 8114.



Contact Lori Kearney:  
[lorik@meetminneapolis.com](mailto:lorik@meetminneapolis.com)  
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[www.minneapolis.org/grouptravel](http://www.minneapolis.org/grouptravel)

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## Minneapolis Institute of Arts



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

**Free Tours:** Guided tours are free Tuesday through Sunday at 1 p.m.; Thursday at 7 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. For groups of 15 or more, call (612) 870-3140. **Audio**

**Tours:** Quick Stops audio tours allow visitors to connect with art at their own pace (\$4 rental for adults, \$3 for children). **Museum Shop:** Distinctive gifts, jewelry, and books are on display in the shop, open during museum hours. **Dining:** ArtsBreak and ArtsCafé

by D'Amico & Sons offer delicious on-site dining options. **Museum Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 am–5 pm; Thursday 10 am–9 pm; Sunday 11 am–5 pm; Monday Closed.

### Upcoming Exhibitions:

February 18, 2007 to May 6, 2007

An American Vision: Henry Francis du Pont's Winterthur Museum

June 24, 2007 to September 2, 2007

A Mirror of Nature: Nordic Landscape Painting 1840-1900

For more information call 612-870-3140.

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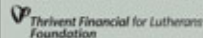


2400 Third Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
(612) 870-3000  
www.artsmia.org

June 24–September 2

This exhibition was organized by the Nordic National Galleries.

Generous support for this exhibition has been provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation.



Additional support has been provided by U.S. Trust.



Eilif Peterssen, Norwegian, *Summer Night* (detail), 1886, oil on canvas, The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo

# BE SCANDINAVIAN for the summer!



**S**ummer 2007 will be the Nordic Summer in the Twin Cities, highlighted by many events and exhibits with a Scandinavian theme.

Nowhere is this Scandinavian outlook more evident than at the American Swedish Institute. Our summer kicks off with a smörgåsbord for the general public on Sunday, June 3. The ASI's annual Midsommar celebration, the biggest in the Twin Cities, takes place on Saturday, June 16. From June 19 through September 2, enjoy lunch in our Swedish Summer Café, featuring Swedish-inspired sandwiches, desserts, a specialty ice cream called "Swedish Garden Party," and, of course, coffee!

The highlight of this incredible season at the ASI is the one-of-a-kind exhibit "Sacred Beauty: Treasures from Swedish Cathedrals and Churches." From June 1 through October 7, the American Swedish Institute brings together a panorama of religious pieces from Sweden. The exhibit will include both historic and contemporary pieces in precious metals, glass, ceramics, and textiles. These pieces will highlight the modern artwork appearing in Swedish churches and cathedrals today, as well as pieces from Swedish churches that sent many members to Minnesota during the height of the immigration era.

Bring a group to this stunning exhibit and enjoy a visit to the historic turn-of-the-century Turnblad Mansion at the same time. Groups can also enjoy authentic and unique Swedish meals during their visit. Call the American Swedish Institute at 612-871-4907 to make reservations.

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or visit [funminnesota.com](http://funminnesota.com)

## *The Twin Cities: Something spectacular for everyone*

This itinerary works best during weekends February 9 through June 9, or it can be customized for any time of the year. You'll find it at coordinates E-10, C-13 and I-8 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### **DAY ONE**

**5 – 10:30 pm**

Arrive in the **Twin Cities** and check into your hotel. Then enjoy great theater at **Chanhassen Dinner Theatres** with dinner and performance of **Irving Berlin's Easter Parade**, a new stage musical based on the 1948 MGM film classic. Sure to be a dazzling, fanciful experience.

### **DAY TWO**

**9 – 10:00 am**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at your hotel.

**10 – 2:00 pm**

Visit the **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum** where you can explore this beautiful 1,000 acres of rolling hills, woods, wetland, and native prairie. Then enjoy an

Arboretum-style picnic in your own private room, complete with beautiful views of the gardens. Complete your experience with a special gardening class and take-home gift for each guest. Note: Based on **Azalea Deluxe Garden Tour Package**.

**2 – 5:00 pm**

Drive northeast to the **American Swedish Museum** — the oldest museum of Swedish-American arts, culture and history in the United States. Take a tour and see elaborate hand-carved woodwork throughout the Victoria-era Mansion, the Visby Window, exhibits, unique shopping and more.

**5:30 – 10:30 pm**

Be royally entertained this evening at the brand new **Guthrie Theater** in downtown **Minneapolis**. Include a meal beforehand at one of the Guthrie's two great restaurants — one fancy, the other more casual.

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or Twin Cities Tourism Attractions Association, 952-858-8493.

## 2007: An A-Mazing Year at the Arboretum!



**F**or a garden adventure unlike any other take your group to the new and permanent **Maze Garden** being unveiled **June 16, 2007**, only at the **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**. Your tour members will be faced with the fun and challenge of finding a route through the intricate network of closely planted trees and shrubs searching for the **Lookout Tower**, where they can watch others navigate the way or plot their own return. The Maze Garden's dead-ends and hidden nooks will give pause to savor the twitter of birds eyeing those funny humans winding their way through the trails.

Bring out the "kid" in your group at the 'Art to A-Maze Walk' from **June 16 through September 30, 2007**. This event will consist of the maze itself plus a juried exhibition of 15 sculptures and environmental art installations . . . along with interactive experiences making every step through the 'Walk' truly memorable.

Visit the exhibit celebrating the **300th birthday of Carl Linnaeus**. In case you didn't know – he was a Swedish naturalist who created the massive and intricate system used today to classify and name all the plants, animals, and minerals on earth. The King of Sweden was so impressed, he was given the honorary title *Carl von Linne'*. The **Linnaeus Exhibit** will include a number of original works plus artifacts and reproductions of the plants, animals, birds and shells he named. This exhibit dovetails nicely with the **Twin Cities' NORDIC SUMMER** and will be an excellent itinerary stop in any package.



### ARBORETUM TOUR GROUP PACKAGES [May–Oct 2007]

Wow! The Landscape Arboretum is doing it again! Hundreds of acres with dozens of gardens, plus the Arboretum's own Scenic Byway – a three-mile roadway on the motorized Trumpet Creeper Tram ready to guide your group through this stunning array of nature's delights. These packages can be guided walking tours or tram rides.

#### Dahlia Garden Tour Package

For groups with limited time, enjoy the gardens, then add shopping with a 10% discount in the Gift Store.

#### Ginkgo Flower Pot Luncheon & Garden Tour Package

After touring the gardens enjoy lunch served in a flowerpot your guests can take home. Guests receive a 10% discount in the Gift Store with advance registration.

#### Azalea Deluxe Garden Tour Package

Tour our most popular display gardens located near the Oswald Visitor Center before an Arboretum-style picnic in your own private room. Enjoy beautiful views of the gardens, a hot buffet lunch, and homemade dessert. Complete your experience with a special gardening class and take-home gift for each guest. Shop in the Gift Store with a 10% discount.

Remember, the tour operator/escort and driver always receive complimentary admission.

The **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum** is the largest public garden in the Upper Midwest. For more details call 952-443-1411 or email [matso024@umn.edu](mailto:matso024@umn.edu).



Minnesota Landscape  
**ARBORETUM**

### *A spectacular year-round destination.*

Welcome spring with a guided tour of our spectacular spring bulb and crabapple displays. Summer's magnificent gardens and autumn's spectacular color are just as inspiring. Festive holiday decorations, winter exhibits and special group tour packages round out a year of extraordinary seasonal experiences.

For more information call 952-443-1411 or visit  
[www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## IN A CLASS *by itself*



In 1862, Thomas Barlow Walker arrived in Minnesota and started the Red River Lumber Company. As his wealth grew, he began collecting artworks to decorate his home, which soon became the Midwest's first public art gallery. The Walker Art Gallery established its current location in 1927 and in 1940 was renamed the Walker Art Center. Soon thereafter the Walker's focus on modern art began as it began acquiring sculptures by Pablo Picasso and other prominent artists. The Walker shifted its focus to contemporary art and developed innovative programs in music, dance, film, education, and design. The Walker's Barnes-designed

building, a minimalist brick structure with spacious white galleries opened in 1971. It was hailed by critics as "one of the best contemporary art exhibition facilities in the world" and, in tandem with the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, hosts an average of nearly one million visitors each year.

In April 2005, the Walker Art Center opened its expanded facility by Herzog & de Meuron that doubled its size, added new galleries, 2 restaurants by Wolfgang Puck, and a state-of-the-art, 385-seat performance theater. The Walker has become a place where art, ideas, and audiences truly come together to enjoy and discover, through dance and film, to exhibitions and concerts, unique opportunities for engaging with today's art. You'll

find even more amenities when you visit the Walker's shop, ample underground parking, and a series of outdoor terraces with spectacular views of the city and Garden.

The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, a 1988 collaboration between the Walker and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board known for its magnificent Spoon Sculpture, offers a unique sculpture park and conservatory immediately adjacent to the Walker Art Center – and it is very popular with tour groups.

Stop by for a visit your groups will long remember. For more information call 612-375-7659 or visit [www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org).

**Picasso and American Art**  
 June 17 – September 9, 2007  
 This groundbreaking exhibition presents Picasso's art with that of artists that were inspired by his example, including such luminaries as Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, and more.

RBC Dain Rauscher  
 MILLENNIUM HOTEL

**Walker Art Center**  
 612.375.7600 [walkerart.org](http://walkerart.org)



## The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra... 49 SEASONS!

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, beginning its 49th season in September 2007, is the nation's only full-time professional chamber orchestra and is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. The SPCO presents more than 150 concerts and educational programs each year, and reaches over 85,500 listeners each week on 63 public radio stations. They have released 65 recordings, commissioned 110 new works, and premiered 53 additional compositions. The SPCO has earned the distinction of 12 ASCAP awards for adventurous programming. Renowned for artistic excellence and remarkable versatility of musical styles, the SPCO tours nationally and internationally, including performances in premier venues in Europe, Asia and South America. The SPCO's award-winning education program reaches 6,000 students annually in 15 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools. Adult groups can enjoy a pre-concert chat along with coffee & pastries prior to the Friday Morning Coffee Concerts! For more information, contact Megan Holroyd in SPCO Group Sales, 651-292-3234.



# A World Premiere of a New Stage Musical opens at CHANHASSEN DINNER THEATRES

**C**hanhassen Dinner Theatres is honored to be selected by Rodgers & Hammerstein to co-develop this new romantic musical comedy. Irving Berlin's *Easter Parade*, based on the 1948 MGM film classic, has been called "the happiest musical ever made." Containing some of Irving Berlin's most beloved tunes, such as "Steppin' Out With My Baby," "It Only Happens When I Dance With You," and "Easter Parade." It is truly a classic for all seasons.

This charming romantic comedy begins as snappy dancer; Don Hewes is dumped by his ungrateful dance partner, Nadine Hale, so she can pursue a solo career. As in the classic Pygmalion story (*My Fair Lady*), the lovelorn Don declares that he can turn any chorus girl into a star. The girl he chooses to mold into his new "Nadine" is the randomly selected, unassuming, and insecure, yet beguiling Hannah Brown. He vows within a year to make her the toast of Broadway and New York's famed Easter Parade.

Chanhassen Dinner Theatres' production of Irving Berlin's *Easter Parade* is the first wholly Minnesota-made, large-scale American Musical Comedy World Premiere ever to be produced in Minnesota. Audiences will revel in gloriously adorned costumes and sumptuous sets. Irving Berlin's *Easter Parade* promises to be a dazzling, fanciful experience to be seen for the first time ever at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres. Irving Berlin's *Easter Parade* is scheduled to end its run on Chanhassen's main stage on June 9, 2007. For more information call 800-355-6273.

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Home of the World Premiere of "Easter Parade"

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

**Twin Cities Best Entertainment Value!**

- Lavish productions
- Table side service
- Group discounts
- Free parking
- Free host tickets
- Only 15 minutes from the Mall of America

**952-934-1547**  
or  
**800-355-6273**

*"...quite possibly the nation's finest dinner theatre."*  
LOS ANGELES TIMES  
[chanhassendt.com](http://chanhassendt.com)



*Discover a ticket with high face-to-face value.*

**Tour the Twin Cities with Bloomington's The Big Ticket™ Attraction Pass.**

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. You'll find it at coordinates J-10 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.



**DAY ONE**

**8 – 11:00 am**

With **The Big Ticket** in hand visit any **Mall of America Explore Minnesota Store** and receive your complimentary **Mall of America Super Savings Coupon Book**. This will allow you to save all day as you shop!

**11 – 12:30 pm**

Visit **The Park at MOA™** to receive an unlimited ride wristband. You're guests will have access to over 30

thrilling indoor rides and attractions. Watch for signs of the park's first upside-down roller coaster scheduled to open in 2008.

**12:30 – 2:00 pm**

Imagine you're in the movies while enjoying lunch at **Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.** Use your Big Ticket coupon for a complimentary Bubba's Far Out Dip appetizer.

**2 – 4:00 pm**

Head over to **Underwater Adventures® Aquarium** to receive one general admission where you'll experience the world's largest underground aquarium with over 4,500 living sea creatures.

**4 – 8:00 pm**

So much mall. So little time (520+ stores). When you get hungry, choose from over 60 restaurants — from a quick bite to "dang that was good."

**8:00 pm**

Late check in to a local hotel.

**DAY TWO**

**9 – 1:00 pm**

Start off with a hot breakfast at your hotel. Then hop on the bus for a short ride to the **Minnesota Zoo**. Receive a one-day admission to explore a lush tropical forest, a marine center, boreal forest and tundra.

**1 – 3:00 pm**

Walk over to the **Great Clips® IMAX® Theatre** and receive one admission to a traditional IMAX film where motion picture comes to life.

**3 – 5:00 pm**

End your day with a trip to **Saint Paul's Science Museum of Minnesota** along the **Mississippi River**, a great place to spend the rest of the day. Receive one general admission to the museum and expand your history and science knowledge.

For more information or to customize this itinerary for your group, contact your tour operator or Julie Giorgio at 866-435-7425. Group rates are available.

**MEGA-CONVENIENCE AND MEGA-VALUE FOR MEGA-MEETINGS.**

Mall of America's preferred hotel: brilliant for business!

Nestled into the 494 strip close to Mall of America and the airport (and just 15 minutes from downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul) this is where everybody wants to be. And with over 32,000 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting space, we're a brilliant fit for conferences of up to 2,500.

The award-winning Ramada Mall of America hotel:

- Full convention and banquet services with complete meeting packages
- Soundproof meeting rooms with state-of-the-art audio visual
- 255 guest rooms and excellent amenities
- Professional, personalized Ramada service
- Great ambience with historic Native American artwork throughout

**RAMADA**  
MALL OF AMERICA

Sales Office: (952) 548-3600 or sales@ramadamo.com

## *A Country Christmas Experience*

This itinerary is best November 30 – Dec 2; December 7-9; 14-16 or 22 during the Country Christmas Celebration. You'll find it at coordinates I-12 & I-13 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

### **DAY ONE**

**11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

Start with a delicious lunch at **Forepaugh's Restaurant**, an elaborate Victorian mansion, delightfully decorated for the holidays.

**1 – 2:00 pm**

Tour the **Alexander Ramsey House**, a 15-room Victorian mansion, featuring **Ramsey House Holidays** with family heirloom decorations.

**2 – 4:30 pm**

View beautiful, festive poinsettias at **Como Park Conservatory** during the annual poinsettia display, along with other beautiful gardens and their gift shop.

**4:30 – 6:15 pm**

Enjoy dinner at **Old Country Buffet**, before browsing through **Susie Q's Accents**, **Northwestern Book Store** and **TJ Maxx & Home Goods**.

**6:15 – 10:00 pm**

Delight in a Branson-style Christmas performance at the **Celebration Event Center**. **A Country Christmas**

**Celebration**, features a cast of 70 singers, musicians and comedians.

### **DAY TWO**

**9 – 11:00 am**

Tour the **American Swedish Institute**, a beautiful 33-room mansion, featuring **A Nordic Christmas** with traditionally decorated trees, table settings and Gift shops.

**11 – 12:30 pm**

Discover the spirit of holidays past at **The Minneapolis Institute of Arts** with a guided tour of **Holiday Traditions** in the period rooms.

**12:30 – 5:00 pm**

Visit popular **Burnsville Center** for great shopping with your VIP Card. Enjoy lunch on your own. More than 150 stores including **Macy's**, **J.C. Penney** and **Sears**.

**5 – 10:00 pm**

Tonight, enjoy dinner and the **Annual Holiday Revue** at **Chanhassen Dinner Theatres** filled with delightful holiday songs and skits. Or, enjoy a holiday lights tour with **Down in History Tours** accompanied by guides in holiday costumes. Hear stories and sing carols.

### **DAY THREE**

**9:00 – 11:00 am**

After breakfast at the hotel, stop at **Touch of Home**



*Swedish Table Tree*

**Furnishings** and browse through quality antiques, collectibles, gift and home décor items.

**11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Enjoy lunch at the **Chart House Restaurant**, the gem of nearby **Lakeville**.

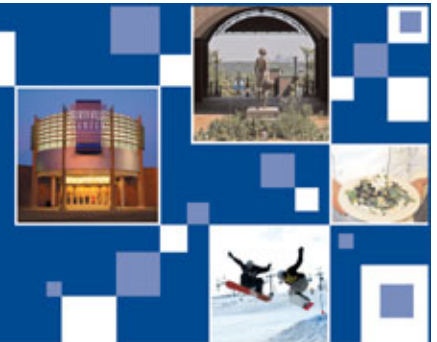
**1 – 4:00 pm**

Visit **Mall of America**, the nation's largest retail and entertainment complex, to browse, shop, and enjoy the holiday decorations and music.

For more information or to customize this tour for your group contact your tour operator or Jan Morpew, Burnsville CVB, 800-521-6055 or Celebration Church, 877-444-1799.

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Servicing The Group Tour Market For More Than **18 Years!**

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- Chanhassen Dinner Theatres
- American Swedish Institute
- Minnesota Czech Country

#### **Burnsville Tour Stops include:**

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Call **Jan Morpew**, CTP at **1.800.521.6055**  
or visit us at **www.burnsvillemn.com**

*Experience*  
**BURNSVILLE**

## Plaited Porcupine Quillwork & Lazy Stitch Beadwork...

WATCH IT HAPPEN!



The Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life compares the lives of Minnesota Pioneers with those of the Dakotah Indians who lived in the region. Costumed interpreters give tours of the site, which includes a 19th century farm house, a unique one-room school house, barns, farm animals, a replica sod house, Dakotah tipi and artifacts, bark lodge, pioneer and Dakotah gardens, and more. The museum reflects both early farm life in Minnesota and pioneer Jane Gibbs's friendship with the Dakotah, who camped on the site as they headed north to gather wild rice.

On Sunday June 10th tour groups to the Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life will get a rare glimpse of Dakotah culture and art. Quillwork is a time consuming, nearly-lost art form that preceded beadwork in time. Visitors will have the unusual opportunity to catch a glimpse of a past art form that is being practiced today when the museum features demonstrations of Dakotah-style plaited Porcupine Quillwork by award-winning artist Antone LeBeau and Lakota-style Lazy stitch beadwork by Mimi Alexander.

Antone is a Cheyenne River Sioux, Lakota Sun Dancer and Pipe carrier. He approaches his quillwork with reverence, respect and spirituality. Mimi Alexander demonstrates the art of beadwork. When European beads became available, beadwork was easier to do, and so it supplanted quillwork. It is beadwork that so beautifully decorated many of the extraordinary pieces of clothing and cultural objects used by the Dakotah of the 1800s.

Adult and student groups are welcome. For more information, call 651-646-8629, or go to [www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com).

## WELCOME to twelve days of fun!



**The 2007 Minnesota State Fair runs  
August 23 – Labor Day, September 3, 2007.**

### Thursday, August 23

- Take advantage of discounted admission.
- Check out all-day food and merchandise deals, and discounts on the Mighty Midway and Kidway.

### Friday, August 24

- Visit the Ag/Hort Building for your crop art fix.

### Saturday, August 25

- Hundreds of motorcycles parade through the fairgrounds this afternoon.
- Don't miss the 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction.

### Sunday, August 26

- Stop by the barns for livestock judging.
- Head to the Bandshell for the Amateur Talent Contest.

### Monday, August 27

- Enjoy discounted admission for seniors and kids.

### Tuesday, August 28

- See the 2 p.m. parade.

### Wednesday, August 29

- Save on transportation and admission today by taking an Express Bus.
- Head to the Mighty Midway or Kidway for an evening of discounts.

### Thursday, August 30

- Seniors save \$4 on admission today.
- Visit the Eco Experience, featuring renewable energy and alternative fuels.

### Friday, August 31

- Take the kids for a trolley ride to Little Farm Hands.

### Saturday, September 1

- See your favorite entertainer at the Grandstand.
- Visit Adventure Park and ride something extreme.

### Sunday, September 2

- Meet your group at the Blue Ribbon Picnic Area—call for reservations.

### Monday, September 3

- Kids save \$3 on admission today.
- Last Chance brochures are your guide to today's savings.

For more information visit [www.mnstatefair.org](http://www.mnstatefair.org), e-mail [groupsales@mnstatefair.org](mailto:groupsales@mnstatefair.org), or call 651-288-4414.



## Spend A Day in Pompeii

Opens June 27th, 2007

In 79 A.D., the city of Pompeii, a popular vacation destination of the Roman Empire, was frozen in time by the massive eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The volcanic ash that buried the city preserved its final moments, making Pompeii one of the world's most complete archaeological sites. The clues that scientists have uncovered from the site give us a precious glimpse at what life was like thousands of years ago, and this summer, some of those clues will be making their way to the Science Museum of Minnesota. *A Day in Pompeii*, an extraordinary exhibition about the rich culture, spirituality and day-to-day customs of the people of ancient Pompeii.

*Pompeii* features priceless artifacts that tell the story of a city – and a period in time – that is steeped in legend and mystery. You'll see wall-sized frescoes, marble and bronze sculptures, coins, jewelry, and other items that have been recovered from beneath hardened volcanic materials and sealed for over 17 centuries in a virtual time capsule. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to see several casts of the human



victims of the Vesuvius eruption. Together, these artifacts provide a powerful and moving portrait of a thriving ancient city and a fateful moment in time. Call 651-221-9444 or visit [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org) for more information.



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of Pioneer & Dakotah Life

Enter a Time Warp  
...experience 1800s pioneer and Indian life

- + replica sodhouse
- + original farm house
- + one room schoolhouse
- + Dakotah bark lodge
- + tipi & prairie
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Costumed guides + Groups welcome  
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**START PLANNING NOW!**  
Enjoy all the fair fun for groups!

Contact the group sales department for info on discount days, free bus parking, catered picnics and more! Call (651) 288-4414, or e-mail [groupsales@mnstatefair.org](mailto:groupsales@mnstatefair.org)

**MINNESOTA STATE FAIR**

Aug. 23 – Sept. 3, 2007 • [www.mnstatefair.org](http://www.mnstatefair.org)

**POMPEII**

*A Day in Pompeii* – July 11, 2007 – January 6, 2008

Experience Pompeii before and after a fateful moment in history—the legendary eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Make plans for your group to see *A Day in Pompeii*, a moving and awe-inspiring exhibit that tells the story of a city steeped in legend and mystery. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see some of ancient history's greatest treasures. Call (651) 221-9444 or visit [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org) for more information.

Science Museum of Minnesota

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## ESCORTED TOURS you're going to love!



**H**earthland Tours and Travel prides itself in providing the highest quality escorted motorcoach tours for groups and individuals, special events and customized venues for both corporate and group needs. Heartland's experienced and knowledgeable staff is eager to design "Escorted Tours You're Going to Love!"

For nearly twenty years Heartland has been proudly offering a wide variety of 1-28 day tours. Our most popular offerings include Minnesota, upper Midwest, Branson, New England, Nova Scotia, Arizona, California, Canadian Rockies, Washington DC, Hawaii and many other exciting destinations.

Regionally, our tours include trips to the Fireside Dinner Theatre, Duluth, House on the Rock, and the Cranberry Festival in Warrens, Wisconsin.

In addition to our tour packages, pre-formed groups love our deluxe, state-of-the-art, restroom-equipped MCI motorcoaches. With these beautiful coaches come everything you need for a great trip...experienced professional drivers & tour directors, first-class accommodations, careful luggage handling, and the finest scenic routing on every trip.

Besides outbound tours, Heartland also offers Receptive Tour Operator services for domestic and international groups needing the services of an experienced tour company that has been serving inbound and outbound group travelers for more than 3 decades.

For more information, contact Heartland Tours and Travel, Rochester and Maplewood, MN, 1-800-368-4874.

## *Holy Bucking Broncos - It's Rodeo Time in Buffalo!*

**ROUND UP YOUR GROUP AND BRING 'EM TO THE  
BUFFALO RODEO!**



**JUNE 21-23, 2007**

**THE LONGEST RUNNING RODEO IN MINNESOTA  
IS FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

Activities include: Three nights of rodeo competition, chuck wagon breakfasts, team penning, kiddie rodeo, stock shows and pork chop feeds. Visit [buffalorodeo.com](http://buffalorodeo.com) or call 763-682-7032 for tickets or a complete schedule.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT VISITING BUFFALO, GO TO [WWW.BUFFALO-MN.ORG](http://WWW.BUFFALO-MN.ORG).

### **June 20-23, 2007 nightly at 7:30 pm**

You'll find Buffalo at coordinates H-14 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map, distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of Itineraries Minnesota Magazine.

### **DAY ONE**

**4 - 6:00 pm**

Check into the **Country Inn**.

**6 - 7:30 pm**

Get your boots on and head over to the **Pork Chop Feed** at the Buffalo rodeo grounds.

**7:30 pm**

Watch kids age 5-8 complete in the **Mutton Bustin' Contest**, a hilarious sheep-riding event for all.

### **DAY TWO**

**10 - 12:00 pm**

Grab a coffee or latte at **Buffalo Books & Coffee** and shop downtown Buffalo's antique and specialty stores.

**12 - 1:00 pm**

Lunch is at Buffalo's beautiful **Wild Marsh Golf Club**.

**1 - 4:00 pm**

Stroll on the beautiful **Buffalo Lake**

Walk to the **Parkshore Pavilion**. Then look for hidden treasures at the **Buffalo Nickel, Annie's Attic, and Waldon Woods** antique stores.

**4 - 6:00 pm**

Stop by the hotel to freshen up.

**6 - 7:30 pm**

Tonight's treat is a finger lickin' good Barbecue beef dinner at the Rodeo Grounds.

**7:30 pm**

The **53rd Annual Buffalo Championship PRCA Rodeo** begins! There's fun for everyone with high-flying rodeo action and rodeo dances on Friday and Saturday nights.

### **DAY THREE**

**8 - 10:00 am**

Enjoy a real Chuckwagon Breakfast after hotel checkout.

**10:00 am**

Tour the **Wright County Historical Society** before leaving town.

For more information and to customize this tour for your group, call your tour operator or Buffalo Tourism, 763-682-4902.



*Huzzah and Cheers for 37 years!*

This sample itinerary is designed for the 2007 MN Renaissance Festival, August 18-September 30, 2007. Open weekends, Labor Day, and Friday, September 28 from 9am to 7pm. You'll find it at coordinates D-13 on the 2007 Annual Group Travel Map distributed in the Fall 2006 issue of *Itineraries Minnesota Magazine*.

**8:45 – 9:00 am**

Welcome to the **Minnesota Renaissance Festival!** Celebrate 37 years at our 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 costume contest. The show begins every morning near the main ticket office, and first prize wins complimentary tickets to the Festival.

**9:30 – 11:00 am**

Begin your journey through our 16th century village filled with over 275 nationally acclaimed artisans who boast wonderful handcrafted items.

**11 – 12:30 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 (or queen) at any of our eight common areas. Try our guest favorites including turkey legs, queen's apples, scotch eggs, soup in a bread bowl and many other 16th century delights.

**2 – 2:30 pm**

Find a spot in the shade to watch the afternoon **Grand March Parade**. 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 the games area and test your skill by throwing tomatoes at the village idiot and climbing the famed **King's Tower**.

**4 – 5:00 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**

Rekindle your taste buds with a second round of fantastic food and drink.

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

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, 800-996-8215.

2007 Minnesota

# Renaissance Festival

Weekends and Labor Day  
August 18th - September 30th

- \* For groups of 15 or more
- \* Save up to \$5.45 per ticket
- \* Unique Setting
- \* Picnic Packages Available
- \* Interactive Entertainment
- \* Complimentary Tickets for Drivers and Coordinators



**(800) 966-8215**

August 18th-September 30th | Weekends, Labor Day and Festival Friday, September 28th | 9am-7pm  
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[info@renaissancefest.com](mailto:info@renaissancefest.com) | [www.renaissancefest.com](http://www.renaissancefest.com)



## KEY SYMBOLS

**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** ..... 952-445-6775

4100 12th Ave East - Shakopee, MN 55379  
 shakopee.mn@americinn.com

Something for everyone! Great central location; less than 4 miles from Mystic Lake Casino, Canterbury Park, Valleyfair, and Murphy's Landing. Less than 20 miles from the Mall of America and MSP Airport. 108 foot waterslide.

### AmericInn Airport/Mall of America Richfield ..... 800-634-3444

### AmericInn Lodge & Suites Brooklyn Center ..... 763-566-7500

### AmericInn of Annandale Annandale ..... 320-274-3006

### AmericInn of Chanhassen Chanhassen ..... 952-934-3888

### AmericInn of Hastings Hastings ..... 651-437-8877

### AmericInn of Long Lake Long Lake ..... 952-475-4422

### AmericInn of Moundsview Moundsview ..... 763-476-2140

### AmericInn of Stillwater Stillwater ..... 651-275-0980

### ▶ **Dolce Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center** ..... 952-368-1422

1 Oak Ridge Drive - Chaska, MN 55318  
 kparkhurst@or-cc.com / www.oakridge.dolce.com

Award winning customer service and 147 inviting guestrooms. Less than 2 miles from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3 miles from Renaissance Festival, 5 miles from Chanhassen Dinner Theatre and 30 minutes from the MSP Airport.

**AC, AS, BH, GB, H, KO, MG, 24, YR, PM, PO, RO, SA**

### ▶ **Doubletree Guest Suites** ..... 612-492-2203

11101 LaSalle Avenue - Minneapolis, MN 55403

ktimmons@sunstonehotels.com / www.minneapolisdoubletree.com

The Doubletree Guest Suites Minneapolis is a boutique hotel offering a vibrant downtown location. A wide range of familiar comforts such as a Microwave, Refrigerator, In-Room Movie, and Coffeemaker make our two-room suite feel like home.

### ▶ **Holiday Inn Express** ..... 651-636-5800

2715 Long Lake Road - Roseville, MN 55113 ..... 800-451-7258

Standard king and double queen rooms, Jacuzzi kings, and Suites – with all the standard features including microwave, refrigerators and high speed internet access. Complimentary continental breakfast daily. Fitness center and meeting rooms also available.

### ▶ **Mystic Lake Casino Hotel** ..... 952-496-6528

2400 Mystic Lake Blvd - Prior Lake, MN 55372 ..... 800-262-7799

sales@mysticlake.com / www.mysticlake.com

Mystic Lake gives your group a combination of gaming excitement and luxurious accommodations. Enjoy our award winning international buffet, 600 beautiful rooms and the Midwest's largest casino.

**AC, BH, DC, DF, E, GB, GD, HA, MG, 24, YR, PM, PO, RO, SA, SP**

### ▶ **Ramada Mall of America** ..... 952-854-3411

2300 East American Boulevard - Bloomington, MN 55425-1228

www.ramadama.com

This preferred hotel of Mall of America is committed to all your groups needs. With both indoor and Outdoor Pools, 24 Shuttle Service to Mall of America and Airport, Complimentary WI FI and easy freeway access.

## ATTRACTIONS

### ▶ **American Swedish Institute** ..... 612-871-4907

2600 Park Avenue - Minneapolis, MN 55407

info@americanswedishinstitute.org / www.americanswedishinst.org

Bring your group to the most unique destination in the Twin Cities! Tour the 33-room Swan Turnblad mansion, indulge in one of our Swedish lunch or dessert packages, then enjoy the museum shop and bookstore.

### ▶ **Bachman's Floral, Home & Garden Center** ..... 612-861-7692

6010 Lyndale Avenue South - Minneapolis, MN 55419

www.bachmans.com

Free group tours of America's largest floral retailer. Watch designers at work. See gorgeous holiday displays, blooming plants & gardens (in season). Dine onsite at Patrick's French cafe. Shopping discount & complimentary rose. Custom demonstrations & room rental available.

**AC, AS, CA, DC, GT, H, KO, YR, PM, PO, RO, RN**

### ▶ **Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life** ..... 651-646-8629

2097 West Larpenture Avenue - Falcon Heights, MN 55113

www.rchs.com

Compare the lives of 1800s MN pioneers and the Dakotah people who lived in MN before Europeans arrived. Costumed guides share the original farmhouse, replica dugout sodhouse, schoolhouse, bark lodge, tipi, heritage orchard, prairie.

**GD, GT, H, KO, PM, PO**

### ▶ **Historic Murphy's Landing** ..... 952-445-6900

2187 East Highway 101 - Shakopee, MN 55379

hmlstaff@threeriversparkdistrict.org / www.Murphy'sLanding.com

Experience the charms and challenges of 1800s-era life along the Minnesota River Valley at this 88-acre living history museum. Costumed staff spins tales, demonstrate crafts and depict the daily lives of MN's European settlers.

### ▶ **Minneapolis Institute of Arts** ..... 612-870-3131

2400 Third Avenue South - Minneapolis, MN 55404

www.artsmia.org

Visit the Minneapolis Institute of Arts' world-class collection, ranging from ancient sculpture to contemporary photography. Ranked as one of the top comprehensive U.S. art museums. Free general admission every day.

### Minnesota Historical Society ..... 888-727-8386

### ▶ **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum** ..... 952-443-1411

3675 Arboretum Drive - Chaska, MN 55318

Bonnie@arboretum.umn.edu / www.arboretum.umn.edu

Discover 32 beautiful display gardens and extensive plant collection on 1,000 acres by taking a guided tram or walking tour. The new Visitor Center features a soaring Great Hall, expanded gift store and restaurant, plus 6 new outdoor terraces and gardens.

### ▶ **Minnesota Zoo** ..... 952-431-9200

1300 Zoo Boulevard - Apple Valley, MN 55124 ..... 800-366-7811

www.mn zoo.org

The Minnesota Zoo Welcomes Groups! Open 363 days a year and located in Apple Valley just minutes south of Mall of America. Advance group reservations required, 20+ = 20% discount on zoo admission.

**CA, DC, GD, H, KO, YR, PM, PO, RO**

### ▶ **Padelford Packet Boat Company** ..... 651-227-1100

Harriet Island - Saint Paul, MN 55107

jjm@riverrides.com / www.riverrides.com

Four Mississippi riverboats at Harriet Island (Saint Paul) for group excursions May - September. Dinner, Lunch & Lock, Sunday Brunch Cruises, school field trips. Private charters for 50-710 passengers. Heated/Air Conditioned. Bar/D'Amico catering available.

**AC, AS, DC, E, GB, GD, GT, H, KO, PM, PO, SA**

### ▶ **Science Museum of Minnesota** ..... 651-221-9444

120 West Kellogg Blvd - Saint Paul, MN 55102

www.smm.org

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

### ▶ **Treasure Island Resort & Casino** ..... 800-222-7077 ext. 2786

Box 75 - Red Wing, MN 55066

www.treasureislandcasino.com

Treasure Island is a perfect getaway, whether you're planning a romantic evening or a lavish banquet. Your special event will take on an elegant, tropical feel. More than 25,000 sq. feet of top-notch meeting and events space.

### ▶ **Wabasha Street Caves** ..... 651-292-1220

215 Wabasha Street South - Saint Paul, MN 55107

www.wabashastreetcaves.com

Down In History has exciting historic tours done by costumed characters. Historic Walking Cave Tours in St. Paul & Stillwater. Motorcoach Gangster Tours, Irish Tours, Tacky tours, Ghost & Graves Tours, & more. We make history fun!

**AC, CA, E, GB, GT, H, YR, PM, RN, PO**

### ▶ **Walker Art Center & Minneapolis Sculpture Garden** .. 612-375-7659

1750 Hennepin Avenue - Minneapolis, MN 55403

www.walkerart.org

"Possibly America's best contemporary art museum." –Newsweek. A new building and Walker's expanded galleries showcase its world-renowned collection. Private guided tours can be customized to meet specific interests. Groups with advance reservations receive admission discount.

**AC**-Air Conditioned **AS**-Alcohol Served **BH**-Baggage Handling **CA**-Call Ahead **DC**-Dining/Casual **DF**-Dining/Fine **E**-Entertainment **GB**-Group Buffet  
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## CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND CHAMBERS

### ► **Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau** ..... 952-858-8500

7900 International Drive, Ste. 990 - Bloomington, MN 55425 ..... 800-346-4289  
 cvb@bloomingtonmn.org / www.bloomingtonmn.org

Just minutes to the Mpls/StPaul Int'l Airport, downtown Minneapolis and Saint Paul, scenic lakes, parks, hotels, shopping, restaurants, exciting attractions, casinos, and Mall of America. You'll love our ease of access, hospitality and friendly people. "The Third Twin City Awaits you."

### ► **Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce** ..... 763-682-4902

9 Central Avenue - Buffalo, MN 55313  
 sally@buffalochamber.org / www.buffalochamber.org

Buffalo offers an eclectic mix of cobblestone streets, antique stores, lakes and natural beauty. Nestled between the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, Buffalo gives visitors the opportunity to enjoy a day trip or a weekend getaway.

### ► **Burnsville Convention & Visitors Bureau** ..... 952-898-5646

101 W. Burnsville Pkwy. Ste 150B - Burnsville, MN 55337 ..... 800-521-6055  
 jan@burnsvillemn.com / www.burnsvillemn.com

Close to Mall of America, Burnsville offers great tour stops, lower lodging tax and easy access to attractions. Groups enjoy cooking with the executive chef at International Chefs' Culinary Center. Enjoy Abdallah's Chocolates & Gifts.

### ► **Eagan Convention & Visitors Bureau** ..... 651-675-5546

1501 Central Parkway - Eagan, MN 55121 ..... 800-324-2620  
 mlawrence@eaganmn.com / www.eaganmn.com

Count on the Eagan Xtreme team to build your next unique itinerary. Personal services include greetings, goodies and greenbacks (ask how to qualify for a \$100 cash rebate), plus, we offer Mall of America coupon books for overnight groups!

### ► **Meet Minneapolis** ..... 612-767-8114

250 Marquette Ave S Ste. 1300 - Minneapolis, MN 55401 ..... 800-445-7412 ext. 8114  
 groups@minneapolis.org / www.minneapolis.org

One call does it all - we are the only CVB that represents the entire Minneapolis/Saint Paul/Mall of America area. Free itinerary planning, sample itineraries, hotel searches and brochures for groups. Call today!

### ► **Roseville Visitors Association** ..... 651-633-3002

2100 N. Snelling Avenue, Suite 59 - Roseville, MN 55113 ..... 877-980-3002  
 cdonovan@visitroseville.com / www.visitroseville.com

Roseville is the ideal location for your groups to begin and end their day. Just 10 minutes from downtown Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Affordable hotels and free coach parking. Contact us for complimentary tour planning services and roses for your group! **GT, MG**

### ► **Shakopee CVB** ..... 952-445-1660

PO Box 717 - Shakopee, MN 55379 ..... 800-574-2150  
 cschultz@shakopee.org / www.shakopee.org

Discover Shakopee the place that tour groups love to visit. With a wide range of attractions such as Valleyfair, Canterbury Park, Historic Murphy's Landing, Renaissance Festival, and Czech Area Concertina Club. There's always something exciting happening in Shakopee.

### ► **Twin Cities Tourism Attractions Association** ..... 952-858-8493

P.O. Box 11858 - Saint Paul, MN 55111  
 info@funminnesota.com / www.funminnesota.com

TWIN CITIES OF MINNESOTA ATTRACTIONS. So Much to Do! Four Seasons! We list the best entertainment and hotels. Our information guide helps you plan for your clients and group tours. Metro area CVBs are listed.

## ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER

### ► **Celebration Church** ..... 952-898-7200

16655 Kenyon Avenue - Lakeville, MN 55044  
 Alan.M@CelebrationChurch.net / www.celebrationchurch.net

One of the season's best events! A country Christmas for the whole family (Branson-style musical variety show), with a cast of 60 and live band. 10 performances Dec 2-4, 9-11 & 16-18. Call Alan for details.

### ► **Chanhassen Dinner Theatres** ..... 952-934-1547

501 West 78th Street - Chanhassen, MN 55317 ..... 800-355-6273  
 klarson@chanhassendtd.com / www.chanhassendtd.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, CA, DF, E, GD, GT, H, KO, MG, YR, PM, PO, RO, SA**

### ► **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**

### ► **Plymouth Playhouse** ..... 763-553-1600

2705 Annapolis Lane - Plymouth, MN 55119  
 groupst@plymouthplayhouse.com / www.plymouthplayhouse.com

Celebrating 31 years of hits, Plymouth Playhouse is best known for producing comedies. This intimate 211-seat theater is located in the Best Western Kelly Inn on the lower level. Church Basement Ladies now playing to sold out audiences.

### ► **State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres** ..... 612-373-5665

805 Hennepin Avenue - Minneapolis, MN 55402  
 groupsales@orpheum.com / www.HennepinTheatreDistrict.com

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

## 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 2007.

### ► **Minnesota Sate 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 international-known entertainers, horse shows and rodeo performances. Mighty Midway & Kidway rides, competitions, exhibits, attractions & concessions. **AS, DC, E, H, KO, MG, M, RO, SA**

## RESTAURANTS

**The Pizza Ranch** Delano ..... 763-972-3910

**The Pizza Ranch** Norwood Young America ..... 952-457-4010

**The Pizza Ranch** Waconia ..... 952-442-3321

## SHOPPING & ANTIQUING

### ► **Mall of America** ..... 952-883-8843

60 East Broadway - Bloomington, MN 55425 ..... 800-879-3555  
 mphilipp@simon.com / www.mallofamerica.com

Mall of America is the largest shopping and entertainment complex in the nation, featuring 520 stores, 50 restaurants and attractions galore. Enjoy no sales tax on clothing and shoes. Valuable coupon books, Meet and Greet Service and other group travel services available.

**AC, AS, CA, DC, DF, E, GB, GD, GT, H, KO, MG, YR, PM, PO, RO, RN**

## TOUR OPERATORS

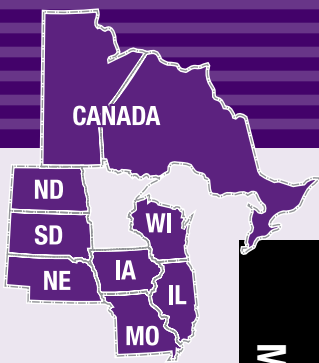
### ► **Heartland Tours & Travel** .. TC. 651-777-7170; Roch. 507-288-1330

805 Hennepin Avenue - Minneapolis, MN 55403 ..... 888-735-7118  
 info@heartlandtoursandtravel.net / www.heartlandtoursandtravel.net

Our experienced staff can package a wide variety of 1-28 day tours to any destination. We can customize any tour to meet your needs. Call us today and let us plan "Escorted Tours You're Going to Love!"

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Making the journey the destination  
**Midwest**



**MIDWEST REGIONS**

CANADA  
NORTH DAKOTA  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
NEBRASKA  
IOWA  
WISCONSIN  
MISSOURI  
ILLINOIS

**calendar of events**

*North Dakota*

- Jun 9-10 **13th Annual Kite Fest**, Jamestown 701-252-3982
- Jul 20-22 **Ukrainian Festival**, Dickinson 701-483-1486

*South Dakota*

- Apr 22 **BANFF Mountain Culture Film Festival**, Rapid City 605-394-4101
- Jun 23-24 **Old West Fest of the Black Hills**, Custer 605-673-3905
- Jul 13 **Hot Harley Nights**, Sioux Falls 605-334-2721

*Wisconsin*

- Apr 13-15 **Art Glass and Bead Retreat**, Madison 608-838-8011
- May 25-28 **Chocolate Festivals**, Burlington 262-763-3300
- Jun 17 **Frenchtown Annual Tubing and Float Regalia**, Chippewa Falls 715-723-5667

*Missouri*

- May 25 - Jun 17 **Much Ado About Nothing**, Forest Park 314-531-9800

*Illinois*

- Apr 20-22 **Sisters Weekend 2007**, St. Charles 800-777-4373
- May 19-20 **Civil War Days 2007**, Naperville 630-420-6010
- Jul 27-29 **Great Balloon Race**, Galesburg 800-916-3330

*Iowa*

- Jun 30 - Jul 1 **Clarence Lincoln Highway Festival**, Clarence 563-452-2301
- Aug 9-19 **Iowa State Fair**, Des Moines 800-545-3247
- Aug 16-19 **Civil War Battle & Encampment**, Mason City 800-423-5724

*Nebraska*

- Jun 22-24 **45th Annual Czech Festival**, Clarkson 402-892-3556
- Aug 18 **12th Annual Blues Festival**, Pierce 402-329-6774

*Canada*

- Every Wed Jun 27-Aug 22 **Summer In the Parks**, Thunder Bay 807-625-2149
- July 1 **Canada Day Celebrations**, Thunder Bay 807-625-2149
- Jul 5-8 **Winnipeg Folk Festival** 204-231-0096

Contact the CVB's for a more complete calendar.

[escortnotes.com](http://escortnotes.com)



*Breezy Point Cliffs - Peter Norbeck National Byway, SD*

## Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway

**68 miles** – Travel the rugged beauty of the Black Hills area of South Dakota where you can see famed Mount Rushmore, and the Crazy Horse Monument – an awe-inspiring work-in-progress. [www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills)

### other scenic byways & historic highways in the midwest

#### Iowa Valley Scenic Byway – IA 70 miles

This byway meanders across the Iowa River Valley in east central Iowa, encompassing the historic Amana Colonies that are known today for their fine craftsmanship and fascinating cultural heritage. [www.ivrcd.org](http://www.ivrcd.org)

#### Woodlands Scenic Byway – IA 85 miles

Travel the Woodlands Scenic Byway and trace history as you follow the westward trek of early Mormon pioneers, and visit the historic Villages of Van Buren steamboat ports of call on the Des Moines River. [www.traveliowa.com](http://www.traveliowa.com)

#### Trans Canada Highway – Manitoba 400 miles

The Trans-Canada Highway is the world's longest national highway at 4,860 miles (coast-to-coast). Explore the beauty and wonder between Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. (and beyond) <http://www.transcanadahighway.com>

#### Bridges to Buttes Byway – NE 200 miles

Extending to the Wyoming border, the Bridges to Buttes Byway journeys through many distinctive landscapes. Enjoy rolling Sandhills, forests, plateaus, plains and even a number of pre-historic fossil sites. [www.chadron.com](http://www.chadron.com)

#### Sandhills Journey – NE 272 miles

Nebraska's Highway 2 has been named one of the 10 most scenic roads in the nation from Grand Island and some half million migrating sandhill cranes to the largest sand dune area in the Western Hemisphere. [www.visitgrandisland.com](http://www.visitgrandisland.com)

#### Sheyenne River Valley Overview – ND 63 miles

The Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway offers visitors a lot of the old frontier, including historic buildings, old brick banks, tiny jails, and one-room schoolhouses. [www.hellovalley.com](http://www.hellovalley.com)

#### Turtle Mountain Byway – ND 53 miles

This byway travels through the tree-covered Turtle Mountains, hosting the International Peace Garden, Lake Upsilon, Lake Metigoshe State Park, the Butte St. Paul Historic Site and Wakopa. [www.ndtourism.com](http://www.ndtourism.com)

#### The Native American Scenic Byway – SD 305 miles

Travel into the heart of Sioux Country on the Native American Scenic Byway where you can see authentic artifacts by past Sioux cultures and learn more about the traditions still maintained today. [www.lbst.org/newsite/home.htm](http://www.lbst.org/newsite/home.htm)

#### Great Divide Scenic Highway – WI 29 miles

Love nature? Travel through the majestic Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery in Northern Wisconsin during the fall color season. 715-264-2511

#### Wisconsin's Great River Road – WI 250 miles

One of the most scenic drives in mid-America this 250-mile byway is nestled between the majestic Mississippi River on one side and towering bluffs on the other. [www.tourism.state.wi.us](http://www.tourism.state.wi.us)



For more Minnesota Scenic Byway information go to [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) and [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org).



## Welcome to Thunder Bay, Canada!

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

### DAY ONE

9:30 – 11:00 am

**Thunder Oak Cheese Farm** is the only farm in Ontario that produces Gouda cheese. See how this award winning Dutch cheese is made.

11 – 2:00 pm

**“Take a Walk Through the Past”** at **Founders’ Museum & Pioneer Village**. A vast collection of artifacts is on display throughout this early 1900’s heritage village. Inquire about a catered lunch.

2 – 3:30 pm

**Kakabeka Falls**, the “Niagara of the North”, plunges 131 feet over sheer cliffs. Arrange for the group to enjoy a slide show about this history-rich park, then view the Falls from jutting platforms or trails along the gorge.

3:30 – 4:00 pm

Check into one of the City’s group-friendly hotels.

4 – 6:00 pm

Meet your host for a guided tour of **Fort William Historical Park**, one of Canada’s top ten historic sites. At this living history attraction with its Native camp, Great Hall, fur stores and more, experience Canada’s fur trade adventure while meeting costumed characters from the early 1800’s including voyageurs,

artisans and Ojibwa.

6 – 8:00 pm

Enjoy a Voyageur’s Feast hosted by historic characters.

### DAY TWO

9 – 10:30 am

Visit **Eagle Canyon Adventures**. Take in spectacular views from two of Canada’s longest suspension foot-bridges – one spans 600 ft. across the canyon walls, the other spans 300 ft.

10:30 – 1:00 pm

Amethyst, glistening in its natural state, can be found at area mines such as **Amethyst Mine Panorama** or **Ontario Gem Mining Company**. Collect your own specimen from any of these working quarries.

1 – 2:30 pm

Lunch at one of **Thunder Bay’s** numerous restaurants!

2:30 – 3:00 pm

**Hillcrest Park** features the “**Sunken Garden**” with more than 70 varieties of flowers plus a splendid view of the harbour.

3 – 5:00 pm

**Thunder Bay Art Gallery** offers Anishnaabe Painting Workshops. View the exhibitions, hear about spiritual totems, and then create a painting in this unique



Kakabeka Falls

artistic style.

5 – 7:00 pm

Bon appetit! Thunder Bay offers a wide variety of dining experiences.

7:30 pm

Enjoy a first-class gaming experience at Thunder Bay’s Casino. Motorcoach gaming packages available.

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

Come Experience  
**THUNDER BAY**  
ONTARIO CANADA

Discover Why Thunder Bay is One of the Top 10 Lake Superior Destinations!  
[www.VisitThunderBay.com/GroupTravel](http://www.VisitThunderBay.com/GroupTravel)  
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Fresh Air Cities. First Class Attractions.  
ONTARIO Yours to Discover



*Making the journey the destination*



## Civil War BATTLE & ENCAMPMENT

**August 16-19, 2007 East Park - Mason City, IA**

**S**tep back in time and learn about the Civil War era. See and feel the fashions worn during this time period. Discover why Iowa was the number one provider of volunteer infantry in the Union Army. Witness the life of a soldier and visit live military camps at the annual **Civil War Battle & Encampment in Mason City, Iowa** held annually the 3rd weekend of August. Featuring live entertainment, reenactment of battles, cannon/mounted cavalry demonstrations and more. The event caters to motorcoach groups, offering reserved seating to view and experience the battles as they unfold. Plus, historical group tour presentations provide groups with hands-on experience of the Civil War Era. Your choice of presentations include: **History of Medicine During the Civil War** (war time medicine and the changes that brought America out of the medical dark ages); **Civil War Fashion** (both men and women's fashions); **Women's Roles in Civil War** (the war triggered changes in America that forever altered the women's role); **A Civilian's Place** (the hardships of civilians during the war) and **Soldiers & the War** (concerns of soldiers, weapons, and uniforms). For more information call 800-423-5724.

---

THE LATEST **slots,**  
HOTTEST **video poker machines,**  
and THRILLING **table games!**



**A**fter just one year, Diamond Jo Casino is already expanding our amenities in Northwood, Iowa (just a few miles south of Albert Lea, MN). You'll find lots of free motorcoach parking, plus discounts and special packages for your groups.

In the spring of 2007 at Diamond Jo Casino, you'll discover 365 new slots, 11 additional table games, Big Wheel Bar expansion and a new Casino Bar area. There will also be a High Denomination slot room and a new 5,500 square foot entertainment complex. Groups will love to dine at Diamond Jo with the new buffet and banquet room.

Check out the exclusive amenities at Diamond Jo, too. Experience the thrill of the hunt with fine waterfowling, upland hunting, and even sporting clays. Diamond Jo offers a private lodge stocked with top shelf amenities for relaxing in unmatched comfort.

The special Diamond Jo Group Package includes \$10 in Diamond Dollars (free play for the slot machines) and complimentary lunch! The only thing we require is a 4-hour stay and manifest!

For additional information about bringing your group to game and play at Diamond Jo Casino, call Lori Bahl, 800-582-5956 ext 113.



# YELLOWSTONE TRAIL And the Birth of Travel Tourism.

In 1912, a group of small town businessmen in South Dakota undertook an ambitious project to create a useful automobile route, the Yellowstone Trail, across America. The end result was a 3,754 mile long amalgamation of roads that became hailed as “A Good Road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound”. This was at a time when roads weren’t marked, and roads were known by their names. There were few maps and slippery mud was the usual road surface.

In 1912 the Yellowstone Trail began as a 25-mile stretch of road from Aberdeen to Ipswitch, SD. The initial reason was simply to make a better road. Soon business leaders from farther and farther away recognized the opportunity, and the Yellowstone Trail Association – headquartered in Minneapolis, MN - was formed that very same year.

By 1917 the Yellowstone Trail had grown to become the main auto route for those traveling from the East Coast to Yellowstone National Park and the Pacific Northwest. While the Association did not build roads, it did lobby local governments in towns along the Trail to help promote the fledgling automobile tourism industry by building and maintaining “good roads.” Trail towns paid the Association a small fee or “assessment” to help cover advertising expenses and upkeep of the Trail. The assessments paid for tourism promotion along the length of the Trail, producing maps and folders to guide the traveler. It became a leader in stimulating tourist travel to the Northwest and motivating good roads across America.

Many towns along the Yellowstone Trail had a representative known as a “Trailman”, whose duties included providing information to travelers and supervising the marking of the Trail with its distinctive yellow circle and arrow signs, yellow painted rocks or painted bands on utility poles. In the 1919 Yellowstone Trail route folder, Trailmen were described as being “. . .businessmen of standing in their communities, and will always be glad to welcome tourists and serve them in any reasonable manner.”

When the Depression came, many towns could no longer afford to pay their “assessments”, and in



1930 the Yellowstone Trail Association closed its doors.

Today, visitors can find trailmarkers (if you know where to look), and many of the old buildings, along the Yellowstone Trail . . .with some even still in use. For example, in South Milwaukee there are

five businesses that still carry out the very same services they provided to their customers all those years ago. These merchants are the South Milwaukee Arcade Bowling Alley, the former U-R Next Barber Shop on 10th and Milwaukee, Bobbie’s Saloon (one of South Milwaukee’s most historic buildings, it was listed as a “soft drink parlor” during the Prohibition years), Grant Park Garage, and Bucyrus–Erie. Gaze down the road once traveled by so many, so long ago, and you can almost hear the sounds of the “Flivvers” and “Tin-Lizzies” as they sputter past in those heady, early days of automotive travel in America.

Today, almost the entire route of the Yellowstone Trail is on slower, less traveled roads. Some sections of the Trail, especially in the West, have remained little changed and are a delight to visit.

For information about traveling today’s Yellowstone Trail in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas, contact the Aberdeen CVB, 800-645-3851.

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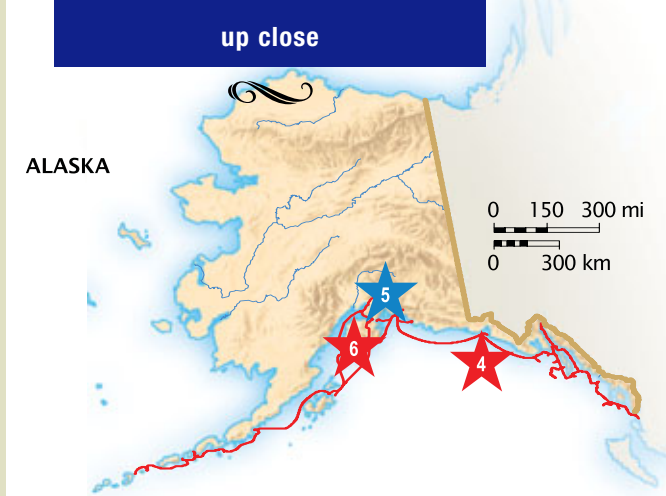
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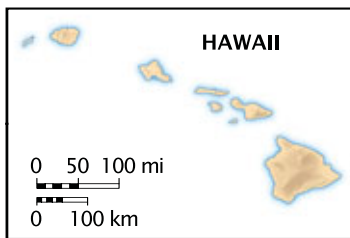
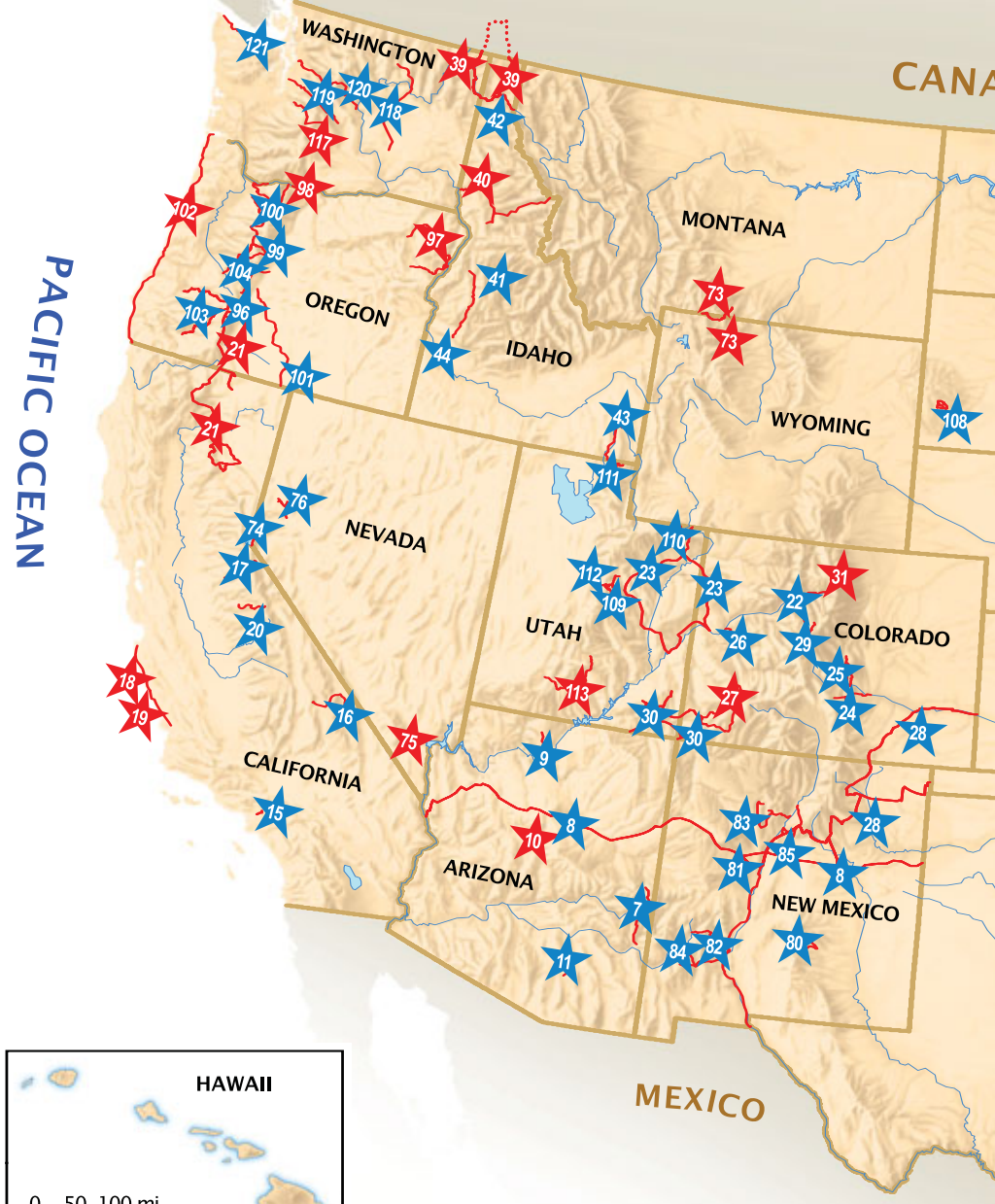
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up close



- ALABAMA**
- 1 Natchez Trace Parkway
- 2 Selma to Montgomery March Bwy
- 3 Talladega Scenic Drive
- ALASKA**
- 4 Alaska's Marine Highway
- 5 Glenn Highway
- 6 Seward Highway
- ARIZONA**
- 7 Coronado Trail Scenic Byway
- 8 Historic Route 66
- 9 Kaibab Plateau North Rim Prkwy
- 10 Red Rock Scenic Byway
- 11 Sky Island Scenic Byway
- ARKANSAS**
- 12 Crowley's Ridge Parkway
- 13 Great River Road
- 14 Talimena Scenic Drive
- CALIFORNIA**
- 15 Arroyo Seco Historic Parkway - Route 110
- 16 Death Valley Scenic Byway
- 17 Ebbetts Pass Scenic Byway
- 18 Route 1 - Big Sur Coast Hwy
- 19 Route 1 - San Luis Obispo North Coast Byway
- 20 Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road
- 21 Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway
- COLORADO**
- 22 Colorado River Headwater Byway
- 23 Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Hwy
- 24 Frontier Pathways Scenic & Historic Byway
- 25 Gold Belt Tour Scenic & Historic Byway
- 26 Grand Mesa Scenic & Historic Bwy
- 27 San Juan Skyway
- 28 Santa Fe Trail Scenic & Historic Byway
- 29 Top of the Rockies
- 30 Trail Ridge Road/Beaver Meadow Road
- CONNECTICUT**
- 32 Connecticut State Route 169
- 33 Merritt Parkway
- DELAWARE**
- 34 Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway
- FLORIDA**
- 35 A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway
- 36 Indian River Lagoon Scenic Hwy
- 37 Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway
- GEORGIA**
- 38 Russell-Brasstown National Scenic Byway
- IDAHO**
- 39 International Selkirk Loop
- 40 Northwest Passage Scenic Byway
- 41 Payette River Scenic Byway
- 42 Pend Oreille Scenic Byway
- 43 Pioneer Historic Byway
- 44 Western Heritage Historic Byway
- ILLINOIS**
- 13 Great River Road
- 45 Historic National Road
- 8 Historic Route 66
- 46 Illinois River Road: Route of the Voyageurs
- 47 Lincoln Highway
- 48 Meeting of the Great Rivers Scenic Route
- 49 Ohio River Scenic Byway
- INDIANA**
- 45 Historic National Road
- 49 Ohio River Scenic Byway
- IOWA**
- 13 Great River Road
- 50 Loess Hills Scenic Byway
- KANSAS**
- 51 Flint Hills Scenic Byway
- 52 Wetlands & Wildlife Scenic Byway
- KENTUCKY**
- 53 Country Music Highway
- 54 Red River Gorge Scenic Byway
- 55 Wilderness Road Heritage Hwy
- LOUISIANA**
- 56 Creole Nature Trail
- MAINE**
- 57 Acadia Byway
- 58 Old Canada Road Scenic Byway
- 59 Rangeley Lakes Scenic Byway
- 60 Schoodic Scenic Byway
- MARYLAND**
- 61 Catoctin Mountain Scenic Byway
- 62 Chesapeake Country Scenic Bwy
- 45 Historic National Road
- MICHIGAN**
- 63 Cooper Country Trail
- 64 River Road Scenic Byway
- 65 Woodward Avenue M-1
- MINNESOTA**
- 66 Edge of the Wilderness
- 67 Grand Rounds Scenic Byway
- 13 Great River Road
- 68 Historic Bluff Country Scenic Bwy
- 69 Minnesota River Valley Scenic Bwy
- 70 North Shore Scenic Drive
- 71 Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway
- MISSISSIPPI**
- 13 Lower Mississippi Great River Rd
- 1 Natchez Trace Parkway

- MISSOURI**
- 12 Crowley's Ridge Parkway
- 72 Little Dixie Highway of the Great River Road
- MONTANA**
- 73 Beartooth Highway
- NEVADA**
- 74 Lake Tahoe - Eastshore Drive
- 75 Las Vegas Strip
- 76 Pyramid Lake Scenic Byway
- NEW HAMPSHIRE**
- 77 Connecticut River Byway
- 78 Kancamagus Scenic Byway
- 79 White Mountain Trail
- NEW MEXICO**
- 80 Billy the Kid Trail
- 81 El Camino Real
- 82 Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway
- 8 Historic Route 66
- 83 Jemez Mountain Trail
- 28 Santa Fe Trail
- 84 Trail of the Mountain Spirits Scenic Byway
- 85 Turquoise Trail
- NEW YORK**
- 86 Lakes to Locks Passage
- 87 Mohawk Towpath Byway
- 88 Seaway Trail
- NORTH CAROLINA**
- 89 Blue Ridge Parkway
- 90 Cherochala Skyway
- NORTH DAKOTA**
- 91 Native American Scenic Byway
- 92 Shyenne River Valley Scenic Byway
- OHIO**
- 93 Amish Country Byway
- 45 Historic National Road
- 94 Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail
- 95 Ohio & Erie Canalway
- 49 Ohio River Scenic Byway
- OKLAHOMA**
- 14 Talimena Scenic Drive
- OREGON**
- 96 Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway
- 97 Hells Canyon Scenic Byway
- 98 Historic Columbia River Hwy
- 99 McKenzie Pass Santiam Pass Scenic Byway
- 100 Mt. Hood Scenic Byway
- 101 Outback Scenic Byway
- 102 Pacific Coast Scenic Byway
- 103 Rogue-Umpqua Scenic Byway
- 21 Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway
- 104 West Cascades Scenic Byway
- PENNSYLVANIA**
- 45 Historic National Road
- 88 Seaway Trail
- SOUTH CAROLINA**
- 105 Ashley River Road
- 106 Cherokee Foothills Scenic Hwy
- 107 Savannah River Scenic Byway
- SOUTH DAKOTA**
- 91 Native American Scenic Byway
- 108 Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway
- TENNESSEE**
- 90 Cherochala Skyway
- 1 Natchez Trace Parkway
- UTAH**
- 23 Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway
- 109 Flaming Gorge -Ujntas Scenic Byway
- 110 Highway 12-A Journey Through Time Scenic Byway
- 111 Logan Canyon Scenic Byway
- 112 Nebo Loop Scenic Byway
- 113 The Energy Loop: Huntington & Eccles Canyons Scenic Byways
- 30 Trail of the Ancients
- VERMONT**
- 77 Connecticut River Byway
- VIRGINIA**
- 89 Blue Ridge Parkway
- 114 Colonial Parkway
- 115 George Washington Memorial Parkway
- 116 Skyline Drive
- WASHINGTON**
- 117 Chinook Scenic Byway
- 118 Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway
- 39 International Selkirk Loop
- 119 Mountains to Sound Greenway
- 120 Stevens Pass Greenway
- 121 Strait of Jaun de Fuca Highway
- WEST VIRGINIA**
- 122 Coal Heritage Trail
- 123 Highland Scenic Highway
- 45 Historic National Road
- 124 Midland Trail
- 125 Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike
- 126 Washington Heritage Trail
- WISCONSIN**
- 13 Great River Road
- WYOMING**
- 73 Beartooth Highway



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**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

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[info@circlewisconsin.com](mailto:info@circlewisconsin.com) / [www.circlewisconsin.com](http://www.circlewisconsin.com)  
 Circle Wisconsin is the statewide destination marketing organization that specifically promotes to the Motorcoach group travel industry. Our objective is to create a positive image of Wisconsin as a great place to do business, and Circle Wisconsin is an organization built on the high quality of its members and the level of service they are proud to provide.

▶ **Cranberry Country Lodge Convention Center and Waterpark** ..... **608-374-2801**  
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▶ **Mason City Iowa Convention & Visitors Bureau** ..... **641-422-1663**  
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▶ **North Dakota Tourism Division** ..... **701-328-2625**  
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**MINNESOTA** ..... **1-888-TOURISM (868-7476)**  
**MISSOURI** ..... **1-800-519-2100**  
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**NORTH DAKOTA** ..... **1-800-HELLO ND (435-5663)**  
**SOUTH DAKOTA** ..... **1-800-S-DAKOTA (732-5682)**  
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# mystery tour

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

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

### DAY ONE

**10 - 12:00 pm**  
 Begin the morning with a tour of the word's foremost outfitter. Visit the 60,000-square-foot store featuring a soaring, open-air environment filled with museum-quality trophy animals, aquariums and other educational and informative displays. Don't forget to include a quick stop on your way out of town for some chocolate chipperz, (chocolate covered potato chips) at a shop famous for their fine candies since 1911.

**12 - 1:30 pm**  
 A 30-minute coach ride brings you to our next destination where a tour of a newspaper's printing process brings some things to life that many generally take for granted.

**1:30 - 3:00 pm**  
 Enjoy homemade soups, salads and sandwiches for lunch and indulge in some dessert at this restaurant nationally known for it's spreadable fruit and more.

**3 - 5:30 pm**  
 Catch a rare look inside this bus manufacturing plant followed by a tour of the town. A step-on guide will accompany your group through the historic district preserved as the most architecturally intact - and probably the best concentration of the late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings left in this valley region.

**5:30 - 7:00 pm**  
 Check into your hotel and enjoy dinner with "Great Food & Good Company."

**7 - 9:00 pm**  
 Evening entertainment is at the oldest continuously operating moving theatre in the United States. This once stationary, and very live theater, hosted iconic people, such as Mark Twain and Mary Pickford.

### DAY TWO

**7:30 - 8:30 am**  
 Enjoy a complimentary breakfast at your hotel before boarding the bus.

**8:30 - 9:45 am**  
 Travel south 70 miles on a trail fit for a king.

**9:45 - 12:00 pm**  
 Your next destination is the world's largest "all sports" store. You'll enjoy sports simulator games, a walk-through aquarium, a shooting gallery, tour of the Presidents, and so much more. There's even a 12-car ferris wheel you can ride indoors, and 85 unique specialty shops (also conveniently indoors!).

**12 - 3:00 pm**  
 Travel back in time for a pioneer's lunch with a pitchfork barbeque. Take a self-guided tour of this historic village with over 40 buildings. Included is a train depot, mansion and two museums featuring everything from Native American artifacts to classic automobiles.

Hint: This tour has its guests spending the night in a town once home to two famous screen stars...Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine.

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