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MIDWEST'S GROUP TRAVEL MAGAZINE

ITINERARIES

fall/winter 2009

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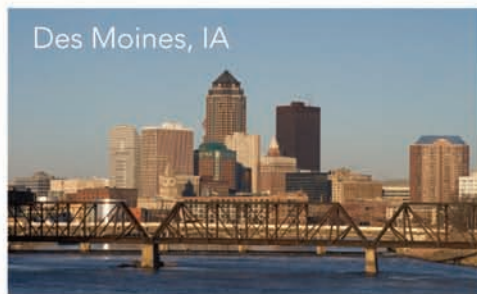


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csmlodging.net





LETTER FROM the publishers

Dear Planner,

As a travel planner or tour operator, you know how your clients love to shop! Whether it is just an impromptu stop or a tour that is planned all around shopping. In this issue you will find some great places to shop in the upper Midwest. Take a look at the intro pages for each state, there are some great ideas for any type of group who like to browse and take home a trinket or two!

We've highlighted some group-friendly shops that offer unique treasures and gifts. From the *Mall of America's* 500+ shops to attractions with gift shops, to those stores that line the many main streets of communities you plan to visit this coming year!

Ben Franklin said "A penny saved is a penny earned" As a group tour planner you know the value of combining a memorable experience with something out of the ordinary. Kathleen Somers' article on shopping 'the old fashioned way' will educate you on the history and some background tidbits on the *Ben Franklin* stores, plus give you creative ideas in planning your tours, not to mention a flashback to simpler times. With more than 60 Ben Franklin stores still keeping small towns interesting across the Midwest, it would be easy to include one in a shopping themed outing. In addition, discover the many ways Franklin has affected our world today in the new exhibit, "*Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*," on display at the *Minnesota History Center*, Nov 27, 2009-July 4, 2010.

The sample itineraries you read in our issues are archived on our website. Check it out - bookmark - and use these updated and easy to find itineraries in our itinerary library. So if you want to read the great itinerary about touring the mighty Mississippi River or *Kansas Yesterday & Today Itinerary*? It's all in there for your reference. www.itinerariesmidwest.com

We are grateful for the way you rely on *ITINERARIES MIDWEST* for your tour planning. We wish you the very best during the upcoming holiday season and touring time, and hope that all of your tours are safe and enjoyable!

Best Regards,

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



Coming Spring 2010!

All Life's A Stage,

said Shakespeare, and we believe that this includes your tours! Popular theater options from Broadway to outdoor pageants from dinner theater, can touch the hearts of your groups. In this issue, you'll find that the Midwest puts many reasons on stage for you to include our professional performances in your tours!

ITINERARIES *Midwest*

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Proud Members of:

Tour Minnesota Association (TMA) & American Bus Association (ABA)

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to *ITINERARIES* Inc.
56 South 33rd Avenue #234, St. Cloud, MN 56301

MAKING THIS MAGAZINE WORK FOR YOU:

ITINERARIES MIDWEST Magazine is published specifically for the travel trade professional three times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall/Winter. The upper Midwest is presented by state (IL, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI, & Central Canada) and strives 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. These 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 Midwest* underscores the importance of your business to them.

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on the cover

Mall of America, a shopping and entertainment magnet for groups from 'round the world, hosts more than 12,000 groups annually. Visitors frequently expand their tours and packages to include other Midwest destinations utilizing hub & spoke itineraries, corridor and regional tours.

photo credits

Cover image: Mall of America. Cover inset image: John Markovich Photography - Minneapolis, Minnesota / www.jmphoto.com / 952-938-6716. Other images: Kim-Karpeles, Amana Colonies, AmericInn Moorhead, Apple River Fort State Historic Site, Arbor Lodge Mansion, Bakken Museum of Electricity, Bass Pro Shop, Branson/Lakes Area CVB, Cabela's, Corydon Avenue, Destination Winnipeg, The Exchange District, Fargo/Moorhead CVB, Faribault Chamber of Commerce, Galena/Jo Daviess County, Heartland Acres Agribition Center, Homestead Restaurant, Lied Lodge & Conference Center, Lindsborg CVB, Mall of America, Manitowoc Area Visitor & Convention Bureau, Mikkelsen Classic Boat Museum, Minnesota Historical Society, Missouri Tourism, Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce Inc, Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce, Pavilion Great Hall, Pipestone Chamber, Pulaski County Tourism Board, The Rahr West Art Museum, St. Cloud CVB, St. Paul Convention & Visitors Authority, Scheel's, Springfield CVB, S.S. Ruby Pontoon, Sioux Falls CVB, The Keeping Room, Visit Milwaukee, Wichita CVB



EXPLORING MINNESOTA

BY MARK W. PETERSON



Split Rock Lighthouse

IT ALL BEGAN CENTURIES AGO...

French voyageurs brought home stories of a distant land teeming with beauty and opportunity. Over time this land became a coveted North American territory, and then a valuable member of the United States. First populated by the indigenous Dakota and Anishinaabe Native American tribes, Minnesota also gradually became home to immigrating Europeans - hard-working peoples who have left their signatures on the land and in history as well. Over time - with occasional fits and starts - our State slowly took shape. All the elements for great touring packages are now in place. Nature, history, arts & culture, festivals, commerce, attractions, and more, all perfect for motorcoach travel!

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE – and it's all fresh!

Minnesota license plates trumpet the abundance of fresh H₂O (with thanks to the melting glaciers, having carved out many of our varied landscapes). Imagine over 10,000 lakes (11,842 to be exact). Minnesota has so many lakes we had to start using their names over and over again (i.e., only in Minnesota will you find 91 Long Lakes!). You'll find miles of world-class rivers - including the world-famous 2,552 mile-long *Mississippi River* - with 681 of those miles right here in Minnesota! Then there's the great Gitche Gume... better known as *Lake Superior*. Your group may catch a glimpse of an immense ore ship gliding into Duluth's harbor while enjoying a cruise aboard the

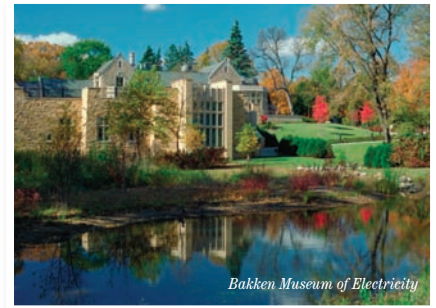
Vista Fleet. Or take a naturalist narrated cruise aboard the 141 Pax "*Chester Charles II*", on *Lake Itasca*. Enjoy the miracle of our fresh water for yourself... on boat tours of all kinds on Minnesota's rivers and lakes. So much water, so many choices....

SPECTACULAR SCENERY... PICK YOUR PERCH!

Nature's eye-candy. Minnesota offers an incredible variety of scenery and views, each uniquely breath-taking...from natural to man-made. Make the journey from perch to perch, using our *22 Scenic Byways*...beautiful links that can impressively connect your destinations. One memorable perch for groups from around the world is atop the 100-year-old *Split Rock Lighthouse* overlooking mighty Lake Superior - the granddaddy of all Great Lakes lighthouses. Also be prepared for cascading waterfalls, underground caves and mines (Would you like to ride a mine elevator 1/2 mile straight down?) plus seemingly endless panoramas from overlooks high atop cliffs and bluffs throughout the state. Take your group on the tram during the blazing fall color season to the top of *Lutsen Mountain* along the North Shore. Walk the rocks across the *Mississippi River Headwaters*, a great photo option and another favorite spot for groups! Weave your way through the prairie grasses that Laura Ingalls Wilder traveled, with a themed itinerary of the *Wilder Trail* taking you across the Midwest. Cruise old river towns along the Mississippi bluffs on an authentic paddleboat.

INDUSTRIES EVEN LINE UP TO SHARE THEIR STORIES

Minnesota has been built by people who knew the meaning of hard - and smart - work. They paired industriousness with inventiveness...and came up with commercial ventures that we are proud of. Like the great commercial enterprise started in a Two Harbors, MN garage, long before their company launched thousands of products into our modern day marketplace. The *3M Museum* is right there telling a great story!



Bakken Museum of Electricity

Or while in Pipestone visiting the national monument at "Crossroads of Native America", have Mick at the CVB arrange a tour of the miles of wind turbines to see how these marvels of electricity are forever changing the way we live.

Here's a museum sampling of companies who've had an impact on our lives:

- *SPAM Museum* (Austin) a museum for all you SPAM lovers out there, and it's great fun, especially for groups! Play a game or sing a group song, all in great SPAM fun!

- *Red Wing Shoes* (Red Wing) See their monster shoe, made just like the ones you may be wearing right now!

- *Bakken Museum of Electricity* (Minneapolis) founded by Earl Bakken, inventor of the cardiac pacemaker)... don't miss the Frankenstein exhibit!

- *Mayo Museum* (Rochester) of the famed Mayo Clinic, enjoyed by more than 100,000 visitors in its first two years.

- *Minnesota Discovery Center* (formerly Iron World, at Chisholm) tells stories of the miners who filled millions of train cars with iron destined for the industrial revolution.

- Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't point you to the *Greyhound Bus Museum* (Hibbing). Since we're talking about motorcoach travel, you should learn how this all began.

BEST OF ALL, WE REALLY ARE MINNESOTA NICE

Whether you're bringing your groups to Minnesota to experience cultural heritage, beautiful byways, north shore vistas, waters to travel or the all-around scenic beauty. This is only the tip of the iceberg your group will experience while exploring Minnesota.

The destinations of Minnesota invite your groups to experience what Minnesota has to offer. 📍

For more information, contact Mary Ann Steen at Explore Minnesota Tourism, 651-757-1871.

MALL OF AMERICA

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LEGO



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For more information, contact Millie Philipp in Mall of America Tourism at 952.883.8843, mphilipp@mallofamerica.com

SHOPPING

The Old Fashioned Way

BY KATHLEEN SOMERS

You know what they say: When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping. That is what they say isn't it? Maybe...but I'll tell you this: Shopping just isn't what it used to be. Nowadays people shop from home anytime of day, from their computers. And what's up with those occasional stores? Only open one weekend a month? Don't you just miss the simpler times...the five and dimes?

Did you know the Ben Franklin stores were one of the original five and dimes? And if you are too young to know what a five and dime is, well, they're discount stores. Hey, here's an idea! Why not plan a bit of nostalgia into your group's shopping excursion? With more than 60 Ben Franklin stores still keeping small towns interesting across the Midwest, it would be easy to find at least one to include in your shopping themed outing.

Here are a few background tidbits to get you in the mood. It is believed Ben Franklin Stores were the first retail franchise, starting back in 1927. Yes, the store is named after Benjamin Franklin, inspired by his words "A penny saved is a penny earned." Even the company logo, a key topped by a spark, references Franklin's famous lightning experiment. An offshoot of Butler Brothers, a mail order wholesaler founded in 1877 and selling general and variety-store items, the Ben Franklin Stores chain was a response to the rise of variety stores. And you can't talk about Ben Franklin Stores without noting that Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart, got his start in retailing by operating a Ben Franklin store. (Is it true BF rejected his idea?) Oh, and

get this; in 1973, Michael J. Dupey converted a Ben Franklin Store into Michaels, a chain of craft stores.

Today, Ben Franklin Stores are either a craft or a variety store. All are independently owned. The name often invokes nostalgia. People can't resist a visit. "When people travel through here they see the Ben Franklin sign and make it a point to stop" says Harvey, ND storeowner Kevin Tuenge. It may be curiosity that brings them in, but it is the fantastic values, great service, and friendly atmosphere that keeps them returning.

The fun part is each store has its own unique personality.

Of Tuenge's 7,000 square foot store people comment; "I know of towns that would kill for a store like this." Maybe it's the fresh popcorn he and wife Sheila make for their customers each day. Or maybe it's that the flavor of the five and dime still holds a place in our hearts. Carol Schoenleber's parents opened the first Ben Franklin in Lincoln, NE back in 1949. Like so many of the remaining Ben Franklin stores, Schoenleber makes sure there is something for everybody in her variety store. From all sorts of little candies to hard to find educational toys, her Ben Franklin creates a complete yet unique shopping experience.

And the service is always top notch. When groups come to her store, she is happy to provide stools to those who need to rest a bit while making those all-important shopping decisions.

As a group tour planner you know the value of combining a memorable experience with something out of the ordinary. A stop at Ben Franklin fits the bill. It's free; most owners are thrilled to offer your group something special, like a discount, a treasure hunt game or maybe even a little treat. You will have your group talking for some time about the experience. What a clever way to add value to your next trip.

Maybe we have gone full circle; from the Butler Brothers mail order general and variety store items, to today's online stores selling pretty much everything. Or maybe there are still enough of us who just miss the fun of finding that special treasure we never knew we needed until we saw it. Seeing an item in person; touching it, holding it, experiencing it...that creates a complete shopping experience. With just a little planning ahead, you can offer that same thrill to your groups. 

THE NEW MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER EXHIBIT:

Benjamin Franklin

We all know about Benjamin Franklin's famous experiment with a kite, a key and some lightning, but did you also know about his rebellious youth? That he pioneered wind surfing and invented swim fins? That he helped found the nation's first hospital, was an environmentalist and charted the Gulf Stream to assist in ocean travel? In many ways Benjamin Franklin is the founding father nobody knows! Misunderstood because of the sheer breadth and diversity of his accomplishments. Discover the many ways Franklin has affected our world today in the new exhibit, "*Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*," on display at the Minnesota History Center, **Nov 27, 2009-July 4, 2010.**

Groups call two weeks in advance to insure special group rates:

GROUP STANDARD PACKAGE

History Center staff will greet your group with their museum access buttons and maps, ensuring you hassle-free admission with no waiting.

651-259-3003 | HCAAdultGroupTour@mnhs.org.

Choose a Ben Franklin store on your next route at benfranklin-stores.com/storesselect.asp



Congratulations to these events for being selected as part of the AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION'S 100 BEST EVENTS FOR 2010

With the release of the American Bus Association's 2010 Top 100 Events in North America, ABA celebrates 28 years of the Top 100 Events. What began as a way for motorcoach operators to incorporate new product into their itineraries has grown to one of the most sought-after lists by travel professionals, motorcoach operators and the general public.

Every year in August, ABA's Top 100 Events Committee selects events from among hundreds of U.S. and Canadian events, nominated by state and provincial tourism offices and convention and visitors bureaus. Judges consider the events broad appeal, its accessibility to motorcoaches and skill at handling large groups, and a variety of other relevant criteria. Listed below are the events in our 9 states and Canada, covered in Itineraries Midwest Magazine, to view the complete list visit www.buses.org.

Saint Paul Winter Carnival

JAN 21-31, Saint Paul Minnesota
800-627-6101 / www.wintercarnival.com

Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Pony Express

MAR 1-DEC 31, St. Joseph Missouri
800-785-0360 / www.stjomo.com

Pella Tulip Time Festival

MAY 6-8, Pella Iowa, 641-620-9463 / www.pellatulptime.com

19th Annual Grand Celebration Pow Wow

JUNE 1, Hinckley Minnesota
800-472-6321 / www.grandcasinomn.com/entertainment.aspx

Great Galena Balloon Race

JUNE 1, Galena Illinois
800-690-1287 / www.greatgalenaballoonrace.com

Music Theatre of Wichita

JUNE 9-AUG 10, Wichita Kansas
316-265-3253 / www.MTWichita.org

Glenn Miller Festival

JUNE 10-13, Clarinda Iowa
712-542-2461 / www.glennmiller.org

Nordic Culture Clubs Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival

JUNE 25-27, Moorhead Minnesota
218-299-5452 / www.scandinavianhjemkomstfestival.org

National Tom Sawyer Days

JUNE 1-4, Hannibal Missouri
866-263-4825 / www.visithannibal.com

Mount Rushmore National Memorial Independence Day Celebration

JUNE 3, Rapid City South Dakota
605-341-8883 / www.nps.gov/moru

Winnipeg Folk Festival

JUNE 8-11, Winnipeg Manitoba
888-655-5354 / www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca

Dodge City Days

JUNE 30-AUG 8, Dodge City Kansas
620-227-3119 / www.dodgecitydays.com

Folklorama - Canada's Cultural Celebration

AUG 1-14, Winnipeg Canada
800-665-0234 / www.folklorama.ca

Iowa State Fair

AUG 12-22, Des Moines Iowa
515-262-3111 / www.iowastatefair.org

Tall Ships® Chicago! 2010

AUG 24-29, Chicago Illinois
800-595-7437 / www.navypier.com

Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival

SEPT 25-27, Custer South Dakota
605-255-4515 / www.custerstatepark.info

Ozark Mountain Christmas

NOV 1-DEC 31, Branson Missouri
800-BRANSON / www.explorebranson.com

Branson Veterans Week

NOV 5-11, Branson Missouri
800-272-6766 / www.explorebranson.com

Renaissance Festival

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- * Live Entertainment
- * On-site Catering
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Our Festivals . . .
**Minnesota & Michigan
Renaissance Festivals
August - October, 2010**

**Kansas City
Renaissance Festival
September - October, 2010**



For Festival Information, visit www.renaissancefest.com!

THERE'S AN OLD JOKE IN THE MIDWEST
THE WEATHER STAYS
SO COLD SO LONG,
WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO
BUT GO TO THE MALL?

ACTUALLY, THE WEATHER'S NOT ALL THAT BAD, OR IT ISN'T AS BAD AS WE PRETEND.

WE JUST LIKE TO FIND ANY OLD EXCUSE
TO THROW ON THE COMFY SHOES
AND DO A LITTLE WINDOW SHOPPING.



SHOPPING MIDWEST



BY BRITT AAMODT

If the members of your tour group are anything like us, and we bet they are, one of the things they enjoy most about travel is the opportunity to soak up the local color in the area's trendy boutiques, small gift stores, malls, outlets, downtown retailers and specialty stores. Because wherever you go, you'll always find something you've never seen before. And unlike the sunset over the lake resort or the feeling you get taking a sleigh ride through snow-laden pines, the lamb's wool sweater, purchased at an artisan's gallery listed on your tour itinerary, is a memory your client can take home and throw over her shoulders on a crisp fall evening.

The Midwest takes its shopping seriously. It's a regional pastime. So with shops available in every size, shape and theme conceivable, it only makes sense for shopping to be a fun-time activity in your itinerary.



Mall of America

MALLS

THE INDOOR FACTOR

Do you know indoor shopping malls have been around in some form or other since the 1950s? Yep. And they only get better—and bigger—with time. Okay, so you've heard about the Mall of America in Minnesota. But maybe you haven't heard that the "mega mall", which opened in 1992, has over 500 shops and restaurants under one roof, not to mention an aquarium, a movie theatre, an amusement park and occasional celebrity guest appearances. The weather outside might be frightful, but your tour members will never know it, as they mill several floors and several city blocks of shopping wow-factor without ever stepping in a slush puddle or feeling a gust of seasonal wind.

Malls aren't just mega. They're convenient. They bundle recreation, shopping and dining in one package, and they have gloriously large parking lots. No trouble parking a bus here.



Cabela's

SPECIALTY RETAILERS WITH BIG IDEAS

If you're looking for an indoor activity, but you want something more eye-popping than "mall" to add to the itinerary, consider a specialty retailer. Ever heard of Cabela's? It's the nation's largest outfitter and has locations around the Midwest, offering lots to see as well as lots to do. How about a 45,000-gallon aquarium? Or a mountain diorama with 75 wild game mounts?

But Cabela's is just one example. The Midwest has a host of unique indoor retailers that have built reputations as tourist destinations. The local Chamber, CVB or retail association knows just what you're looking for: antique malls, flea markets with live entertainment and dancing, outlet emporiums, craft barns and multi-story artist lofts with gallery space around every corner. Furniture stores are big, not just because they sell entertainment centers and pool tables either. Furniture retailers have transformed showrooms into showplaces, catering to the tourist market with events, art galleries, café restaurants and entertainment. Plus, because they're selling furniture, they always have plenty of chairs and sofas for your group members to take a load off.



Fargo/Moorhead, ND

WINDOW SHOPPING ON MAIN STREET

Indoor is nice, but outdoor can be nicer, when you guide your tour to one of those picture-perfect downtowns with a tempting display in every shop window. Motorcoaches are great because they're comfy and because, eventually, they drop you off someplace where you can get out and explore. Set your members free for an hour or two to wander downtown. It can be downtown big city or downtown small-town main street. Wherever you go, you'll find retailers who've dressed their shelves and arranged their stores to excite a browsing mood.

Calling ahead can hook you into special events customized for your group, like wine tastings at wine stores and cheese tastings at cheese stores, or treasure hunts and interpretive tours of gift shops. The Midwest boasts all four seasons. So look for seasonal activities: farmers markets on the outskirts of town, harvest days and holiday lights. Because winter does come and bring the cold with it, some of the Midwest's larger cities have built skyways connecting their downtown retailers. If your group has never seen a skyway, they'll be delighted to roam the network of enclosed skyways that bridge icy streets and connect buildings, and to check out the assortment of skyway-level retailers and restaurants.

STORE-ING UP GOOD MEMORIES

Shopping—it's something everyone does and everyone knows how to do. As an item on your itinerary, shopping gives your group travel members a chance to move about on their own and to individualize their browsing. It also gives them an opportunity to find that perfect gift for a friend or that perfect takeaway memory of a good trip. You provide the motorcoach, and your tour operator, chamber, CVB and retail association will provide the shops and shopping ideas for your one-of-a-kind itinerary.



{ **A 5-Day Sample Itinerary** }
This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of year!

Gathering Trinkets & Treasures, Minnesota-style!



Calling ahead...

- 1 - Bloomington CVB**
www.bloomingtonmn.org 866-435-7425
- 2 - Albertville Premium Outlets**
www.premiumoutlets.com 763-497-1911
- 3 - St. Cloud CVB**
www.granitecountry.com 800-264-2940
- 4 - Visit Osakis**
www.visitosakis.com 866-784-8941
- 5 - Alexandria Chamber of Commerce**
www.alexandriamn.org 800-235-9441
- 6 - Northland Woolens**
www.northlandwoolens.com 320-762-0376

BLOOMINGTON, MN

10:00 am

Arrive in **Bloomington** and begin your treasure hunt with a BANG at the world's largest mall; the infamous **Mall of America**. Home to over 500 stores, ranging from specialty shops, like the new American Girl store, to local jewelry and clothing boutiques, such as Local Charm, Relax-a-daisical and The Hockey Lodge, plus Nordstrom, Bloomingdales and the like. Wherever you turn, there's something new to discover; it's truly a shopaholic's paradise.

And since all that shopping is sure to work up an appetite for your group, enjoy a full-service meal from one of 50 restaurants. Staying into the evening allows you to check out the many unique nightspots, which are the perfect way to round out a busy shopping day. The MOA is home to a variety of bars, dance clubs, coffee houses and comedy clubs, so take your pick and make a night of it!

ALBERTVILLE, MN

8 - 12 pm

Enjoy breakfast and then travel west on 494 / I-94 for less than an hours ride to Albertville. Shop at the **Premium Outlet Mall** with its more than 100 brand name stores and a mall trolley for your shopping convenience. Groups receive VIP coupon books upon arrival for even better deals.

12 - 1:00 pm

Lunch at **D. Michael B's Resort Bar and Grill** right next to the Outlet Mall, offers a wide variety of delicious entrees to appeal to any palette.

1 - 1:45 pm

ST CLOUD, MN

Continue west and exit MN Hwy 23 to visit St Cloud and the **Grande Depot**.

1:45 - 2:30 pm

You'll be impressed as you drive up to this historic Railroad Depot. It has undergone an extensive

restoration to highlight its elegance and beauty, and is now home to two upscale retail choices, **Accentric** and **Cork & Cask**. **Accentric**, offers extensive stylish home décor, gourmet foods, exclusive culinary, children's gifts and much more. **Cork & Cask**, offers central Minnesota's most unique selection of fine wine and spirits. Feel the buildings history and sample some of the delicious items.

2:30 - 4:30 pm

A trip to **Crossroads Mall** and the coach will drop you off at the door of **Scheel's**, a two-story 120,000 square foot store providing an extensive selection of sporting goods, clothing, and the hottest brands in fashion, and unique home décor. You can't help but notice there's a large maple tree centrally located within the store's atrium. Another special attraction is a beautiful lodge featuring a **Coffee and Fudge Shop**, and unique home décor, themed gifts, and art to give your home a one-of-a-kind look. Your group will have a behind the scenes tour of the store along with



a little 'goody bag' filled with FUDGE for your bus ride!

Spend the rest of your shopping time exploring **Crossroads Mall**. With its anchor department stores, a food court, fine jewelry, fashion and fun with over 120 specialty stores. Plan to meet up with your group for dinner.

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Check into the **AmericInn of St. Cloud**. Your group will notice the difference the moment they check into their over-sized rooms and get a taste of the features AmericInn has to offer. Cookies anyone?

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Have a special dinner at **The Cafe Renaissance**. This intimate restaurant has the ambiance of Venice and Florence, impeccable food, blending American tastes with French and Mediterranean influences. Impress your group by ordering flaming Saganaki, and watch with delight as they set it on fire at your table!! Delicious and exciting! *OPA!!*

7:00 pm

Point that bus towards downtown St. Cloud for your group to see a play or musical performance at either the **Paramount Theatre** or **Pioneer Place on 5th**. Both offer high quality, professional entertainment in both theatrical and musical performances throughout the year.

dayTHREE

OSAKIS, MN

8 – 9:00 am

Rise and shine for a warm and a delicious breakfast that includes Belgium waffles and sausage!

9 – 10:00 am

A must stop in St. Cloud is the **Munsinger / Clemens Gardens** along the Mississippi River. Enjoy over 150,000 annuals and perennials beautifully displayed in both formal and cottage garden styles. The rose garden has 1,100 roses including floribundas, tree roses, hybrid teas, shrub roses, and grandifloras. The Gift Shop is open daily through the season.

10 – 4:00 pm

Travel US Hwy 10 west through Little Falls. Arrange a stop here if you like.

Head west on Hwy 27 to Osakis. There's a variety of shopping to enjoy in this peaceful lake community. Shop the historic "**Just Like Grandma's**" right in town, with five buildings of handcrafted gifts, home decor and clothing. Have lunch in their Tea Room, Coffee Shop, or Gazebo, plus enjoy an ice cream cone before you go! Continue on to **Crooked Willow**, along Hwy 27. Shop for gifts, antiques and home accessories in this beautiful refurbished farm. The first question many ask is 'tell us the History of this place!' Your group may want to eat lunch at the Timber House, but be sure to call ahead when bringing groups in.

4 – 7:00 pm

A little further up the road is **Alexandria**, lavish with lakes and many hotels that love groups. Enjoy dinner on the lake or have your group dine on their own. Many great choices to choose from in Alexandria! Relax...

dayFOUR

ALEXANDRIA, MN

9 – 2:00 pm

You can literally shop til' you drop in the **Alexandria Lakes Area**. With stores big and small, you're sure to find just what you're looking for and even items that you would least expect. Visit major retail stores and the area mall or venture to historic downtown Alexandria. Many chocolate shops ☺

2 – 5:00 pm

Alexandria has a few museums in town that you will want to include. Experience a rare glimpse into the past in a unique and fascinating way. The **Runestone Museum** allows visitors to decide for themselves if the artifact is authentic; were the first visitors to America the Vikings in 1362? The newly constructed

tribute to maritime history tells the story of the rich and colorful boating traditions in Alexandria, while the **Douglas County Historical Society** houses the life story of **Senator Knute Nelson**, and includes a first rate genealogy center and local archives.

dayFIVE

NELSON, MN

The coach takes you back down Hwy 27 for a real treat to a small farm nestled in the heart of Minnesota where wool & yarn go hand in hand.

Since 2000, Nelson is the home of **Northland Woolens, Inc.** and they now have numerous diverse items in their collection. "Go Green"! Their Twice Baked Recycled Wool line has some of their most popular items. No two items are ever the same. When touring their operation, don't forget to purchase a new set of mittens!

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or any of the locations found on the *Calling ahead...*, previous page.

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illinois cities

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CHAMPAIGN, CHICAGO, DIXON,
EAST DUBUQUE, GALENA, HANOVER,
KEWANEE, LA SALLE, MARSHALL,
MOLINE, MONEE, MT CARROLL,
MT MORRIS, PEORIA, ROCHELLE,
ROCKFORD, SAVANNA, SPRINGFIELD,
ST. CHARLES, STOCKTON, THOMSON

calendar of events

december

- **Wonderland in Lights** Dec 1-25, Effingham 217-342-5310
- **29th Annual Lambs Farm Holiday Art and Craft Show** Dec 3-6, Libertyville 847-362-4636
- **20th Annual Home Tour** Dec 4-5, Taylorville 217-824-9447
- **Christmastown Festival** Dec 4-14, Tuscola 217-253-5013
- **Festival of Lights Winter Wonderland** Dec 4-31, Peoria 800-365-3743
- **Navy Pier: Winter Wonderfest** Dec 4-Jan 3, Chicago 312-744-2390
- **21st Annual Windmont Park Lighting/Drive of Lights** Dec 6-Jan 1, Kewanee 309-852-2175
- **Julmarknad (Christmas Market)** Dec 5-6, Bishop Hill 309-927-3345
- **Arrival at Camp River Dubois** Dec 12-13, Hartford 618-251-5811

january

- **Stepping Out: 150 Years of Footwear** Jan 2-Mar 18, Galena 815-777-9129
- **Bald Eagle Bus Tours** Jan 16, Feb 13, 27, Galena 815-594-2306
- **Eagle Watch Weekend** Jan 23-24, Utica 815-667-4111
- **Snow Days Chicago** Jan 29-31, Chicago 312-567-8500

february

- **Mason Hollow Maple Syrup Tapping** Sat & Sun Feb through Mid-March, Grafton 800-258-6645
- **Eagle Day Festival** Feb 6, Peoria 309-547-3721
- **Chocoholic Frolic** Feb 18, Rockford 815-965-3455
- **Polar Adventure Days** Feb 20, Chicago 312-567-8500

march

- **Festival of Arts & Crafts** Mar 6-7, St. Charles 847-301-8543
- **Manhattan Irish Fest** Mar 5-6, Manhattan 815-931-0410
- **Town & Country Arts Show** Mar 13-14, Canton 309-647-1345
- **Tourism Day** Mar 21, Utica 815-220-7386

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

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MAIN STREET IN LIBERTYVILLE

Take a step back in time as you stroll Libertyville's historic downtown, lined with turn-of-the-century buildings. Visit the charming antique shops, boutiques, gift stores, and gourmet food and wine shops, not to mention over 80 restaurants to dine in. Cathy's Garden Gate is sure to keep you occupied with their truly unique gifts, garden décor, hand painted glass and more. Spend a little time at a microwinery where you can become the winemaker. Try on fun items at fabulous fashion boutiques. Don't miss a world-class cake shop disguised as a neighborhood bakery. Delicious!! Schedule a spa treatment or massage to relax those shopping muscles - pamper and indulge yourself. You deserve it!

And don't miss out, as Libertyville's shopping is not limited to downtown. You will find over two-dozen shopping centers and numerous retail shops along the edges of town, including apparel, salons, restaurants & much more. (See location on map, page 15)

more shopping in illinois

Bloomington – Stratford Square Shopping Center is home to Carson Pirie Scott, JC Penney, Marshall Field's, Sears, and many more stores. Plus, a unique store called TV Land, a sitcom heaven for TV fans of older series like "Bewitched," "Andy Griffith" and newer favorites like "Seinfeld."

Chicago – Macy's on State Street is in the old flagship Marshall Field's department store, an institution of Chicago since the early 1900s. This beautiful twelve-story granite structure is famous for its ornate green clocks that hang over the sidewalks. Also **Chicago's Magnificent Mile**, on Michigan Avenue is a well-known shopping district of world-renown retailers. Your group can enjoy magnificent department stores and boutiques comprising a diverse mix of American & International style.

Galena – Their historic Main Street, named "Best Main Street in the Midwest" by Midwest Living magazine, curves past more than 90 19th-century storefronts offering locally made products, antiques, local wines, confectionary, books, apparel, art and more.

Geneva – Over 100 specialty shops nestled in historic storefronts and charming Victorian style homes. With each new season, they fill their shops with exclusive treasures from all over the world. Discover one-of-a-kind gifts, unique clothing, distinctive art, home accessories, antiques, jewelry and much more.

Gurnee – Consisting of 1.7 million square feet of retail space that covers over 326 acres of land. With more than 200 stores, 20 eateries and the 20-screen Marcus Gurnee Cinema, this is one of the most popular shopping malls in Illinois.

Peoria – Looking for an excuse to shop while visiting the Peoria area? They'll give you more than just one. Try the funky and fabulous home and gift shops lining the river on downtown's Water Street, or those paving the way in Peoria Heights. You'll find stores of all types in shopping centers and malls.

Rockford – "Shop 'Til You Drop. Stay The Night And Shop Some More" as they like to say in Rockford! Visit more than 30 antique shops, two MAJOR antique malls and over a dozen weekend shows and flea markets. We're talking serious antique shopping here.

Schaumburg – Visit the **Woodfield Mall** in Schaumburg for some of the biggest department store chains in the country. 285 specialty shops and boutiques surround anchor stores of Nordstrom, Sears, JC Penney, Lord & Taylor & Marshall Field's.

Tuscola – Centrally located along I-57. Filled with surprises, from homemade chocolates and sodas at **Flesor's** to Amish handcrafted items at **Amishland Country Village**, covering over 72,000 square feet, plus superb upscale shopping at **Tanger Outlet**.

36 HOURS - AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO GALENA AND JO DAVIESS COUNTY



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

day one

10 - 11:00 am

Start the day at the **Galena Canning Company**. This shop features award-winning Chef Ivo's old-fashioned jams, jellies, salsas, BBQ sauces, a Hot Sauce Emporium, baked goods and much more! A tasting table lets you sample before you buy.

11 - 12:00 pm

Visit the "Bead Divas" of this popular shop, **Galena Beads**. They offer an amazing selection of "made in Galena" bead jewelry and jewelry making supplies, along with walk-in workshops.

12 - 1:00 pm

Jo Daviess County has a wide array of dining options. Whether you're craving international fare, comfort food, fast food or home-cooked local favorites, you are sure to find it!

1 - 1:30 pm

Stop for dessert at **Galena's Kandy Kitchen**, established in 1974, this local favorite continues a family tradition of producing small batches of fine handmade confections and fudge.

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Truly experience the essence of **Galena Cellars Vineyard & Winery**, as you take in the spectacular view of their country vineyard and see how their wines are made.

2:30 - 4:00 pm

Wander through the **West Street Sculpture Park**. This outdoor gallery of large steel sculptures by award-winning local artist John Martinson is a site not to be missed!

4 - 5:00 pm

Check into an area hotel and take some time to freshen up.

5 - 6:00 pm

Relax with a cocktail and flaming saganaki in the piano bar of this family-owned Greek steakhouse, **Cocktails at the Log Cabin**. OPA!!!

6 - 7:00 pm

For dinner choose from the areas wide array of specialties including Chicago-style pizza, fresh seafood and authentic ethnic cuisine, from Mexican and Italian to Greek...all so tempting!

7:00 pm

Enjoy lounge-style live entertainment as you indulge in some spirits, plus trivia contests run by the owner; Miss Kitty, at **The Grape Escape**.

day two

10 - 12:00 pm

Experience a bountiful Sunday brunch buffet with panoramic views of the mighty Mississippi River and valley at **Timmerman's Supper Club** in East Dubuque.

12 - 1:30 pm

When your bellies are full, head over to **Hanover Antiques**, "It's not your usual antiques shop." This shop offers everything from a 1950s kitchen to a funeral room to tchotchkes (trinkets) galore.

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Tour the **Apple River Fort State Historic Site** in **Elizabeth**. This reconstructed fort describes the area's Native Americans, its early settlers and the Black Hawk War of 1832 and features seasonal "living history" events.

3:00 pm

Before you head for home make a stop at **Nature's Treasures** in **Woodbine**. This eclectic shop offers wonderful gifts and birdhouses by local artists and specializes in organic gardening supplies, fountains, wind chimes and metaphysical crystals.

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or Celestino Ruffini, Director of Sales, Galena/Jo Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau 888-442-5362 or visit www.galena.org.



Apple River Fort State Historic Site

directory & map

convention & visitors bureaus and chambers

Galena Jo Daviess County

Convention & Visitors Bureau . 888-4-GALENA

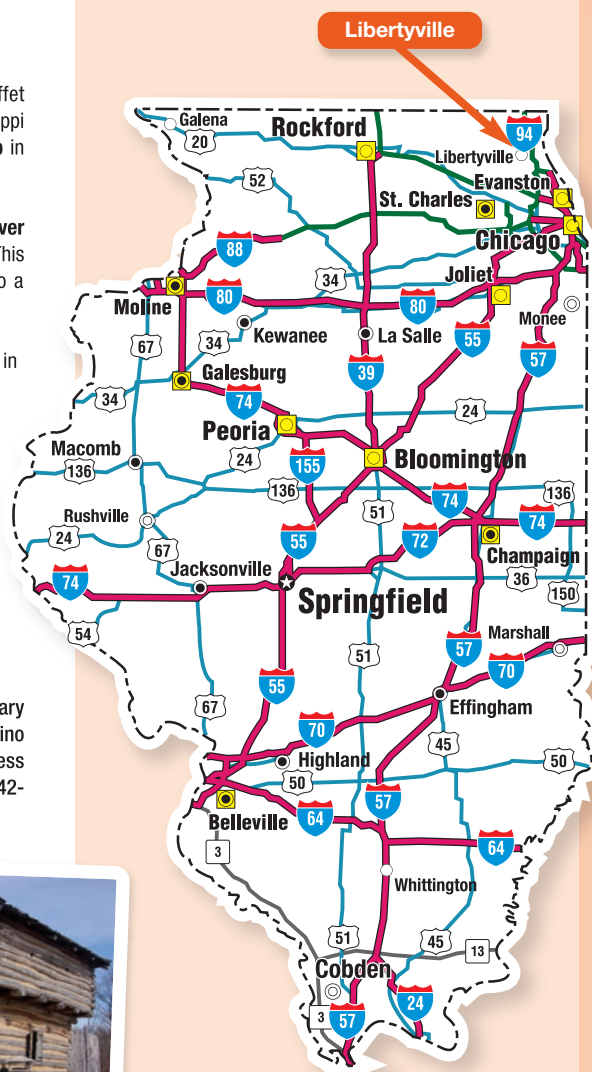
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sales@galena.org / www.galena.org/motorcoach

The destination boasts a wide range of lodging options to match any budget, along with plenty of low cost attractions and tours. Take a self-guided walking tour, shop farmers' markets, stroll colorful display gardens, visit historic sites. Shop for keepsakes, browse a gallery, have a picnic, tour a vineyard!

Illinois Bureau of Tourism

www.enjoyillinois.com 800-2CONNECT





iowa cities

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BURLINGTON, CEDAR RAPIDS,
CLINTON, COUNCIL BLUFFS,
DECORAH, DAVENPORT,
DES MOINES, DUBUQUE, DYERSVILLE,
GUTTENBERG, INDEPENDENCE,
MAQUOKETA, MASON CITY,
MCGREGOR, SIOUX CITY, WATERLOO

calendar of events

december

- **Living Windows** Dec 3,
Burlington 800-285-5338
- **"The Nun before Christmas"** Dec 3-20,
Bell Tower Theater 563-588-3377
- **Festival of Trees** Dec 4-5,
Clear Lake 641-357-5277
- **Prelude to Christmas** Dec 4-6,
Amana 800-579-2294
- **Downtown Lights the Night** Dec 5,
Waterloo 800-728-8431
- **Bentonsport Country Christmas** Dec 5-6,
Bentonsport 800-868-7822

january

- **10th Cherokee Jazz and Blues Festival**
Jan 8-10, Cherokee 712-229-9502
- **North Iowa Fair Flea Market** Jan 8-10,
Mason City 800-423-5724
- **Ice Fest** Jan 9-24,
Dubuque 800-798-8844
- **Eagles and Ivories Ragtime Festival**
Jan 29-31, Muscatine 800-257-3275

february

- **Winter Dance Party** Feb 3-6,
Clear Lake 800-85-5338
- **Frostbite Olympics** Feb 5-7,
Algona 515-295-7201
- **Heart Fest 'A Fine Art Show'** Feb 6-7,
West Des Moines 515-278-6200
- **Antique Spectacular** Feb 12-14,
Des Moines 800-451-2625
- **"The Legend of Rewall Abbey"** Feb 19-21,
Muscatine 800-257-3275
- **Arti Gras** Feb 20,
Waterloo 800-728-8431
- **Annual Arts and Crafts Show** Feb 26-28,
Des Moines 563-357-1986

march

- **27th Annual Maple Syrup Festival** Mar 6-7,
Cedar Rapids 800-735-5557
- **Annual Arts & Crafts Show** Mar 13-14,
Council Bluffs 800-228-6878
- **Blacksmith Days** Mar 20-21,
Dubuque 800-798-8844

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

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These are uncommon goods offered in an uncommon setting. Half the fun of shopping in the Amana Colonies is exploring the seven villages and experiencing for yourself the unique history and charm. So go ahead, learn how Amana furniture is crafted, explore the Amana Woolen Mill now in its 150th year of operation, watch the village blacksmith at his forge, shop for fresh-baked bread, and hickory smoked meats, sample wine and beer, shop for the finest, imported figurines and art glass. Experience shopping their way- there's a treasure waiting just for you. *(See location on map, page 19)*

more shopping in iowa

Cedar Rapids – Check out some of the finest shopping in the Midwest. From malls to specialty shops, boutiques to antiques. The Czech Cottage, and similar stores offer treasures from the Czech Republic. Cedar Rapids area meets virtually any style!

Centerville – **The Shoppes at Bradley Hall** offers 10,000 square feet of the most unique shopping in Iowa. Housed in a restored 1909 mansion, you'll love getting lost in the ambiance. Take home some delicious treats, a candle or two and maybe even a bottle of wine.

Coralville – **Coral Ridge Mall** is home to the first two-story **Scheels**. 100,000 square feet, of unique shopping and the region's largest selection of sportswear and footwear under one roof. Towering in the atrium of this two-level store stands a beautiful Sequoia Red Wood tree.

Dubuque – Dubuque's famous shopping neighborhood is historic **Cable Car Square**. Centered around the worlds shortest, steepest scenic railway, this eclectic blend of businesses will keep you enchanted for hours with gift, craft, clothing and antique stores, as well as art galleries and great unique food.

Sioux City – Southern Hills Mall has over 110 specialty stores and a 70,000 sq. foot **Scheels All Sports Store**. A top

tourist destination with **Lewis & Clark: An American Adventure**, telling the story of the Lewis and Clark expedition, with a one-of-a-kind mural exhibit stretching 296 feet above storefronts and telling the story of the entire expedition in 38 scenes.

Story City – Featuring Scandinavian cookware, Norwegian imports, an art gallery, antiques and collectibles, and many quaint shops. You may also delight your group with savings from a stop at the **Factory Stores of America Outlet**.

Villages of Van Buren – Take a step back in time to 12 quaint villages with antiques, historic lodging, bed-and-breakfast inns, lakeside cabins, unique dining, two National Historic Districts, specialty shops, resident artisans, Amish and Mennonite communities and more!

West Des Moines – From treasures to trinkets, shopping at **Valley Junction** is an experience not to be missed. In the late 1800's, curious shoppers walked the wooden sidewalks to see what merchants offered in this new neighborhood. Today, after many facelifts, they still offer the friendly atmosphere of neighborhood shops highlighted by unique stores found only here. Art galleries, antiques, clothing & specialty boutiques, elegant glassware, custom furniture, one of a kind jewelry, and even treats for your dog.

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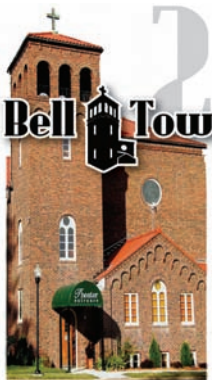
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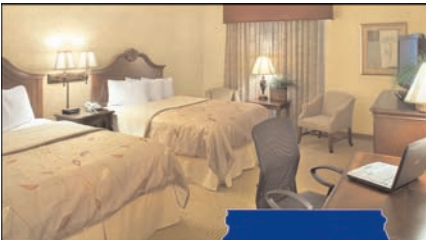
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(563) 386-6900

WELCOME TO DUBUQUE IOWA

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

day one

1 – 5:00 pm

Welcome to **Dubuque**! Known as the “**Masterpiece on the Mississippi**”, Dubuque welcomes groups with open arms! Let one of their excellent tour services escort your group by trolley, bus or boat to see the history, natural beauty and exciting destinations in this lovely Midwest river town. Plus enjoy a little shopping in and around Dubuque. Offering unique stores with items ranging from lovely baby gifts to home décor, keepsakes and jewels that please the eye.

5 – 6:00 pm

Check into your room at the **Best Western** hotel in Dubuque and relax in their cozy oversized guest rooms while you freshen up for dinner.

6 – 7:30 pm

Enjoy dinner at **L. May Eatery**. One of Dubuque's shining stars! You'll enjoy an excellent menu, with everything from down home meatloaf to eclectic specials with seafood, steak, and famous pizza and wine recommendations that fit every meal.

7:30 – 10:00 pm

An outstanding performance awaits you at the **Bell Tower Theater**, Dubuque's hometown theater. Located in an historic church, and producing quality performances since 2003. Their focus is to make you

laugh, so all of their plays and musicals are comedies. The intimate 170-seat theater is newly renovated with large comfortable seats, lots of leg-room and great views of the stage from every seat. So grab a beer, a soda or a glass of wine at the concession stand and sit back and let them entertain you...Bell Tower style.

day two

8 – 9:30 am

Rise and shine and gather your things. You will be riding over to Dubuque **Mystique Casino**, (a short 5 miles away) and enjoy breakfast at their delicious breakfast buffet.

9:30 – 12:00 pm

What better way to continue your day than by trying your luck in this state of the art casino. You'll play in the lap of luxury, surrounded by high-tech comfort and ergonomically designed seating with complimentary soft drinks. With nearly 1,000 slot machines, table games and live poker, and the excitement of live greyhound racing, you're bound to have an exciting day!

12:00 pm

Hang around for a delicious lunch at the casino or choose to head for home. But plan on coming back to Dubuque again very soon!

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group please contract your tour operator or the advertisers on this page.

QUAD CITY Symphony Orchestra



The Quad City Symphony Orchestra is a professional orchestra performing more than 18 concerts a year. The season includes the full symphonies and fabulous guest soloists scheduled on their Masterworks series to the popular acts and holiday themes on their Pops series and to the beautiful halls and elegant meals for their Chamber Music series. Prices range from \$10 to \$50 with group rates available for all concerts. Since concert atmosphere can range from elegant evenings on the town to casual family concerts, there's a concert for every group!

For more information/details call 563-322-QCSO (7276).

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INDEPENDENCE "AMERICA'S FAME IS IN OUR NAME"

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

1 – 3:00 pm

Arrive in Independence; a town nestled in Northeast Iowa. Spend the first part of the afternoon at **Heartland Acres Agribition Center**; an exhibition of agriculture's past, present and future in the National Heritage Area of Northeast Iowa. Sitting on over eighty acres of land, this impressive location teaches visitors the importance of agriculture and the overall impact it has on all of us. Equipped with a theatre, various interactive displays and exhibits, including animals, a machine shed and a one room school house. Stop and browse their Gift Shoppe before you leave.

3 – 5:00 pm

Step back to an earlier, slower pace of life as you tour the Amish countryside. As one of the largest Old Order Amish communities in the country, your group can visit nearly 40 shops in this community. If you are interested in quilts, handmade furniture or even harness supplies, you'll find it here. Baked goods are available at the many bakeries on Fridays and Saturdays. Plus check out the towns other unique shopping spots.

5:00 pm

Dinner tonight is at the **Homestead Restaurant**, built on the banks of Swan Lake, with both a front and a back porch, complete with a screen door! Enjoy a drink in the Cider House Lounge before indulging in a delicious dinner. Don't miss the gift shop – you're sure to find a precious keepsake to take home.

If you want to further your adventure in Northeastern Iowa check into the cozy **Country Inn & Suites**. Featuring group rates, and enhanced continental breakfast served daily makes this a perfect place for any group!

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or Heartland Acres Agribition Center, 319-332-0123.



directory & map

accommodations

Best Western Frontier Inn Clinton . . . 563-242-7112

Best Western Midway Hotel

Dubuque 563-557-8000

Best Western SteepleGate Inn

Davenport 563-386-6900

Country Inn & Suites Independence . . 319-334-6400

Country Inn – West Des Moines . . 515-223-9254

1350 NW 118th Street – Clive, IA 50325

country_inn_clive@csmlcorp.net

At the Country Inn & Suites West Des Moines, our staff will welcome you and go out of their way to make sure your visit to the "Country" is a memorable one.

attractions

Heartland Acres Agribition Center

Independence 319-332-0123

Mystique Casino Dubuque 800-373-3647

entertainment & theater

Bell Tower Theater Dubuque 563-588-3377

Quad City Symphony Orchestra

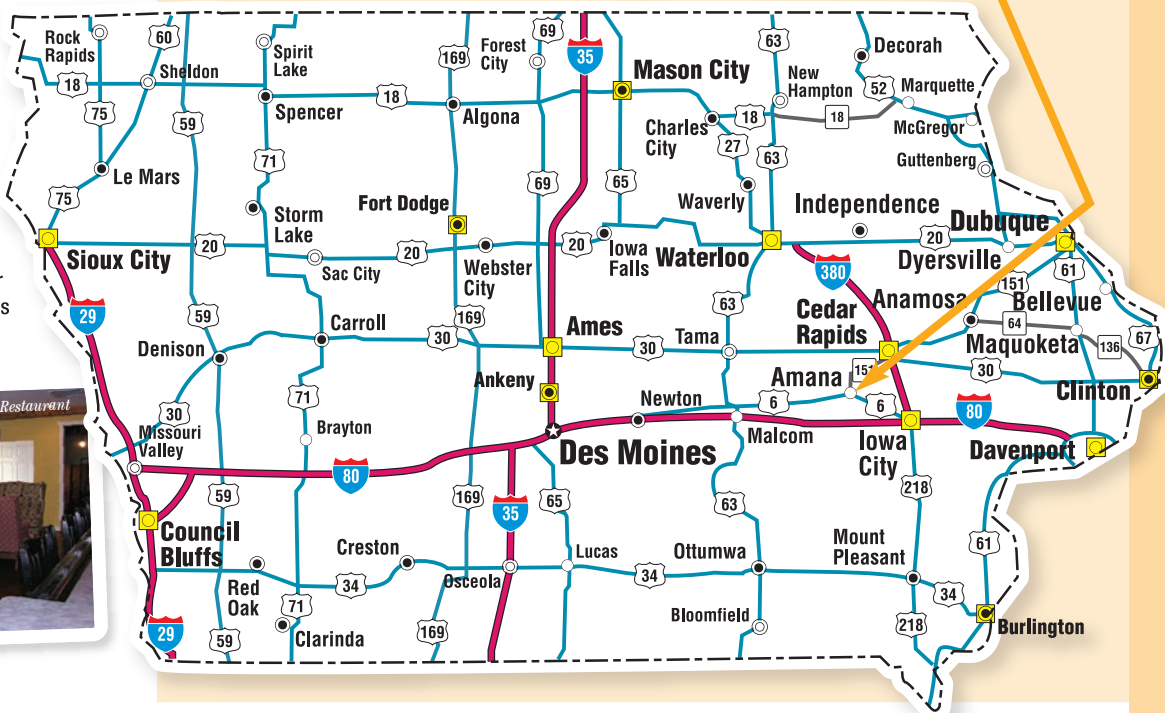
Association Davenport 563-322-0931

restaurants

Homestead Restaurant

Independence 319-334-9055

L. May Eatery Dubuque 563-556-0505





kansas cities

ABILENE, BONNER SPRINGS, CHANUTE, COUNCIL GROVE, DODGE CITY, EMPORIA, FORT SCOTT, HAYS, HUTCHINSON, INDEPENDENCE, JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS CITY, LAWRENCE, LEAVENWORTH, LIBERAL, LINDSBORG, MANHATTAN, MCPHERSON, NEWTON, PITTSBURG, RUSSELL, SALINA, TOPEKA, WASHINGTON, WICHITA

calendar of events

december

- **Festival of Trees** Dec 3-6, Topeka 785-266-8686
- **Artists Studio Christmas Open House** Dec 5, Lindsborg 888-227-2227
- **Chocolate Festival** Dec 5, Alton 785-984-2341
- **Folk Art Festival** Dec 5-6, Liberal 620-624-3743
- **Festival of Nativities** Dec 5-20 Wknds, Lawrence 785-843-1756
- **Lucia Fest** Dec 13, Lindsborg 888-227-2227
- **Dolly Holly Day Tours** Dec 15-29, Fort Scott 800-245-3678

january

- **Seelye Mansion Christmas Tours** Jan 1-10, Abilene 785-263-1084
- **Eagle Days – Milford Lake** Jan 16-17, Junction City 785-238-5323
- **Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández** Jan 28, Lawrence 785-864-2787

february

- **Hidden Art Locked Away** Feb 6, Leavenworth 800-844-4114
- **Lincoln Reenactment** Feb 12-13, Lincoln 785-524-5133
- **Chocolate Lover's Affair at Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery** Feb 13, Lindsborg 888-227-2227
- **International Pancake Day Festival** Feb 13-16, Liberal 800-542-3725
- **The Aluminum Show** Feb 26, Lawrence 785-864-2787
- **14th Annual Kansas Silent Film Festival** Feb 26-27, Topeka 785-670-3151

march

- **Route 66 - Musical** Mar 5-6, Junction City 785-238-3103
- **Handel's Messiah, Palm Sunday at Presser Hall** Mar 28, Lindsborg 785-227-3311
- **Messiah Festival** Mar 28-Apr 4, Lindsborg 785-227-3380

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)



As Big As You Think ITINERARIES Kansas®



LINDSBORG

What happens when old world heritage meets modern day traveler? An experience to remember! "Little Sweden, USA" is described by modern day Swedes as "more Swedish than Sweden!"

Small town charm is blended with big-city culture in this Swedish village boasting red brick streets, European-style storefronts, working artist studios, museums, galleries, and shops filled with Scandinavian imports.

Lindsborg's festivals have entertained visitors from around the globe for decades. Since 1882, Handel's Messiah is presented during Holy week from the Bethany College Campus. Celebrated the third weekend in June is Midsummer's Day, a traditional Swedish holiday celebrating the summer solstice. Enjoy folk dancers in traditional attire performing to Swedish folk tunes. Stories are woven just like the maypole, and guests leave feeling Swedish, having experienced the traditions kept alive over the years.

Lindsborg is a great destination for any size group! Välkommen...welcome...you'll be glad you came! (See location on map, page 21)

more shopping in kansas

Abilene – The **Russell Stover Candies Factory Outlet** has a demonstration kitchen with daily shows. Enjoy handmade cookies, brittle, caramel apples and an Ice cream parlor serving delicious Blue Bell hand-dipped ice cream, sundaes, and more. Groups are welcomed with open arms!

Hutchinson – Enjoy a free cup of International coffee and explore **Ten Thousand Villages**. A fair trade retailer of artisan-crafted home decor, personal accessories and gift items from across the globe. Featuring products from more than 130 artisan groups in 38 countries.

Kansas City – Put on your comfy shoes and shop till you drop. With **Cabela's**, **Nebraska Furniture Mart**, and **The Legends in Village West**, an outdoor mall featuring grand-scale shopping, you just can't imagine the goodies you'll find!

Leavenworth – The "First City in Kansas" offers a variety of shopping ranging from the original "Mom & Pop" specialty shops to the climate-controlled indoor plazas. Choose from an eclectic variety of home, gift, garden, fun & funky jewelry, clothing, specialty teas and foods, antiques, furniture, quilting supplies, pottery and much more. There's even an old-fashioned lunch counter - rated "#1 old time soda fountain" in the Kansas City area.

Manhattan – **Aggieville Historic District**, located in the heart of Manhattan and established in 1889. The oldest shopping district in Kansas with over 100 shops and unique cuisine from around the world.

McPherson – When planning a tour to McPherson, the shops on Main Street are a must! Featuring over 50 specialty shops from antiques to art to apparel, a great day of shopping!

Ottawa – The downtown area provides your group with an historic experience while shopping among buildings built in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and providing many opportunities to purchase antiques, unique gifts, Amish furniture & more!

Topeka – Explore the unique specialty shops and charming antique stores, or the retail favorites in the **West Ridge Mall** and around town. Visit **Marion Lane Candles** where your group can enjoy making their own candles.

Wichita – When it comes to dining, shopping, and playing... Wichita has something for everyone! Shopping choices flourish with assorted shops, antique stores, and open-air shopping centers, truly offering treasures for everyone. There are more than 1,000 restaurants that pepper the city representing all types of cuisine.

LINDSBORG, KANSAS

This 3-Day Sample Itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year!

day one

Plan your road trip along a **Kansas Scenic Byway**, home to some of the great natural landscapes in the US. Discover scenic, historic, natural, cultural, archeological and recreational sites and activities everywhere you turn. www.ksbyways.org

Late afternoon

Check into one of our Bed & Breakfast, Motels or RV Parks. Stretch your legs by taking a stroll on the **Välkommen Trail**, enjoying historical readings along the way. Keep your eyes open for the herd of wild Dala horses that roam freely throughout the town.

6 – 7:30 pm

Pull up a chair, order a beer and a “Brent Nelson” and catch up with the locals at the **Öl Stuga** or enjoy Swedish meatballs at the **Swedish Crown & Vasa**.

7:30 pm

Don't just watch the **Swedish Folk Dancers**, join in! Our high school and adult Swedish Folk Dance groups enjoy interactive performances. Reservations must be made 6 weeks in advance. 888-227-2227

day two

Enjoy breakfast at your lodging location or enjoy the Swedish buffet breakfast at **The Swedish Country Inn** or Swedish Pancakes at **Swedish Pastries & Emporium** or **The Butcher the Baker the Candlestick Maker**.

9 – 10:00 am

Visit with the woodworkers, painters and glass etchers as you tour the **Hemslojd**, home of the Dala Horse factory.

10 – 11:00 am

Savor the flavor of Swedish Mökröst coffee while taking in the sights, sounds and smells of coffee roasting and brewing demonstrations at the **Blacksmith Roastery**. Need more coffee? **The Old Grind** is a hop, skip and jump south, serving up coffee made to order.

11 – 3:00 pm

Explore the galleries, butikks, and Swedish specialty stores and relax at one of the many eateries, including, **The Swedish Crown**, **Jalisco Mexican Restaurant**, **The Butcher the Baker the Candlestick Maker**, **Öl Stuga** or **Swedish Pastries & Emporium** as you enjoy lunch on your own.

3 – 4:00 pm

Meet and get to know Birger Sandzén through his paintings, letters and diaries at the **Birger Sandzén Memorial Art Gallery**. Born and raised in Sweden, he is referred to as *The Van Gogh of the prairie*.

4 – 7:30 pm

Board the coach for the **Smoky Hill Bison Co.** Ride the tram onto the prairie among the herd as the buffalo roam. Enjoy a Bison dinner as the sun sets and bright pinks and oranges streak the Kansas sky. Take in one of the many special activities on the farm if visiting during September & October.

7:30 pm

Board the coach back to Lindsborg.

day three

7:15 – 8:30 am

Be a Viking and venture to the top of **Coronado Heights**. Catch the sunrise and picturesque views of the valley while investigating the castle, hiking on the off road biking trails and feasting on a catered breakfast by **Scott's Hometown Foods Deli**. Visit the founders of Lindsborg in the Smoky Hill Cemetery at the base of Coronado Heights. Tombstones date back to 1870.

8:30 – 9:00 am

See one of the first prairie dwellings. The **Hoglund Dugout** looks like a very deep grave but it was actually the home of some of the first settlers.

9 – 10:30 am

Find your relatives at the **Old Mill Museum**, explore the **1898 Roller Mill** and stroll the grounds of the **Heritage Square**, an historic Village setting.

10:30 – 11:30 am

Hear the sounds of 1445 pipes as the organ at **Historic**

Bethany Lutheran Church is played and the story of how Lindsborg began as told by Bethany's historian.

11:30 – 1:00 pm

Lunch at **Season's Family Restaurant** will please even the pickiest of taste buds.

1 – 2:30 pm

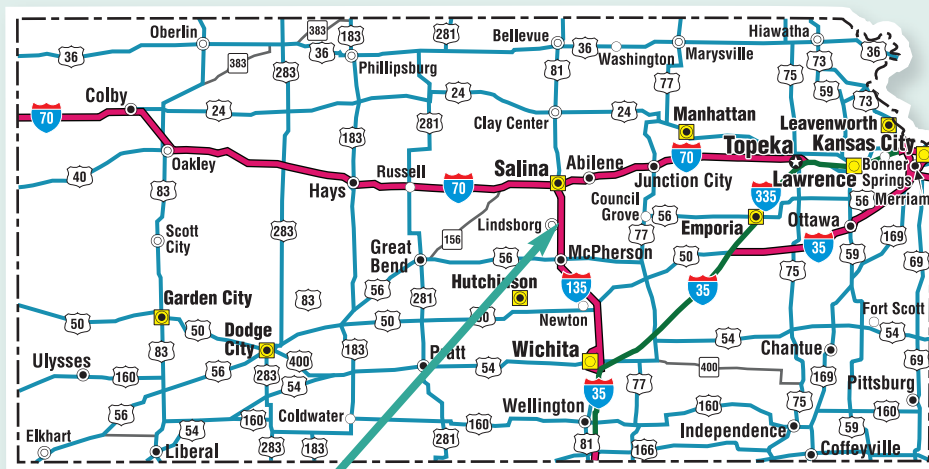
Feed your creative spirit while experiencing the whimsical world of folk artist **Lester Raymer's Red Barn Studio**. Handmade toys, tapestries, and intricate carvings in peach pits are just the beginnings of what awaits your visit.

2:30 pm

Stock up on all your favorite Swedish delicacies at **Scott's Hometown Foods** or **Anderson's Butik** before heading home.

Personally greeting your tour will be a step-on guide, in traditional 1800's Swedish folk dress. Make reservations by calling the Lindsborg Convention & Visitors Bureau at 888-227-2227.

directory & map



Lindsborg

convention & visitors bureaus and chambers

Kansas Department of Commerce

Topeka / www.travelks.com 785-296-4922

Lindsborg

Convention & Visitors Bureau .. 888-227-2227

104 East Lincoln / PO Box 70 – Lindsborg, KS 67456

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Välkommen till

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Lindsborg Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.lindsborgcity.org 888.227.2227

Little Sweden, U.S.A.



**For a complete list of MN cities & events
please visit www.itinerariesmidwest.com.**

calendar of events

december

- **A Nordic Christmas** Nov 7-Jan 10, American Swedish Institute 612-870-3344
- **Target Holiday Parade** Nov 27-29, Dec 3-6, 10-13, 17-20, Minneapolis 612-376-3807
- **"Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World"** Nov 27-Jul 4, MN History Center 651-259-3003
- **Mistletoe Madness** Dec 3, Morton 507-697-6912
- **Christmas in the Village** Dec 3-4, Owatonna 800-423-6466
- **Bluff and Valley Balloon Rally** Dec 4-6, Caledonia 877-439-4893
- **The Christmas Window** Dec 4-31, Roseville 877-980-3002
- **A Christmas Gathering** Dec 6, Albert Lea 800-345-8414
- **Park Rapids Classic Choral** Dec 9-11, Park Rapids 800-247-0054
- **Christmas in the Country** Dec 11-12, Austin 507-437-6082
- **Holiday Open House** Dec 12, Stillwater 651-439-4001
- **Holiday Lights Tour** Dec 12-19, Bloomington 612-333-8687
- **"Disney's Beauty and the Beast"** Dec 15-Jan 3, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts 651-282-3111

january

- **Brrrrmidji Polar Days Festival** Jan 16, Bemidji 800-458-2223
- **Roseville Winter Jazz Blast** Jan 16, Roseville 877-980-3002
- **Saint Paul Winter Carnival** Jan 21-31, Saint Paul 651-223-4700
- **WinterFest** Jan 23-Feb 7, Spicer 800-845-8747
- **"Footloose"** Jan 29-May 29, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres 800-355-6273

february

- **80's Night** Feb 3-4, The Shout House 612-337-6700
- **Gingerbread Arts & Crafts Show** Feb 5-10,
St. Cloud 320-251-4170
- **Logging Days** Feb 6, Bemidji 800-777-7958
- **"Run for your Wife"** Feb 11-14 & 18-21,
Barn Theatre, Willmar 800-845-8747
- **Quilting Weekend Retreat** Feb 19-21,
Austin 800-444-5713
- **"Grapes of Wrath"** Feb 19-21 & 25-27,
Owatonna 800-423-6466

march

- **Winter Bluegrass Weekend** Mar 5-7,
Plymouth 800-635-3037
- **"Spring Forward with Strings"** Mar 6,
Stillwater 651-439-4001
- **Subway Bedrace for Bridging** Mar 6,
Burnsville 952-888-1105
- **"The Dead Sea Scrolls"** Mar 12-TBD, Science
Museum of Minnesota 651-221-9444
- **Taste of Chocolate** Mar 14,
Bloomington 952-563-8567

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

A large indoor LEGO store with a prominent red and yellow LEGO logo on a central pillar. The store is filled with various LEGO sets, including a large Star Wars figure, and people are seen browsing the aisles.

BLOOMINGTON - MALL OF AMERICA

This city within a city, offers more than 520 stores, 50 restaurants, and attractions galore, including the Nickelodeon Theme Park with more than 30 rides, and Underwater Adventures, opening the door to mysteries of the deep blue sea! Plus there are Theatres, the House of Comedy, Lego Land and much more! What doesn't this mall have? It is one of the most visited tourist destinations in the world; there really is something for everyone here. Visit Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Nordstrom, Sears, and many unique shops for gifts and treasures. And if you ever get done shopping, spend some time people watching, as there are people here from all over the world on any given day. They offer group packages and perks as well as a dedicated pick-up and drop-off facility for motorcoaches. *(See location on map, page 58)*

more shopping in minnesota

Albert Lea – Choose from a variety of shopping, from shops with one of kind dolls to vintage antiques and collectibles, and many more treasures in-between. Visit **"Something Special in the Nest"** and browse their gift gallery, all housed in a historic church dating back to 1887.

Alexandria – A vibrant and bustling community is far from ordinary; visitors will find shopping malls, major retailers and a wide selection of specialty shops and boutiques in the historic downtown area.

Austin – While in Austin, explore what makes this town famous, the **SPAM Museum®** and the **SPAM® Shop**. Browse through more than 400 one-of-a-kind treasures from SPAM socks to a SPAM bathrobe, plus a humorous variety of everything in-between, including SPAM of course!

Bemidji – Visit a collection of shops with special charm you won't find anywhere else. **Bemidji Woolen Mills** is a unique store selling quality woolen garments, yarn and comforters. Plus their many antique stores and a host of national stores.

Harmony – An absolute metropolis of antique and Amish treasures. Visit homes & farms of the Amish families and purchase baked goods, baskets, woodcrafts, candy, quilts & more.

Owatonna – Home to **Cabela's**, one of the largest fishing, hunting & outdoor gear stores in the Midwest. A unique destination, featuring museum-quality animal displays, huge aquariums and trophy animals in re-creations of their natural habitats.

Park Rapids – Browse the quaint shops and **Historic Main Street** for one-of-a-kind specialty items. From homemade fudge to furniture, to jewelry, books and clothing, you're sure to pick up a thing or two to take home.

Roseville – Looking for shopping? **Rosedale Center**, featuring more than 150 stores, plus **The Plaza** and **Har Mar Mall** with over 45 fine specialty shops all offering excellent shopping.

Saint Paul – Grand Avenue spans 30 blocks from the Mississippi River to downtown Saint Paul. Meander down its sidewalks into the shops - lots of original shops - all with decidedly unmall-like appeal. And, the food - Grand Avenue has a table waiting.

St. Cloud — A retail mecca with the big retail names as well as the smaller, unique specialty shops that are always fun to browse. The downtown area features boutiques, theaters & art galleries plus **The Arts Co-op**, a fine art & craft gallery featuring unique handcrafted gifts & home decor by local artisans.

Stillwater – Historic small-town American shopping at it's finest. Individual storefront exteriors reflect their owner's style. Stillwater has a reputation as an antiques destination, but also includes a wide variety of unique shops, galleries and fine restaurants in this historic town along the beautiful St. Croix River.

Willmar – Home to the **Kandi Mall**, anchored by Herberger's, JC Penney, Big Kmart, Dunham's Sports and over 50 specialty stores. Then it's off to the surrounding communities of New London/Spicer, offering delightful shops, antiques and more.



Chocolate March TOUR 2010

The Inns of the St. Croix Valley will proudly open their doors once again for the 2010 Chocolate March of the Inns.

Ticket holders tour beautiful B&Bs and Historic sites in the St. Croix River Valley on Sundays in March. Each B&B will have chocolate tastings and a wine sampling offered at one stop. Tasting for Tour Groups only \$18 a ticket.



The Dead Sea Scrolls

Tickets for the upcoming The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition are now on sale. The Dead Sea Scrolls will open at the Science Museum on Friday, March 12, 2010, offering visitors an exclusive chance to explore the greatest archaeological discovery of the 20th century—one that has remarkable historic and personal meaning to people all over the world.

In addition to being one of only a few museums in the United States to host the scrolls and related artifacts from the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Science Museum also announced that it will be the first museum to display three sets of five scrolls each during the run of the exhibition, for a grand total of 15.

The scrolls, some of which are more than 2,000 years old, include fragments of the earliest known texts of the Bible. After their initial discovery by a shepherd in caves along the shores of Israel's Dead Sea near the ancient settlement of Qumran, archaeologists have excavated and pieced together thousands of scroll fragments into more than 900 separate documents—from biblical manuscripts and commentary to religious legal writings. These ancient Hebrew writing fragments are now archived and conserved by the Israel Antiquities Authority and, on rare occasion, are put on public display at world-class museums.

Admission to The Dead Sea Scrolls will be timed and dated; visitors will be asked to choose a specific date for their visit upon purchasing tickets, as well as a time to enter The Dead Sea Scrolls.

For more information please call 651-221-9444 or visit www.smm.org.

March 7, 2010 Afton House Inn, Afton MN; Afton Historical Society Historic Rosewood, Hastings MN; Museum LeDuc Mansion, Hastings MN; Kinni Creek, River Falls WI; Cover Park, Oak Park Heights MN

March 14, 2010 Escape by the Lake, Hudson WI; Phipps Inn, Hudson WI; Octagon House, Hudson WI; Pleasant Lake, Osceola WI; St. Croix River Inn, Osceola WI

March 21, 2010 Water Street Inn, Stillwater MN; Outing Lodge, Stillwater MN; Country Cove, Stillwater MN; Warden House, Stillwater MN; Asa Parker House, Marine on the St. Croix

March 28, 2010 Wissahickon County Inn, St. Croix Falls WI; Summit Inn, Center City MN; The Cottage, Taylors Falls MN; Folsom House, Taylors Falls MN; Wine Haven Winery, Chisago City MN

Visit www.innsofthevalley.com to view our inns or call 651-998-0185.

Inns of the Valley Chocolate March Special!

Reserve any room for two nights in March or April and receive 25% off your second night. Tour Groups - Chocolate March Tours can be scheduled year-round. Contact Dan or Marilu today for more details, 651-436-8883.

Innkeepers of the Scenic St. Croix Valley
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The Dead Sea Scrolls
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Science Museum of Minnesota®
Opens March 12, 2010.
Book your group now at (651) 221-9444
or visit www.smm.org/groups for special group packages.
The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition was created by the Israel Antiquities Authority from the collections of the National Treasures in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota.
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SHOPPING AT ITS FINEST

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

day one

Check in to one of Bloomington's fantastic hotels and head over to **Mall of America®** (MOA) and familiarize yourself with the mall by scheduling a Scavenger Hunt. This Scavenger Hunt will take you all around the mall, trying to find answers to questions and taking photographs along the way. Then, spend the rest of the day shopping, enjoying tax-free clothing or shoes. Browse through 520 stores, from upscale to Minnesota unique.

Think pink and get all dolled up this winter with Barbie® at "**The Barbie® Shop**" – the ultimate shopping destination for fashionistas. Girls of all ages can celebrate the Barbie® Doll signature style featuring iconic Barbie imagery.

Evening: Catch the best in live stand-up comedy at **Rick Bronson's House of Comedy**, and grab a bite at **R Burger Bar** (build-to-suit).

day two

Start your morning shopping at the **Galleria**, Edina. They feature a selection of distinctive shops & restaurants. Shoppers will find a mix of half-local & half-national favorites to browse. Return to MOA for more exploring.

Evening: **Crave** restaurant in the MOA offers unique experiences with food that will teach you new culinary skills all while having a great time! Learn how to make sushi, signature drinks or delectable desserts.

day three

Begin your morning at **Oak City** restaurant for a fabulous Sunday Brunch, featuring classic breakfast fare, along with Oak City specialties. Take a 45-minute drive up I-94 to **Albertville Premium Outlets** to shop over 100 outlet stores in an open-air shopping complex. Shop for designer name fashions, shoes and home goods at bargain prices.

For more information on this sample itinerary call your tour operator or the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau Sales Department at 1-866-435-7425 or sales@bloomingtonmn.org.

Stillwater, Minnesota

Historic Stillwater, Minnesota, is the gateway to the scenic St. Croix River Valley and the perfect destination for your group tour. You're sure to find something for everyone in Stillwater.



Known as the *Birthplace of Minnesota*, Stillwater was built during the lumber boom of the late 1800's. Their historic **Main Street** is lined with unique boutiques, specialty shops, booksellers, antique dealers and more. You will find numerous choices for an exceptional dining experience ranging from casual to fine dining, with outdoor seating being very popular when the weather is right. Many of the grand Victorian mansions found among the hills surrounding downtown were built by the lumber barons of yester-year and are now beautifully restored B&B's. The numerous parks found throughout the city highlight Stillwater's natural setting and scenic beauty. **Pioneer Park** high above town offers sweeping views of downtown and the St. Croix River. **Lowell Park**, along the river, is the site of several local festivals held during the year and is a great place to watch Stillwater's iconic lift bridge being raised to allow boat traffic to pass. Narrated trolley tours, brewery cave tours, paddle wheeler excursions, a Venetian gondola, wine tasting and the **Warden's House Museum** are a few of the activities that can be planned around your stay. Contact **Valley Tours** (www.valleytours.com) in the **Historic Courthouse**, for step-on guide services or a customized walking tour.

Stillwater is also the perfect place to stage excursions to other metro area attractions. The **Mall of America**, downtown **Saint Paul**, downtown **Minneapolis** and most major attractions can all be reached in approximately 30 minutes or less.

To learn more about what Stillwater can offer your group in any season, go to www.discoverstillwater.com or contact the Stillwater & Oak Park Heights CVB at 651-351-1717. We hope to see you soon!



Minnesota Historical Society

612-341-7555

www.millcitymuseum.org

FLOUR POWER, NATIVE ART + DUELING PIANO BAR IN MINNEAPOLIS!

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

12 – 3:00 pm

Along the banks of the Mississippi River, discover the birthplace of Minneapolis and watch history come alive at **Mill City Museum**. You'll learn the story of a mighty river, a young city and how one product – flour – fueled the growth of Minneapolis. Enjoy nostalgic

and interactive displays, the famous Flour Tower sensory ride, the hands-on Baking & Water Labs, and a view of the film "Minneapolis in 19-Minutes Flat". Plus take-in spectacular rooftop views of the Minneapolis Riverfront and visit the gift shop and café.

3 – 5:00 pm

You'll find traditional North Woods gifts, hand-crafted birch bark baskets, canoes and rare gourmet foods from the Ojibwe people and the Minnesota northlands at **Northland Native American Products**. This gallery features pottery, jewelry, beadwork, sculptures of elders, horses, eagles and the White Buffalo Spirit, along with dance sticks, drums of all sizes & blankets of many colors. Owner Ken Bellanger honors the spirit of native people as he shares stories about the artists and their works.

5:00 pm

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

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group please contact your tour operator or the advertisers to the left.

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- *30 plus Fabulous Restaurants
- *Enchanting St. Croix River Valley and Bluffs
- *Ever-Changing Seasonal Beauty
- *Waterfront Activities...Boating, Gondolas, River Cruises
- *Landmark Architecture to explore
- *Amazing venues for Weddings, Honeymoons and Romantic escapes

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ALEXANDRIA

Visit Alexandria's historic downtown shopping district to discover enchanting shops and beautiful boutiques that are sure to lure you inside. Stroll through timeless antique stores to find unexpected treasures and nostalgic memorabilia. Then take a break and treat yourself at any one of our cozy eateries. Whether you are stopping for lunch, a day trip, or for an overnight stay – you will find hospitality is a way of life here.

FARIBAULT

Only 25 minutes south of the Twin Cities metro area, Faribault serves as a perfect year-round backdrop to some of the most interesting locations in southern Minnesota. Faribault is home to world famous Tilt-a-Whirl amusement rides and Shattuck St. Mary's School. Customized tours are also available for the State Academy for the Deaf, the first Cathedral built in the U.S and the Alexander Faribault House.

HUTCHINSON

Whether your group enjoys the thrill of the hunt, a hands-on experience, or a touch of the finer things, Hutchinson, Minnesota welcomes you to explore

its distinct shopping opportunities. Experience the one-of-a-kind offerings of local art galleries, boutiques and gift shops or uncover treasures in some of the best antique and thrift shops in the area. Hutchinson is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

NEW ULM

Oh...the treasures you'll discover by wandering into one of New Ulm's distinctive shops! Whether it's a German cuckoo clock, a good book to bury your nose in, handmade pottery or "gnome-made fudge," you'll find the perfect souvenirs. Explore the one-of-a-kind stores in historic downtown, make your way to the gift shops, or discover the full range of goods and services – you'll be surprised!

PIPESTONE

Explore Pipestone and discover a prairie gem, rich in culture and history. Pipestone has one of Minnesota's largest historic districts with twenty Sioux quartzite buildings built in the late 1800s. Walk through the pipestone quarries and see Winnepissa Falls at the Pipestone National Monument. We welcome groups who wish to share in the legacy of our past. Contact Pipestone

Chamber of Commerce 1-800-336-6125,
www.pipestoneminnesota.com.

SAINT PAUL

Don't forget about shopping when visiting Saint Paul's many attractions, theater, and restaurants. Saint Paul has it all from department stores like Macy's to unique shops like the Hmong Handwork where you'll find Minnesota's largest consignment of Hmong needlework. A stop along Grand Avenue is a must as you can visit shops like Don't Make Me Beg where you'll find something cute for your furry friend and Just Truffles where you can try an Oprah Show-approved chocolate truffle!

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SHOPPING + MORE...

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

9 – 1:00 pm

Start your morning off with a stroll down **Grand Avenue**, long a treasure in the heart of Saint Paul. Residents and travelers alike enjoy strolling with family, window shopping, dining at unique restaurants, meeting friends for coffee, or simply spending an afternoon walking along the avenue. Lunch is on your own at one of the many wonderful restaurants.

1 – 3:00 pm

After lunch visit the **Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA)**. Housing more than 80,000 objects from diverse cultural traditions, spanning 5,000 years of world history. Take time to visit The Museum Shop, located within The MIA, which offers distinctive gifts, jewelry, and books from around the world.

3 – 4:30 pm

Step into the heart of Swedish America. The **American Swedish Institute** is a historic house, museum, and cultural center located near downtown Minneapolis. Swedish immigrant newspaperman Swan J. Turnblad founded the Institute in 1929. The Turnblad mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places. This 33-room mansion is a fine example of early 20th century chateausque architecture. Graced with a majestic two-story grand hall, carved stone and

woodwork, sculpted ceilings, and eleven floor-to-ceiling *kakelugnar* (Swedish porcelain tile stoves), the mansion is now a blend of period rooms and exhibit galleries. Browse through the gift shop for wonderful gifts and food items native to Scandinavian culture.

4:30 – 8:30 pm

Return to your Eagan hotel to relax and freshen up before enjoying dinner at one of the **75 restaurants located in Eagan**. **Don't forget - \$250 Cash Rebate with 20 or more rooms booked in Eagan!**

Additional shopping opportunities include the world-famous **Mall of America**. With more than 520 stores and numerous attractions (Underwater Adventures, American Girl store, Nickelodeon Universe) there is something for everyone!

How about a stop at **St. Croix Vineyards & Winery**. Located just west of Stillwater, Minnesota, this winery offers complimentary wine tasting (11 offerings) in a restored century old barn. Feel free to stroll through their picturesque vineyard (in season). During apple harvest, **Aamodt's Apple Orchard** is located right next door. Don't forget to pick up some famous Minnesota Honeycrisp apples!

For more information on this sample itinerary contact your tour operator or Denise Olsen from the Eagan CVB, 651-675-5542 or denise@eaganmn.com.

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Taste of Broadway

For a taste of Broadway, visit Chanhassen Dinner Theatres -- the largest professional dinner theatre in the nation, where each week as many as 5,000 guests are entertained. The theatre opened in 1968. At that time, few people in the Twin Cities knew what dinner theatre was or where Chanhassen was located. The entertainment complex has since expanded to include multiple theatres and has become a premiere entertainment establishment offering warmth, charm and elegance to over ten million guests!

Now celebrating its 41st anniversary, Chanhassen is in the process of being sold. What does this mean for our loyal guests? It's an extremely exciting time for everyone. The new ownership has plans to continue the great traditions of the past, and make improvements to take Chanhassen well into the future. This is great news for everyone!

Chanhassen offers a variety of entertainment to please the diverse tastes of theatergoers. Full-scale musicals are Chanhassen's specialty on the Main Stage. For the first time in a decade enjoy the Rodgers & Hammerstein classic, *Oklahoma!* Then, opening in January is the more contemporary Broadway musical, *Footloose!* (The remake of the popular 80s film by the same title is being released in July 2010.) Opening on the Fireside Stage in November and continuing until spring 2010 is the World Premiere of Dan Goggin's all-new *Nunsense* production, *Nunset Boulevard: The Nunsense Hollywood Bowl Show*. The intimate Playhouse stage features a delightful holiday musical, *Another Night Before Christmas*.

Guests relax and enjoy tableside service with entrees selected from a delicious menu including specialty appetizers, cocktails and desserts. AAA Magazine states, "Any Twin Cities trip should include an event at Chanhassen!" We know how to serve groups! One third of Chanhassen's business is comprised of tour groups. Treat yourself to a unique dining and theatre experience you're sure to remember! For group reservations (15 or more guests), call (952) 934-1547 or toll-free (800) 355-6273.

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SAINT PAUL

WHERE MINNESOTA ADVENTURE BEGINS



Double the Fun – Saint Paul & The Performing Arts

Day 1

11:00 am – Your group's Saint Paul adventure begins on the Mississippi River aboard a Padelford Packet Boat Company paddlewheeler where you'll enjoy a lunch and cruise.

4:00 pm – Head over to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. One of the most distinctive cathedrals in the United States, its copper dome has watched over downtown Saint Paul since 1915.

5:00 pm – Check your group into The Depot Minneapolis/A Renaissance Hotel just blocks from the Guthrie Theater. Enjoy a great stay in this renovated landmark while enjoying nearby attractions.

7:00 pm – Spend a relaxing evening of musical theater at Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in historic downtown Saint Paul. See Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* for the holidays or Roger's and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* in the spring. Don't miss the annual Flint Hills International Children's Festival presented by the Ordway the first weekend of June. Come early and enjoy refreshments while sitting on a window seat in the beautiful Marzetti Foyer overlooking charming Rice Park.

Day 2

9:00 am – Start your day in the heart of downtown Saint Paul. Located in historic Landmark Center, the American Association of Woodturners Gallery of Wood Art offers an often surprising and always engaging view of contemporary works created in wood.

2:00 pm – When it comes to performing arts, Saint Paul has many options for your group. Consider the History Theatre and their recognized leadership in creating new work based on the American experience or the Minnesota Centennial Showboat's glorious melodramas. You can cheer for the hero and boo at the villain and even enjoy the transitional olios between acts.

6:00 pm – Check into the Country Inn & Suites Saint Paul East. The hotel offers central location between both Saint Paul and Stillwater.

7:30 pm – Since 1987, Ballet Minnesota has been inspiring their guests with their annual performance of *Classic Nutcracker*. Bring your bring group to see why 10,000 people enjoy this show each year! Make sure to ask about the annual Minnesota Dance Festival as well.

Day 3

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

10:00 am – There is more to Saint Paul than you think. Nestled in the St. Croix Valley is historic Stillwater. Valley Tours can provide friendly, knowledgeable, and local guides to make sure you get the most out of your next Stillwater experience.

12:00 pm – Treat your group to a scenic lunch with spectacular views of the St. Croix River at the Historic Water Street Inn in Stillwater. Or consider extending your itinerary and stay overnight in this distinctive and romantic 41-room Stillwater inn.

3:00 pm – It's time to head home with a collection of Saint Paul and Stillwater memories!

Contact Michael Hernandez at 651-265-4906 or mhernandez@visitsaintpaul.com for more information.

For more information, Contact Michael Hernandez at 651.265.4906 or mhernandez@visitsaintpaul.com

history theatre
historytheatre.com

Spring 2010

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Hiding in the Open
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WATER STREET INN



"UPLIFTING ADVENTURES"

Sample itinerary highlights include the thorn and dead sea scrolls.

day one

Afternoon

Arrive in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/Saint Paul.

4 – 5:00 pm

Check into your hotel in **Roseville**. Take time to freshen up for this evening's activities.

5 – 10:00 pm

This evening, take in a Broadway style performance at the nation's largest professional dinner theater, **Chanhassen Dinner Theatres**.

day two

8 – 9:00 am

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

9 – 9:15 am

Board the coach for the **Ukrainian Gift Shop** in Roseville.

9:15 – 10:00 am

The Ukrainian Gift Shop is home to the world's largest source of Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) & Pysanky supplies. Witness a demonstration of the making of Pysanky's and take time to shop in the gift shop. (tour is complimentary)

10 – 10:30 am

Continue on to the **Science Museum of Minnesota**.

10:30 – 1:30 pm

Tour the **"Dead Sea Scrolls"** exhibit. View one of the

greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century - the earliest record of biblical patriarchs and prophets known to Judaism, Christianity and Islam". After the tour, enjoy lunch at the museum.

1:30 – 2:00 pm

Tour concludes, head off to the Midtown Global Market.

2 – 3:30 pm

Enter the **Midtown Global Market**. "The Twin Cities' premier internationally themed public market with more than 50 independent locally owned businesses".

3:30 – 5:30 pm

Head back to your hotel in Roseville. Take time to freshen up for this evening's activities.

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Dinner tonight will be at one of Roseville's restaurants.

7 – 9:30 pm

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

9:30 pm

Return to your Roseville hotel for a good nights rest.

day three

8 – 9:15 am

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and checkout. Before

you depart, you'll receive a special send-off...a complimentary rose for each traveler, courtesy of the **Roseville Visitors Association**.

9:15 – 9:30 am

Depart for Custom Chocolates.

9:30 – 10:00 am

You're in for a sweet treat! Your group will arrive at **Custom Chocolates** for a tour and free samples as you shop throughout the store. (Tour is complimentary.)

10 – 11:15 am

Leave Custom Chocolates for the **Marjorie McNealy Conservatory** and **Como Park Zoo**. Partake in a "Behind the Scenes tour." "Enjoy an up close encounter with animals and the many gardens of the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, led by a member of the Como Education Staff".

11:15 am

Board the motorcoach and head to **Cooks on Crocus Hill** for a culinary experience like no other! Your group will head to the kitchen and have a hands-on experience in a fun environment.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or the Roseville Visitors Association, 877-980-3002 or www.visitroseville.com.



We'll find something even
he'll enjoy doing.

When you work with the Roseville Visitors Association to plan your group tour, you can rest assured that our experienced staff will help build an itinerary to satisfy even the pickiest traveler. Roseville is conveniently located just minutes from everything in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, and our brand-name hotels offer free parking and lower lodging tax rates than most metro cities.

For more group tour information,
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MINNESOTA State Fair

From 6 a.m. to midnight, there's always something different to see all 12 days of the Great Minnesota Get-Together!

Morning is the best time to...

- schedule a breakfast and welcome session for your group at the Blue Ribbon Picnic Area.
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SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE celebrates 100 years!



In 1905, a mighty and fatal gale over western Lake Superior spurred the construction of Split Rock Lighthouse overlooking one of the world's most dangerous stretches of water. On July 31, 1910, after five years of arduous labor constructing the edifice atop a 130-foot sheer rock cliff, was when the now world-famous North Shore landmark, first sent its powerful beam out across the water.

The Minnesota Historical Society is getting ready to celebrate the centennial of Split Rock Lighthouse in 2010.

Restored to its early-20th century splendor, it is one of America's best-preserved lighthouses. Special activities and events will be offered throughout the year, along with the popular destinations regular programming.

More than 120,000 visitors a year tour the lighthouse and keeper's home, climb the lighthouse tower to see the original, and still operational French bivalve lens, and take their own shots of one of the most photographed sites in the country. "For many who visit Split Rock Lighthouse this is their first view of Lake Superior," says Lee Radzak, the historic site's manager and modern-day keeper. "Seeing the endless horizon from the top of the lighthouse and the great ships far out on the sparkling water, just as the early keepers saw them, is an experience many people never forget."

Group tours at Split Rock Lighthouse include a private guided tour of the site, a 22-minute film "Split Rock Light: Tribute to the Age of Steel," and admission to the exhibit gallery.

A special early bird discount is available if your group visits before June 30 on a weekday. Call 218-226-6372 for more information or to book your group.

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- experience the Miracle of Birth Center where lambs, calves and piglets are born.

Mid-day is the best time to...

- catch one of more than 75 acts on seven free entertainment stages.
- check out nearly 70 rides from around the globe at Mighty Midway and Kidway.
- browse through the shops at Heritage Square or the International Bazaar.

Afternoon is the best time to...

- meet Princess Kay and see the famous

butterhead sculptures.

- choose a snack from the menu of 350 foods, including more than 50 foods on-a-stick.
- stroll through Minnesota's largest juried art show in the Fine Arts Center.

Evening is the best time to...

- go to extremes on Adventure Park's rides.
- see big-name entertainers at the newly-restored 1909 Grandstand.
- watch the nightly fireworks spectacular.



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Contact the group hospitality department for info on discount days, free bus parking, food vouchers, catered picnics and more!

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CHRISTMAS: The Highlight of the Year at the American Swedish Institute

Join us during the holiday season and experience the warmth of "A Nordic Christmas"! This annual holiday event features the splendid 100-year-old Turnblad Mansion decorated for Christmas. Five rooms in the mansion are decorated in the style of each of the five Nordic countries, highlighting the traditions of Iceland, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden with decorated trees and table settings.

The holiday season begins on **Saturday, November 7**. The ASI's annual Christmas Fair opens with the blowing of the näverlur, the traditional Swedish birchbark horn. Music and Swedish delicacies are the order of the day, and there might even be a visit from Tomte, the Swedish Christmas elf!

Other events during the holiday season include: **Lucia Celebration** December 13; **Julbord** (Christmas Dinner) December 20; **Julglädje**, a musical celebration of Christmas December 26-27; **Julgransplundring**, the "plundering" of the Christmas tree **January 9**.

There are also many events for children! Please visit www.AmericanSwedishInst.org and click on "Events" for a full listing of upcoming events. For more information on bringing groups to the American Swedish Institute call 612-870-3344.



Bed & Breakfast Inns of the Scenic St. Croix Valley HOLIDAY TOUR

December 6th, 2009 | 1-5:00 pm

Enjoy 15 of the most amazing Inns of the St. Croix Valley, all decorated for the Holidays. Tour any or all of these Inns, available December 6th from 1 to 5:00 pm. Cost: \$15

Purchase a Gift Certificate of a \$100 or more during your tour at any on the participating St. Croix Valley Inns and receive \$15.00 off each Gift Certificate.

Gift Certificates are available for purchase at each of the Inns. Contact Kathy at 651-436-8883 for more information!



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Journey along legendary Highway 61 and appreciate the spectacular scenery of the north shore of **Lake Superior**, the largest freshwater lake in the world. **Grand Portage** is just two and a half hours north of Duluth.

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BACK ROAD GUESTS ARE BEST

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year. See route on page 43.

day one

10:30 – 12:00 pm

Arrive in **Clearbrook** at the **Gourmet House**, Division of Riviana Foods and take a tour of the Wild Rice processing plant.

12 – 1:00 pm

Journey to **Buena Vista Logging Village**, approximately 15 miles found on County Road 15.

1 – 2:30 pm

Enjoy a chuckwagon style lunch and a narrated tour on an authentic covered wagon on the Continental Divide, accompanied by outriders on horseback who will point out where the waters flow south to the Gulf of Mexico and north to Hudson Bay.

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Depart for Bemidji on County Road 15.

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Tour the **Bemidji Woolen Mills Factory and Outlet Store**, family owned for four generations. View the construction of famous lumberjack plaid outerwear, blankets and sweaters, and take home a treasure from the retail portion of store.

5 – 6:00 pm

Check into an area hotel.

6 – 9:00 pm

Choose the **Bemidji Town & Country Club** – overlooking Lake Bemidji or **Cattails Bar & Grill** for dinner. If you're interested in live musical entertainment,

check out **Alabaster Falls** – 'Folkgrass' music or perhaps a **Native American Flute** performance.

9:00 pm

Return to your motel for a good nights rest.

day two

8 – 8:30 am

After breakfast stop for a photo with **Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox**. View Paul's memorabilia and the **Fireplace of States** in the Tourist Information Center.

8:30 – 9:15 am

Depart for **Itasca State Park**, Headwaters of Mississippi River, via the **Great River Road Scenic Byway**.

9:15 – 10:00 am

Arrive at Itasca State Park with a welcome by a Naturalist at the Visitor Center.

10:00 – 10:45 am

Stop for a refreshment break at historic **Douglas Lodge**, along Lake Itasca's shore. Built in 1905, Douglas Lodge is the oldest surviving building in the state park system and the first to be constructed in the Rustic Style.

10:45 – 12:30 pm

Board the "**Chester Charles**" for a relaxing boat cruise of Lake Itasca. Enjoy a 1 1/2 hour narrated history tour from the vantage point of early explorers. Be sure take the opportunity to walk across the Mississippi River where it begins.

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Head back to the Historic Douglas Lodge for lunch and browse through the Park's Gift Shop before leaving.

1:30 – 2:15 pm

Board the coach to Nevis for a tour of the **Northland Bison Ranch**.

2:15 – 4:00 pm

Take the guided tour in the Buffalo Bus, learn the history of Bison and see them up close in their natural environment. Take pictures of bison with their young calves.

4 – 6:00 pm

Depart for **Carlos Creek Winery** in Alexandria. Visit their tasting room and tour their 160-acre grounds with North America's largest living maze. Afterwards, take your picture with the country's biggest Viking and see the world famous Kensington Runestone at the **Runestone Museum**.

6:00 pm

Check into an area hotel and enjoy an evening of summer theatre or nationally known musicians performing outstanding orchestral movements.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group please contact your tour operator or Cindy Habedank at the Bemidji VCB, 800-458-2223 X 106 (see ad on page 34); Suzanne Thomas at Buena Vista Logging Village, 218-243-2250; Richard Bellefeuille, Itasca State Park Douglas Lodge Manager, 218-699-7219; Katie Magozzi at the Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce, 800-247-0054; Joni Karger Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 800-245-2539.



SHOPPING IN SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

This sample itinerary is best anytime of the year! See route on page 43.

day one

Arrive in **Harmony, Minnesota**.

10:30 – 1:00 pm

Tour the **Old Order Amish Community** with knowledgeable guides from **Amish Tours of Harmony**. A variety of handcrafted goods are available for purchase including fresh baked bread and pies, hand-sewn quilts, knitted items, jams and jellies, plus reed baskets.

1 – 2:00 pm

Enjoy a satisfying home cooked meal at one of the local restaurants.

2 – 4:00 pm

Shop the unique stores in **Harmony** including **Generations of Harmony Antique Mall**, **Meadow Lane Art Gallery**, **Old Ways New Ideas**, **R&J Wood Goods**, and **Austin's Angora Goats & Mohair Gifts**.

4 – 6:00 pm

Drive north to the historic town of **Lanesboro** – the "**Bed & Breakfast Capital of Minnesota**". Check into a quaint, historic B&B.

6 – 9:30 pm

Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Followed by a performance at the **Commonweal Theatre**.

day two

9 – 10:30 am

Enjoy a multi course, gourmet breakfast and check out of your hotel.

10:30 – 1:00 pm

Shop the local stores including the **Cornucopia Art Center**, **Little River General Store**, and **Bluffscape Gallery & Gifts**. Or relax with a stroll along the paved **Root River State Bike Trail**.

1 – 2:00 pm

Enjoy a delicious lunch at a local restaurant.

2 – 5:00 pm

Delight in a picturesque drive along the **National Scenic Byway - Minnesota Highway 16** along the **Root River**. Stop at the **Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center** or the **Houston Nature Center**.

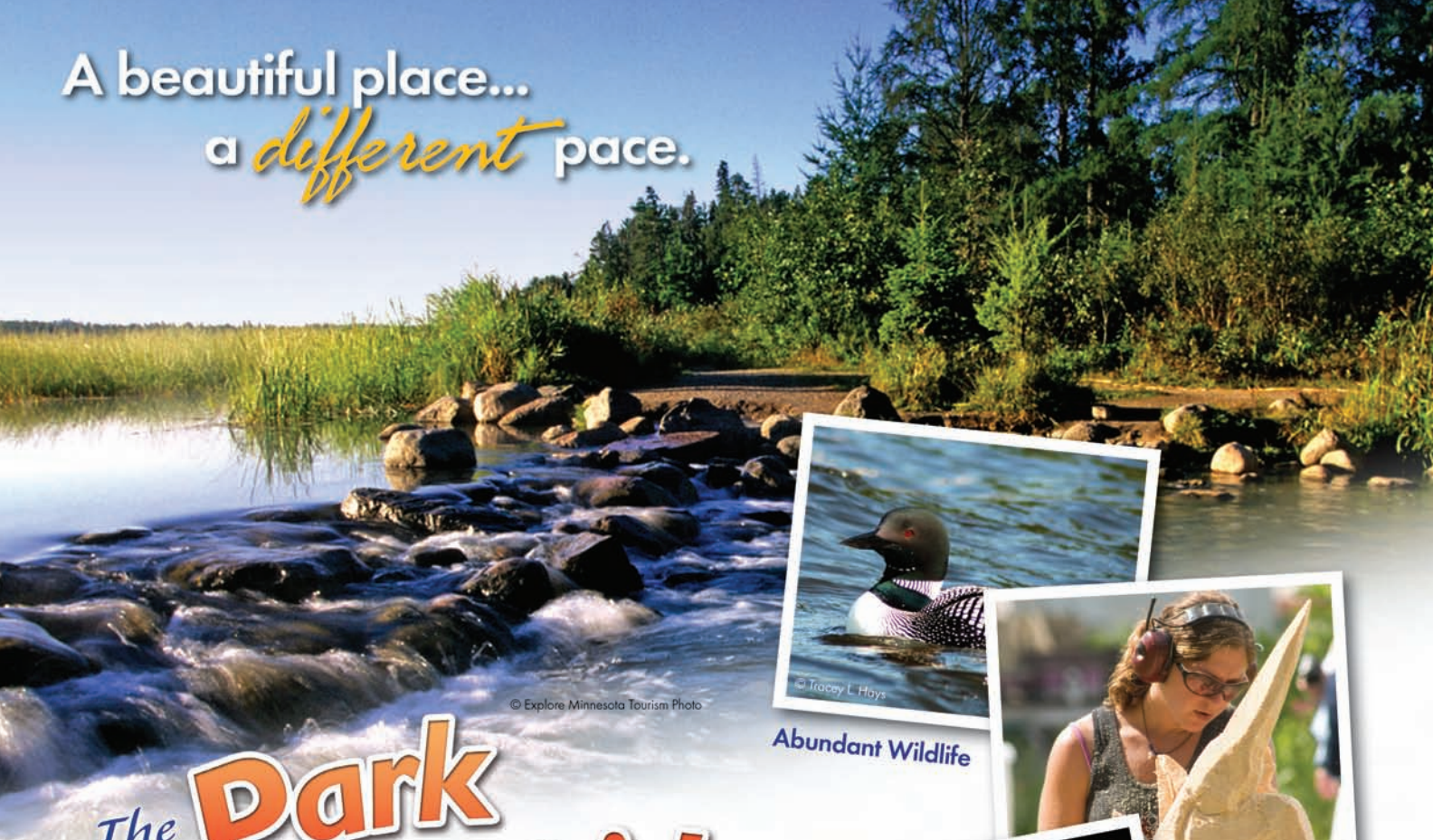
5:00 pm

Grab a bite at a local restaurant before heading home.

For more information or to customize an itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Kris Nolte, Historic Bluff Country CVB (see page 38), 800-428-2030.

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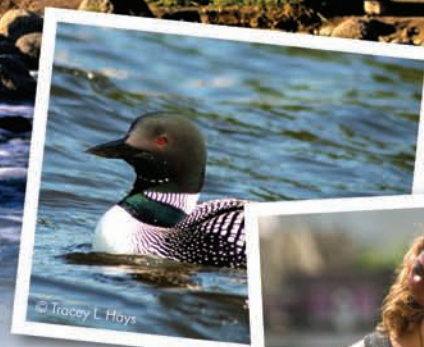
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Unique Downtown Shopping

Home of the Mississippi Headwaters at WORLD FAMOUS Itasca State Park

Arts, Eats & Treats

Two Great Days in the Park Rapids Lakes Area

To customize this **sample itinerary** for your group contact your tour operator or Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-247-0054 or www.parkrapids.com.

DAY ONE

- 8:15 a.m.** - Arrive in **Historic Downtown Park Rapids** just in time for breakfast at **3rd Street Market** or **Beyond Juice**.
- 9:15 a.m.** - Leave Park Rapids and head north on Hwy 71 - the road to Itasca State Park.
- 9:30 a.m.** - Stop at the quaint and delightful **Summerhill Farm**. Tour and shop at each of eight hillside gift shops, each with its own special appeal and variety of gifts, decorative accessories, clothing and much more.

- 10:30 a.m.** - Continue your travel north to **Itasca State Park**, where the **Headwaters of the Mississippi River** flows from its source at Lake Itasca
- 11:15 a.m.** - Tour the **Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center**. Pick up your park brochures and learn about the geographic, historic and cultural significance of Minnesota's first state park. A small gift shop is also located in the center.

DAY ONE itinerary continued next page >

DAY ONE (continued)

- Noon -** Dine at historically impressive **Douglas Lodge**, where the view of the tranquil settings is second to none. The restaurant serves many wonderful entrees with a "Minnesota" flavor including walleye, wild rice and blueberry pancakes.
- 1 p.m. -** Take a naturalist narrated tour aboard the Historic "**Chester Charles**" boat on Lake Itasca and follow the same route Ozawindib and Schoolcraft took in 1832 when they recorded the source of the Mississippi River.
- 3 p.m. -** Head to the **Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center** where more informative displays tell the story of this memorable place and access to the headwaters of the Mighty Mississippi is within easy walking distance.
- 4 p.m. -** Leave Itasca State Park and stop at **Forestedge Winery** - www.forestedgewinery.com for a tour and tasting. This homegrown winery provides its visitors with a stroll along the nature trails, a pleasant wander through the gardens... and a taste of the 11 varieties of wine. After wine tasting step next door to the **Gallery for Original Arts and Fine Crafts**. Their Art Fair is Aug. 15 and 16.
- 5:30 p.m. -** Leave Forestedge Winery and arrive for dinner at **Brauhaus German Restaurant & Lounge**. Enjoy an authentic German dining experience presented by servers in traditional German attire. www.brauhaus-german.com
- 6:30 p.m. -** Leave the Brauhaus and go east on Highway 34 to the Chippewa National Forest scenic overlook at **Shingobee**. Stretch your legs with a short walk on the trail or relax, enjoy the spectacular view and take more pictures.
- 7:15 p.m. -** Return to **Akeley** for another photo op. Paul Bunyan's outstretched hand provides the perfect setting.
- 8 p.m. -** Live entertainment abounds here. Enjoy one or several performances at **Jaspers Jubilee Musical Theater** 218-237-4333, www.jaspersitheater.com, **Long Lake Theater** 218-732-0099, www.longlaketheater.net. Enjoy the shows at the **Woodtick Musical Theatre** 800-644-6892, www.woodticktheater.net or **Northern Light Opera Company** 866-766-7372, www.northernlightopera.com. Add a matinee performance and see them all.
- 10 p.m. -** Arrive at your **lodging in Park Rapids**. Advance arrangements for your late arrival can be made by contacting www.parkrapidscla.com.

DAY TWO

- 9 a.m. -** Enjoy a family style breakfast at the **Logging Camp on Potato Lake**. Tour the grounds for a glimpse into the days when the bull cook called "It's daylight in the swamps" to rouse logging crews to the table.
- 10 a.m. -** Head back to Historic **Downtown Park Rapids** for a great shopping experience. Known for unique shops and its one of a kind items and where people still park down the center of Main Street. Visit more than **55 unique stores** offering everything from gifts, jewelry, collectibles and items for the home or cabin, furniture, moccasins and more. See fudge being stirred in a copper kettle at **Aunt Belle's Confectionery** and try a hand-dipped ice cream cone, cherry Cokes or a malt at our authentic 1930s MinneSoda Fountain.
- 11:15 a.m. -** Visit the **All Veterans Memorial Park** next to the Park Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce south on Highway 71. The Memorial honors all branches of the Armed Forces and all the wars in which they served.
- 11:45 a.m. -** Now you're off to the **Northland Bison Ranch Tour** and a Buffalo Burger picnic lunch on their beautiful grounds. Bison have been called the most important wild animals in the development of North America. This tour will bring you up close and personal to these majestic creatures that once numbered in the millions and barely escaped extinction. Buses take you out in the field for some great photos.
- 2:30 p.m. -** Now head to historic **downtown Hubbard** for a matinee at **Long Lake Theater**. If you time your trip to be here Sept. 26-27, the theater is on the map as part of Art Leap 2009. This event takes visitors to artists' studios and other venues where original art, jewelry and other fine art is being created.
- 5 p.m. -** Enjoy dinner at one of several area restaurants, including our newest - **The Good Life Cafe**, where seasonal food is on the menu or a Park Rapids tradition, the **Y Steak House**. On a Friday or Saturday, return to **Summerhill Farm** www.summerhill-farm.com for a scrumptious slow-cooked Kansas City style barbecue or make arrangements for a Chuck Wagon Supper Show at **Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat** - www.smokeyhills.com. **Vacationaire Restaurant** is a delight on Island Lake too. Another favorite stop for dinner is **Dorset**, the Restaurant Capital of the World.
- 7 p.m. -** Head back to **Red Bridge Park** where a paved trail and picnic tables provide a spot to appreciate the beauty of the river, see loons, ducks, geese or possibly a Bald Eagle. Choices for the rest of the evening are to buy an ice cream cone and revisit **Main Street**, go to a movie or take in a local festival or other event, depending on when you are staying.



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www.parkrapidscla.com



WILLMAR LAKES AREA

This sample itinerary can be customized for any time of the year!

day one

12 – 1:30 pm

Roll into **Willmar** and enjoy lunch at one of many delicious restaurants. From quaint cafes to fine dining; you'll find something for everyone's taste.

1:30 – 4:00 pm

Take a step back in time as you tour the **Mikkelson Classic Boat Museum**—the world's premier collection of Falls Flyer classic speed boats, the Jaguar of boats, is housed in a private museum operated by Paul Mikkelson. Minnesota's Larson Boat Works manufactured only about 200 Falls Flyers from 1939 to 1960, and the best ones are on display in Willmar. Classic outboard motors and more than 2,000 toy boats and motors are also featured, along with numerous other boating artifacts. Antique decoys and electric trains are also featured.

4 – 5:00 pm

Time to check into your hotel and get your belongings situated. During this visit, you'll be a guest at the **Country Inn & Suites**—a full service hotel located in the shopping and entertainment district, the accommodations in Willmar feature thoughtful services and amenities, including high-

speed Internet, an indoor heated pool, hot tub, and a Fitness Center to help guests feel right at home.

5 – 7:00 pm

Enjoy dinner at the **Green Mill Restaurant and Bar**. Whether you're in the mood for some award winning pizza or perhaps classic American cuisine, it's all on their menu. After your delicious meal it's time to head out to the show at The Barn Theatre!

7 – 10:00 pm

The show changes throughout the year, but no matter what the production, you're in for a treat. **The Barn Theatre** is a community theatre group with a pool of talented and committed volunteers that rival most professional companies. So sit back and enjoy.

day two

8 – 9:00 am

A steaming cup of coffee, a warm muffin, and a friendly atmosphere is what you will find at **Jazz n' Java**. They have some of the best coffee around!

9 – 12:00 pm

You're off to the "Ranch", **J & L Bison Ranch** that is. Talk about a step back in time—you'll have the opportunity to view the herd in their natural habitat. As educational as it is astonishing, there's much to know and learn about this sacred animal. We'll save the details for the tour.



12 – 2:00 pm

Now your stomach is growling and to satisfy that hunger we are taking you to **Melvin's on the Lake** in picturesque Spicer. With beautiful views and lunch next to the beach or on their 55-passenger houseboat, nothing will beat the taste or the view.

2 – 5:00 pm

Take a ride out to **Glacial Ridge Winery** where you'll tour the vineyard, learn about the grape growing process, wine making, and finally tasting the finished product. As the day comes to an end you'll find yourself searching the gift shop for a bottle of wine or a specialty gift to take along home.

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

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800.845.8747 Ext. 79 | www.willmarlakesarea.com



OWATONNA'S HOMETOWN HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Shop with us and experience Owatonna's Hometown Holiday Weekend **December 3rd & 4th, 2009** (call for 2010 dates)! Call **Plan Ahead Events** to setup your group tour and make the weekend extra special from concept to completion with the help of this event coordinating team!

day one

1 – 3:00 pm

Make your way to Owatonna and stop to shop at the **Preferred Outlets at Medford** for the best outlet

prices south of the metro area! Check-out stores like Old Navy, Columbia Sportswear Company, The Children's Place, Bass, Nike Clearance Store, Levi's and many more.

3 – 5:00 pm

Shop at **Cabela's World's Foremost Outfitter** and the largest fishing, hunting and outdoor gear store in the Midwest. With four million visitors a year it is the second most popular tourist attraction in Minnesota! Your group is sure to enjoy this 150,000 square foot mega-store. Cabela's also offers an educational

center that celebrates the outdoors and the men and women who enjoy it, and their park-like restaurant brings the great outdoors, indoors.

5 – 6:00 pm

Bundle up and make your next stop in downtown Owatonna to line the sidewalks for the **Hometown Holiday Lighted Parade** – Owatonna's hometown version of the popular Minnesota Holidazzle Parade! Window shop and pop-into some of the stores for their holiday open houses.

6 – 7:00 pm

Make your way to Central Park for a free cup of hot cider and Christmas cookies. Catch a glimpse of **Santa in the Bandshell** as he welcomes the holidays by flipping the switch for the synchronized twinkle lights and music show. Listen to the Owatonna High School Carolers singing Christmas carols, and if it's too cold for your liking, take in the sights and sounds from your car by tuning in your car radio to the program in the park!

day two

10 – 12:00 pm

Take to the streets of downtown Owatonna for "Santa Specials" at **Owatonna Shoe** – a "REAL" Shoe Store and **Kristi's Clothing**, for something unique and different to fit into your year-round wardrobe! There's sure to be something for everyone on your shopping list with all the retail shops in downtown Owatonna.

12 – 1:00 pm

Enjoy lunch and treat yourself to **Costa's Café & Chocolate Shop**. Everyone will enjoy the hand-made/hand-dipped candies in their stockings this year!

1 – 3:00 pm

Take in Owatonna's attractions, all dressed up for the holidays including the **National Farmer's Bank** in downtown, designed by world renowned architect **Louis Sullivan**. Plus visit the only **Minnesota State School Orphanage Museum**, celebrating Christmas in the newly renovated and reopened Cottage 11. Enjoy cookies, cider, history & fellowship!

3 – 5:00 pm

Brave the elements and enjoy childhood again by renting ice skates at the **Morehouse Park Chalet** and skate your way along the **Straight River**, or get in on a pick-up game of boot hockey or broomball at the rinks!

5 – 7:00 pm

Step back in time for a Victorian Christmas at the **Village of Yesteryear**! Horse-drawn sleigh rides, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, fancy cookie sale, Christmas carolers, stroll along the boardwalk lit by luminaries and more! Children can decorate cookies & wassail is served in the General Store. See the Dunnell House lavishly decorated for the holidays. FREE admission!

For more information on this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or Lisa Havelka, Owatonna's Tourism Director at 507-451-7970 or go to www.visitowatonna.org.

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www.orphanagemuseum.com

Free Visitors Guide 800-423-6466 or visit www.visitowatonna.org



EXCITING ENDEAVORS IN AUSTIN

This itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year!

day one

10 – 11:30 am

Begin at the **Hormel Historic Home** with a cinnamon roll & cup of coffee. The historic home of George A. Hormel embodies the unique history of the **Hormel Company** and the man who founded it. Now includes gourmet kitchen & banquet center that seats 200.

11:30 – 12:30 pm

The next stop is at the home of **Jay C. Hormel**, otherwise known as the **Gerard Mansion**. Jay's home is a 97-room chateau, built in 1925.

12:30 – 1:45 pm

Lunch at **The Brick House** is the perfect way to entertain your group. The café offers a wide variety of entrees including fondue and pasta.

1:45 – 2:30 pm

Head to the **Hormel Institute**, one of the nations leading organizations in cancer research, and learn about the dedication this organization has towards prevention and treatment of cancer.

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Hear all about the rich history and current marvels of **Austin** on your tour of the city. Everyone receives a "Welcome Bag" that includes a **SPAM®** cookbook!

4 – 6:00 pm

Check into one of our group-friendly lodging facilities.

6 – 7:30 pm

Get ready for the show! It's not just dinner tonight... it's a murder mystery dinner, "**Murder on the Grille, Pasta, Passion and Pistols**." This show will have your guests talking for years to come.

7:30 – 9:00 pm

Sit back and relax after dinner with a reserve wine tasting by **Apollo Liquor**. This unique encounter features 50 reserve wines complimented by specialty appetizers to enhance your wine tasting experience.

day two

9 – 11:00 am

Begin with a trip to **MINNE-SOY-TA Nice**. Learn how soy candles & glycerin soap is made. Then it's your turn!

11 – 12:30 pm

No trip to Austin is complete without a stop at the world famous **SPAM® Museum**. Featuring sophisticated exhibits and displays of the famous company. Your stop will be educational, interactive & lots of FUN!

12:30 pm

Before heading out of town, be sure to stop and have a quick bite at **Jerry's Other Place**, where **SPAM®** burgers are always on the menu.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary please contact your tour operator or the Austin CVB, 800-444-5713 or visitor@austinnm.com.

Minnesota

Austin

Minnesota

Dec 11 & 18 (7:30pm) and **Dec 12 & 19** (2 & 7:30pm): Michael Veldman & Friends annual traditional Christmas show at the Historic Paramount Theatre...great outing for groups!

Jan 23-24 (Sat 7pm, Sun 3pm): Northwestern Singers present their annual Winter Show at the Historic Paramount Theatre. Includes Broadway songs, singing, dancing & orchestra.

Jan 24: Wedding Showcase at the Hormel Historic Home, 12-4pm. www.hormelhistorichome.org

Feb 5-7 (Fri 7pm, Sat & Sun 2pm): Matchbox Children's Theatre presents the musical version of Little Red Riding Hood called "Little Red" performed at the Historic Paramount Theatre. MCT is now in its' 35th season! www.matchboxchildrenstheatre.org

Feb 12-14, 17-20: "Oklahoma" performed at the Riverland Theatre. Show hours are 7:30pm, with the exception of Sunday, 2/12/10 at 2pm. www.riverland.edu/theatre

AUSTIN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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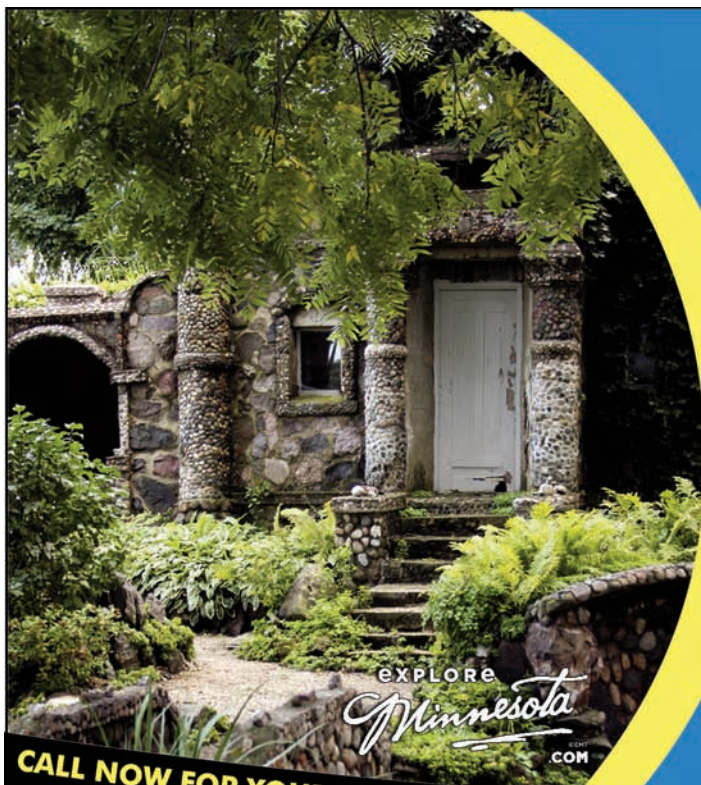
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SHOP ALBERT LEA!

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

9 – 11:00 am

Begin your day in historic downtown at **Adam's Originals**, a one-of-kind store and largest vintage and doll shop in Minnesota. Featuring a Raggedy Ann selection, various collectibles and pottery. Save time to visit other area stores.

11 – 12:00 pm

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

12 – 1:30 pm

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

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Next stop is in an 1887 historic church. **Something Special In The Nest** offers a charming gift gallery featuring decorating accessories and unique gifts!

2:30 – 4:30 pm

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

4:30 – 7:00 pm

Check into one of Albert Lea's lodging choices. Take this time to rest your feet or explore more of Albert Lea's hot shopping spots on your own!

7 – 9:30 pm

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

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



HERITAGE, NATURE + FUN IN BLUE EARTH

This sample itinerary is best anytime of the year.

day one

10 – 11:00 am

Arrive in **Blue Earth**. Stop at the McDonalds for a Coffee/Restroom break.

11 – 1:00 pm

Visit the 55' foot **Jolly Green Giant Statue & Red Barn Gift Shop**. Great photo opportunities! Then board the motorcoach for a guided city tour of **Blue Earth**.

1 – 2:00 pm

Lunch will be at a restaurant of your choice.

2 – 2:30 pm

Visit the **GIANT Museum**, downtown Blue Earth, which features Green Giant and Collectibles and original items from area canning factories.

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Stroll downtown through our unique specialty shops. Don't forget to stop for a Latte' or ice cream cone at **Ankeny's Coffee Shop**.

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Check into Hotel. Relax before dinner.

6:30 pm

Dinner will be at a restaurant of your choice. The remainder of the night you're free to relax and play games or take in a local activity.

day two

9 – 10:00 am

Continental Breakfast is available at your hotel or enjoy a full breakfast at a restaurant of your choice.

10 – 12:00 pm

Drive to **Nature Viewing Site** to view birds, waterfowl, wildflowers and prairie plantings.

12 – 2:00 pm

Enjoy a catered picnic lunch at the **Antique Machinery**

Shed, located in the beautiful Faribault County Fairgrounds. After lunch stroll down **History Lane**, which features a Log House, a School built in 1870, blacksmith shop, post office and a beautifully restored church built in 1886.

2 – 3:30 pm

Visit one of our many other historic sites or museums: The **James B. Wakefield House** built in 1868. (Minnesota's Eighth Lieutenant Governor); **Historic Episcopal Church** (featuring Minnesota's first Stained Glass window); and **Etta C. Ross Museum - Faribault County Courthouse** (National Register of Historic Places).

3:30 – 4:00 pm

Enjoy a frosty mug of Rootbeer at an original 1950's Drive Inn. Then take a stroll in **Steinberg Nature Park**.

4 – 6:30 pm

Head back to hotel to relax and freshen up for dinner.

6:30 pm

Dinner is at restaurant of your choice. The rest of the evening you are free to relax or take in a local activity.

day three

9 – 10:00 am

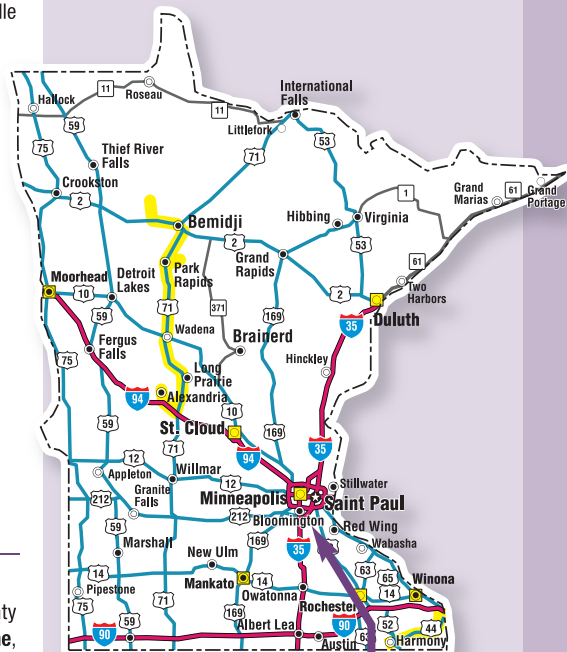
Enjoy a continental breakfast or dine at a local restaurant.

10:00 am

Visit one of our charming neighboring communities. **Winnebago** – Winnebago Area Museum - Displays of three pre-historic cultures, which lived along the Blue Earth River.) **Wells** – Flame Theater – Enjoy a movie on the big screen in a restored 1960's movie theater.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or Blue Earth Chamber, 507-526-2916 or visit www.BlueEarthChamber.com.

directory & map



Mall of America - Bloomington

accommodations

metro

The Depot Minneapolis, A Renaissance Hotel

225 3rd Ave – Minneapolis, MN 55401 . . . **612-375-1700**
kkingsbury@thedepotminneapolis.com
www.thedepotminneapolis.com

The Depot Minneapolis, A Renaissance Hotel, is located in downtown Minneapolis and is walking distance to restaurants, museums, Guthrie Theater, Stone Arch Bridge, attractions along the Mississippi Riverfront and features group tour packages.

Country Inn

Saint Paul East/Woodbury 651-739-7300

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Continued on next page



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Marriott Minneapolis West. 952-544-4400

9960 Wayzata Blvd – St. Louis Park, MN 55426

marriott_minneapolis_west@csmcorp.net

Enjoy the tranquility of a luxury hotel in Saint Louis Park. Featuring an Irish Pub and Caribou Coffee Shop in the lobby & a complimentary suite for the tour guide with loads of bus parking.

SpringHill Suites by Marriott ... 952-944-7700

11552 Leona Rd – Eden Prairie, MN 55344

skennedy@csmcorp.net

SpringHill Suites by Marriott-Eden Prairie is an all suite hotel and the perfect choice for your group accommodations. With many well-appointed amenities and a great location, we promise an enjoyable stay!

SpringHill Suites – Eagan 651-686-0600

3635 Crestridge Drive, Eagan, MN 55122

mlawrence@csmcorp.net

SpringHill Suites by Marriott in Eagan is perfect for business or pleasure, located just minutes from the Mall of America, Minneapolis/Saint Paul Airport, Cascade Bay Water Park, the Minnesota Zoo and the Eagan Community Center.

SpringHill Suites St Louis Park 952-738-7300

5901 Wayzata Blvd – St. Louis Park, MN 55416

springhill_suites_st_louis_park@csmcorp.net

Close to downtown Minneapolis. Offering all suite accommodations with plush bedding and pillow top mattresses. A free breakfast buffet with hot and cold items, a 24-hour Market, indoor pool and Jacuzzi, and updated fitness center.

Water Street Inn Stillwater 651-439-6000

northern

AmericInn Lodge & Suites Park Rapids 800-634-3444

AmericInn Lodge & Suites 320-253-6337

4385 Clearwater Rd – St. Cloud, MN 56301

stcloud.mn@americinn.com

www.americinn.com/hotels/MN/StCloud

Welcome to a warm smile, spacious rooms, an inviting pool, free hot breakfast and quiet nights. Conveniently located off of I-94 exit 171. AmericInn of St. Cloud welcomes you to the end of the day!

AmericInn Lodge & Suites & Event Center of Moorhead ... 218-287-7100

600 30th Ave S – Moorhead, MN 56560

dawn@americinnofmoorhead.com

www.americinnofmoorhead.com

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

C'Mon Inn Motel & Suites Park Rapids 800-258-6891

Grand Portage Lodge & Casino. 218-475-2401

70 Casino Drive, PO Box 233

Grand Portage, MN 55605

gportage@tbytel.net / www.GrandPortage.com

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

King's Cottages Resort Motel Park Rapids 218-732-4526

Red Bridge Inn Park Rapids 888-733-7241

Riverside Point Resort Motel Park Rapids 800-733-9711

Rustic Inn Park Rapids. 218-237-2828

Super 8 Motel & Suites Park Rapids . 877-274-3040

southern

AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Madelia 507-642-2004

620 Haynes Ave NE – Madelia, MN 56062

This MLA Property of the Year exceeds guest expectations with top notch service, rooms, and décor - all at a great value. Features: fireplace & whirlpool suites; a beautiful, indoor recreation area, hospitality room available for business or pool parties; high-speed/wireless internet; enhanced continental breakfast.

attractions

metro

American Association of Woodturners Saint Paul 651-484-9094

American Swedish Institute 612-870-3344

2600 Park Avenue – Minneapolis, MN 55407

info@americanswedishinstitute.org

www.americanswedishinstitute.org

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

Ballet Minnesota Saint Paul 651-222-7919

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

Chocolate March. 651-998-0185

www.innsofthevalley.com

Tour beautiful B&Bs & Historic sites in the St. Croix River Valley during the 2010 Chocolate March Tour in March. Each B&B will have chocolate tastings and each Sunday, one will also offer a wine pairing. Call or visit our website for more info.

The Depot Minneapolis Minneapolis 612-758-7873

Mill City Museum Saint Paul 612-341-7555

Minnesota Centennial Showboat Minneapolis. 651-227-1600

Minnesota Historical Society 651-259-3444

345 W. Kellogg Blvd – Saint Paul, MN 55102 / www.mnhs.org
Chief caretaker of Minnesota's story and the History Center is home to the Society's vast collections. Within our archives reside artifacts ranging from American Indian moccasins and artwork to furniture and photographs, Civil War-era flags and a wealth of genealogical information.

Padelford Packet Boat Company Saint Paul 651-227-1100

Science Museum of Minnesota 651-221-9444

120 West Kellogg Blvd – Saint Paul, MN 55102

groupsales@smm.org / www.smm.org

At the Science Museum of Minnesota, the science that shapes our daily lives comes to life through hands-on exhibits and larger-than-life Omnitheater films, and a world-class collection of fossils and artifacts. More info at (651) 221-9444.

Treasure Island Resort & Casino. 800-222-7077

5734 Sturgeon Lake Road – Welch, MN 55089

www.treasureislandcasino.com

Offers groups some of the best gaming, accommodations, food service and nationally known entertainment in the casino industry. Featuring slots, 40 blackjack tables, a high stakes bingo hall, 24-lane Brunswick bowling center all in a Caribbean themed casino.

Wabasha Street Caves. 651-292-1220

215 Wabasha Street South – Saint Paul, MN 55107

www.wabashastreetcaves.com

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

southern

Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel. 507-644-7814

PO Box 420 – Morton, MN 56270 800-WIN-CASH

wincash@jackpotjunction.com / www.jackpotjunction.com

99 miles southwest of Minneapolis. 440,000 square feet of action: video slot machines, table games, bingo, pull tabs, restaurants, full service bars, 378 deluxe accommodations, swimming pool, fitness center, live entertainment, RV Park, Dacotah Ridge Golf Club.

The Orphanage Museum Owatonna. 507-774-7369

The Village of Yesteryear Owatonna 507-451-1420

convention & visitors bureaus and chambers

metro

Bloomington 952-858-8500

Convention & Visitors Bureau 800-346-4289

7900 International Drive, Suite 990 – Bloomington, MN 55425

cvb@bloomingtonmn.org / www.bloomingtonmn.org

Bloomington, MN - Home of Mall of America, offers 36 hotels, complimentary shuttle service and parking. FREE services include customized itineraries and welcome packets. Group travel discounts are available! Download our planning guide at bloomingtonmn.org.

Eagan Convention and Visitors Bureau 651-675-5546

1501 Central Parkway – Eagan, MN 55121

denise@eaganmn.com / www.eaganmn.com

Eagan makes planning your trip easy! Personal service includes custom and creative itineraries, FREE welcome bags and FREE Mall of America® coupon books. You'll also enjoy our low 3% lodging tax. Ask how to qualify for a \$250 cash rebate.



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

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

Stillwater and Oak Park Heights CVB
PO Box 2025 – Stillwater, MN 55082 **651-351-1717**
www.discoverstillwater.com
Historic Stillwater, MN is located along the banks of the scenic St. Croix River. Our many unique shops, restaurants, lodging establishments & attractions make a perfect group destination. Located within 30 min. of most major Twin Cities metro attractions.

northern

Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Alexandria **800-235-9441**

Park Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce **800-247-0054**
Hwy 71 South, PO Box 249 – Park Rapids, MN 56470
www.parkrapids.com
Gateway to the Mississippi Headwaters, unique destinations, great dining, one-of-a-kind shopping, world-renowned golf, motels and spas, tours and activities. Call 1-800-247-0054 for skilled tour assistance.

St. Cloud Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
525 Hwy 10, Suite 1 **320-251-4170**
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 & cultural experiences are available year round.

southern

Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau .. **507-373-2316**
2566 Bridge Ave – Albert Lea, MN 56007 **800-345-8414**
cvsdirector@albertlea.org / www.albertleatourism.org
Located 90 minutes from Mpls, where I-90 & I-35 intersect, featuring small town hospitality with big city amenities. Plus additional lakes & 38 city parks hosting various outdoor activities.

Austin CVB **507-437-4563**
104 11th Ave NW Ste D – Austin, MN 55912 **800-444-5713**
visitor@austinnm.com / 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.

Blue Earth Area Chamber & CVB **507-526-2916**
113 S Nicollet Street – Blue Earth, MN 56013
chamber@bevcomm.net / www.blueearthchamber.com
Blue Earth offers the charm of small town hospitality mixed with history, nature and shopping. Home to the Jolly Green Giant Statue, GIANT Museum, James B. Wakefield House, Steinberg Nature Park, birding trails, and more.

Explore Southern Minnesota Tourism **888-868-7476 ext. 162**
115 East Hickory #403 – Mankato, MN 56001
www.exploresouthernminnesota.com
You'll be surprised...at what you'll find in southern Minnesota! With many scenic byways, festivals, parks & trails, historic sites, caves, bluffs, waterfalls & so much more, it makes a perfect destination for any group.

Faribault Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau Faribault **800-658-2354**

Historic Bluff Country **800-428-2030**
PO Box 609 – Harmony, MN 55939
hbc@harmonytel.net / 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 for a free guide.

Hutchinson Area CVB Hutchinson .. **800-572-6689**

Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce **507-451-7970**
320 Hoffman Dr – Owatonna, MN 55060 **800-423-6466**
www.owatonna.org
Located in south central MN, 45 minutes from Mpls/Saint Paul on I-35. Come "discover our faces & places" - filled with historical, recreational & cultural opportunities as well as nearly 700 guest rooms to accommodate any group.

Pipestone Chamber & Visitors Bureau
Pipestone **800-336-6125**

Western Minnesota Prairie Waters CVB
Appleton **866-866-5432**

Willmar Lakes Area Convention & Visitors Bureau **800-845-8747 ext. 79**
2104 Highway 12 East – Willmar, MN 56201
www.willmarlakesarea.com
Visit the Willmar Lakes Area. Only 2 hours west of Minneapolis/Saint 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.

entertainment & theater

metro

Chanhasen Dinner Theatres .. **952-934-1525**
501 W 78th St – Chanhasen, MN 55317 **800-355-6273**
klarson@chanhasendt.com / www.chanhasendt.com
Since 1968 Chanhasen Dinner Theatres have been recognized for quality theatre entertainment & fine dining. The nation's largest professional dinner theatre is AAA Magazine recommended, "Any Twin Cities visit should include an evening at Chanhasen!"

History Theatre Saint Paul **651-292-4323**

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts **651-282-3111**
345 Washington St – Saint Paul, MN 55102 / www.Ordway.org
Overlooking Rice Park in historic Saint Paul, the Ordway hosts the annual Flint Hills International Children's Festival, the best in Broadway musical theater, the finest in world music & dance - all at exceptional group prices. Behind-the-Scenes tours available.

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

The SHOUT! House Dueling Pianos
Minneapolis **612-337-6700**

festivals & events

metro

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

Minnesota State Fair **651-632-2689**
1265 Snelling Avenue N – Saint Paul, MN 55108
www.mnstatefair.org
The great Minnesota Get-Together. Local, national and internationally-known entertainers, horse show and rodeo performances, Mighty Midway and Kidway rides, competitions, exhibits, attractions and concessions.

shopping

metro

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

Northland Visions – Native Art & Gifts of the Northlands Minneapolis **612-872-0390**

southern

Kristi's Owatonna **507-444-0400**
Owatonna Shoe Owatonna **507-451-4640**
New Ulm Business & Retail Association
New Ulm **888-463-9856**
Plan Ahead Events Owatonna **877-235-3957**
Studio Getaway Owatonna **800-491-3922**

tour operators

metro

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

MetroConnections, Inc Minneapolis **800-747-8687**
Valley Tours, Inc. Stillwater **651-439-6110**



missouri cities

BRANSON, CAPE GIRARDEAU,
CHARLESTON, COLUMBIA, CROCKER,
EAGLEVILLE, FARMINGTON,
FORT LEONARD WOOD, HANNIBAL,
HERMANN, KANSAS CITY,
JEFFERSON CITY, MANSFIELD,
ROCK PORT, SPRINGFIELD, ST. LOUIS,
ST. JOSEPH, ST. ROBERT, WEST PLAINS

calendar of events

december

- **Living Windows Display**
Dec 4, Columbia 800-652-0987
- **Augusta Christmas Candlelight Walk**
Dec 4, 11, Augusta 636-228-4005
- **15th Annual WinterFest Arts Festival**
Dec 4-6, Springfield 888-476-7849
- **Laura Ingalls Wilder Remembers Christmases Past** Dec 5,
Independence 800-748-7111
- **Arrow Rock Christmas Folk Sing**
Dec 6, Arrow Rock 660-837-3307
- **Ozarks Christmas Village**
Dec 9-13, Springfield 471-766-4671
- **9th Annual Ozark Christmas**
Dec 12, Rolla 573-341-4219
- **Missouri Town 1855**
A Christmas Celebration Dec 12,
Lee's Summit 816-503-4868

january

- **The Loop Ice Carnival** Jan 16,
St. Louis 314-727-8000
- **4th Annual Professional Ice Sculpting Competition** Jan 16,
Branson 800-296-0463
- **Orchid Show 2010** Jan 30-Mar 14,
St. Louis 314-577-9400

february

- **Chocolate Wine Trail** Feb 20-21,
Hermann 800-932-8687
- **St. Louis French Festival** Feb 24-Mar 1,
St. Louis 314-533-7662
- **Lambarena- Kansas City Ballet**
Feb 25-28, Kansas City 888-968-2538
- **True/False Film Fest** Feb 25-28,
Columbia 800-652-0987

march

- **Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Pony Express** Mar 1-Dec 31,
St. Joseph 800-785-0360
- **March Morpho Mania** Mar 6-7, 13-14,
20-21, 27-28, Chesterfield 636-530-0076
- **Tea Party and Vintage Fashion Show**
Mar 27, Independence 816-229-8293
- **31st Annual Hermann Wurstfest**
Mar 27-28, Hermann 800-932-8687

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

Close to home. Far from ordinary.

ITINERARIES

Missouri®



SPRINGFIELD

Perched atop a plateau of the largest mountain range in the country - the Ozark Mountains, this city offers the best in metropolitan and outdoor adventure. And one of the best places to outfit yourself for nearly any adventure is the **Bass Pro Shop** referred to as the granddaddy of outdoor stores. Shop fishing items, hunting, camping, boating, golf, gifts, footwear and apparel. Explore their 300,000-square-foot showroom loaded with unique features including an art gallery, barber shop, firing range, Tracker boat showroom, waterfalls, aquariums, Hemingway's Restaurant, Starbucks and much more! Enjoy the salt water and freshwater aquariums, indoor waterfalls, live alligator and snapping turtle exhibit. Springfield also hosts unique mom-and-pop shops and well-known stores at the city's malls. Such as the **Battlefield Mall**, the largest enclosed shopping center in town, boasting more than 150 stores including Dillard's, Macy's, JC Penney and Sears. (See location on map, page 47)

more shopping in missouri

Branson – Visitors can find outlet centers, shops and galleries focused on arts and crafts, as well boutique and specialty stores with unique, fun things! Gift buyers and bargain hunters will be amazed at the selection and will go home toting the perfect gift, souvenir or one-of-a-kind heirloom.

Columbia – Columbia's "District" welcomes you. This bustling and vibrant central city has over 110 unique shops, trendy boutiques and galleries. All your favorite brands including Vera Wang, Sigrid Oldsen, Ellie Tahani, and much more! Whether you prefer hiking boots or handcrafted jewelry, you'll have no trouble finding exactly what you desire here.

Cottleville – For all of you who like to find that hidden treasure, this is the store for you! **The Corner Junkstore** has it all! Jewelry, war memorabilia, books, auto collectibles, frames, glassware, cookbooks, a dancing bear and of course junk, are all housed in this 1800's general store.

Kansas City – Peruse the stores along the **Country Club Plaza**. Explore the variety of **Crown Center**. See the hotspots at **Zona Rosa** and **The Legends at Village West**. Plus explore **Crossroads Arts District** for an urban shopping experience; lined with unique art galleries, places to grab a quick bite to eat or coffee and some truly original Kansas City shops.

Miner – Featuring **Sikeston Factory Outlet Stores**, the only outlet center between St. Louis and Memphis. The center hosts various events throughout the year and additional

savings during its sidewalk sales. Groups can save even more with Group Tour Discounts offered by many of the stores!

Osage Beach – Shop Missouri's largest outlet center...and only outlet village! Take home great bargains and awesome savings on designer and famous-name women and men's fashions, fabulous jewelry, footwear and much more at **Factory Outlet Village**.

St. Charles – This ten-block, 200-year-old Historic Main Street is Missouri's first and largest historic district. A trolley travels to the streets of more than 135 one-of-a-kind shops. Find art, antiques, old and reproduction signs, Victorian accessories, collectible figures and plates, stained glass, quilts, pottery and decorating accents from every period.

St. Louis – Major shopping malls, top name department stores, and unique specialty shops, plus an assortment of antiques stores, vintage clothing shops, trendy boutiques and brand name outlet malls. A unique shopping experience is **The Souldard Market**. This local market founded in 1838 has over 90 vendors selling everything from baked goods and fresh meats and veggies, to clothing and home décor.

Warsaw – When your group is in town or passing by, stop at the **Touch of Glass Workshop and Fudgery**. Their stained glass windows are hard to miss. They sell stained glass pieces, art, and supplies to make your own art. Plus choose from sixteen flavors of delicious fudge.

PULASKI COUNTY, MISSOURI

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

day one

1 – 2:00 pm

Patriotic pride on **Fort Leonard Wood**, begin your day taking a windshield tour of Fort Leonard Wood, the third largest training installation in the US. Hear the sound of cadence in the distance by attending a military graduation.

2 – 4:00 pm

Learn about the history of the United States Army at the **Museum Complex**. These state of the art museums offer a walk through of a Vietnamese tunnel and Checkpoint Charlie, or take aim on the M16 simulator.

4 – 5:00 pm

The **WWII Building Complex** contains a barracks, mess hall, supply buildings, German POW area and the barracks used during the days of segregation.

5 – 6:00 pm

Check into one of the areas lodging. The opportunities include nationally known franchises and the Mom and Pop motels located along **Historic Route 66**.

6 – 7:30 pm

Dine at one of their many international restaurants. Due to the influence of the military installation there are many authentic international restaurants.

day two

10 – 12:00 pm

Get your kicks on the **Route 66** step-on guided tour. Make a stop along the route to visit the **Pulaski County Museum**; a piece of the World Trade center is just one unique display offered.

12 – 1:00 pm

Step back in time when you enter the **Old Stagecoach Stop**, which also served as a hospital during the Civil War.

1 – 3:00 pm

Spend a few hours shopping along the **Square** and enjoy a light lunch.

3 – 5:00 pm

Make your way to **Crocker** for the **Frisco Depot Museum**, stopping to browse **Bear Ridge Antiques**.

5 – 6:30 pm

Dine at one of the unique restaurants such as **The Cave Restaurant**; located in an actual cave, or enjoy your meal overlooking beautiful scenery from the **Point Steakhouse**.

OTHER OPTIONS: Groups looking for Gentle Adventure:

Explore Missouri's **Big Piney** and **Gasconade Rivers** by canoe, raft, kayak or inner tubes, watch wildlife in its natural surroundings; **Mystery Theater at the Cave Restaurant**; **Alpaca Farm Tour**; **Evening of**

Live Theater; and **Museum Munch Tour**: visit several museums and munch across Pulaski County; progressive “munch” across Pulaski County while visiting our museums.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group, contact your tour operators or Pulaski County Tourism Bureau at 877-858-8687.



Barracks at WWII Building Complex



directory & map

convention & visitors bureaus and chambers

Pulaski County Tourism

Bureau & Visitors Center

137 St. Robert Blvd, Suite A – St. Robert MO 65584
Centrally located between Branson and St. Louis along I-44. Military and Civil War museums, Route 66, dine in a cave or from a scenic overlook. Complimentary Bureau services include itinerary assistance, room and meal bids.

Missouri Division of Tourism

Jefferson City 800-519-2100



Take the Highway to the Byway

Right between St. Louis and Branson on I-44, **Pulaski County, Missouri** offers fascinating **military museums** at Ft. Leonard Wood and wonderful scenic views on **Historic Route 66**. A wide selection of **national restaurants and hotels** makes Pulaski County an ideal hub for day trips and tours.



For a free customized itinerary visit or call
ToursInPulaski.org • 1-877-858-8687

Pulaski COUNTY
Home of Fort Leonard Wood



nebraska cities

CHADRON, COLUMBUS,
GRAND ISLAND, HASTINGS,
KEARNEY, KIMBALL,
LINCOLN, MCCOOK,
NEBRASKA CITY, NORFOLK,
NORTH PLATTE, OMAHA,
SCOTTSBLUFF, VALENTINE

calendar of events

december

- **Joyful Celebration** Dec 1-31,
Grand Island 308-381-4001
- **Winter Festival** Dec 1-31,
Belvidere 402-768-2327
- **14th Annual Christmas at the Cathedral**
Dec 4-5, Omaha 402-496-0602
- **6th Annual Christmas Antique Flea Market**
Dec 5-6, Hastings 308-234-4354
- **22nd Annual Christmas Tree Walk**
Dec 5-13, Kearney 308-234-3041
- **Christmas in Germany** Dec 6,
Omaha 402-333-6615
- **An Irish Christmas at Father Flanagan's**
House Dec 7-13, Boys Town 402-498-1141
- **Annual Holiday Tours** Dec 15-19,
Kearney 308-685-8284

january

- **Little House on the Prairie the Musical**
Jan 12-17, Omaha 402-345-0606
- **Quilt Exhibit & Contest** Jan 15-Feb 7,
Grand Island 308-385-5316
- **PRCA Championship Rodeo** Jan 29-30,
Lincoln 402-441-8744
- **Cathedral Flower Festival** Jan 30-31,
Omaha 402-551-4888

february

- **Regional Photography Show** Feb 1-28,
Grand Island 308-381-4001
- **Cowboy Poetry and Music Jam at Bowring**
Ranch Feb 7, Merriman 308-684-3428
- **Great Backyard Bird Count** Feb 12-15,
Gering 308-436-9700
- **Seasons of Crafts** Feb 20-21,
Lincoln 402-489-5001

march

- **"Spirit of the Cranes"** Mar 1-31,
Grand Island 308-381-4001
- **Spring Wing Ding** Mar 5-6,
Clay Center 402-762-3776
- **Cranefest** Mar 12-Apr 4,
Kearney 308-237-1000
- **40th Annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration**
Mar 19-21, Kearney 402-797-2301
- **National Quilting Day** Mar 20,
Lincoln 402-483-0453

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

Possibilities...endless ITINERARIES *Nebraska*



NEBRASKA CITY

Fondly known as the home of "Arbor Day", it's rich history and charming downtown makes it a great place to explore and of course shop! Brimming with unique stores, your group will have no problem filling their shopping bags. Whether you're on the hunt for great deals or in search of that one-of-a-kind treasure, you'll find what you're looking for here.

Visit the **Factory Stores of America Outlet Mall**. Packed with popular outlet stores, this is a great spot to pull that tour bus into! Feel like a new pair of cowboy boots? Then the **Fort Western Outpost** is your place! Full lines of western wear at great prices. Everybody deserves to treat themselves to a little chocolate during a hard day of shopping. Swing into **Janie's Confections** and indulge in her decadent truffles, cookies and more. (Special orders available by calling ahead).

On the calmer side of shopping, visit **Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard**. Their Apple Barn's gift shop features a wide range of Nebraska foods, Kimmel's own products -honey, apple baskets and jams, and a variety of crafts and gift items. Match their wine varieties to a homegrown lunch or dinner from the Kimmel Kitchen and discover a truly delicious match. (See location on map, page 49)

more shopping in nebraska

Grand Island – People make special trips to Grand Island just to shop! With malls, antique shops, bookstores, art galleries, specialty shops, clothing, and decorative outlets you're sure to find just what you're looking for! Browse **Grand Old Town** and the northwest quadrant, a.k.a. the **Merchandise Mile**, and much more!

Hastings – In their well-maintained downtown, right in the "Heart of Hastings", your groups will find a variety of specialty stores, antique shops, art galleries and restaurants. Plus stop at their newest shopping destination, **Cimarron Plaza**.

Kearney – Shopping facilities in Kearney are both diverse and unique. **"The Bricks"** offers many distinctive shops and boutiques. Stroll down the nostalgic brick street as you shop, or browse, among clothing stores, gift shops, sporting goods, and a variety of exceptional restaurants.

Lincoln – Shop among their many historic neighborhoods abounding with quaint little shops. Or bargain hunt for treasures at their antique malls and independent shops, many in or near downtown and the **Historic Haymarket**.

McCook – Visitor's often find their humble downtown area to be one of the most welcoming they've ever experienced. From sporting goods, footwear and clothing to interior decor, gourmet kitchenware and fine jewelry, you'll soon realize that a trip to McCook just wouldn't be the same without strolling the brick streets of their downtown.

Omaha – Indoor and outdoor malls, humble shopping centers and unique boutiques cater to the shopaholic in all of us. If you're in the mood for some bling, one word-**Borsheim's**, America's largest independent jewelry store, owned by Billionaire Warren Buffett. Another Buffett gem, **Nebraska Furniture Mart**, you won't believe the size of this place!

St. James – A must shopping stop is **St. James Marketplace**. It is located in an historical, old schoolhouse and includes a farmers market; home made craft display room, tea room and history room.



Lied Lodge & Conference Center



Arbor Lodge Mansion

THE GRASS IS GREENER IN NEBRASKA CITY!

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

As home to Arbor Day, Nebraska City takes its beautiful trees seriously, and although the community is known for its lush fall foliage and apple harvests, you can experience its splendor year-round. Let Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce help you explore the area's eclectic shops, wineries, recreation, and lodging opportunities. History buff? Choose from 11 museums – Civil War to Victorian Manor! Seeking adventure? Climb a 50-foot tree house, or walk in the shoes of Lewis & Clark.

day one

3:30 – 5:30 pm

Your green journey begins with check-in at the magnificent **Lied Lodge & Conference Center** -- where towering timbers herald the facility's mission of environmental stewardship. Then enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the **Fuelwood Energy Plant**. Lied Lodge & Conference Center is the only U.S. facility of its kind heated and air conditioned by burning wood.

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Get cozy in front of a fireplace, or enjoy dinner on the terrace of the **Timber Dining Room** overlooking **Arbor Day Farm**. The restaurant features locally grown produce, wine-tastings, and live music.

7:30 – 10:00 pm

End your day with a cup of joe (organic, of course) from downtown **Long Home Coffee & Tea Company**. Call ahead for their "Brew & View" vintage movie nights, local bands or comedians.

day two

9 – 11:00 am

After breakfast, check out **Arbor Day Farm's Artisan Woods**, an outdoor showcase of nature-inspired art, or take the **Discovery Ride** with docents to interpret the local flora and fauna.

11 – 12:00 pm

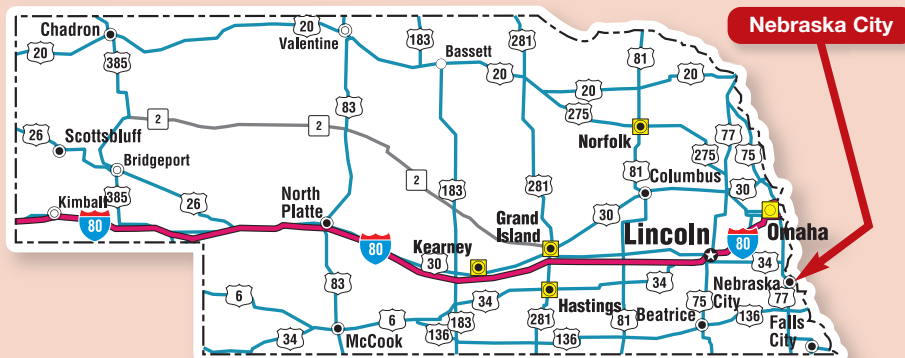
The Pie Garden fortifies with sandwiches & apple slushies.

12:00 pm

Tour **Arbor Lodge Mansion & State Historical Park**. The 52-room home of Arbor Day's Founder, serves as the focal point for community festivals year-round, including: Arbor Day (April), AppleJack (September), 300 varieties of lilacs each spring, and Living History Days (October).

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group please contact your tour operator or Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce, Inc, 800-514-9113 or www.NebraskaCity.com.

directory & map



convention & visitors bureaus and chambers

Grand Island / Hall County CVB 308-382-4400
2424 South Locust Street, Suite C 800-658-3178
Grand Island, NE 68801
tbeem@visitgrandisland.com / www.visitgrandisland.com
Nebraska's largest community outside the eastern metropolitan area providing the best mix of big town opportunities with small town hospitality and affordability.

Kearney Visitors Bureau 800-652-9435
1007 2nd Avenue, Box 607 308-237-3161
Kearney, NE 68848 / www.visitkearney.org
A full-service destination marketing organization providing itinerary development, complementary step on guides, photo and video CD, and FAM tour opportunities.

Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce, Inc. 402-873-6654
806 1st Ave – Nebraska City, NE 68410 800-514-9113
Tourism@NebraskaCity.com / www.NebraskaCity.com
The splendor of Arbor Day's hometown is year-round, and help for selecting the best shops, cafes, wineries, museums (11), recreation and lodging opportunities is just a phone call away. Visit NebraskaCity.com for sample itineraries.

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Lincoln 877-NEBRASKA



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north dakota cities

BISMARCK-MANDAN, BOTTINEAU,
BOWMAN, CROSBY, DEVILS LAKE,
DICKINSON, FARGO/MOORHEAD,
GARRISON, GRAFTON,
GRAND FORKS, JAMESTOWN,
LANGDON, MEDORA, MINOT,
RUGBY, VALLEY CITY, WAHPETON,
WEST FARGO, WILLISTON

calendar of events

december

- **Dickens Village Festival** Nov 27-29,
Dec 4-5 & 11-12, Garrison 800-799-4242
- **Medora's 14th Annual Old Fashioned Cowboy
Christmas** Dec 4-5, Medora 701-623-4910
- **Christmas Memories** Dec 5-6,
West Fargo 701-282-2822
- **Custer Christmas** Dec 12-13,
Mandan 701-667-6380
- **Christmas Train** Dec 17, Minot 701-852-6300
- **Papa's Polar Patch** Dec 26-Jan 3,
Bismarck 701-224-1253

january

- **Wonder of Winter PawTastic Dog Sledding**
Jan 1-Mar 1, Petersburg 701-345-8554
- **Winter at the Fort** Jan 10,
Williston 701-572-9034
- **10th Anniversary Art Celebration**
Jan 25-Feb 19, Mayville 701-788-6200
- **Trinity Mardi Gras** Jan 29-31,
Dickinson 701-483-6092

february

- **Greenway Ski Day** Feb 5-6,
Grand Forks 701-746-2750
- **Cabin Fever Days** Feb 5-14,
Jamestown 701-252-3982
- **The Wedding Singer** Feb 22,
Fargo 800-235-7654

march

- **Fargo Film Festival** Mar 2-6,
Fargo 701-239-8385
- **Springin' For Jazz** Mar 11,
Fargo 218-359-4JAZ
- **Celtic Festival** Mar 13,
Moorhead 701-241-8160
- **Taste of Hazen** Mar 22,
Hazen 888-464-2936
- **2010 Rugby Spring Expo** Mar 26-27,
Rugby 701-776-5846

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)

Downtown Fargo, North Dakota



Legendary ITINERARIES North Dakota®



FARGO/MOORHEAD

Get Ready for a Great Time...with Fargo-Moorhead's super shopping, and huge variety of restaurants (over 300 of them). Visitors will be pleased to discover that shopping in Fargo can include stops by national chains for basics, as well as independent shops and boutiques for more unique purchases. With such a variety of stores, including women's boutiques, antiques, handbags, books, home décor, and sweet baby boutiques, just to name a few, you are going to need some serious time here to enjoy your shopping experience. Or you can always schedule a return trip for those treasures you just couldn't fit on the bus!

(See location on map, page 51)

more shopping in north dakota

Edinburg – A unique shopping experience awaits your group at the Edinburg General Store. Three G-scale trains are around the perimeter of the balcony and pieces of antique furniture highlight the merchandise on two levels of the store. Shop for personalized pottery, unique hardware, housewares and gifts!

Hazen – A tree-lined Main Street with flower baskets, a pocket park with picnic tables and benches, and friendly merchants provide a pleasurable shopping excursion. Enjoy gift shops, specialty coffee shops, thrift store, and an auction house. The town also features a variety of German foods including fleischkueckla and borscht on their menus.

Jamestown – Jamestown is an excellent combination of chain stores and locally owned shops from the Buffalo Mall, Downtown area and Frontier Village, you'll be sure to find souvenirs of your journey!

Medora – Besides their awe-inspiring scenery and the Medora Musical, Medora also features specialty shopping. Indulge in some locally made fudge, view cowboy art in an art gallery, hunt for antiques & collectables, and enjoy an espresso at a coffee house.

Minot – The Minot area is flourishing with unique shopping opportunities, offering something for everyone, from the large retail stores to the unique specialty shops. The

downtown area offers a blend of arts, crafts, clothing, antiques, and dining, all with the warmth and personalized service of days long past.

Ransom County – Whether it is a girlfriend's getaway weekend or simply a spur of the moment shopping spree, Ransom County offers a unique shopping experience at various shops throughout the county! Such as antiques, boutiques, flowers & garden décor, furniture, gourmet delights and much more!

Rugby – The number one reason most people return to Rugby is for its wonderful variety of shopping opportunities. They offer department stores, high quality services, unique gift shops and exclusive boutiques. A shopper's paradise!

Valley City – An overabundance of specialty shopping options that feature antiques, local artist wares, quilting supplies and unique dining! Don't miss the 25,000-square foot antiques mall, a perfect backdrop to the several downtown shops.

Williston – A perfect hub to branch out from for several days, they have several group options. Their downtown area is perfect for spending a whole day shopping. Featuring specialty coffee, book stores, gift shops, antiques & collectibles, home décor and so much more!



FARGO/MOORHEAD SHOPPING ADVENTURE!

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

day one

8 – 9:30 am

Start your adventure with one of the largest all-sports stores in the world, **Scheels**. The focal point of the store is the “**Scheels Wheel**.” This 45-foot, 12-car 1953 park-style Ferris wheel was completely refurbished and features a colorful light display. The store has 85 specialty shops under one roof, making it the ultimate destination for athletes, fans and outdoor sport enthusiasts.

9:30 – 12:00 pm

Move on to the newly revitalized downtown and explore the renovated **Hotel Donaldson** while enjoying their unique collection of art. Stroll across the street to **Barbara's 1st & Deli** for a great meal and European dessert. A little variety is always a must at **Zandbroz Variety** offering a unique shopping experience, and don't forget to stop at **Antiques on Broadway** to browse their treasures.

12 – 2:00 pm

Your shopping adventure does not end yet! Visit the largest shopping mall between Minneapolis and

Spokane. The **West Acres Shopping Center** features over 125 specialty stores, a Food Court with fireplace, and the Roger Maris Museum.

2 – 3:00 pm

Sweet stop coming up! Sample the delicious home-made candies such as the local favorite — chocolate-covered potato chips, called “chippers,” caramels, fudge, and many others at **Carol Widman's** candy store.

3 – 5:00 pm

Board the motorcoach for a short trip to **Moorhead, Minnesota** and climb aboard the **S.S. Ruby Pontoon** for a relaxing ride down the Red River. A knowledgeable captain will tell you about the history, geography and wildlife that lives in and along the river.

5 – 6:00 pm

Check into the **AmericInn Moorhead** for first class accommodations and amenities your group will love! This two-story hotel and conference center features a 2-story waterfall cascading into a tropical indoor courtyard that has a large free-form pool, hot tub and a 9-hole indoor miniature golf course.

6 – 7:00 pm

With an abundance of dining options, ranging from simple to elegant, from fast food to haute cuisine, how will you ever choose!

7 – 10:00 pm

The evening activities are up to you...enjoy a concert with world famous singers, experience sophisticated drama, discover historic treasures, attend a cultural event, or step back in time as you explore a museum.

day two

8 – 9:00 am

Enjoy a continental breakfast at the **AmericInn Moorhead** before you check out.

9 – 11:00 am

Travel downtown to the **Moorhead Center Mall**. They offer Herberger's and unique local stores in a warm community setting. Best yet, the mall is located east of the river, so there is no sales tax on clothes and shoes!

11 – 1:00 pm

Your final stop is the region's largest multi-dealer mall, **Moorhead's Antique Mall**. Featuring more than 65 dealers displaying furniture, general line antiques and collectibles over a span of 8000 square feet. A perfect place to discover a treasure!

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or the Fargo/Moorhead CVB, 800-235-7654.

directory & map

accommodations

AmericInn Lodge & Suites & Event Center of Moorhead ... 218-287-7100
600 30th Ave S – Moorhead, MN 56560 877-287-7100

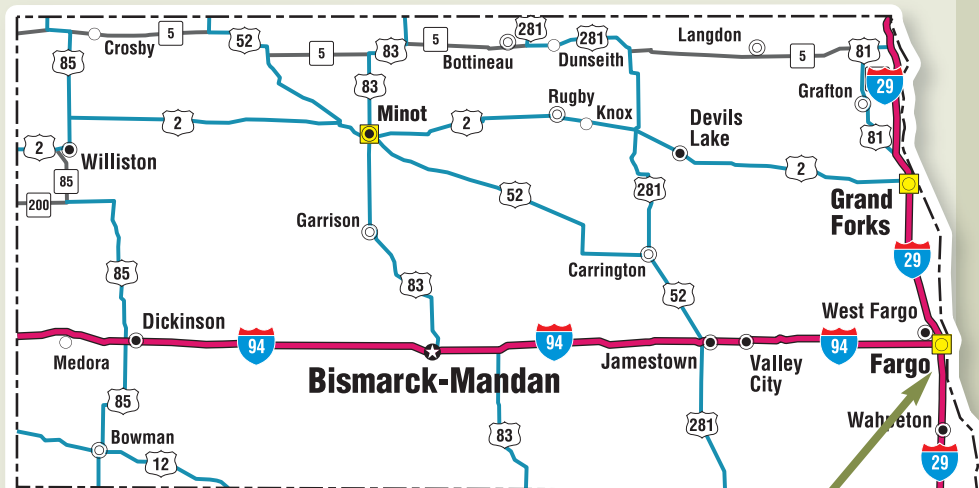
dawn@americinnofmoorhead.com
www.americinnofmoorhead.com

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

convention & visitors bureaus and chambers

Fargo-Moorhead Conventions & Visitors Bureau Fargo 800-235-7654

North Dakota Tourism Division
Bismarck 800-435-5663



Fargo



south dakota cities

ABERDEEN, BELLE FOURCHE,
BERESFORD, BRIDGER,
BROOKINGS, CHAMBERLAIN,
CRAZY HORSE, DEADWOOD,
DE SMET, FLANDREAU, GARRETSON,
KEYSTONE, LAKE CITY, MITCHELL,
MOBRIDGE, PLATTE, PIERRE,
RAPID CITY, ROSLYN, SELBY,
SIOUX FALLS, STURGIS,
WATERTOWN, WEBSTER, YANKTON

calendar of events

december

- **Winter Wonderland** Nov 21-Jan 3,
Sioux Falls 605-326-1620
- **Christmas Festival** Dec 5,
Custer 605-673-2443
- **Annual Fezziwig Festival at Prairie Berry Winery** Dec 5-6, Hill City 605-574-3898
- **Christmas in the Hills** Dec 9,
Hot Springs 605-745-6606
- **Frontier Christmas** Dec 12,
Lake City 605-448-5474
- **First Night Sioux Falls** Dec 31,
Sioux Falls 605-521-9406

january

- **Christmas with the Animals** Jan 9,
Sioux Falls 605-367-7003
- **Winter Wonderland Weekend** Jan 22-24,
Wilmot 605-938-4707
- **Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo**
Jan 29-Feb 7, Rapid City 605-355-3861

february

- **Mardi Gras** Feb 4-6,
Deadwood 605-578-1876
- **Fine Arts Trolley Tours** Feb 5,
Sioux Falls 605-977-2002
- **Annual Mahler Celebration** Feb 6-7,
Sioux Falls 605-335-7933
- **Annual Artists of the Plains Show and Sale**
Feb 19-21, Sioux Falls 605-274-4007

march

- **11th Annual Counts Car Show** Mar 5-7,
Rapid City 604-415-7441
- **Spring Fine Arts & Crafts Show** Mar 6-7,
Aberdeen 605-226-2162
- **St. Patrick's Day Weekend** Mar 13-17,
Deadwood 605-578-1876
- **Freeman Schmeckfest** Mar 19-20,
Freeman 605-925-4542
- **Hats Off to the Artists Art Show** Mar 20-21,
Faulkton 605-598-6203

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)



Sioux Falls shopping

Great Faces. Great Places.

ITINERARIES

South Dakota



SIOUX FALLS

Make Sioux Falls Your Shopping Destination...Whether it's antiques, the latest in fashion or unique gifts, Sioux Falls offers an exceptional shopping experience with places such as the **Empire Mall**, **The Eastbank**, **The Bridges at 57th** to **Downtown Sioux Falls**, they have it all.

Browse the downtown specialty shops and power-shop at the biggest mall between Minneapolis and Denver, plus spend time together relaxing and HAVING FUN! Sioux Falls is a consortium of shopping, restaurants, hotels and activities that offer something for everyone.

The Sioux Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau team is committed to making your visit to Sioux Falls the best ever. They offer all-encompassing service for your group's needs and are ready to help you every step of the way, from custom itinerary planning, step-on tour guides, hotel accommodations, group dining locations, and shopping sites. www.grouptours.siouxfallscvb.com
(See location on map, page 54)

more shopping in south dakota

Black Hills – If you can take your eyes off the beautiful scenery, you'll be surprised by the variety of shopping the area has to offer. The selection ranges from utilitarian to artistic – Black Hills Gold jewelry, handcrafted Sioux bead work; leather and pottery; star quilts; antiques, original Western art; and food with its origin on the Dakota prairie.

Brookings – Shop until you drop and then shop some more! With their antiques & collectables, apparel, department stores, floral and specialty shops it is sure to satisfy any shopper.

Chamberlain-Oacoma – Shop Main Street for real hometown shopping and service. Find unique and specialty stores, plus visit one of their antique shops and you never know what you could find. **The Derby Coffeehouse** is great if you are looking for a good cup of coffee or warm meal and **The Quilt Shop** offers quilting classes!

Deadwood – A one-of-a-kind Wild West Town with a wide range of souvenirs, collectibles, gift items, Black Hills Gold and T-shirts...you will never leave Deadwood empty handed! Make sure to stop at the **Antique Mall at Deadwood Dicks**, shop among thirty-five different dealers inside a century old warehouse selling antiques, mining artifacts and Deadwood merchandise.

Mitchell – In addition to the World's Only Corn Palace, Mitchell features a wide variety of coffee houses, gift shops, art galleries, antique shops, quilt stores, craft stores, western wear shops, and souvenir shops...the list is endless!

Rapid City – From 120 stores at the **Rushmore Mall** to unique downtown boutiques, Native American arts and crafts outlets and Black Hills gold jewelers, you'll find an abundance of shopping opportunities! You'll also come across **Cabela's** and **Rushmore Crossing**, Rapid City's new outdoor mall with over 900,000 sq. feet of retail space.

Wall – See America's Favorite Roadside Attraction, **Wall Drug**. It features a unique two block shopping Emporium, a Western Art Gallery, and a Restaurant where you can still buy five-cent coffee! Plus the new backyard features an animatronic Tyrannosaurus Rex. This 76,000 square foot attraction is a must stop for any group!

Watertown – Shop in historic **Uptown Watertown**! Visitors will discover interesting and quaint shops offering unique gifts, décor, collectibles, floral arrangements, and many other interesting items. Your group will also be impressed with the talented artists, including the infamous Terry Redlin Gallery, and many exciting activities that are hosted here throughout the year.

SIoux FALLS

S O U T H D A K O T A



Cathy Buchheim, Sales Manager
Sioux Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau

Welcome to Sioux Falls South Dakota!! I am here to help you customize your group itinerary! Our office can provide you with several group services as you request. We are here to help.

Sioux Falls Itinerary

On your journey don't forget to stop by and visit the Falls of Sioux Falls which is located near the downtown district. Falls Park features the Horse Barn Arts Center, a visitor information center and gift shop and a five-story, 50-foot viewing tower offering a panoramic view of the park. Falls Park is also home to a FREE Sound and Light Show featuring information about the history of Sioux Falls and is shown at 9:30 pm, weather-permitting, from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Overlook Café is happy to assist groups with box lunches or a meal ready upon arrival. If you are looking for a unique setting, the Overlook Café has the best seat in town!!

Hop aboard the FREE trolley and ride throughout the downtown area. From shopping to museums, specialty boutiques to eateries, you will be sure to find something for everyone along the route. The Washington Pavilion is one of the many intriguing places you will discover. It offers six art galleries, a science center, a CineDome, café, and 1,800-seat Great Hall performing arts center.

As you promenade around our city, you may find yourself wondering about the pink stone throughout Falls Park and on buildings around the city. This beautiful pink stone is known as Pink Quartzite which is still mined today. It was used to build the County Courthouse, State Penitentiary, Old Courthouse Museum, and many foundations of buildings downtown.

Continue your shopping extravaganza at the Empire Mall which offers the largest shopping complex between Minneapolis and Denver. Check out the wide variety of retailers under one roof. Or take a break and find a treat at the Harvest Café Food Court with a variety of quick menu items to suit any taste.

Complete your day in a quaint farm setting as a 100-year old red barn, established shelter belt, straw buildings, vineyard and animals introduce you to or remind you of a simpler time. Enjoy a tasting in a country setting at Strawbale Winery. The winery also customizes onsite meal outings upon request.

Check out our website for more itinerary adventures at grouptours.sioxfallscvb.com or call Cathy at 800-333-2072 or email cbuchheim@sioxfalls.com. You will be glad you did!




FALLS PARK VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

Sioux Falls Visitor Information
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605-367-7430 or www.sioxfallscvb.com



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SOUTH DAKOTA'S Largest City!

Siouxs Falls, South Dakota's largest City, is located in the heart of the United States at the junction of I-90 and I-29 and is easily accessible by major airlines. You'll find that our city has friendly, honest people with down-home hospitality, clean air and water, safe streets, and a growing area population of over 200,000. You'll experience unmatched convenience in travel as it takes only 20-30 minutes to drive from one side of the city to the other.

Sioux Falls boasts over 4,200 hotel rooms and more than 500 eating establishments including locally-owned unique restaurants. We also offer a wide variety of exciting attractions and entertainment for people of all ages. Enjoy culture with our nationally renowned museums, art galleries, and our vibrant downtown SculptureWalk, an exhibit of sculptures created

by artists from across the country. Have a blast with family & friends with activities like go-cart rides, water parks, light shows, golf courses, over 70 city parks, and more than 20 miles of bike trails. Visit the animals at the zoo, or discover amazing sights at the science discovery center or take in a theatrical production at the Pavilion Great Hall or Orpheum Theater.

Located near downtown Sioux Falls, the city's namesake, Falls Park is home to the Falls of the Big Sioux River and has been a focus of life in the region throughout history. Today the park covers 123 acres and each second an average of 7,400 gallons of water drop 100 feet over the course of the falls. Falls Park also offers a visitor center and viewing tower, café, historic ruins and is visited by people from around the world.



Event planners consistently tell the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau that they have never been treated with such enthusiasm and over-the-top customer service. From site selection and itinerary planning to city tours and accommodation bids, our services will make your life easier.

For more information, contact Sioux Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-333-2072 or sfcvb@siouxfalls.com or visit our website at www.groupstours.siouxfallscvb.com.

directory & map



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accommodations

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Guests love our excellent location, just blocks from the city's safe and accessible walking trails, restaurants, shopping and the city's namesake, Falls Park. Group tour planners love our group-friendly amenities such as free, reserved motorcoach parking, the complimentary guestroom policy and our flexible advance deposit procedures. With almost 300 guestrooms we can easily accommodate groups of all sizes, no matter the season!

attractions

Strawbale Winery Renner 605-543-5071

Falls Park Visitor Information Center Sioux Falls 605-367-7430

The Empire Mall Sioux Falls 605-361-3300

The Washington Pavilion

of Arts & Science Sioux Falls 605-367-7397

convention & visitors bureaus and chambers

Department of Tourism & State Development

Pierre 800-S-DAKOTA

Sioux Falls

Convention & Visitors Bureau . 605-336-1620

200 N Phillips Ave Suite 102 800-333-2072

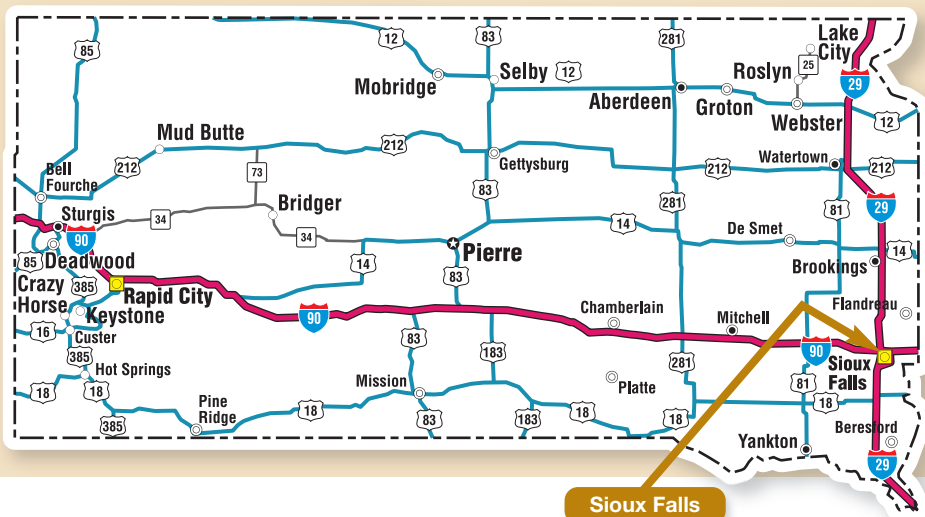
Sioux Falls, SD 57104 / cbuchheim@siouxfalls.com

www.groupstours.siouxfallscvb.com

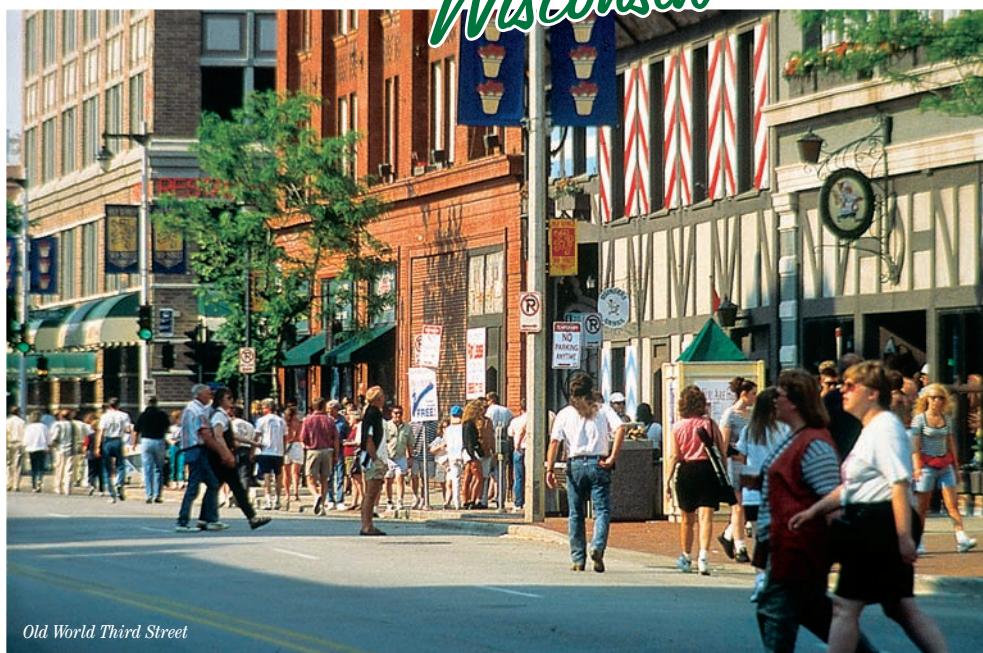
Sioux Falls, South Dakota's largest city is located at the junction of I-90 and I-29...abundant shopping, local flavor restaurants, vibrant downtown, accommodating hotels and historic Falls Park! Need Assistance?? Tour Itineraries, step-on-guides-we've got it!

restaurants

The Overlook Café Sioux Falls 605-367-4885



Travel Wisconsin ITINERARIES Wisconsin



MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee's bevy of boutiques, slew of specialty shops, malls and outlets have something for everyone. The city maintains its specialty shop charm while evolving into a sophisticated retail environment.

Wedge into a former warehouse district bordered by the Milwaukee River, is the **Historic Third Ward** also deemed "Milwaukee's answer to SoHo." With an influx of upscale fashion boutiques including shoes to children's wear and women's designer fashions to consignment, the Third Ward offers shoppers a vast array of progressive options. Shop, enjoy a coffee break, see a show, take a historic walking tour or just stroll along the Riverwalk.

Another must shopping area is **Old World Third Street**. It is a grand example of what made their city famous with its shops, restaurants, architecture, and warm hospitality. You can experience traditional early 19th century charm with modern flare. Stop in and enjoy a meal at one of their many restaurants, shop for your favorite treats like traditional German Sausage, Chocolate, Wisconsin Cheese, or Spices, and then enjoy a bit of nightlife entertainment.

From everyday necessities to the extraordinary, you are sure to find it shopping here! (See location on map, page 56)

more shopping in wisconsin

Baraboo – Visit the wide variety of art galleries, gift shops and specialty stores located in the historic buildings downtown. Schedule a visit to the **Baraboo Candy Company**, the area's largest chocolate factory and outlet and home to seven original & delicious confections, including the decadent Cow Pie.

Bayfield – Shoppers will find Bayfield's enticing collection of boutiques, galleries and other charming shops as inviting and interesting as the folks who own and work in them. Many shop owners personally create handcrafted items in their stores and often have an interesting tale to share about your selections.

Cedarburg – Just a 20-minute drive from Milwaukee brings you to the **Cedarburg Historic District**, filled with nearly seventy-specialty shops, boutiques, antiques and galleries, all located within a lovingly preserved downtown historic district. Voted #1 for best small town shopping in the 2008 Wonders of Wisconsin online voting contest.

Fish Creek – Shopping surprises await your group in old general stores, historic barns, and little white cottages. One of these is **The Cherry Hut**, this 60-year-old roadside market is a tradition for anything and everything cherry, salsas, spreads and pie fillings accompany the free samples of other cherry related products and local produce.

Hayward Lakes – Abundant in northwoods crafts as well as unique fine art, Hayward offers many shops your group will love. Visit their famous candy stores, homemade ice cream parlors, relaxing coffee shops, gift stores and specialty shops

that all have the Northwoods appeal.

New Glarus – Shopping here is a one of a kind experience! You will find such an interesting mix of items, ranging from Swiss imported cuckoo clocks & Alpine clothing to locally produced fine art and specialty foods such as cheese & sausages.

Stockholm – Located among the most spectacular views on Lake Pepin, the quaint and magical Village of Stockholm has just the right blend of extraordinary shops, fine dining, world class lodging, historic appeal and natural beauty all in an enchanting Swedish village.

Viroqua – Their downtown district quarters dozens of specialty shops that offer everything from metal and glassware to art and wine & mouth-watering dining. They are also the center of the greatest organic farming region of the U.S. The **Viroqua Public Market** is Wisconsin's oldest public market full of independent vendors nestled in a 6,500 sq ft market.

Watertown – Step back in time as you peruse different specialty shops and restaurants at **The Market Specialty Shopping Mall**. A converted 1870's lumberyard with cobblestone walkways and exposed beam buildings make this shopping experience nostalgic.

Wisconsin Rapids Area – Searching for a rare gift? Hunting for hidden treasures? Then look no further! They offer a wide variety of specialty shops, restaurants, and pleasant surroundings that make for relaxed browsing and buying.

wisconsin cities

APPLETON, ASHLAND, BARABOO, BAYFIELD, BELOIT, BROOKFIELD, CHIPPEWA FALLS, COLUMBUS, EAU CLAIRE, ELKHORN, FORT ATKINSON, FOND DU LAC, GREEN BAY, HUDSON, LA CROSSE, LAKE GENEVA, MADISON, MANITOWOC, MILWAUKEE, MINOCQUA, MENOMONIE, MOUNT HOREB, OSHKOSH, PLATTEVILLE, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, SPARTA, ST. CROIX FALLS, STEVENS POINT, STOUTTOWN, STURGEON BAY, STURTEVANT, SUPERIOR, TOMAH, WATERTOWN, WAUKESHA, WAUSAU, WOODRUFF, WISCONSIN DELLS

calendar of events

december

- **Old World Christmas Market** Dec 4-13, Elkhart Lake 800-876-3399
- **International Holiday Festival** Dec 5, Kenosha 262-653-4140
- **Wassailing of the Trees and Medieval Feast** Dec 5, Stockholm 715-448-3502
- **Christmas Lights in the Park** Dec 5-Jan 4, Turtle Lake 800-811-0338
- **The Art of the Quilt** Dec 6-Jan 10, Manitowoc 800-627-4896
- **Holiday Light Show** Dec 11-Jan 3, Janesville 608-752-3885
- **A Holiday in History** Dec 12-13, Manitowoc 800-627-4896
- **Historic Point Basse Heritage Holiday** Dec 19, Nekoosa 715-423-3120

january

- **Winter Festival at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve** Jan 9, La Farge 608-625-2960
- **Frederic Sleigh and Cutter Festival** Jan 16, Frederic 800-222-7655
- **AAA Annual Skiplane Fly-In** Jan 23, Oshkosh 920-426-6880
- **Flake Out Festival** Jan 23-24, Wisconsin Dells 608-254-7300
- **3rd Annual Kites on the River** Jan 30, Two Rivers 920-793-9599

february

- **Winterfest & National Snow Sculpting Championships** Feb 3-7, Lake Geneva 800-345-1020
- **Hot Air Affair** Feb 5-7, Hudson 800-657-6775
- **Arti Gras** Feb 6-7, Green Bay 920-494-3401
- **Freeze Fest** Feb 20, Whitewater 262-473-0121

march

- **The Aluminum Show** Mar 3, Wausau 888-239-0421
- **Overture's International Festival** Mar 6, Madison 608-258-4141
- **St. Patrick's Day Parade & Great Green Treasure Hunt** Mar 12-13, Manitowoc 800-627-4896
- **Winter Wine Fest and Craft Show** Mar 13, Jefferson 920-261-9460
- **Blue Winds Dancing** Mar 21, Wausau 888-239-0421
- **"Little House on the Prairie"** Mar 23-28, Appleton 920-730-3760
- **Sipping on Sheboygan's Shores** Mar 27, Sheboygan 800-689-0290

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)



MARITIME TREASURE TRAILS IN THE PORT CITIES OF MANITOWOC-TWO RIVERS

This sample itinerary can be customized for anytime of the year! (GTA indicates "Guided Tour Available")

day one**A Day in Manitowoc, Wisconsin's Maritime Capitol****9 – 11:00 am GTA**

Tour a fully restored **World War II submarine**, operate a real steam engine, time-travel back to a 19th century shipbuilding town all at the largest maritime museum on the Great Lakes, **Wisconsin Maritime Museum**.

11 – 12:00 pm GTA

West of the Lake Gardens was created in 1934 along the shores of Lake Michigan. Stroll through four formal gardens, a rose garden, and Japanese Garden. Fabulous photo opportunities!

12 – 1:00 pm

Enjoy a themed lunch in the Judges Chambers at the **Courthouse Pub** or a daily sandwich special at the **Harborside Restaurant**.

1 – 2:00 pm GTA

Visit an 1891 Victorian Mansion where art and architecture collide! The **Rahr West Art Museum** features 19th and 20th century American and decorative arts. RWAM is also the landing site of a large chunk of the Russian satellite Sputnik IV in 1962!

2 – 3:00 pm

Head to **Historic Downtown Manitowoc** for afternoon shopping at **Timeless Treasures**, featuring vintage clothing and jewelry, or the **Manitowoc Company**

Store for souvenir shopping.

3 – 5:00 pm GTA

Costumed guides interpret farm and village life as you walk through 28 historic buildings at **Pinecrest Historical Village**.

5 – 6:30 pm

"Enjoy Dinner at Dusk" at **Pinecrest Historical Village** or refer to our Group Restaurant Guide for other choices.

6:30 pm

Check in at your hotel. Watch the sun set and enjoy panoramic views of Lake Michigan as you stroll our six mile, paved Mariners Trail.

day two**Visit Two Rivers, Birthplace of the Ice Cream Sundae**

Visitors of all ages will enjoy exploring the ENERGY EXPERIENCE at the **Point Beach Energy Center**, or a century-old farm to see alpacas at **London Dairy Alpaca Farm**.

11 – 12:00 pm

Tour **Rogers Street Fishing Village & Museum**. This village features an 1886 lighthouse & artifacts of famous shipwrecks on the shifting shoals of Rawley's Point.

12 – 1:00 pm

Have lunch along scenic views of the historic Two Rivers harbor at **M & M Lunch** or the **Lighthouse Inn** along the shores of Lake Michigan. Or enjoy **Kurtz's**, a historic German pub and deli specializing in world famous beers.

1 – 2:00 pm GTA

Visit **Washington House**, a warm 1850 historic saloon-hotel (nonalcoholic) and museum. **Berner's Ice Cream Parlor** will serve up delicious treats while commemorating the invention of the ice cream sundae right here in Two Rivers.

2 – 3:00 pm GTA

Across the street from Washington House visit the **Hamilton Wood Type and Printing Museum**, home to over 100 years of American printing history. See the first clothes dryer produced by Hamilton Industries in 1938.

3:00 pm

Enjoy shopping in downtown **Two Rivers** at **Schroeder's**, one of the nation's oldest department stores; **Unique Flying Objects**, colorful kites and flags of all shapes and sizes; or **Inman Jewelers** for exclusive Two Rivers souvenirs. On your way to or from Two Rivers, stop by the **Honey Pot**, a delightful themed gift shop located on the shores of Lake Michigan.

For more information or to customize this sample itinerary for your group contact your tour operator or the Manitowoc Area Visitor & Convention Bureau, 800-627-4896, www.manitowoc.info.



directory & map

accommodations

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krylko@csmc.org

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tholmes@csmc.org

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convention & visitors
bureaus and chambers**Manitowoc Area****Visitor & Convention Bureau** ... 920-683-4388

PO Box 966 – Manitowoc, WI 54221 800-627-4896

kgalas@manitowoc.info / www.manitowoc.info

Discover Maritime Treasure Trails in the Port Cities of Manitowoc-Two Rivers. Explore USS Cobia WWII Submarine, catch a big one at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, tour Rogers St. Fishing Village, or visit the Birthplace of the Ice Cream Sundae. We Love Company!

Wisconsin Department
of Tourism Madison

..... 800-432-8747



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The Exchange District

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Experience a little retail therapy in Winnipeg. From large suburban shopping malls filled with all your favorite stores such as The Gap, Lululemon, Aldo, Aritzia, West 49, and many more, as well as one-of-a-kind shops and trendy boutiques lining the sidewalks in some of Winnipeg's unique neighborhoods. **Corydon Avenue** and its surrounding neighborhood is one of the city's hot spots for shopping. You'll find a dazzling mix of leading fashion boutiques, antique shops, jewelry, book and plant stores, upscale second-hand boutiques and anything else you can imagine! Plus the area features many sidewalk cafes where you can rest your feet, refuel or enjoy a little people watching.

The Exchange District, established in the early 20th century, is the original centre of commerce and culture in Winnipeg. The legacy of those early boom years is a spectacular collection of historic buildings, now a popular backdrop for feature film productions. It is also a unique shopping destination with antiques, bookstores, gift shops, clothing and furniture boutiques.

Check out all Winnipeg has to offer...when it comes to shopping, look no further than Winnipeg! (See location on map, page 58)

more shopping in central canada

Onanole, Manitoba – This town features some unique shops...**Poor Michael's Book Shop** – no ordinary bookstore. In addition to first editions, rare books, & vintage magazines they feature works of regional & international artists including jewelry, pottery, hand-woven rugs, scarves, organic coffee beans, tea & honey. **Valerie's Emporium** – a unique gift store with clothing, candles, toys, custom jewelry, giftware, and an artist on-site creating intuitive designs with gold and silver.

Rosssburn, Manitoba – Enjoy the ambience of an original 1940's brick store with all wood interiors at **Gone Scrappin' In Bloom**. Sip a cup of espresso, discover a selection of unique products, fresh flowers, plants, scrapbooking supplies, gifts, Manitoba chocolates, art and more! Open year-round.

Sault Ste Marie, Ontario – Discover the great Canadian shopping experience at **The Station Mall**. With over 100 stores and services it is one of the largest regional shopping centers in Northern Ontario. Plus they feature additional malls, a plaza and a downtown area that is perfect for finding that unique gift to take home.

Thunder Bay, Ontario – Indulge yourself in Thunder Bay with a variety of shopping throughout the city. There is no

shortage of one-of-a-kind gifts and specialty shops, shopping centers, malls and plazas. Find great deals, discover hand-crafted pottery and giftware, get captivated by First Nations art and discover fashions in some of their smaller shops.

Wasagaming, Manitoba – Plan to spend at least a full day touring the various shops and cafés located in Wasagaming, at picturesque Clear Lake, all in a Victorian resort setting. These shops are literally bursting with unique clothing and gift ideas. Most stores are open extended hours during the summer months.

Woodlands, Manitoba – Located just 30 kilometers north of Winnipeg on Hwy #6, this is the perfect destination for tourists looking for a variety of attractions to fit all interests. The **V.Gross Doll Museum & Gift Shop** – is a massive collection of over 3,500 dolls and toys in 2 buildings, find thousands of dolls from every era for sale in their Gift Shop.

West Interlake Trading Company – featuring a market with great local produce, craft items and tasty treats. Just to name a few treasures this town offers!

CENTRAL CANADA

central canada cities

manitoba

ASHERN, BINSKARTH, BRANDON, DAUPHIN, FLIN FLON, GRAND RAPIDS, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, SELKIRK, STEINBACH, THE PAS, ST. ANDREWS, THOMPSON, WINNIPEG

ontario

ATIKOKAN, DRYDEN, FLANDERS, FORT FRANCES, KENORA, LONGLAC, SAULT STE. MARIE, SIOUX LOOKOUT, THUNDER BAY, VERMILION BAY

calendar of events

december

- **Canad Inns Winter Wonderland**
Nov 27-Jan 3, Winnipeg 204-888-6990
- **Touch of Christmas/The Living Nativity**
Dec 4-6, Steinbach 204-326-9661
- **Christmas at The Fort Dec 5,**
Dauphin 204-638-6630
- **Manitoba Highland Dancers Association Tartan Christmas** Dec 5,
Winnipeg 204-989-3479
- **Christmas at Lower Fort Garry**
Dec 12-13, Lower Fort Garry National Historical Site 888-773-8888

january

- **Westminster is a Cabaret, Old Chum!** Jan 6,
Manitoba Chamber Orchestra 204-783-7377
- **Jazz Under The Rooftop** Jan 16,
Winnipeg 204-786-6641
- **Malanka** Jan 16, Russell 888-528-6484
- **Animals in the Orchestra** Jan 17, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra 807-625-2110
- **Astronomy Night – Exploring the Night Sky**
Jan 21, Oak Hammock Marsh 204-467-3300

february

- **Bon Soo Winter Carnival** Feb 5-14,
Sault Ste. Marie 866-899-1607
- **Altona's Annual Winter Festival Winter Carnival** Feb 6, Altona 204-324-6468
- **Festival du Voyageur** Feb 12-21,
Winnipeg 204-237-7692
- **Shadows of the Mind Film Festival**
Feb 15-21, Sault Ste. Marie 705-759-3299
- **Voyageur Winter Carnival** Feb 13-15,
Thunder Bay 807-625-2110
- **Mardi Gras Night** Feb 16,
Thunder Bay 807-625-2110
- **21st Annual Peel Off Winter Carnival**
Feb 19-28, Schreiber 807-824-4638

march

- **New to the Sault** Mar 21,
Sault Ste. Marie 705-945-1600
- **Wild, Weird & Wonderful Week** Mar 29-Apr 1,
Oak Hammock Marsh 204-467-3300

(Contact area CVBs for complete calendars)



EXPERIENCE A LITTLE RETAIL THERAPY IN WINNIPEG!



This sample itinerary is best May through October.

Winnipeg offers large suburban shopping malls filled with your favorite things to one-of-a-kind shops and trendy boutiques lining the sidewalks in some of Winnipeg's unique neighborhoods.

day one

1 – 7:00 pm

Arrive in **Winnipeg** and go directly to **The Forks**, one of Winnipeg's most beloved and pre-eminent meeting spots. Located at the junction of the Assiniboine River where it meets the mighty Red, this nine-acre National Historic Site is home to 50 unique shops, restaurants

and even a fresh vegetable market. The Forks Ambassadors will be there to meet and greet your group. Enjoy the day exploring the parks, promenades, gardens and sculptures alongside shops, restaurants and a multitude of attractions. Relax over dinner before calling it a day. Open from May to Thanksgiving.

7:00 pm

Check into the **Travelodge Winnipeg East**. They pride themselves on having Winnipeg's finest Tropical Indoor Courtyard, and they love groups. So come on in and rest a while – won't you?

day two

8 – 9:00 am

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel restaurant, and then head out for an adventure in shopping.

9 – 2:30 pm

Experience a little retail therapy in Winnipeg. You have many choices, including the **Exchange District**, **Corydon Avenue**, **Winnipeg Square** (the world's largest 'underground mall') and many more. Today's choice leads us to **Polo Park Shopping Centre**. Offering more than 200 stores and services to fill your day. Shop for gifts, fun, and essentials and be sure to indulge in a few of the goodies at one of their restaurants. You can even see a movie or go bowling while you're here.

2:30 – 6:00 pm

Time to board the bus – to board the boat, to take a little cruise on **The M.S. River Rouge**, Canada's largest river cruise ship! Open from May thru October, and invites you to relax while cruising down the Red and Assiniboine Rivers while enjoying the surrounding countryside. Its upper and lower deck can accommodate up to 400 passengers. Choose from an afternoon sightseeing cruise or choose an early dinner cruise for your group.

For more information or to customize this itinerary for your group, please contact your tour operator or Destination Winnipeg, 1-800-665-0204.



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Travel Manitoba Winnipeg, Manitoba . 800-665-0040

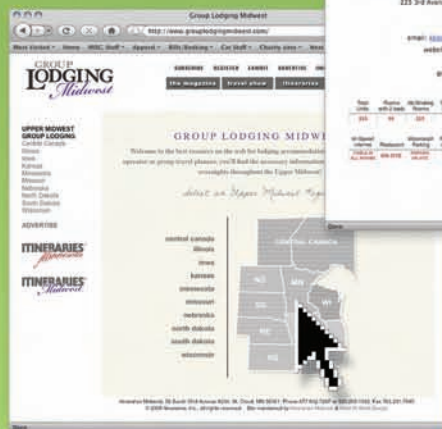
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Minnetonka, MN: **HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS**
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