Minneapolis is the perfect blend of natural beauty and urban sophistication. No other city has a chain of lakes, the mighty Mississippi and 200 miles of walking, biking and cross country ski trails within the city limits literally steps from the most vibrant arts and music scene outside NYC, the best shopping in the region and museums among the finest in the nation. From ski hills to shopping malls, Muskie to Monet, biking to Beef Bourguignon, Minneapolis is the American city where natural and urban drama share a single stage.

**Meet Minneapolis**
Convention & Visitors Association

**FROM FOUR-STAR TO STARGAZING**

**HAVE YOU HEARD?**

Minneapolis named ONE OF 52 INTERNATIONAL PLACES TO GO in 2017
- New York Times, 2017

Minneapolis is one of 20 TOP DESNITATIONS FOR A WINTER VACATION
- Frommers.com, 2017

Minneapolis ranked #1 AIRPORT IN WORLD on-time percentage
- OAG Aviation Group, 2018

Minneapolis ranked FOURTH BEST PLACE TO VISIT in 2018
- Wall Street Journal, December 2017

**CONDÉ NAST**

*Condé Nast Traveler* listed Minneapolis as one of 18 Best Places to Visit in 2018
**THE BASICS**

**CITY POPULATION**
U.S. Census
Minneapolis: 413,651 (2016)
Hennepin County: 1,232,483 (2016)
Downtown: 40,864 (2017)
16th largest metro area

**GEOGRAPHY**
Latitude: 44° 58’ 39”
North Longitude: 93° 15’ 56” West
Area: 59 square miles or 37,516 acres
Land: 35,244 acres
Water: 2,324 acres
Lakes: 22
Elevation: 824 feet above sea level

**TALLEST BUILDING**
IDS Center: 57 stories, 775 feet

**COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES**
Public: 3 Private: 8

**WEATHER**
Average high temperature in January: 22° F
Average high temperature in July: 83° F
Overall: 45° F
Annual precipitation: 27.3 inches
Annual snowfall: 49.5 inches

**SALES TAX**
7.775% (downtown Minneapolis)
6.875% (elsewhere-statewide)
*There is no sales tax on apparel or shoes in Minnesota

**FAST FACTS**

**MINNESOTA**
Settled: 1858
Capitol: Saint Paul
State Bird: Common Loon
State Fish: Walleye Pike
State Flower: Pink and White Lady’s Slipper

**STATE POPULATION**
5,519,952 (2016 U.S. Census estimate)
Geography Area: 86,943 square miles
Water: 7,326 square miles of Minnesota are covered by water

**LAKES**
11,842 (22 within Minneapolis city limits)

**ANNUAL VISITOR STATISTICS (METRO AREA)**
2016: 32.5 million
2012: 27.9 million
2008: 17.9 million
2000: 11.1 million
1990: 4.5 million

**MINNEAPOLIS HISTORIC NICKNAMES**
Mill City
City of Lakes

**DID YOU KNOW?**

WITH MORE THAN 90,000 MILES OF IT, MINNESOTA HAS MORE SHORELINE THAN HAWAII, CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA COMBINED!
MINNEAPOLIS ICONS

Visitors will find a lot of must-sees in Minneapolis. Here is a quick guide to the top 10 icons that represent the city’s diverse offerings:

SPOONBRIDGE AND CHERRY
This has been Minneapolis’ signature sculpture since its completion by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje Van Bruggen in 1988. The spoon tips the scale at 5,800 pounds and the cherry weighs 1,200 pounds! The 17-acre Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, where the Spoonbridge and Cherry reside, is one of the largest of its kind and includes 58 works of art. It’s also just across the street from the renowned Walker Art Center, which was renovated and reopened in June 2017.

FIRST AVENUE & 7TH STREET ENTRY
Featured in “Purple Rain,” this Minneapolis classic is still one of the hottest clubs in town. Stop in and rock out to musical stylings from major national acts and local emerging artists. It was named number five in the ClubTop100 Worldwide Rankings by Pollstar, January 2013, and third best large music club by Rolling Stone, April 2013.

FREDERICK R. WEISMAN ART MUSEUM
Housed in a striking stainless steel building, the Frank Gehry-designed Weisman is a unique museum experience. A teaching museum for the University of Minnesota and the community, its collection features early 20th-century American artists such as Georgia O’Keefe, Alfred Maurer and Marsden Hartley.

LAKE CALHOUN/BDE MAKA SKA
Part of the Chain of Lakes, Lake Calhoun is a popular site for windsurfing, swimming, sailing and canoeing. More than three miles of trails for walking, jogging, biking and in-line skating encircle the lake with the unique Minneapolis skyline as its urban backdrop. The popular lake is also part of the 52-mile Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway. Bde Maka Ska is the lake’s original Dakota name, meaning “White Earth Lake.”

STONE ARCH BRIDGE
Enjoy the roaring St. Anthony Falls with a stroll across the Stone Arch Bridge – the only one of its kind to span the Mississippi River. As part of the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail, this pedestrian crossing is the oldest mainline railroad bridge in the Northwest. Chronicling Minneapolis’ milling history are the nearby Mill Ruins Park and Mill City Museum.

FLAGSHIP TARGET STORE
This two-story retail hot spot lies in the heart of downtown action, just down the street from Target Corporation’s world headquarters. With a unique escalator for shopping carts, this flagship retail experience shouldn’t be missed.
SKYWAY
HIGHWAY

Glass-enclosed, elevated walkways provide comfortable, convenient connections between downtown restaurants, shops and more. The Minneapolis skyway system links hotels, restaurants, shopping malls, office buildings, performance venues and attractions via glass-enclosed walkways one floor above street level. The first skyway opened with fanfare in 1962 and many more followed. Today, a typical skyway in the city’s retail core accommodates thousands of shoppers, sightseers and office workers every day.

So where is everybody going? Almost anywhere, considering the skyway system spans 8 miles and accesses the Minneapolis Convention Center, Orchestra Hall, the State and New Century theaters, Target Center, most downtown hotels, and many popular shops and restaurants. Banks, hair salons, dry cleaners and day spas line the city’s skyway highway, too – as if staying high and dry in the rain or snow weren’t enough. Directional signs and maps aid navigation in the skyway system. An annual mini-golf tournament, the Skyway Open, happens each February.

UPTOWN THEATRE SIGN
Just south of downtown, Uptown is the center of Minneapolis’ hip energy, and includes off-beat shopping, late-night dining and vibrant nightlife. Just steps from the Chain of Lakes, Uptown has everything an urban neighborhood should and then some. You’ll know you’ve entered Uptown when you see the iconic Uptown Theatre sign towering over the neighborhood and the 100-year-old art deco movie house.

GUTHRIE THEATER
The stunning Jean Nouvel-designed riverfront home for the world-renowned theater company opened in July 2006 and has earned numerous design awards including The Pritzker Architecture Prize. With three theaters, 11 bars, spacious lobby space and the Endless Bridge offering breathtaking views of the surrounding area, the bold blue building laid the groundwork for continued growth in the Mill District.

MARY TYLER MOORE STATUE
Stop for a photo with the bronze statue where the statue sits on the corner of 7th Street and Nicollet near where the “Mary Tyler Moore Show” credits were filmed. The show’s setting was in Minneapolis.

SKYWAYS
The skyway system is one of our most striking assets. One floor above ground, this over eight-mile system links shopping, restaurants, entertainment and more through enclosed elevated walkways. It connects over 80 blocks of downtown Minneapolis in climate-controlled bliss. The skyway expanded further when the new connection was made to U.S. Bank Stadium in July 2016.

DID YOU KNOW?

OVER EIGHT MILES LONG, THE MINNEAPOLIS SKYWAY SYSTEM WAS THE FIRST AND IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF ENCLOSED SKYWAYS IN THE COUNTRY, CONNECTING MOST BUILDINGS IN THE DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS. THE SYSTEM CONNECTS MORE THAN 80 BLOCKS, 1,000 BUSINESSES, 2,000 CONDOS, NEARLY 6,000 HOTEL ROOMS AND ACCOMMODATES MORE THAN 200,000 PEDESTRIANS EVERY DAY.
SEASONS

The beauty and sophistication of Minneapolis is augmented by its striking seasonal variety. Whether nestled by a crackling fire sipping wine or snowboarding at Theodore Wirth Park; strolling through the Walker Art Center’s world-class sculpture garden or stopping to smell the flowers at Lake Harriet’s rose gardens; watching movies under the stars at one of Minneapolis’ city parks or playing in the water at one of the city’s 22 lakes; apple picking in crisp autumn air or admiring the colorful fall foliage; visitors and residents alike will enjoy the abundance of activities each season brings.

SPRING
(April through May): Spring in Minnesota varies widely and weather may be glorious or erratic and visitors should pack a heavy jacket. April shows the first true signs of spring when snow melts and gentle showers abound. By May, flowers have pushed their way out of hibernation, trees blossom, gardens are planted and the city bursts into life.

SUMMER
(June through August): The city sizzles with temperatures in the mid-eighties and high humidity levels make it the perfect season to hang out at one of Minnesota’s 10,000+ lakes! Downtown restaurants have sidewalk seating and the city is alive with bikers, joggers, sunbathers and festivals. Shorts and sandals are the standard uniform and the abundance of lakes make bathing suits and beach towels a must.

FALL
(September through late November): As the air turns crisp and leaves turn to deep golds, oranges and reds, fall is easily one of the most beautiful times in Minneapolis. Visitors can enjoy striking autumn colors and lively outdoor activities in mild temperatures by packing a sweater or a light jacket. Autumn foliage peaks late-September on Minnesota’s North Shore and slowly spreads throughout the state and into the cities by mid-October, making the transition from summer to winter a long and leisurely one.

WINTER
(Late November through March): Snuggled under a white blanket of snow, winter is our coldest season and though vegetation may be hibernating, the city is not. During our winter season lakes are alive with skaters, our landscape is full of snowmen and snowshoers, and downtown bustles with shoppers and diners. Minneapolis has the country’s largest network of glass-enclosed, climate-controlled skyways; however, a winter coat, gloves, hat, scarf and boots are necessary so you can get out and take part in one of our many active winter sports and festivals like the City of Lakes Loppet.

DID YOU KNOW?

ON AVERAGE:
JANUARY = COOLEST MONTH
FEBRUARY = DRIEST MONTH AND MOST CLEAR DAYS
JULY = WARMEST MONTH
AUGUST = WETTEST MONTH
DECEMBER = MOST CLOUDY DAYS
MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOODS

Neighborhoods ranging from eclectic to ethnic and historic to hip create the colorful fabric of Minneapolis, where there’s a place for every personality.

DOWNTOWN
Locals work and play in downtown Minneapolis. They live there too, in artsy lofts and upscale condos – more than 40,000 residents call downtown home. That’s because this glittering metropolis, which overlooks the scenic Mississippi River, is easy to get to, easy to get around and easily one of the most vibrant, engaging cities in America. Hot restaurants, cool shops, festive events and diverse entertainment ranging from professional sports to Broadway shows keep downtown constantly buzzing. Safe, friendly and compact, downtown is a destination and a community in one.

DOWNTOWN CENTRAL
The city’s glimmering steel and glass core spans more than 50 square blocks, encompassing the financial, retail and theater districts. Sidewalk cafes, window displays and outdoor concerts have people flocking to the streets, while the city’s second-story skyway system links restaurants, stores, theaters, hotels and the Minneapolis Convention Center.

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT/NORTH LOOP
Flush with historic charm, as well as design firms, breweries and boutiques, the North Loop reflects the city’s creative streak. Weathered brick buildings that served the previous century’s industrial boom now house hip restaurants, shops and art galleries. Located on downtown’s northwestern edge, the district is the epicenter of Minneapolis nightlife, offering music venues, comedy clubs, sports bars and brewpubs.

RIVERFRONT/ MILL DISTRICT
Idyllic parks and pathways, landmark restaurants and historical attractions line the banks of the Mississippi River, which once fueled Minneapolis’ flour milling boom and now defines downtown’s northern edge. Many milling era buildings have been reborn as housing and cultural venues, while concerts and festivals along historic cobblestone Main Street further enliven this ever-evolving neighborhood.

DID YOU KNOW?
Minneapolis’ Lyndale (Lyn-Lake) neighborhood was named one of the 17 “MOST TRENDING NEIGHBORHOODS FOR TRAVEL IN 2017”

- Airbnb Newsroom, 2016
LORING PARK
Located on the southwestern edge of downtown Minneapolis, Loring Park revolves around its namesake green space. Its popular restaurants offer city skyline views and intimate theaters present original productions. An eye-catching suspension bridge connects Loring Park to the Walker Art Center and Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

Home to: Basilica of St. Mary, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Minneapolis Convention Center, Orchestra Hall, Peavey Plaza

NORTHEAST (‘NORDEAST’) 
Ethnic churches and restaurants highlight this long established, newly imagined neighborhood, located just across the Mississippi River from downtown Minneapolis. New immigrant populations add flavor to the global dining scene, while artists living and working in the area’s brick warehouses shape the city’s visual arts scene including Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association’s First Thursdays, where they offer an Open Studio and Gallery Tour held the first Thursday of each month. Dance clubs, tap rooms and fun bars create a vibrant come-one come-all nightlife scene.

Home to: Psycho Suzi’s Motor Lounge, St. Anthony Main Theater, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Northrup King Building, Ritz Theater, Northeast Arts District, Betty Danger’s Country Club

UPTOWN
Decidedly urban and unabashedly hip, Uptown supplies trendy 20- and 30-somethings with cutting-edge cuisine, intoxicating nightlife, funky, high-end fashions, independent movie theaters and home accessories. Located immediately south of downtown Minneapolis, just steps away from the scenic Chain of Lakes, Uptown centers around the intersection of Hennepin Avenue and Lake Street, where coffee shops, restaurants and salon-spas abound.

Home to: Uptown Theatre, Lagoon Theatre, Calhoun Square, Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska, Midtown Greenway, Lake of the Isles

LINDEN HILLS
A modern village with a view of the downtown skyline, Linden Hills occupies an idyllic pocket of southwest Minneapolis between Lakes Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska and Harriet. Born as a resort community at the turn of the century, the area remains an escape from the everyday – a unique shopping and dining destination minutes from beaches, gardens, concerts and winding recreational paths.

Home to: Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway, Chain of Lakes, Lyndale Park Rose Garden

WHITTIER
More than 50 ethnic restaurants, groceries and cafes form the urban buffet known as “Eat Street,” a 17-block stretch of Nicollet Avenue running south from downtown Minneapolis. Asian flavors abound in noodle shops and authentic markets, while German, Greek, African, Mexican and Middle Eastern cuisine are among the flavors available.

Home to: Black Forest Inn, Mia, Children’s Theatre Co., Hennepin History Museum, Midtown Global Market

LYN-LAKE
South of downtown and east of Uptown, Lyndale Avenue and Lake Street converge in this funky urban zone where originality reigns supreme. Flamenco music, authentic tapas, European-style brews and late-night bowling are among the diverse dining and nightlife options, while inventive entertainment includes multimedia arts performances and boundary-pushing local theater.

Home to: Bryant Lake Bowl, Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD), Jungle Theater

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA/DINKYTOWN
East of downtown, the University of Minnesota straddles the Mississippi River, supporting dining, shopping and entertainment on the two banks. The Cedar-Riverside neighborhood offers multicultural restaurants, shops and theater along the river’s West Bank. On the East Bank, Dinkytown epitomizes the urban university experience, with bookstores, music shops and energetic eateries and nightlife. A covered pedestrian bridge spans the river and unites the campus.

Home to: Weisman Art Museum, Mixed Blood Theatre, Theatre in the Round, TCF Bank Stadium

50TH AND FRANCE (EDINA)
50th Street and France Avenue intersect in the posh community of Edina, where classy restaurants, upscale gift shops, esteemed art galleries and designer boutiques thrive amidst cobblestone streets and elegant street lighting.

Home to: Edina Cinema, the Edina Art Fair, Red Cow, Salut
A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Minneapolis combines the bustle of a big city with the intimacy of neighborhood life. Big enough to attract world class theater, sports teams and businesses, yet small enough to avoid the crime and overcrowding of bigger, denser destinations, this city by the Mississippi has it all.

Why? Well, start with employment. Target, U.S. Bancorp, United Health Group and Best Buy are just a few examples of the Fortune 500 companies which, along with strong local businesses, bring a low rate of unemployment and a high tax base to the area. The good public schools and many options for higher education (including the University of Minnesota) mean an educated, skilled workforce, resulting in good business in Minneapolis.

Companies from nearly every U.S. industry provide the local economy with a strong base, representing manufacturing, health care, publishing and many others. There are 29 Fortune 1000 companies in Minnesota as of 2017. Wide-reaching public facilities and investment in transportation and infrastructure have yielded a city that’s good for business.

And business is good for the city. Companies here, both big and small, have a tradition of giving back to the communities that help them succeed. Private funding and corporate philanthropy help keep Minneapolis vibrant and exciting. One example: A large portion of five major venues in Minneapolis (Central Library, Guthrie Theater, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Institute of Art and Children’s Theatre Company) were funded by the generous giving of businesses and individuals throughout the city.

DID YOU KNOW?
THE NAME MINNEAPOLIS IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE CITY’S FIRST SCHOOL TEACHER, WHO COMBINED “MINI” (THE DAKOTA WORD FOR WATER) WITH “POLIS” (THE GREEK WORD FOR CITY).

MADE IN MINNESOTA

It might surprise you, but a lot of products you use every day were developed right here in Minnesota. The land of 10,000 lakes is also the land of 10,000 innovators!

LOCALLY GROWN GOODS

- Aveda beauty and wellness products
- Betty Crocker® baking goods
- Bisquick
- Bundt cake pan
- Caribou Coffee
- Dairy Queen® ice cream treats
- Green Giant® vegetables
- Honey Crisp apples
- Indoor Shopping Mall
- Jucy Lucy burgers
- Magnetic Poetry
- Milky Way, 3 Musketeers and Mars bars
- Minnetonka Moccasins
- Wearable Pacemaker
- Polaris snowmobiles
- Post-it® notes
- Red Wing Shoes
- Rollerblades®
- Wet/dry sandpaper
- Scotch® tape
- SPAM
- Toastmaster toaster
- Tonka® trucks
- Toro®
- General Mills products
- Wheaties cereal
- Zubaz
HAVE YOU HEARD?

Many Minnesota businesses received high marks in the 2017 Corporate LGBT Equality Index:
3M, Allianz, Ameriprise, Best Buy, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cargill, Dorsey & Whitney, Ecolab, General Mills, Hormel, Land O’Lakes, Lindquist & Vennum, Medtronic, RBC Wealth Management Robins Kaplan, Target and U.S. Bancorp. received 100%

“Minneapolis ranked “SECOND BEST CITY FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.”

— Zippia, 2016

WITH 18 FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES (2017), MINNESOTA’S BUSINESS COMMUNITY THRIVES GLOBALLY.

- UnitedHealth Group (6)
- Target (38)
- Best Buy (72)
- CHS (93)
- 3M (94)
- U.S. Bancorp (125)
- SuperValu (158)
- General Mills (165)
- Ecolab (211)

- C.H. Robinson Worldwide (212)
- Land O’Lakes (209)
- Ameriprise Financial (239)
- Xcel Energy (256)
- Hormel Foods (295)
- Thrivent Financial (316)
- Mosaic (377)
- St. Jude Medical (434)
- Patterson Cos. Inc. (466)

DID YOU KNOW?

“MINNESOTA RANKED THIRD BEST STATE IN U.S.”

USNews.com, 2017
**CHARTING THE WATERS 1680-1850**

Minneapolis was born on the Mississippi, on land the Sioux and Ojibwe people had long called home. Around 1680, Father Louis Hennepin christened scenic St. Anthony Falls, which, centuries later, would give the burgeoning city enormous industrial power. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and the construction of Fort Snelling in the 1820s ushered more Europeans into this pristine region for trading, trapping and settlement.

**FLOUR POWER 1850-1930**

Minneapolis grew beside the Mississippi River where St. Anthony Falls fueled the lucrative flour milling industry. From the 1880s to the 1930s, flour production made Minneapolis the milling capital of the world, and established modern corporate giants such as Cargill, General Mills and Pillsbury. Tourists and artists also flocked to the only waterfall on the river, spanned in 1883 by the landmark Stone Arch Bridge, which remains today.

**COMING OF AGE 1930-PRESENT**

A progressive city claiming many commercial, political, medical and cultural firsts, Minneapolis continues to make history. The city has one of the most stable economic bases in the country, and includes global leaders Medtronic, Best Buy and 3M within its broad, successful business community.

**INCREASINGLY DIVERSE**

Minneapolis has always been empowered by its people, including native residents, pioneers, immigrants and transplants from around the world. Many Lakota Sioux and Ojibwe names – Minnehaha, Minnetonka, Nokomis – attest to the continued presence of Minnesota’s first residents. The cultural influences of the city’s first settlers – Scandinavian, Irish, German, Italian, French-Canadian, Greek, Polish, Jewish and people of many nationalities – can be seen in neighborhood churches, businesses, architecture and events. A massive influx of Scandinavians in the late 1800s had a well-known and lasting impact on area culture. Today the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area boasts the largest Hmong and Somali populations in the country as well as other diverse ethnic groups. This includes recent immigrant groups such as the Karen and Liberians, whom hold large populations in Saint Paul and Brooklyn Park, respectively.

**EXCEPTIONALLY ACTIVE**

Minneapolis’ history is an interactive experience. From museums and landmarks to excursions and parks, fun and engaging opportunities immerse residents and visitors in the city’s past. Rightfully, Minneapolis never lost touch with its source, preserving and developing the Mississippi riverfront to combine restaurants, nightclubs, galleries and shops with historic buildings and natural wonders.
WE KNEW THEM WHEN

Many public figures who have made huge splashes on the national scene in politics, art, music and movies hail from the land of 10,000 lakes. Throughout Minnesota’s rich history, an abundance of people have stood out as stars among us, including actors, musicians, politicians, entrepreneurs, cartoonists, radio stars, writers and pro-wrestlers.

THE ENTERTAINERS
T.R. Knight, known to his fans as George O’Malley on the Emmy-winning “Grey’s Anatomy,” is a Stillwater native. For many years, he was a member of the Guthrie Theater’s acting company.

“Six Feet Under,” “Dirty Sexy Money,” and “Parenthood” star Peter Krause, grew up in Alexandria, west of Minneapolis.

Minneapolis native Vincent Kartheiser, known for his role on “Mad Men” began his acting career at the Children’s Theatre Company.

Josh Hartnett, the heart-throb movie star of films such as “The Black Dahlia” and “Pearl Harbor,” grew up in Saint Paul. He lived in Minneapolis until 2015.

Movie actor Seann William Scott hails from Cottage Grove, suburb of Saint Paul.

Melissa Peterman, a product of the Brave New Workshop, wrapped a successful run on the TV show “Reba” in 2007. She’s also known for her memorable prostitute role in the movie “Fargo.”

Joel and Ethan Coen, writers/directors/producers of such movies as “Fargo,” “No Country for Old Men,” “The Big Lebowski,” “A Serious Man,” “Burn After Reading” and “True Grit,” grew up in the Minneapolis suburb St. Louis Park and filmed “Fargo” and “A Serious Man” in the area.

Prince Rogers Nelson was born in Minneapolis on June 7, 1958, and passed away on April 21, 2016. He was as an international recording star, musician and actor whose fame rose in the early 1980s with the release of “Purple Rain,” which was filmed at Minneapolis’ First Avenue. The “Minneapolis sound” was truly pioneered by Prince’s hybrid mixture of funk, rock, pop, R&B and New Wave. It has influenced many other musicians.

OTHER WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITIES WHO HAIl FROM MINNESOTA

- Loni Anderson
- Richard Dean Anderson
- James Arness
- Jessica Biel
- Nate Berkus
- Kelly Carlson
- Rachael Leigh Cook
- Judy Garland
- Genevieve Gorder
- Peter Graves
- John Hawkes
- Garret Hedlund
- Tippi Hedren
- Jessica Lange
- Kelly Lynch
- Frances McDormand
- Chris Pratt
- Marion Ross
- Winona Ryder
- Jane Russell
- Miriam Shor
- Kevin Sorbo
- Analeigh Tipton
- Lea Thompson
- Vince Vaughn
- Lindsay Vonn
- Steve Zahn

More names are listed on our online media kit at http://www.minneapolis.org/media/media-kit/
GREAT MINNESOTA AUTHORS

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD: The author of “The Great Gatsby” is one of many literary geniuses to grow up in Saint Paul.

THOMAS FRIEDMAN: Attending the same high school as the Coen brothers and “Saturday Night Live” comedian, and former senator, Al Franken, the three-time Pulitzer Prize winner is a prolific author, columnist and expert in Middle East affairs for the New York Times.


CHARLES SCHULZ: The cartoonist who drew “Peanuts” for nearly 50 years was born in Minneapolis and lived in Saint Paul through his young adulthood.

OTHER WELL-KNOWN AUTHORS AND WRITERS FROM MINNESOTA

- Carol Bly
- Robert Bly
- Kate Dicamillo
- Louise Erdrich
- Vince Flynn
- Maud Hart Lovelace
- Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Lorna Landvik
- Sinclair Lewis
- John Sandford

A NEW BREED OF POLITICIANS

Even before Arnold took over California, Minnesota began producing Hollywood stars-turned-politicians.

JESSE VENTURA: From feather boa in the wrestling ring to glasses and suits as governor of the state, Jesse “The Body” Ventura raised Minnesota’s profile by unexpectedly beating two high-profile candidates to become the state’s 38th governor.

AL FRANKEN: An Emmy Award–winning comedian, actor, author, screenwriter, political commentator, radio host and “Saturday Night Live” alum, grew up in St. Louis Park and is currently a Minneapolis resident. Noted for his liberal social and political views, Franken won Minnesota’s United States Senate seat in 2008.

OTHER FAMOUS MINNESOTA-BRED NAMES IN THE WORLD OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS:

- Warren Burger, Supreme Court Chief Justice
- Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States
- Walter Mondale, 42nd Vice President of the United States
- Paul Wellstone, U.S. Senator
- Alexander Ramsey, second Governor of Minnesota; U.S. Senator

DID YOU KNOW?

MUSICAL ROYALTY HAILS FROM MINNEAPOLIS AND MINNESOTA.

- 2007 Grammy award-winning PRINCE owned a $10 million recording studio in suburban Chanhassen, which was also his home and now is Paisley Park museum.

- BOB DYLAN, the barefoot boy from the Iron Range of northern Minnesota who forever changed the face of music, once owned the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Minneapolis. A mural of Dylan by Eduardo Kobra is now on Hennepin and 5th Street.

BET YOU DIDN’T KNOW THEY LIVED IN MINNESOTA, TOO

- The Andrews Sisters, 1940s harmony singing group
- Ann Bancroft, polar explorer
- Amelia Earhart, American aviation pioneer
- John Madden, American football coach and television announcer
- Herb Brooks, 1980 Olympic gold-winning American ice hockey coach
- Charles Lindbergh, aviator, first solo, non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean
MINNEAPOLIS WEBSITE

▶ MINNEAPOLIS.ORG

The ultimate Minneapolis travel and convention resource, this site features all that’s Minneapolis. It’s also the place to book hotels.

This site features:

▶ GO.MINNEAPOLIS.ORG

Deals and exclusive experiences.

And resources for visitors, groups, meeting and event professionals, partners and the community.

VISITOR RESOURCES

Visitor Information: 1.888.676.MPLS (6757) or 1.612.767.8000

For more information or to request a visitor information packet, visit www.minneapolis.org.

Visitors can check out the Minneapolis Visitor Information on Nicollet. The new visitor center and store on the corner of Nicollet and 5th Street includes:

Shop: Minneapolis and artistic retail by Love From Minneapolis

Move: resources for transit, commuting and getting around the city from Move Minneapolis

Find: help with questions about what to do, where to go and how to get the most out of a visit to Minneapolis, City by Nature.

FOR MEDIA

From fact-checking to interviews and b-roll to royalty-free photos, Meet Minneapolis provides a host of media resources. Visit minneapolis.org/media for the latest local destination information, news releases and photos of Minneapolis.
GOING GREEN

Minneapolis has gone green with more than 80 green rooftops. The Central Library, the Target Center and a handful of underground parking garages, as well as the lawn-bowling green at Brit’s Pub are just a few located in downtown. One of the oldest examples is the Hennepin County Government Center’s north plaza which is a park area above a cafeteria and office space. A 5,800-square foot roof at City Hall includes plantings and solar panels.

MALL OF AMERICA

- There is no heating system in the mall; it relies on the heat from lighting and skylights for warmth. It is 70 degrees Fahrenheit 365 days a year.
- Leftover food from restaurants is picked up daily by a local hog farmer.

TARGET FIELD

- The baseball stadium is the second LEED-Silver-certified major league stadium in facility and operations in the country.
- The nearby Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) provides heat for the stadium with captured waste energy.
- Nearly 20 percent of Target Field was built with recycled content.

GOLD MEDAL PARK

- Gold Medal Park encompasses 7.5 acres in the heart of Minneapolis’ Riverfront Mill District. The park includes close to 300 mature trees, including maples, lindens, hackberries, oaks and catalpas.

MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL LIBRARY

- The 18,560-square-foot green roof atop the Minneapolis Central Library creates a model for other downtown buildings and developments and promotes a clean, sustainable city.
- Low-growing prairie plants reduce cooling and heating loads and improves downtown air quality.

MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER

- HVAC and lighting systems are monitored around the clock to save energy.
- 2,623 rooftop solar panels produce 750,000 kWh of renewable electricity per year, offsetting 539 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.
- Each year more than 180 tons of cardboard and 50 tons of cans & bottles are recycled.
- Each year more than 130 tons of organics are composted or provided as "food to hogs."
- Green Roof of MCC Plaza and water cistern

DID YOU KNOW?

MINNEAPOLIS RANKED #1 CLEANEST CITY
- YouGov, 2017

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL RANKED #1 IN HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE
- HealthGrades.com, 2017

MINNEAPOLIS RANKED SECOND BEST CITY FOR RUNNERS
- SmartAssett.com, 2017

MINNESOTA RANKED FOURTH MOST ENERGY-EFFICIENT STATE
- WalletHub, 2017
JANUARY

- Polar Dash
- Lake Harriet Kite Festival
- Minneapolis Boat Show
- Twins Fest
- Great Northern
- City of Lakes Loppet
- U.S. Pond Hockey Championships
- Saint Paul Winter Carnival

FEBRUARY

- Saint Paul Winter Carnival
- International Motorcycle Show
- RV Vacation and Camping Show
- Lake Home and Cabin Show
- Skyway Open Mini Golf tournament
- Minneapolis Home & Garden Show

MARCH

- Twin Cities Auto Show
- St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- Northwest Sportshow
- MN State High School League Championships

APRIL

- Minnesota Twins Home Opener/ Season begins
- MSP International Film Festival
- Art in Bloom at Minneapolis Institute of Art
- Get Into Gear race
May
- May Day Parade
- Northeast Minneapolis Art-a-Whirl
- Dandelion Day at the Ard Godrey House
- Cinco de Mayo Mexican Fiesta
- Festival of Nations

June
- Northern Spark
- Juneteenth
- Midsommar Celebration at the American Swedish Institute
- Stone Arch Bridge Festival
- Rock the Garden - Walker Art Center Twin Cities
- Pride Festival

July
- Red, White & Boom Festival, Fireworks and TC Half Marathon
- Basilica Block Party
- Mill City Live Concerts at Mill City Museum
- Minnesota Orchestra’s Sommerfest
- Minneapolis Aquatennial
- Mill City Summer Opera at Mill City Museum

August
- Uptown Art Fair
- Loring Park Art Festival
- Powderhorn Art Fair
- Minnesota Fringe Festival
- Minnesota Renaissance Festival
- Minnesota State Fair
SEPTEMBER

- Minnesota Renaissance Festival
- Minnesota State Fair
- Minnesota Golden Gophers Football at TCF Bank Stadium
- Minnesota Vikings Football
- Minneapolis Monarch Festival/Festival de la Monarca
- Ivey Awards

OCTOBER

- Twin Cities Marathon
- US Open Racquetball Championship
- Zombie Pub Crawl
- Como Zoo’s Zoo Boo
- ValleyScare at Valley Fair in Shakopee
- HalZOOween at Minnesota Zoo

NOVEMBER

- Art Attack at the Northrup King Building
- Holidazzle

DECEMBER

- “A Christmas Carol” at Guthrie Theater
- Noon Year’s Eve at Como Zoo
- Holidazzle Festival

ANNUAL EVENTS
Minneapolis is a culturally progressive city that takes a commanding lead in the national arts scene. A marquee theater destination, Minneapolis Saint Paul is home to over 80 professional theater groups and more than 30 performance venues.

**DOWNTOWN**
The glittering Hennepin Theatre District is home to the opulent State, Orpheum and Pantages theatres and the country’s oldest satirical comedy theater, Brave New Workshop. Broadway shows, headliners and home-grown shows fill the marquees. In fact, big-name shows like “The Lion King” and “Sweet Charity” made their debuts in Minneapolis before heading to Broadway. Classics like “Hamlet” often grace the stage of the globally renowned Tony Award-winning Guthrie Theater. From cabaret to storytelling, unique playhouses like the Illusion Theater and the Southern Theater also add flavor to the downtown theater scene. The sparkling Cowles Center for Dance and Performing Arts rounds out the scene.

**NEIGHBORHOOD GEMS**
Brimming with bohemian coffee shops and topical theater, the Uptown and Lyn-Lake neighborhoods of Minneapolis are always abuzz. Uptown’s edgy cousin, Lyn-Lake, is home to the Jungle Theater, which is set among a cluster of fabulous ethnic eateries. Just blocks away, funky hangout Bryant-Lake Bowl features an old-school bowling alley and an offbeat 99-seat theater. The Dinkytown and Cedar-Riverside neighborhoods cater largely to the young urban college crowd with hot spots like the Mixed Blood Theatre, promoting cultural pluralism, and Theatre in the Round, the state’s oldest community theater, featuring a unique arena stage for classic productions. The Varsity Theater and Rarig Center at the University of Minnesota are popular spots for live music and theater.

**SAINT PAUL**
In Saint Paul, the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts hosts Broadway hits and also is home to the Minnesota Opera and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Minnesota Public Radio fans can go to the Fitzgerald Theater to listen to new host, Grammy award-winner Chris Thile of “Live From Here,” who replaced Garrison Keillor after he retired in 2016.

**STEALING THE SHOW**

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Minneapolis is home to the largest non-juried theater festival in the U.S. – the Minnesota Fringe Festival. The annual festival packs theaters across the city every August. It’s the ideal time for lovers of the stage to experience the city’s diverse theater scene risk-free – each show is just one hour.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Theaters Total: 181
Theaters per capita: 45 per 100,000 residents
-U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 2017
WORTH THE DRIVE
Nestled on the shores of Lake Minnetonka, the city of Excelsior is home to the country’s oldest continuously running theater, Old Log Theater. Prince fans may want to take a drive by Paisley Park on the way to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres. With three stages featuring musicals and comedy improv, it’s the largest Equity dinner theater in the U.S.

FOR THE KIDS
The only theater for young people to ever win a Tony® Award, Children’s Theatre Company (CTC) produces first-rate performances that delight audiences of all ages. *Time* magazine named CTC the top theater in the country for kids.

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre in South Minneapolis uses various forms of puppetry inspired by cultures around the world to tell its stories, while the Stages Theatre Company brings children’s literature to life.
HAVE YOU HEARD?

“ART IS PERSONAL AND INTERACTIVE IN THE TWIN CITIES; VISIT A STUDIO AND ENJOY A CONVERSATION WITH THE ARTIST, AND COME AWAY FEELING A CONNECTION TO THIS VIBRANT ARTS COMMUNITY.”

- Arts America

DISCOUNTS & BARGAINS

Contemplate famous artworks for free inside three monumental museums. The Weisman Art Museum (always free) boasts energetic examples of modern art, while the Minneapolis Institute of Art (always free) highlights classic works and global artifacts spanning 5,000 years. The Walker Art Center (free every Thursday night and the first Saturday of every month) packs its singular artistic punch into stunning new galleries, public spaces and the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, which is free 365 days a year.

MUSEUMS GALORE

Highlighting world-class collections that span millennia, the city’s museums engage, inspire and educate millions each year. Boasting groundbreaking buildings and exhibits, they display tremendous foresight and reach. Nearly 60 destinations – of an astonishing 600 in Minnesota many in and around downtown – celebrate life’s natural, artistic and scientific wonders.

A CITY-WIDE CANVAS

Minneapolis’ globally acclaimed art museums highlight beauty in all forms. Hailed by *Newsweek* as “possibly the best contemporary art museum in the country,” the Walker Art Center has a building as dynamic as the events and artworks it presents. A stunning expansion, designed by Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, opened in April 2005, doubling the exhibit and performance space of this immensely popular and influential museum. Outside the Walker, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden has 58 sculptures, including 19 added in 2017, featuring the landmark “Spoonbridge and Cherry” sculpture by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen.

With its impressive columns and wide-ranging exhibits, the Minneapolis Institute of Art puts up a classical front – one that houses one of the largest displays of classical Chinese art and architecture in the country in 22 galleries. Considered one of America’s finest encyclopaedic museums, the institute possesses works from every age and medium, many of which reside in the museum’s Michael Graves-designed expansion.
**HIDDEN GEM: MILL CITY MUSEUM**

Flour milling may not sound like an exciting concept, but Minneapolis was built on flour and the Mill City Museum provides a portal to the city’s storied past. The museum lives in the partially reconstructed ruins of a flour mill that exploded in 1878, burned in 1928 and burned again 1991. You can still see the twisted girders that melted in the heat and the soot on the bricks, but this relic from Minneapolis’ history is still standing.

Billed as “the best-smelling museum ever created,” a baking lab operates in the museum’s basement. Visitors can smell the fabulous aromas of the Baking Lab while they peruse artifacts of the city’s milling days. They can learn all about Minneapolis, from then to now, in the film, “Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat,” which plays in the museum’s small theater all day long. Afterwards, visitors can head up to the Flour Tower, an elevator ride that shows how milling makes wheat into flour (and why it’s explosive!) and culminates in a rooftop deck with a panoramic view of the entire Mississippi Riverfront, including St. Anthony Falls and the Stone Arch Bridge.
SPECTACULAR SHOPPING

Minneapolis is a world-class shopping destination. People from around the globe come to shop the city’s chic boutiques, stellar malls and diverse retail districts. Mall of America is a big reason shoppers flock here, but there are many others, including a red-hot downtown and neighborhood shopping zone and no sales tax on clothes and shoes.

DOWNTOWN

Shopping comes easy in downtown Minneapolis, where you’ll find scores of popular merchants within steps of hotels and hip eateries. The retail beat sounds loudest along Nicollet, the pedestrian-friendly thoroughfare, where Minneapolis-based Target’s flagship store anchors this corridor that includes shops like Saks Off Fifth, Nordstrom Rack and Marshalls. Minneapolis-based Target’s flagship store anchors this thriving corridor. Virtually every building offers a climate-controlled skyway connection, while the convenient METRO Blue Line speeds power shoppers on a quick 35-minute trip to Mall of America.

MALL OF AMERICA

Shoppers hungry for the best selection in the nation feed their cravings at Mall of America, the country’s largest shopping and entertainment complex. Home to more than 520 stores, including unique shops, national flagship stores and emerging retail concepts mean something for everyone. Other attractions include Nickelodeon Universe, the nation’s largest fully enclosed theme park; SEA LIFE Minnesota Aquarium; Crayola Experience and Fly Over America along with an appetizing range of more than 50 restaurants and bars and a 14-screen movie theater make staying in the two on-site hotels a good idea as you could spend days there and not see everything.
DISCOUNTS & BARGAINS

Retail therapy comes cheap in Minneapolis where locally based Target sells affordable, stylish wares inside its flagship store. Albertville Premium Outlets offer 100 stores, including Banana Republic and Polo Ralph Lauren. And the bargains inside Mall of America’s stores are surpassed only by its mammoth interiors, which guests can gawk at for free.

NORTH LOOP, UPTOWN AND BEYOND
Original boutiques and signature retailers add charm and entice shoppers into the city’s many distinct neighborhoods. The North Loop is the city’s latest retail hot spot with new shops popping up regularly. The Loop is lined with trendy and unique boutiques including MartinPatrick3, Ribnick Luxury Outerwear & Leather and Foundry Home Goods. The North Loop is still transforming, which means more there are more boutiques to come. Hipsters are constantly on the prowl for high-voltage clothing and trendy home furnishings in Uptown. Packed with locally owned gift shops, bakeries and bookstores, Linden Hills in southwest Minneapolis personifies the independent spirit of the city’s neighborhoods, where ethnic flavors and lifestyles vary.

SINGULAR SUBURBS
Minneapolis made retail history in 1956 when Southdale Center in suburban Edina opened as world’s first enclosed mall. This bright, airy location continually delights with myriad stores, energetic restaurants and a movie theater. Nearby Galleria refined the mall concept to further applause, showcasing high-end retailers casually elegant dining and spa services. Sophisticates ponder elite labels and lux houseware on 50th and France in Edina. On the other end of the spectrum, Albertville Premium Outlets, west of Minneapolis, discount designer duds for those who crave a range of shopping experience.

DID YOU KNOW?
IN MINNESOTA, THERE’S NO SALES TAX ON CLOTHING OR SHOES!
Deliciously diverse and always evolving, the Minneapolis dining scene packs a flavorful punch. From Uptown to downtown, the city bursts with top-notch restaurants, talented chefs and friendly staff ready to serve.

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT/NORTH LOOP
Anchored by the Target Center’s Hubert’s Sports Bar & Grill, scores of music venues and the iconic First Avenue, the Warehouse District is the epicenter of Minneapolis nightlife. A palpable energy feeds an exciting dining scene that ranges from the Monte Carlo, a classy joint with a century of service, to sleek, sexy Cosmos, a stunning temple to edible opulence. Kieran’s Irish Pub brings a bit of Ireland to Minneapolis in the form of a traditional Irish pub, while brew pubs and restaurants serve casual American fare and European specialties, while the stylish wine bars elevate bar food to an art form.

HENNEPIN AVENUE
Restaurants in the city’s bustling cultural district serve dramatic, inspired fare. Showcasing contemporary cuisine at its finest, Mercy Restaurant located in Le Meridien Chambers Hotel Minneapolis, never ceases to delight guests. CRAVE’s chic atmosphere and locally sourced food impress as much as their rooftop views, while the more casual Rock Bottom Brewery satisfies with handcrafted brews.

DOWNTOWN CORE/LORING PARK
The depth and quality of downtown’s restaurants – more than 50 in the core alone – is impressive. Offerings span the globe and excite the palate: established visionaries such as Dakota Jazz Club & Restaurant, Murray’s and Hell’s Kitchen push the culinary envelope, while Bon Appetit darlings Mission American Kitchen and FireLake Grill earn positive buzz. Ambiance ranges from simple to stunning. Clubby Oceanaire is loaded with leatherette booths and retro charm. Trendy Café Lurcat attracts the hip and discriminating crowd while cheery Brit’s Pub offers the perfect beer food and a rooftop lawn bowling court with downtown skyline views.
MARKETS
An agricultural state loves its markets. The Mill City Farmers’ Market runs next to the Guthrie Theater and the riverfront, and features organic foods. This year-long farmer’s market holds their indoor markets every second Saturday from November to April inside the historic Mill City Museum. Outdoor markets are held on Chicago Avenue every Saturday from May to October. The Midtown Global Market just south of downtown lets vendors hawk their wares from countries all over the world in the redeveloped former Sears building on the Midtown Greenway.

RIVERFRONT – MILL DISTRICT
The city’s Mississippi riverfront restaurants wow diners with amazing views and memorable food. Historic cobblestone Main Street hosts both elegant and easygoing American eateries, including Vic’s, Wilde Cafe & Spirits and the casual Tuggs. In the nearby Northeast (pronounced by locals as “Nordeast”) neighborhood, a 65-foot Ferris wheel and an eight-hole golf course offers a hipster country club vibe at Betty Danger’s Country Club. The only country club that serves Mexampton food, a unique fusion of Tex-Mex and preppiness.

UPTOWN
The restaurants in this ultra-hip neighborhood have people talking – and eating. Designer martinis, semi unisex bathrooms and exotic meals give Chino Latino a stimulating vibe that personifies the area. The Libertine serves as a barcade, restaurant and local hangout where visitors can enjoy cheap cocktails and sharable dishes. Barbette offers seasonal fare in a bistro setting, while pizza joints and exotic eateries safeguard Uptown’s multifaceted identity.

EAT STREET
An appetizing stretch of more than 50 ethnic restaurants, Eat Street stretches a mile along Nicollet Avenue, which runs south from downtown. This culinary cornucopia is home to authentic German, Greek, Israeli, Thai, Vietnamese and more, not to mention ethnic bakeries and grocers. Popular are Eat Street Social, Market Barbeque and Black Forest Inn.

NEIGHBORHOOD GEMS
Minneapolis is flecked with stellar neighborhood restaurants centered on fresh, seasonal and ethnic fare, including the Holy Land, Red Stag Supperclub and Revival.

HAUTE FOODIE HAUNTS
THE CULINARY SCENE IN MINNEAPOLIS CONTINUES TO BE RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL MEDIA OUTLETS:

Minneapolis’ Upton 43 Ranked 7th Best New Restaurant in the U.S.
-10Best.com, 2017

Murray’s Steakhouse ranked among the top 30 Best Steakhouses in the U.S.
-Travel and Leisure, 2017

Minneapolis-St. Paul International ranked #4 Best Airport for Dining.
-10Best.com, 2017

The Food Network regularly features Minneapolis - from fine dining to “Diners, Drive-ins & Dives,” where host Guy Fieri has visited Bryant Lake Bowl, Psycho Suzie’s Motor Lounge and many other local eateries.
FROM THE CHEFS

“MINNEAPOLIS IS MY HOME, AND FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS I HAVE SEEN OUR CITY GROW AND DEVELOP IN A UNIQUE WAY. WHAT USED TO BE MISLABELED ‘FLYOVER’ COUNTRY, IS NOW A NATIONAL LEADER IN THE ARTS, BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP, EDUCATION AND MOST IMPORTANTLY WE HAVE ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC AND ENGAGING FOOD SCENES IN AMERICA. MINNEAPOLIS IS WHERE IT’S AT!”

- Andrew Zimmern, chef & TV host

FARM FRESH

Co-ops have made their mark in Minneapolis and households all over the city have gone organic. But those who insist on sustainably grown organic food can go out to eat, too, because many Minneapolis restaurants have the same values. A creation of long-time natural restaurateur, Brenda Langton, Spoonriver, has been serving the finest gourmet natural cuisine since 2006. Minnesota sources provide the restaurant a wide palate from grass-fed beef, lamb and naturally raised pork to fresh local produce. Northeast’s Red Stag Supperclub is Minnesota’s first LEED-CI certified restaurant serves as many local and organic foods as possible while conserving water and energy and composting waste.

AWARD-WORTHY FOOD EXPERTS

Four Minneapolis chefs have won James Beard Best Chef Midwest Awards – commonly referred to as the Oscars of the food world. Numerous chefs from Minneapolis have continued to be nominated annually and in 2017, two more chefs were among the finalists for Best Chef Midwest.

BEST CHEF: MIDWEST

- **Tim McKee**, now a partner with The Fish Guys and consultant for several other restaurants was known for La Belle Vie, which closed in 2015 (won in 2009)
- **Alex Roberts**, chef/co-owner of Restaurant/Cafe/Hotel Alma and Brasa Rotisserie (won in 2010)
- **Isaac Becker**, chef/owner of 112 Eatery (won in 2011)
- **Paul Berglund**, former chef at The Bachelor Farmer (won in 2016), current culinary director for Vestalia Hospitality

DID YOU KNOW?

*Tasting Table* named Minneapolis one of 27 underrated food and drink cities in America (2017)
THE 80S – THE R&B AND PUNK ERA
The early 1980s helped define Minneapolis’ sound and launched the careers of R&B mega-producing team Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis, who started the band that would become The Time and was joined by Morris Day and toured as an opening act for Prince. The team then went on to produce such artists as Janet Jackson, Sounds of Blackness, Boyz II Men, Alexander O’Neal, Cherrelle and Patti LaBelle.

Also in the 80s, Minneapolis’ innovative punk scene and the rise of music-royalty Prince solidified Minneapolis’ music scene place on the map. Several bands including The Suicide Commandos, Hüsker Dü, Soul Asylum and The Replacements quickly rose to punk cult status and became pivotal in the development of alternative rock. Hit songs like, “What’s on Your Mind [Pure Energy]” by Minneapolis area band Information Society and The Jayhawks modern folk-rock sound, helped to further solidify Minneapolis purely original sound. But the “Minneapolis sound” was truly pioneered by Prince’s hybrid mixture of funk, rock, pop, R&B and New Wave. It has influenced many other musicians.

THE 90S – MORE COMMERCIAL SUCCESS
The 1990s saw continued success for Minneapolis bands. Prince introduced one of his most popular albums, “Diamonds and Pearls,” and Semisonic, an alternative rock band formed in 1995, topped the charts in 1998 with their single “Closing Time.” Semisonic member Dan Wilson continues to top charts today with his songwriting for Adele, Keith Urban, Josh Groban and many more.

INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM – MAKING WAVES IN THE HIP-HOP SCENE
Home to a thriving underground hip hop scene due largely to the presence of Rhymesayers Entertainment and Doomtree – two major hip hop crews whose artists include Atmosphere, P.O.S. and Dessa, as well as as a growing techno/dance landscape, Minneapolis is still a musical hotbed.

FIRST AVENUE STARS IN THE MINNEAPOLIS MUSIC SCENE
First Avenue has been the starting point for virtually every single band to come out of the Twin Cities, including The Replacements, Hüsker Dü, Prince, Soul Asylum, Semisonic, American Head Charge, Atmosphere, Brother Ali, Dillinger Four, Dosh, The Jayhawks, Curtiss A and many others.

Bands and artists have performed at the nightclub and influenced the Minneapolis music scene from 1970 onward, as exemplified by the silver stars that adorn the black building’s exterior (every star has the name of an artist who has played at First Avenue or 7th St. Entry). Prince’s star was painted gold after his death in 2016.

First Avenue also appeared in Prince’s 1984 film, “Purple Rain.” U2 wrote part of “October” at First Avenue during a sound check. And Grammy Award-winning alt-country star Lucinda Williams was married on stage here, following her performance at First Avenue in 2009.

"MINNEAPOLIS HAS A BELOVED LIVE MUSIC AND CULTURAL SCENE TO BOOT – SEVENTH STREET ENTRY’S FIRST AVENUE MUSIC VENUE HAS BEEN A FAVORITE AMONG LOCALS AND VISITORS ALIKE SINCE 1970."

-USA Today.com & SmarterTraveler.com
OUTDOOR RECREATION

Sparkling lakes, inviting trails and rolling green spaces beautify the urban landscape and make the City by Nature an all season playground. Bike, hike, pedal or paddle – all within the limits of downtown. In a city where every resident lives within six blocks of a park, the great outdoors are highly prized.

SHORE THING
Minnesota is famous for its lakes; Minneapolis included. There are 22 lakes within city limits, including the popular Chain of Lakes (Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska, Lake Harriet, Lake of the Isles, Cedar Lake), which curls around southwest Minneapolis, drawing bikers, walkers, runners and sun seekers to the area’s hip, active neighborhoods. Boaters, swimmers and anglers can make a splash, too, thanks to convenient lake access, watercraft rentals, clean beaches and well-stocked waters.

GRAND ADVENTURE
In Minneapolis, taking the scenic route means staying in the city, where the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway meanders past gardens, golf courses, waterfalls and idyllic views. One of the only designated urban scenic byways in the country, the Grand Rounds offers 52 miles of hiking, biking, skiing and driving paths, which link the city’s lakes and parks “like jewels of a bracelet,” according to Midwest Living magazine.

RIVER RAMBLING
Having transitioned from industrial to recreational, the Mississippi riverfront delights outdoor enthusiasts and history buffs with parks, picnic areas, landmarks and monuments along miles of well-kept trails. The Audubon Great River Birding Trail, Grand Rounds Scenic Byway and St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail, which highlights unique mill ruins and the only stone railroad bridge to cross the Mississippi River, all pass through this history-rich recreational haven.

PARK IT
Recreation happens naturally in the city’s many parks, where offerings range from mountain bike trails to bird sanctuaries. Minnehaha Park was immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poem “Song of Hiawatha,” while Theodore Wirth Park features the country’s oldest wildflower garden and a rare “quaking bog” made of moss. USA Today identified Lake Harriet’s Lyndale Park Rose Garden, the second oldest public rose garden in the U.S., as one of “10 Great Places to Inhale the Scents of Spring.” Minneapolis parks are also abuzz in winter, attracting ice skaters, skiers and snowshoers.
CITY BY NATURE

Take a self-guided tour on the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail through the Minneapolis Riverfront District or, for a longer walking, biking or blading adventure, make your way through seven beautiful districts on the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway. Along the Grand Rounds is gorgeous Lake Harriet, which offers a variety of activities: free outdoor concerts at the Lake Harriet Bandshell in the summer, an Asian-influenced Peace (Rock) Garden, the second-oldest public rose garden in the U.S. and much more.

FORE THE LOVE OF GOLF

It’s easy to come out swinging in Minneapolis. Minnesota has more golfers per capita than any state in the country, which means quality courses abound. There are seven public courses in Minneapolis and 170 more in the surrounding area. One of the first public golf courses in the state, Theodore Wirth, frames the Minneapolis skyline, while tranquil Minnehaha Creek graces the Hiawatha and Meadowbrook courses.

MYTH

MYTH:
Minneapolis is all lakes, fishing, hunting and flannel shirts.

REALITY:
While areas of Minnesota are home to some of the most breathtaking scenery and nature anywhere, the Minneapolis–Saint Paul area is a bustling, urban center. Minneapolis is the City by Nature, with an active and vibrant city atmosphere. While you might spot a flannel shirt or two during the winter, you’re more likely to see residents wearing the latest styles, as Minneapolis boasts the largest mall in America and is home to Target, which works in collaboration with designers such as Lily Pulitzer and Victoria Beckham.

DID YOU KNOW?

MINNEAPOLIS PARKS WERE NAMED #1 FOR FIVE YEARS IN A ROW FROM 2013-2017
- Trust for Public Land Park Score Index, 2017
ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SPORTS MEDICINE AMERICAN FITNESS INDEX 2011-2017, MINNEAPOLIS HAS MORE:

- recreation centers
- park units
- basketball hoops
- tennis courts
- ball diamonds
- dog parks
- park playgrounds

PER CAPITA THAN THE TARGET GOAL FOR CITIES
PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

With five major sports teams, five incredible venues (soon to be six when Allianz Field is completed in 2018) and some of the most enthusiastic sports fans on the planet, Minneapolis is a major-league town.

In spring 2010, the Minnesota Twins (MLB) scored a grand slam with their new stadium, Target Field. The 40,000-seat stadium was awarded LEED-Silver certification, making it the second Major League ballpark in the United States to achieve that status. The stadium also offers a Taste of Twins Territory featuring signature food from local restaurants and vendors.

The Minnesota Vikings (NFL) season’s kick-off brings countless Vikings fans downtown to tailgate and show their purple pride. The Vikings new home, U.S. Bank Stadium, opened the summer of 2016 on the site of the former Metrodome. The stadium has the largest ETFE roof and the five largest pivoting glass doors in the world, and is the site of the X Games (2017 & 2018), Super Bowl LII and the NCAA Men’s Final Four in 2019.

Minnesota Lynx (WNBA) four-time WNBA champions (2011, 2013, 2015), and Minnesota Timberwolves (NBA), along with concerts and other public events, keep Target Center busy year-round.

Dubbed the “State of Hockey,” it’s only fitting that Minnesota has a beautiful ice arena, the Xcel Energy Center, for the Minnesota Wild (NHL). Minnesota United was selected as an expansion team by Major League Soccer and they will play in the new Allianz Field being built in Saint Paul in 2018.

Every year, the National Sports Center in Blaine, just north of Minneapolis, plays host to many amateur baseball and professional and amateur soccer games, drawing crowds of all ages.

Revel in the summer weather at a minor league Saint Paul Saints baseball game at the open-air CHS Field. Always packed with quirky activities like mascot pig races and much more, fans are guaranteed a good time.

For college sports, the University of Minnesota is the largest university in the Minneapolis area and is known for its men’s and women’s hockey teams, which play at Mariucci Arena on campus.

DID YOU KNOW?


Gopher baseball has produced more than 32 major leaguers including Baseball Hall of Famers Dave Winfield and Paul Molitor.

GET INTO THE GAME

Inside tips for sports fans who want to make the most of a trip to Minneapolis:


Twins – Fans can get posters, bobbleheads, pennants and more for being some of the first fans at the game. Promotional items are offered at many weekend home games, so fans have plenty of chances to score team memorabilia. See Twinsbaseball.com for details.

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FAMILY FUN

Kids rule in Minneapolis, where engaging museums, thrilling amusement parks and action-packed shows keep them easily entertained.

PLAY ALL DAY
Mall of America, the largest shopping and entertainment complex in the country, engages young people with oodles of fun eateries and attractions, including Nickelodeon Universe indoor amusement park, LEGO Imagination Center, SEA LIFE Minnesota Aquarium, a stunning walk-through aquarium swimming with sea creatures and a Crayola Experience, where families can discover the magic of color. The Minnesota Zoo features exotic animals and a six-story IMAX Theatre showing 3-D adventures.

LEARN THE FUN WAY
Bustling with exhibits and events that cater to kids, the Minnesota Children’s Museum in Saint Paul is always a hit. Saint Paul’s Science Museum of Minnesota, known for its popular experiment gallery and awesome dinosaur display, excites the mind and the senses, while the ruins of a flour mill and other milling artifacts at Mill City Museum excite the imagination about Minneapolis history along the Mississippi Riverfront. Explore a grain elevator and see Prince memorabilia inside the Minnesota History Center in Saint Paul, or converse with costumed guides at several living history sites like Historic Fort Snelling.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

“Among Minneapolis’ many indoor delights: thriving arts and culinary scenes as well as the Skyway System, 11 miles’ worth of climate controlled pedestrian footbridges connecting dozens of buildings downtown.

-Frommes, 2017

WALLETHUB LISTED MINNESOTA AS 2017’S FOURTH BEST STATE TO RAISE A FAMILY.

DID YOU KNOW?

MINNEAPOLIS RANKED 10TH MOST AFFORDABLE SUMMER VACATION SPOT IN U.S.

- Trip Advisor, 2017
HAVE YOU HEARD?

“IN MINNEAPOLIS, IT’S JUST AS EASY TO SPEND A MORNING SKIPPING STONES ACROSS A LOVELY LAKE AS IT IS TO VISIT AN ACCLAIMED SCIENCE EXHIBIT. THIS FRIENDLY METROPOLIS BOASTS 22 LAKES AND 197 PARKS THAT ENTICE FAMILIES TO BIKE, HIKE, WALK, PICNIC AND FISH. THE BLEND OF URBAN PLEASURES AND ABUNDANT RECREATION MEANS YOUR FAMILY CAN EASILY ADJUST THE PACE OF YOUR VACATION DURING YOUR VISIT.”

-DisneyFamilyFun.com

MAKE YOUR MOVE
A swirling vortex of summer fun, Valleyfair! Amusement Park boasts speeding roller coasters, dizzying thrill rides and decidedly cool water attractions. Saint Paul’s Como Town offers kiddy rides and games within a lion’s roar of neighboring Como Zoo and Conservatory. Life moves more slowly on the Mississippi River, where paddlewheelers like the Minneapolis Queen cruise through history.

ON STAGE, IN ACTION
Imagination takes center stage during productions by renowned children’s theater companies, including In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Stages Theatre Company and the Tony® Award-winning Children’s Theatre Company. The Minnesota Orchestra encourages active listening with a family music program, while the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts hosts concerts, musicals and events that immerse kids in culture. On the field and on the court, Minnesota Twins baseball and Timberwolves and Lynx basketball excite fans of all ages.

GREAT EATS
Kids are valued customers at many Minneapolis restaurants, from playful theme eateries to old-fashioned malt shops. Busy families only boost the energy inside Minneapolis-born Buca di Beppo, where guests enjoy platters of family-style Italian fare and a bustling, happy atmosphere. Old Spaghetti Factory’s family friendly pricing and arcade ensure a good time for moms and dads. Mall of America feeds kids at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. among many others.
HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

RIVERFRONT DISTRICT

Minneapolis was born and thrived on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River where St. Anthony Falls fueled a lucrative flour milling industry now chronicled in one of the city’s many museums, the Mill City Museum. Built within the ruins of a 19th-century mill that was destroyed by fire, the museum overlooks Mill Ruins Park, featuring the remains of water-powered mills. Just blocks away is The Depot. Once a boarding place for trains of the Milwaukee Road Line, the renovated complex houses two hotels.

Take a walk across the Stone Arch Bridge, built in 1883, to St. Anthony Main on Main Street, a cobbledstone street lined with buildings that date back to the 1850s. Attractions on Main Street include: Magical History Tours on Segways; Our Lady of Lourdes, a French Catholic church established in 1857 that still sells French meat pies; the Ard Godfrey House, once the family residence of the Maine millwright who helped put the waterpower of St. Anthony Falls to use; and Pracna on Main, the oldest restaurant in Minneapolis.

Hit all the attractions by walking the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail, a 1.8-mile interpretive loop that crosses the Stone Arch Bridge that runs along St. Anthony Main and crosses the river again via Nicollet Island, a 19th-century residential district.

AROUND TOWN

Built in 1902, the Minneapolis Grain Exchange was the first steel structure in Minneapolis. Five years later in 1907, the grain industry was booming and the rich economy was reflected in the Basilica of St. Mary, the first basilica in the U.S. and one of the finest examples of Beaux Arts.

Some of Minneapolis’ most popular historic sites are also the homes of the city’s most notorious haunts. The tallest building in Minneapolis until 1971, the Foshay Tower (now W Minneapolis - The Foshay hotel), built in 1929 as a tribute to the Washington Monument, is rumored to be haunted by the ghost of Wilbur Foshay, while the nearby gothic Minneapolis City Hall is said to harbor the spirit of a man hanged in 1898. Although there have been no reports of the paranormal, the Lakewood Cemetery in Uptown takes visitors back through 150 years of history.

The American Swedish Institute’s lavish furnishings and interiors of the former Turnblad Mansion combined with detailed exhibits to convey the stories, traditions and culture of Scandinavia, honoring a heritage shared by many immigrants and residents. An addition in 2011 (Nelson Cultural Center) ensures this historic mansion remains relevant for another century. Also included in the long list of Minneapolis museums is the Bell Museum of Natural History, which explores the natural history of Minnesota, and the Wells Fargo History Museum, chronicling banking in the Midwest. Hennepin History Museum embraces the area’s rich historic past.

THE PAST PERSEVERES IN MINNEAPOLIS, WHERE MONUMENTS, LANDMARKS AND LIVING HISTORY SITES AWAIT GUIDED AND INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION.

MYTH BUSTER

MYTH: There is nothing to do in Minneapolis.

REALITY: Minneapolis was named one of the “Best Cities for Families” by MSN and Parenting, in part because there are so many things to do. The area boasts multitudes of museums, golf courses and theatres. And that’s not all: Nearby and in the city, there are amusement parks, race tracks, casinos and the country’s largest shopping mall. Should we go on?
THAT’S THE TICKET
Backstage tours of the city’s highly esteemed performance venues, including the Tony® Award-winning Guthrie Theater and the spectacular historic State, Orpheum and Pantages theaters, highlight what happens behind the scenes at these storied landmarks, from stagecraft to costume design to who has graced the dressing rooms.

ART FOR ALL
With renowned museums offering frequent free tours and events, it’s easy to access world-class art in Minneapolis – and just as easy to understand it! The admission-free Minneapolis Institute of Art offers fun and engaging family activities every Sunday, while the Walker Art Center features free performances, films, tours and more each Thursday and the first Saturday of the month. The 11-acre Minneapolis Sculpture Garden encourages leisurely art appreciation in the great outdoors, and is always free.

RIDING THE RAILS ... AND MORE
Riverboat, kayak, scenic railway – you name it, you can ride it, while learning more about the area than you ever imagined. The Minnesota Transportation Museum moves visitors in many ways with its restored streetcar line and classic buses. Experience the Mississippi Riverfront area aboard the Minneapolis Queen, a stately paddlewheeler or, for a truly unique experience, sightsee on a two-wheeled Segway, in a kayak led by Above the Falls Sports, on a bike by Nice Ride Minnesota, or one of the many running, food or fitness-themed tours available in the City by Nature.
Three historic river towns offer memorable shopping, dining and recreation within an hour of Minneapolis. Nestled in the bluffs of the St. Croix River, one of America’s wild and scenic waterways, Stillwater has a charming Main Street lined with antique shops, art galleries and romantic bed-and-breakfast inns. Further upstream, the quaint city of Taylors Falls overlooks a steep gorge of bedrock, around which an idyllic state park and downhill ski area create a recreation haven. Sixty miles south of Minneapolis, Red Wing (of Red Wing Shoes fame) bustles along the Mississippi River, offering measurable charm and Victorian ambiance, as well as unique shopping. All three cities offer historic and contemporary attractions ranging from river cruises to hot air balloon rides.

Minnesota’s rugged North Shore region follows the western edge of Lake Superior, the world’s largest freshwater lake and an unparalleled source of outdoor recreation and scenic beauty. Mountain biking and downhill skiing make Lutsen Mountain an all-season attraction, while fishing, sailing and kayaking are Lake Superior favorites. The 200-mile Superior Hiking Trail offers lodge-to-lodge hiking and cross-country skiing.

Further north, the historic Gunflint Trail leads to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), one of the largest and most heavily used wilderness areas in the country. This unique landscape creates a scenic border between the U.S. and Canada and offers 1,200 miles of canoe routes, some 2,000 campsites and hundreds of lakes and rivers. State parks within and around the metro get visitors back to nature quickly.
DOWNTOWN

Hotels in the city’s vibrant core are comfortable, convenient and friendly. They’re also steps from theater, entertainment, shopping and dining. More than 5,600 hotel rooms offer weather-proof access to the Convention Center and other destinations via the city’s famous skyway system. Here are just a few of the cozy options available to you:

UPSCALE OFFERINGS

Loews Hotel Minneapolis – Rising 21 stories above First Ave, the high-tech property reaches new heights in luxury accommodations. European-style guest rooms display commissioned artworks, plasma TVs and spa-worthy amenities, while world-class cuisine feeds a sophisticated clientele.

Marquette Hotel – Posh details, including feather pillows and Egyptian cotton linens, bring first-class comfort to this newly renovated hotel, known for its deluxe oversized guest rooms and guaranteed five-star service. The Marquette also boasts a convenient, memorable location inside the distinctive IDS building, the tallest in Minneapolis.

Grand Hotel Minneapolis- A Kimpton Hotel - An oasis of casual elegance since 1915, the Grand Hotel is considered the city’s finest social, business and athletic club. A Lifetime Athletic club, pet-friendly policies and programs like Kimpton Kids make this hotel unique and worth a visit. Renovated in 2011, the contemporary furnishings set it apart from other historic hotels.

Le Meridien Chambers Minneapolis – Like its Big Apple counterpart, the Minneapolis location of this sleek boutique hotel feels like a luxury residence, complete with original artworks in the highly refined interiors and Mercy Bar & Dining Room, which features seasonal fare focused on food and family.

FULL-SERVICE FAVORITES

Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot – The historic building draws visitors to the renovated Milwaukee Road Depot, a Riverfront District relic that also houses two hotels, a restaurant and a cocktail lounge.

Hilton Minneapolis – The city’s largest hotel was renovated in 2017 and is complete with a modern and sophisticated lobby, swimming pool, health club, restaurants and shops, spans a full city block, equally accommodating business travelers, families and conventioneers.
**DISCOUNTS & BARGAINS**

Get the best deals guaranteed. Go to www.go.minneapolis.org to build a customized travel package that includes hotel, attractions and more.

Itineraries and deals change regularly, so always check before a visit to Minneapolis.

**MIDTOWN SOPHISTICATES**

**Minneapolis Marriott City Center** – Soaring 31 floors above downtown, this upscale hotel attached to City Center features bi-level suites with stunning views of downtown Minneapolis and a restaurant serving Midwestern fare.

**Radisson Blu Minneapolis Downtown** – The Radisson’s spacious rooms and suites are complemented by a health club, 24-hour business center and concierge service, a FireLake Grill and convenient skyway access.

**METROPOLITAN ACCOMMODATIONS**

Many of the area’s more than 41,000 hotel rooms are located near Mall of America and the Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport, just minutes from downtown Minneapolis with nearby METRO Blue Line access.

**CERTAINLY NOTEWORTHY**

**The Saint Paul Hotel** – Built in 1910, this historic gem pairs Old World class and first-class service on the edge of charming Rice Park, across from the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts and venerable Landmark Center in Saint Paul.

**Hotel Minneapolis, Autograph Collection by Marriott**

The Hotel Minneapolis offers a stylish and affordable stay right in the heart of downtown Minneapolis. Dining at restaurant Max or a cocktail at the lobby bar top off a stay at this sophisticated and comfortable hotel.

**W Minneapolis - The Foshay**

The Foshay Tower, long the tallest skyscraper between Chicago and the west coast, experienced a makeover, becoming the W Minneapolis - The Foshay. The structure kept its art deco look with marble, terrazzo, etched glass and observation deck and gained 229 luxurious rooms.

**WINNING ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel** – Located 30 minutes south of Minneapolis, the country’s second-largest Native American gaming and entertainment facility successfully blends Las Vegas-style attractions and Midwestern hospitality.

**Treasure Island Resort & Casino** – This Caribbean-themed destination, situated in the limestone bluffs of southern Minnesota about an hour south of Minneapolis, features continuous gaming activity, live entertainment and a pool with waterfalls.

**PROGRESS & PRESERVATION**

The W Minneapolis—Foshay isn’t the only hotel to be created in the shell of a historic building. The Westin Minneapolis hotel opened in the old Farmers & Mechanics Bank building in 2007. Le Meridien Chambers Minneapolis took up residence in the long-vacant Fairmont Hotel. In Minneapolis, progress and preservation co-exist.
COMING & GOING

Easy to get to and even easier to get around, Minneapolis is one of America’s most accessible cities.

Located between both coasts, Minneapolis is a destination that’s central for everyone and a hub city. The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is the 16th busiest airport in the U.S. and a Delta Air Lines hub. The city’s highly lauded METRO Green and Blue Line systems ensure the city is not only easy to fly into, but easy to navigate.

GETTING AROUND

Less than a three-hour flight from most U.S. cities and just minutes from downtown with access to the METRO Blue Line, the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) is served by 13 commercial passenger airlines at two terminals. A hub of Delta Air Lines, MSP connects Minneapolis to nearly 800 cities in 120 countries. In addition, major freeways in all directions plus ample bus and train service, make getting around a snap!

BOARD THE TRAIN

Metro Transit’s light rail transit METRO Blue Line connects downtown Minneapolis with the airport and Mall of America. Conveniently serving several stations, including Target Field and Nicollet, along the route passengers can easily get to and from all of the area’s popular destinations. The METRO Green Line connects visitors to Saint Paul. The route takes riders past the State Capitol to Union Depot where the Amtrak station is situated.

RIDE THE BUS

Metro Transit, which annually provides 70 million bus trips, offers a handy, low-cost way to get around. Fares range from $0.50 to $3.25, depending on time of day and route. Take a bus up and down Nicollet Mall and to the Minneapolis Convention Center for free; simply watch for the “Free Ride Bus” sign.

CATCH A CAB

Taxi service is available anywhere in the metro area. Catch a taxi at the Minneapolis Convention Center and any hotel, or call ahead for service.

CAR SHARING

VISITORS AND MINNEAPOLITANS ALL AROUND ALSO USE UBER, LYFT, HOURCAR AND ZIPCAR TO GET AROUND THE CITY. ANOTHER CHEAP ALTERNATIVE IS METRO TRANSIT BUSES, WHERE ON CERTAIN HOLIDAYS SUCH AS ST. PATRICK’S DAY AND NEW YEAR’S EVE, THEY OFFER FREE RIDES TO PATRONS.
**HAVE YOU HEARD?**

Convene Magazine noted, “GETTING AROUND MINNEAPOLIS COULDN’T BE EASIER, NO MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER.”

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**TRY THE SKYWAY**

Downtown Minneapolis has a unique skyway system, located one floor above ground, offering enclosed travel between buildings. More than eight miles of glass-enclosed walkways connect hotels, shopping, sports and entertainment venues, restaurants and parking ramps, which means pedestrians can travel in climate-controlled bliss.

**PARKING**

There are more than 65,000 parking spaces in downtown Minneapolis. Street parking requires change or a credit card for meters, which have varying rates, limits and time restrictions. Ramps and lots, which run $7 to $30 a day, provide convenient parking spaces. Mall of America offers ample free parking, as well.

**MYTH BUSTER**

**MYTH:**
Minneapolis is flat, dull and small — basically it’s flyover country.

**REALITY:**
Minneapolis is about as geographically centralized as you can get. In fact, it is one of the most accessible cities in the country because it’s a hub of Delta Air Lines, one of the world’s largest airlines. However, when you get here, you’ll find the 16th-largest metropolitan area in the nation — home to about 3.5 million residents. Lakes, trees and the mightiest river in the country decorate Minneapolis’ landscape, a true City by Nature.
Des Moines, IA - 4 hours
Madison, WI - 4.5 hours
Sioux Falls, SD - 4 hours
Omaha, NE - 6 hours
Chicago, IL - 6 hours
Grand Forks, ND - 4.75 hours

APPROXIMATE FLIGHT TIMES IN HOURS TO MINNEAPOLIS

METRO & BUS FARES*
$0.50 to $3 Bus fare in the metro area
$2.00 to $2.50 METRO fare on Blue and Green Lines

CAB FARES*
MSP International Airport to downtown Minneapolis: $35-45
Within downtown Minneapolis: $5-10
Downtown Minneapolis to downtown Saint Paul: $30
Downtown Minneapolis to Mall of America: $40

*All fares are approximate