

Southern MINNESOTA

2020 TRAVEL GUIDE
ExploreSouthernMinnesota.com

4
UNIQUE
Seasons
& REGIONS



SO
MN
naturally different[®]

THE PLACES *You'll Go*



In this charming community you will discover acres of natural beauty; experience the rich history of the past; enjoy sophisticated eateries or hometown cooking; revel in world-class art and entertainment; meet challenges of outdoor adventure; celebrate with scores of special events; and find delight in the always charming shops on Main.

- Experience 4,500 nutcrackers at the History Center...it's jaw-dropping
- Explore more than 2,500 acres of Northern Tallgrass Prairie Refuge at Blue Mounds State Park and Touch the Sky Prairie
- Uncover the stories of heroes and heroines at the Herreid Military Museum, History Center and visit Hinkly House
- Enjoy great entertainment at the Historic Palace Theatre or Verne Drive In Theater
- Experience art like never before at the Brandenburg Gallery, Coffey Contemporary Arts and Deuschle Studios
- Step out of your comfort zone – climb the Blue Mounds Cliffline, paddle down the Rock River Water Trail or sky-diving at Quentin Aanenson Airfield
- Pedal the Luverne LOOP and Blue Mound Trail
- Quench your thirst at Take 16 and savor the flavors at The Bluestem or Sterling's Café & Grille
- Experience moments you'll never forget and places to gather with friends...enjoy all Luverne has to offer

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BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK



PIPESTONE CIVIL WAR DAYS



NEW ULM FESTIVAL



On the Cover

There is so much to do in Southern Minnesota! Camp at Blue Mounds State Park, peruse the Henderson Classic Car Roll-In, bike near Lanesboro and ice fish in Lake City.

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m EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

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ON THE COVER: JIM HENDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY; LAKE CITY; EXPLORE MINNESOTA; CITY OF HENDERSON

The Louvre of the Midwest in the Miami of Minnesota

no, really.
Come play here. It's fun.



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MINNESOTA

SURPRISINGLY WEIRD

www.visitwinona.com

THIS IS HOW WE DO SOMN

Whether you're planning a road trip with your college roommates, celebrating a milestone birthday with your grandma, an anniversary with your sweetheart, or looking for ways to entertain your kids, we've got one thing to say: take 'em to SOMN. From wine tasting to cave exploration, and art festivals to waterparks, there's a reason for you to visit SOMN every season of the year. Here are a few of our recommendations:



CANNON LAKE, FARIBAUT

SEE IT

- Stand tall with Hermann the German
- Interpret the Jeffers Petroglyphs

DO IT

- Kayak the Fairmont Chain of Lakes
- Go trout fishing at Whitewater State Park

TASTE IT

- Sink your teeth into a Tendermaid Sandwich
- Savor the Hopzophrenia IPA at Lost Sanity Brewing

EXPERIENCE IT

- Attend the Wacipi at Treasure Island
- Soar like an eagle on the Kerfoot Canopy Tour

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA 2020 TRAVEL GUIDE

IN COOPERATION WITH
**SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
TOURISM ASSOCIATION AND
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Calendar



TOUR DE PEPIN, LAKE CITY



HENDERSON ROLL-IN

Your Can't-Miss-It List

- ☐ FARMERS MARKETS
- ☐ CRAFT MARKET
- ☐ YOGA IN THE PARK
- ☐ PIZZA ON THE FARM
- ☐ CANDLELIGHT SKI
- ☐ COUNTY FAIR
- ☐ FASHION SHOW
- ☐ SIGN UP FOR THAT RACE!
- ☐ WACIPI
- ☐ DINNER CRUISE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: BEN THREINEN; HENDERSON, MN

Here's a taste OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN SOMN THIS YEAR.
FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.EXPLOREMINNESOTA.COM.



WINTER

Southern Minnesota
Pond Hockey Championship

—
Caledonia
Hot Air Balloon Launch

—
Worthington
Winterfest

—
Lac Qui Parle
Ice Fishing Tournament



SPRING

Lake City
Tour de Pepin

—
LeSueur
Pioneer Power Show & Swap Meet

—
Mankato
Raw Fusion Fashion Show

—
Odin
Craft Mill Sale



SUMMER

Pipestone
Civil War Days

—
Henderson
Roll-In

—
Winona
Shakespeare Festival

—
Austin
Artworks Festival



FALL

MN River Valley
Meander Art Crawl

—
Jackson
Prairie Winds Kite Fly

—
Northfield
Defeat of Jesse James Days

—
Bluff Country
Taste of the Root River Trail



Winter

Embrace the natural beauty and charming traditions of the Southern Minnesota winter. With stunning landscapes, cozy nooks, food, drink, and activities to nourish the mind, body and soul, SOMN will have you saying goodbye to the below-zero blues and hello to earmuffs and evergreens.



SNOWMOBILING, FAIRMONT

Discover It!



Explore **EAGLES NEST COUNTY PARK** or **ST. JAMES MEMORIAL PARK** this winter. Free use of youth and adult snowshoes can be checked out at the Super 8 by Wyndam Hotel of St. James.

ACTIVE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES & DESTINATIONS

Unique experiences will have you pondering nature in a whole new way.

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center:

With groomed cross country skiing and snowshoeing trails, an engaging interpretive center, and winter woodland and prairie scenes, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center in Austin will be an enriching destination for the whole family this winter.

City of Winona Ice Park:

Converted from a bluff, this ice climbing park in Winona is one of the few in the nation. Start at the bottom of the bluff with snowshoes, then work your way up. The unique nature of ice climbing, with constantly changing shape, form and texture of the ice, makes for a newly challenging experience each visit.

Ney Nature Center:

Located just outside the town of Henderson, the whole family will enjoy participating in the Christmas bird count, orienteering, or geocaching. Rent cross-country skis and snowshoes and stretch out on the groomed winter trails. While exploring the Pond Trail and the Prairie Loop, you can search for animal tracks, including deer, turkey, mink, and coyote. Stop by the 1850s farmstead site including the Ney Family log cabin.

Horse Barn & Hunt Club:

Enjoy the best of two worlds at this local favorite in Lakefield, where you can relax next to the cozy stone fireplace after a day of play on the sporting clays range or while out pheasant hunting. Finish the day with delicious steak, seafood and drinks.

Winter Celebrations

The world is your snowball! Get festive with choreographed light shows, local merchants, and horse-drawn carriage rides.

Sparks of joy and wonder abound at the **Kiwanis Holiday Lights Festival**, with lighted tunnels, live reindeer and more fun at Mankato's Sibley Park.

Sleepy Eye Holiday Lights in Motion at Sportman's Park will bring out your holiday spirit with 85 decorated trees choreographed to music and horse & carriage rides.

The day after Thanksgiving, get your celebration started at the **Red Wing Holiday Stroll**, where you can meet Santa & Mrs. Claus, see baby reindeer, watch fireworks, get a head start on shopping, and marvel at the lighted parade.

At the **Blue Earth Holiday Sampler**, local businesses light up the town with festive luminaries, and a small merchant sampler takes place at the Senior Center. Shop 'til you drop, then jump on a horse-drawn trolley and get your picture taken with Santa & Mrs. Claus.



PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY!

ROOT RIVER TRAIL TOWNS



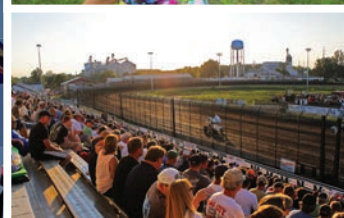
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SNOW SPORTS

Ski, snowshoe, bike, board, hike, slide, ice-climb, hot chocolate, repeat.
Layer up and get out there--winter is calling you.

Downhill

Mount Kato in Mankato offers downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing. Plan a tubing party and get some air in the terrain park.

Welch Village has 45 inches of average annual snowfall. Explore this 140-acre park, a community favorite since 1965 with 60 trails and a summit reaching 1060 feet.

Cross Country Skiing

With year-round camper cabins, diverse wildlife, migrating waterfowl, and courses ranging from beginner to advanced, make SOMN your next XC ski destination.

Flandrau State Park has 6 miles of groomed cross country ski trails, a warming house, and views of the Big Cottonwood River. Ski on flat trails in the valley or challenging routes through oak bluffs. Stop at the historic stone buildings and learn about the history of the area.

For candlelight skiing events, visit the **Minnesota DNR** website and search "candlelight" to get the latest information about events at many state parks and trails throughout the winter.

Eagle's Nest County Park along the south fork of the Watonwan river near St. James boasts 80 acres of wooded and scenic recreation areas, including over a mile of trails.



CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK

Kaplan's Woods Park in Owatonna has 7 miles of trails ranging from easy to intermediate. Discover Lake Kholmire and the Straight River while you're out exploring.

Snowshoeing

Take part in this traditional Minnesotan activity this season! Rent or buy equipment from a SOMN vendor.

Snowshoe anywhere in **Camden State Park** and watch for whitetail deer. Snowshoe rental available.

Minneopa State Park, established in 1905, offers snowshoe rental and camper cabins with year-round use. Find the frozen Minneopa Creek waterfalls, which is Dakota for "water falling twice."

In **Sakatah Lake State Park**, snowshoe through maple and basswood forests, and on Big Woods Trail. Sakatah means "the singing hills."

Frontenac State Park has 4.7 miles of un-groomed snowshoe trails, or you can blaze your own trail. Enjoy the warming house, sliding hill, and Lake Pepin. Look for bald eagles and see the natural limestone arch on the blufftop called In-Yan-Teopa, Dakota for "rock with opening."

Snowmobiling

Sleddin', snowmachinin' or ski-dooiin', whatever you call it, SOMN has a slammin' snowmobiling scene and is unmatched in trail and terrain opportunities.

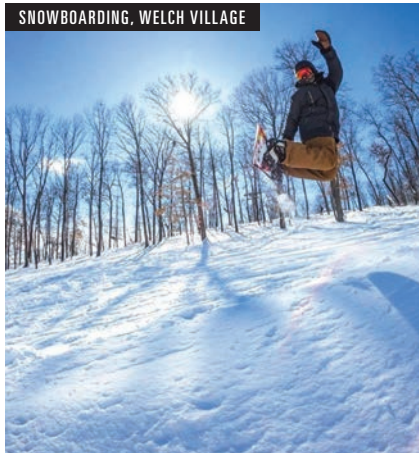
Lake Shetek State Park offers 5 miles of groomed trails, connecting to the Murray County trail system. Trails wind through woodlands and prairies, and the park contains a unique stone warming house and four heated camper cabins available year round.

In Big Stone County, check out **Ron's Snowmobile Museum** in Hector. Tours by appointment only. Call 320-979-5713 to schedule your visit.

Ride the world-class, 47-mile **Goodhue Pioneer State Trail**, connecting Red Wing to Zumbrota through charming small towns, forest, river valley, and prairie.

Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail runs from Faribault to Mankato, and within Sakatah Lake State Park you'll enjoy groomed trails and appreciate the beautiful lake, a natural widening of the Cannon River.

SNOWBOARDING, WELCH VILLAGE

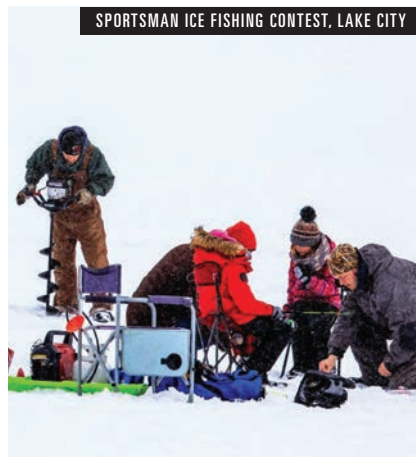




ICE HOCKEY, MANKATO



SNOWMOBILING, NEW ULM



SPORTSMAN ICE FISHING CONTEST, LAKE CITY

Ice Fishing

More and more ice anglers regard SOMN as a top destination for winter fishing. Tackle up, grab a buddy, and see for yourself at one of our dozens of winter fishing locations.

→ **Fountain Lake** in Albert Lea is a shallow, 521-acre body of water with northern pike, walleye, crappie, yellow perch, catfish and largemouth bass. This lake is located at the headwaters of the Shell Rock River and has several bays.

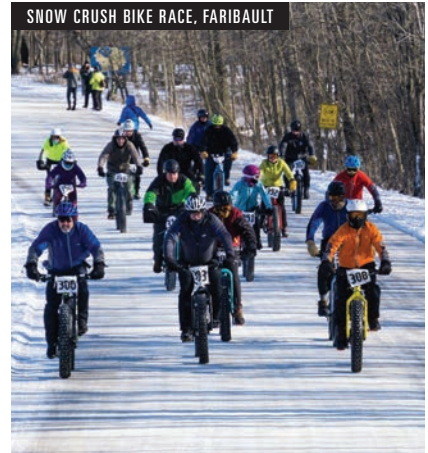
→ Impressive **Lake Shetek**, 3,596 acres in size, with 5 public access entries, boasts walleye, crappie, pike and perch. Try ice fishing on a weekday to take advantage of lighter fishing pressure.

→ At **Washington Lake**, located 10 miles northeast of Mankato, explore 1,519 acres of winter water with 2 public access entries. Walleye, bluegill, crappie and other species have been found in the lake. Try using a jig tipped with a wax worm.

→ For winter river fishing, give the **Mississippi River backwaters** a try. From Red Wing to Winona, there are public access points within each city. Fish for sunfish, crappie, perch, and pike. Try moving around and exploring with a tear-drop jig with a wax worm or minnow.



SNOW CRUSH BIKE RACE, FARIBAULT



Winter Fat Tire Biking

Polar off-road cycling experiences abound in SOMN's parks and trails, and there are plenty of cozy places to thaw out and curl up by a fire after your day on the trails.

Set off from the town of Marshall and ride the **Camden Regional Trail** to **Camden State Park**. Once in the park, you will enjoy 4.25 miles of mountain biking trails with views of the **Redwood River** and **Browner Lake**.

Begin at **Lakeside Park** in Ortonville, where you will find your way to the **Minnesota River State Trail**, 12.3 miles of asphalt and dirt surfaces.

Pedal on at the **Riverbend Nature Center** in Faribault, with 10 miles of biking trails and a year-round interpretive center great for warming up and learning about the area's natural features and history.

In Winona, the **Bronk Unit Plowline Trail** within the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest offers 6.5 miles of groomed fat biking trails with beautiful views and a scenic overlook of a 500-foot rise in the landscape.



Treat Yourself!

The **SLAYTON BEAUTY SHOP & SWEDISH MASSAGE** will have you looking and feeling your best in no time. Pamper yourself with a mani-pedi, massage, and other treatments for the mind, body and soul at the full service salon.



GALLERY 512 BOUTIQUE, NEW ULM

Retail Therapy

See it, want it, buy it.

Find inspiration for your wardrobe, home, and oh yeah, those gifts under the tree.

Rochester's Shops at University Square offer variety and quality. Check out Chocolate Oasis, specializing in truffles and confections, and Counterpoint's collection of contemporary design and lifestyle goods.

Kristi's Boutique in Owatonna, a community favorite since 1996, beckons you inside with its beautiful storefront. Look and feel your best with the help of dedicated stylists.

At **Gallery 512 Boutique** in New Ulm and Mankato, you'll discover accessories, gifts, and apparel to treat yourself or give to a loved one. Explore the collection of beauty & bath products, as well as tea, candles, oil diffusers and more.

Get inspired and transform your space at **Dragonfly** in Luverne. The curated selection of furniture, lighting, and other home goods is as unique as you are.



CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN MINNESOTA, MANKATO

Transformational Travel

Listen, learn, experience, explore. For curious travelers, SOMN offers countless enrichment opportunities in the arts, culture and history.

The **Pipestone Performing Arts Center**, located in the historic district of Pipestone, is housed within a Sioux Quartzite Building dating back to 1897. Catch resident groups like the Al Opland Singers and the Calumet Players, or check the events page on their website.

Take the whole family to the **Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota** in Mankato where you can play in the AgLab, Alltech Farm, indoor climbing areas, quarry, and Imagineering Loft.

Waseca Arts Center's rotating gallery of art, as well as its permanent collection, is a perfect place to reflect and ponder artistic expression. The center offers classes for all ages and a gift shop. Admission is free.

Learn about the history of **Lake City**, the birthplace of water skiing! Lake City's historic City Hall, Museum, & Ballroom feature 1899 construction and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Explore the museum, located on the second floor of city hall, and discover historic photos and artifacts.



Sleep on it!

Relax your worries away at **WINONA'S HISTORIC ALEXANDER MANSION BED & BREAKFAST**.

Unwind with an afternoon glass of wine upon your arrival, then relax by the antique fireplace and window seat looking over the gardens. Wake up to a five course gourmet breakfast and get ready to enjoy your day in beautiful Winona.

Taste it!



Taste it! BLUEBIRD BAKERY in Faribault features jar cakes, cupcakes, rolls, scones, coffee and cookies. Kids can sign up for a pastry decorating workshop, and groups of all ages can register for a cake decorating party.

Photo Stops

Create your own holiday greeting cards with a selfie from one of these breathtaking locations.

From the summit of Mount Kato: Show off your adventurous spirit atop this ski and snowboarding destination.

Frozen waterfalls at Big Woods State Park: Stop time and make memories beside this spectacular winter phenomenon.

Winter Hot Air Balloon Launch in Caledonia: The winter sky becomes colorful and whimsical with hot air balloons traveling in all different directions. Snap your picture from the ground below to lock in the memories.

Arli-Dazzle Parade in Arlington: Dress up in your festive best and get some fun shots at one of the largest lighted holiday parades in the state!



WINTER HOT AIR BALLOON LAUNCH, CALEDONIA



La Crescent, MN EVENTS

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EXPLORE MINNESOTA

Scheduled Events

BLOCK PARTY ON MAIN
Saturday, June 27

ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE
Thursday, July 16

LIZFEST & APPLE BLOSSOM BIKE TOUR
Saturday, August 1

COMMUNITY RUMMAGE SALE
Saturday, September 5

72nd ANNUAL APPLE FESTIVAL
September 17-20

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW, CAR SHOW, & FLEA MARKET
Saturday, September 19

FLEA MARKET AND KING APPLE PARADE
Sunday, September 20

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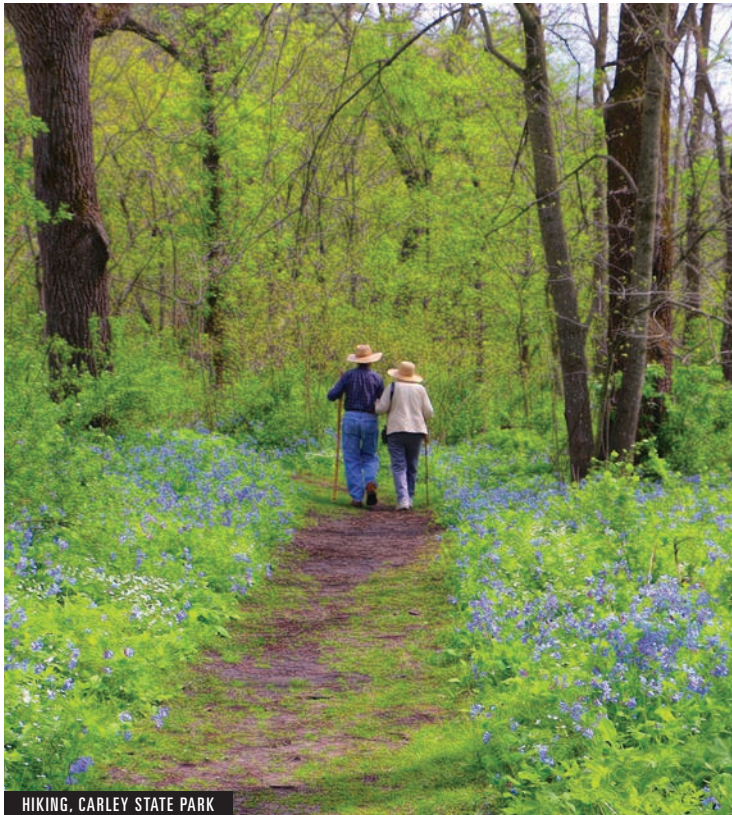
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DESTINATION DATE NIGHT

It's time to get away. For newlyweds, golden anniversaries, parents-to-be and everyone in between, SOMN is full of destinations to relax, unwind, dress up, wine and dine, and create new memories together.



HIKING, CARLEY STATE PARK



ANTIQUING, ROCHESTER



CANNON RIVER WINERY, CANNON FALLS



SCANLAN HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST, LANESBORO



SIGNATURES RESTAURANT, WINONA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: EXPLORE MINNESOTA; VISIT WINONA

Date night:

At Signatures Restaurant & Event Center in Winona, enjoy seasonal menus, play 9 or 18 holes at the adjoining Bridges Golf Course, browse autographed memorabilia, stroll through the chef's garden, and enjoy live music, patio seating, and a wine and canvas painting class.

A weekend away:

The Historic Dayton House in Worthington is a sun-filled 1890s Victorian-style home with modern luxuries. Munch on pastries, fruit, and coffee, then set out for your day in Worthington with a historic walking tour, Memorial Auditorium, Lake Okabena & adjoining parks. Grab dinner at local favorite Lupita's Grill.

Babymoon:

Take some time for yourselves at Archer House Inn in Northfield, an architectural landmark. Built in the French Second Empire style, the house is equipped with on-site full service restaurants, premium bedding, and additional amenities. Walk along the Cannon River and meander through the Carleton College Arboretum. For dinner, try Chapati for traditional and modern Indian cuisine and grab a sweet treat from Cakewalk. Stop by Paper Petalum to plan your birth announcements, and Monarch Gift Shop for luxury bath & body products to relax before bringing baby home.

Adventurous Anniversaries:

Make your own wine at Headwater's Jailhouse Winery in Ortonville, then challenge each other with a round of golf at Ortonville Golf Course. Explore Big Stone Lake State Park where you can birdwatch, hike the trails, and pitch your tent for the night, then wake up with a fresh brew at 2nd Street Café & Coffeehouse.

GIANT

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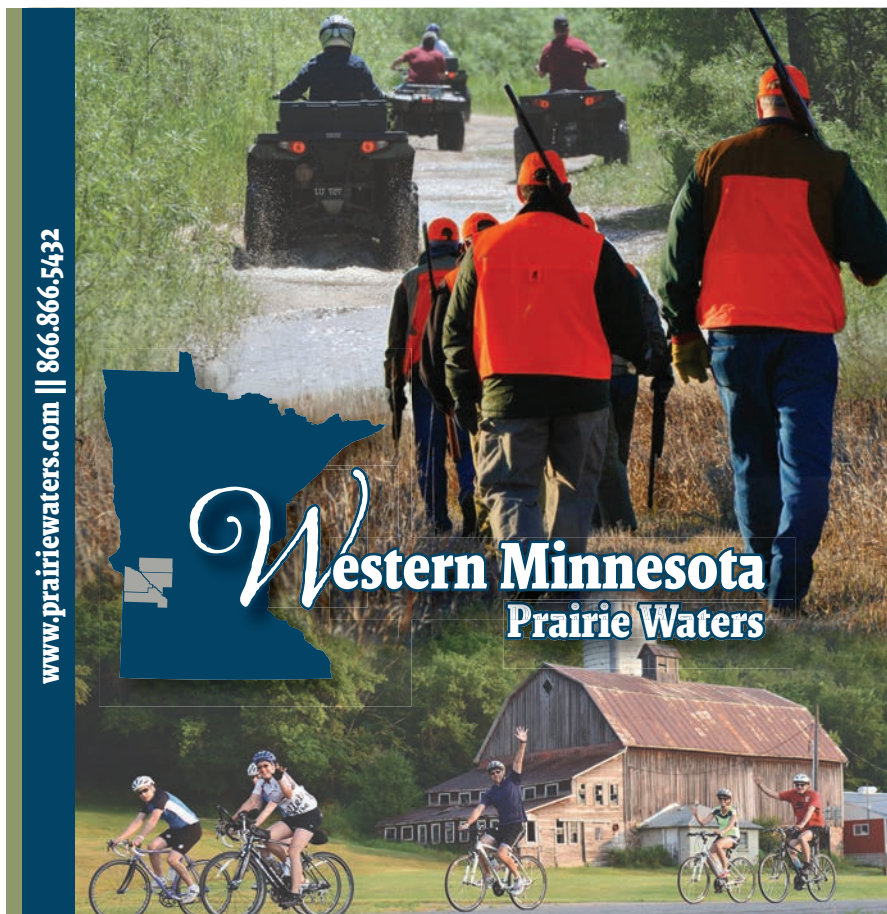


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Spring

The world is waking up and is ready to refresh and inspire you. This spring, everything is new. From innovative fashion design and active adventures to farm-to-table meals and rooftops just opened for the season, spring is your time to air out and breathe.



RED JACKET TRAIL, MANKATO

STRETCH OUT

Time to lace up the sneakers, breathe some fresh spring air, and get active! Pedal, hike, swing and throw this spring on SOMN's trails, golf courses and disc golf courses.

Try your hand at disc golf this spring at **Cedar Creek Disc Golf** in Fairmont, with three 18-hole courses. Since 1996, Cedar Creek has offered fun for disc golfers, from beginners to experts and everyone in between.

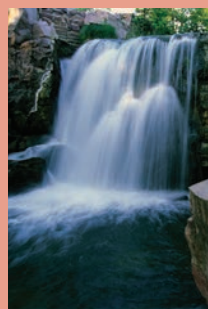
Work up a sweat on the **Schindler's Way** mountain bike trail in Austin, named for the athlete who developed the trail.

At **Ramsey Park** in Redwood Falls, walk the beautiful trails and check out the interesting water features within the park. Pack a picnic and stay the day!

Hike 4.5 miles at **Minneopa State Park** while listening to the sounds of the falls. Your path will take you on a limestone stairway and will lead you to breathtaking views of the valley.

Loon Lake Golf Course is a 9-hole, public course where kids 10 and under with an adult golf for free. Enjoy the full bar and kitchen!

Hike the paved **Circle Trail** at the Pipestone National Monument in about an hour. See pipestone quarries, Winnewissa Falls, native grasses, and historical markers including Old Stone Face and the Oracle.



Explore It!

Hike toward impressive **WINNEWISSA FALLS** at **PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and learn about the unique natural history of the area.

Try downhill mountain biking at **Welch Village** ski resort, the only chairlift-served mountain bike park around! The six trails with names like "Joy Ride," and "Air Bear," range from gentle to advanced, and bike rentals are available.

The **Jewel Golf Club** in Lake City was designed by Hale Irwin, three-time winner of the U.S. Open. All abilities welcome! Explore the 800 acres of variable terrain.

Visit the Redwood Area

Redwood Falls Aquatic Center



Ramsey Park



Redwood Area Chamber & Tourism
200 S. Mill St. Redwood Falls, MN 56283
507-637-2828
redwoodfalls.org
chamber@redwoodfalls.org



Redwood Area Community Center
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Our Farms, Your Table

Pick your own berries, hunt for legendary mushrooms, and enjoy the best of the season at local markets, all while learning about SOMN's bustling agricultural tourism.

At the **St. Peter farmer's market** purchase honey sticks, fresh-cut flowers and farm-fresh eggs, jams, breads, pickles & veggies. Find it at the corner of Mulberry Street and Minnesota Avenue.

Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm offers a dining experience like no other! Just outside of Waseca, you can order brick-oven pizza with farm-fresh toppings. Bring your own chairs, beverages and utensils, then enjoy delicious pizza and breathtaking views of the 50-acre farm.

Hunt for **morel mushrooms** in southeastern Minnesota. 2019 morel sightings included **Winona, Chatfield, and Lanesboro**. Look in woodlands, under and around decaying elm, ash, poplar and apple trees, as well as on south-facing slopes.

Berry up this spring at **Lorence's Berry Farm in Northfield**, where you can pick your own strawberries. Then head over to **River Bend Nature Center** to take part in maple tree tapping and learn how this traditional northern sweet syrup is made.



EAT OUT (& AIR OUT)

Take advantage of spring arriving earlier in SOMN! Soak up the beautiful sunshine, great views, and fresh air along with delicious flavors from this region's top patio & rooftops dining venues.

→ Settle in at the **Lake House on Pepin in Lake City**. Sip on a specialty cocktail while taking in the tranquil views of the lake.

→ The **Marina Lodge in Fairmont** sits on Lake Sisseton, and has a fun tiki bar, live music, grill, and lawn games including hammerschlagen.

→ At the **Grandview Valley Winery in Belview**, guests come from near and far for the patio eating at the vineyard, made-from-scratch pizza, and picturesque Minnesota River Valley landscape.

→ Sit on the airy patio at the **Bergen Bar & Grill in Bergen**, and sink your teeth into prime rib and shrimp.



Buy it!

At the **CHEESE CAVE IN FARIBAULT**, take a virtual tour of the cheese caves and taste away at the cheese shop, home of America's first blue cheese.



Taste it!

The **SLEEPY EYE COFFEE CO** and **SLEEPY EYE BREWING CO** are brand new additions to the small town of Sleepy Eye! Try their made-from-scratch breakfast and lunch items. Get there early if you want to try their cinnamon rolls – they sell out!



RIVERWALK MARKET FAIR, NORTHFIELD



MEANDER ART CRAWL, MN RIVER VALLEY



MARINE ART MUSEUM, WINONA

Artsy

Listen, watch and appreciate the performing and fine arts in diverse venues, or dig in and get creative (and maybe a little messy) doing some crafting and art-making of your own.

Take off on the **City Art Walking Sculpture Tour in Mankato**, then check out the **Quilt Show in New Ulm** at the city's event center, which includes more than 400 quilts, vendors, and demonstrations. Don't miss the **RAW Fusion Fashion Show in Mankato** where contestants show off designs made from raw building materials.

The **Odin Craft Mill** is a destination for handmade, one-of-a-kind items. Crafters display their work in a 1923 feed mill for spring, fall and holiday shows. The **Nobles County Art Center in Worthington** features a gallery of rotating artists, workshops, art sales, and gallery talks. At Shellee's Greenhouse in Madelia, embellish a mason jar with succulents, take a kitchen garden class, and shop for plants, accessories and gifts.

The celebrated **Minnesota Marine Art Museum in Winona** boasts art inspired by water including pieces by Monet, Picasso, and tours tailored for all ages. Catch a concert at the **Oak Center General Store** on Highway 63 whose amazing 100-year-old community hall acoustics pair amazingly with organic popcorn and home-made cookies.

Explore the Northfield Arts Guild, made up of 4 locations including the **Center for the Arts, Arts Guild Theater, Gift Shop, and Galleries**, including classes and a concert series. Also visit the **Little Theatre of Owatonna**, a community theater since 1966, has produced over 200 plays, promoting cultural and artistic exploration and expression.

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HUNTING NEAR NEW ULM

WILDLIFE, FISHING, & HUNTING

Follow tracks, watch for rare birds, and participate in the spring hunting traditions of SOMN. Just gear up and get out there.

Mississippi Bluff Country will be this season's trout fishing destination! Make sure to stop at the **National Trout Center in Preston**, which educates visitors about the environmental conservation and the fish's cultural importance, as well as the unique characteristics of the Driftless (unglaciated) Area. Next, try out SOMN's new way to fish, with the **Minnesota Trout Association's 9-hole Fishing Course** winding along the South Branch Root River. Brook, brown, and rainbow trout can be found and changes in river flow characteristics keep the challenge interesting for anglers. For more world-class trout fishing, visit the spring-fed streams at **Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park**. Stay in a camper-cabin and visit historic Forestville's 1800s village and trade center.

Make **Austin** your home base for pheasant hunting this season. Set out on a peaceful prairie walk in search of this upland bird,

then enjoy a bite to eat in town and share your best hunting stories over a beer with friends.

Spot wood ducks and herons along the Des Moines River in **Kilen Woods State Park**, then cast a line for walleye, northern, catfish and bullhead.

For spring turkey hunting, make your way to **Watson Hunting Camp & Bar**. Located on Lac qui Parle and the Minnesota River, experience a hunting adventure with private land access as well as great spring fishing. Go birding at **Salt Lake** near the town of **Marietta**. From atop the viewing platform, try to spot non-native species as they stop over on their way to the coast.

Practice archery at **Saratoga Archery Club**, a family-friendly destination with roots in the community since the 1950s. Archery ranges meander through oak forests and along the Cottonwood River.

Reel It In

Round up your friends, or go solo. SOMN has you covered for fishing gear and tackle, dozens of lakes and rivers for endless time on the water, and an amazing diversity of species to write home about.

→ In Wabasha, cast a line for walleye and largemouth bass on the **Mississippi River** and Robinson Lake and stop by Reads Landing Brewing Company after a long day on the water.

→ The fishing in Martin County includes 10 lakes, countless fishing holes and endless fun and relaxation. Find panfish, bass, pike, catfish and walleye. From 1,040-acre **Fox Lake** to 84-acre **George Lake**, each has its own character and unique experience to discover.

→ At Camden State Park, fish the **Redwood River** for brown trout and in **Brawner Lake** try your hand at bass and bluegill. The park includes a picnic shelter with electricity and a wood stove.

→ Set out on **Big Stone Lake** in search of walleyes, bluegills, crappies and largemouth bass. At the border of Minnesota and South Dakota, this 26-mile long lake is the source of the **Minnesota River**. Explore nearby granite and gneiss quarries and search for fossilized shark teeth.



Sleep on it!

Reserve a room at the **JAILHOUSE INN IN PRESTON**. This historic building has been converted from cell blocks to comfortable guest suites! Read about the unique history of the property, enjoy delicious scones, and explore activity-filled Preston including Amish tours, antiquing, and water sports on the Root River.



TROUT FISHING AT MINNEOPA FALLS, MANKATO

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: EXPLORE MINNESOTA; GRANT FARNSWORTH; NEW ULM CVB; (OPPOSITE) SUNNY AUGUSTINE; PATRICK FORSLUND



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Selfie time!

FLOWERS IN BLOOM

Don't miss these refreshing springtime photo stops!

Get up close and personal with the happy yellow blooms on the Prickly Pear Cactus at **Blue Mounds State Park**. Find beautiful backdrops of prairie wildflowers and grasses, no filter needed. At **Camden State Park**, snap pictures of white trillium, bloodroot, trout lilies and violets.

At **Beaver Creek Valley State Park**, pose among wildflowers blanketing the forest floor while migratory songbirds sweeten the moment.

Hidden Falls along Prairie Creek at **Nerstrand Big Woods State Park** is calling to you! Find an array of spring blooms like hepatica, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, and the rare dwarf trout lily.

Catch some blooms at **Blossom Town Floral, Garden & Gifts** in Redwood Falls. Find surprises around every corner with a greenhouse, gift shop and fun features like a prom flower bar.

Experience Zumbrota



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TRAVEL

Head out there: East to West, North to South, or on a meandering path shaped by dreams and spontaneity. There's a SOMN tour for every season, so you can lend time to your passions and imagine what you have yet to discover.

MAP KEY

MN River Valley

Prairie Land

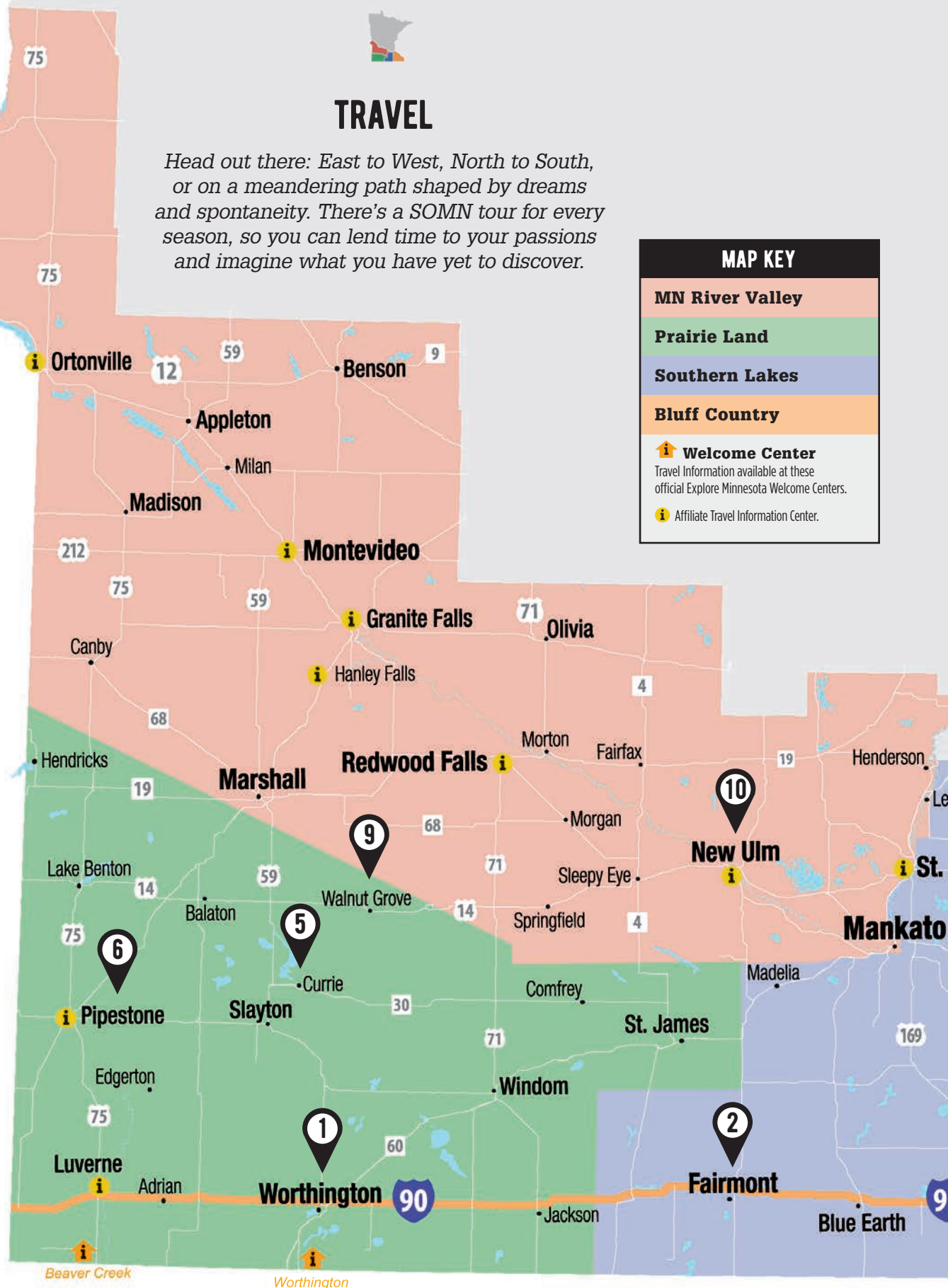
Southern Lakes

Bluff Country

 **Welcome Center**

Travel Information available at these official Explore Minnesota Welcome Centers.

 Affiliate Travel Information Center.



LODGING

1. HISTORIC DAYTON HOUSE
Worthington
2. THE MARINA LODGE
Fairmont
3. TRAXLER'S HUNTING LODGE & PRESERVE
Le Center
4. THE OLD BARN RESORT
Lanesboro

PARKS

5. END-O-LINE RAILROAD PARK
Currie
6. PIPESTONE NATIONAL PARK
Pipestone
7. SAKATAH LAKE STATE PARK
Waterville
8. FORESTVILLE/MYSTERY CAVE STATE PARK
Forestville

SIGHTS

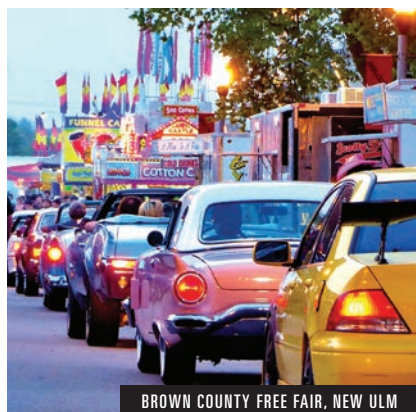
9. LAURA INGALLS WILDER MUSEUM
Walnut Grove
10. HERMANN THE GERMAN
New Ulm
11. SPAM MUSEUM
Austin
12. WORLD'S LARGEST BOOT
Red Wing





A DAY AT THE FAIR

Carnival rides, tractor pulls, live music, demolition derby, rodeo and food galore-- SOMN's 38 county fairs (many of which offer free admission!) are a tradition many generations have come to enjoy. How many can you visit? Listed by county, city held.



BROWN COUNTY FREE FAIR, NEW ULM



CANNON VALLEY FAIR, CANNON FALLS



STEELE COUNTY FREE FAIR, OWATONNA

Big Stone
CLINTON

Blue Earth
GARDEN CITY

Brown
NEW ULM

Cannon Valley
CANNON FALLS

Chippewa
MONTEVIDEO

Cottonwood
WINDOM

Dodge
KASSON

Faribault
BLUE EARTH

Fillmore
PRESTON

Freeborn
ALBERT LEA

Goodhue
ZUMBROTA

Houston
CALEDONIA

Jackson
JACKSON

Lac Qui Parle
MADISON

Le Sueur
LE CENTER

Lincoln
TYLER

Lyon
MARSHALL

Martin
FAIRMONT

Mower
AUSTIN

Murray
SLAYTON

Nicollet
ST. PETER

Nobles
WORTHINGTON

Olmsted
ROCHESTER

Pipestone
PIPESTONE

Redwood
REDWOOD FALLS

Renville
BIRD ISLAND

Steele
OWATONNA

Swift
APPLETON

Rice
FARIBAULT

Rock
LIVERNE

Sibley
ARLINGTON

Traverse
WHEATON

Tri-County
MANKATO

Wabasha
WABASHA

Waseca
WASECA

Watsonwan
ST. JAMES

Winona
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WANT MORE, FREE? FIND IT IN SOMN.

Discover something new this season, without breaking the bank. From free outdoor concerts to glockenspiel-sightings, museum visits to water sports and everything in between, there are affordable options in every county in SOMN.

Big Stone County:

The Meander Arts Crawl is a well-established exhibition of hand-thrown pottery, textiles, photography, painting, woodcarving, and more.

Blue Earth:

The Kiwanis Holiday Lights at Sibley Park in Mankato guarantees festive fun for the whole family.

Brown County:

The New Ulm Glockenspiel is 45-feet tall and boasts 37 bells. Stick around to hear the different tunes programmed throughout the day!

Chippewa County:

Visit the DNR Headquarters at Lac qui Parle Park for loads of information

and impressive taxidermy collection.

Cottonwood County:

Tour Heritage Village in Mountain Lake where German and Russian settlers lived and farmed over 125 years ago.

Dodge County:

At the Dodge County Historical Society, check out the one-room schoolhouse and the 1902 Rambler with kerosene headlights, among other treasures.

Faribault: Find all 14 Green Giant Sprout Statues around Blue Earth!

Fillmore: Explore the Musical Notes Playground in Harmony where kids



SPAM MUSEUM, AUSTIN

can make music on life-sized instruments.

Freeborn: Free summer concert series at Fountain Lake Park. Enjoy from your boat or lawn chair.

Goodhue: Pottery Museum of Red Wing, with 6,000 vintage pieces, special exhibitions, gift shop and hands-on classes.

Houston: Root River Trail is great for biking, walking, and cross country skiing.

Jackson: Tour AgCo's Intivity Center to learn about agricultural technology and innovation at its best.

Lac Qui Parle: Try birding at Salt Lake, Minnesota's only alkaline lake which is one-third as salty as seawater! Catch a wide variety of

waterfowl as they stop on the lake on their way through the region.

Le Sueur: The Okaman Elk Farm is great for kids. Pet the elk, play on the farm, and check out the elk products!

Lincoln: At the Lincoln County Pioneer Museum, experience pioneer life including a train depot, school, Icelandic church, and Sears & Roebuck house.

Lyon: Bike along 14 miles of paved Camden Regional Trail from Southwest



GREEN GIANT, BLUE EARTH

Minnesota State University to Camden State Park.

Martin: Enjoy swimming, kayaking, fishing, camping, biking, hiking and disc-golf in one of the 35 parks located in Martin County.

Mower: See the History of Cycling collection at Rydjour Bike in Austin, including the 1868 “Boneshaker.”

Murray: Pack some trail mix and take off along the Casey Jones Loop Trail at Lake Shetek.

Nicollet: Discover rare plant species at the Linnaeus Arboretum in Saint Peter.

Nobles: Play all day at the Splash Pad in Centennial Park, Worthington, featuring a water recycling system with 34 different water features, colorful concrete, park benches and tables.

Olmsted: Listen and unwind at the Down By The Riverside Free Concert series on Sundays in Rochester’s Mayo Park. Bring your lawn chair, cooler, and blanket.

Pipestone: Take a walking tour of the beautiful Historic Downtown District and spot pink Sioux quartzite architectural gems listed on the National Register of Historic Places!

Redwood: The zoo at Ramsey Park in Redwood Falls includes buffalo, elk, deer, prairie dogs and waterfowl.

Renville: See Ole Skalbeck’s 1868 log cabin in Skalbekken County Park and imagine what life was like over a century ago!

Steele: Go ice skating on the Straight River. Bring your own thermos of hot cocoa!

Swift: Release some pent-up energy on the motocross practice track at the Appleton Area Recreational Park.

Rice: In Northfield, visit the Fossum Family Alpaca Farm and snap a selfie.

Rock: See the collection of 4,500 nutcrackers at the History Center in Luverne.



ART WALK, ST. JAMES

Sibley: Attend the Arlington Arli-Dazzle Holiday Parade.

Traverse: Skate for free and even borrow skates free of charge at the Wheaton City Skating Rink.

Wabasha: Ride around this historic river town on the city’s free public bicycles.

Waseca: Visit the Waseca Arts Center.

Watsonwan: Embark on a self-guided Art Walk Tour in downtown St. James.

Winona: Make your way to Garvin Heights Lookout for a breathtaking 18-mile view of Winona and the river valley.

Yellow Medicine: The Fagen Fighters WWII Museum is home to a pristine collection of fully operational, active aircraft and vehicles from World War II.



Summer

We can never get enough of summer's beautiful sunshine, relaxing weather, and invitation to fun all season long. The warmest and longest days of the year create so much opportunity to do more, see more, enjoy more. We know you can't wait, so read on to plan your upcoming summer retreats and rendezvous.



ROCK CLIMBING, BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK

FUN ALL SUMMER LONG

Find fun and games all summer long in SOMN. The active and adventurous will enjoy high-paced races and adrenaline rushes as well as those looking for a relaxing, fun way to unwind with friends.

Todd Park Disc Golf in Austin

Wolf Creek winds through this beautifully wooded course of 21 holes, 6 with water hazards. Relax in the park and picnic pavilion.

Blue Mounds State Park Rock Climbing

Climb the Sioux quartzite wall which rises 100 feet from the prairie and view bison herds grazing below. See ripple marks from once-ancient sea on rock outcrops.

Deer Creek Speedway

The whole family will enjoy stock car racing and other exciting events this summer! Take advantage of the kids' club with special activities for youth as well as the convenient campground.

Horseback Riding along Rush River

Rush River Park has 12.5 miles of trails, a designated horse area, picnic shelter, grills, and water wells. Enjoy the Minnesota River Basin while riding horseback in this 285-acre park.

Taste It!



LAKESIDE HIDEAWAY IN CURRIE, featuring a chef-inspired menu with hickory smoked ribs and brisket, chili queso and chips, scallops with lemon and parsley. Located just southeast of Lake Shetek and south of the Des Moines River.



How to Travel with Kids and Actually Enjoy It!

Some parents say that they don't really get to go on vacation, they just take care of their kids in a different city. We think you actually can relax and have fun, while keeping the little ones in line. Here are our tips for a fantastic SOMN summer with kids.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Have your kids help make a list of activities and sight-seeing options. Talk with them about planning for the weather and have them help pack rain jackets, sun hats, etc.

Many SOMN restaurants are family friendly spaces and have menus everyone will enjoy. Check menus online first and try calling ahead to see if you can reserve a table that suits your family's needs.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Less is more. Rather than trying to pack in a dozen activities in a day, plan 2-3 stops and take your time. Consider your kids' fluctuating energy levels and planning around their nap and meal times.

LOCK IN THE MEMORIES

Mindset is important in order to be able to actually enjoy traveling with kids. Away from the stresses of work and home life, you'll have an opportunity to really watch how your child engages in nature, is awed by attractions, and finds joy in amusement and activities. Live their joy in the moment, and remember to take a few photos, too.



Find It!

TILT-A-WHIRL, play and pose for a fun photo op in a restored Tilt-A-Whirl car on the street corner. Faribault is where this classic carnival ride was invented back in 1926.

HISTORIC FORRESTVILLE, PRESTON



Experiential Travel

Gain a new perspective this summer by incorporating cultural, historical, and natural stops into your trip. Learn about the impact of different individuals and groups and their relationship with natural features and historical events. Leave transformed, refreshed, and with stories to share.

Jeffers Petroglyphs - learn about the ancient carvings and Native American culture while enjoying fresh air on the prairie trails.

Austin ArtWorks Center - a showcase of local art including a retail gallery, open studio with clay cavern, & classes. Now partnering with historic Paramount Theatre. Embark upon a self-guided walking or biking tour of Austin in search of more than a dozen statues, including "Hands of Humanity, Hands of Peace," and "Buffy the Cow."

Lower Sioux Wacipi - celebrate Native American history and traditions through this dancing and singing ritual. Browse food and craft vendors.

Linnaeus Arboretum - relax at the waterfall garden, walk along the blue-bird trail, and decompress in the feng shui inspired meditation area.



CANOEING, GLACIAL LAKES STATE PARK

RUN, PLAY, SPLASH, REPEAT

get your splash on this summer with water sports in SOMN! Whether you want to sit back and relax on a lazy summer cruise aboard a traditional paddlewheel boat, kayak down a beautiful winding river, or cheer on competitive water skiers, there's never a dry moment in SOMN.

Lake City Water Skiing

Visit the place where water skiing was invented back in 1920! On beautiful Lake Pepin and the Mississippi River, catch a ski show or try it out for yourself.

Blue Earth River Kayaking

From riffles to rapids, rocky outcrops and Big Woods to majestic plains, paddling along this state water trail offers a variety of landscape and interesting history.

Des Moines River Canoeing

Perfect for beginners, this river ranges from 50 - 200 feet wide. See white-tailed deer, beaver, and turtles.

Boating on Hall Lake in Fairmont

Start at Gomsrud Park with picnic areas, sand volleyball courts and boat launch, then catch the wind in this 552-acre lake.

Kite Boarding on Cannon Lake

Flat land for miles around all sides of the lake creates ideal conditions for this fun

sport! The county park at the south side of the lake has restrooms, sun shelters, grills and a sandy beach.

Pearl of the Lake Paddlewheel Boat

Take a sightseeing cruise on Lake Pepin aboard an authentic paddlewheel riverboat. Sip on wine and spirits with good company.

Stand up Paddleboard at Lake Sakatah State Park

Rent a paddleboard and enjoy this lake formed by glacial ice blocks 14,000 years ago at your own pace.

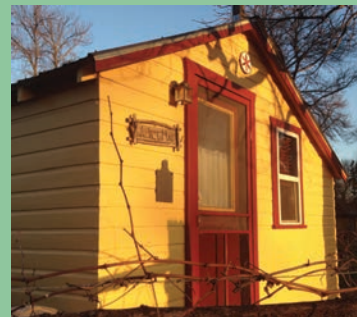
Canoe or Kayak at Plum Creek Park

Non-motorized boats are welcome on Lake Laura! Swim, hike, and play volleyball, baseball, and disc golf.

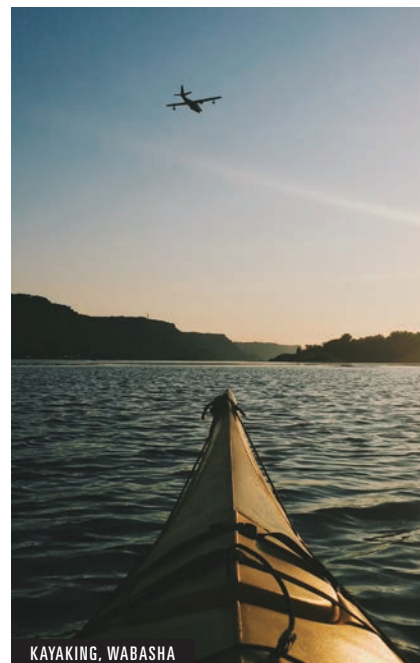
Worthington Windsurfing Regatta & Music Festival

Don't miss this four-day party on the water with windsurfing competition, live music, vendors and good vibes.

Sleep On It!



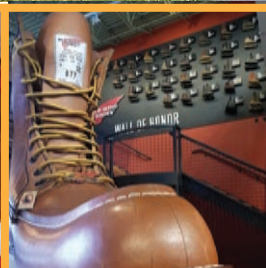
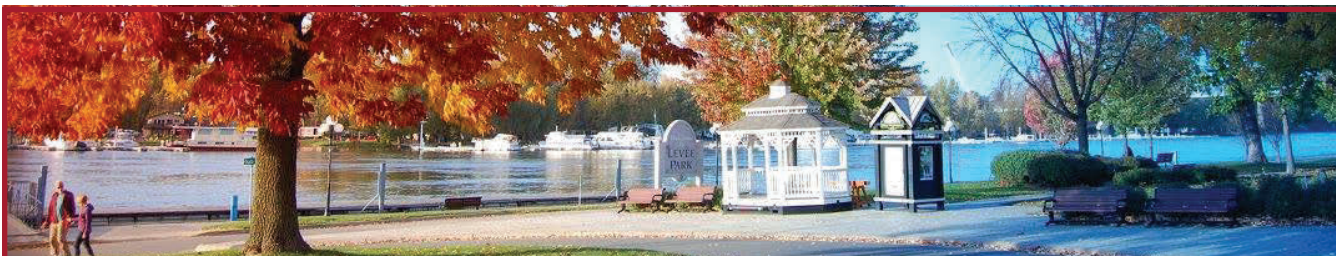
THE MOONSTONE FARMSTAY AT THE BROODIO HOUSE is a one-room cottage. Have fresh local foods delivered to your door, hear songbirds and enjoy the canoe, grill, campfire, sauna and beach.



KAYAKING, WABASHA



NIAGARA CAVE, HARMONY



Experience the Natural Beauty, History & Charm of Red Wing

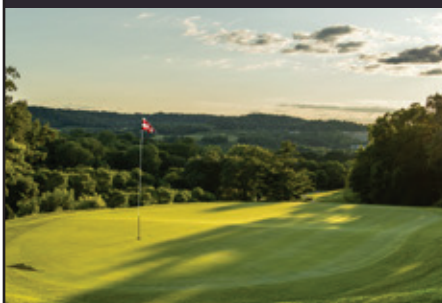
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Instagrammable Photo Stops

Be the first of your friends to add these shots to your photo reel, and surprise your followers with the breathtaking views, natural wonders, and unique cultural elements that make SOMN a perfect region for a summer road trip.



BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK

Henderson Roll-in

Snap a selfie next to a beautiful classic car! Every Tuesday all summer long, admire the cars, enjoy live music, and grab a bite to eat while you stroll through charming downtown Henderson.

Bison At Blue Mounds State Park

View bison from the park's observation deck or from the western loop trail, or attend a tour. Learn about conservation efforts for this animal.

Green Giant in Blue Earth

Snap your new profile pic next to this 55.5 foot tall statue, complete with staircase leading up to the feet of the giant, a pillar in the community since 1979.

In-Yan-Teopa Rock

Find it at Frontenac State Park, north of the campground, formed by glacial meltwater. Discover the rock's significance to Native American people.



CENTRAL PARK CONCERTS, OWATONNA

WATERFRONT DINING

Sun, waves, flavors, and friends. Slow down and soak up summer vibes at our top picks for SOMN's waterfront bars and restaurants.

Boat House Restaurant in Winona

Take in beautiful views of the Mississippi River and try the Boat House Lucy Burger or wild-caught salmon, and satisfy your sweet tooth with house-made crème brûlée and libations like sake basil lemonade.

Slippery's Bar and Grill

Made famous by the movie "Grumpy Old Men," Slippery's is a can't-miss-it restaurant in SOMN. Get advice on fishing holes, grab a beer and a burger, and go home with a t-shirt, hat, or Slippery's beverage koozie.

Lakewood Supper Club

Relax on the shores of Big Stone Lake in Ortonville. Try the chicken wings, whiskey bourbon steak, Caribbean pork sandwich, and more. Can't get enough? Extend your stay at the Lake Home or campsites.

Channel Inn

The expansive, sunny patio on Hall Lake in Fairmont is perfect for summer afternoons. Get your picture with mascot Bob the Bear (wood sculpture) and enjoy burgers and beers in a fun and casual atmosphere.

OUTDOOR MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy fresh air, music and performances from local and national artists. Find culture and tradition this summer in a variety of relaxing and inspiring outdoor entertainment venues.

→ At Rochester's **Mayo Park Sunday Concert Series**, jam out to live tunes in this inspiring green space. The South Fork Zumbro River winds around the park's open grassy spaces and is dotted with shade trees. Bring a lawn chair, blanket, and cooler or grab a bite to eat at the concessions.

→ At the **Verne Drive-in Theater** you can catch a flick with your sweetheart with a broadcast through your car's FM signal. Enjoy popcorn, fountain drinks, mini donuts, smoothies and pickles. Movies start at dusk, in Luverne.

→ Enjoy **Central Park Concerts** in Owatonna! Dance and groove in the park with picnic grounds, fountain and a stage. Live bands play on Thursdays throughout the summer.

→ Visit the **Vetter Stone Amphitheater** on the banks of the Minnesota River with tiered limestone slab seating in a wood-land setting. Complete with beer and food tents and close to downtown Mankato.

Shop for It!



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HIDDEN TREASURES

Southern Minnesota has four unique regions, diverse in their historical and cultural backgrounds as well as their geographical features. Visit every region for a transformative experience.



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MISSISSIPPI BLUFF COUNTRY, WINONA

→ From wild prairie grasses, historical villages, and Native American artifacts, to unique geology, blooming wildflowers, and enticing hunting opportunities, the Prairie Land region is as diverse as it is expansive. Nestled in the prairie, find our celebrated Round Lake Vineyards & Winery, where you can sit by the lake and sip on one of the vineyard's 15 wines. Tour the tasting room and learn more about each vintage from friendly and knowledgeable staff.

At the vineyard's bistro, munch on drunken mussels, a bison pretzel burger, and lemon thyme cheesecake with perfect wine pairings. It doesn't get better than this.

→ The uncommon character of the Minnesota River Valley can be attributed to its rich and complex heritage. The area's Dakota roots, German influence, and natural features like the Minnesota River continue to influence the area's

economic and cultural development. There are a number of historical treasures to be explored in this region. We recommend spending time at the Nicollet County Historical Society which is the U.S. Dakota War treaty site. Exhibits here tell the story of the first inhabitants of Nicollet County, the Dakota people. Learn about the geology of the area and history of explorers, traders, and settlers. This is the site of the signing of the 1851 Treaty of Traverse de Sioux, where



TRAVERSE DE SIOUX, ST. PETER

24 million acres of Dakota land was ceded to the U.S. government. Learn about the transformation of the area due to agriculture and business development.

→ Mississippi Bluff Country draws you in with its interesting limestone bluffs and gently flowing rivers and streams. Also known as the “driftless area,” this region was left untouched by glaciers and instead was shaped by glacial meltwater, giving it its distinctive geological features, including waterfalls and caves. Also known as Amish country, you can see horses and buggies traveling throughout the lands, and you’ll also find traces of Polish cultural influence. One of the hidden gems in this area is the Branding Iron restaurant in Preston. Established in 1970, locals love the the frog legs, signature barbecue pork ribs, smoked ham steak, Canadian lobster, craft beer, wine, and

cocktails, homemade cheesecake, and ice cream sundaes.

→ The Southern Lakes region celebrates farming and agricultural interpretive sites, as well as interesting architecture and historical destinations. With prairie, hardwood forest, wetland, and of course, bountiful lakes, this region balances nature with creativity and cultural contribution. While you’re here, don’t miss the Wild Indigo Scientific and Natural Area in Austin, where you can experience rare native Southern Mesic Prairie flora and fauna and learn about how the history of the railroad in the region created an opportunity for ecological preservation. See endangered plants such as wild quinine and Indian plantain, as well as two types of wild indigo. Watch for birds and wildlife, hike, take beautiful pictures, and in the winter snowshoe and cross-country ski.



MISSISSIPPI RIVER, LAKE CITY



ROUND LAKE VINEYARDS & WINERY, ROUND LAKE



Fall

Color, flavor, feel. It's time to get cozy and savor all forms of the harvest this season. Cheers to jack-o-lanterns, corn mazes, early holiday shopping and SOMN-grown wine.



HUNTING, LAC QUI PARLE

AUTUMN ADVENTURES

Get an adrenaline rush with one of our fast-paced or competitive activities. From strategic geocaching and pheasant hunting to think-fast off-roading and paintball games, there will be no shortage of fall fun in SOMN.

ATV Park in Appleton

This 330-acre park for ATVs has a youth training course and practice track, jumps and water holes, miles of trails, a picnic area, and free admission.

Geocaching at State Parks

Several state parks double as geocaching checkpoints, including Great River Bluffs State Park, Sakatah Lake, Whitewater, and Frontenac. Borrow a GPS for free!

Pheasant Hunting

Set up camp in friendly Marshall then explore public land in search of ringnecks in Lincoln, Pipestone, Murray, Nobles, Lyon and Rock counties.

SPLAT Paintball Field in Austin

Register your group ahead of time or, for drop-in play, visit on a Sunday! Safety gear and CO2 provided.

Pick-Your-Own

Put on your farmer's hat for a day and participate in the fall harvest. Discover the best pumpkins for pie and the complex flavor profiles of SOMN apples. Try stomping grapes into wine and get lost in a corn maze.

Edgerton Corn Maze & Rock River Pumpkin Festival features inflatables, hayrides, corn maze, carnival games, a petting zoo, lawnmower races, and a medallion hunt.

Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery offers walking tours, a tasting room, wine shop, tasting deck, bonfires on the patio, spirits, wood-fired pizza and live entertainment.

Fireside Orchard & Gardens in Northfield has 27 varieties of apples, rose garden, a fish pond, gazebo, yard games, pies, and antique tractors.

At Hoch Orchard and Gardens, try 50 apple varieties, berries, wine grapes, see livestock and honeybees and taste honey, meats, fruits, jellies, apple sauce and cider.



Fall Colors

There's nothing quite like the explosion of color that happens each fall in SOMN. From purple prairie grasses to scarlet leaves and clear blue skies, the picturesque backdrops are just about everywhere you turn. Check out our recommended fall picks for your photo ops this season.

Red Wing: climb atop Barn Bluff to view changing fall oak, maple and elm tree tops.

In **Blue Mounds State Park**, admire the beautiful red Sioux quartzite backdrop with gold, rust, and purple grasses creating a unique scene. Catch deer and buffalo traveling through the park.

At **River Bend Nature Center** in Faribault, observe a variety of trees change to their fall suits and see beautiful reflections in the nature center's several ponds.

Along the **Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway**, soak up golden hues of hardwood trees at parks and overlooks along the river.



MISSISSIPPI RIVER, WINONA

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AUTUMN ARTS & CULTURE

Beautify your home and update your personal style with a one-of-a-kind piece of art, jewelry, or clothing. While you're feeling inspired, expand your perspective with a trip to the opera or a tour of a history center.

Red Wing Arts Fall Festival at 53 years and going strong, this juried festival includes 100 fine artists.

In Lake City, see the distinct **19th-century architectural styles** including Italianate, Queen Anne, Craftsman, and others.

Slayton Women of Today's Autumn Boutique is held at the Murray County fairgrounds. Shop 90+ vendors for jewelry, clothing, and more.

Visit the **Lake Benton Opera House**, housed in a 19th-century building, and catch a show, including children's theater!

The hunt is on in Owatonna! Join us **deer hunting opener weekend** to shop local businesses and pop up craft shows.

The **Fairmont Opera House** has been a local treasure since 1901! Tour the opera house or get tickets to a show.

The **Meander Art Crawl** is a tour of 45 studios, featuring painting, letter press, sculpture, textiles and more. Find connections to local history, culture and landscape.

At the **Lower Sioux Agency History Center**, learn about the US-Dakota War and walk the trail along the river to discover historic US-Dakota War sites.



GRAND ROUNDS BREWPUB, ROCHESTER

Breweries & Distilleries

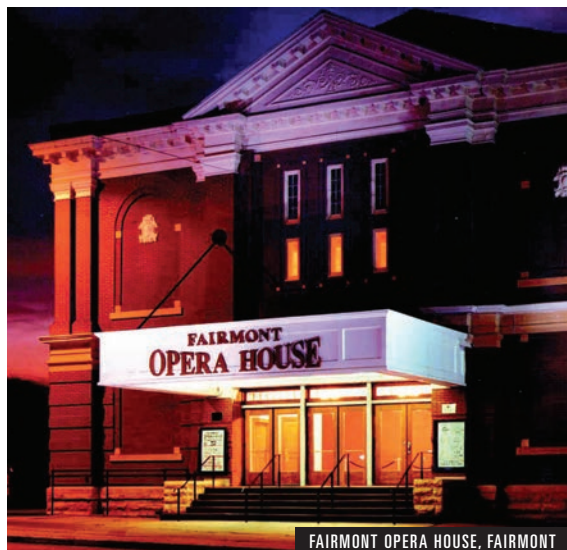
There's a good story behind every brewery in SOMN and we'll bet you can track down the founders to hear it from them first hand. Classic and soulful flavors and new twists on old favorites (along with a contagious sense of community) characterize SOMN's breweries.

→ **10,000 Drops Craft Distillers** in Faribault produces whiskey, bourbon and rum. In 2016, four friends came together with a shared dream and created a distillery complete with a cocktail lounge. Try the spiced rum this fall!

→ The taproom at **Talking Waters Brewing** in Montevideo opened in 2016 with a spirit of adventure. Check out the ceramic mugs and taste Farmer's Tan, Twisted Vines, and Stony Run.

→ **Karst Brewery** in Fountain was established 2015 and named for the limestone formations untouched by glaciers in the Driftless Area. Try Maggie's Farm Cream Ale, Top of the Trail American IPA, or Ember Waves Red Ale.

→ **Take 16 Brewing Company** in Luverne, named for US Highway 16, celebrates communities and their histories along old highway 16. Ask for the Luverne Lager or Spin the Bottle Pale Ale, and visit the tap room for hats and t-shirts, and more.



FAIRMONT OPERA HOUSE, FAIRMONT



POTTERY DEMONSTRATION, LOWER SIOUX HISTORIC SITE



Discover it!

Visit the **BRANDENBURG GALLERY IN LUVERNE** where you can admire the photography of Minnesota native Jim Brandenburg, whose work with National Geographic and beyond earned him global recognition. The Luverne gallery features his work with the vanishing prairie.

SOMN Culinary Tour

Hungry yet? Culinary adventures await! With great company, inspiring atmospheres, and flavors from comforting to mind-boggling, your food and drink experience in SOMN will take you around the world, and back again.

Winery Tours:

Sip, savor, share. The unique flavor profiles of SOMN grapes impress even the most sophisticated palates. Take a tour, stomp some grapes, and sample our incredible selection.

Morgan Creek Vineyards is an eco-friendly, underground winery featuring wood-fired cuisine, whose owner Georg Marti is a descendent of August Schell. Stomp grapes, sip several varieties of wine, and enjoy the inspiring location.

Painted Prairie Vineyard in Currie offers three grape varieties. Schedule a tasting and decompress on the patio with views of the vineyard, prairie, and marshland.

Four Daughters Vineyard & Winery in Spring Valley is a winery, cidery, restaurant and event center. The official provider of the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, Four Daughters features a tasting room, daily menu, and plenty of open spaces and cozy places.

Three Oaks Winery in Albert Lea produces several red, white, and rosé varieties including Malbec, Chardonnay, and Frontenac Rose. Pair your wines with an array of local meats, cheeses, crackers and olives.

Gastronomy

From midwest to global, traditional to experimental, and everything in between, SOMN will take you on a flavor adventure which will have you coming back for seconds.

Get bubbly at the **Big River Kombucha** tap room in Goodview, near Winona! Established in 2018, founders focus on local ingredients and good-for-you recipes, producing flavors like Driftless Ginger Lime and Paddleboat Peach.

Sip on It!



At **TROUT CITY BREWING IN PRESTON** relax in a newly renovated space in a historic building near the Root River. This family-owned business creates brews with Nordic and Czech influences such as Egomania Rye and Stout it Out Loud.

The Bluestem in Luverne was named for the native prairie grass found in Blue Mounds State Park. Savor the Minnesota “caviar,” prime rib, chorizo mac-n-cheese and homemade cream puff for dessert.

The Old Mill in Austin, built in the 1850s by brothers from England, has stood the test of time and inspires a great meal. Try the salmon sliders, medjool stuffed dates, and Austin’s Lucy Burger.

Massad’s Mediterranean Grille in Mankato has been a community staple since 1984. You must try the Mid-East lamb burrito, vegetarian falafel, and other delicious Lebanese items.



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