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A spellbinding Greek tragedy
February 29 – April 5

Emma
A playful world premiere
April 11 – May 31

Destiny of Desire
A switched-at-birth comedy
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Cabaret
A musical masterpiece
June 20 – August 23

Sweat
A Pulitzer Prize-winning drama
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In Minnesota, True North is more than a direction; it’s a feeling. No matter which path you take, you’re destined to Find Your True North.

EXPLORE MINNESOTA
121 7TH PLACE EAST, SUITE 360, ST. PAUL, MN 55101, USA
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DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW IN HISTORIC STILLWATER

BY CAITLIN HANNAH & ERICA WACKER

Nicknamed the “birthplace of Minnesota” and one of the oldest towns in the state, historic Stillwater is in the midst of a rebirth. New boutique hotels, eateries and events have cropped up in recent years, and this spring marks the much-anticipated debut of the new-and-improved Lift Bridge across the St. Croix River.

Closed since 2017, the new bridge will be open to cyclists and pedestrians only (BYO bicycle or rent one in town—standard or electric). The bridge will complete the 5-mile Loop Trail, connecting to the parallel St. Croix Crossing bridge via trails on both sides of the river. To mark the occasion, a local resident is inviting at least 6,200 people to line up along the trail on May 16 in an attempt to break a very specific Guinness World Record: clapping wrists in a continuous circle across two state lines.

Also that weekend, visitors and locals can partake in a spaghetti dinner across the bridge and a street dance on Friday night, and a pancake breakfast, bike rodeos, a beer tent and brewers bazaar on Saturday. If you can't make it to the celebration, don't worry; there are plenty of other ways to experience something new in Stillwater this season.

WHAT'S NEW

If you go to Stillwater to shop (and who doesn’t?), check out new merchants like Smith + Trade Mercantile, selling wares made by local craftspeople and offering classes to make your own art. Other newcomers include lifestyle boutique Kensington and When Pigs Flew, a resale and consignment shop.

Traveling with a group? Book a time to experience axe throwing at The Lumberjack, which includes a coach and one hour of throwing. Next, try navigating your way out of a cave or breaking out of Mr. Connolly's office at Stillwater Escape Co., then celebrate your victory (or lack thereof) at Stillwater Proper, a soon-to-open distillery and tasting room that makes its spirits using local grains.

While Stillwater makes for an easy daytrip from the Twin Cities, there are many enticing reasons to stay overnight. Two new boutique hotels, the Lora and Hotel Crosby, bookend Main Street. One historic and one modern, both hotels have on-site bars and restaurants to elevate your stay. Other lodging options include the renovated Water Street Inn, now with 20 more rooms and a rooftop restaurant, and over 20 downtown home and loft rentals.

TRIED & TRUE

Even if you've been here before, there are surely things you haven't done. Hop a ride on the Stillwater Trolley for a fully narrated, scenic tour of the city. As the cheery red trolley weaves its way into the hills overlooking downtown, it's hard not to be transported back in time by the beautiful Victorian homes once occupied by the wealthy lumber barons who settled here.

Have you seen Stillwater from the water? Designated as a National Scenic Riverway by the National Park Service, the St. Croix is one of the most beautiful and least developed rivers in the Upper Midwest. Take a lunch, dinner or jazz paddleboat cruise with Stillwater River Boats, or celebrate a special occasion with an intimate gondola ride for two.

Once you’ve worked up an appetite, there’s no shortage of places to grab a good meal, sweet treat or satisfying drink. For lunch or dinner, check out trendy restaurants like Brick & Bourbon, LoLo's, Feller or Lolito Cantina, or head up the hill to Chilkoot Cafe, a bike shop and eatery in one.

Sip Minnesota-made wines at Northern Vineyards, with views of the Lift Bridge from the outdoor deck, or do a wine tasting at Saint Croix Vineyards. Beer drinkers should check out Maple Island Brewing and the aptly named Lift Bridge Brewery, and craft cocktails are the specialty at Velveteen, No Neck Tony's and The Long Goodbye. For dessert, a trio of candy stores as well as three ice cream shops will surely do the trick.

Though any time is a good time to visit, consider planning your trip around a special event. Summer Sundays (June 30-Aug. 11) feature live music and food at Lowell Riverfront Park, and the Cruisin' on the Croix Hot Rod & Vintage Car Show rolls in every other Wednesday starting June 10. Other highlights include the Food Truck Extravaganza at the Washington County Fairgrounds (June 13), the 86th annual Stillwater Lumberjack Days (July 16-19) and Opera on the River (Aug. 1).
ATV ADVENTURES IN MINNESOTA’S GREAT NORTHWEST

BY C.B. BYLANDER

For big thrills off the beaten path, nothing compares to the adrenaline rush you get from laying on the throttle of an ATV—and nowhere does it quite like northwest Minnesota, where a seemingly endless network of ATV trails weaves through the remote wilderness landscape.

Northwest Minnesota, where all-terrain vehicle manufacturers Polaris and Textron Arctic Cat were founded, is truly an ATV-riding destination. This part of the state has long trails, great scenery and a remoteness rarely found. In fact, some trails take riders so deep into forests and bogs the nearest gas station is a good 50 miles away.

The trails are largely the product of 20-plus years of work. Over time, those who manage local, county and state lands have worked with ATV clubs to create an extensive network of trails through state forests, wildlife management areas and other public lands and roadways. Today, the far northwest region—around Warroad, Roseau, Fourtown, Grygla, Crookston and Bemidji—has many ATV trails that attract riders from throughout Minnesota and nearby states.

But how many riders are there? For starters, nearly 270,000 ATVs are registered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. That number is similar to the number of licensed small game hunters and three times the number of waterfowl hunters.

Northwest Minnesota is where western prairie and farm fields merge with the forests of the east. Together, they create a compelling mosaic of lakes, wildflowers, wooded groves, bogs and other natural features—perfect conditions to get on the trail, squeeze the throttle and witness the wilderness.

Where to go? Consider these popular destinations:

BEMIDJI AREA

There are three trail systems in the Bemidji area. These include the Wilton Trails Northwest system, west of Bemidji, and the Schoolcraft and Round River Drive Trail systems to the south. The Wilton trails run for 37 miles along abandoned railroad grade. The Round River Drive Trail is 107 miles long. This trail is a combination of Paul Bunyan State Forest roads and trails. The terrain varies greatly, and miles of trail twist and climb in this rocky moraine and pothole landscape.

The Round River trails connect to the community of Akeley, which is a good place for getting gas or finding a private campground. The Schoolcraft Trail is 29 miles long. It connects the community of Lake George to the Paul Bunyan State Forest. This hilly terrain is dotted with ponds and bogs. The trail is a combination of forest and township roads as well as county and state road right-of-ways.

BAUDETTE/WARROAD AREA

This area features the Warroad/Roseau trail system and the Bemis Hill trail system. Nearly 90 miles long, the Warroad/Roseau trails are located largely in the northeast corner of the 700,000-acre Beltrami State Forest. The Bemis Hill trails travel for 96 miles on the eastern edge of the forest. The Warroad/Roseau trails connect to 200 additional miles of Off-Highway Vehicle trails.

Trails in the Beltrami State Forest mostly travel along pine covered ridges, large flatlands and look out over peat bogs. Carp’s Pit Recreation Area is a popular picnic and resting area for Warroad/Roseau trail riders. There’s also a picnic area for Bemis Hill riders, too.

GRYGALA AREA

This area features the Fourtown-Grygla and Con-Con trails. These trails are located immediately south of the Warroad/Roseau and Bemis Hill trails. The Fourtown-Grygla trail system covers a whopping 170 miles, making it one of the state’s longest ATV trails. Much of the trail follows county roads, township roads, ditch banks and existing trails. The Con-Con trails are short segments scattered within Marshall and Beltrami counties. These trails are not contiguous but do connect with the Fourtown-Grygla system.

With generally flat and easy riding, Fourtown-Grygla is the perfect spot to hit the gas and see what your engine can do. Riders in this area may see the occasional moose as well as black bear, sandhill cranes and many different waterfowl species.

CROOKSTON AREA

The Agassiz Recreational Trail begins at Crookston and extends 52 miles southwest until it ends at the tiny town of Ulen. Not far from the North Dakota border, the trail offers surprisingly scenic views of the Sand Hill and Wild Rice rivers from the bridges that pass over them. The trail runs atop an abandoned railroad grade. Riders travel through sparsely wooded stretches and scenic farm country. This is a multi-use trail also popular with hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders.

Plan your next ride with a free copy of the Minnesota ATVentures guide, available at exploremnnesota.com/offroad. ■
TAKE A FLAVOR JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD
(PASSPORT NOT REQUIRED)

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GREAT MINNESOTA VACATIONS FOR GRANDPARENTS, PARENTS & KIDS

BY ALISA BLACKWOOD

Think back to your most cherished childhood memories and you’ll find most of them share a common thread: family. From peaceful mornings on the lake, sitting side by side with hands wrapped around a fishing pole, to summer evenings spent listening to stories and roasting marshmallows with grandma and grandpa: These are the moments your kids will remember most from your next Minnesota vacation.

Going on vacation with three (or more!) generations is becoming a popular way to travel, because it gives families a unique chance to bond. “Think about a kid seeing mom or dad on a paddleboard out of the lake—that’s cool,” says Niki Geisler, executive director of Camp du Nord near Ely. “Then if they see grandma and grandpa on a paddleboard? That’s something to strive for. It’s phenomenal the bonding that happens. You break down age barriers.”

When planning your multigenerational trip in Minnesota, look for options that allow for both play and rest, alone time and together time, advises travel expert Lynn O’Rourke Hayes, editor of FamilyTravel.com. Luckily, Minnesota’s great outdoors, historic sites and charming small towns offer something for all ages, ensuring every member of the family will go home with more than a few good stories to tell.

STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

Nature-loving families who gravitate toward outdoor fun will find endless options throughout Minnesota. Try the underground geological wonder of Mystery Cave State Park in Preston, perfect for those walking and those who need wheelchair- and stroller-accessible trails, with the above-ground Forestville living history site offering a fun trip into the past.

At Itasca State Park, hop across the headwaters of the Mississippi River as it begins its 2,552-mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico, and snap the ultimate Minnesota family photo with the historic signpost. Other highlights of the state’s oldest state park include an interpretive center, bike and kayak rentals, a narrated boat tour and hiking trails.

Visiting a historic site during your extended family vacation is fun for inquisitive minds of all ages. While younger kids play with the site’s interactive elements, parents and grandparents can delve more deeply into the artifacts and uncover the stories they tell. Because each age group approaches the material with a different point of view, interpreting them together helps everyone gain new perspectives not only of the sites themselves, but of each other.

Immerse your family in the cultural history of Native American pipemakers at southern Minnesota’s Pipestone National Monument, where tribes from all over still use the soft stone to carve pipes for ceremonial smoking. The 301-acre monument now balances its role as both a natural and cultural resource, offering interpretive programs with traditional pipemakers, quarry pits, a waterfall, and a paved 3/4-mile Circle Trail through the prairie and oak savannah (semi-accessible by wheelchair). Play and stay in nearby Blue Mounds State Park to view the roaming bison herd that grazes on the prairie.

LEARNING GETAWAYS & SLEEP-AWAY CAMPS

You’re never too old—or too young—to learn something new, and there’s no better classroom than Minnesota. Learning getaways come in all shapes and sizes, but for multigenerational travelers, we recommend wildlife-focused treasures like the International Wolf Center and North American Bear Center, both in Ely, or Wabasha’s National Eagle Center. Each offers naturalist-led programs, interactive exhibits, cultural and historical displays with plenty of handicapped accessibility.

Prefer learning with your hands? Intergenerational crafters can feed their creativity and enjoy the satisfaction of making something together at the Ely Folk School or Grand Marais’ North House Folk School. Think pine needle basket making, toy boat making or handcrafting a wooden paddle.

For a structured, overnight vacation the whole family will love, try a sleep-away camp. The YMCA’s Camp du Nord nature immersion family camp near Ely offers both tent camping and modern cabins that sleep up to 16 people. Energetic, friendly camp counselors and staff make sure all physical abilities, ages and levels of comfort in the wilderness are catered to. It’s common to see three- and even four-generation families strolling the trails, doing arts and crafts, paddling and sitting by the campfire. Choose from a weeklong summer camp, or three-night spring, winter or fall camps.

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland hosts a Grand Summer Adventure specific to grandparents and kids aged 6-11 who want to enjoy more time one-on-one. Participate in canoeing, high ropes course challenges, hiking and crafting at this four-night eco-camp in Minnesota’s north woods.
COME SEE THE ACTION & EXPERIENCE OUR STORIES

Wings of the North is the best kept secret in the southwest metro. We cordially invite you to visit our air museum and attend all the new activities planned for 2020.


Minnesota’s Aviation Pioneers Speaker Series

April 11, 2020: Jim Johns
Villaume Industries WW2 CG-4 Troop Glider

May 16, 2020: Lincoln Hudson / Jim Zdrazil
Honeywell, What’s Next in Space

June 13, 2020: Panel Discussion: Joe Kilpatrick / Armand Peterson
Honeywell, Ring Laser Gyro Precision Navigation System

August 8, 2020: Bernie Gruber
Northrop Grumman on GPS, Smart Munitions, & Space Systems

September 12, 2020: Special Guest Speaker
Featuring Jonna Doolittle on the Doolittle Family

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# Calendar of Events

For descriptions of these and other events, see: EXPLOREMINNEROSA.COM

Please note: These event listings were provided to the Minnesota Explorer by local event coordinators. Occasionally, event dates change after this calendar has been published. Before traveling to an event, please call the contact number to confirm the dates. Bolded entries signify signature, new, or noteworthy events. *For recurring events, only the season’s first instance is listed.

## April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-19</td>
<td>Lutsen Mountain Metropolis, Lutsen Mountains, 1-206-783-3400</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Lutsen Sweetwater Shakedown, Papa Charlie’s, 1-206-783-3400</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Deerwood Maple Weekend: Season Top Off, Rutger’s Bay Lake Lodge, 2-879-2085</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Collegeville Maple Syrup Festival, St. John’s University, 3-126-363-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Minneapolis St. Paul’s Lords’ Riders Tour, Mill City Museum, 6-121-345-7555</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Norwood Young America Maple Syrup Open House, Bay Regional Park Historic Farm, 6-126-456-5250</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Vergas Vergas Maple Syrup Festival, Vergas Event Center, 2-138-320-2091</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Walker North Country Woman’s Expo, Chase on the Lake, 3-117-353-1311</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>St. Paul Gsta Rod and Custom Spectacular, State Fairgrounds, 6-128-456-4000</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Maplewood Easter Bunny Breakfast, 6-128-373-8645</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Minneapolis Pilgrimage A Mill Tour, A Mill Artist Lofts, 6-129-351-0915</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>St. Paul East Egg Hunt*, James J. Hill House, 6-129-295-2555</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>St. Paul Urban Expedition, Landmark Center, 6-130-327-2325</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Harmony Community Easter Egg Hunt, Harmony Community Center, 6-131-345-2469</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Henderson Geocaching Egg Hunt, 6-132-373-8580</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Longville Easter Eggstravaganza, downtown, 6-133-328-3830</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Marshall Hy-Vee Indoor Easter Egg Hunt, Red Baron Park, 6-134-328-1965</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Minneapolis Washburn A Mill Tour, Mill City Museum, 6-135-345-7555</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>New York Mills East Egg Hunt, 6-136-333-3330</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Ottertail East Egg Hunt, Otter City Park, 6-137-2250</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Fairbanks School’s Out Adventure Days, River Bend Nature Center, 7-327-7215</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Starbuck Public Stargazing*, Glacial Lakes State Park, 7-328-2270</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Ely Tracking the Pack, International Wolf Center, 7-329-4695</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Two Harbors Peregrine Falcons on the North Shore, Split Rock Lighthouse, 8-325-2572</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Onamia Boating 101, Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, 8-326-3330</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Hastings Hastings Fishing Festival, Carpenter Nature Center, 8-327-4359</td>
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## May

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Winona Mid West Music Fest, multiple venues, 5-407-327-035</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Deerwood Lakes Area Spring Yoga Expo, Rutger’s Bay Lake Lodge, 5-407-2085</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Alexandria Nordic Fest, Rumsey Museum, 5-763-3160</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>St. Cloud St. Cloud Parade, 5-407-327-035</td>
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<td>3-5</td>
<td>Sunburn Sunburn, Sunburn, Sunburn, 5-408-327-035</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Lake City Spring Weekend, Hekti Lak, 5-409-2350</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Milaca Milaca’s Citywide Garage Sale, 5-410-2350</td>
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<td>10-12</td>
<td>Webeke Webeke, Webeke, Webeke, 5-411-2350</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>Annandale Chill Cook-Off, Main Street, 5-412-2350</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>St. Paul St. Paul, St. Paul, St. Paul, 5-413-2350</td>
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<td>13-14</td>
<td>Winona Kaubain Kaubain, Kaubain, Kaubain, 5-414-2350</td>
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<td>14-15</td>
<td>Duluth Duluth, Duluth, Duluth, 5-415-2350</td>
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<td>Anna Maria Anna Maria, Anna Maria, Anna Maria, 5-417-2350</td>
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<td>Indian indian, Indian, Indian, 5-418-2350</td>
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<td>18-19</td>
<td>Emmerling Emmerling, Emmerling, Emmerling, 5-419-2350</td>
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<td>19-20</td>
<td>Winona Winona, Winona, Winona, 5-420-2350</td>
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<td>Anoka Anoka, Anoka, Anoka, 5-422-2350</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>Winona Winona, Winona, Winona, 5-423-2350</td>
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## June

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Baudette Willi Wallaye Day, downtown, 5-424-1174</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Nisswa Turtle Races*, downtown, 5-425-2174</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Perham Turtle Races*, 5-426-3174</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Winona Lakeview Drive Inn Cruise Night*, Lakeview Drive Inn, 5-427-2174</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>Rochester Thursdays Downtown*, 5-428-3174</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>Lakeville Tower Days City Celebration, Lakeside Lagoon, 5-429-3174</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Hutchinson Daytime Celebration, McBride County Fairgrounds, 5-430-2174</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>Saint Cloud Downtown Art Crawl, 5-431-3174</td>
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<td>5-7</td>
<td>Boyd Good Time Days, downtown, 5-432-3174</td>
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<td>5-7</td>
<td>Edina Edina, Edina, Edina, 5-433-3174</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>Lumberjack Lumberjack Festival, downtown, 5-434-3174</td>
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<td>Deerwood Deerwood, Deerwood, Deerwood, 5-435-3174</td>
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<td>6-7</td>
<td>Embarrass National Sauna Day, Neblin Homestead Museum, 5-436-3174</td>
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## Where to Go for Fourth of July Fireworks

Fourth of July fireworks over Lake Bemidji. @JacobsLab on Instagram

All the Minnesota towns listed here, and likely many more, are celebrating Independence Day with parties and fireworks, plus plenty of food, music, and family fun. Most are on the Fourth of July (Saturday). For more complete list with details and contact information, visit exploremn.com/fireworks.
18-20 Brooklyn Center
Earl Brown Days, Centennial Park, 763-565-3400

18-20 Lake Crystal
Lake Days/Battle of the Bands Parade, downtown, 507-724-6600

18-20 St Paul
September 16, 2018, downtown, 651-297-4600

18-20 Pine River
Duck Races, Pine River Dam, 218-587-4000

19-20 Ayon
Spunktacular Days, Lake Wobegon Park, Trailhead, 320-217-4792

19-20 Brainerd
Conference Learning Center Golf & Fishing Classic, 218-963-2520

19-20 Caledonia
Founder’s Day, downtown, 507-725-3450

19-20 Harmony
60-Mile Garage Sale, towns along the Root River Trail, 507-806-2700

19-20 Little Falls
Little Falls Dam Festival, Maple Island Park, 218-632-3864

19-21 Minneapolis
Stone Arch Bridge Festival, 612-473-6422

19-21 Montevideo
Fiesta Days, downtown, 507-269-5527

19-21 St Paul
Back to the 50s Weekend, State Fairgrounds, 651-224-6848

20 Minneapolis
Midsummer Celebration, American Swedish Institute, 612-871-4807

20 Owatonna
Harry Wenger Marching Band Festival, downtown, 507-451-3103

20 Pelican Rapids
International Friendship Festival, Sherburne Park, 218-833-1221

20-27 Waconia
Lake Waconia Marching Band Festival, Main Street, 952-442-0667

22-27 Red Wing
Pier Art Festival, Red Wing Arts, 651-388-7569

22-27 St James
Railroad Days, downtown, 507-375-3330

24 Maplewood
Daisy Day, 651-748-9645

25 St Cloud
Lemonade Arts Festival, St Cloud State University, 320-308-0121

25-27 Brainerd
Lakes Jam Music Festival, Brainerd International Raceway, 218-640-3705

25-27 Pelican Rapids
Pelican Fest, downtown, 218-689-1221

25-27 Pipestone
Waste Tower Festival, downtown, 507-825-3316

25-28 Wayzata
Lake Minnetonka Summer Splash, Lake Street & Wayzata Bay, 952-473-9595

26 Round Lake
Hogs and Hot Rods Cruisin’, Round Lake, 651-752-3300

26-27 Proctor
Monster Truck Show, Proctor Speedway, 715-302-8837

26-28 Browerville
Browerville Heritage Days, downtown, 320-594-2300

26-28 Dawson
River Fest, 320-708-2081

26-28 Granite Falls
Western Fest Stampede Rodeo, Lee Mar Ranch and downtown, 320-321-3202

26-28 Henderson
Sauerkraut Days, downtown, 507-248-3244

26-28 Lake City
Water Ski Days, downtown, 651-345-4123

26-28 Alexandria
Awake the Lakes, Big Ole Park, 320-808-5083

27 Duluth
Chum Jelly Bean Festival, First Lutheran Church, 218-729-6521

27 Scandia
Midsummer Dog, Gammelgard, 651-335-1353

27 Ham Lake
Ham Lake Freedom Festival, Lions Park, 763-434-3011

27 Minneapolis
Rock the Garden, Walker Art Center, 612-375-7000

27-28 Afton
Afton’s Strawberry Festival, downtown, 651-436-8883

27-28 Eagan
Eagan Art Festival, Central Park Festival Grounds, 651-675-5500

27-28 Minneapolis
Twin Cities Pride Festival and Parade, Loring Park, 612-265-3260

27-28 Wayzata
Wayzata Art Experience, downtown, 952-473-9595

28 Alexandria
Vikingland Band Festival, downtown, 320-491-9268

28 Brainerd
Arts in the Park, Gregoire Park, 218-399-5277

28 Minneapolis
Uptown Food Truck Festival, 763-220-2380

28 New Ulm
New Ulm Festival, Brown County Fairgrounds, 507-354-3410

28 St Louis Park
Common Sound Music Festival, Beth El Synagogue, 952-873-7300

3-12 St Joseph
Joota Rockz, Church of St Joseph, 320-393-7505

3-12 Alexandria
Star Storm, Arrowwood Resort, 218-762-1124

3-12 Alexandria
Vonner Memorial Park Dedication, 507-460-3300

3-12 Waseca
Lakefest Music Festival, Clear Lake Park, 507-461-2604

3-12 Wimauna
Lakeville Days, Wimauna Park, 507-457-9258

4-5 Little Falls
Transatlantic Flight Weekend, Charles Lindbergh House and Museum, 320-616-5421

4-11 Lakeville
Par-0-Prop, historic downtown, 952-985-1400

4-11 Minneapolis
Hacksack
Sweetheart Days, downtown, 612-675-6135

8-12 Maple Grove
Maple Grove Days, various locations, 763-494-9865

9-11 Edgerton
Edgerton Dutch Festival, 507-442-7891

9-11 Hibbing
Hibbing Salvation Army, Downtown, 218-399-2222

10-11 Hinckley
Corn and Clover Carnival, downtown, 320-384-7837

10-11 Minneapolis
Basilica Block Party, 612-333-1381

10-11 Prior Lake
Lakefront Music Festival, Lakefront Park, 952-445-1600

10-12 Brainerd
Giant Days, Blue Earth Area Chamber of Commerce, 507-526-2916

10-12 Canby
Cobra Fest, 507-223-7775

10-12 Cass Lake
Summers Fest, Cedar Lakes Casino and downtown, 218-214-1359

10-12 Clara City
Prairie Fest, 320-847-2114

10-12 Deer River
World’s Largest Wild Rice Festival, downtown, 218-246-9222

10-12 Henning
Henning Festival, 218-568-5385

11 Anoka
Anoka Riverfest and Craft Fair, downtown, 763-421-7130

11 Bagley
Bagley Art in the Park, Bagley City Park, 218-533-0120

11 Pelican Rapids
Cars in the Park, Sherwin Park, 218-866-1231

11 Pierz
Freedom Fest, Genola Ball Park, 320-389-9625

11-12 Chisago City
Rhubarb Frenzy, Winehaven Winery and Vineyard, 651-257-1017

11-12 Grand Marais
Grand Marais Arts Festival, 218-387-2737

11-12 Maple Grove
Arbor Lakes Art Fair, Maple Grove Arts Center, 763-373-3003

11-12 Stillwater
Wine Meets Art Festival, St Croix Vineyards, 651-439-3310
3 DAYS OF FAMILY ADVENTURES IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY

BY CINNAMON JANZER & BRIAN FANELLI

If you're planning a trip to Otter Tail County and happen to call their visitors bureau in the process, the specially made jingle you'll hear on the other end nicely sums up what you should expect during a long weekend there: a warm, sometimes quirky, quintessential small-town Minnesota experience.

Located in west-central Minnesota, Otter Tail is one of the state's largest counties at over 2,200 square miles, encompassing 21 towns from tiny Vining (pop. 78) to the county seat of Fergus Falls (pop. 13,000). One of the standout features of Otter Tail County is its mesmerizing natural environment. Comprised of rolling prairie lands—and the most lakes in any U.S. county, including the namesake Otter Tail Lake—the county exudes a classic, laid-back Minnesota lakeside vibe.

The best way to explore the region is to pick one place to stay for a few nights and venture out from there. Whether you stay in a yurt at Glendalough State Park, a hotel in Fergus Falls or a B&B in Perham, you're never more than a hop, skip and a jump away from all of Otter Tail County's many attractions.

People come from all over to attend the weekly International Turtle Races in Perham.

DAY 1: EXPLORE CHARming SMALL TOWNS

Start your three-day weekend in Fergus Falls, the county's biggest small town and a hub for arts and culture. The Center for the Arts focuses on all things performance art, and the Lakes Region Arts Council and Kaddatz Art Galleries specialize in visual art. Next, head over to The Market to scoop up some souvenirs like a pair of classic Minnetonka Moccasins, or fancy soaps and other bath products perfect for pampering. While you're there, be sure to stop at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center to soak up some knowledge about the 325 acres of prairie wetlands that span the northern Great Plains.

About half an hour east of Fergus Falls, the tiny town of Vining is nearly impossible to miss, despite its small size. Just watch for the giant metal sculptures! This quiet central Minnesota town has become a popular tourist attraction thanks to the massive metal structures at Nyberg Sculpture Park. In addition to a giant metal watermelon—an homage to the town's annual Watermelon Day, held the third Saturday in August—the park features 10 other sculptures, including a giant coffee cup, an elephant made entirely out of lawn mower blades and an infamous "big foot" sculpture you need to see to believe.

After traipsing around Fergus Falls and Vining, head over to the town that Smithsonian magazine named one of the "20 Best Small Towns to Visit" in 2018. Perham. First, there are the International Turtle Races that take place every Wednesday morning from June to August. Believe it or not, people come from all over the world to compete. The races kick off alongside Turtle Fest, a series of festivities throughout the month of June that include a half-marathon, street dance, brew fest and a parade.

Of course, there's plenty to do in Perham all year long. Like sipping coffee at Gathering Grounds, a two-story coffee shop housed in a 100-year-old building. Visitors can also peruse the handmade goods sold at Your Porch, which run the gamut from kids toys to health and beauty products and a surprisingly large selection of teas. For dinner, a night in Perham gives you the chance to finally make it to Zorbaz after hearing about it forever. A Minnesota take on a beach bar, Zorbaz is an "up north" favorite for pizza, nachos, burritos and fun summer drinks adorned with plastic bobbers instead of paper umbrellas.
DAY 2: FUN ON THE WATER

After spending your first day taking in the towns of Otter Tail County, make day two about spending some time on the water. With 1,048 lakes in the county, your options for aquatic adventure are practically unlimited. For the marquee "Lake Life" experience, head to the biggest among them—the county’s namesake, Otter Tail Lake.

Nearly the entire lake is less than 15 feet deep—ideal conditions for catching smallmouth and largemouth bass—but ardent anglers will also find active populations of walleye, northern pike and crappie. No gear? No problem. Contact one of the region’s many local fishing guides for rod and reel rentals or guided fishing adventures, and leave the work to them.

Looking to get on the water without hiring a guide? Many resorts in the area have boats available for guests, including Red Lantern Resort & Campground on Otter Tail’s northern shore and Barky’s Resort on its western edge, just up the road from the lake’s public swimming beach. Barky’s is especially notable as one of the few places in Otter Tail County that offers boat rentals to the general public, with jet skis, pontoons and motorboats among the many options.

For canoers and kayakers, paddling the Otter Tail River is a unique way to explore the region’s many lakes and ecosystems. The linear, 30-mile water trail weaves through pine forests, deciduous forests and prairie grasslands and flows through several lakes including Rice, Little and Big Pine, Rush, Deer, Mud and Otter Tail, offering a stunning and picturesque adventure ideal for both families and thrill-seekers.

When it comes to dining, seek out spots with a view of the lake. The patio at Shoreline Restaurant, Bar & Bowl overlooks West Battle Lake, and after watching the sunset, head back inside for a round of cosmic bowling. Overlooking the western shoreline of Otter Tail Lake, you can sip margaritas and play beanbag toss from the large outdoor seating area at Beach Bums Bar & Eatery. Or, for anyone trying to fill up their “pazzoport,” you’ll also find Otter Tail County’s second Zorbaz location just down the road.

DAY 3: TAKE TO THE TRAILS

On the final day of your blissful central Minnesota vacation, set aside the life jacket, strap on a helmet and explore the rolling hills and abundant lakes of Otter Tail County from the saddle of your bike.

The Central Lakes State Trail winds through picturesque countryside and communities from Fergus Falls to Osakis. Like other trails built on former railroad lines, Central Lakes is relatively flat and easy to ride—perfect for families and groups of all ages and abilities.

Nearby, the Glendalough Trail serves up a 12-mile loop of easy riding between the town of Battle Lake, along the shore of West Battle Lake, around tranquil Glendalough State Park and back into town. Like much of Otter Tail County, Glendalough is nestled in the transition zone between prairie and hardwood forest, and the trail offers a uniquely serene perspective of the area’s understated and sublime landscape.

Glendalough State Park is also a fantastic destination for hiking, with numerous trails that meander around the park’s lakes, and through its hardwood forest and wild prairie. Altogether, you’ll find 9 miles of hiking trails in the park, including two interpretive nature trails. If you’ve only got time for one, try the brief but dazzling 3.3-mile hike around Annie Battle Lake.

For something more ambitious, the North Country National Scenic Trail is an absolute gem. The entire trail spans 4,600 miles between North Dakota and Vermont, with 800 of its best miles in Minnesota. The trails path through Minnesota slices right through Otter Tail County, with easily accessible trailheads in Maplewood State Park and Fergus Falls.

Playing a round at one of the 10 (yes, 10!) golf courses in the county is another excellent outdoor activity. For those who prefer driving on the road more than the range, a cruise along the 150-mile Otter Tail Scenic Byway is another great way to take in the scenery before heading home after a relaxing yet adventurous weekend in Otter Tail County.
ELY'S BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

This year, Ely's annual Blueberry Art Festival will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Each year, the festival features a variety of art and craft vendors who set up stalls on the streets of Ely, offering their unique creations. The festival also includes a blueberry pie eating contest, where contestants compete to eat as many slices of pie as possible within a set time limit. The event is free to attend and is a great way to enjoy the beauty of Ely and the surrounding areas. For more information, please visit www.elyblueberryartfestival.com.
**MUSIC**

**Arrowhead Concert Association**
Virginia, arrowheadconcertassociation.com
- **Beginning:** The Ultimate Chicago Tribute Band, Virginia High School, May 5

**Austen Symphony Orchestra**
Austen, 507-433-5647, austensymphony.org
- Sarah Cronin and Brathtyme, Austen High School, Apr 19

**Bemidji Symphony Orchestra**
Bemidji, 218-444-7814, bemidjisymphony.org
- Across the Pond, Bemidji High School, May 17

**Big Sandy Lodge and Resort**
McGregor, 218-629-3500, bigsandy@sandysedge.com
- Muddy Braun Band, Jul 4

**Center for the Arts**
Fergus Falls, 218-735-5533, fergusarts.org
- **ACAT Center Series:** Christian Howes, Apr 25

**Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota**
Mankato, 507-388-0276, cmsohm.org
- **Family Night Concert Series:** May 15, May 29, Jun 5
- **Free Family Night Concert Series:**的功能原文有误，信息不全

**CSIS/JU Fine Arts Programming**
St. Joseph, 320-363-5777, csisjudeu.org
- Chanticleer: Tracie Winds, Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, Apr 4
- Jeremy Moore/Smith, Benedicta Arts Center, Apr 17

**Dawson-Boyd Arts Association**
Dawson, 320-312-2311, dawsonboydarts.com
- Princess Arts Choral, May 2
- Rainy Days and Mondays: The Music of the Carpenters, Jun 27

**Detroit Mountain Recreation Area**
Detroit Lakes, 218-844-7668, detroitmountain.com
- **Music on the Mountains:** Jul 11

**Ely Chamber of Commerce**
Ely, 218-365-6123, cdev.org
- **Tuesday Night Live:** Jun 23-Aug 25

**Glenwood Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce**
Glenwood, 320-634-3690, glenwoodlakesarea.org
- **Music in the Park:** Glenwood City Park, Jun 11, 25; Jul 6, 30, Aug 13

**Heartland Symphony Orchestra**
Little Falls, 800-320-1997, heartlandsymphony.com
- A Tribute to Beethoven, Charles D. Martin Auditorium, Apr 4
- A Tribute to Beethoven, Tomah Auditorium, Apr 10

**Istas Symphony Orchestra**
Grand Rapids, 218-327-5781, istassymphony.org
- **Istas Symphony Orchestra featuring pianist Alexander Sandor,** Reif Performing Arts Center, May 16

**Lakes Area Community Center**
Baudette, 218-629-0988, lakesareacommunitycenter.com
- **Free Thursday Concerts:** Jun 4-Aug 27

**Linden Hill Historic Estate**
Little Falls, 320-616-5560, lindenhill.org
- Log Jam, Jul 14
- Raise the Roof, Aug 6

**Mesaba Concert Association**
Hibbing, 218-488-3322, mesabaconcert.org
- **Bell in the House:** Hibbing High School, May 5

**Mesabi Symphony Orchestra**
Virginia, 218-749-8161, mesabisymphonyc.org
- **Splendor & Grandeur:** Virginia High School, Apr 18

**Minnesota Beethoven Festival**
Winona, 507-474-9455, beethovenfestival.org
- Minnesota Beethoven Festival, multiple venues, Jun 28-Jul 10

**Munsinger Clemens Gardens**
St. Cloud, 320-257-9595, munsingerclemens.com
- **Music in the Gardens:** Jun 14, 28; Jul 12, 26; Aug 9, 23

**Northwoods Arts Council**
Hackensack, 218-675-6181, northwoodsarts.org
- **Sinatral Port Tour:** Hackensack Community Center, Jul 24-25

**Ottertail Business & Community Association**
Ottertail, 218-957-2950, visitottertail.com
- **Music in the Park:** Ottertail City Park, Jun 9, 23; Jul 14, 28; Aug 11, 15

**Owatonna Business Partnership**
Owatonna, 507-451-7970, owatonna.org
- **1197 Concert Series:** Central Park, Thursdays May 26-Aug 6

**Preson Minnesota**
Preston, 507-395-2163, prestonarts.org
- **Rhythm by the River:** Trailhead Park, Jun 11, Jul 9, Aug 20

**Red Rock Center for the Arts**
Faribault, 507-235-6650, redrockcenter.org
- **Galaxy: 80s and 90s Band:** May 8

**Riverland Theater**
Austin, 507-433-0555, riverland.edu
- **Northwestern Singers:** Recital and Hammondton, Apr 4-5

**Rochester Chamber Music Society**
Rochester, 507-287-0066, rochestermusic.org
- **Jazz from Broadway:** Apr 18
- **Rotary Club of St Cloud**
St. Cloud, 320-258-2314, stcloudrotary.org
- Summertime by George, Lake George Park, Wednesdays Jun 10-Aug 30

**West Central Concert Series**
Willmar, 320-364-9227, weccs.org
- **Willmar Area Youth Orchestra:** Jul 3, 10, 17, 24

**Willmar Symphony Orchestra**
Willmar, 320-231-9433, willmarsymphony.org
- **Young Artists’ Concert:** Jul 27
- **Willmar Education and Arts Center:** May 9

**Willmar Rotary Club**
Willmar, 320-235-3552, rockhrobies.com
- Rockin’ Robbins, Robbins Island, Jul 14, 21, 28; Aug 4

**SPECIAL EXHIBITS**

**Milo Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post**
Onamia, 320-532-3493, onamia.org
- **Tahmisas’ iganigondam:** The Jingle Dress at 100 Exhibit, ongoing

**Minnesota Military Museum**
Little Falls, 320-616-6581, mnunmuseum.org
- **General Vossey Day:** Jun 29

**Minnesota Museum of Mining**
Chisholm, 218-354-6453, mmomm.org
- **Train Days:** Jun 20-21

**VARIETY**

**Historic Paramount Theater**
Austin, 507-434-0354, rosetinarts.org
- **Owosho Comedy Showcase:** Apr 20

**Mesaba Concert Association**
Hibbing, 218-489-0089, mesabaconcert.org
- **Penny Anem:** Hibbing High School Auditorium, Apr 21

**University of Minnesota Duluth**
Duluth, 218-721-8551, dumns.edu
- **Visual Culture Lecture Series:** Abby Haddican and Kimberlee Joy Roth, Apr 7
SEE SOME OF MINNESOTA’S LAST REMAINING NATIVE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

BY LISA MEYERS MCCLINTICK

A few hundred years ago, much of Minnesota was covered by endless tallgrass prairie, where summer winds rippled grasses and flowers like a sea. But as colonial settlers carved up North America’s native prairie into farms, the original tallgrass prairie that once covered 170 million acres of the continent was whittled down to less than 4 percent of that range.

Tallgrass prairie is a rarity in Minnesota nowadays, but less than two hours west or south of the Twin Cities you can still see remnants of rolling and pancake-flat prairie, and catch a colorful snapshot of what the state once looked like.

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE AT MINNESOTA STATE PARKS

Blue Mounds State Park ranks among the most iconic landscapes of southwest Minnesota, with its blend of wild prairie, majestic outcroppings of pink Sioux quartzite, and even a herd of bison. Look for occasional rock climbers ascending the 100-foot-high quartzite cliff, which is the most beautiful and dramatic early in the day or near sunset. Morning is also the best time to spot bison grazing in the 1,800-acre park.

Hikers should keep their eyes open for wildflowers, including wispy prairie smoke and yellow prickly pear cactus tucked into wild grasses. The visitor center, with its sweeping views, provides more details about tallgrass prairie and the area’s geography, and staff can help with camping reservations for the more than 70 sites, including a teepee.

To admire beautiful images of the prairie, head to nearby Luverne, where the Brandenburg Gallery showcases Blue Mounds State Park and other wild places from his work in Minnesota and beyond, including assignments for National Geographic.

Elsewhere, visitors can spot storms from miles away when looking across the 6,000-acre Bluestem Prairie Preserve, a rare tallgrass prairie that adjoins Buffalo River State Park near Fargo-Moorhead. Birders know to reserve a coveted spot in a blind and arrive before dawn in the early spring. Stealth and quiet allow them the rare chance to see and hear prairie chickens “boom” and do their mating dance. Bobolinks, upland sandpipers and marble godwits also attract birders and add their songs to the quiet rustle of the prairie.

BIKE ALONG PRAIRIE FLOWERS & TALL GRASSES

For a summer bike ride through rural farmlands and remnants of Minnesota’s tallgrass prairie, head to Lake Louise State Park near the southeastern town of LeRoy. The 20-mile Shooting Star State Trail often parallels Highway 56, which is known as the Shooting Star Scenic Byway. The rare shooting star flower, also known as wild prairie primrose, can be spotted here, along with native orchids and showier flowers such as coneflowers and prairie clover. Look for educational kiosks and walkable trails near the Taopi Prairie Interpretive Area and Shooting Star Prairie State Natural Area.

EXPLORE PRAIRIE WETLANDS

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center near Fergus Falls features a museum and acreage dedicated to preserving America’s prairie pothole ecosystem, an area rich with small ponds that are essential for migrating birds, especially in the spring. Explore 4 miles of pretty trails, many with interpretive signs, or go easy on the 1-mile Tatanka Trail. Go in early spring for the best bird-watching, or in summer to see wildflowers and grasses in full glory.

EXPERIENCE LIFE ON THE PRAIRIE AT THE WILDER PAGEANT

The daunting prairie landscape and pioneers’ struggles to tame it became famous when Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote the “Little House on the Prairie” series about her experiences growing up in the 1870s.

Almost every weekend in July, horses pull a creaking, jolting covered wagon across the expansive Wilder Pageant grounds in the tiny town of Walnut Grove, where the legacy of Laura looms large. A cast of more than 50 actors brings her childhood back to life, a town tradition for more than 35 years since the “Little House on the Prairie” TV series became an international hit in 1974.

Audiences fill the outdoor theater and surrounding hillside to see the family’s shock when Pa moves them into a sod house, their struggles with grasshopper plagues that destroyed crops, and the battles with real flames of a prairie fire. There’s also the joy of building a town church, meeting new friends in the farming community and a Walnut Grove Christmas gathering.

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum fills several historic buildings with pioneer artifacts, “Little House” books in other languages, and newspaper articles and exhibits on the TV series. The town also welcomes former stars of the TV show during pageant weekends.
DESTINATIONS

MPLS-ST PAUL AREA

Bloomingon CVB
952-858-8500
www.bloomingtonmn.org

NORTHWEST

Visit Thief River Falls
(218) 686-9785
www.visittfr.com

SOUTHWEST

Pipestone Chamber of Commerce & CVB
507-525-3316
www.pipestoneminnesota.com

SOUTHERN

Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau
Local: (507) 373-2316
Toll Free: 800-345-8414
explorealblea.com

Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce
117 W. Main St., Crosby, MN 56441
www.cuyunalakes.com

CENTRAL

Fairmont CVB
Local: (507) 235-8555
Toll Free: 800-657-3280
VisitFairmontMN.com

NORTHEAST

Cook County Visitors Bureau
Toll Free: 1-888-922-5000
www.visitcookcounty.com

MINNEAPOLIS

WILLMAR

Iron Range Tourism CVB
Local: 218-749-8161
ironrange.org

WILLMAR LAKES AREA

Willmar Lakes Area CVB
Local: 218-235-5552
Toll Free: 800-845-8747
willmarlakesarea.com

TRAVEL INFORMATION

888-VISITMN
OR 888-847-4866
EXPLOREMINNESOTA.COM

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Grand Forks, Grand Marais, Granite
Falls, Hanley Falls, Harmony, Hibbing,
Hinckley, Isle, La Crescent, Lanesboro,
Lindstrom, Loven, Minneapolis,
Montevideo, New Ulm, Nisswa, Orr,
Ortonville, Owatonna, Park Rapids,
Pequot Lakes, Pelican Rapids, Pine River,
Pipestone, Preston, Red Wing, Redwood
Falls, Sauk Centre, Schroeder, St Louis
Park, St Paul, St Peter, Thief River Falls,
Tofte, Two Harbors, Webster, Walker,
Warroad, Willmar, Winona

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SPORTS

BIKING

Minneapolis Powerboat Championships, Minneapolis, Aug 13-16, 612-597-1331

DUATHLONS/TRIATHLONS

Trinoma, Winona, Jun 13-14, 608-320-3346
Cuyuna Off-Road Triathlon, Ironon, Jun 14, 319-541-5580
Average Joe Triathlon, Perham, Jun 27, 218-346-7102
Pebble Lake Youth Triathlon, Fergus Falls, Jul 24, 218-736-8451
Green Lake Kids Triathlon, Spicer, Aug 8, 320-894-5882
Green Lake Triathlon, Spicer, Aug 9, 320-894-5882
Bluff Land Tri, Rushford, Aug 15, 507-864-3338
YoungLife Triathlon, Detroit Lakes, Aug 15, 218-332-2682
Maple Grove Triathlon, Maple Grove, Aug 8-22, 763-309-2584

FISHING & HUNTING

Lipmaters Fishing Tournament, Rushford, Apr 25, 507-862-7799
Kids Fishing Clinic, Coon Rapids May 2, 612-324-3350
Jeremy Hilbrunner Cystic Fibrosis Walley Fishing Tournament, Ely, May 16, 800-950-9425
Kids Fishing Contest kickoff, Hackensack, Jun 9, 218-675-6135
Pike-a-Paloosa Fishing Tournament, Deerwood, Jun 13, 218-678-2885
Lund Mania, New York Mills, Jul 10, 218-371-8300
MTT Tournament Trail, Baudette, Jul 10-11, 218-634-1174
Cats Incredible Catfish Days, East Grand Forks, Jul 25-26, 701-746-0444
AIM MN Championship Walleye Tournament, Baudette, Aug 27-28, 218-634-2168

GOLF

Pebble Creek 6-6-6 Best Ball, Scramble, Alt Shot, Becker, May 10, 763-200-4268
Class A State Golf Tournament, Becker, Jun 8-10, 763-200-4268
Pebble Creek 1-Person Scramble, Becker, Jun 21, 763-200-4268
Craig Hom Memorial Golf Tournament, Proctor, Jul 4, 218-628-8297
Hockeytown USA Celebrity Golf Tournament, Warrad, Jul 18, 218-386-3543
Pebble Creek 2-Man Alternate Shot, Becker, Jul 26, 763-200-4268

RUNNING/WALKING

Don't Worry Be Happy, Waconia, Apr 18, 952-797-6412
Fitger's 5K Run and Walk, Duluth, Apr 18, 218-727-9047
KP Challenge Series of Races, Duluth, Apr 18 & Jul 16, 218-727-9047
Earth Day Run, St Cloud, Apr 24-25, 320-300-0121
Brainerd Jaycees Run for the Lakes, Nisswa, Apr 24-25, 218-330-2604
4-H Clover Dash 5K, Andover, Apr 25, 763-324-3495

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CATCH FAMILY FUN ON TAKE A KID FISHING WEEKEND

Family fishing off the shore of the Mississippi River in St. Paul. Stan Borowicz

When it comes to establishing fishing traditions to last a lifetime, you've gotta have a good hook. That's why Take A Kid Fishing Weekend (June 5-7) makes it free, easy and fun for families to experience the excitement of a tug on the line and land the first of many Minnesota fishing memories.

Hosted annually by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Take A Kid Fishing Weekend lets adults and kids go fishing together without having to purchase a license. During the weekend, Minnesotans 16 and older can fish without a license while accompanied by a child younger than 16.

As part of Take A Kid Fishing Weekend, many state parks offer loaner equipment to be used within the park, so you don’t even need a rod or tackle to get started.

The DNR recommends shore fishing to ease beginners into the sport. Shore fishing in summer is more productive in the early morning and evenings, but fishing pier can remain busy throughout the day. You'll find piers on lakes and in many parks throughout Minnesota. Can't make it to Take A Kid Fishing Weekend? The DNR also offers two inexpensive, hands-on learn-to-fish workshops to help you and your family get started: the Becoming an Outdoorsy Family and I Can Fish programs.

For more information about these programs or register online, visit mn.dnr.gov/go/fishing. —Brian Fanelli

Lakes Area Endurance, Alexandria, Jun 27, 612-365-4353
Lift Bridge Race Road Race 10 Mile/10K/5K, Stillwater, Jun 27, 651-383-2436
Nisswa Firecracker Run, Nisswa, Jul 4, 218-963-2620
Waddle Like a Duck 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, Walker, Jul 4, 218-547-1819
Green Lake Road Race, Spicer, Jul 5, 320-894-5882
East Otter Tail Relay For Life, Perham, Jul 10, 218-847-0408
The Anytime Fox Trot at Foxholes Race, Willmar, Jul 12, 320-441-2717
Park Point 5-Miler/2-Mile Walk, Duluth, Jul 16, 218-727-0847
St Croix Crossing Half Marathon, Stillwater, Jul 25, 651-383-2436
Gopher to Badger Half Marathon, Stillwater, Aug 8, 651-383-2436
Goodview Gallop, Goodview, Aug 22, 507-452-1630

MISC. EVENTS

SCAR Dolls Roller Derby, St Cloud, Apr 4, May 2 & 30, 320-255-7272
Corky's Early Bird Softball Tournament, Owatonna, Apr 30-May 3, 507-451-7907
Lake Charlotte Disc Golf Tournament, Long Prairie, May 30, 320-732-2517
Minnesota Trapshooting Championship, Alexandria, Jun 8-16, 320-763-5315
1860 Vintage Base Ball, Farmington, Jun 13, 651-552-7548
Highway 10 Baseball Classic, New York Mills, Jun 19-21, 218-385-3339
Special Olympics Minnesota Summer Games, St Paul, Jun 19-21, 612-333-0999
Buffalo Championship PRCA Rodeo, Buffalo, Jun 26-28, 763-682-7032
West Central Wakesurf Open, Spicer, Jun 27, 320-444-5673
Whalan’s Girls Fastpitch Softball Tournament, Whalan, Jul 3-5, 507-467-2969
Waconia PRCA Rodeo, Waconia, Jul 17-19, 612-907-2720
Skate Central Lakes Endurance Festival, St Joseph, Jul 17-19, 320-255-6172
Vintage Baseball Exposition, Stillwater, Jul 18, 651-351-1717
Mud Monkey Kids Obstacle Course, Ely, Aug 1, 800-960-9425
Minnesota Senior Games, St Cloud, Aug 9-9, 320-493-4974
2020 DRR Bag Tag Challenge, Kimball, Aug 15, 320-398-7200

JUNE
18-21 — Wadena, Wadena
19-21 — Henning, Corcoran
20-21 — Morrison, Motley
24-27 — Norman, Ada
25-28 — Cass, Pine River
25-28 — Red Lake, Okeene

JULY
1-4 — Cannon Valley, Cannon Falls
8-11 — Atchison, Atchison
8-12 — Kittson, Hallock
8-12 — Polk, Fertile
8-12 — Winona, St Charles
9-11 — Cass, Pillager
9-12 — Big Stone, Clinton
9-12 — Clay, Barnesville
9-12 — St Louis, Chisholm
9-12 — Northern Minnesota District Fair, Littlefork
15-18 — Lake of the Woods, Baudette
15-18 — Wabasha, Wabasha
15-18 — West Otter Tail, Fergus Falls
15-19 — Waseca, Waseca
15-19 — Dodge, Kasson
15-19 — Hubbard, Park Rapids
15-19 — Pennington, Thief River Falls
15-19 — Ramsey, Maplewood
15-19 — Redwood, Redwood Falls
15-19 — Chicago, Rush City
15-19 — Grant, Herman
15-19 — Sherburne, Elk River
15-19 — Watonwan, St James
19-24 — Roseau, Roseau
21-26 — Anoka, Anoka
21-26 — Fillmore, Preston
22-25 — Yellow Medicine, Canby
22-26 — Isanti, Cambridge
22-26 — Kanabec, Mora
22-26 — Marshall, Warren
22-26 — Rice, Faribault
22-26 — Scott, Jordan
22-26 — Wright, Howard Lake
23-26 — Blue Earth, Garden City
23-26 — East Otter Tail, Perham
27-2 — Olmsted, Rochester
28-1 — Jackson, Jackson
29-1 — Becker, Detroit Lakes
29-1 — Faribault, Blue Earth
29-1 — Rock, Luverne

AUG
4-8 — Crow Wing, Brainerd
4-9 — Benton, Sauk Rapids
4-9 — Freeborn, Albert Lea
4-9 — Kandiyohi, Willmar
5-8 — Pipestone, Pipestone
5-8 — Pope, Glenwood
5-9 — Clearwater, Bagley
5-9 — Mille Lacs, Princeton
5-9 — Nicollet, St Peter
5-9 — Nobles, Worthington
5-9 — St Louis, Chisholm
6-8 — Renville, Bird Island
6-9 — Lake, Two Harbors
7-9 — Koochiching, Northome
10-16 — Dakota, Farmington
11-16 — Goodhue, Zumbrota
11-16 — Mower, Austin
11-16 — Stevens, Morris
11-16 — Tri County, Mankato
12-15 — Cottonwood, Windom
12-15 — Murray, Slayton
12-16 — Beltrami, Bemidji
12-16 — Brown, New Ulm
12-16 — Carver, Waconia
12-16 — Lyon, Marshall
12-16 — Morrison, Little Falls
13-16 — Carlton, Barnum
13-16 — Todd, Long Prairie
13-16 — Martin, Fairmont
13-16 — Steele, Owatonna
18-22 — Douglas, Alexandria
18-22 — Houston, Caledonia
19-23 — Itasca, Grand Rapids
19-23 — McLeod, Hutchinson
19-23 — Swift, Appleton
20-23 — Le Sueur, Le Center
20-23 — SW St Louis, Floodwood
27-30 — Traverse, Wheaton

SEPT
10-13 — Lac Qui Parle, Madison
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