

# the grand

## MINNESOTA EXPLORER ITINERARY

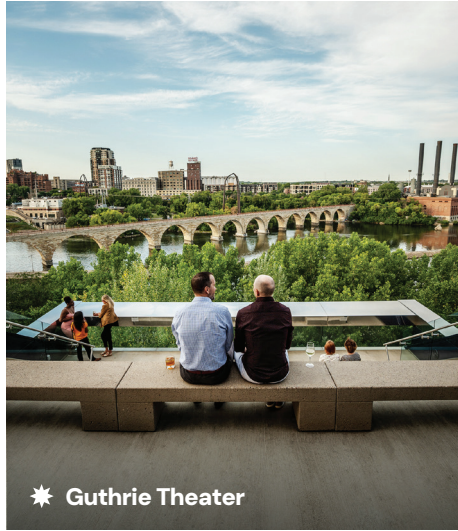
Named by the American Indians as “Land of Sky-Blue Waters,” Minnesota is well-known for its many lakes and rivers. But less-known secrets are left for the modern explorer to discover: Headwaters of the Mississippi River, award-winning restaurants and chefs, top-rated museums and the largest shopping and entertainment center in the U.S. Come and discover the spectacular scenery and welcoming people of Minnesota!



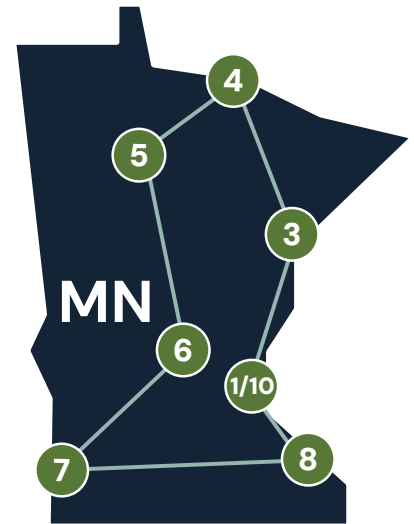
★ Minneapolis Chain of Lakes



★ Mall of America



★ Guthrie Theater



### DAY ONE: MINNEAPOLIS/ ST. PAUL/BLOOMINGTON

Arrival at Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP). Use a complimentary hotel shuttle and check into your Bloomington, Minnesota hotel. Then it's off to an evening of shopping, entertainment and dining at Mall of America, the largest enclosed shopping and entertainment center in the U.S. There is no sales tax on clothing or shoes in Minnesota!

### DAY TWO: THE TWIN CITIES OF MINNEAPOLIS & ST. PAUL

Start your day exploring the Mississippi River in downtown Minneapolis. Walk across the historic Stone Arch Bridge for a view of the only natural waterfall on the entire river, St. Anthony Falls. Learn about the history of Minneapolis at Mill City Museum, which was once one of the most important flour mills in the U.S. Then take a short drive to St. Paul, following Summit Avenue which features a collection of Victorian-styled homes. Stop at the Minnesota State Capitol, the Saint Paul Cathedral and the James J. Hill House. Final destination of the day is First Avenue, the nightclub in Minneapolis that Prince featured in his movie *Purple Rain*.





★ Gooseberry Falls

### DAY THREE: DULUTH

Located on the shore of Lake Superior, Duluth is the world's largest inland seaport welcoming ships from around the world. Watch the ships enter the harbor as the Aerial Lift Bridge raises up to allow entry. Visit the Maritime Marine Visitors Center to learn about the history of shipping on Lake Superior. Take a drive along the North Shore Scenic Byway to view Split Rock Lighthouse and Gooseberry Falls State Park.

### DAY FOUR: INTERNATIONAL FALLS

International Falls is located on the Canadian border, directly across from Fort Frances, Ontario. The city is often referred to as the "Icebox of the Nation," with an average of 109 days per year where the high temperature is below freezing. The Rainy Lake Visitor Center is one of the gateways to Voyageurs National Park, the only water-based national park in the U.S. Take a sightseeing tour boat or rent a houseboat, one of the best ways to enjoy the national park.

### DAY FIVE: BEMIDJI

Morning drive to Itasca State Park, where the Mississippi River begins its journey to the Gulf of Mexico from Lake Itasca. Drive through the Park to the Headwaters for a photo and walk across the stepping stones where the river flows from the lake. Late afternoon drive to Bemidji, known as the First City on the Mississippi. Highlights include the famous statues of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox and Bemidji Woolen Mills.

### DAY SIX: ST. CLOUD

Stop in Alexandria on the way to St. Cloud for a photo op with the Viking statue Big Ole and a visit to the Runestone Museum. Debates continue regarding whether the Kensington Runestone on display was actually left by the Vikings. After a short drive to St. Cloud, walk through the stunning Munsinger and Clemens Gardens, built along the Mississippi River. A visit to St. John's Abbey provides a rare opportunity to see a hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible completed in 1998 by renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson.



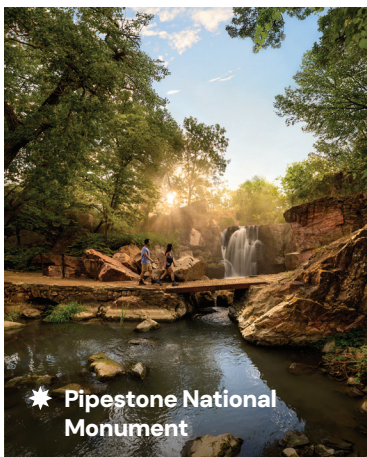
★ Big Ole Viking Statue

### DAY SEVEN: PIPESTONE

The Pipestone National Monument is a working quarry used by American Indians to harvest the soft red stone used to make ceremonial peace pipes. A 1-km walking trail allows a view of the quarries and in the Visitor Center, American Indians still today hand craft the pipes. Many buildings in town are made of the red quartzite stone (pipestone) and are on the list of the National Register of Historic Places. The Pipestone County Courthouse is a prominent example.

### DAY EIGHT: WINONA

Once home to wealthy lumber barons, Winona still showcases several attractions of historic and cultural value, including the Polish Museum, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church and its stained glass windows, and Watkins Heritage Museum and Headquarters. And the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, located directly on the Mississippi River, showcases great art featuring water, including art by internationally renowned artists.



★ Pipestone National Monument

### DAY NINE: MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL

Depart for the Twin Cities driving along the Great River Road, a national scenic byway which extends from the Mississippi River Headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico. First stop is Wabasha, with impressive views of the Mississippi and home of the National Eagle Center. Next stop is Red Wing to visit the flagship Red Wing Shoe Store & Museum. Once back in the Twin Cities, visit the Minnesota Zoo for an amazing view of dolphins and to walk the Treetop Trail, an elevated walkway to see animals in their natural habitat.

### DAY TEN: MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL/BLOOMINGTON

Final day to explore the Twin Cities. Visit the Walker Art Center and adjacent Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. Or tour the Minneapolis Institute of Art, with a collection of 90,000 artworks from six continents, spanning about 5,000 years. Visit Paisley Park, the former home and recording studio of Prince. For history buffs, a tour of Historic Fort Snelling tells the story of pioneer life in the 1820s through costumed interpreters. Shopping at Mall of America provides the opportunity to pick up last-minute items before heading to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP) and your flight home.



★ National Eagle Center