

the twin cities

IN 48 HOURS

The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul (MSP metro area) are the largest in the state of Minnesota. The greater metro area is incredibly diverse with a rich cultural scene, exciting professional sports teams, renowned restaurants, and beautiful nature including lakes, rivers and wildlife. Visitors could easily spend a week or two enjoying the Twin Cities, but if you only have 48 hours...this is the highlights tour.



★ Mississippi River

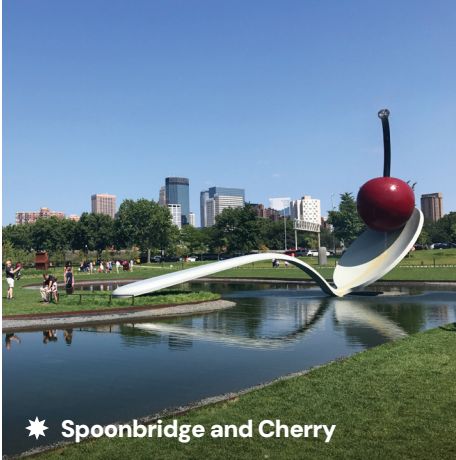
DAY ONE: MINNEAPOLIS

Morning:

Start your morning with breakfast at Hell's Kitchen in downtown Minneapolis, an iconic restaurant known for its unique dishes and Bloody Mary and Mimosa bar.

Then it's a short walk or drive to the Walker Art Center, one of the top modern art museums in the world. Just outside the Walker Art Center is the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden which is one of the largest urban sculpture gardens in the United States. The highlight and a well-known beloved symbol of the Twin Cities is a piece called "Spoonbridge and Cherry."

Next stop is Mill City Museum, a state historic site located on the bank of the Mississippi River. Walk through the history of Minneapolis and learn about its lumber and flour milling industry—for 60 years Minneapolis led the world in flour production. The viewing platform at Mill City Museum offers spectacular views of the Mississippi River, the Stone Arch Bridge and St. Anthony Falls, the only natural waterfall on the entire Mississippi.



★ Spoonbridge and Cherry

Afternoon:

Enjoy lunch and a beer at nearby Surly Brewing Company, one of many booming microbreweries in the Twin Cities region. Take a free tour of the brewery after dining or browse through the gift shop for a memorable souvenir.

Then take a 30-minute drive to Paisley Park in Chanhassen. This is the former home and studio of music legend Prince. The tour, which must be booked in advance, showcases his private studios, his many awards and platinum record collection, hundreds of outfits, artwork, and special items from his movies.

Returning to downtown Minneapolis, stop by First Avenue, the nightclub featured in Prince's film *Purple Rain*. Many artists have performed at First Avenue and the side of the building features silver stars naming some of the incredible talents that have played here.



★ Paisley Park



★ The Dakota

Evening:

Dine at Murray's Steakhouse, a third-generation family-owned restaurant since 1946. Known as the "home of the silver butter knife steak," the restaurant is a Minneapolis landmark.

After dinner, experience the Minneapolis music scene with a performance at The Dakota, the Aster Café, or the Minnesota Orchestra at Orchestra Hall—live music is performed year-round.

DAY TWO: SAINT PAUL & BLOOMINGTON

Morning:

Breakfast this morning is at Mickey's Diner, a downtown Saint Paul legend that features everything that makes diners an American staple. The yellow and red painted train car has been featured in several films and you never know who will be seated in the next booth!

While Minneapolis is known as the modern city of the West with skyscrapers built of glass, Saint Paul is known as the historic city of the East with stone and granite buildings. The first stop today is at the Minnesota State Capitol, a gleaming white marble building with free public tours.

Next is a short drive (or walk) to the Cathedral of Saint Paul, which was built from 1907–1915. This Archdiocese is on the National Register of Historic Buildings. A highlight of the Cathedral is The Shrine of the Nations, which features patron saints of ethnic groups from Europe who first settled the area.

The James J. Hill House is across the street from the Cathedral. Built by railroad baron James J. Hill, this served as his family home while he built the Great Northern Railroad, extending rail service from Chicago to the West Coast of the U.S. Tours of this majestic home include public galleries, the family's living areas, as well as the kitchen, laundry and servants' quarters.



★ Minnesota State Capitol

Afternoon:

Following the grand start to the day, lunch will be at the Saint Paul Grill, located in the historic Saint Paul Hotel overlooking Rice Park. The restaurant is known for its refined style and exceptional cuisine.

After lunch, board a Paddlewheel Riverboat for a narrated sightseeing tour of Saint Paul on the Mississippi River. The Mississippi winds through both Minneapolis and Saint Paul and combines city skylines with parks and pristine nature.

Next a short drive to Bloomington brings you to Mall of America, the largest shopping and entertainment complex in the U.S. With 500 stores, 50 restaurants, Nickelodeon Universe indoor amusement park, SEA LIFE Aquarium, FlyOver America, Museum of Illusions and dozens of other attractions, Mall of America is one of the most-visited sites in the U.S. And there is no sales tax on clothing or shoes at Mall of America—nor anywhere in Minnesota!



★ Paddlewheel Riverboat

Evening:

Take a break from shopping and enjoy dinner at Twin City Grill in Mall of America. The restaurant features Minnesota dishes including wild rice soup and walleye, a delicate white freshwater fish.

After dinner, continue shopping, ride a roller coaster or enjoy entertainment.



★ Mall of America