

chicago to minnesota

THE SOUTHERN ROUTE

Charming small towns are featured along this drive from Chicago to Minneapolis/Saint Paul, which also includes a ride along the Mississippi River. Experience a bit of Americana in the Wisconsin Dells, tour the most famous medical center in the world at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, and observe the American bald eagle at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha.

★ Great River Road, MN



★ Shedd Aquarium, IL



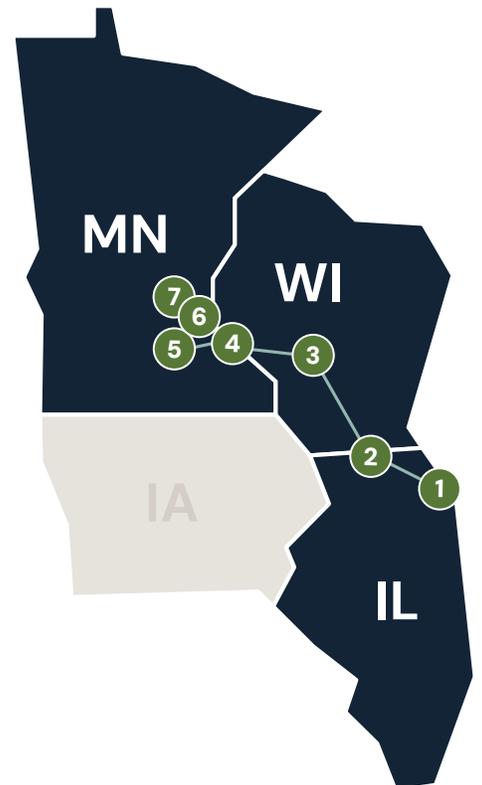
★ Anderson Japanese Gardens, IL

DAY ONE: CHICAGO

Chicago's premier Museum Campus of world-class facilities includes the Shedd Museum, the Adler Planetarium, and the Field Museum, home of the largest Tyrannosaurus Rex ever discovered. For a bird's-eye view of the city, go to the John Hancock Observatory with its sweeping views. Or take a Mercury Cruise out onto Lake Michigan to see the Chicago skyline from a different perspective.

DAY TWO: ROCKFORD

Driving west from Chicago, stop in Rockford, Illinois. Nicknamed the Forest City, Rockford is known for its beautiful location on the Rock River. Take a stroll through the famous botanical gardens, especially the Anderson Japanese Gardens which are known as one of the most beautiful gardens in the U.S. Rockford is also known for its many antique shops and local markets.





✦ Winona, MN

DAY THREE: WISCONSIN DELLS

Head north today with the first stop in Madison, the state capital of Wisconsin. The State Capitol is the tallest building in the city offering a 360-degree view of Madison. Driving one hour brings you to the Taliesin Preserve, which is the extraordinary home of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. A short distance away, Baraboo is the home of Circus World, featuring over 260 spectacular train wagons from the Ringling Brothers Circus. Splash the evening away at a waterpark—Wisconsin Dells is known as the “Waterpark Capital of the Nation.”

DAY FOUR: WINONA

Drive through the rolling hills of Wisconsin to Winona, a river town located on the Mississippi River in the bluff country of the famous river. The history of Winona is told through several unique museums including the Watkins Heritage Museum and Gift Shop and the Polish Cultural Institute and Museum. And a walking tour of downtown showcases the historic architecture and stained-glass splendor of many buildings.



✦ Mayowood Historic Home, MN

DAY FIVE: ROCHESTER

Home of the world-famous Mayo Clinic, green parks, historic sites, and boutique shopping, Rochester offers an interesting variety of architects for visitors. A great way to see the city is on a Rochester Trolley Tour—examples are the Queen City History Tour or To Heal the Sick: Rochester and the Mayo Clinic. Historic homes of the founding Mayo Clinic doctors tell the story of the famous clinic and include the Mayowood Historic Home and the Plummer House of the Arts.



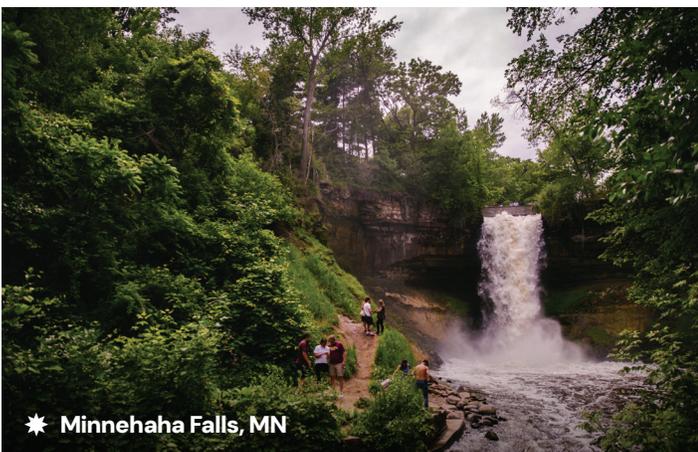
✦ National Eagle Center, MN

DAY SIX: RED WING

Following the Great River Road Scenic Byway along the Mississippi River, the first stop is at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha. A short drive along the river brings you to the Pottery Museum of Red Wing, showcasing the history of the famous pottery. A visit to the Red Wing Shoes Store and Museum provides an opportunity for a selfie with the world’s largest boot. A trolley tour or walk along the river ends with dinner and an overnight at the Historic St. James Hotel.

DAY SEVEN: MINNEAPOLIS/SAINT PAUL

Continue the drive along the Mississippi River to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Discover why Minneapolis is called the “City of Lakes.” Stop at Minnehaha Falls to learn about the early Native American legends of the area. View Historic Fort Snelling and the beautiful Landmark Center in Saint Paul with the gangster history of the city. 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. And there’s no sales tax on clothing or shoes in Minnesota!



✦ Minnehaha Falls, MN