

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL

1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

Minneapolis boasts a waterfront bound by the mighty Mississippi; St. Paul, the State Capitol, is an historic and architectural wonder. Both have an infectious, positive vibe, whether you're visiting a park or museum, indulging in fine dining or shopping the day away at the Mall of America.

1 MINUTE

Stone Arch Bridge

W. River Pkwy. & Portland Ave., Minneapolis • 612-230-6400

Cross over the mighty Mississippi on this pedestrian-only bridge built in 1882. Once you're in the center of the walkway, you'll catch unique views of the skyline, architectural ruins and St. Anthony Falls.

The Skyways of Minneapolis and St. Paul

12 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis & St. Paul

Whether the wind chill is below zero or it's too hot to think, the Twin Cities Skyways allow you to travel on foot through enclosed walkways that connect hotels, shops, restaurants and attractions. Grab a map in a skyway-linked building and find your way around in comfort.

1 HOUR

Walker Art Center

**1750 Hennepin, Minneapolis
612-375-7600 • walkerart.org**

Recently renovated with stunning modern architecture, Walker now features a new theater, two Wolfgang Puck restaurants and rooftop terraces in addition to its collections and exhibits of modern and contemporary art. Visit the sculpture garden to see the iconic Spoonbridge & Cherry.

Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park

**Lexington Pkwy. & Eastbrook St., St. Paul
651-487-8200 • comozooconservatory.org**

For a mere \$1 entrance fee, you can explore the beautiful, lush (and warm) rooms of one of the most tranquil attractions in town. Especially notable are the Bonsai Gallery and the elaborate Japanese Garden.

Minnehaha Park

Hiawatha Ave. & Minnehaha Pkwy., Minneapolis • 612-230-6400

No matter the season, this park, one of the area's oldest and most popular, is a sight to behold. The highlight is Minnehaha Falls ("laughing waters"), a 53-ft. waterfall that's given mention in Henry W. Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha."

1 HOUR (CON'T)

Science Museum of Minnesota

**120 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul
651-221-9444 • smm.org**

Kids and kids-at-heart flock to this collection of nearly two million artifacts and specimens, including one of the biggest dinosaur exhibits in the world. Fans of the weird will appreciate the Questionable Medical Devices exhibit, which features bloodletting tools, a shoe-fitting x-ray machine and more.

Minneapolis Institute of the Arts

2400 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis • 612-870-3200

Step inside the doors of MIA's stately white-columned neo-classical façade, and you'll encounter 100,000+ treasures, ranging from Asian antiquities to American and European canvases to modern photography to architecture from around the globe. Be sure to ask about the Institute's traveling and temporary exhibitions.

1 DAY

Mall of America

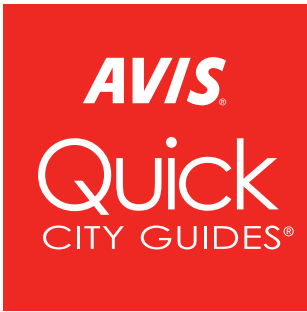
**60 E. Broadway, Bloomington
952-883-8800 • mallofamerica.com**

Opened in 1992 after the Twins and the Vikings left Bloomington for nearby Minneapolis, the Mall has grown into the biggest shopping complex in the states. Under its single roof, you can fill your bags at more than 520 stores, enjoy the rides at the indoor amusement park, brave the sharks at the aquarium and stack blocks at the LEGO Imagination Center.

Wisconsin's Great River Road

94E to 10S to WI-35

Located 90 minutes south of the Twin Cities, this portion of the Great River Road stretches 250 miles along the Mississippi River Valley. Considered by many to be one of the most scenic byways in the U.S., it features towering limestone bluffs, lush farmland and breathtaking views of the Mississippi River. You'll find plenty of charming river towns along the way. Stop in Stockholm, an artists' haven of galleries, restaurants and shops, some of which showcase the handicrafts of the region's Amish communities.



MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

GOURMET DINING

Manny's Steakhouse

Considered by some to be one of the best steakhouses in the country, Manny's serves thick steaks, seafood and sides-for-two in a bustling, club-like atmosphere.

1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis • 612-339-9900

20.21, Walker Art Center

Named for the 20th- and 21st-century focus of the art center's collection, this Wolfgang Puck creation offers breathtaking views of the skyline and Asian-inspired dishes, like pad thai with stir-fry prawns and Shanghai Maine lobster.

1750 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis • 612-253-3410

The Oceanaire Seafood Room

Area seafood lovers often set a course for this classy room resembling a 1930s ocean liner. You might choose from about a dozen varieties of oyster, or savor the hard-to-find Dover sole.

1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis • 612-333-2277

D'Amico Cucina

Under crystal chandeliers and subdued lighting, you can enjoy the attentive service and innovative Italian cuisine of one of the Twin Cities' favorite fine dining experiences. Try the chef's tasting menu, or choose an entrée of anything from butter-poached chicken to roasted salmon with shell pea pesto.

100 N. 6th St., Minneapolis • 612-338-2401

Cosmos Restaurant, Graves 601 Hotel

Located in the Theatre District and connected via skyway to all of downtown, Cosmos works for high-powered meetings or a night on the town. Expect upscale cuisine in a sleek space defined by modern lines, metallic details and creative lighting. Entrees include venison chop with rutabaga gnocchi and juniper gelee or confit of sea bass with cauliflower risotto, basil, caper berries and tomato water.

601 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis • 612-677-1100

LOCAL FAVORITES

Tavern on Grand

Minnesota's state fish, walleye, is the specialty here—have it fried or broiled, as a sandwich or in bits served with fries in this tavern resembling a cozy cabin.

656 Grand Ave., St. Paul • 651-228-9030

Solera

The tapas craze of the American dining scene gets a sleek, stylish treatment at Solera in the Warehouse District. Share small plates of hot tapas (like lamb meatballs with saffron almond sauce) and cold tapas (like deviled eggs with blue crab and cumin).

900 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis • 612-338-0062

Cafe Lurcat

Overlooking Loring Park and the Walker Art Center, this rehabilitated hangout in the historic Fawkes building exudes a trendy, stylish ambience. Choose from a modern American menu arranged by preparation technique—from "Raw/Cold" to "Sauté."

1624 Harmon Pl., Minneapolis • 612-486-5500

Cue

Located inside the Guthrie Theater, Cue's dramatic interior showcases a central cooking island where food preparation becomes performance. You can catch the action inside or dine al fresco and soak up the riverfront view. The New American cuisine focuses on topnotch farm-to-city ingredients, and main courses include the Shepard's Way Farm sheep milk ricotta almond ravioli with mushrooms and sage cream and Wisconsin elk roast with dark cherries.

818 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis • 612-225-6499

Al's Breakfast

Snug among the storefronts of Dinkytown near the University of Minnesota, teeny tiny Al's is a Minneapolis institution—and a diner fan's dream. Try the heralded eggs Benedict or the blueberry and blackberry buttermilk pancakes. No credit cards; open 6 A.M. - 1 P.M.

413 14th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis • 612-331-9991