

POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE TWIN CITIES

Items in blue type/italics planned for USGS Retirees Reunion September 2018

Items in red type are top suggestions by the local arrangements committee

(P) Photographic opportunities

St. Paul Visitor Information-Visit St. Paul,

175 W. Kellogg Blvd. Ste. 502. Phone: 651-265-4900 or 800-627-6101

<https://www.visitsaintpaul.com/discover-saint-paul/visitor-information-center/>

(P) Wabasha Street Caves - 215 Wabasha St. S. Tour the caves or take a **St. Paul Gangster bus tour**. Ph: 651-292-1220

James J. Hill House - 240 Summit Ave. Gilded Age mansion. Home to the builder of the Great Northern Railway. Ph: 651-297-2555. <http://sites.mnhs.org/historic-sites/james-j-hill-house>

(P) Minnesota State Capitol- 75 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Remodeled in 2017. Largest unsupported marble dome in the world. Tours. Open daily. Ph: 651-296-2881. Visit MN Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials on Capitol approach. <http://www.mnhs.org/capitol>

Minnesota History Center - 345 Kellogg Blvd. W. Museum with both permanent and changing exhibits. Also, home to the Minnesota Historical Society library and archives. Ph: 651-259-3000. <http://www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/>

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Science Museum & OmniTheater (contains National Park Service visitor center for Mississippi River and Recreational Area)- 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. Ph: 651-221-9444 or 800-221-9444.

<https://www.smm.org/>

(P) Como Park Zoo and Conservatory (free) - 1225 Estabrook Dr., St. Paul. Also an amusement park, lake with paddleboats, pool with lazy river, splash pool and zip line. Ph: 651-487-8201.

<http://www.comozooconservatory.org/>

Minneapolis Visitor Information - Meet Minneapolis -

250 Marquette Ave. S. Suite 1300.

Ph: 612-767-8000 or 888-676-6757

<http://www.minneapolis.org/calendar/>

Mill City Museum - 704 So. 2nd St. Mpls. Built into the ruins of what was once the world's largest flour mill, Mill City Museum located on the historic Mississippi Riverfront. Learn about the intertwined histories of the flour industry, the river, and the city of Minneapolis. Ph: 612-341-7555.

<http://www.millcitymuseum.org/>

Minneapolis Institute of Arts - 2400 Third Ave. S. Mpls. Fine arts from Monet to Matisse, Asian to African, 40,000-year-old artifacts to world-famous masterpieces. Closed Mondays. Ph: 888-642-9797.

<https://new.artsmia.org/>

American Swedish institute (distinctly Minnesotan) - 2600 Park Ave. Mpls. A vibrant museum with magnificent woodcarvings, elaborate Swedish tile stoves, and 33 ornate rooms. Built in 1908 the mansion rivals the castles of old world Europe, Ph: 612-821-9045. <https://www.asimn.org/>

(P) Guthrie Theater - Founded by Sir Tyrone Guthrie in 1963. Dedicated to producing the great works of dramatic literature, developing the work of contemporary playwrights and cultivating the next generation of theater artists, has three stages. Can see from their cantilever-deck views of the Mississippi R. St. Anthony Falls and historic mill district (downtown). Ph: 612-377-2224. <https://www.guthrietheater.org/>

Walker Art Center (modern art) - 1750 Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis. Multiple galleries exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Closed Mondays. Ph: 612-375-7600. <https://walkerart.org/>

(P) Minneapolis Sculpture Garden * 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis. Home to the iconic Spoon bridge and Cherry. Showcases more than 4 works from the Walker Art Center's renowned collection. Seasonal displays in the Cowles Conservatory and the Alene Grossman Memorial Arbor and Flower Garden. Ph 612-375-7600 (Same as Walker Art Center). <https://walkerart.org/>

(P) St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center, Lock and Dam 1A and Historic District - 1 Portland Ave. Mpls. The St. Anthony Visitor Center provides panoramic views of the Upper St. Anthony Lock and Dam. Surrounding St. Anthony Falls is the St. Anthony Falls Historic District Area which offers the Heritage Trail, a self-guided two-mile loop and the Stone Arch Bridge and Water Power Park. Visitor Center phone number 952-303-2706. Tours of the Upper St. Anthony Lock and Dam are available to scheduled groups. Call 877-552-1416. <https://www.nps.gov/miss/planyourvisit/uppestan.htm>

(P) Minnehaha Park & Falls - 4801 So. Minnehaha Park Drive Mpls. One of Minneapolis' oldest and most popular parks features a majestic 53-foot waterfall, limestone bluffs, river overlooks, bike and walking paths. https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/parks_destinations/parks_lakes/minnehaha_regional_park/ or: <https://www.nps.gov/miss/planyourvisit/minnehah.htm>
<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Locks-Dams/Lock-Dam-1/>

(P) Eloise Butler Rose Gardens- Eloise Butler created such a magnificent wild garden—collecting, protecting, preserving and cataloguing wild plants and offering free botany classes—that the park board named the garden in her honor in 1929. Phone: 612-230-6400.
https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/about_us/leadership_and_structure/department_directory/

(P) Minneapolis Lakes – Park-like walking paths around several lakes one could choose; Lake of the Isles (best), Lake Harriet, Nokomis, or Calhoun.
https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/parks_destinations/gardens_bird_sanctuaries/eloise_butler_wildflower_garden_and_bird_sanctuary/

Other Twin Cities Area Places of Interest:

<http://www.exploreminnesota.com/index.aspx>

(P) St. Croix River - St. Croix Boat & Packet Co., 525 Main St. S., Stillwater. Ph: 651-430-1234

(P) Historic Fort Snelling - 200 Tower Ave., St. Paul MN. Built in 1824 as the first military fort in MN. Learn about military history from before the Civil War through World War II, fur trade history, the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 and more. Ph: 672-726-1177. <http://www.historicfortsnelling.org/>

Mall of America - 60 East Broadway Ave. Bloomington. Largest indoor shopping mall in the United States. Indoor Amusement Park. Ph: 952-883-8800 **Sea Life Aquarium** Ph: 952-883-0202.
<https://www.mallofamerica.com/>

(P) MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge - 3815 American Blvd. E., Bloomington. Interpretive center open from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; recreation area and State trail. Ph: 952-854-5900.
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley/

(P) Minnesota Landscape Arboretum - 3675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska. 1,137 acres of gardens and tree collections, prairie and wood and miles of trails. Ph: 952-443-1440.
<http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/planyourvisit.aspx>

Minnesota Area Places of Interest:

Minnesota's North Shore provides many attractions retirees may want to consider. The North Shore Scenic drive runs for about 150 miles along Lake Superior from Duluth to Grand Portage, Minn. at the Canadian Border. Visitors can select from eight state parks including the popular Split Rock Lighthouse State Park. You can also select from many other historical and tourist sites in the communities along the scenic drive. A short description of the top 19 “things to do” are listed in the following link:

<http://www.midwestliving.com/travel/minnesota/north-shore/explore-minnesotas-north-shore/>

The following link provides additional information on lodging, dining, activities, and attractions along the North Shore Scenic drive: <http://www.northshorevisitor.com/> **AUTUMN A VERY POPULAR TIME TO VISIT—PLAN LODGING IN PRIOR WINTER!**

The following link provides a good map of the North Shore Drive:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/byways/11185/maps>