

A short history of Minneapolis in less than three miles

A wedding invitation I received this summer suggested out-of-town guests stay at two south Minneapolis hotels: Moxy **M** and Sheraton Midtown **S**. I realized the history of Minneapolis can be outlined on the stretch of Lake Street between and surrounding the two hotels. Enjoy this encapsulated history!

Map is drawn to scale. North ↑

LAKE OF THE ISLES

Quaint, curvy, lined with historic mansions. 2.63 miles of walking and biking trails follow its edge.

BDE MAKA SKA

1 Pillsbury, General Mills, and Caribou Coffee (inside Lund's)

Minneapolis grew up on the banks of the Mississippi River at St. Anthony Falls. General Mills and Pillsbury started there; we were known as "Mill City." Their corporate headquarters are still in Minnesota. Check the baking aisle for a genuine Betty Crocker souvenir. Also in the store is Caribou Coffee. Our early Scandinavian settlers put egg shells in their coffee! Minnesota's premium coffee chain is the country's second largest. 1450 W. Lake St.

2 Magers & Quinn Booksellers

Minneapolis is continually ranked as one of the most literate cities in the country! This quirky bookstore is proof. M–Th, 10am–10pm, F–Sa, 10am–11pm. 3038 Hennepin Ave.

3 Target

A Minneapolis company with roots that go back to 1902 when George Draper Dayton founded his namesake department store. The first Target store opened in 1962. The new retail concept

offered fashion, quality and service at lower prices. Target's corporate headquarters are still downtown. George's great grandson Mark, Dayton is our governor. His two sons got back into retail with the downtown boutique men's store Askov Finlayson. 1300 W. Lake St.

4 Buzza Lofts

Once home to Buzza Co., one of the nation's largest greeting card companies in the 1920s. 1006 W. Lake St.

5 Highpoint Center for Printmaking

Minneapolis is known for its abundance of artists and creative companies. This gallery hosts exhibits and has resident artists. Open M–F, 9am–5pm; Sa, 12–4pm. 912 W. Lake St.

6 Bryant Lake Bowl

We love theater. In fact, we have more theater seats per capita than anywhere other than New York City. We're often the first stop on traveling Broadway shows and we have the largest Fring Festival in the U.S. BLB's been a leader on the scene since 1993 when the vintage bowling alley added a bar and alternative theater. Open daily, 8am–2am. 810 W. Lake St.

7 Volstead's Emporium

An underground "speakeasy" named for Minnesota Representative Andrew Volstead, who in 1919 enacted the National Prohibition Act, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. Enter off the alley parking lot. Th–M, 5pm–2am. 711 W. Lake St.

8 VFW

Voted "Best Party Bar" and "Best Karaoke," this is the place for music. Though it's unlikely any of them ever played here, it's possible to hear

these Minnesota musicians/bands on the VFW's playlist: Bob Dylan, Prince, Husker Du, the Replacements, Semisonic, Brother Ali, and Har Mar Superstar. M–F, 11am–2am; Sa and Su, 8am–2am. 2916 Lyndale Ave. S.

9 Schatzlein Saddle Shop

You wouldn't know it in the city proper, but Minnesota is horse country. This legendary western apparel store's been open since 1907. Jeans, cowboy boots, rhinestone-studded shirts, belts, and saddles. 413 W. Lake St.

10 Karmel Mall

Minnesota's home to the largest population of Somali people in the country. More than 200 vendors fill this 2-building, 4-story mall. 2936–2944 Pillsbury Ave.

11 Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

With one of the country's largest literary centers and numerous publishers, Minneapolis is a haven for writers. Our bookshelves include F. Scott Fitzgerald, August Wilson, Louise Erdrich, Robert Bly, Vince Flynn, John Sanford, and Amanda Hocking. Robert Pirsig lived above a shoe store on this site while he wrote his fictionalized autobiography in 1974. 413 W. Lake St.

12 Uncle Hugo's

The oldest independent science fiction bookstore in America. M–F, 10am–7pm; Sa, 10am–6pm; Su, Noon–5pm. 2864 Chicago Ave.

13 Midtown Global Market

This international bazaar, in a former Sears store, showcases Minnesota cultures, fresh produce, food, art, and entertainment. M–Sa, 10am–8pm; Su, 11am–6pm. 413 W. Lake St.

Bde Maka Ska

We actually have more than 10,000 lakes in Minnesota—11,842 to be exact! And there are five right here in Minneapolis. The city's largest lake got a name change in January 2018. It's now called by its original Dakota name, Bde Maka Ska (pronounced b-day ma-kha skah), meaning White Earth Lake. Since 1839, it had been called Lake Calhoun after John C. Calhoun, a proponent of slavery. The lake is a half-mile walk from Lake and Hennepin.

A concession stand on the northeast corner on Lake St. has food, beverages, bike rentals, and a large selection of kayaks, canoes, stand up paddleboards, and pedal boats. Paths for walking, skating, and biking follow the lake for 3.09 miles.

Rollerblades were invented in Minneapolis in 1980 by brothers Scott and Brennan Olsen for off-season hockey training. They manufactured the first in-line skates in their parents' basement.