

# The Weekend Tourist's Guide to Minneapolis (and beyond)



As friends and family come home to Minneapolis for the holidays, I decided to make a tour map. Thank you to everyone who wrote in with their suggestions. I tried to get as many on the map as possible. Here's my basic city tour that goes by many historic and cultural sites and places to see our natural environment as well as many more destinations.

## Happy Holidays to you all!

- 1 Start at Mill City Museum — see Flour Tower and short film on Minneapolis. Have guests walk across Stone Arch Bridge; pick them up on the other side.
- 2 Main St., the birth of Minneapolis, Pillsbury A Mill, Nicollet Island.
- 3 Head Downtown on Hennepin Ave., then cut over to 1st Avenue to see First Avenue nightclub (put a copy of the new book in your backseat!)

- 4 Back on Hennepin, drive past the first Basilica in America, Father Hennepin's statue, and Walker's sculpture garden.
- 5 Turn right on Franklin and head to Birchbark Books for well-curated titles and Native American artwork.
- 6 Take Penn Ave. to Kenwood Pkwy. to see Mary Tyler Moore's tv house.
- 7 Wind around our beautiful lakes and along Minnehaha Parkway. Pick up a Blizzard from Minnesota's own Dairy Queen, across from Minnehaha Falls.
- 8 Cut over to 3420 Snelling Ave. S. to see the house where Prince lived in the movie *Purple Rain*.

Take Lake St. to northbound W. River Pkwy. and enjoy the only river gorge on the entire Mississippi River. At Franklin, switch to E. River Pkwy. Point out University of Minnesota, Weisman Art Museum, and wind through campus to Dinkytown.

- 9 Visit the Bookhouse, a used bookstore overlooking Bob Dylan's old apartment.
- 10 Head east on University Avenue and enjoy a Surly beer.

## Have more time?

### Here are other worthy destinations:

- A Small town shopping and lake experience in quaint Excelsior
- B University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Classic nordic architecture by Edwin Lundie, birth of the Honeycrisp apple, and year-round trails.
- C Prince's Paisley Park (open by ticket only, but plenty to see on the road)
- D Upscale lake village with waterfront restaurants.
- E Best Minnesota-shaped cookies served in a historic prairie house at Rustica.
- F This St. Louis Park outpost of the legendary and quirky Ax-Man Surplus store is packed with scientific, industrial, electronic, and mechanical gadgets for creative thinkers and artists.
- G Westwood Hills Nature Center has boardwalk trails around an urban marsh.
- H Three for the price of one at this stop: Nordic Ware's factory outlet is packed

with baking tools and is in the shadow of the first-ever concrete grain silo, now on the National Register of Historic Places. The nearby classic WPA highway rest stop was one of several for roadside travelers to enjoy a picnic and watch the traffic go by.

- I Southdale, the nation's first fully enclosed shopping mall.
- J Hunt and Gather packs in merchandise ranging from vintage goods to taxidermy to succulents to piles of new-old-stock toys and flashcards. A one-of-a-kind place. Many more unique shops fill out the intersection.
- K Mall of America.
- L Target test store — see experiments in store plans, fixtures, and merchandising techniques being tested. Smile!
- M Approaching 50 years in business, the Electric Fetus is a classic record store with one of the best gift shops in town. Ask about the last albums Prince bought on his final visit here.