

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2011 TWIN CITIES HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

9:30AM: Depart the hotel via deluxe motorcoach with tour guide.



We begin our day with a Twin Cities Highlights Tour. Fantastic is a word that's often misused and frequently abused, but there's really no other term that even comes close to describing the Greater Twin Cities Metro Area. Today we'll experience a sampling of just what it is that makes the Twin Cities so "fantastic." Our tour of the area includes both downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

While in Minneapolis, our guide will give commentary on the Milwaukee Train Depot, Orchestra Hall, St. Anthony Falls, the birthplace of Minneapolis, and the famous Nicollet Mall, skyway network of downtown Minneapolis. Minneapolis' skyway system is one of our most striking, one-of-a-kind assets. When the weather turns sour, you can use the skyway system to get where you need to go. One floor above ground, this system links buildings together with more than 7 miles of climate-controlled, glass enclosed walkways.

Today we'll make a stop at the Guthrie Theatre. Located on the banks of the Mississippi River, the exterior is a composition of metal and glass that evokes industrial forms, rendered in a modern way. The large circular form of the thrust theater echoes the area's adjacent grain silos, while the towering rectangular structure of the proscenium theater is in harmony with nearby flour mills. A spectacular 53-meter cantilever swings out over the river front, a contemporary rendering of the equally spectacular silos around it.



Next we'll drive past the Minneapolis Sculpture Gardens. Adjacent to the Walker Art Center and encompassing 11 acres, it is one of the largest urban sculpture gardens in the country, there are more than 40 works on permanent view including the most beloved icon, Spoonbridge and Cherry. Additional temporary installations keep the Garden experience continually fresh.

Continuing on our way we will make our way through the Kenwood residential area to see the television home of Mary Tyler Moore, and around sparkling lakes and lagoons on our way to the legendary Minnehaha Falls, where we'll make a short stop. We'll follow the Mississippi River past Fort Snelling on our way to St. Paul.

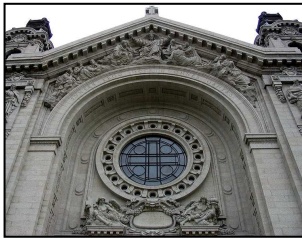


Before arriving to St. Paul we'll enjoy a tour and private luncheon at the Minnesota Wing Commemorative Air Force Museum. The Minnesota Wing is an active WWII aircraft museum with seven aircraft, a growing museum and numerous vehicles. Built in 1941 by the U.S. Navy, Fleming Field (then known as Hookem Cow Field) was turned into a base to train Navy pilots on carrier take-off and landing techniques. The Navy built six quonset style hangars, numbered 2-7 (#1 already existed at that time) and used them to house their N3N "yellow peril's". Thousands trained at Fleming Field and these hangars played a vital role. All of the hangars built by the Navy still exist, along with two barracks. These are turning into rare sites, with most of the WWII era buildings being torn down for newer construction. On July 1st, 1971, the Southern Minnesota Wing was formed and officially became the first CAF Unit ever created. Since the first day, The Minnesota Wing has been collecting WWII artifacts including aircraft and crew artifacts, rare equipment, home front items, uniforms and other personal items.

The lunch menu will include: sandwich buffet with assorted meats and cheeses, breads, lettuce salad with dressings, potato chips, dessert, and soda and water.

Following lunch we'll tour St. Paul, Minnesota's charming historic capital city. Magnificent Art Deco and Victorian reminders of the past nestle next to sleek skyscrapers, giving this Capital City an Old World charm.

We will drive along Summit Avenue, one of the longest stretches of virtually uninterrupted Victorian architecture in the United States. This monumental boulevard of homes, churches, synagogues and schools attracts tourists and natives alike who stroll past its architectural curiosities and landmarks. Some homes to note along Summit Avenue are the James J. Hill House, the home of F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Governor's Mansion.



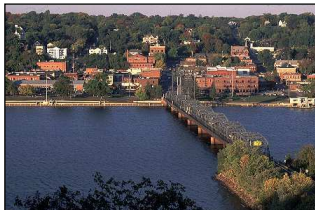
We will stop and see the magnificent Cathedral of St. Paul, the fourth largest cathedral in the United States with seating for 3,000 people. Built in the Classical Renaissance style of architecture, the Cathedral dome is modeled after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Additionally, our guide will provide commentary on Rice Park, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Landmark Center, Children's Museum, Mickey's Diner, The Fitzgerald Theater, Minnesota History Center and the Minnesota State Capitol, considered the second most beautiful capitol building in the United States, after Utah.

3:30PM: Return to hotel

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011 **STILLWATER, MN... BIRTHPLACE OF MINNESOTA**

9:30AM: Depart the hotel via deluxe motorcoach with tour guide.



Located on the St. Croix River, Stillwater lays claim to be Minnesota's oldest town and the birthplace of the Minnesota Territory in 1849. Stillwater is steeped in history, architectural gems and beautiful natural surroundings. The residents are close enough to the Twin Cities to be practical, yet far enough away to feel like country living.

For more than 50 years, lumbermen dominated the St. Croix River with lumber camps, mills, log rafts and steamboats making Stillwater the Queen City of the river. The hills of Stillwater provided escape from the industrial and commercial riverfront; this is where the lumbermen, bankers, riverboat men and mill workers built homes for their families. The diversity of the population created diversity in home architecture: Queen Anne, Greek Revival, Second Empire, Stick Style, Shingle Style, Neoclassicism, Bungalow, Italianate, Craftsman & Prairie.



Our tour guide will provide a riding tour of this enchanting old river town and take us behind the scenes of Stillwater's history. Anecdotes and incidents from bygone years will illuminate the lives of immigrants and entrepreneurs as we view mansions built by wealthy lumber barons, beautiful old churches on the "Street of Spires", landmarks on the National Register of Historic Places and the beautiful St. Croix River.

Following our tour, we will enjoy the sights along the scenic St. Croix River as we board a replica of an 1890's paddlewheel riverboat. A delicious buffet lunch will also be served on board.



Prior to arriving at our hotel we'll driver through Fort Snelling Cemetery. Established in 1870, the cemetery served as a burial

ground for the soldiers who died while stationed at the post. Following World War I, as new legislation expanded the eligibility requirements for burial in a national cemetery, the citizens of St. Paul organized a petition to designate a national cemetery in their area. Fort Snelling National Cemetery (FSNC) was established in 1939 with the first burial on July 5, of Capt. George H. Mallon, whose acts of heroism at Meuse-Argonne in France were recognized with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

FSNC is the home of the first all-volunteer Memorial Rifle Squad (MRS) in the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The MRS performed their first service in June 1979. There is a squad for each day of the week, aptly identified as the Monday Squad, Tuesday Squad, Wednesday Squad, etc. The squad members are all veterans and each squad has a bugler who plays "Taps." As of July 2, 2010, they had rendered the final salute for 56,111 veterans. Fort Snelling contains a memorial pathway that is lined with a variety of veteran's memorials from various organizations. As of Aug. 2006, there are 64 memorials at Fort Snelling National Cemetery—most commemorating soldiers of the 20th-century wars.

3:00PM: Return to the hotel.