

WHILE IN MINNEAPOLIS

THE HYATT REGENCY, just 12 miles from the Minneapolis Saint Paul International Airport, is centrally located on Minneapolis's Nicollet Mall. This famous pedestrian thoroughfare covers a scenic 12-block area and leads to Loring Park, the Walker Art Center, Sculpture Garden, and Guthrie Theater. In addition to these points of interest, the hotel is just a block from Orchestra Hall and Peavy Plaza, a mile to the Warehouse District's exciting night life, an easy 15-minute drive to historic downtown St. Paul, and about 3 miles to the Mississippi River where riverboat tours are available.

■ ATTRACTIONS

MALL OF AMERICA—The largest shopping and entertainment complex in the U.S. is just a fifteen minute drive from downtown Minneapolis (express bus stops right outside the Hyatt's doors every 20 minutes). Major attractions include Camp Snoopy, LEGO Imagination Center, Under Water World, Golf Mountain, Silicon Motor Speedway, Kids Quest, movie theaters, restaurants, major department stores and 520 shops. For information call 952-883-8800.

CAMP SNOOPY—This seven-acre amusement park features more than 25 rides and attractions, including a dinner theater, wildlife show, shops, and restaurants. Free general admission, rides sold separately. Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 am — 9:30 pm, Fri-Sat 10 am — 10 pm, Sun 10 am — 7 pm. 5000 Center Court, Mall of America. For information call 952-883-8600.

UNDERWATER WORLD—A 1.2 million gallon aquarium with 300-foot acrylic tunnel allows guests to see waterlife native to Minnesota, the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean. The aquarium's 250 species include stingrays, turtles, octopus and the Midwest's largest display of sharks. It also houses a saltwater touchpool and the new Splash of Color exhibit with poison dart frogs, emperor scorpions and creatures with spectacular body coloration. For information about admission and hours, call 952-888-3483.

CANTERBURY PARK—Features live horse racing, harness racing, tours and tele-racing. You can take a picnic or go to one of the park's excellent restaurants. For information call 952-455-7223.

HISTORIC MURPHY'S LANDING—A living history village of the 1800s with 40 buildings, including a fur trading post, two farmsteads and a country schoolhouse, and costumed

guides and crafts people plying their trades. Also horse/trolley rides, gift shop and restaurant. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm. For information call 952-455-6900.

■ CHURCHES

BASILICA OF SAINT MARY, dating from 1907, is the oldest basilica in North America and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Architectural highlights include the 200-foot high dome and the 15-foot-diameter rose window. For tour information call 612-333-1381.

■ MUSEUMS

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS, with its 85,000-piece collection spanning centuries, includes a very fine Renaissance collection. Open Tues through Sat 10 am to 5 pm, Thurs until 9 pm Admission is free everyday.

WALKER ART CENTER is splendid—one of the nation's most renowned contemporary art museums. Open Tues- Sat 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free each Thursday, when the museum stays open until 8 pm.

MUSEUM OF QUESTIONABLE MEDICAL DEVICES, otherwise known as "The Quackery Hall of Fame," features the nation's largest display of medical devices, dating from the 1790s to the present. Admission (you'll be glad to know) is free.

■ SIGHTSEEING

RIVERCITY TROLLEY—Spend an hour on a guided trolley tour of Minneapolis through turn-of-the-century neighborhoods to the Mississippi River, past St. Anthony Falls via the century-old Stone Arch Bridge. Tours start at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Walker Art Center, or St. Anthony Main.

PADEL FORD PACKET BOAT CO.—Cruise the Mississippi River on Minnesota's oldest and largest riverboats, departing from Boom Island in Minneapolis at noon and 2 pm daily. For information call 651-227-1100.

■ NEIGHBORHOODS

MISSISSIPPI MILE—Located north of downtown Minneapolis along the Mississippi River, is filled with cobblestone streets, historic landmarks, and century-old buildings housing shops and restaurants. Lovely for walking or bicycling. For tour information call 612-627-5433.

NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS—This established neighborhood is known for its ethnic restaurants and churches, including those with Ukrainian, Polish, and Lebanese influences.

SUMMIT AND GRAND AVENUES IN DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL—Summit Avenue, the longest boulevard of Victorian homes in the nation, is also home to college campuses and the governor's residence. Great for a stroll or auto tour. Grand Avenue is a popular thoroughfare lined with restaurants, shops, and businesses.

UPTOWN—Just a ten minute drive from the Hyatt is the Twin Cities' answer to New York's Greenwich Village. Uptown is home to an eclectic mix of people who frequent the area's hip urban shops, restaurants, theaters and bars. It's right next to the Minneapolis lakes where you can walk, rent bikes, roller-blades, and canoes. The heart of Uptown is at Lake Street and Hennepin Avenue S., where you'll find Calhoun Square Mall.

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT—Immediately northwest of Minneapolis' business core, historic buildings house an array of art galleries, antique stores, gift shops and coffee houses. Excellent dining and nightlife.

WAYZATA—Fifteen minutes west of Minneapolis, the city of Wayzata sits on the shores of Lake Minnetonka. Stroll along Lake Street for boutiques and restaurants, or take a free ride on the Wayzata Town Trolley. The Steamboat Minnehaha and charter companies offer lake cruises. For information call 612-473-9595.

■ OUTDOORS

CHAIN OF LAKES—Minneapolis is a great city for walking, and a system of lakes, particularly stunning in March when still frozen, is linked with paved walkways. Lake Harriet, Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles feature connected paths and are southwest of downtown Minneapolis. Lake Nokomis is southeast of downtown. Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles are walking distance from trendy Uptown where you can rent bikes, roller-blades, and canoes.

SCULPTURE GARDEN is adjacent to the Walker Art Center, with 20th-century sculpture by artists including Mark di Suvero, Henry Moore, Claes Oldenberg, and Joep van Lieshout. Admission is free.

For more information on all Minneapolis has to offer, call the Greater Minneapolis Convention & Visitors Association at 1-800-445-7412.