

MINNEAPOLIS OPTIONAL TOUR

Saturday, August 21

**Twin Cities Highlights Tour with
Riverboat Cruise & Gangster Caves Tour**

11:00 AM

Depart the Minneapolis Hilton via deluxe motorcoach with tour guide

In this tour, you will experience a sampling of just what it is that makes the Twin Cities so “fantastic.” The tour of the area includes both downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Upon departing Minneapolis, your tour guide will provide commentary on Minneapolis as you drive toward St. Paul.

Noon – 1:30 PM

Mississippi Riverboat Cruise with Lunch Box

As part of this tour you will board an authentic paddlewheel sternwheeler. Departing from Harriet Island in St. Paul you will head down the same river used by Native Americans, settlers and travelers to Fort Snelling State Park, located at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. At the end of the cruise a costumed gangster guide will hi-jack the bus and take us on a gangster riding tour. Our guide is the embodiment of the “untouchables” that busted kegs and hustled thugs off to the hoosegow during the days of prohibition. This was an era when things were not always what they seemed...St. Paul was more than a quiet, picturesque river town. You will drive by the place where one local gangster blew up a rival, see where Dillinger had a shoot-out with St. Paul police and pass the former most-exclusive speakeasy in the area! Next you will drive by the Landmark Center. Once the site of famous gangster trials (J. Edgar Hoover personally escorted public enemy #1, Al Karpis, through the doors for his trial), the restored federal courts building still commands respect.

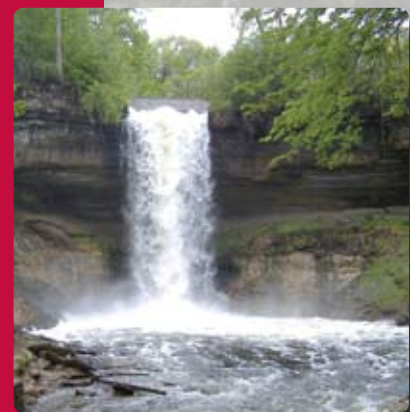
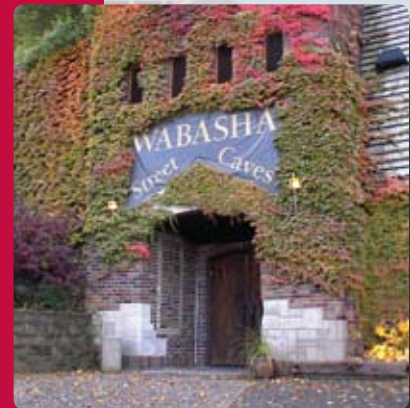
2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Next on the tour is a stop at the Wabasha Street Caves. The “Caves” were dug in the early 1800s out of a layer of rock known as St. Peter Sandstone. The sand which forms this rock was once the beach of a warm inland sea, over 400 million years ago. During our cold Minnesota winters, it is reassuring to see this remnant of a tropical Minnesota. In the 1800s, a mushroom-growing business was established in the Caves, then a nightclub and restaurant was opened in the 1930s; if you listen carefully, you can still hear bands such as the Dorsey Brothers and Cab Calloway playing in the stage area with the adjoining dance floor. In addition to these two areas, there is a fireplace area with bullet holes from the 1930s gangsters in the mantle to remind us of a rowdier era. St. Paul served as a cooling-off area for gangsters, and you’ll even see a “Gangster Gallery” to show off some of the Caves’ more notorious past visitors.

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

The tour will then continue with a brief visit to Minnehaha Falls, the Minneapolis Lakes, Minneapolis Sculpture Gardens, and more of downtown Minneapolis before you return to the Hilton.

Price: \$85.00 per person
30 person minimum



MINNEAPOLIS GUEST TOURS

(Both of the tours below are included in the Full Guest Registration Package)

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2010

Stillwater, Minnesota: Birthplace of Minnesota

9:00 AM

Depart Minneapolis Hilton via deluxe motorcoach with tour guide

9:40 AM – 10:30 AM

Riding tour of Stillwater 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. 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.

10:30 AM

Shopping before lunch

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch at the Lowell Inn

We will enjoy a delicious group lunch at the famed Lowell Inn. Since 1927 this famous "Mount Vernon of the Midwest" has been a hotel known to serve the very finest food. For years, the old three-story frame hotel was frequented by important personalities in the business, political and social life of Stillwater and Minnesota.

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

There will be time after lunch to explore the historic streets of Stillwater.

3:00 PM

Return to Minneapolis Hilton



TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010

Lake Minnetonka Lunch Cruise

9:00 AM

Depart Minneapolis Hilton via deluxe motorcoach with tour guide

We'll experience a wonderful cruise on the beautiful waters of Lake Minnetonka aboard a custom built, 64 foot luxury yacht. The largest body of water in the Twin Cities area, Lake Minnetonka is actually a series of lakes and bays with 150 miles of lush green shoreline featuring a dazzling array of magnificent estates, beaches, parks and quaint towns. The bays, once separate little lakes, were connected by channels. Today, Lake Minnetonka serves as a center for recreational activities and water sports. Lake Minnetonka is also the birthplace of Tonka Toys and Minnetonka Moccasins. Enjoy a complete lunch as you view the magnificent estates along Lake Minnetonka's 100 miles of lush green shoreline.

1:00 PM

Return to hotel



ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TOURS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010

Historic St. Paul Tour

2:45 PM

Depart Minneapolis Hilton via deluxe motorcoach with tour guide

Our tour begins in 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.

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

We'll tour the James J. Hill House. Completed in 1891, this red sandstone house symbolized success. Hill was the man behind the success of the Great Northern Railway and it remained the great adventure of his life. Upon completion, the home contained 36,000 square feet on five floors including 13 bathrooms, 22 fireplaces, 16 crystal chandeliers and a 100 foot reception hall. The home served as the center for public and private lives of the Hill family for over 30 years. 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, the Minnesota State Capitol, and magnificent Cathedral of St. Paul.

5:30 PM

Return to hotel

Price: \$50.00 per person ■ 30 person minimum

Mississippi Riverboat Cruise

2:45 PM

Depart Minneapolis Hilton via deluxe motorcoach with tour guide

The Great Steamboat Era began in 1811 with the launch of the New Orleans and by mid-century, the Mississippi River was filled with paddlewheel steamers. During the Civil War, civilian traffic came to a stand-still and many, including Mark Twain, thought that the era of steamboating was over. In fact, it was during these post-war years that steamboats thrived. While the steamboat era is a page in American History, it is a page that can be re-read as we board an authentic sternwheeler – the pride of the 19th century – for a cruise on the Mighty Mississippi River.

This Minneapolis river cruise travels through the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock, which is the northernmost lock of the 29 along the Mississippi River and the deepest, a descent of 50 feet. The area is abundant in both history and commerce with old St. Anthony, where Minneapolis began, on one side and the spectacular downtown skyline on the other. The cruise takes you under both the Hennepin Avenue Bridge and the historic James J. Hill Stone Arch Bridge. This afternoon we will relive those glorious days when America was young, a time when the building of a nation and the establishment of the states was directly influenced by the great inland waterways.

5:30 PM

Return to hotel

Price: \$75.00 per person ■ 30 person minimum

