



From the MixCache.com library

SAMPLE COPY

Visiting Minneapolis

MixCache.com

SAMPLE COPY

Table of Contents

- **Introduction**
- **Chapter 1** Getting There and Around
- **Chapter 2** Accommodation
- **Chapter 3** Top Attractions and Things to Do
- **Chapter 4** Arts & Culture
- **Chapter 5** Parks, Lakes & Outdoors
- **Chapter 6** Landmarks & Architecture
- **Chapter 7** Sports & Entertainment
- **Chapter 8** Shopping
- **Chapter 9** Food Scene: A Taste of Minneapolis
- **Chapter 10** Local Specialties
- **Chapter 11** Diverse Cuisines
- **Chapter 12** Popular Food Neighborhoods
- **Chapter 13** Craft Beer Scene
- **Chapter 14** Nightlife
- **Chapter 15** Seasonal Activities
- **Chapter 16** Summer Activities
- **Chapter 17** Winter Activities
- **Chapter 18** Practical Information
- **Chapter 19** Best Time to Visit
- **Chapter 20** Weather
- **Chapter 21** Safety
- **Chapter 22** Time Zone
- **Chapter 23** Visitor Information
- **Chapter 24** Twin Cities: Exploring St. Paul
- **Chapter 25** Neighborhood Guide

Introduction

Welcome to Minneapolis, Minnesota! Nestled on the banks of the Mississippi River and famed for its sparkling lakes, Minneapolis offers a unique blend of urban sophistication and stunning natural beauty. As the larger half of the "Twin Cities" (alongside the state capital, St. Paul), Minneapolis boasts a thriving arts scene, award-winning restaurants, exciting professional sports, and abundant green spaces. Whether you're drawn by its cultural attractions, outdoor adventures, vibrant neighborhoods, or friendly Midwestern charm, this guide will help you make the most of your visit to Minneapolis.

As you arrive in Minneapolis, you'll quickly notice the juxtaposition of modern architectural marvels alongside serene natural landscapes. The city manages to balance its impressive skyline with picturesque parks and crystal-clear lakes, offering visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in both urban and natural environments without having to venture far. Whether you're a fan of leisurely strolls through sprawling gardens or a lover of vibrant city life, Minneapolis has something to offer everyone.

Perhaps one of the most captivating aspects of Minneapolis is its thriving arts and culture scene. The city is home to numerous museums, theaters, and galleries, each with rich offerings that highlight both local and international talents. From the thought-provoking exhibits at the Walker Art Center to the awe-inspiring performances at the Guthrie Theater, art enthusiasts will find a wealth of experiences waiting for them.

Equally inviting is Minneapolis's legendary food scene, which promises to take your taste buds on a journey around the world. The city is a melting pot of diverse cuisines, thanks to its cultural diversity. You can savor everything from traditional Minnesota fare to innovative global dishes in the city's varied dining establishments. Don't miss the chance to try a Jucy Lucy or indulge in some scrumptious Scandinavian delicacies.

Exploring Minneapolis wouldn't be complete without delving into its vibrant neighborhoods, each with its own unique character and offerings. From the trendy vibes of the North Loop to the historic charm of Northeast Minneapolis, taking the time to explore these diverse areas will give you an authentic feel for this dynamic city. Embrace the spirit of discovery as you wander through local shops, cafes, and galleries that reveal the city's creative essence.

Above all, Minneapolis is a city that warmly welcomes visitors with its Midwestern hospitality and open-hearted spirit. Whether you're navigating the skyways in the midst of winter or lounging by one of the many lakes during a sunny summer day, you'll find that the city's inhabitants are always eager to share their love for

Minneapolis with newcomers. This guide is your key to unlocking the wonders of this vibrant metropolis, ensuring that your visit is as enriching and memorable as possible. Welcome to Minneapolis, a city where every corner brings something new to explore!

SAMPLE COPY

CHAPTER ONE: Getting There and Around

Your Minneapolis adventure likely begins the moment your plane touches down, and thankfully, navigating your way into and around the city is generally a straightforward affair. The primary aerial gateway is the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, universally known as MSP. Located roughly twelve miles south of the downtown core, MSP is a significant hub for Delta Air Lines and serves numerous other domestic and international carriers. It consistently ranks well among travelers for its efficiency, cleanliness, and amenities, making for a relatively pleasant start or end to your journey. Don't let the "Saint Paul" in the name confuse you; while it serves both Twin Cities, it's geographically closer to Minneapolis and directly connected to its downtown via convenient transit options.

MSP is comprised of two main terminals: Terminal 1 (formerly Lindbergh) and Terminal 2 (formerly Humphrey). Terminal 1 is the larger of the two, housing most major airlines, while Terminal 2 typically serves budget carriers and charter flights. It's crucial to know which terminal your airline uses before you arrive or depart. Fortunately, a free Light Rail Transit (LRT) train runs between the two terminals 24 hours a day, taking only a few minutes. This makes transfers relatively painless if needed, although most ground transportation options are available at both terminals. Signage throughout the airport is clear and abundant, guiding you towards baggage claim, ground transportation, or connecting flights. Information booths are also available if you find yourself needing assistance.

Once you've collected your luggage, you have several choices for reaching your Minneapolis accommodation. Perhaps the most efficient and economical option for destinations downtown or along the Blue Line corridor is the METRO Blue Line light rail. You'll find stations conveniently located within both terminals; just follow the plentiful signs directing you to "Trains" or "Light Rail Transit." Platforms are enclosed and easily accessible via escalators or elevators. Trains heading northbound towards Minneapolis run frequently throughout the day and evening, typically every 10-15 minutes during peak times and slightly less often during off-peak hours and overnight. Make sure you board a train heading towards "Target Field" or "Downtown Minneapolis," not southbound towards the Mall of America unless that is your destination.

Purchasing a ticket for the light rail is simple. Ticket vending machines are located at the entrance to the platform at both terminal stations. These machines accept cash and credit/debit cards and offer various fare options, including single rides and multi-day passes. A single ride fare from the airport covers your journey for two and a half hours, including transfers to buses or other light rail lines if needed. The journey from

Terminal 1 to the heart of downtown Minneapolis takes approximately 30 minutes, offering a smooth and traffic-free ride directly into the city center. It's a practical choice, especially if you're traveling relatively light and your hotel is near one of the downtown stations like Nicollet Mall, Government Plaza, or U.S. Bank Stadium. Remember to validate your ticket before boarding if using a paper ticket, or simply tap your Go-To card or Metro Transit app QR code at the reader.

If you prefer a more direct door-to-door service or are traveling with significant luggage, taxis are readily available. Follow the signs for "Ground Transportation" and then "Taxis" at either terminal. Designated taxi stands are staffed during busy periods, and dispatchers can assist you in getting a cab. Fares to downtown Minneapolis are typically regulated but can fluctuate slightly based on traffic conditions. You can generally expect the cost to be in the range of \$39 to \$49, plus a customary tip for the driver. The travel time by taxi can vary significantly depending on traffic, ranging from 20 minutes in ideal conditions to considerably longer during rush hour or inclement weather. Taxis offer convenience, especially for groups or those unfamiliar with the city layout upon arrival.

Rideshare services like Uber and Lyft are also popular and readily accessible options from MSP. Similar to taxis, follow the signs for Ground Transportation, but look specifically for the designated "App-Based Ride Services" pick-up zones. These zones are clearly marked and located in specific areas to manage traffic flow. At Terminal 1, the pick-up area is on Level 2 of the Green Parking Ramp, requiring a short walk via skyway. At Terminal 2, pick-up is conveniently located at the Ground Transport Center within the Purple Parking Ramp. Using your preferred app, you can request a ride upon collecting your luggage. Fares vary based on demand (surge pricing), time of day, and the level of service selected, but often range from \$20 to \$40 for a trip downtown. Wait times can fluctuate, so it's wise to check the app as you make your way to the pick-up zone.

For travelers heading to specific hotels that offer shuttle services, or perhaps destinations outside the immediate downtown area or even regional cities, shared-ride shuttles and van services are another possibility. Several companies operate from MSP, offering both scheduled and on-demand services. You can find their counters or arrange pick-up within the Ground Transportation centers at both terminals. It's often advisable, and sometimes required, to make advance reservations, particularly for services going further afield or during peak travel times. While potentially more economical than a taxi for solo travelers heading to certain areas, shared rides often involve multiple stops, so factor in potentially longer travel times.

Renting a car provides the most flexibility for exploring beyond the central Minneapolis area or if you plan extensive travel throughout the region. All major car rental companies have counters at MSP, typically located near baggage claim or a short walk or shuttle ride away in dedicated rental car facilities. Follow the signs for "Rental

Cars." While having a car offers freedom, consider the costs and hassles of parking, especially in downtown Minneapolis where ramp fees can be substantial. If your visit is primarily focused on downtown and nearby neighborhoods accessible by transit or walking, a rental car might be an unnecessary expense. However, for exploring outer suburbs, visiting St. Paul extensively, or taking day trips, it remains a viable option.

While the METRO Blue Line light rail is the primary public transit route connecting the airport directly to Minneapolis, it's worth noting that Metro Transit bus Route 54 also serves the airport, specifically Terminal 1. However, this route primarily connects the airport to downtown St. Paul and various points along West 7th Street. It's generally not the most direct or convenient option for reaching downtown Minneapolis unless your final destination lies specifically along its St. Paul-bound path or you need to transfer. Most Minneapolis-bound visitors will find the Blue Line light rail significantly more practical.

Once you've arrived at your accommodation and are ready to explore Minneapolis, you'll find the city offers a manageable scale and diverse transportation methods. The downtown core is relatively compact, and many popular districts like the North Loop, Loring Park, and the Mill District are quite walkable, especially during pleasant weather. Minneapolis actively promotes pedestrian travel, boasting miles of sidewalks and dedicated walking paths, particularly around its famous Chain of Lakes and along the Mississippi riverfront. Getting around on foot is often one of delves into the unique character of different neighborhoods, allowing for spontaneous discoveries.

Complementing the city's walkability is its extensive public transportation system, operated by Metro Transit. This network includes numerous bus routes that crisscross the city and extend into the suburbs, along with the METRO Blue and Green light rail lines. Buses run frequently on major corridors, offering connections to areas not directly served by the light rail. Fares are consistent across buses and trains, typically ranging from \$2.00 during off-peak hours to \$2.50 during peak commuting times (Monday-Friday, 6-9 am and 3-6:30 pm). A reduced fare of 50 cents applies for short trips within designated downtown zones in both Minneapolis and St. Paul, making quick hops across the central business district very affordable.

Paying for your Metro Transit ride is straightforward. On buses, you can pay with exact cash (drivers do not make change) or use a Go-To Card, which is a rechargeable smart card offering slightly discounted fares. You can also purchase fares directly through the Metro Transit mobile app, which generates a QR code to scan upon boarding. The app is also an invaluable tool for trip planning, providing real-time bus and train tracking. For visitors planning extensive use of public transit, purchasing an All-Day Pass or a multi-day pass (like a 7-Day Pass) can offer convenience and potential savings. These passes provide unlimited rides for the specified duration. Notably, rides along Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis on specific bus routes are often free, facilitating easy movement along this key commercial and cultural artery.

The METRO light rail system consists of two primary lines intersecting in downtown Minneapolis. The Blue Line, which begins at the Mall of America and runs through the airport, continues north through downtown Minneapolis, terminating at Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins. Key downtown stops include Nicollet Mall, Government Plaza, and U.S. Bank Stadium. The Green Line runs east-west, connecting Target Field and the downtown core with the University of Minnesota campus and terminating in downtown St. Paul. Both lines offer frequent service, typically every 10-15 minutes during the day, making them efficient ways to travel between major hubs and attractions along their routes. Stations are equipped with ticket vending machines identical to those at the airport, and payment methods are the same as for buses.

Minneapolis has earned a well-deserved reputation as one of the most bike-friendly cities in the United States. An extensive network of on-street bike lanes, protected bikeways, and off-street paved trails makes cycling a practical and enjoyable way to get around, particularly from spring through fall. The city boasts designated "Bike Boulevards" on quieter residential streets, and iconic trails like the Midtown Greenway provide car-free east-west passage through South Minneapolis. The paths encircling the Chain of Lakes (Bde Maka Ska, Lake Harriet, Lake of the Isles) are immensely popular for recreational cycling. Renting a bike is easy thanks to bike-share programs widely available throughout the city; check for current providers and download their apps to locate and unlock bikes. Many hotels also offer complimentary bikes for guests. Metro Transit buses are equipped with front racks for carrying bicycles, and bikes are generally allowed on light rail trains, making multi-modal journeys possible.

During the warmer months, typically from spring through fall, you'll also notice electric scooters available for rent scattered throughout the city. Several companies operate these scooter-share services, accessible via their respective mobile apps. You can use the app to locate a nearby scooter, unlock it, and pay on a per-minute basis. Scooters can be a quick and fun way to cover short distances, especially in flatter areas like downtown or around the University. However, be sure to familiarize yourself with local regulations regarding where you can ride (usually bike lanes or streets, not sidewalks) and properly park the scooters when finished to avoid fines and obstructing pedestrian pathways. Availability typically ceases during the winter months due to snow and ice.

For direct trips, late-night travel, or reaching destinations not conveniently served by public transit, taxis and rideshare services remain readily available throughout Minneapolis. You can hail licensed taxis on the street, particularly in busier areas like downtown or Uptown, or call local taxi companies directly. Uber and Lyft operate widely across the city, offering various service levels accessible through their apps. While generally more expensive than public transport, they provide door-to-door convenience and operate around the clock. Wait times are usually reasonable, though they can increase during peak demand periods or major events. Always confirm your driver and vehicle match the information provided in the app before getting in.

While Minneapolis boasts excellent alternatives, driving your own vehicle or a rental car is certainly feasible, though it comes with considerations. Navigating the city streets is generally straightforward, with a grid system prevalent in many areas. Major highways like I-94 (running east-west through the city) and I-35W (running north-south) provide access, but they can experience significant congestion during morning and evening rush hours (roughly 7-9 am and 4-6 pm weekdays). Be prepared for potentially slow travel times if driving during these periods. Outside of downtown, street parking may be available in neighborhoods, but always check posted signs for restrictions, time limits, or permit requirements.

The most significant challenge when driving in Minneapolis is often parking, especially within the downtown core. Street parking is metered and often has strict time limits, requiring frequent feeding of meters or payment via parking apps. Numerous multi-level parking ramps (garages) are available downtown, connected to the skyway system, but they can be quite expensive, with daily rates easily exceeding \$20-\$30 or more, particularly for event parking near venues like U.S. Bank Stadium or Target Center. Using parking reservation apps like SpotHero or ParkWhiz can sometimes help you find and book spots in ramps at slightly reduced rates in advance. Carefully read all signage when parking on the street or in lots to avoid costly tickets or towing.

A particularly crucial consideration if visiting between November and April is Minneapolis's Snow Emergency parking rules. When a Snow Emergency is declared after a significant snowfall (typically 3 inches or more), strict parking restrictions go into effect over several days to allow plows to clear the streets curb-to-curb. On Day 1, parking is banned on designated Snow Emergency routes (major streets, typically marked with signs). On Day 2, parking is banned on the even-numbered side of non-Snow Emergency routes. On Day 3, parking is banned on the odd-numbered side. Violating these rules will almost certainly result in your vehicle being ticketed and towed, which is an expensive and inconvenient hassle. If driving during winter, pay close attention to weather forecasts and check the City of Minneapolis website or local news for Snow Emergency declarations and specific rules. Many parking ramps offer discounted rates during Snow Emergencies to encourage people to get their cars off the streets. When in doubt, find off-street parking.

Perhaps the most unique and beneficial transportation feature, especially given Minnesota's climate extremes, is the Minneapolis Skyway System. This extensive network consists of enclosed, climate-controlled pedestrian bridges connecting the second floors of buildings throughout much of the downtown core. Spanning over 80 city blocks and stretching for roughly nine miles, it's one of the largest contiguous systems of its kind in the world. The skyways allow you to walk comfortably between office towers, hotels, shops, restaurants, apartment buildings, government centers, and entertainment venues without ever having to step outside. This is an absolute lifesaver during frigid winters or steamy summer days, and also offers a traffic-free

way to navigate downtown.

Navigating the skyway system can initially seem a bit like exploring a maze, but maps are posted throughout the network and are also available online or through dedicated skyway navigation apps. Look for the distinctive circular blue "Skyway" signs indicating entrances and directions. The system connects into major hotels, the IDS Center's Crystal Court (a central hub), City Center mall, Target Center, and numerous other key destinations. Keep in mind that while the skyways connect public and private buildings, access hours can vary. Some segments may close in the evenings or on weekends, particularly those primarily serving office buildings. However, major routes connecting hotels, retail, and entertainment venues generally remain open later. Using the skyway is a quintessential Minneapolis experience, offering unique perspectives of the city streets below while keeping you comfortable regardless of the weather.

For visitors with mobility challenges, Minneapolis generally offers good accessibility. Metro Transit buses are equipped with ramps or lifts, and light rail trains and stations are fully accessible with level boarding. Sidewalks in most tourist areas have curb cuts, although conditions can be challenging during heavy snow or ice in winter. The skyway system is largely accessible via elevators within the connected buildings, though finding the elevator locations sometimes requires looking at building directories. Most major attractions and venues are also designed with accessibility in mind. It's always wise to check specific accessibility details with venues or Metro Transit if you have particular needs.

Finally, don't underestimate the power of modern technology and local knowledge for getting around. Smartphone mapping apps like Google Maps, Apple Maps, or Waze provide excellent driving directions, real-time traffic updates, and increasingly integrated public transit schedules and routes. Citymapper is another app popular for its detailed transit information. Physical maps are still available at visitor centers and hotels if you prefer. And remember, Minneapolitans are generally friendly and helpful; don't hesitate to ask for directions if you find yourself turned around. Whether you choose the efficiency of the light rail, the convenience of a rideshare, the freedom of a bike, the unique comfort of the skyway, or simply your own two feet, Minneapolis offers a variety of ways to navigate its vibrant streets and scenic pathways. Planning ahead based on where you're staying and what you intend to see will help ensure your transportation within the city is smooth and stress-free.

This is a sample preview. Purchase the book to read the full content.

Visit MixCache.com to purchase the complete book.

SAMPLE COPY