

OUTSIDE MINNEAPOLIS



Top: A waterfall in Duluth, MN

Below: The Mall of America



In last month's issue of *The Postal Record*, we looked at some ways delegates to this summer's national convention could enjoy downtown Minneapolis. This month we're exploring sightseeing options on the outskirts of the city, accessible by car, bus or train.

MALL OF AMERICA

Sure, your town has an indoor shopping mall too—but does it have an entire amusement park and a 1.2 million gallon aquarium with sharks and sea turtles inside?

If that isn't enough for you, the Mall of America has more than 520 stores and 50 restaurants to choose from—and no sales tax on clothing or shoes. Each year, 40 million visitors come to shop, eat, have fun or just see the spectacle. Plan to take a full day exploring, shopping and enjoying rides and attractions.

The Mall of America is in Bloomington, a short drive from downtown Minneapolis. Public transit buses and the Hiawatha Light Rail Line also connect Minneapolis with the mall. Some hotels offer shuttle buses.

ST. PAUL

While St. Paul is the capital of Minnesota, the city also bills itself as the arts and culture capital of the Midwest. It backs up this claim with a dozen museums and 52,000 theater seats. Just across the Mississippi River, downtown St. Paul is a short drive or bus ride from Minneapolis. To plan a visit, see visitsaintpaul.com.

LAKES AND BEACHES

You can't go far in Minnesota without running into a lake. There are dozens of nearby lakes with beaches, boating, fishing and other water activities. Some of the closest and most popular lakes open to the public courtesy of the city's recreation department are Lake Calhoun, Lake Harriet, Lake Hiawatha and Lake Nokomos. Some, but not all of these lakes, have lifeguards on duty. Hit the beaches on a weekday to avoid crowds. Live musical performances and outdoor movies are a regular feature at the Lake Harriet Bandshell. For more information, go to minneapolisparcs.org.

Beyond the city, there are more lakes with parks, beaches, boating and beauty in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes." For information, see minnesotalakes.com.

CONVENTION DEADLINE FOR APPEALS

Article 11 in the NALC Constitution authorizes any aggrieved member, branch or state association to appeal any ruling of the National Committee on Appeals to the National Convention. Such appeals must be filed with the Committee on Appeals no later than 60 days before the convention. For the 2012 Convention, the deadline for application is May 24.

The *NALC Constitution* explains what is necessary (emphasis added):

“Any determination of the Committee on Appeals can be appealed by any aggrieved member, Branch, or State Association to the National Convention. To perfect such appeal, the aggrieved member, Branch, or State Association must, **no later than sixty (60) days prior to the National Convention**, file with the Committee on Appeals, by registered mail, a notice of appeal, together with a full written statement of the reasons why

the appeal should be granted; if the decision of the Committee on Appeals is not rendered until sixty-five (65) days or less prior to the National Convention, the notice of appeal and statement of reasons must be filed as soon after receipt of the decision as is reasonably possible.”

Mail all relevant information to:

NALC Committee on Appeals
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

DULUTH, MN

There are lakes and then there are Great Lakes. A short hop to Duluth, MN, is a great way to enjoy Lake Superior and this friendly lakefront town. Fish on a charter boat, go sailing or canoeing, play the slots at Fond-du-Luth Casino or see the world as a fish does at the Great Lakes Aquarium. Consider a stay at Fitger's, an old brewery converted to a hotel (and that brews its own beer). A drive along the lake's North Shore area provides stunning views of cliffs and waterfalls. Go to visitduluth.com for more information.

FORT SNELLING

For a time after it was built in the 1820s, Fort Snelling was the westernmost U.S. military outpost. Located at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, the fort played a key role in controlling the fur trade, protecting the growing nation from the British and other foreign powers and handling relations—sometimes peaceful, sometimes hostile—with the Indians who inhabited the region.

Enjoy “living history” demonstrations with costumed actors, walking tours and kid-friendly exhibits covering the fort's role in history from the early 1800s to World War II. For more information, visit historicfortsnelling.org.

STILLWATER, MN

Travel back in time with a visit to historic Stillwater, MN, a small historic lumber town 30 minutes' drive from Minneapolis. Declared “one of the prettiest small towns in America” by *Forbes* magazine, Stillwater has history, shopping, historic Victorian-style inns, an old-fashioned trolley, golf courses, balloon rides, paddle boats

and authentic Venetian gondolas, two wineries and dining on the St. Croix River. Visit discoverstillwater.com for more information.

CASINOS

You can choose from 18 American Indian-owned casinos in Minnesota. One of the largest, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, is less than an hour's drive from downtown Minneapolis. Mystic Lake has slots and table games, along with restaurants, music, shows and other recreation. Go to mysticlake.com for more information.

THE BAKKEN MUSEUM

Check out this unique, kid-friendly museum all about the wonders of electricity and magnetism. Set in a beautiful historic building on the shores of Lake Calhoun, the Bakken Museum has plenty of fun, hands-on learning opportunities for scientists young and old. Learn more at thebakken.org.

THE SPAM MUSEUM

You don't have to like SPAM, that salty, vaguely ham-like potted meat product, to like the SPAM Museum. But it helps. Located 100 miles south of Minneapolis in the town of Austin, the museum pays homage to all things SPAM—perhaps that explains its alternative name: “The Guggenham.” Explore the history of Hormel's popular product (including ads for SPAM through the years), learn all 12 varieties of SPAM and pick up a few SPAM recipes in this surprisingly modern museum. See spam.com/spam-101/the-spam-museum for details.

And can you buy cans of SPAM, and apparel labeled “SPAM,” in the gift shop? Of course you can. ☒



Left: An historical reenactor at Fort Snelling

Below: The welcoming party at The SPAM Museum

Bottom: Experience the power of electricity at The Bakken Museum



Photo by Matt Olson

