



Saint Paul's Notorious Past

6 Hours
Friday, June 24, 2011



Baby Face Nelson...Machine Gun Kelly...Kid Caan...Ma Barker...those are the names Americans--especially Minnesotans, St. Paulites in particular--were familiar with during prohibition. Alvin "Creepy" Karpis once said, "if you were looking for a guy you had not seen in a few months, you usually thought of two places: Prison or St. Paul."

Today we begin at 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.

Next we'll tour the **James J. Hill House**. Completed in 1891, this red sandstone house symbolized success. Rugged stone, massive scale, fine detail and ingenious mechanical systems recall the powerful presence of James J. Hill. Hill a.k.a. the "Empire Builder," purchased a bankrupt railroad in St. Paul in the late 1800's and masterminded its success by building the great Northern Railway. He also pursued a broad range of other business interests: coal and iron ore mining, Great Lakes and Pacific Ocean shipping, banking and finance, agriculture and milling.

Our lunch stop will be at **Café Minnesota** at the Minnesota History Center (vouchers included). The Café offers self-service dining, with a full grill for burgers, chicken sandwiches, and a carved item; an entree station, a deli station for sandwiches, salads, and soups; and a dessert station with a full array of homemade treats.

As we leave the Minnesota History Center a costumed gangster guide will hi-jack our motorcoach 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! We 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!

This city tour with a unique twist will include a stop along the route at 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. Originally conceived as a post office, custom house, and courthouse, the building eventually became the headquarters for all federal offices in the upper Midwest. This grand edifice has been honored with numerous awards for its architectural genius.

Next on our 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 also a fireplace area with bullet holes from the 1930's 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.

Additionally while in St. Paul, our guide will provide commentary on Rice Park, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Children's Museum, Mickey's Diner, and The Fitzgerald Theater, home to Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion*.

Price: \$65.00 per person
30 person minimum

Includes: Deluxe motorcoach transportation, driver, tour guide with commentary, gangster hi-jacking, Cathedral of St. Paul tour, James J. Hill House tour, Landmark Center tour, Caves tour, Café Minnesota lunch vouchers, all applicable taxes and meal gratuities



Stillwater... Birthplace of Minnesota

5 Hours
Saturday, June 25, 2011



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.

We will travel along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway that winds through the rocky bluffs and hardwood forests aboard a replica of an 1890's paddlewheel riverboat, "The Andiamo". The landscape here is very dramatic rivaling Lake Superior's North Shore beauty.

A delicious buffet lunch will also be served on board. Lunch today includes deli buffet of sliced meats and cheeses served with fresh bakery rolls, sandwich fixings, fresh fruit, seasonal salad and a warm entrée selection and a gourmet cookie assortment.

There will be time after lunch to enjoy the variety and quality shopping on Stillwater's historic streets. Boutiques, specialty shops, antiques and art galleries offer abundance for the discriminating shopper. On your strolling shopping experience, discover original works of art, jewelry, pottery, eclectic gifts/crafts, books, gourmet utensils, clothing, home furnishings and wine.

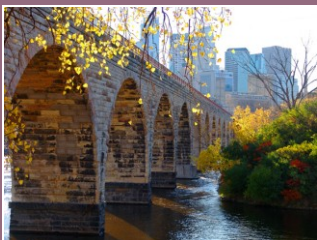
Price: \$55.00 per person
30 person minimum

Includes: Deluxe motorcoach transportation, metroConnections uniformed tour guide, riding tour of Stillwater, riverboat cruise and buffet lunch, time to explore Stillwater on own, and all applicable taxes and meal gratuities



Best of Minneapolis

6 Hours
Sunday, June 26, 2011



Exciting is one way to describe Minneapolis. Minneapolis is filled with exciting attractions, events, restaurants, clubs, shopping, culture, sports, recreation and entertainment that is unsurpassed in the Midwest.

This morning we'll begin our tour of Minneapolis by visiting **Minnehaha Park** to see Minnesota's oldest tourist attraction, **Minnehaha Falls**. This is where the twenty-two mile Minnehaha Creek, which flows from Lake Minnetonka through the western suburbs of Minneapolis and into the city, dives over the falls and into the Mississippi River. The fifty-three foot falls have been immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha" and are visited by thousands of tourists and locals every year.

Traveling around sparkling lakes and lagoons, we'll continue our journey to the stylish Kenwood area and through Mount Curve Avenue, stopping to see the TV home of Mary Tyler Moore, and discover why Minneapolis is known as the "City of Lakes".

Next we'll visit the **Sculpture Gardens**; eleven acres of gardens, walkways and plazas located on the fringe of downtown Minneapolis. This urban garden features sculptures of various styles, time periods (early 20th century to the present) and sizes ranging from human-scale bronzes to towering steel constructions. The focal point of the garden, "Spoonbridge and Cherry", is a twenty-nine foot high fountain that sprays over a free-form pond.

We'll lunch today within the Walker Art Center at **Gallery 8**. Chef Puck brings the freshest ingredients to the casual setting, offering an array of delicious and seasonal selections of soups, salads and sandwiches with quick and friendly service (vouchers included).

After lunch we'll tour the **Mill City Museum**. Did you know that beginning in 1880 and for 50 years thereafter, Minneapolis was known as the "Flour Milling Capital of the World?" At the industry's peak, the Washburn A. Mill was the most technologically advanced and the largest in the world. After World War I, when the milling industry in Minneapolis began to decline, the industry moved out of Minneapolis and the old mills fell into disuse.

An attraction for all ages, the museum chronicles the flour milling industry that dominated world flour production for roughly a half-century and fueled the growth of Minneapolis, recognized across the nation and around the world as "Mill City." The story of flour milling — and its impact on Minneapolis, the nation and the world — comes to life through the eight-story Flour Tower and other hands-on exhibits.

Following the museum, we will take a leisurely walk across the **Stone Arch Bridge**. Famous for its graceful arches and breathtaking views, it defines the Minneapolis' skyline. Railroad baron James J. Hill built the bridge in 1883 to allow for increased movement of people and goods across the Mississippi River. The Stone Arch Bridge spans St. Anthony Falls, and served as a working railroad bridge until 1965. Today the Stone Arch Bridge is cultural icon, representing the vital role the Mississippi River plays in Minneapolis' social and economic fabric.

And finally, we'll "pop" in at the **Guthrie Theatre** and take a walk on the spectacular 53-meter cantilever bridge that swings out over the river front, a contemporary rendering of the equally spectacular silos around it.

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.

Price: \$55.00 per person
30 person minimum

Includes: Deluxe motorcoach transportation, driver, tour guide with commentary, Minnehaha Falls visit, Sculpture Gardens visit, Mill City Museum tour, stops at Stone Arch Bridge and Guthrie Theater, Gallery 8 lunch vouchers, all applicable taxes and meal gratuities