



50 Free Things To Do in Minneapolis / St. Paul

There's no shortage of things to do in the Minneapolis / St. Paul area. We understand that sometimes you don't want to spend a lot of money while on vacation so we're here to help. We've put a list together of 50 FREE things to do in Minneapolis / St. Paul. From zoos, to nature, to museums, we have something for you.

1. Walk on the Stone Arch Bridge and enjoy the view of St. Anthony Falls.
2. Encounter animals and plants of all kinds at Como Zoo & Conservatory.
3. Take a tour of the historical Cathedral of Saint Paul.
4. The Minnesota History Center has **FREE** admission every Tuesday from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
5. Visit the Minneapolis Institute of Arts' world-class collection, including some world-famous masterpieces.
6. Venture into the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden where you can take your picture with the iconic cherry and spoon.
7. Attend one of the largest civic jazz festivals in the Upper Midwest – the Twin Cities Jazz Festival!
8. See where the Minnesota state legislature assembles on a Minnesota State Capitol tour.
9. Walker Art Center is **FREE** from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. every Thursday evening.
10. Town Green in Maple Grove holds free community events and concerts throughout the summer.
11. Learn about 20th-century American artists at the Weisman Art Museum.
12. Learn about the history of Landmark Center by taking a **FREE** public tour.
13. Go fishing at Fish Lake Regional Park – by land or bring your own boat.
14. Walk around the Mall of America and be amazed by how big it is.
15. Attend the largest open studio tour in the country - Art-A-Whirl!
16. Browse around the Midtown Global Market where you can find more than 40 businesses and restaurants from many countries around the world.
17. Walk around Minnehaha Falls Regional Park - 193 acres with a 53-foot waterfall, limestone bluffs and river overlooks.
18. Go birding at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge where you can see hundreds of native and migratory birds.
19. The Minnesota Children's Museum has **FREE** admission on the third Sunday of the month.
20. Head over to the Shoppes at Arbor Lakes in the summer for Summer Faire – free music and entertainment on select Thursday nights.
21. There's always **FREE** live music to be found in the summer. Check out the line-up for Minneapolis Music in the Parks and St. Paul Music in the Parks.
22. Grab some friends and blankets and watch a movie in the park. New this year is Brooklyn Park's Movies in the Park.
23. Ice skate in downtown St. Paul at the Wells Fargo Winterskate.
24. Admission is **FREE** at the Bell Museum of Natural History every Sunday.
25. Hike around Elm Creek Park Reserve – over 4,900 acres!
26. Bike up and down Shingle Creek Regional Trail. This trail connects Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park.

27. Visit 2,000-year-old Native American burial mounds at Indian Mounds Regional Park in St. Paul.
28. Check out Minneapolis Northwest's three summer city festivals: Earle Brown Days, Tater Daze and Maple Grove Days.
29. Take a self-guided or walk-in tour of the Ramsey County Courthouse.
30. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum has **FREE** admission on Thursdays, November through March, and every third Thursday of the month after 4:30 p.m., April through October.
31. Walk or run a 5k around Palmer Lake's loop in Brooklyn Center.
32. Check out a **FREE** comedy show. ACME Comedy Company's has Open Mic Night on Mondays and Joke Joint Comedy Club has Open Mic Night on Wednesdays.
33. The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra holds many **FREE** family concerts throughout the year. Reservations are required.
34. Get in tune with your healthy side. Farmers Markets not only have a plethora of food options, but many have free entertainment and kids activities.
35. Walk across the Mississippi River at the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park.
36. Take in a concert from the Minnesota Sinfonia – all concerts are **FREE** and children are welcome and encouraged to attend all performances.
37. Bundle up and explore the St. Paul Winter Carnival, known as the "Coolest Celebration on Earth."
38. The Twin Cities has not one, but two St. Patrick's Day Parades! St. Paul is in the day and Minneapolis is in the evening.
39. Celebrate Independence Day by attending Red, White & Boom! This event features live music, great food, fun activities for the whole family and the grand finale - fireworks!
40. The Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics holds public viewings on select Friday nights. You'll have the chance to observe some of the same celestial objects that have inspired sky-gazers throughout history.
41. At the Guthrie Theater, anyone is welcome to tour the public spaces inside the building, including the endless bridge and the Amber Room with a glass floor.
42. Take a **FREE** yoga class in front of the Lake Harriet Bandshell. All levels of experience are invited to salute the sun as it rises over beautiful Lake Harriet. Daily at 6:30 a.m.
43. Macy's Santaland in downtown Minneapolis is a holiday favorite. Walk through Santa's workshop and watch as the elves prepare for Santa's big night.
44. The Twin Cities have become a hopping beer destination. Take a brewery tour at one of 40+ breweries around the metro.
45. Watch harness horse racing at Running Aces Harness Park. Admission is always **FREE**.
46. Into homemade crafts? Visit a Maple Grove Women of Today Craft Show!
47. Spend the entire night out at Northern Spark – a "white night," dusk-to-dawn participatory art festival.
48. Celebrate authentic Irish heritage through a multitude of activities at the Irish Fair of Minnesota.
49. Drive the scenic West and East River Parkways. Both start in Minneapolis and follows you along the Mississippi River. West takes you to Minnehaha Falls Regional Park and East takes you to Saint Paul.
50. Enjoy family time together at Eidem Homestead with **FREE** summer concerts and story time.