

# Places of Interest in the Twin Cities

## Tours

MetroConnections: (612) 333-8687 – [www.metroconnectionstours.com/public](http://www.metroconnectionstours.com/public)

This live commentary tour highlights the famous Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis skyway network and the Metrodome all from the comfort of a deluxe motor coach. Travel past the Guthrie Theatre and the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, through Mt. Curve and Kenwood residential areas to see the television home of Mary Tyler Moore. Continue past the Mall of America with a stop at the legendary Minnehaha Falls and follow the Mississippi River past Fort Snelling into St. Paul. From there you'll drive down stately Summit Avenue to see the magnificent Cathedral of St. Paul, the State Capitol, the home and haunts of literary legend F. Scott Fitzgerald, the Governor's mansion and the revitalized downtown area of St. Paul including Rice Park, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts and the Landmark Center.

Segway Tours: (952) 888-9200 – [www.humanonastick.com](http://www.humanonastick.com)

Travel back in time on a Magical History Tour™! Ride a Segway as you enjoy the history of the Minneapolis Riverfront area from 10,000 BC to present without breaking a sweat. Let the Segway do the work as you cover several miles accompanied by a professional guide. Visit areas such as, the Stone Arch Bridge, the lock and dam, Mill Ruins Park, St. Anthony Falls, Gateway Park and the Sawmill District.

## Music

Dakota Restaurant And Jazz Club: (612) 332-1010 – [www.dakotacooks.com](http://www.dakotacooks.com)

The Dakota is a favorite club among many of jazz's top players. Now having said that, we can say much more. Some of today's finest musicians actually request a gig at The Dakota. This phenomenon is reflected in praise by notable publications like the New York Times, USA Today, Esquire, Gourmet, Time, Downbeat, Fortune, Money, The Wall Street Journal and a chorus of newspapers from coast to coast.

The Dakota is located right in the heart of downtown Minneapolis. The intimate sound and lights, the stage and the expanded room provide an ideal atmosphere to showcase the most talented jazz musicians in the world as well as the fantastic local talent right here in the Midwest. Jazz fans and jazz musicians appreciate the experience from the finest jazz club in town combined with the absolute best in local cuisine.

First Avenue: (612) 332- 1775 – [www.first-avenue.com](http://www.first-avenue.com)

San Francisco has the Fillmore Auditorium. New York has the Knitting Factory. And Minneapolis has First Avenue and the 7th Street Entry. Anyone who knows about music in this town will tell you that, for the last three decades, First Avenue has been integral to the Twin Cities' vibrant music scene.

From the avant garde to the mainstream, First Avenue is a music club committed to fostering the arts, music and entertainment excellence. There are a lot of people who care deeply about this club and have, in effect, made it their lives.

First Avenue is, quite simply, what a music club should be.

Ordway Center (St. Paul) – (651) 224-4442 – [www.ordway.org](http://www.ordway.org)

The Ordway, recognized as one of the U.S.'s leading not-for-profit performing arts centers, is home to a wide variety of performances throughout the year that encompass the finest in American musical theatre, world music, dance, jazz, and vocal artists on its Main Hall and McKnight Theatre stages. In addition, each year the Ordway presents its Flint Hills International Children's Festival and serves over 50,000 children and adults through its Ordway Education

programs. The Ordway opened its doors on January 1, 1985 and since then has become known as Saint Paul's most elegant and inviting performance space, attracting audiences from throughout the region to its diverse range of presentations. The Ordway joins the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, The Minnesota Opera, and the Schubert Club in a unique Arts Partnership and provides a home to its Arts Partners. Ordway Center is proud to sponsor the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, a professionally guided academic and artistic environment serving students in grades nine through twelve.

Minnesota Orchestra – (612) 371-5656 – [www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org)

Since Orchestra Hall opened in 1974, as many as 10 million people have passed through its doors to attend more than 4,000 concerts. The modern look of the Hall, with its simple lines and glass, brick and steel exterior, offered a marked departure from the old-world opulence of many concert halls. It was designed to emphasize the concert experience rather than the building itself. "Part of the magic is that the building was designed to deformalize concert-going," explains architect Hugh Hardy, most recently known for designing the renovation of Radio City Music Hall. Orchestra Hall features a ring of open "tiers" in the concert hall and a series of colorful flying bridges in the lobby to bring people together. "Here, everyone comes together, with no hierarchy, no need to dress up," says Hardy.

Orchestra Hall is particularly renowned for its acoustics, designed by Cyril Harris, with each design feature carefully planned to enhance the warmth and richness of sound in the space. Over 100 large cubes form a "falling rock" pattern on the auditorium ceiling to deflect sound throughout the Hall. The wood floor and stage allow for better sound vibration, and the angle of the balconies offers optimal reflection of sound. Actually, Orchestra Hall consists of two buildings: a rectangular-shaped auditorium, and a glass and steel supporting structure (housing the lobby and administrative offices) that are separated from the auditorium by a one-inch gap to free the concert hall from any outside sound. The result is an acoustically brilliant space, designed for a superb concert going experience.

## Live Theatre

Acme Comedy Club: (612) 338-6393 – [www.acmecomedycorpany.com](http://www.acmecomedycorpany.com)

The rough-hewn limestone blocks and warehouse-like basement surroundings are a perfect foil for the nation's top comics. The adjacent Sticks restaurant has graduated from its "everything on a skewer" theme and now serves more traditional fare. The crowd can be a bit thin on weeknights, but all 275 seats are usually filled on the weekends. Small wonder--these comics are at the top of their profession and usually fresh from gigs on the leading late-night shows.

Brave New Workshop: (612) 332-6620 – [www.bravenewworkshop.org](http://www.bravenewworkshop.org)

The Brave New Workshop has been writing, performing and producing sketch comedy and improvisation since 1958-- longer than any other theatre in the United States.

Founded by former circus performer Dudley Riggs and currently owned by husband and wife John Sweeney and Jenni Lilledahl, the little theatre on Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis has become a legendary comedy institution, where audiences enjoy improv and sketch comedy nearly every night of the week. The company's talented performers create satirical, irreverent, and intelligent original works.

Fitzgerald Theatre (St. Paul): (612) 290-1195 – [fitzgeraldtheater.publicradio.org](http://fitzgeraldtheater.publicradio.org)

Built in 1910 as a Shubert theater, the Fitzgerald Theater is Saint Paul's oldest surviving theater space. One of four special memorial theaters erected by entertainment-industry magnates Lee and J. J. Shubert after the death of their brother Sam, this was to be a particularly elegant building, patterned after the renowned Maxine Elliot Theater in New York. Over the years, the Fitzgerald's stage has been host to Broadway musicals, vaudeville shows, film festivals, corporate events, and concerts of all sorts.

Guthrie Theatre: (612) 377-2224 – [www.guthrietheatre.org](http://www.guthrietheatre.org)

The Guthrie Theater, founded in 1963, is an American center for theater performance, production, education and professional training. By presenting both classical literature and new work from diverse cultures, the Guthrie illuminates the common humanity connecting Minnesota to the peoples of the world.

Hennepin Theatre District: (612) 373-5600 – [www.hennepintheatredistrict.org](http://www.hennepintheatredistrict.org)

Minneapolis Minnesota has always been known for its thriving theatre scene. Bringing it back to where it all began, the Hennepin Theatre District features 3 historic theatres that provide quality entertainment in gorgeous houses. The largest of the three theatres, The Historic Orpheum theatre in downtown Minneapolis is a fine place to see a concert, play, or other type of show. This theatre was built in the early 1920's and its elegance and grandeur has been restored. The second largest, and perhaps most commonly used, is the State Theatre. The Historic State Theatre is also located in Downtown Minneapolis on Hennepin Avenue. This theatre was built in the 1920's and has old fashioned theatre elegance. It was restored in the 1990's to its former beauty. The State Theatre is a great place to see a concert, play, or other special event. The third theatre is called the Pantages Theatre. It has just been recently renovated and restored to its former glory. Check out the interesting historical display located in the basement. This display highlights information about the theatre's past; from its days of vaudeville to its cinema days.

Theatre in the Round: (612) 333-3010 – [www.theatreintheround.org](http://www.theatreintheround.org)

Under the guidance of the architectural firm Ralph Rapson & Associates -- designers of the Guthrie and University of Minnesota theaters -- workers built a unique arena stage, where the audience surrounds the action. Its 259 seats are only seven rows deep, so no seat is more than 30' from center stage.

You'll experience your favorite plays from a wholly new perspective -- in the round.

## **Sporting Events, Concerts**

Target Center: (612) 673-0900 – [www.targetcenter.com](http://www.targetcenter.com)

Located only a block from the hotel, the Target Center plays home to the Minnesota Timberwolves (NBA), the Minnesota Lynx (WNBA) as well as a multitude of concerts, shows and many other events.

HHH Metrodome: (612) 332-0386 - [www.msfc.com](http://www.msfc.com)

Home to the Minnesota Twins (until 2010), the Minnesota Golden Gopher (until 2009) and the Minnesota Vikings.