

# 2015 COMPANION TOURS - Minneapolis

**MONDAY, MAY 18**

**Companion Tour 1: “Let Us Get Acquainted with Minnesota Nice”  
Twin City Highlights Tour 9:30am-1:15pm**

Treat yourself to an introduction to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul by boarding a comfortable mini-coach for a tour lead by a professional Guide. You will get a taste of the urban life that melds with breathtaking nature and the historic backbone that roots of the cities grew from like the rivers in the backdrop.



The Minneapolis skyline, unsurpassed in the Midwest, sparkles with award winning structures including shopping, theater districts and art venues, sporting arenas, and restaurants. From the Nicollet Mall, Skywalk network, Sculpture Garden, Orchestra Hall (the television home of Mary Tyler Moore) and the Guthrie Theatre to the

St. Anthony Falls Bridge, the future 2018 season super bowl Dome under construction, and the Target Center where Billy Joel will be performing, the tour showcases the city's dynamic growth and vibrant, thriving lifestyle.

Stop to enjoy Minnesota's oldest tourist attraction, the 53 foot Minnehaha Falls immortalized in Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha."



Next stop is the capital city, St. Paul with its magnificent art deco and Victorian reminders of the past nestled next to sleek skyscrapers giving the city an old world charm. Highlights include Rice Park, Ordway Center for Performing Arts, Landmark Center, and the Fitzgerald Theater. View the Minnesota State Capitol, considered the second most beautiful capitol building in the United States and the

magnificent Cathedral of Saint Paul, the fourth largest cathedral in the US. Built in the Classical Renaissance style of architecture, the Cathedral dome is modeled after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.



Our tour of St. Paul will take you back to a century old drive known as "Summit Avenue" one of the longest stretches of virtually uninterrupted Victorian architecture in the United States. Summit Avenue boasts mansions, churches and historic homes that include the James J. Hill House, the home of F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Governor's Mansion.

**WORLD WIDE KNOWN** The MOA (Mall of America) will be our final stop. For those who do not want to shop, the tour bus will take you back to the hotel. The rest of us will catch the new light rail Blue Line train back to the downtown area after you experience the MOA. It features 520 stores on 3 levels with 50 restaurants and attractions galore. Note: No sales tax on clothing or shoes. The Blue Line leaves every 10 minutes for downtown, or if you prefer you will have an escort to connect with by 3:30pm to head back to the hotel. Note: Sea Life Aquarium - all new in March, 2015, theaters on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor level and many more attractions can be found at the MOA.



***Details:***

Tour Starting Point: Depot Renaissance Hotel  
Tour Ending Point: Mall of America and Depot Renaissance Hotel  
Duration: 3 ¾ hours  
Lunch: Not included

***Itinerary:***

9:30am Group Departs Depot Renaissance Hotel via coach  
9:30-12:30pm Twin Cities Highlights Tour  
12:30pm Tour Concludes & drops shoppers at Mall of America  
1:15pm Coach returns to Depot Renaissance Hotel  
3:30pm Tour Host departs MOA via train with remaining guests

## **TUESDAY, MAY 19**

### **Companion Tour 2: “Flour Tower to Flower Power” – The Mill City’s Backbone to Nature’s Backdrop 9:45am-4:30pm**

Today’s excursion combines two of the region’s most popular attractions, the Mill City Museum and the Arboretum.



Beginning in 1880 the Minneapolis area, a/k/a the Mill City was known as the “Flour Milling Capitol of the World.” You can see the word GOLD at the top of the Mill City Museum from our hotel as we walk the 2 blocks to explore where our original baking flour came from. Located within the ruins of the historic milling district, the Museum is packed with interactive exhibits. Hear the story of a mighty river, a young city and how one product – flour – fueled the growth of Minneapolis. Explore the 8 story Flour Tower (showing what it was like to work in a flour mill) and interactive exhibits. A summary of life in the city back then is

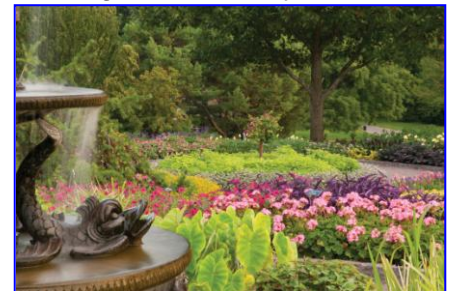
highlighted in a film, “Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat.”

Lunch is included today at the Museum’s Café.



Continuing the tour we will be shuttled to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska where flower power will inspire you to add to your landscapes. The Arboretum features 1,137 acres of natural areas and public gardens and is a favorite local center for weddings. It is renowned as one of the best field research centers in the U.S. for plants. Today’s visit is self-guided where you can choose to visit the Reedy Gallery of arts (featuring a diverse collection of watercolors, oils and acrylics) enjoy the tulip celebration or support

local vendors with a visit to the gift shop with nature inspired home décor, jewelry, arts and photography as well as children’s gifts.



#### ***Details:***

Starting Point: Depot Renaissance Hotel  
Tour Ending Point: Depot Renaissance Hotel  
Duration: 7 hours  
Lunch: Included

#### ***Itinerary:***

9:45am Depart Depot Renaissance Hotel on foot for short walk to Mill City Museum  
Visit Mill City Museum  
Lunch at Mill City Museum Café

12:15pm Group departs Mill City Museum via mini-coach

1:30pm - 3:45pm Self-guided visit to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

3:45pm Group Departs the Arboretum

4:30pm Return to Depot Renaissance Hotel

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

### Companion Tour 3:

### A Taste of Minneapolis: Cooking Class

9:30am-1:00pm

A private cooking class and lunch is planned today at Saga Hill Cooking School. The venue offers hands on cooking with an experiential learning environment that you can put to practical use today.



Today's class has been designed to highlight the best of Minnesota using the freshest of locally sourced ingredients. Your host for the event is Chef Marianne Miller. Chef Miller is a Twin Cities culinary trendsetter and also an author, contributing food editor and restaurant reviewer for Minnesota's highest circulated magazine, *Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine*.

Miller was trained and certified at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris (where she also earned a prestigious Marriage of Food and Wine degree), The Art of Entertaining, Chef's Grand Diplome and Leiths School of Food and Wine in London. Her esteemed career includes serving as an executive chef for government officials, celebrities and other notable figures at villas and on yachts throughout Europe and in the US. In 1999 she moved to the Twin Cities and held executive chef positions at Saks Fifth Avenue and Bobino, sommelier positions at Aquavit and Nicollet Island Inn in addition to culinary positions at Catholic Services domestic shelters kitchens, Kids Cafe and The Suites at The Metrodome.



Miller describes her style as audacious, yet feminine. "My preparations are often bold, but with a light-handed approach that brings out the natural flavors in each dish. Enjoy an interactive private cooking event followed by the opportunity to savor a delightful luncheon as prepared by your group. Bon Appétit!

#### **Details:**

Tour Starting Point:	Depot Renaissance Hotel
Tour Ending Point:	Depot Renaissance Hotel
Duration:	3 ½ hours
Lunch:	Included

#### **Itinerary:**

9:30am	Depart Depot Renaissance Hotel
	Private Cooking Class & Lunch at Saga Hill
12:45pm	Depart Saga Hill
1:00pm	Return to Depot Renaissance Hotel