

Great River Road – Minnesota

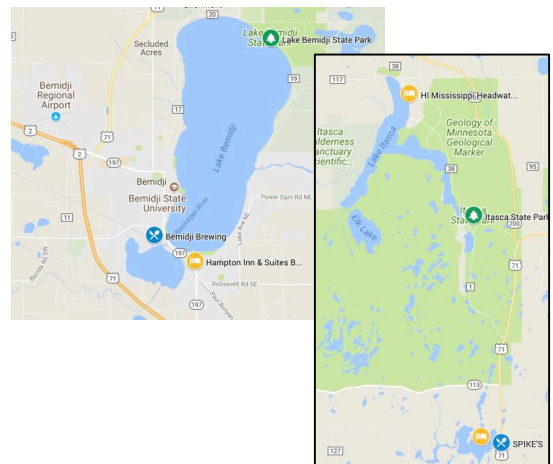
https://roadtrippersrus.com/GreatRiverRoad_MN_Printable

Before You Go Checklist

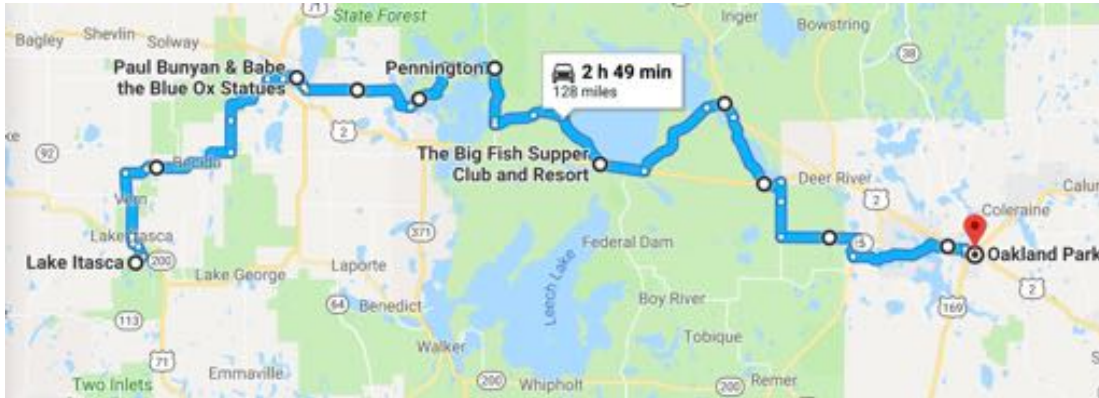
- Purchase a [Minnesota State Park Pass](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/permit.html) - www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/permit.html
- Book a [tour at U.S. Bank Stadium](https://www.usbankstadium.com/tours) - <https://www.usbankstadium.com/tours>
- Purchase tickets for First Avenue Night Club - <http://first-avenue.com/calendar>
- Book a [tour at Padelford Riverboats](http://riverrides.com) – <http://riverrides.com>
- Purchase an Extreme Sandbox package - <http://extremesandbox.com/packages/>
- Reserve a flight with Eagle Hang Gliding - <http://www.eaglehanggliding.com/flights-reservations.html>
- Purchase mosquito & tick spray – at least 25% Deet
- Purchase water resistant sunscreen
- Purchase water & snacks
- Purchase travel size laundry detergent
- Make lodging reservations
- Check 511 for road conditions and construction - <https://hb.511mn.org/>
- Service your vehicle
- Load up your iPod or Spotify
- Check for Festivals & Pow Wows

Day 0 – Arrive Near Itasca State Park (Friday)

- ★ *Itasca State Park – hike, canoe, swim, drive the loop*
- ★ *Lake Bemidji State Park – bog walk, pontoon ride, fishing*
- 🍷 *Spike's – great burgers on the lake – open until 11pm*
 - 31701 Hwy 71 Park Rapids 56470
- 🍷 *Bemidji Brewing – craft brews & flatbread pizzas – open until 10pm*
 - 211 American Ave NW, Bemidji, MN, 56601
- 🏠 *HI Mississippi Headwaters Hostel - \$143/night*
 - 27910 Forest Lane, Park Rapids, MN 56470
- 🏠 *Little Norway Resort – weekly rates in summer*
 - 32016 Little Mantrap Drive, Park Rapids, MN 56470
- 🏠 *Hampton Inn & Suites Bemidji - \$190/night*
 - 1019 Paul Bunyan Drive South, Bemidji, MN, 56601



Day 1 – Itasca State Park to Grand Rapids (Saturday) – 125 miles



- **Raphael's Bakery** – great pastries & hot breakfast – opens 6am
 - 319 Minnesota Ave, Bemidji, MN 56601

★ **Itasca State Park**

- Hike Dr Roberts Trail – 2 mi loop
- Aiton Heights Trail, climb tower
- Drive Wilderness Drive Loop
- Mary Gibbs Visitor Center
- Step across the Mississippi River
- Hike the Nicollet Trail (if time)

🚗 **Drive to Bemidji (45 minutes)**

- Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox photoshoot
- 300 Bemidji Ave, Bemidji, MN 56601

🚗 **Drive to Pennington, Bena**

● **Big Fish Supper Club** – opens 5pm

- 456 U.S. 2, Bena, MN 56626

🚗 **Drive to Grand Rapids, MN**

★ **Grand Valley American Indian Lodge Pow Wow**

- Check website for schedule

★ **Forest History Center** – open 10am-5pm (closed Sundays & Mondays)

- Logging camp re-enactments, tours, hikes

★ **Judy Garland Museum** – open 10am-5pm (closed Sundays)

- 2727 S Pokegama Ave, Grand Rapids, MN

● **Pasties Plus** – an Upper Midwest specialty – open until 5pm

- 1405 NW 4th St, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

● **Klockow Brewing Company** – open until

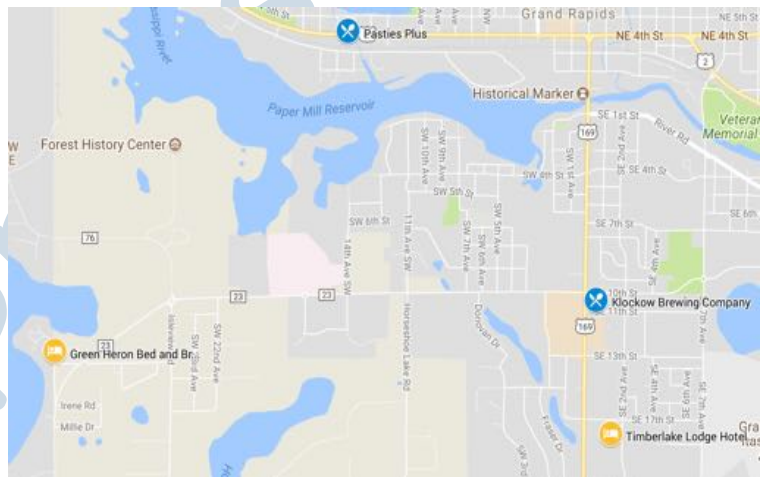
- 36 SE 10th St, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

🚗 **TimberLake Lodge Hotel** - \$150/night

- 144 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids, MN

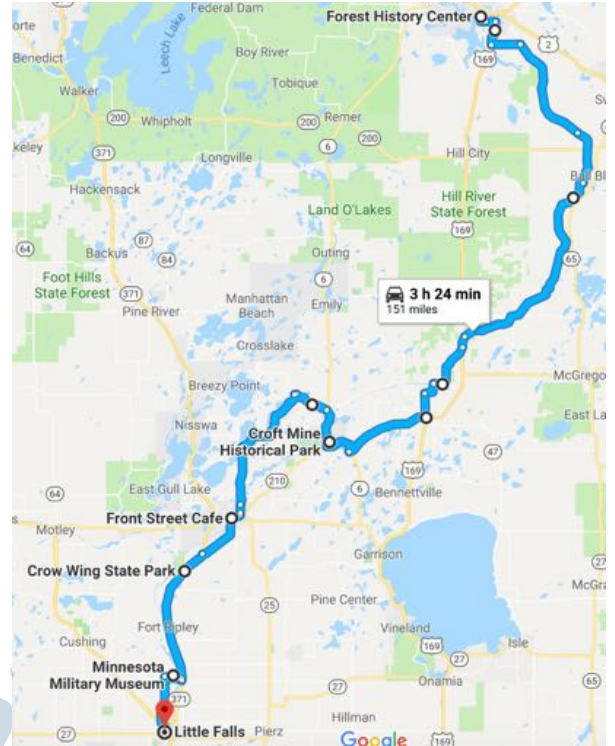
🚗 **Green Heron B&B** - \$120-155/night

- 2810 Meyers Bay Rd, Grand Rapids, MN



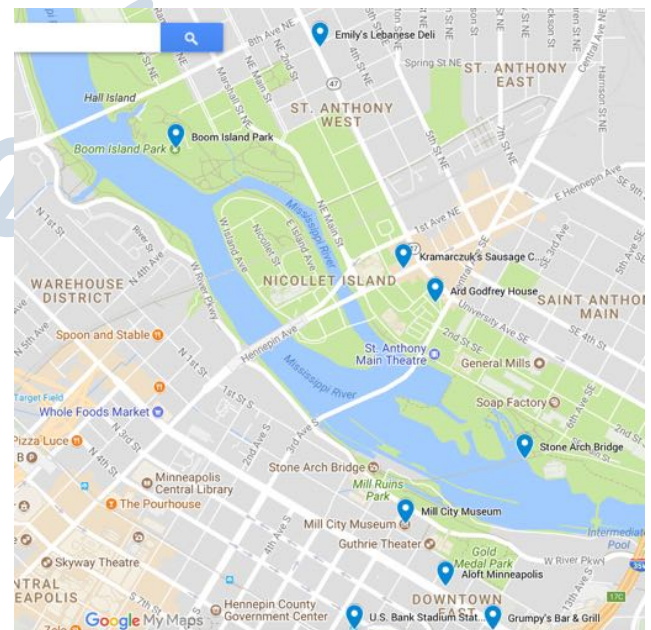
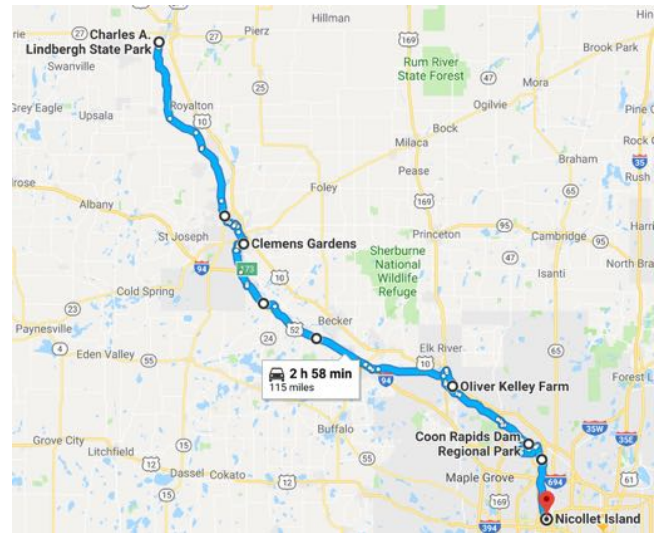
Day 2 – Grand Rapids to Little Falls (Sunday) – 145 miles

- ☕ **Brewed Awakenings Coffeeshouse – opens 8am**
 - 24 NE 4th St, Grand Rapids, MN
- 🚗 **Drive to Crosby (1.5 hours)**
 - Croft Mine Historical Park
- 🚗 **Drive to Brainerd (40 min)**
- ☕ **Bobbies Kitchen (6am-2pm)**
 - 1202 S 6th St, Brainerd, MN
- ★ **Safari North Wildlife Park (9am-6pm)**
 - 8493 MN-371, Brainerd, MN
- ★ **Crow Wing State Park**
 - Hike the Mississippi River trail
 - Canoe on the Mississippi River
- 🚗 **Drive to Little Falls (40 min)**
- ★ **Minnesota Military Museum – Open 10am-5pm**
 - Indoor & outdoor exhibits
- ★ **Wander Little Falls main street, murals, dam**
- ☕ **A.T. The Black & White (7am-8pm)**
 - 116 1st St SE, Little Falls, MN
- 🚗 **Country Inn & Suites**
 - 209 16th St NE, Little Falls, MN
- 🚗 **Clifwood Motel**
 - 1201 Haven Rd, Little Falls, MN
- 🚗 **Waller House Inn B&B**
 - 301 3rd St SE, Little Falls, MN



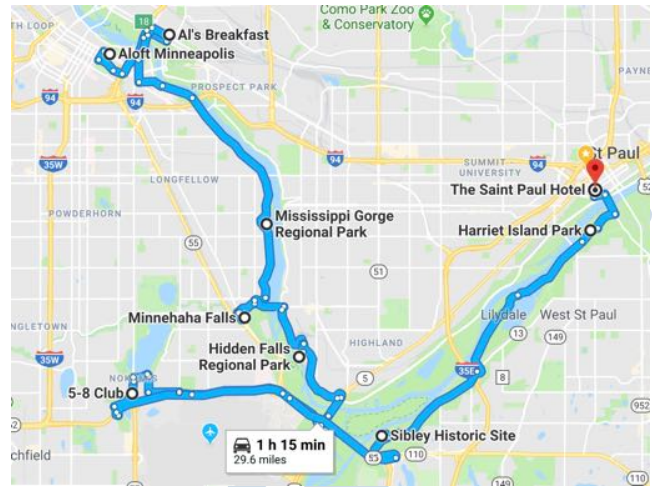
Day 3 – Little Falls to Minneapolis (Monday) – 107 miles

- ☉ **Zoomski's Coffee Shop – quirky place with great coffee & breakfast**
 - 500 Broadway E, Little Falls, MN
- ★ **Charles Lindberg State Park**
 - Hike trails, see boyhood home of Charles Lindberg
- 🚗 **Drive to St Cloud (50 min)**
 - Clemens & Munsinger Gardens
- 🚗 **Drive to Elk River (1 hour)**
 - Oliver Kelley Farm
- 🚗 **Drive to Minneapolis (1.25 hours)**
 - Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park
- ☉ **Emily's Lebanese Deli – Open 9am-9pm**
 - 641 University Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN
 - Great tabouli, Triple D feature
- ★ **Boom Island Park**
 - Take a relaxing walk
- 🚗 **Drive to Aloft, park & checkin**
- 🚗 **Aloft Minneapolis**
 - 900 S Washington Ave, Minneapolis, MN
- ★ **U.S. Bank Stadium – home of the MN Vikings & SuperBowl 52**
 - Walk the grounds, take a tour (10am-4pm)
- ★ **Take a Walk**
 - Mill City Museum (open until 5pm)
 - Mill Ruins Park
 - Stone Arch Bridge
 - Father Hennepin Bluff Park
 - St Anthony Falls
 - Ard Godfrey House
 - Kramarczuk's Sausage Company (Triple D)
- ☉ **Grumpy's Bar & Grill for retro diner experience (11am-2am)**
 - 1111 S Washington Ave, Minneapolis, MN
- ☉ **ZenBox for Japanese comfort food (open until 10pm)**
 - 602 S Washington Ave, Minneapolis, MN
- ★ **Outdoor music at Nicollet Island**
- ★ **First Avenue Night Club – home of Prince**
 - 701 N 1st Ave, Minneapolis, MN



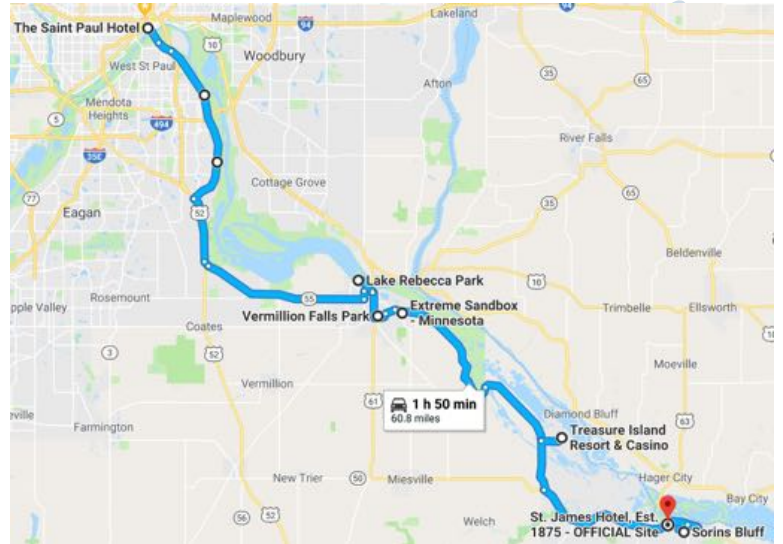
Day 4 – Minneapolis to St Paul (Tuesday) – 30 miles

- 🕒 **Al's Breakfast – narrowest diner (Triple D) (6am-1pm)**
 - 413 14th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN
- ★ **Mississippi Gorge Regional Park**
 - Take the 2 mile path along the river all the way to:
- ★ **Minnehaha Regional Park**
 - Explore the falls, Longfellow house, depot, John H Stevens Museum
- 🕒 **Sebastian Joe's Ice Cream at Sea Salt Eatery**
- ★ **Hidden Falls Regional Park**
 - Short bluff walk, waterfall
- 🕒 **5-8 Club for an original Jucy Lucy (local specialty) (11a-11p)**
 - 1741 S Robert St, West St Paul, MN
- ★ **Sibley Historic Site – 1800s home, tours 1pm-4pm**
- ★ **Harriet Island Park**
- ★ **Padelford Riverboat Cruise**
- ★ **Historic downtown St Paul**
 - Science Museum of Minnesota
 - Minnesota History Center
 - James J Hill House
 - Alexander Ramsey House
- 🕒 **Afro Deli – local, healthy African dishes -9pm**
- 🕒 **Vieux Carre – New Orleans inspired (4p-?)**
 - Reservations recommended
- 🏠 **Saint Paul Hotel**
 - 350 Market St, St Paul, MN
- 🏠 **Hotel 340**
 - 340 Cedar St, St Paul, MN
- ★ **Black Dog Café – Jazz & bluegrass (-10pm)**
 - 308 E Prince St, St Paul, MN
- ★ **Patrick McGovern's Pub (-10pm)**
 - 225 7th St W, St Paul, MN
- ★ **Minnesota Music Café – live music (-10pm)**
 - 501 Payne Ave, St Paul, MN



Day 5 – St Paul to Red Wing (Wednesday) – 60 miles

- 📍 *Evan's Organic Eatery for breakfast (opens 8am)*
 - 56 6th St E Suite 208, St Paul, MN
- 🚗 *Drive to Hastings, MN (45 min)*
 - Lake Rebecca Park – scenic overlook
 - Vermillion Falls Park
 - Extreme Sandbox
- 📍 *Lunch at Kings Place*
 - 14460 240th St E, Hastings, MN
- 🚗 *Drive to Red Wing (47 min)*
 - Treasure Island Resort & Casino
 - Gambling, live entertainment
- ★ *Red Wing Shoe Company Museum (until 8pm)*
- ★ *Red Wing Pottery Museum (open until 5pm)*
 - 1pm factory tour
- ★ *Hike Barns Bluff Trail Loop*
- ★ *Walk downtown Red Wing*
- 🚗 *St James Hotel – historic, haunted hotel*
 - 406 Main St, Red Wing, MN
- 📍 *High tea at Wisteria Twig Café & Tea Room (until 4pm)*
 - 1920 Old W Main St, Red Wing, MN
- 📍 *Red Wing Brewery – craft brews & pizza (4pm-9pm)*
 - 1411 Old W Main St, Red Wing, MN
- 📍 *Kelly's Tap House – award winning wings (until 12am)*
 - 1530 Old W Main St, Red Wing, MN
- ★ *Drive up to Sorins Bluff for the sunset*



Day 6 – Red Wing to La Crescent (Thursday) – 98 miles

- **Hanisch Bakery for inventive pastries (5:30am-)**
 - 410 W 3rd St, Red Wing, MN
- 🚗 **Drive to Frontenac State Park (15 min)**
 - Hike Lower/Upper Bluff Trail loop
 - Sand Point Trail boardwalk
 - Old Frontenac historic town
- 🚗 **Drive to Lake City, MN (12 min)**
 - Lake City Marina & Lake Pepin
 - Eagle Hang Gliding
 - 1008 N High St, Lake City, MN
- **Chickadee Cottage Café – quaint & homey (-2p)**
 - 317 N Lakeshore Dr, Lake City, MN
- **The Scoop for homemade ice cream (11a-9pm)**
 - 304 S Washington St, Lake City, MN
- 🚗 **Drive to Wabasha, MN (20 min)**
 - National Eagle Center (10am-5pm)
- **Slippery's Tavern from Grumpy Old Men**
 - 10 Church Ave, Wabasha, MN
- 🚗 **Drive to Lark Toy Store & Museum (10 min) (10am-6pm)**
 - 63604 170th Ave, Kellogg, MN
- 🚗 **Drive to Kellogg-Weaver Dunes SNA**
 - Check out the sand dunes of the Mississippi River
- 🚗 **Drive to John A Latsch State Park (15 min)**
 - Short hike up the bluff for the view
- 🚗 **Drive to Winona, MN (20 min)**
- 🚗 **Drive up to Garvin Heights Lookout**
- 🚗 **Drive to Pickwick Mill – 150-yr-old working model (10am-5pm)**
 - 24813 County Rd 7, Winona, MN
- 🚗 **Drive to Great River Bluffs State Park**
 - Hike wooded trails to lookouts
- 🚗 **Drive to La Crescent, MN**
 - The Great River Road continues into WI
 - Leidels Apple Stand
 - Bauer's Market (8am-6pm)
 - 221 N 2nd St, La Crescent, MN
- **The Waterfront Restaurant & Tavern (5pm-9:30pm)**
 - 328 Front St S, La Crosse, WI
 - Tavern has a piano bar, open until close
- 🏨 **The Charmant Hotel (4-star)**
 - 101 State St, La Crosse, WI
- 🏨 **Hampton Inn & Suites La Cross downtown (3-star)**
 - 511 3rd St N, La Crosse, WI

