

Minneapolis and St. Paul may be bisected by the mighty Mississippi River, but are so inter-connected, they're called the Twin Cities for good reason. In fact, most folks in Minnesota just call them "the cities." Though very different in feel, they both offer a variety of free or inexpensive entertainment for locals and visitors on a budget. Between the two of them, they have free art, music and natural attractions galore — and much more. Here are (at least) 10 of our favorite free or cheap diversions.

1. **Art.** [Minneapolis Sculpture Garden](#) and [Walker Art Center](#) are prime free attractions in the city. Starting with the famous Spoonbridge & Cherry sculpture, this is a must-see spot in the city and a great place for a photo. This is the largest urban sculpture garden in the nation and just celebrated its 20th anniversary. It's a part of the city park system and also the Walker Art Center. The Walker has Open Field, Target Free Thursdays, Free First Saturdays and the Sculpture Garden is always free and open daily. The [Minneapolis Institute of Arts](#) is ranked among the top comprehensive U.S. art museums, showcasing art from all over the world and from every period of human history. Free general admission every day.
2. **Zoo.** The [Como Zoo & Conservatory](#) in St. Paul has a new Gorilla Forest exhibit; a new wing and Japanese Garden that's been renovated. The zoo is free and includes a great carousel (for a small fee) and a gorgeous conservatory that's also free (but takes donations at the door) along with a huge park, lake and golf course (there's a fee to golf).
3. **Bikes.** If you want exercise, take advantage of the [Nice Ride Minnesota bike share program](#). It's not free, but for just a \$6 subscription for a day, you can ride these bright green bikes all over the Twin Cities for free for trips under 30 minutes. It's currently the third-largest bike share program in the U.S. Easy to use, inexpensive and a great way to really experience the city. With over 80 miles of on-street paths and over 80 miles of off-street trails/paths, you can explore a lot on a bike here.
4. **Outdoors.** There are nearly 200 [parks](#), 22 lakes, and the banks of the Mississippi River to explore. All are free and great for visitors to use, whether or picnicking or swimming in summer. Between the free events and natural beauty of places like [Minnehaha Park](#) (where Minnehaha Falls inspired "Song of Hiawatha" by Longfellow), [St. Anthony Falls](#) (the only natural waterfall on the river and historic birthplace of the city) and the [Minneapolis Chain of Lakes and Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway](#) (50 mile loop of trails around the city), there is no shortage of scenery and things to do. For a fee (depending on the activity), there are water sports, Segway tours, bike rentals and kayaking, running, walking and food tours available, as well. A free fireworks display is held at the Mississippi Riverfront each July 4. The [Twin Cities River Rats](#), the [Ski Otters](#) and the [Shakopee-Prior Lake Shockwaves Water Ski Team](#) put on free water ski shows all summer long.
5. **Music and movies.** In the summer, enjoy [Music & Movies in the Parks](#), free and open to the public. This summertime Minneapolis event celebrates the City by Nature by showing films on outdoor screens or having musicians perform, or both, in the city parks nightly. The Minneapolis Parks & Recreation system was recently named the No. 1 park system in the country by Park Score and the Trust for Public Land.
6. **Wildlife.** Bloomington's most surprising attraction is the hiking and nature trails of the [Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge](#), with its Welcome Center featuring a large window for bird watching. Its 14,000 acres of protected habitat along 99 miles of the Minnesota River make it the nation's largest national wildlife refuge located within a major metropolitan area. Stroll along the winding paths, cross-country ski, bike, hike watch migrating birds or just relax on one of the many benches and enjoy the pristine wilderness.
7. **A mall.** OK, the [Mall of America](#) is more than just another mall. It's home to 520 stores that feature the widest selection, newest fashions and hottest products under one roof. On all levels of the mall, enjoy unparalleled choices for women's, men's, children's and teen clothing. Choose among a multitude of stores for shoes, electronics, health and beauty and other products. It's so big, some stores are there TWICE. The best window-shopping without snow you've ever experienced. And take a gander at the core entertainment options (Nickelodeon Universe). They're fun to watch even if you don't buy a

ticket. And catch a [free kids movie](#) every Saturday morning at the mall.

8. **Libations.** Take a free brewery tour, and sample some suds at the [Summit Brewery](#) in St. Paul on selected Saturdays. Reservations are required. The [Surly Brewery](#) in Brooklyn Center has free tours, with complimentary Surly beer samples, on Friday nights. Reserve your place at Surly's website. The [Flat Earth Brewing Co](#), also in St. Paul, has monthly free tours and tastings. The [Four Firkins](#), a specialty beer store in St. Louis Park has regular beer tastings. Also, free wine tasting are held at several stores, including [Surdyk's](#), a liquor store and deli, which has regular free wine and beer tastings.
9. **Festivals.** The free [Minneapolis Aquatennial Festival](#) has parades, soap box boat racing, and a block party with national music acts in downtown Minneapolis each July. The cities don't shut down in winter, however. Check out the [Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival](#), a January event. It's winter fun with strings attached – for kite flying and ice fishing The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board hosts the festival on the north end of Lake Harriet near the band shell and admission is free. Kites of all shapes, sizes, colors and themes will fly over frozen Lake Harriet. But there's more fun to be had on the ice – and even underneath it. Other fun family activities at the festival include ice fishing, horse-drawn wagon rides, snowshoeing, a children's medallion hunt and a marshmallow roast. And don't miss the [St. Paul Winter Carnival](#) later in January. There are free parades, snow sculptures and other activities. But bundle up!
10. **Tours.** Designed by Cass Gilbert, the [Minnesota State Capitol](#) is considered an architectural masterpiece. Visitors can explore the House, Senate and Supreme Court chambers, see the legislature in action, visit the gold-leafed Quadriga on the roof when weather allows, stop in the restored Rathskeller Café and walk the Capitol Mall. Hourly guided tours are free with a suggested donation of \$5 per person.

#### Good Links:

<http://www.tourmsp.com>

<http://minneapolis.about.com/od/eventsfestivals/tp/annualevents.htm>

#### Some quick ideas to look into from EHSI families:

- Nickelodeon Universe @ Mall of America
- New Century Theatre – downtown Minneapolis
- Apple Orchards, Pumpkin Patches and Corn Mazes
- Skiing, snowboarding, cross country skiing at several locations
- The Guthrie Theater is a stunning building inside and out, for the glass floors, the intriguing spaces, and the wonderful Endless Bridge over the Mississippi River.
- The Cathedral of St. Paul is free to visit. There's a great view of St. Paul from the Cathedral's steps.
- The Minnesota State Capitol gives regular free tours of the Capitol building, chambers, artworks, and weather permitting, the tours visit the golden horses on the Capitol's roof.
- [Winter Carnival](#) The last week and a half of January. Ice carving, Minnesotan foods, and a grand parade in [downtown St. Paul](#).
- [City of Lakes Loppet](#) is held in the first weekend of February. Cross country ski races on Minneapolis' lakes and trails attract local, national and international competitors. The Loppet is a very popular spectator event.
- [St. Patrick's Day Parade](#), on or around March 17. The St. Patrick's Association has been organizing the downtown St. Paul parade for over 40 years. Around 10,000 people come to see the parade and turn St. Paul green.
- The [US Pond Hockey championship](#) is held at Lake Nokomis every January, and is free for spectators.
- And in March, the free [Let's Play Hockey Expo](#) attracts thousands of fans to the Xcel Center..
- [Earth Day](#) is April 22. The Twin Cities are renowned for being one of the greenest metropolitan areas

in the nation, and there's always a lot going on for Earth Day.

- [In the Heart of the Beast Theatre May Day Parade](#), the first weekend in May. May Day is famous for the annual puppet parade and festival in Minneapolis' Powderhorn Park.
- [Cinco De Mayo Fiesta](#), around May 5. The District del Sol, in St. Paul's West Side is home to a large Mexican population, who celebrate with a street festival of food, music and a car show.
- [Art-A-Whirl](#), the third weekend in May. Northeast Minneapolis artists host art studio tours and open houses in Northeast Minneapolis.
- [Grand Old Day](#), the first Sunday in June. A parade on St. Paul's Grand Avenue, and events and entertainment all day.
- [Juneteenth](#), around June 19. Minneapolis hosts one of nation's largest Juneteenth festivals with food, music and a parade in Minneapolis' Theodore Wirth park.
- [The Stone Arch Festival of the Arts](#), Father's Day weekend. Art, music, cars and entertainment in the Minneapolis Riverfront District.
- [Twin Cities GLBT Pride Celebration](#), end of June. Almost half a million people attend the annual parade and festival.
- [City of Lakes Tri-Loppet](#), end of June. Cheer on the racers as they kayak, run and bike around Minneapolis in the summer's answer to the cross country ski Loppet in February.
- July 4 used to be [A Taste of Minnesota](#) festival on St. Paul's Harriet Island. The festival's organizers went bankrupt in 2010 and the City of St. Paul is looking for a replacement Fourth of July event...
- [Minneapolis Aquatennial](#), third week of July. Milk carton boat races, the Torchlight Parade, sandcastle sculpting contests, live music and fireworks in the biggest free summer festival in the Twin Cities.
- Art Fair Weekend, beginning of August. The [Loring Park Art Festival](#), the [Uptown Art Fair](#) and the [Powderhorn Art Fair](#) are all held on the same weekend. Fine arts, local crafts, and everything in-between is for sale at these three art fairs.
- [Minnesota Fringe Festival](#), beginning of August. Hundreds of music, dance and theater performances are shown at venues across the Twin Cities.
- [Irish Fair of Minnesota](#), beginning of August. A free festival in Harriet Island, St. Paul with sports, dancing, music and all kinds of Irish-themed fun.
- [Minnesota State Fair](#), end of August. The "Great Minnesota Get-Together" is the twelve days up to Labor Day every year. Farm animals, thrill rides, live music, food on a stick, and all the fun of the fair.
- [Renaissance Festival](#), weekends in September. Visit wenches, wizards, knights, snake charmers, see medieval entertainment, and indulge in food and drink at one of the nation's largest renaissance festivals.
- [Twin Cities Marathon](#), first Sunday of October. Over 10,000 runners follow the course from the Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis to the State Capitol in downtown St. Paul, with half a million spectators cheering them on.
- [Halloween](#), October 31. We love Halloween in the Twin Cities and there's plenty of haunted houses and Halloween parties around the Metro area.
- Macy's Santaland November and December. Every year, the former Dayton's store on Nicollet Mall creates an impressive animated Holiday display.

## Seven great FREE Things to do..

1. [Here's where to see free music shows and performances](#) in Minneapolis and St. Paul. See free performances by local acts and touring bands, unknowns and national stars at venues across Minneapolis and St. Paul, from record stores, parks, the center of downtown Minneapolis, on the Mississippi river banks, to the coolest bars and the most venerable institutions in the cities. There's something for everyone, from jazz to indie rock to classical to hip hop.

### 2. [Get Free Theater, Musical and Comedy Tickets in Minneapolis/St Paul](#)

See a free show, or get free tickets to a play, comedy, ballet or puppet show. [Here's how to find free shows and free tickets in Minneapolis and St. Paul.](#)

### 3. [Visit a Free Museum or Gallery in Minneapolis/St. Paul](#)

Several museums and galleries in Minneapolis and St. Paul are free to visit. Other museums and galleries who usually charge for admission have frequent free days. [Here's a list of Twin Cities museums that are free to visit, and the museums who have a free day.](#)

Another way to visit museums attractions for free comes from the library. [A Museum Adventure Pass can be checked out at any Twin Cities library](#), and the pass admits two people to one of around 20 participating destinations. Museums and attractions change every year but currently include the [Walker Art Center](#), the [Minnesota Zoo](#), and the [Minnesota History Center](#).

### 4. [Free Pizza, Free Beer, Free Concert Tickets - Inside information from Twitter](#)

Minneapolis/St. Paul is one of the nation's leading metro areas for [Twitter](#) use. A large number of local businesses and organizations use Twitter and to reward their followers, many offer Twitter-only freebies and special offers. Be the first to know about exclusive events, savings and freebies by following your favourite stores, restaurants, venues and museums on Twitter. [Here's some suggestions of businesses who tweet freebies to start you off.](#) Twitter is free to sign up. Another tip is to become a fan of your favourites on Facebook - but the best deals are usually on Twitter.

### 5. [Drink Free Beer and Wine in Minneapolis/St. Paul](#)

Take a free brewery tour, and sample some Summit beer at the Summit Brewery in St. Paul on selected Saturdays. Reservations are required. The Surly brewery in Brooklyn Center has free tours, with Surly beer samples, on Friday nights. Reserve your place at Surly's website. The Flat Earth Brewing Co, also in St. Paul, has monthly free tours and tastings.

The Four Firkins, a specialty beer store in St. Louis Park has regular beer tastings. And free wine tasting are held at several local stores. Trader Joe's hold weekly wine tastings. And Surdyk's, the liquor store and deli, has regular free wine and beer tastings.

And once a year, on St. Patrick's Day, the [Nomad World Pub](#) pours free beer... until someone has to pee.

### 6. [Free Parks, Lakes, Scenery and Nature in Minneapolis/St. Paul](#)

Minneapolis has more city parks than almost any other large city in the nation, and St. Paul isn't short on parks and lakes either. In Minneapolis, [Lake Harriet](#) and [Minnehaha Park and Minnehaha Falls](#) are great destinations for a walk, bicycle ride, or a summer picnic.

St. Paul has [Como Park](#), and Indian Mounds Park with ancient burial grounds and beautiful view of downtown St. Paul and the Mississippi River.

Nature Centers and gardens like the [Harriet Alexander Nature Center](#) in Roseville, and Minneapolis' [Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary](#) are free to visit.

### **7. Experience Minneapolis/St. Paul History for Free**

Take a [walk along Summit Avenue](#) in St. Paul, the best preserved section of Victorian housing in the country, and see houses of St. Paul's most famous residents, F. Scott Fitzgerald and James J. Hill.

In Minneapolis, [Milwaukee Avenue](#) in the Seward neighborhood is two continuous blocks of early nineteenth century housing, some of the oldest in the city, saved from demolition and restored in the 1970s.

See the foundations of Minneapolis, the "Mill City", in downtown Minneapolis. Mill Ruins park, the ruin courtyard of the [Mill City Museum](#), the Stone Arch Bridge, and the [Riverfront District](#), make a pleasant [walking tour of Minneapolis' industrial past](#).

## Looking for free things to do in Minneapolis?

Here's a list of over 100 free things to do in Minneapolis and St. Paul. In no particular order, here are 100+ free events, activities, sights to see, and things to do in Minneapolis.

11. Visit the [Minneapolis Institute of Arts](#). A phenomenal collection of art and historical objects. Free to all every day, closed on Monday.
12. A huge variety of free [classes, club meetings, presentations and events at the library](#) - most all Twin Cities metro area libraries have free events.
13. See a cutting edge art show at the [Altered Esthetics](#) Gallery in Minneapolis.
14. Hang out at one or more of Minneapolis' chain of lakes - Lake Calhoun, Harriet, Isles and Cedar. Each has its own distinct character.
15. [Learn how to make maple syrup](#) at local parks, and taste some samples. Spring.
16. Go on a [free tour of Surly Brewing](#) in Brooklyn Park, and enjoy free samples of Surly beer. Or, tour [Summit Brewing](#) or [Flat Earth Brewing](#) in St. Paul.
17. Watch one of the cross country ski races during the [City of Lakes Loppet](#), particularly the beautiful nighttime Luminary Loppet. Late January or Early February.
18. [Hudson Hot Air Affair](#) is a celebration of hot air balloons. The multitude of bright color balloons against the white snow are a great sight. Early February.
19. See cloth and fabric in an entirely new way at an exhibition at the [Textile Center](#) in Minneapolis.
20. [Cinco de Mayo Festival](#) in St. Paul's west side has a car show, music and entertainment. Early May.
21. Tour the [Minnesota State Capitol](#) - free tours every hour most days of the week, including the golden horses on the roof if weather permits.
22. [Free music at the 331 Club](#) in Northeast Minneapolis - indie, folk and rock acts almost every night, and never a cover.
23. Ride to the [Nature Valley Bicycle Festival](#) with bike events and races, including thr awe-inspiring Uptown Minneapolis Criterium. June.
24. [Lake Harriet Kite Festival](#). Watch the pros flying, or fly your own kites on Frozen Lake Harriet in Minneapolis. January.
25. [Minnesota Sinfonia](#) offers free concerts for adults and for children and families around the Twin Cities.
26. [The Cathedral of St. Paul](#) is a stunning European-style cathedral overlooking downtown St. Paul. All are welcome to worship, and it's free to visit the cathedral when it's not being used for a service.
27. [First Thursdays in the Arts District](#) sees around 200 painters, sculptors, printmakers, textile artists and more open their studios in the Northrup King Building to the public.
28. Visit the [Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary](#), a peaceful garden in Minneapolis. Join in free regularly scheduled birding walks and nature hikes at the garden from spring through fall.
29. Watch [Free music in parks](#) in Minneapolis, St. Paul and across the Twin Cities
30. Visit [St. Paul City Hall](#) to marvel at the glamorous art deco interior and colossal marble Vision of Peace statue, a Native American bearing a peace pipe.
31. The [Hexagon Bar](#) in Minneapolis is a proper dive bar, but despite that, the Hex hosts some of the hottest underground bands in the Twin Cities on weekend nights, with no cover.
32. A vast privately owned, intricately detailed [lego world](#) lives in the Thorpe Building in Northeast Minneapolis. Lego Brick World is open to the public on the second Saturday of the month.
33. On St. Patrick's day, drink free beer at the [Nomad World Pub](#)... Until someone needs to use the bathroom.
34. The free [Minneapolis Aquatennial Festival](#) has parades, soap box boat racing, and a block party with national music acts in downtown Minneapolis.
35. [Minneapolis Sculpture Garden](#) has monumental sculptures opposite the Walker Art Center, including a gigantic Frank Gehry glass fish, and the iconic Cherry and Spoonbridge sculpture.
36. Take a free class at the [Midtown Global Market](#) - cooking, yoga, dance and kids classes are on offer,

and most are free.

37. Get free admission to a museum or gallery in the Twin Cities with a [Museum Adventure Pass](#) - available from your local library.
38. Make the annual [Holidazzle Parade](#) part of your holiday tradition.
39. See tropical flowers in bloom all year round at the Marjorie McKneely Conservatory in [Como Park](#). In summer, admire the adjacent Japanese Gardens.
40. Enjoy the river - take a stroll, hike, run or bike ride along the miles of trails along the [Mississippi River](#), [Minnesota River](#), or [St. Croix River](#).
41. Sad that Delta bought up local airline NWA? Relive NWA's glory days at the independently-operated [NWA History Center](#) in Bloomington. Also great for anyone interested in the glamorous days of aviation.
42. Get psyched for the season - summer or winter - with free product demonstrations, presentations, samples and raffles, and discounts and deals on gear at [Midwest Mountaineering's Bi-annual Outdoor Expo](#).
43. Go snowshoeing. All you need is snow, and open space. [Minneapolis parks](#) offer snowshoe classes at various locations, either free or low-cost.
44. Visit a nature center. [Eastman Nature Center](#) in Dayton, [Harriet Alexander Nature Center](#) in Roseville, [Dodge Nature Center](#) in West St. Paul, [Maplewood Nature Center](#), [Wargo Nature Center](#) in Lino Lakes, and others in the Twin Cities preserve wild areas in the metro area for families to enjoy. Nature center buildings have free admission to their exhibits and childrens' activities, and organize regular family-friendly nature events and hikes.
45. Join in the [annual Earth Day cleanup](#) - help clean up Minneapolis and St. Paul parks on the weekends before Earth Day.
46. Don't forget to grab free swag at the [Minnesota State Fair](#). Yardstick, anyone? Late August/September.
47. Celebrate [Juneteenth](#) at the annual festival in Minneapolis. Music, arts, entertainment and
48. Watch a [St Patrick's Day Parade](#) - one at lunchtime in downtown Minneapolis, one in the evening in downtown Minneapolis.
49. Join in celebrations at the [Winter Carnival](#). See ice carving, snow sculpture, sporting contests, and the Torchlight Parade and overthrow of King Boreas. January.
50. [Ice skate](#) on a temporary ice rink in the middle of downtown St. Paul from Thanksgiving until the end of January.
51. Visit [Lyndale Rose Garden](#), with 100 varieties of roses, on the shore of Lake Harriet.
52. Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket to one of the [Nine nights of Music](#) events at the Minnesota History Center on Tuesdays in July and August. An eclectic selection of musical acts play in the museum's courtyards, and there's free admission to the museum's galleries on Tuesday evenings.
53. Watch a [free water ski show](#) on the Mississippi River on Thursday evenings during the summer - see human pyramids, ballet on the water and ski jumps.
54. Rock out at the [Pizza Luce Block Party](#), a day-long event with some of Minneapolis' most popular rock and hip hop artists. August.
55. Watch an [Art Car Parade](#). Usually around a lake in Minneapolis, and the Art Cars can be seen at other parades and events around the cities during the summer.
56. Fly a kite and wish for peace at the free [Wishes for the Sky Festival](#) at Harriet Island in St. Paul. April.
57. Celebrate July 4 at a [free fireworks display](#). Downtown Minneapolis has the annual Red, White and Boom on July 4, St. Paul's celebrations are still in the works.
58. [Gaze at the stars](#) during a free astronomy night, at the University of Minnesota's Physics department, or at one of their traveling Universe in the Park summer programs.
59. Get outside at one of many [free family events, hikes, nature events and special events](#) at Three Rivers Parks District parks. Many events are free. All year round.
60. Welcome spring at the community celebration [MayDay Parade](#) and festival, put on by In The Heart of

the Beast puppet theater. Early May.

61. See a free orchestral, band, choral or jazz concert at the [Ted Mann Concert Hall](#), performed by students from the University of Minnesota's School of Music.
62. Take in a diverse selection of free music at the [Concrete and Grass Music Festival](#) in Lowertown St. Paul. August.
63. Admire [Minnehaha Falls](#) - both in the summer when they look like a traditional waterfall, in the winter when they have frozen into a curtain of ice.
64. See the latest environmentally friendly technologies, attend workshops and presentations, and meet local green businesses at the [Go Green Expo](#) at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. May.
65. Join in a bike rally, and listen to live music at the [Lyn Lake Street Festival](#) in Minneapolis. Mid May.
66. Go on a [day trip to the town of Taylors Falls](#), See the Franconia Sculpture Garden, interesting geological formations at Interstate State Park, and historic buildings in downtown Taylors Falls, including the cutest public library *ever*. All free, except for parking in the State Park - although you can park for free a short distance outside the park.
67. Show your pride at one of the largest events in the nation - the [Twin Cities LGBT Pride Parade and Festival](#). June.
68. [Watch a movie in the park](#). Minneapolis' Loring Park has music and movies, and other Minneapolis parks show movies on summer evenings.
69. Visit the [Minnesota Landscape Arboretum](#) in Chaska. Thursday is free admission day in winter. And in the summer, Thursday evenings have free admission, and there's also live music and family entertainment.
70. Take Dad to the [Stone Arch Festival of the Arts](#), with artists' work, performers, live music and a car show. Father's Day weekend.
71. Bring your bike to the [Bearded Lady Motorcycle Freak Show](#) at the 331 Club in Northeast Minneapolis. A fee to enter your bike in the show, but free to eye everyone else's bikes. Live punk and rock music accompany.
72. Watch a Minnesota Twins game for free through one of the [knotholes in the stadium walls](#), on Fifth Street.
73. Visit temporary artists' residences and studios on a lake during the [Ice Shanty Projects](#). January and February.
74. Remember that the history of Minnesota goes much further back than the Fort Snelling and Mill City pioneers, by visiting 2,000 year old Native American burial mounds at [Indian Mounds Park](#) in St. Paul.
75. Admire classic cars on one of the Saturday night [Historic Hastings Classic Car Cruise-Ins](#). Alternate Saturday nights, May-October.
76. Watch the [Minnesota Vikings prepare for the season](#), get autographs, and go to fan parties at the Viking's training camp in Mankato, 90 minutes southwest of the Twin Cities. late July-Early August.
77. See historic aircraft at the [Air National Guard Museum](#) at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. Open on Saturdays during the summer.
78. See a piece of Minneapolis' railroad past at the historic [Minnehaha Depot](#) station, near Minnehaha Park.
79. Take your little one to a free story reading at a local library or bookstore - local independent bookstores [Wild Rumpus](#) and [The Red Balloon](#) have excellent storytimes.
80. See hockey the way it was meant to be played during the [US Pond Hockey Championships](#). All the games are free to watch.
81. Enjoy live jazz music at the [Twin Cities Hot Summer Jazz Festival](#), held in June in downtown St. Paul.
82. Join a [Gorilla Yoga](#) class, yoga classes held in interesting locations across the Twin Cities. Free, but a donation is suggested.
83. Watch a [free kids movie](#) every Saturday morning at the Mall of America.
84. The [Guthrie Theater](#) is just as stunning inside as it is outside. Anyone is welcome to tour the public



spaces inside the building, including the endless bridge and the Amber Room with a glass floor.  
[Download a free audio tour as a podcast on iTunes.](#)

85. The annual [Northeast Festival and Parade](#), one of the longest running community events in the state.
86. The [Minnesota Orchestra has regular free family concerts](#), designed to introduce young ears to classical music.
87. [Svenskarnas Dag](#), a Swedish heritage festival and celebration, is held annually in June in Minnehaha Park.
88. Let your little ones burn off some energy during the winter at open gyms and tot time hours at recreation centers in parks across the Twin Cities.
89. Get your Irish on at the [Irish Fair](#), with major Irish-American music acts, sporting events, entertainment, live animals and all things Irish on Harriet Island in St. Paul. August.
90. See local artists' work in open studios and galleries, watch live music and performances all across Northeast Minneapolis during [Art-A-Whirl](#), the largest art crawl in the Twin Cities.
91. Block Parties get more numerous every summer - [The Red Stag](#), [Barbette](#), [Bryant Lake Bowl](#) and other bars and venues host a block party during the warmer months.
92. The [Minneapolis Institute of Arts](#), a world class art gallery, is always free.
93. Need some inspiration to ride your bike more? Join a [free cycling club run by one of our local bike shops](#) and join in some group rides.
94. Another annual holiday tradition: [Macy's Santaland](#).
95. The creators of the MayDay parade do plenty of other things during the rest of the year - one activity is [free kids' puppet shows](#) at their Minneapolis theater on select Saturday mornings. Free but donations are appreciated.
96. Watch the Twin Cities Marathon in October, which has many professional athletes competing. Or [go for a run](#) anytime.
97. The [Twin Cities Polish Festival](#) has entertainment, dogs, music and polka dancing on Old Main Street in Minneapolis. August.
98. See a family-friendly classical music concert from the [Minnesota Sinfonia](#), held in locations across the Twin Cities metro area.
99. Visit [Lilydale Park](#) in St. Paul, which has caves and kilns remaining from its days at St. Paul's brickyards, and even more ancient history - it's a popular [fossil hunting ground](#). Buying a permit is needed to remove fossils, but it's free to look for them.
100. Go to the beach - Lake Minnetonka has many beaches for beautiful people, Lake Calhoun does too, and your [local lake has a beach for the rest of us](#).
101. [Blaine Aviation Days](#) - admire vintage and modern aircraft and cars at Anoka County Airport. May.
102. The [Bell Museum of Natural History](#) is free to all on Sundays.
103. Tour Minneapolis' [Riverfront District](#) on foot or by bike - see the Stone Arch Bridge, historic mill ruins, Waterpower Park in the middle of the river.
104. Join Garrison Keillor in [opening the new \*A Prairie Home Companion\* season](#) with a street dance in downtown St. Paul. October.
105. The largest one day festival in the Midwest is the [Grand Old Day festival](#), with a parade, kids activities, and live music at locations all along Grand Avenue in St. Paul. June
106. Help monitor Minnesota's wildlife by volunteering for the [Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird count](#) in December.
107. See local scientists, schools and inventors sail solar powered boats at the annual [Solar Boat Regatta](#) at Lake Phalen. May.
108. Give blood at [Red Cross donation centers](#). You'll get cookies after too, and special offers like free entrance to local festivals and events.
109. Underground holiday [4/20 Day](#), is celebrated in Minneapolis, with a free 4/20 festival in Loring Park, and various other events around the Twin Cities.
110. [Merriam Park Ice Cream Social](#) is a fun family friendly community event in St. Paul, and the ice cream comes from Izzy's. July.

111. Crazyness abounds at the annual [Art Sled Rally](#), which sees improbable, dangerous, un-aerodynamic, hilarious, and/or flammable sleds taking to the slopes at Powderhorn Park. Free to spectate, and free to enter.
112. New Belgium Brewery brings the [Tour de Fat](#) to Minneapolis' Loring Park every year, featuring music, performers, bike culture and mayhem. Summer.
113. Once a month, see professional dancers perform for [Ballet Tuesday at the Landmark Center](#) in a free lunchtime performance.
114. [Go sledding](#).
115. The [Dragon Festival](#) has Dragon Boat Races, martial arts demonstrations, at the Asian Pacific festival held at Lake Phalen in St. Paul. July.
116. Walk along [Summit Avenue and around Cathedral Hill](#) to admire the architecture of the empire builders' mansions, and see some of F. Scott Fitzgerald's homes.
117. Start the Holiday season on Grand Avenue at the [Grand Meander](#), special events at stores on Grand Avenue, a Christmas Tree lighting, and visits with Santa and his reindeer. December.
118. Go ice skating on your [local parks' outdoor ice rink](#).