



Minneapolis - City Business Guide

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Overview

On the banks of the Mississippi River, in the northern state of Minnesota, Minneapolis stands with its twin city St Paul. With a combined population of 2.9 million, the Twin Cities form the 15th largest metropolitan area in the United States. Founded 20 years and 16 km apart, they have built their own identity with modern Minneapolis claiming the greater number of attractions and businesses while old-fashioned St. Paul functioning as the state capital. Thanks to the river, which provided power for flourmills, Minneapolis was the flour milling capital of the world in the 19th century. Although the mills are now gone, food processing remains a leading industry while other businesses include electronics, medical and computer manufacturing, retail and professional services. Today, the metropolitan region is home to 17 Fortune 500 companies.

Business Etiquette

The Twin Cities are conventional and known for their puritan work ethic. Suits are the norm in many offices, but in winter, practicality takes precedence over style and a heavy coat, hat, gloves and waterproof boots are essential
* The normal workday is 8.00-17.00. Meetings can take place over lunch, breakfast or in a more formal setting, depending on the company and situation
* Business cards can be exchanged before or after a meeting
* The cities just passed a smoking ban in public and entertainment places
* After work, it would be more common for a business guest to be taken out for drinks or to a restaurant by the host rather than to someone's home

Chamber of Commerce

- American Israel Chamber of Commerce**
6311 Wayzata Boulevard Suite 240; Tel.: +1 (763) 593 8666
- French-American Chamber of Commerce**
821 Marquette Avenue ; Tel.: +1 (612) 338 7750
- German-American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest**
1000 Lasalle Avenue; Tel.: +1 (612) 342 4188
- Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce-Greater**
81 South 9th Street Suite 200; Tel.: +1 (612) 370 9132
- Bloomington Council Chamber of Commerce**
9633 Lyndale Avenue South; Tel.: +1 (952) 888 8818
- United States Chamber of Commerce**
5300 Hyland Greens Drive; Tel.: +1 (952) 832 9151

Embassies and Consulates

- Australian Consulate**
10700 Highway 55 Suite 160 ; Tel.: +1 (763) 543 0109
- Canadian Consulate**
701 4th Avenue South Suite 900; Tel.: +1 (612) 333 4641
- Finnish Consulate**
2429 Girard Avenue South ; Tel.: +1 (612) 374 2718
- German Consulate**
1125 Harmon Place ; Tel.: +1 (651) 962 4081
- Netherlands Consulate**
4200 IDS Center, 80 South 8th Street; Tel.: +1 (612) 371-5790
- Norwegian Consulate**
821 Marquette Avenue Suite 800; Tel.: +1 (612) 332 3338
- Swedish Consulate**
706 2nd Avenue South Suite 720; Tel.: +1 (612) 332 6897

Business Centers

Business centers generally provide a range of services that include secretarial, translation/interpretation, and office services, including computer rentals, audio/visual equipment rentals, cellular phone rentals, copy and printing services, and temporary office space and staff. Most large hotels (some of which may be listed here) also have business centers that offer many of the same services that independent centers provide.

- Alliance Business Centers**
701 4th Avenue South Suite 500; Tel.: +1 (612) 337 9503
- Columbia Heights Business Center**
3989 Central Avenue Northeast; Tel.: +1 (763) 781 6352
- City of Brooklyn Center - City Business, City Hall**
6301 Shingle Creek Parkway; Tel.: +1 (763) 569 3300
- Regus Business Centers**
7760 France Avenue South Suite 1100; Tel.: +1 (952) 886 7500
- HQ Global Workplaces - Bloomington**
8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard; Tel.: +1 (952) 921 2300
- HQ Global Workplaces - Edina**
7701 France Avenue South Suite 200; Tel.: +1 (952) 841 6300 / 1144
- HQ Global Workplaces - Minnetonka**
601 Carlson Parkway Minnetonka; Tel : +1 952 449 5100
- HQ Global Workplaces - Richfield**
2 Meridian Xing Suite 200; Tel.: +1 (612) 243 2400
- Vista Business Center**
5200 West 73rd Street; Tel : +1 952-897-6643

Conference and Exhibition Centers

- Minneapolis-St Paul Int'l Airport - Lindbergh Terminal, Conference Center**
4300 Glumack Drive; Tel.: +1 (612) 794 4500
- Northland Inn & Conference Center**
7025 Northland Drive North; Tel.: +1 (763) 536 8300 / (800) 441 6422 (toll-free)
- Ramada Inn & Conference Center Northwest**
94 and city road 81; Tel.: +1 (763) 566 8855
- Riverwood Inn & Conference Center**
10990 95th Street NE Monticello; Tel : +1 (763) 441 6833
- Three Rivers Park District**
2950 County Road E West; Tel.: +1 (763) 694-7707

Translation Offices

- Berlitz**
6800 France Ave. South, Ste. 190; Tel.: +1 952) 920 4100
- Alpha Translation Services**
Tel.: +1 (877) 283 4694
- All hands interpreting services**
Tel.: +1 (612) 242 5122
- Coats translation service**
Tel.: +1 (612) 379 7398

Courier/Messenger Services

- Mail boxes etc**
7964 Brooklyn Boulevard; Tel.: +1 (763) 425-6183
- FedEx**
9219 Grand Avenue South; Tel.: +1 (800) 463 3339
- Metro Express Courier, Inc.**
459 Harding Street, N/E; Tel.: +1 (612) 617 9001 / (612) 281 4176 Cellular
- On Time Delivery Service**
1050 West 94th Street; Tel.: +1 (952) 884 4060
- Professional Courier**
8375 Sunset Road Northeast; Tel.: +(1(763) 571 8811
- Skywalkers Courier Service**
30 South 9th Street; Tel.: +1 (612) 371 8778
- Whizzabout Courier Services**
Tel.: +1 (612) 868 4697

Internet Connection Place

- International Business Cafe**
1300 Nicolett Mall, Ste 2090; Tel.: +1 (612) 333 6033

Visas & Customs

Passports valid for at least six months after arrival are required for all. In general, travelers visiting the U.S. are required visas. However, under the Visa Waiver Program, citizens of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom are allowed to stay for 90 days without a visa. Citizens of Canada and Mexico do not need a visa but must carry proof of citizenship and identity. Beginning October 26, 2004, all travelers, including children of any age, who want to travel visa-free to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program must have a Machine-readable passport. Duty-free allowances are 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 2 kilograms of tobacco, 1 liter of alcohol, and gifts worth up to \$100. Meat products, seeds, plants, fruits, and hazardous goods are prohibited. To travel without a visa within the Visa Waiver Program, all passports issued after October 26, 2005 must be biometric. Machine-readable passports issued before this date are also valid for visa-exempt travel.

Phone Information

The area codes for Minneapolis are 612, 651, 763 and 952. It is necessary to dial the area code and the number in making local calls in Minneapolis. There is no toll charge for any of the three local area codes from within the Minneapolis calling area.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Emergency police, fire, and ambulance
911

Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

For local calls, dial the seven-digit telephone number. For long-distance calls within the U.S., dial 1, then the three-digit area code then the seven-digit number. For long-distance calls outside the U.S., first dial 011 and the country code. Four special prefixes, "800", "888", "877", and "900", are not area codes but indicators of special services. "800", "888", and "877" are toll-free calls. The "900" numbers charge you for the call and are often expensive. For collect calls or operator-assisted calls, dial "0" instead of "1". For local directory assistance, dial 411. For long-distance information, dial 1, and then the appropriate area code followed by 555-1212. The most common public phone is the coin-operated type. Telephone-card phones are becoming increasingly common.

Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

There are several cellular service providers in the U.S., including: Verizon Wireless, Cingular, T-Mobile, AT&T Wireless, Nextel, VoiceStream, and Sprint PCS. Mobile phone numbers follow the regular telephone number convention, with the seven-digit telephone number followed by the area code. If you choose to bring your cellular phone into the U.S., check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service.

Money

Foreign currency must be exchanged to U.S. dollars. Money can be exchanged at banks and various foreign-exchange services. Most restaurants, shops, and hotels will take travelers' checks and major credit cards. Travelers can also withdraw cash from ATMs. The basic unit of U.S. currency is the dollar, which equals 100 cents. Coins are the copper penny (1 cent) and four silver coins: the nickel (5 cents), the dime (10 cents), the quarter (25 cents), and the half-dollar (50 cents). Silver \$1 coins and "golden" dollar coins also exist. Paper bills come in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100.

Tippling

- * Restaurants 15 to 20 percent of bill, none at fast-food restaurants.
- * Bars About US\$1 per drink or 10% to 15% of drink prices.
- * Airport Skycap/Porter US\$1 per piece of luggage.
- * Taxis 10 percent of fare.
- * Hotel Bell Desk US\$1 per piece of luggage or per taxi summoned.
- * Hotel Housekeeping US\$1 per person per day.
- * Hotel Room Service 15 percent of bill.
- * Parking Attendant/Valet 15 percent of parking rate.
- * Haircare/Personal Services 20 percent of bill.

Time Difference

Minneapolis is in the Middle time zone (Greenwich Mean Time minus 6 hours). From early April through late October, Georgia switches to daylight-saving time.





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VAT & Taxes

Sales tax in Minneapolis is 7%. There is no VAT.

Voltage

110V AC, 60Hz. Plugs are of the flat, two-pin type.

Local Transportation

Whether you work downtown or are visiting, Metro Transit's Downtown Zone is inexpensive travel without the footwork. It's a bus ride for a fraction of the normal fare. You can reach most downtown stores, restaurants and businesses on the Downtown Zone fare, which is 50 cents at all times. See the maps below for zone boundaries. Simply tell the driver before you pay your fare that you will be riding only within the Downtown Zone to avoid paying the normal fare. If you ride outside the zone, the driver will ask you to pay the added fare. Transfers are not available with Downtown Zone fares. There's no need to remember route numbers. Board any bus traveling in the direction you want to go refer to maps below for details on where buses run. When in doubt, ask a bus driver. If you have questions about Metro Transit service to other locations, visit a Metro Transit store. Call Metropolitan Transit Information at +1 (612) 373 3333. Taxis are everywhere carrying your message throughout this thriving port city. For more information call **ABC Taxi** at (612) 788 1111, **Airport Taxi** at (952) 928 0000 or **Yellow Taxi Service Corp** at (612) 824 4000.

Health Info

No specific immunizations are needed to enter the United States. For more information, contact the Center for Disease Control at 800-342-2437.

Climate

In the summer, Minneapolis enjoys warm temperatures and occasional severe thunderstorms. Mosquitoes can be a nuisance. The hottest month is July, with temperatures around 29°C. Winter is long and bitterly cold with an average temperature of 4°C which can fall to 15°C and snow (about 1m every year) falling anytime between November and April. Both twin cities have an extensive system of enclosed skyways that connect Downtown buildings and enable pedestrians to move easily in cold weather.

Public Holidays

Where to Eat

Fuji Ya (Uptown) is a locals' favourite for its quality sushi bar and traditional tatami seating. It disputes its position with **Origami** in the Warehouse District. **Goodfellows** is certainly one of the city's finest restaurants. Set in a sumptuous art deco remodelled theatre, it serves refined contemporary cuisine. **La Belle Vie**, an elegant restaurant in Stillwater's historic Main Street, seduces with its delicate French Mediterranean dishes. For good steaks, **St Paul Grill** (Saint-Paul) in the historic St Paul hotel or **Manny's Steakhouse** in the Hyatt regency are classic spots. For a romantic setting and perfect seafood, head for the tiny river town of Bayport to the **Bayport cookery**. With an extensive wine list, creative dishes and a distinctive atmosphere **D'Amico Cucina** is an exquisite Italian restaurant. For pure Minneapolis food in a pretty atmosphere, **Lucia's** restaurant and wine bar is the place to go to. **Café Un Deux Trois** housed in the landmark Foshay tower is a enjoyable bistro for lunch and the staff is professional.

Local Gift Ideas

Hip galleries and antiques stores abound in the restored Warehouse District. The Nicollet mall is the hub for other downtown shopping. The Mall of America located near the airport - is the nation's largest shopping centres with more than 500 stores. Not far in Bloomington, the Alaskan Fur Company sells a full collection of fabulous furs.

Leisure Time

For a view over the city, go up the Foshay tower. The Walker Art Centre (closed until Spring 2005) is renowned for its permanent collection of 20th century art and sculpture which can be seen in The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden still open. The Minneapolis Institute of the Arts is a fantastic museum with over 100,000 works spanning 5,000 years of world history. Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum is worth seeing for its aluminium-wrapped architecture designed by Frank Gehry and its collection of early 20th-century American art. The Basilica of St. Mary's is the oldest basilica in the U.S. and a fine example of beaux-arts architecture. Golf practitioners should go to the Wilds golf Club in Prior Lake designed by Tom Weiskopf and rated 74.2. For winter visitors, St Paul's carnival celebrates snow and ice with numerous events.

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