

ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

# Minnesota and Wisconsin's north woods

*12 days · Minneapolis*

ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

# Minnesota and Wisconsin's north woods

*Lakes, forests and the north shore of Lake Superior.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Length | 12 days, 11 nights |
| Distance | 1,730 km, 7 driving days |
| Behind the wheel | 22 h 40 min |
| Travellers | 2, 1 room, 1 car |
| Hotels | Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars) |
| Flights | Amsterdam – Minneapolis (MSP), Minneapolis (MSP) – Amsterdam |

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| **Bayfield** | Days 7–8 | **14** |
| **Madison** | Days 9–10 | **16** |
| **Minneapolis** | Day 11 | **18** |

# Day by day

| DAY | DATE | NIGHT | KM | DRIVE | °C |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Minneapolis | 20 | 20 min | |
| 2 | | Minneapolis | | | |
| 3 | | Duluth | 250 | 2 h 50 min | |
| 4 | | Duluth | | | |
| 5 | | Grand Marais | 180 | 2 h 30 min | |
| 6 | | Grand Marais | | | |
| 7 | | Bayfield | 310 | 4 h 40 min | |
| 8 | | Bayfield | | | |
| 9 | | Madison | 520 | 7 h | |
| 10 | | Madison | | | |
| 11 | | Minneapolis | 430 | 5 h 10 min | |
| 12 | | Flight home from MSP | 20 | 20 min | |

**1,730 km · 22 h 40 min behind the wheel · on average 250 km a driving day**

*Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.*

# The route




Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

## ON THE ROAD

| | |
|---|---|
| **Day 1** | Land at Minneapolis (MSP), drive to Minneapolis · About 20 km (10 mi), 20 min |
| **Day 3** | Minneapolis, drive to Duluth · About 250 km (150 mi), 2 h 50 min |
| **Day 5** | Duluth, drive to Grand Marais · About 180 km (110 mi), 2 h 30 min |
| **Day 7** | Grand Marais, drive to Bayfield · About 310 km (200 mi), 4 h 40 min |
| **Day 9** | Bayfield, drive to Madison · About 520 km (330 mi), 7 h |
| **Day 11** | Madison, drive to Minneapolis · About 430 km (270 mi), 5 h 10 min |

# Well prepared

### ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

### Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

### Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

### Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

### Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

### Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

### National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

### Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

### Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

### Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

### Customs

Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

# Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

**DON'T FORGET**

# Notes



DAYS 1–2

# Minneapolis MN

*The chain of lakes*

Land at Minneapolis (MSP), drive to Minneapolis: about 20 km (10 mi), 20 min

**2 nights**

MINNEAPOLIS · DAYS 1–2

## HOTEL

- ☐ TownePlace Suites by Marriott Minneapolis near Mall of America · 3★ — roughly €130
  2500 Lindau Lane
- ☐ AC Hotel by Marriott Bloomington Mall of America · 3★ — roughly €130
  8100 26th Avenue South
- ☐ Element by Marriott Minneapolis Downtown · 3★ — roughly €140
  501 N 6TH AVENUE
- ☐ Hampton Inn and Suites Minneapolis University Area, MN · 3★ — roughly €80
  2812 University Avenue Southeast
- ☐ Element by Marriott Bloomington Mall of America · 3★ — roughly €150
  2402 East 82nd Street

## NOTES



DAYS 3–4

# Duluth MN

*The lift bridge on Lake Superior*

Minneapolis, drive to Duluth: about 250 km (150 mi), 2 h 50 min

**2 nights**

DULUTH · DAYS 3–4

## HOTEL

- [ ] South Pier Inn · 3★ — roughly €170
  701 S Lake Ave
- [ ] Residence Inn Duluth · 3★ — roughly €140
  517 W Central Entrance
- [ ] Park Point Marina Inn · 3★ — roughly €130
  1033 Minnesota Ave
- [ ] Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Duluth · 3★ — roughly €120
  1510 MAPLE GROVE ROAD
- [ ] Canal Park Lodge · 3★ — roughly €170
  250 Canal Park Dr

## NOTES




DAYS 5–6

# Grand Marais MN

*The North Shore Scenic Drive*

Duluth, drive to Grand Marais: about 180 km (110 mi), 2 h 30 min

**2 nights**

GRAND MARAIS · DAYS 5–6

## HOTEL

- [ ] Poplar Creek Guesthouse · 3★
  11 Poplar Creek Drive, Inland from Grand
- [ ] East Bay Suites · 3★
  21 Wisconsin St
- [ ] Skyport Lodge · 3★
  205 Fireweed Lane

## NOTES



DAYS 7–8

# Bayfield WI

*The Apostle Islands' sea caves*

Grand Marais, drive to Bayfield: about 310 km (200 mi), 4 h 40 min

**2 nights**

## HOTEL

- [ ] Hauser's Bayfield Cabin · 3★
  94495 Raspberry Shore Drive
- [ ] Pinehurst Inn Bed & Breakfast · 3★
  83645 State Hwy 13
- [ ] Old Rittenhouse Inn · 3★
  301 Rittenhouse Avenue
- [ ] Queen's View Bayfield · 3★

## NOTES



DAYS 9–10

# Madison WI

*Between two lakes*

Bayfield, drive to Madison: about 520 km (330 mi), 7 h

**2 nights**

## HOTEL

- [ ] Holiday Inn Express and Suites Madison Central by IHG · 3★ — roughly €110
  610 John Nolen Dr
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Madison Downtown · 3★ — roughly €100
  440 West Johnson Street
- [ ] Home2 Suites By Hilton Madison Central Alliant Energy Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  2153 Rimrock Rd
- [ ] SpringHill Suites Madison · 3★ — roughly €130
  4601 Frey Street
- [ ] Hotel Ruby Marie · 3★
  524 E. Wilson Street

## NOTES



DAY 11

# Minneapolis MN

*Before the flight home*

Madison, drive to Minneapolis: about 430 km (270 mi), 5 h 10 min

1 night

MINNEAPOLIS · DAY 11

## HOTEL

- [ ] TownePlace Suites by Marriott Minneapolis near Mall of America · 3★ — roughly €130
  2500 Lindau Lane
- [ ] AC Hotel by Marriott Bloomington Mall of America · 3★ — roughly €130
  8100 26th Avenue South
- [ ] Element by Marriott Minneapolis Downtown · 3★ — roughly €140
  501 N 6TH AVENUE
- [ ] Hampton Inn and Suites Minneapolis University Area, MN · 3★ — roughly €80
  2812 University Avenue Southeast
- [ ] Element by Marriott Bloomington Mall of America · 3★ — roughly €150
  2402 East 82nd Street

## NOTES

# What it costs

| DAY | PLACE | HOTEL | TOURS | CAR | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Minneapolis | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 2 | Minneapolis | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 3 | Duluth | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 4 | Duluth | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 5 | Grand Marais | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 6 | Grand Marais | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 7 | Bayfield | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 8 | Bayfield | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 9 | Madison | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 10 | Madison | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 11 | Minneapolis | €160 | – | €60 | **€220** |
| 12 | Flight home from MSP | – | – | €60 | **€60** |

| | |
|---|---|
| Flights | €1,700 |
| Hotels | €1,760 |
| Excursions | €0 |
| Car hire | €720 |
| **Total** | **€4,180** |
| | €2,090 a person |

*An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.*

# Notes

# About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.roundtrip.expert/tours/north-woods/

## PHOTOS

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| | |
|---|---|
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## MAP AND TYPE

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THE ROUTE

*Minneapolis (2) · Duluth (2) · Grand Marais (2) · Bayfield (2) · Madison (2) · Minneapolis (1)*

Lakes, forests and the north shore of Lake Superior.

**12 days · 11 nights · 1,730 km**

**rondreis.expert**

usa.roundtrip.expert/tours/north-woods/