



55 Things to Do This Summer

1. Drive up to **Cloquet** and get an order of **Gordy Hi-Hat's** famous homemade onion rings.
2. Fore! Avoid the windmills at **Big Stone Mini Golf** in **Minnetrista** or **Adventure Falls Mini Golf** in **Taylor Falls**. [Get a list of the best mini golf courses in the state at MinnesotaLive.com](#)
3. Go tubing down the Cannon River at **Welch Mill**. Check their website before you go to make sure they're open. Before you head out, pack a cooler with beverages! On your way back, stop by **King's Place** in **Miesville** for one of the best burgers in the State.
4. Search for something special at Central Minnesota's largest gift and souvenir shop, **Treasure City** in **Royalton**. This iconic spot has been in business for over 50 years!
5. Open every Saturday thru the end of October, The **Wright County Swappers Meet** in **South Haven** averages 150-200 sellers. On a holiday weekend, expect 350 sellers with antiques, vinyl, jewelry, and more!
6. Hop in the car and drive up to **Two Harbors** for a visit to **Rustic Inn Café** for a slice of their made-from-scratch pie. You'll be glad you did.
7. Admire some pink rocks at **Iona's Beach** in **Two Harbors**. If you listen closely, the rocks will sing to you! [Tag along with Minnesota Live's trip to Iona's Beach on MinnesotaLive.com](#)
8. Cool off in a cave! In **Harmony**, travel one-mile underground to explore **Niagara Cave**. About 20 minutes away in **Preston**, you'll find **Mystery Cave** which spans 13 miles. **Spring Valley, WI** is home to **Crystal Cave**, which offers one-hour tours. [Before you go, tour all of these caves by visiting TwinCitiesLive.com and MinnesotaLive.com](#)
9. See drag racing in its purest form at **Brainerd International Raceway (BIR)**. They host the NHRA Nationals August 18-21.
10. **Jason Aldean**, **Miranda Lambert**, and **Luke Bryan** visit **Soo Pass Ranch** in **Detroit Lakes** for the annual **WE Fest**, happening August 4-6.
11. A Father's Day Weekend tradition continues at the **State Fairgrounds** June 17-19. **MSRA's Back to the 50's Weekend** features more than 12,000 street rods, classic and restored vehicles.
12. [Twin Cities Live](#) teamed up with **Invictus Brewing Company** in **Blaine** to create another seltzer that will help keep you cool this summer! The "Spoon and Spiked Cherry Limeade" seltzer will be available at their taproom and at liquor stores around the Twin Cities. \$1 from every pour in the taproom or 6-pack sold will be donated to **Open Arms of Minnesota!**

- 13. Volunteer in the garden! **Open Arms of Minnesota**, a nonprofit delivering free meals to Minnesotans living with life-threatening illnesses, operates five organic farms in the Twin Cities and needs volunteers to help harvest vegetables, which are used in meals. [Head to TwinCitiesLive.com to learn more about volunteering.](#)
- 14. Minnesota's self-proclaimed "Largest Candy Store" is a sight to behold! **Jim's Apple Farm** is right on Highway 169 in **Jordan**. You can't miss the big yellow barn! Remember to hit up the ATM...it's cash only.
- 15. Let the kids run around at **Valleyfair** in **Shakopee** (don't forget the bathing suits) and finish with classic burgers at **Lions Tap** in **Eden Prairie**. [Meet the owners of Lions Tap – and their recipe to success – at TwinCitiesLive.com](#)
- 16. Plan a full day in downtown **Hopkins**! Enjoy a meal at **Thirty Bales**, see a show by **Stages Theatre Company** at the **Hopkins Center for the Arts**, and visit the two-level beer wall at **Bear Cave Brewing**. A great time to visit is during Raspberry Festival, held July 13-17.
- 17. There's no shortage of activities happening the last weekend of June! **Lake City** celebrates its 50th annual **Water Ski Days** June 23-26. In **Minneapolis**, the **Twin Cities Pride Festival** also celebrates its 50th anniversary with a festival and parade June 25-26. Finally, one of Minnesota's oldest communities, **Afton**, holds its annual **Strawberry Festival** June 25-26.
- 18. Have you tried smelt? This is the summer to eat the small fish! Check out **Russ Kendall's Smoke House** in **Knife River** to get started. While you're there, pick up some brown sugar trout and salmon to-go.
- 19. See a parade! **Delano** claims to have Minnesota's oldest and largest 4th of July celebration. It's a sight to see. The parade starts at 10:30AM on Independence Day.
- 20. Visit **White Bear Lake** on a Thursday from June 16-July 28 for **Marketfest**. Enjoy live music, a car show, plenty of shopping, and themed weeks.
- 21. We all scream for ice cream! For a cool treat, visit **Love Creamery** in **Duluth**, **Cup and Cone** in **White Bear Lake**, and **What's the Scoop?** in **Buffalo** and **St. Michael**.
- 22. Eat at a drive-in! Stop by **Peppermint Twist** in **Delano** for a shake. Make sure to save extra time for the Teddy Bear Park!
- 23. See a movie at a drive-in! **Vali-Hi** in **Lake Elmo**, **Long Drive In Theater** in **Long Prairie**, and **Starlite Drive-In Theater** in **Litchfield** are all classic drive-ins showing movies under the stars.
- 24. Participate in a minnow race. Your kiddos can do so in **Hackensack** at the **Children's Fishing Contest**, which takes place every Tuesday from June 14-August 16.
- 25. Stop by **Niswaw** for **Turtle Races**, which take place every Wednesday. The tradition started in 1963.
- 26. After a few years off, **Sparky the Sea Lion** is back performing at **Como Park Zoo and Conservatory** in **Saint Paul**. Best of all, admission to Como is free. If you're hungry, stop by nearby **Nelson Cheese & Deli** for an amazing sandwich.
- 27. Watch water ski stunts by the **Twin Cities River Rats** along the banks of the Mississippi River in northeast Minneapolis. Shows are Thursday nights in June and July. Grab a pint of beer on the patio of **Pryes Brewing Company** before.

- 28. Rent out the **Mpls Water Taxi** with your friends and family for a unique view of the Mississippi River and downtown Minneapolis.
- 29. Discover Minnesota grown at farmers markets! The market in **Edina** runs Thursday afternoons through September. Thursday is also when you can visit the **Maple Grove Farmers Market** at the Community Center. Saturday is a great day to visit the **Minneapolis Farmers Market** on Lyndale, but it can get busy. The **Saint Paul Farmers Market** in **Lowertown Saint Paul** is a great way to start your Sunday. If you're looking to connect with unique vendors, stop by the **Mill City Farmers Market** in **Minneapolis**.
- 30. Grab your roller skates and head to **Cheap Skate** in **Coon Rapids** for Adult Night! After 8 P.M. on the last Saturday of the month, the roller rink turns into a 21+ venue with adult beverages and music from the 80's and 90's.
- 31. In **Shakopee**, **Blake Shelton**, **Trace Adkins**, and **Nelly** take the stage for **Twin Cities Summer Jam** at **Canterbury Park**. The music takes place July 21-23.
- 32. **Canterbury Park** will be busy all summer, and not just with horse racing! Stop by June 26 for basset hound races, July 10 for unicorn and llama races, and July 17 for something they call "Extreme Race Day".
- 33. Every Minnesotan needs to walk across the headwaters of the Mississippi River. Make a trip to **Lake Itasca** in **Bemidji** and don't forget to wave at the video livestream on YouTube!
- 34. 2022 marks a big birthday for a Minnesota icon. The **Mall of America** in **Bloomington** is celebrating 30 years all year long with giveaways and events. Look for more around their birthday, August 11.
- 35. Explore 50-acres of public art at **Franconia Sculpture Park** in **Shafer**. Each year, 200 artists apply to have their work installed at this free site. [Learn more about this nonprofit at MinnesotaLive.com](#)
- 36. In **Taylor's Falls**, order a root beer from the staff at **The Drive In Restaurant**. The secret to why it's so good: water from Taylor's Falls. The Drive In has served guests since 1956. [Head to MinnesotaLive.com to hear from The Drive In Restaurant's owner.](#)
- 37. Take your whole house on the road and live in a van! **Voyager Campervans**, based in **Minneapolis**, lets you rent out a sleeper van for a trip to the North Shore, the Saint Croix River Valley, Yellowstone, or beyond. [Learn more about Voyager Campervans on TwinCitiesLive.com](#)
- 38. Go on a beer and wine cruise down the **St. Croix River**! They're hosted by **Haskell's** and take place once a month starting in June. You can sample dozens of wines and beers, plus, lunch and stunning views of the river valley are provided!
- 39. Ride up the gondola and go down the Alpine slide at **Lutsen Mountains**. They have fun in the summer, too!
- 40. Visit a pizza farm where ingredients can't be more fresh. Try the **Red Barn Farm** in **Northfield**, **Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm** in **Waseca**, or **Two Pony Gardens** in **Long Lake**.
- 41. The **Hilde Performance Center** is a hidden gem outdoor amphitheater in **Plymouth**. The Music in Plymouth series is celebrating its 50th anniversary and returns July 6 with free outdoor performances by the **Minnesota Orchestra**, **The Okee Dokee Brothers**, and **The Steeles**. On July 30, **Kelsea Ballerini** and **The Band Perry** will perform at the Hilde during a ticketed event.

- 42. Find a good spot to play bingo! The **Chester Bird American Legion** in **Golden Valley** was ranked as the top spot on *Twin Cities Live* and offers games Wednesdays and Saturdays. Wednesday nights is celebrity bingo at **LUSH Lounge & Theater** in **Minneapolis**. KSTP's **Mike Marcotte** will be your caller on July 6!
- 43. Why settle for a pool when you can visit a wave pool! **Bunker Beach Water Park** in **Coon Rapids** is Minnesota's largest outdoor waterpark.
- 44. Minnesota has some of the best park systems in the country. Go for a hike at **Lebanon Hills Regional Park** in **Apple Valley**, through the **Grand Rounds** in **Minneapolis** and **Saint Paul**, or a classic, **Voyageurs National Park** in the Arrowhead.
- 45. Head to **CHS Field** in **Lowertown Saint Paul** to take in a **St. Paul Saints** game! Before the game, head to **Saint Dinette** for one of the best cheeseburgers in the cities. Stuck at home? Watch Saints Sunday home games on **45TV**.
- 46. **Maria Bamford**, **Charlie Berends**, and **Chris Redd** from *Saturday Night Live* are in town for the **Minneapolis Comedy Festival** June 13-19.
- 47. The **Twin Cities Jazz Festival** takes over Mears Park in **Lowertown Saint Paul** June 24-25. It's free to attend.
- 48. A three day celebration of all things Irish takes place on Harriet Island in **Saint Paul**. Visit the **Irish Fair of Minnesota** August 12-14.
- 49. Take a road trip down Minnesota's **Great River Road**, which follows the Mississippi River for 565 miles.
- 50. Plan a day to pick berries! **Pine Tree Apple Orchard** in **White Bear Lake** usually opens in mid-June for strawberry picking.
- 51. **Sammy Hagar** and **Toby Keith** both play outdoor concerts in **Prior Lake** this summer. See them at the **Lakefront Music Fest** July 8-9.
- 52. The 2022-2023 Broadway on Hennepin season kicks off by 'defying gravity'! The musical, *Wicked*, makes its return to the **Orpheum Theatre** in **Minneapolis** July 27-August 28.
- 53. Find the bar serving the best broasted chicken. Start at **Brass Rail** in **Grandy**, **Blacksmith Lounge & Broaster** in **Hugo**, and **Carl's Corner** in **Essig**.
- 54. Hop on a bike. Take your own bicycle along a route, stop by **Wheel Fun Rentals** at Lake Nokomis or Minnehaha Falls in **Minneapolis** for tandem bike rentals.
- 55. The unofficial end to summer is the Great Minnesota Get Together. Get your fix of food, animals, and people watching at the **Minnesota State Fair**, which runs August 26-September 6. When you're there, make sure to visit the 5 Eyewitness News building to watch a broadcast and spin our prize wheel!