



## **My Drift**

**Title: Minnesota**

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**Date: 2 Oct 2021**

**Article Number: 371-2021-20**

**Are there really 10,000 lakes in Minnesota? No, there are 11,842 lakes of 10 acres or more. Some people in Wisconsin claim that their state has the most lakes with 15,074 but when you use the 10-acre standard, they only have 5,898 lakes. Any body of water less than 10 acres is a pond. Sorry Wisconsin and Minnesota, Alaska has over 3 million lakes! Did you know that there is one state with no natural lakes? It's true - there are no natural lakes in Maryland. All of Maryland's lakes are manmade by damming rivers.**



**The biggest lake is Lake Superior – Shown here is the Split Rock Lighthouse**

**One of those 11,842 lakes is the source for the mighty Mississippi River.**



## Lake Itasca – The Mississippi River Headwater



**Here is a little better map of Minnesota:**



## Minnesota



**As you can see on the above map, Minnesota is a Midwest state bordered by Canada on the north, South and North Dakota on the west, Iowa on the south, Wisconsin and Lake Superior on the east.**

## **General Information**

<b>Population</b>	<b>5,710,000</b>
• <b>White</b>	<b>77.5%</b>
• <b>Black</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
• <b>Asian</b>	<b>5.2%</b>

## **Largest Cities**



- **Minneapolis (440,000)**



- **St. Paul (310,500) – Capital**
- **Rochester (123,000)**
- **Duluth (85,200)**
- **Bloomington (84,000)**

### **Nicknames**

- **Land of 10,000 Lakes**
- **North Star State**
- **The Gopher State**

### **Area**

- **Total** **86,938 square miles**
  - **Land** **79,610 square miles**
  - **Water** **7,328 square miles**

### **Religion**

- **Christian** **75%**
  - **Protestant** **52%**
  - **Roman Catholic** **22%**
- **Other Religions** **5%**
- **Unaffiliated** **20%**

### **State Symbols**

- **Bird** **Common loon**
- **Butterfly** **Monarch**
- **Fish** **Walleye**
- **Flower** **Pink-and-white lady's slipper**
- **Tree** **Norway Pine**
- **Beverage** **Milk**
- **Gemstone** **Lake Superior agate**

### **Tallest**

- **Building** **IDS Center (792 feet) Minneapolis**
- **Mountain** **Eagle Mountain (2301 feet)**
- **Tower** **KPXM Tower (1505 feet)**

### **Longest/Biggest Rivers**

- **Mississippi River (681 miles)**
- **Red River (457 miles)**
- **Minnesota River (371 miles)**

### **Largest Lakes within Minnesota Borders**

- **Red Lake (288,800 acres)**
- **Mille Lacs Lake (132,516 acres)**
- **Leech Lake (111,527 acres)**



**IDS Center**

## State History

### Native Americans

Minnesota has been inhabited by people for thousands of years including ancient cultures such as the Woodland people and the Mississippian culture. When the Europeans arrived in the 1600s, Native American tribes lived throughout the region. The largest Native American tribe in the area was the Dakota Sioux. They hunted buffalo and farmed crops such as corn, beans, and squash. Other smaller tribes included the Ojibwa, the Cree, and the Cheyenne.



**Dakota Sioux Indians**

### Europeans Arrive



**French Explorers and Settlers Cross Lake Superior**

The first Europeans to arrive in Minnesota were the French. Explorers such as Pierre Radisson and Medard des Groseilleirs first visited the region in the 1650s. These early explorers mapped out the coast of Lake Superior and claimed the land for France. The French made an agreement with the Ojibwa peoples to trade for furs in 1671. French trader Sieur Du Luth explored the area and, in 1679, he helped to negotiate a peace agreement between the Dakota and Ojibwa tribes. The city of Duluth is named after him.

### Changing Hands

After the French and Indian war between the British and French ended in 1763, the British took over the eastern portion of Minnesota. However, the land was only in



**British hands for 20 years when it became a territory of the United States after the Revolutionary War. In 1803, the United States purchased the rest of Minnesota from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase.**

### **Explorers**

**After buying the Louisiana Purchase, President Thomas Jefferson sent out explorers to learn more about the vast new land. Explorer Zebulon Pike arrived in Minnesota in 1805. His main goal was to find the headwaters of the Mississippi River. He didn't find the source of the Mississippi, but he did sign a treaty with the Dakota Indians for land in the area. In 1832, explorer Henry Schoolcraft finally found the source of the Mississippi River with the help of the Ojibwa peoples. He named the source Lake Itasca. Later, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow would write The Song of Hiawatha based on Indian legends and stories told by Schoolcraft about Minnesota.**

### **Twin Cities**

**The first major U.S. outpost in Minnesota was Fort Snelling which was completed in 1825. It was built at the point where the Minnesota and the Mississippi Rivers come together. Two major cities eventually were built up on each side of the Mississippi River. The city on the west side was called Minneapolis and the city on the east side St. Paul. Today these two cities are often referred to as the Twin Cities and are the two largest cities in Minnesota.**

### **Becoming a State**

**In 1849, Minnesota became a territory of the United States. Over the next two decades, numerous immigrants from northern European countries such as Germany and Sweden settled in Minnesota. On May 11, 1858, Minnesota was admitted to the Union as the 32nd state.**

### **Fun Things to do in Minnesota**

#### **Go Fishing**

**I would like to catch a Walleye and/or a Northern Pike.**



**Walleye**



**Northern Pike**



**There are a lot of freshwater lakes and rivers in Minnesota  
(Most all of them have fish)**

**Visit Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis**



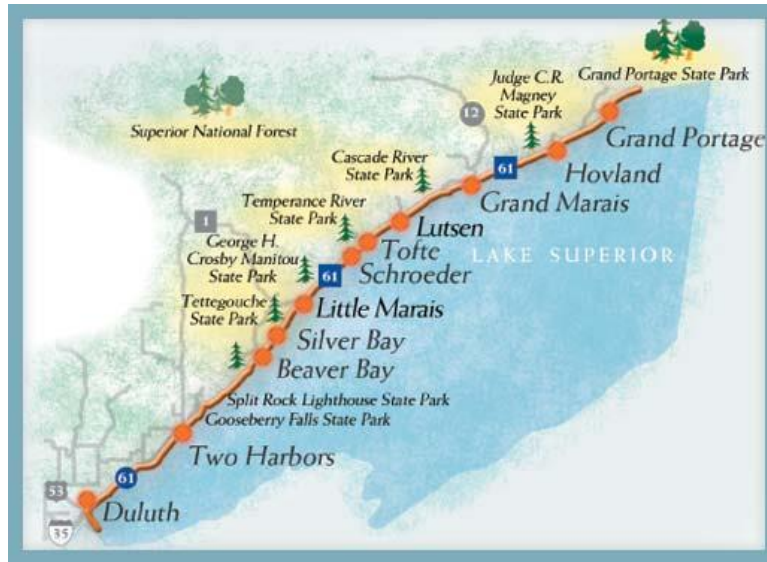
**Minnehaha Falls**

**A striking, wilderness waterfall in an urban setting. Overlooking the Mississippi River, Minnehaha Park is one of Minneapolis' oldest and most popular parks, attracting over 850,000 visitors annually.**

**Located at the intersection of Hiawatha Avenue and Minnehaha Parkway, the 193-acre park features a 53-foot waterfall, limestone bluffs and river overlooks. The park contains oak, elm, silver maple, basswood, hackberry and cottonwood trees, as well as native and prairie woodland wildflowers.**



## Take the North Shore Scenic Drive – Duluth to Grand Portage



The spectacular scenery of the North Shore of Superior, including eight state parks, has earned this scenic route a national designation as an "All-American Road." Small shoreline towns offer restaurants serving local fish and produce as well as unique shops and art galleries. Experience the history of the shore at the 1910 Split Rock Lighthouse, a commercial fishing museum in Tofte, and Grand Portage National Monument fur-trading post.



North Shore Falls in Grand Portage



Go in the Fall for an even more scenic drive

## Go Shopping at the Mall of America

The Mall of America is a shopping mall located in Bloomington a suburb of the Twin Cities. It lies southeast of the junction of Interstate 494 and Minnesota State Highway 77, north of the Minnesota River, and across the Interstate from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. It opened in 1992 and is the seventh largest shopping mall in the world, and the largest in the western hemisphere.





**The Mall of America has an area of 4,870,000 square feet or 96.4 acres - enough to fit seven Yankee Stadiums inside.**



**More than 530 stores are arranged along three levels of pedestrian walkways on the sides of the rectangle, with a fourth level on the east side. Four anchor department stores are located at the corners.**



**Nickelodeon Universe is an indoor theme park in the center of the mall. The park features roller coasters, numerous other rides and attractions, including many not related to Nickelodeon, and is the largest indoor theme park in the United States.**

## Visit the International Wolf Center



**The International Wolf Center near Ely is an educational center that supports and promotes the survival of wolves. Hands-on exhibits, demonstrations of wolf tracking methods, and all kinds of information on wolves is presented. Visitors learn about the natural history of wolves by observing the resident wolf pack. The center also offers a wide variety of programs and other visitor experiences, including Wolf Photography Workshops, Geocache Adventures, and overnight visits.**

## The Como Park Zoo & Conservatory



**One of the most enjoyable animal interactions is feeding the giraffes. Available to visitors of all ages, these gentle giants eat Romaine lettuce right out of your hand.**



The Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is one of the best family attractions in Minnesota. Here, you'll find everything for a complete day of fun for all ages. It's also budget friendly; both are free to enter but donations are encouraged. The zoo has a variety of animals from around the world, ranging from monkeys through to polar bears. The Como Harbor exhibit addition is the new home for penguins, otters, and two giant octopuses.

There is more to the park than the zoo. Be sure to swing by the conservatory to see all the heat-loving plants. A visit to this beautiful glass building makes you feel like you've stepped into the tropics. The Sunken Garden is a colorful area full of fragrant and beautiful plants that change throughout the seasons and is an ideal place to snap a picture or two.

### **Discover Paul Bunyan the Larger-than-life Lumberjack**

Legend has it that Minnesota's 10,000 lakes were created by Paul Bunyan's footprints filling with water as he explored the state. Since then, it has become a rite of passage for Minnesotans and visitors alike to snap their photo with the iconic lumberjack. Discover his most popular likenesses across the state and take your picture with the legend himself.



**Located in the Town of Akeley**



**Located on the shores of Lake Bemidji**

Akeley is in northwest part of Minnesota. This statue invites visitors to crawl into the palm of Paul's hand to snap a photo. While you're there, visit the nearby Paul Bunyan Historical Museum.

Paul Bunyan and his best friend Babe the Blue Ox made their debut in Bemidji during the winter carnival in 1937 and became an instant sensation. At 18 feet tall, the burly lumberjack stands next to the 10-foot statue of Babe the Blue Ox.



**Do you want to see World's Largest Boot?**



**The Red Wing Shoe Factory and Museum is located in Red Wing, Minnesota  
(This Boot is fit for a Giant)**

Composed from the hides of around 80 cows and over 20 feet tall, the boot could fit a giant taller than the Statue of Liberty. Over 80 pounds of brass was used to create the eyelets for the sized 638 1/2 D boot. The boot is a scaled-up model of the company's most popular shoe, style number 877. Along with the giant boot, the accompanying museum displays the history of the company and the boot making process.

**Other major companies or organizations home based in Minnesota include:**

- |                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| • UnitedHealth Group Inc. | Minnetonka  |
| • Mayo Clinic             | Rochester   |
| • Target Corp.            | Minneapolis |
| • Best Buy                | Minneapolis |
| • 3M Co.                  | St. Paul    |
| • U.S. Bancorp            | Minneapolis |
| • General Mills Inc.      | Minneapolis |
| • Land O'Lakes Inc.       | Arden Hills |
| • Hormel Foods Corp.      | Austin      |

**I think you will agree, Minnesota is a beautiful state!**

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