



Winter Passport Guide

MINNEAPOLIS + ST. PAUL

DISCOVER THE BEST OF WINTER

20+ EVENTS

No one does winter better than Minnesota. The Winter Passport is your guide to discovering it all, from art and music to food, festivals, and outdoor adventures

HOW IT WORKS

This passport makes it easy to get out, explore, and celebrate the season.

- Collect stamps as you go
- ☆ Unlock rewards
- Experience Minnesota's winter magic

BUNDLE UP, GRAB YOUR PASSPORT, AND START EXPLORING!



The winter passport is created by The Great Northern, in partnership with Meet Minneapolis.

ABOUT THE GREAT NORTHERN

The Great Northern unites communities through art, climate engagement, and outdoor experiences. Through our annual festival and year-round projects, we invite our community to come together, celebrate what makes our region special, and imagine what more is possible when we invest in each other and in the place we call home.

How it works:



EXPLORE WINTER ACTIVITIES

Ready to make the most of winter? Explore our curated guide to the coolest arts, eats, and outdoor experiences across Minneapolis & St. Paul, Jan 1–Feb 8.

COLLECT STAMPS

Don't forget to get your passport stamped at each location you visit! Collect stamps to unlock special discounts and qualify for exclusive prize packages.





SHARE YOUR WINTER ADVENTURES WITH US

Tag @thegreatnorthernfestival and your event location for a chance to be featured!

Win passport prizes!

Collect stamps to unlock special discounts and get the chance to win special prizes.



7+ STAMPS:

Earn a pair of limited-edition socks.

Redeem at The Great Northern info booths (Jan 31 – Feb 1) or at the Meet Minneapolis Visitor Center timing TBA.



10+ STAMPS:

Enter for a chance to win a prize package!

Snap or scan the challenge page located at the back of this booklet and email it to passport@thegreatnorthernfestival.com by March 1, 2026.



15+ STAMPS:

Get entered to win our grand prize package!

Submit your challenge page the same way by March 1, 2026.



Scan the QR code for full details, dates, and prize info.

The Great Northern Climate Solution Series

- LOCATION
 Main Cinema, 115 SE Main St. Minneapolis, MN
- DATE
 SATURDAY JAN. 31ST



Attend one of The Climate Solutions Series panels, films, or podcast tapings.

The Climate Solutions Series brings communities together to discuss the realities of the climate crisis and to imagine real-world solutions for a more equitable and sustainable future.





Bring your passport to The Great Northern info table at Main Cinema to get your stamp.

Luminary Loppet

- LOCATION

 Lake of the Isles



Take part in the ultimate celebration of winter and community at the 22nd Annual Luminary Loppet!

Enjoy a candlelit walk around Lake of the Isles, where more than 1,200 ice luminaries guide you past dazzling ice features like the iconic ice pyramid, enchanted forest and Luminary hall. Finish your evening by attending the Luminary Party. Perfect for all ages, The Luminary Loppet is an outdoor experience not to be missed!







Get your passport stamped at any check in booth on event night at Lake of the Isles!

The Great Northern Sauna Village presented by Superior Sauna & Steam

- LOCATION1 SE Main St, Minneapolis MN
- ☐ DATE
 JAN. 28TH —FEB. 1ST



The Great Northern Sauna Village is an immersive celebration of sauna and community.

Explore a vibrant outdoor village of handcrafted saunas, cold exposure, and social spaces. Enjoy self-guided open steam sessions or join for one of our various guided sauna experiences. Curated for both beginners and seasoned sauna enthusiasts seeking relaxation, restoration, and connection.





Bring your passport to the check-in desk to receive your stamp!

SPECIAL OFFER!



VALID FEB. 2-28, 2026

Show your stamped passport page for a free community steam session at a Superior Sauna & Steam Sauna Residency.

Minneapolis Vintage Winter Market

- ◆ LOCATION Quincy Hall, 1325 Quincy St NE, Minneapolis, MN
- DATE
 SUNDAY JAN. 18TH



Check out 70+ of Minnesota's best vintage clothing, accessories and home goods vendors all in one spot in this spacious, beautiful venue in the heart of the Northeast MPLS Arts District.

Coffee and eats are available for purchase and our DJ keeps the good vibes flowing while you shop!







Bring your passport to the check-in desk or the bar to receive your stamp!

Walker Art Center Dyani White Hawk: Love Language

- LOCATION725 Vineland PI, Minneapolis, MN
- DATE
 OPEN WEDNESDAY SUNDAY

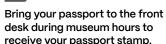


Rooted in intergenerational knowledge, Dyani White Hawk's (Sičángu Lakota, b. 1976) art centers on connection between one another, past and present, earth and sky.

By foregrounding Lakota forms and motifs, she challenges prevailing histories and practices surrounding abstract art. Featuring multimedia paintings, sculpture, video, and more, Love Language gathers 15 years of the artist's work in this major survey.







Kickoff to the 140th Saint Paul Winter Carnival!

- ◆ LOCATION 109 W 4th St, St Paul, MN

Be there for the kick-off of the 140th Saint Paul Winter Carnival at Rice Park!

- * Enjoy a dazzling laser light show
- * Help "Light the Park" with FREE glow wands
- * Watch ice sculptors as they begin carving beautiful sculptures
- Visit the Food Truck Festival

Don't miss the start of The Coolest Celebration on Earth!





Bring your passport to the staff at the DJ booth for the Kick-off at Rice Park to get your passport stamp!

Minneapolis Institute of Art Institute of Ice

- LOCATION2400 3rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN
- THURSDAY JAN. 8TH | 5-9 PM



Celebrate art, winter, and community at Mia's annual Institute of Ice!

Experience dazzling ice sculptures on view, until they melt. Visit Mia's Institute of Ice during the grand opening on Thursday, January 8, 5–9 pm to receive your stamp.





Bring your passport to the front desk during the event to receive your passport stamp.

SPECIAL OFFER!



VALID IAN, 8, 2026

Show your passport stamp to recive 50% off admission to special exhibition Royal Bronzes: Cambodian Art of the Divine.

University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

- LOCATION3675 Aboretum Dr, Chaska, MN
- DATE
 JAN. 8TH − FEB. 1ST



Enjoy the best of winter at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum by getting outdoors and hiking, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing along miles of wooded trails that travel past gardens, prairies and ponds.

Come inside to warm up in our toasty Conservatory and participate in a host of ever-changing educational activities and art exhibitions.







Present your passport information desk to receive your passport stamp.

The Kinfolk Collective

- ♦ LOCATION 81 S 9th St Suite 100, Minneapolis
- DATE
 SUNDAY FEB. 1ST

Check out The Kinfolk collective! A new curated marketplace presented by B Suite.

The Kinfolk Collective offers a platform for Black-owned brands, artists, and creatives to connect with new audiences and grow their visibility. Explore unique finds, handcrafted goods, art, fashion, and more in a vibrant, community-centered shopping experience you won't want to miss!







Along the River: Indigenous History & Urban Ecology Walk

LOCATION

Father Hennepin Bluff Park, 420 Main St. SE, Minneapolis

Explore the history, culture, and ecology of the area around the Stone Arch Bridge area on this 90-minute guided walk with Minneapolis Parks Foundation and Owámniyomni Okhódayapi.

Hear stories from Indigenous knowledge holders, cross the iconic bridge, and learn about the local environment with Minneapolis Parks naturalists. A unique chance to connect with the river's past and present!







Bring your passport and get it stamped by a Great Northern volunteer during the walk!

The Lodge at Nordic Village

- LOCATION
 245 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis
- ☐ DATE&TIME

 OPEN WEDNESDAY SATURDAY IN JANUARY | 4 11 pm



Located at the Nordic Village at Four Seasons Hotel Minneapolis, The Lodge is a cozy 24-seat bar inspired by the rustic lakeside retreats of Northern Minnesota.

Enjoy a warm, welcoming atmosphere with a delicious menu of food and drinks—open to all Wednesday through Saturday from 4:00 to 11:00 pm.







Bar Mara Functional Cocktails

- LOCATION245 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis
- □ DATE&TIME
 AVAILABLE IN JANUARY, HOURS VARY



Running all month long, Bar Mara showcases inventive non-alcoholic cocktails — perfect for those embracing Dry January as well as anyone who enjoys a fantastic NA drink!







Celebrate National Hot Chocolate Day with Caribou Coffee®

- LOCATION
 - Select Minneapolis Caribou Coffee locations (visit cariboucoffee.com/tan for participating coffeehouses)
- ☐ DATE&TIME

JAN. 1ST — FEB. 8TH COFFEEHOUSE HOURS VARY



From January 1 – February 8, visit participating Minneapolis Caribou Coffee locations to get your Winter Passport stamped and enjoy \$1 off a Mocha or Hot Chocolate.

Then on January 31, celebrate National Hot Chocolate Day and stop by the Caribou Coffee 'Bou Truck at The Great Northern Warming Grounds for a free small hot chocolate made with real chocolate chips.





Present your passport at participating Minneapolis Caribou Coffee locations or on-site TGN to receive your stamp!

\$1 off Mocha or Hot Chocolate

\$1 Off Mocha or Hot Chocolate reward is valid one-time only at participating Minneapolis Caribou Coffee locations. Offer is valid Jan 1 - Feb 8. This reward is only eligible on the purchase of a mocha or hot chocolate, any size. Offer is valid in-store only. This offer may be withdrawn, amended or canceled at any time.



37500

Loppet Ski School

LOCATION
 1221 Theodore Wirth Pkwy, Golden Valley

DATE

JAN, 3RD — FEB, 1ST



Grow your ski skills at Loppet Ski School!

PSIA certified instructors are ready to help with 3 week clinics, private, family and group ski lessons. Our team in Theodore Wirth Park is ready to help you reach your goals.





Glow Roll: Illuminated Bike Ride

- LOCATION
 Father Hennepin Bluff Park, 420 Main St. SE
- ☐ DATE&TIME SATURDAY JAN. 31ST | 5:30 PM



Light up the night on a Glow Roll!

The Great Northern and Melanin in Motion invite you to join this fun, illuminated bike ride that starts and ends at Father Hennepin Bluff Park. Bring your bike, add some lights, and roll with us through the city. This ride will be accompanied by a DJ to keep the groove going from start to finish.





Winter Fun Run

- LOCATION
 Father Hennepin Bluff Park, 420 Main St. SE
- TATE&TIME

 SATURDAY JAN. 31ST | 9 AM



Lace up for a fun, all-ages winter run led by professional runner Nadir Yusuf and ultra-runner & coach Wendy Krause!

Join The Great Northern on Saturday, January 31 at 9 AM at Father Hennepin Bluff Park.







Ride the BorealisSM

JAN. 1ST - FEB. 8TH



Ride the BorealisSM to complete this passport page!

Whether you're traveling one town over or riding all the way to the end of the line, your adventure counts.



"Stamp" this page by

- Drawing a quick sketch of a favorite sight from the window.
- * Writing down the first three numbers of your ticket.
- Listing the towns you've traveled through on your trip.

amtrak.com/borealis-train

Vikre Winter Lounge

LOCATION

Aster House, 25 SE Main St, Minneapolis

DATE&TIME

JAN. 30TH - FEB. 1ST I HOURS VARY



Step into the Vikre Winter Lounge, a cozy après-ski pop-up bar crafted by the flavor-obsessed minds behind Vikre Distillery.







Skate Party with Brownbody

LOCATION

Tria Skate Rink, 400 Wabasha St. N

DATE&TIME
SUNDAY FEB. 1ST | 4 PM



Step onto the ice with the ice dancers at Brownbody for a joyful Open Skate session.

Whether you're a seasoned skater or taking your first spin around the rink, everyone's welcome to move, skate, and celebrate together.







Saint Paul Winter Carnival Finale

- ◆ LOCATION Landmark Center, 75 W 5th Street
- DATE&TIME
 SATURDAY JAN. 31ST | 5−9 PM

Be there for the finale of Saint Paul Winter Carnival at Rice Park!

Visit the Food Truck Festival as you wait for the illuminated parade units in the Torchlight Parade, be there when King Boreas is overthrown by Vulcanus Rex on the steps of the library, signifying that warm weather is coming, watch an amazing fireworks display, and make your way across the street to warm up in the Landmark Center for a dance party with PJ the DJ, where there will be beverages to purchase too!

Don't miss the finale of The Coolest Celebration on Earth!





Bring your passport to the dance party check-in table to get your passport stamp!

Gabriela Lena Frank's Sandbox Premiere with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra

- LOCATION
 Ordway Concert Hall, 345 Washington St, St Paul
- ☐ DATE&TIME

 JAN. 30TH FEB. 1ST SHOWTIMES VARY

Experience the culmination of a multi-year collaboration with Sandbox Composer-in-Residence Gabriela Lena Frank, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and The Great Northern.

Frank's Sandbox premiere focuses on the legacy of John James Audubon, the ornithologist who inspired the modern conservation movement. In collaboration with poet and librettist J. Drew Lanham, whose essay "What Do We Do About John James Audubon?" inspired this project, Frank and Lanham grapple with the lesser–known story of Audubon and his legacy of racism.





Present your passport on-site to receive your stamp!

* SPECIAL OFFER!

Use code TGN2026 to get 25% off tickets.

Aniibiminwaaboo at Owamni

- ◆ LOCATION420 S 1st St, Minneapolis, MN
- ☐ DATE&TIME

 JAN. 2ND FEB. 8TH RESTAURANT HOURS VARY



Visit Owamni to experience Aniibiminwaaboo "Cranberry Juice"— a signature drink created for The Best of Winter Passport.

Its name, drawn from Ojibwe language, reflects the deep relationship between our foods and the land. Enjoy it as a cocktail or zero-proof, earn your stamp, and explore the rest of Owamni's Indigenous menu.





Poets Building Community: A Gathering of Poet Laureates

LOCATION

Open Book, Performance Hall, 1011 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis

THURSDAY JAN. 29TH I 5 PM

Join Minneapolis Poet Laureate Junauda Petrus and Poet Laureates from across Minnesota for an evening of powerful poetry, reflection, and community at Open Book.

Readings, conversation, and an open Q&A invite you into a night of poetry and creativity.







Winter Passport Challenge Page

Collect stamps in your Passport by visiting participating venues and locations. Show your Passport to the staff member at each stop to receive your stamp.

Be sure to get also get stamped at your 7th, 10th, and 15th locations to mark your progress!



Take a picture or scan your challenge page in the back of your passport and send it to passport@thegreatnorthernfestival.com by Monday, February 16th along with your name and email to get entered to win prize packages.

Winners will be notified by March 1, 2026.

DISCOVER



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WHERE THE FUN NEVER HIBERNATES

WINTER IN MINNEAPOLIS IS A SEASON-LONG CELEBRATION WHEN OUR CITY BECOMES AN URBAN WINTER PLAYGROUND, ALIVE WITH FESTIVALS, ART, FOOD, AND THE KIND OF WARMTH YOU ONLY FIND WHEN THE WORLD OUTSIDE IS FROZEN.



Learn more about all the events, experiences, and fun all around the city this winter.



+*++*

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot



OFFICIAL HOTEL PARTNER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN WINTER FESTIVAL 2026



Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot, blends historic charm with modern design in downtown Minneapolis' Mill District. Steps from the Mississippi River, it's perfect for exploring the city's sports, music, and arts scene.



Enjoy local flavors at Milwaukee Road Restaurant & Bar, relax in the heated pool, or stroll near the Stone Arch Bridge. The hotel also offers 70,000 square feet of distinctive event space.

RENAISSANCE®

MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL

Scan the QR code to learn more



PRESENTED BY:

THE GREAT NORTHERN



