



## Experience the Flavors of Minnesota's Great River Road!!

Celebrate the flavors of the Minnesota Great River Road's Mississippi River on your next road trip!! Wild Rice and walleye, straight from the river, are featured as some of the best and are classic Minnesota flavors! Bonus - you can fish yourself for the treasured walleye in many locations and experience the beautiful Minnesota outdoors at the same time. Choose one of the days below or choose them all... Just leave a "gone fishin" note and hit the road!



**Before You Go:** Place your order for **Native American-Harvested wild rice** online from the White Earth Nation at <http://realwildrice.com/wild-rice/> and gather inspiration from the recipes. For community information by region, including local tourism guides to help you find **local restaurant gems** where someone else will cook the wild rice and walleye for you, visit <http://www.mnmississippiriver.com/links.cfm>. For farmers markets and more local flavors along the way, look to **Minnesota Grown** to guide you - <https://minnesotagrown.com/>. And, the Minnesota DNR has a great online list of outfitters and boat rentals to help you plan before you leave home <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/watertrails/outfitters.html>.

**Day 1:** Begin the day at the Mississippi River headwaters in Itasca State Park, get your fishing license at the Jacob Brower Visitor Center, and pick up a copy of MN fishing regulations or check them at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishmn/regs.html>. Then launch your own boat or rent kayaks and canoes right at the park. Sleep under the stars in the park's campgrounds or enjoy the rustic historic architecture of Douglas Lodge. [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/park.html?id=spk00181#homepage](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00181#homepage)

**Day 2:** Follow the Great River Road to beautiful Lake Bemidji State Park, where you can continue to try for walleye from shore or boat, then camp at the park or find many lodging opportunities in nearby Bemidji or at surrounding river and lake resorts. Don't forget to try a local restaurant! [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water\\_access/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water_access/index.html) offers public water access maps and safety tips.

**Day 3:** Fish walleye in lakes the Mississippi River runs through as it journeys east including Andrusia, Cass, Winnibigoshish, Ball Club and Pokegama. Restock your wild rice supply at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Main Office at 15756 State Hwy 371 NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633 or online at <https://www.lwildrice.com/wild-rice-products.html> where you can also find recipes and history. For members of many Native American cultures, wild rice is not just a crop; it's a sacred component of their culture.

**Day 4:** Museum Day in Little Falls! Start at the Minnesota Fishing Museum, featuring over 10,000 artifacts related to Minnesota fishing. <http://www.mnfishingmuseum.com/> Grab some lunch downtown and head over to the Charles Lindbergh State Park and State Historic Site to soak in the beautiful setting and rich history.

**Day 5:** Below the St. Cloud dam, choose from over a dozen boat landings and fishing piers on the Mississippi between here and the Twin Cities to try your luck at fishing for walleye, or learn why this area is home to some of the best small mouth bass fishing in the state. For details about this stretch of river go to [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/watertrails/mississippiriver/seven\\_more.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/watertrails/mississippiriver/seven_more.html)

**Day 6:** Experienced paddlers can go low on the water to try their hand fishing walleye in the Twin Cities stretch of the Mississippi River by renting a kayak at <http://paddleshare.org/>, providing access to the river within the Twin Cities' very own National Park, the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area. Fishing piers, boat landings and marinas offer river access throughout this stretch too.

**Day 7:** From Hastings to the Iowa border, this section of Mississippi River offers three riverfront state parks and multiple DNR and local boat landings and marinas. The Mississippi Bluffs region is also home to the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, an angler's paradise [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Upper\\_Mississippi\\_River/Winona\\_District.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Upper_Mississippi_River/Winona_District.html). Charming river towns along the way will tempt you to extend your Flavors exploration by offering great restaurants, farmers markets and more!

For more to see and do along the Minnesota Great River Road, visit [www.mnmississippiriver.com](http://www.mnmississippiriver.com)