

# Blend & Match

## Little Falls Group Tours

Spend your Minnesota family vacation in Little Falls, “Where the Mississippi Pauses”. Relax and stay in our community where you may participate in the events and activities in our area. Select from our “Blend & Match” options to meet your family or groups’ needs.

### One Hour to an All Day Tour

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#### **Wildlife Tour (Central Minnesota’s Wild Side Map)**

Come and become one with the local Wild Kingdom, as you discover native plants, trees, flowers, and animals. See wild, native habitats for some of the most breathtaking plants and animals in their natural environment, which draws visitors from all over the globe.

**Listed are some of the many attractions along the way.**

- The Upper Mississippi River-Great River Road
- Crow Wing State Park
- Lake Alexander Preserve
- Northland Arboretum-Paul Bunyan Conservation Area
- Ripley Esker
- MacDougall Homestead
- General E.A. Walsh Training Center
- Camp Ripley Environmental Center
- Maple Island Park
- Minnesota Fishing Museum
- State Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
- Pine Grove Park & Zoo
- Belle Prairie Park
- Charles A. Lindbergh State Park
- Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site
- Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum

## 30 Minute Tours

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**Destination: Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Museum**

**Contact:** Mary Warner

**Address:** 2151 Lindbergh Drive South, Little Falls, MN 56345 **Phone:** (320) 632-4007

Located on the banks of the Mighty Mississippi River, houses the county's local history in a beautiful building surrounded by native prairie gardens, a Victorian-style fountain and gazebo. The museum boasts a wonderful exhibit on the lumber era in Minnesota, with emphasis on the central region.

**Special Instructions:** This is the County Museum.

**Admission:** No Cost

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**Destination: Episcopal Church of Our Saviour (National Register)**

**Address:** 113 4th Street NE, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-5731

Built in 1903, the church was built in the Queen Anne style. The historical windows are truly unique, hand made by craftsmen artists. Exterior walls are of granite boulders; above, there is half-timber construction, and the stucco is studded with multi-colored pebbles. The pews, nave, choir area and alter are finished in weathered oak. The church is now on the United States Department of Interior Register of Historical Buildings.

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**Destination: Holy Family Catholic Church of Belle Prairie**

**Address:** 18777 Riverwood Drive, Little Falls MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-5720

The church was built in 1877 to 1880, making it one of the oldest churches in Minnesota. The design is Rural Romanesque, with stucco on concrete walls 4 ft. thick. The entrance, bell tower & choir loft are on the east side. The parish continued to flourish both spiritually and material in the early decades of the twentieth century.

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**Destination: Our Lady of Lourdes Church**

**Address:** 208 West Broadway, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-8243

The church was built in 1922 for a Polish-speaking Catholic parish. The design is Baroque Revival, which features curving shapes, domes, columns, statues and a pair of towers as the most prominent design feature. An oil painting of the Assumption of Mary and a gem inlaid oil on canvas of Our Lady of Czestochowa (The Black Madonna) can be seen above the main alter in the East alcove.

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**Destination: St. Mary's Church**

**Address:** 305 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-5640

The cornerstone of St. Mary's Church was laid in 1956. Part of the cornerstone was taken from Saint Mary Major in Rome and also one brick from the Holy Door of the same basilica.

# 30 Minute Church Tours in Other Communities

Travel time from Little Falls, 30 minutes

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## St. Michael's Parish

**Address:** 26966 93 Street, Buckman, MN 56317

**Phone:** (320) 468-2316

The present Romanesque style church was constructed in 1902. Father Mayerhofer erected the first Stations of the Cross and ordered the Sacred Heart statue for St. Michael's Society from Tyrol, Austria. Two large bells were raised aloft. Since their entry into services, these bells have exerted and will exert, for years to come, great influence over the lives of their audience.

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## St. Stanislaus' Church

**Address:** 428 Main Street, Bowlus, MN 56314

**Phone:** (320) 584-8231

In 1909 the contract for construction began, a full basement was dug with horses & scrapers, farmers supplied the stones for the foundation. Red brick was shipped by railroad to Royalton and then hauled by horse & wagon to Bowlus. Work on the church continued throughout the winter and was ready for the dedication in the spring of 1910. At this time there were nearly 80 families belonging to the new parish.

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## The Camp Ripley Memorial Chapel

**Phone:** (320) 632-7756

**Address:** Hwy 115, Little Falls, MN (Camp Ripley)

Sheltered by Camp Ripley pines stands the National Guard Memorial Chapel, erected through the dedicated efforts of thousands of soldiers and friends in memory of all who have served their state and nation in peace and war as members of the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard.

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## St. Joseph's Catholic Church

**Address:** 68 Main Street North, Pierz, MN 56364

**Phone:** (320) 468-6971

In 1886, the first cornerstone of the present church was laid and finished in 1888. In the 1870's, the mission had 25 families, 55% came from Prussia, 24% from Austria, and 7% came from Bavaria. The others were a mixture from various countries.

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## Holy Trinity Church

**Address:** 216 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Royalton, MN 56373

**Phone:** (320) 584-5484

Built in 1913, the parish was an offshoot of the nearby North Prairie. The church itself harks back to days gone by when architecture was more intricate and colorful. Tall stained-glass windows are the first thing to catch one's eye. Such things as old-fashioned architecture, rogation days, and votive candles are evidence of the reverence many parishioners feel uphold tradition.

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## Holy Cross Church

**Address:** North Prairie, MN

The Church was built in 1883, of gothic design with a wooden structure and a brick veneer exterior. A fire destroyed the whole structure in the fall of 1921. The New structure was of Romanesque style of architecture rather than the Gothic of the ruined building.

In the early 1900's, during the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, increasing population of the surrounding parish territory resulted in dividing the area into the daughter parishes at Royalton, Bowlus and Swan River. Holy Cross Parish at North Prairie is considered one of the smaller parishes in the St. Cloud Diocese. Many of the present parishioners are from descendants who founded the parish in the 1860's.

# One Hour Tours

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**Destination: Minnesota Military Museum**

**Contact:** Dave Hanson

**Address:** 15000 Hwy 115, Little Falls, MN (Camp Ripley)

**Phone:** (320) 632-7374

**Description:** One of Minnesota's most unusual museums, nowhere in Minnesota is the experience of military men and women so vividly captured and interpreted for the public as at the Military Museum. Indoor and outdoor exhibits depict the stories and contributions of Minnesotans who served in all branches of service in time of peace and war, from Minnesota's early years, through the World Wars, leading up to current conflicts.

**Special Instructions:** This museum is within Camp Ripley.  
Tours are available year round, Individuals or groups of 10 to 20 people.

**Admission:** \$3.00 Adult donation.

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**Destination: Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery**

**Contact:** David Swantek

**Address:** 15500 Hwy 115, Little Falls, MN (Camp Ripley)

**Phone:** (320) 616-2527

**Description:** This cemetery is located 7 miles north of Little Falls on Hwy. 115 and is separated from Camp Ripley by the Mississippi River. Its purpose is to honor those men and women who served their country in time of need.

**Special Instructions:** Hours 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

**Admission:** No Cost

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**Destination: Central MN Ethanol Co-op.**

**Contact:** Scott Haggerty

**Address:** 17936 Heron Road, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-1614

**Description:** CMEC is a dry mill plant using corn for the production of fuel grade ethanol.

**Special Instructions:** Schedule tour 2 to 3 weeks in advance. Tour hours between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Preferred group size is 10 to 15 people. No cost

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**Destination: Anderson Custom Processing**

**Contact:** Bill Taszarek

**Address:** 121 Lindbergh Drive South, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-2338

**Description:** Custom spray drying of food ingredients.

**Special Instructions:** Scheduling in advance preferred. Group size 1-20 people.  
Tour hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No cost

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**Destination: Minnesota Fishing Museum**

**Contact:** Mavis Buker

**Address:** 304 West Broadway, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 616-2011

**Description:** MFM is dedicated to preserving the heritage and history of freshwater fishing in Minnesota. The museum features over 10,000 artifacts, the O'FISH-L Gift Shop, and a 1930's style fishing cabin.

**Special Instructions:** Group tours are available year around. Handicap accessible.

**Admission:** Children (5 and under): Free, Students (6-17): \$4.00, Adults: \$5.00, Seniors (60 and over): \$4.00. Please call for group rates.

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**Destination: Larson Boat Museum and Wildlife Animal Collection**      **Contact:** John Monahan

**Address:** 14753 Iris Road, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-4473

**Description:** A vast, priceless collection of history and memorabilia of Larson Boats, beginning to its present day international marketing, with the most technological advanced boat building system (VEC) in the world.

**Special Instructions:** Tours only by appointment.

**Admission:** No Cost

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**Destination: Camp Ripley Environmental  
Education Center**

**Contact:** Jay Brezinka (320) 616-2720

**Contact:** Dan Bednarek (320) 616-2715

**Address:** Training and Community Center at Camp Ripley  
15000 Hwy 115, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-7296

**Description:** Camp Ripley's 53,000 acres is full of interesting plant and animal life. To showcase the Natural Resources that exist at Camp Ripley an environmental classroom and museum was established for the benefit of educating soldiers, local schools and the general public.

**Special Instructions:** To schedule a tour or presentation, please contact the Personnel Community Activities Office at Camp Ripley at (320) 632-7296. Hours are from 8:00-4:30 Monday through Friday. Appointments are preferred.

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## One to Two Hour Tours

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**Destination:** Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site

**Contact:** Charles Pautler

**Address:** 1620 Lindbergh Drive South, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 616-5421

**Description:** The famous aviator spent happy boyhood summers at this cottage on the Mississippi. Now you can enjoy its cozy kitchen, hear the whisper of pines from the porch where he slept, or walk by the river where he dreamed of flight. A history center adjacent to the house tells more of the family history.

**Special Instructions:** Schedule groups of 10 or more in advance. For Large groups pull the bus up to the Museum, where coffee and cookies will be made available. The tour consists of the Museum and the Lindbergh Home and will take about 1 & ½ hours.

**Admission:** For Group Tours, adults \$6.00 - Educational Children Tours, \$5.00 per student.

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**Destination:** St. Francis Church

**Address:** 116 8th Avenue SE, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-2981

**Description:** The first French Catholic Church in Little Falls was built in 1892

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**Destination:** Pine Grove Park Zoo

**Contact:** Marnita VanHoecke

**Address:** 1200 West Broadway, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 616-5595

**Description:** Pine Grove Park Zoo is nestled among one of the last standing groves of White Pines. The zoo is home to a variety of exotic, native and domestic animals. Along with the zoo, Pine Grove Park offers a beautiful wooded setting for an afternoon picnic or stroll.

**Special Instructions:** Call for instructions on scheduling group tours. Groups no larger than 25.

**Admission:** Self-guided tour of an unrelated group of a minimum of 12 people: \$2.00 per person. Guided tour of an unrelated group of a minimum of 12 people: \$2.00 per person plus \$25.00 guide fee. Guided tour of an unrelated group of 12-25 people: \$2.00 per person plus \$40.00 guide fee.

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**Destination:** Linden Hill (Musser/Weyerhaeuser Homes)

**Contact:** Terri Briggs

**Address:** 608 Highland Avenue, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 616-5580

**Description:** Built in 1898 the two neighboring homes of Charles A. Weyerhaeuser and Richard "Drew" Musser are a physical reminder of the lumbering era in Minnesota. The houses occupy a nine acre wooded site along the Mississippi River with beautiful landscaped lawns and gardens. Furnished with antiques and original heirlooms, guests will enjoy a guided or self guided tour.

**Special Instructions:** Tours are available by appointment.

**Admission:** \$10.00

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**Destination:** St. Francis Convent and Campus

**Contact:** Sr. Christelle Watercott

**Address:** 116 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Phone:** (320) 632-2981

**Description:** St. Francis Convent and Campus was founded by the Franciscan Sister of Little Falls in 1891. St. Francis is home to Sacred Heart Chapel. A Romanesque influence can be seen in its pillars, rounded arches and the symbolism of the stained glass windows. The Campus Convent and Chapel is open to the public and is a wonderful example of the missionary work that has been taking place in Minnesota, and around the world, for hundreds of years.

**Special Instructions:** Call for scheduling group tours. Everyone welcome.

**Admission:** No cost, Donations welcome

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**Destination: Historic Downtown National Register**

**Contact:** Visitors Bureau

**Address:** Little Falls, MN

**Phone:** (320) 616-4959

**Description:** Historic Downtown Shopping and Dining are a highlight for anyone's visit to Little Falls. There are numerous historic buildings, as well as new ones, that serve the downtown shopping district. One of the oldest buildings in Little Falls was built in the 1850's and houses an old-fashioned barber shop. Other shops include floral, gift, antique and jewelry to name a few. There are also many great dining options to choose from. Tour downtown: (Historic Walking Tour Brochure) shops, eateries, Pete & Joys (bakery, candies, café – catering for picnics and more), historic court house, shoe shop, Arts & Crafts Fair, City of Lights, Art Gallery, concerts in the park.

**Special Instructions:** Pick up your Historic Downtown Walking & Driving Tour guide & map at the Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau at 606 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE, Little Falls, MN.

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**Destination: City Tour**

**Contact:** Visitors Bureau

**Address:** Little Falls, MN

**Phone:** (320) 616-4959

**Description:** Established in 1848, Little Falls is one of the oldest cities in Minnesota. A step on guide will show you our Mississippi River Town and talk about the history behind it.

**Special Instructions:** Fee for step on guide

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## Three Hour Tours

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### Historic Walking Tour (Brochure) 3 Hours

Little Falls is rich in heritage dating back to 1848, making it one of the oldest cities in the State of Minnesota. Our history is a treasure that we are very proud to share. We wish you a wonderful experience in our historic Little Falls.

### Century Homes Tour (Brochure) 3 Hours

Stroll through pristine Little Falls neighborhoods into another time; let your eyes and imagination feast on the century-old homes, resplendent in their late 19<sup>th</sup> Century beauty.

### Charles A. Lindbergh History Tour (Brochure) 2 Hours

The America's Lone Eagle, Charles A. Lindbergh, the man who started an aviation revolution learned first-hand about hard work and ingenuity on his Little Falls farm. Come explore the world of the boy who became "The Lone Eagle" and trace the steps of this young daredevil who flew non-stop across the Atlantic, becoming the most famous man in the world.

## Other Area Attractions to see and visit

The time varies according to interest

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- **Little Falls 18 Hole Golf Course** – 1 Edgewater Drive, Little Falls, MN 56345  
Phone: (320) 632-3584
- **Little Falls Murals** – on Broadway Avenue West and Broadway Avenue East, also Second Street NE.
- **Little Falls Frescoes** – Lindbergh School, 102 9th Street SE, Little Falls, MN 56345  
Phone: (320) 616-4200
- **Historic Morrison County Courthouse** (National Register)
- **Cass Gilbert Depot** (National Register) – 200 First Street NW, Little Falls, MN 56345  
Phone: (320) 632-5155
- **Mississippi River and Dam**
- **Maple Island Park** – First Street SE and 3rd Street SE, Little Falls, MN 56345  
Phone: (320) 632-2341
- **Carnegie City Library** (National Register) – 108 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NE, Little Falls, MN 56345  
Phone: (320) 632-9676
- **Cross Rocks** – At Blanchard Dam, Take Hilton Rd (8.6 miles) to 68<sup>th</sup> Street (take path at the dead end road). Cross Rocks are Staurolites, better known as "fairy stones".
- **Missionary Franciscan Sisters Log Cabin** – 8801 Riverwood Drive, Little Falls, MN 56345  
Phone: (320) 632-5720

## Area Events to Attend

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### **Little Falls Dam Festival (JUNE)**

The best Dam Festival in Minnesota is held annually the third weekend of June in Little Falls, Minnesota. This three day family event focuses on the history and heritage of the Little Falls area in connection with the Mississippi River and the dam. **Phone:** (320) 616-4959

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### **Annual Arts and Craft Show (Weekend after Labor Day)**

This two day show brings over 700 exhibitors from twelve different states to the east and west sides of downtown Little Falls, making it one of the largest arts and craft fairs in the Midwest.

**Phone:** (320) 632-5155

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### **Lone Eagle Auto Club Car Show & Swap Meet (Weekend after Labor Day)**

Come see over 32 classes of cars at the Morrison County Fairgrounds 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Phone of:** (320) 632-6849 Wayne Hansmann

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### **Antiques and Collectibles Fair (Weekend after Labor Day)**

The nostalgia of days gone by can be recaptured as you wonder through the antiques and collectibles fair. Enjoy shopping for that one-of-a-kind antique or that little something you've needed to finish off your décor.

**Phone:** (320) 632-5670 Dave or Helen Rausch

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As you can see we have many tour options in the Little Falls area. Call us with your tourism needs. Visit us a day, two days, three days or more. We will develop the "perfect" tour for you. Step on guides are available for a fee. Thank you!

**Cathy VanRisseghem, Director**

**Little Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau**

**606 First Street SE, Little Falls, MN 56345**

**(320) 616-4959 Fax (320) 616-4961**

**E-mail [lfcvb@charter.net](mailto:lfcvb@charter.net)**

**[www.littlefallsmn.com](http://www.littlefallsmn.com)**

Where the Mississippi pauses... discovery begins. Overflowing with history and tradition, Little Falls is a place where young and old alike immerse themselves in the many attractions and events that speak of life along the banks of the mighty Mississippi. Here, where memories have been made, we invite you to come and make your own.