



MAGIC

The Gathering

GRAND PRIX

Travel Guide Minneapolis

May 18-20, 2012



Prepared by Steve Peterman
and Rob McKenzie

Venue and Hotel information

The Minneapolis Convention Center

is located on the south side of Downtown Minneapolis, and has been home to many Magic events in the past several years, including the last Grand Prix to hit the state back in 2009 and US Nationals 2010. Parking is available on the East side of the building near Central Lutheran Church and in the lot on the south side of the building. Expect event parking to cost around \$10 each day.



The Holiday Inn Express

will be the Staff Hotel for the weekend, and is just across the street from the venue on the North side. Parking at the hotel is \$13/day for guests. There is a shuttle that runs to and from the airport at \$18, and a taxi ride will cost you about \$40 each direction. I suggest not doing either, and using the high quality public transit Minneapolis has to offer. There is a light rail station at Terminal 2 that runs direct to downtown every 15 minutes during peak hours, 30 minutes during off hours. You can use this link to get an itinerary for it and linked bus hops to the convention center: <http://bit.ly/le7E3o> The cost is \$2.25 during rush hours and \$1.75 otherwise, and includes transfers. Public transit only takes exact change, no credit cards. If you are arriving elsewhere, the Metro Transit trip planner at <http://www.metrotransit.org/TripPlanner/Default.aspx> and Google Maps are very good at figuring out public transit routes.

If you're not joining us at the staff hotel, Steve Port (event organizer) has suggested going on priceline.com or similar sites to get a good rate nearby.



Travel by Plane

Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP)

is probably your only way into town if you are going to fly. The airport is divided into two terminals: **Terminal 1-Lindbergh** and **Terminal 2-Humphrey**, with most flights arriving at the former. Savvy travelers should check to make sure they know which terminal they are arriving at/departing from. Shuttles and taxis leave from both terminals, so you shouldn't have far to walk.

Delta Airlines (Lindbergh Terminal) and Sun Country Airlines (Humphrey Terminal) both call Minneapolis home and should be able to provide the best rates.



Travel by Bus/Car

Greyhound and Jefferson Lines buses

arrive at the Hawthorne Transportation Center (see map on next page) in downtown Minneapolis. It's about a 15 minute walk to the venue if it's nice out, or an even shorter taxi ride if it's not. The depot is near a homeless shelter, so it's not uncommon to see a few homeless people hanging out nearby. The area is well-patrolled and quite safe. Some bus routes make additional stops.

Greyhound: Open 24h/day.

Greyhound Express: Service from Chicago and Milwaukee.

Fares from \$1 and up.

Jefferson Lines: Operates scheduled services across the state to South Dakota, Wisconsin, and beyond. Jefferson prides itself on its 'eco-friendly' new coaches.

Driving from the North

Interstate 35 splits into 35W and 35E north of the Twin Cities. Follow 35W into Minneapolis and follow signs for Interstate 94 West. After making the exit (be careful, it's tricky), stay in the right lane and exit onto 11th street. Make your way to the left lane, turn left on 3rd Ave and you'll see the convention center directly in front of you.

Driving from the South

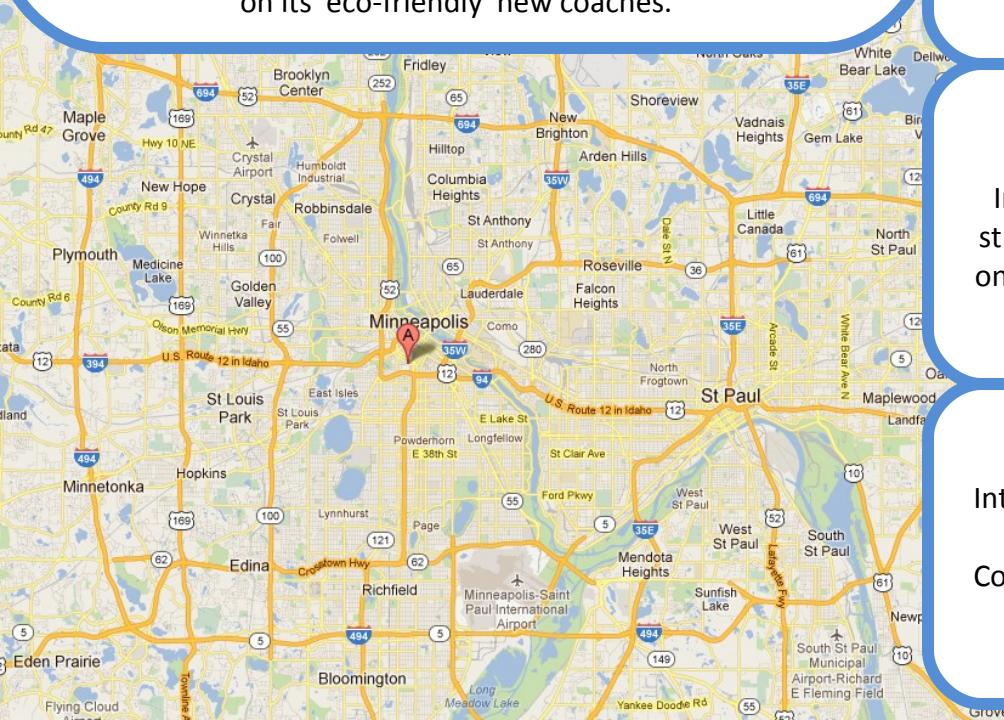
Interstate 35 splits into 35W and 35E south of the Twin Cities. Follow 35W into Minneapolis and follow signs for the Downtown Exits. Stay in the right lane and exit immediately onto 11th street. Make your way to the left lane, turn left on 3rd Ave and you'll see the convention center directly in front of you.

Driving from the East

Interstate 94 goes directly through the Twin Cities. Exit onto 11th street just past 35W and make your way to the left lane. Make a left onto 3rd Ave and you'll see the convention center directly in front of you.

Driving from the West

Interstate 394 is the best way in coming from due west. Take exit 9A onto 12th Street, and continue on 12th for about 6 blocks. The Convention Center will be on your right. Coming from the northwest or southwest it is usually easier to get onto 35W and follow the corresponding directions.



Things to do, Places to eat

Food and Drink

- 1 **Porter and Frye** is located one block north of the convention center on 2nd Ave and is a midrange seafood restaurant and cocktail bar.
- 2 **Ping's** is a Chinese place on 14th St on the west side of the convention center.
- 3 **Ichiban** is a pricey Japanese steak house on Nicollet Mall right in front of the Hyatt Regency
- 4 **Spike's Sports Bar and Grille** is located inside the Hyatt Regency
- 5 **Brit's Pub** is located just south of 11th St on Nicollet Mall
- 6 **The Local (Irish Pub)** is on the corner of 10th St and Nicollet Mall.
- 7 **Dakota Jazz club** on Nicollet Mall between 10th and 11th.
- 8 **Salsa a la Salsa** is a Mexican restaurant on the west side of the venue between 14th and 15th on Nicollet Ave
- 9 **Dunn Bros Coffee** is located on the first floor of the convention center near the front entrance for your morning wake up call.
- 10 **Fogo de Chão** is located on Hennepin Ave, five blocks north and six blocks west of the convention center. (15 minute walk)

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- 2 **Holiday Inn Express**
 - Minneapolis Convention Center
 - Hawthorne Bus Depot

Other stuff to do

- 11 **Orchestra Hall**, home to the Minnesota Orchestra, is just a few blocks away at 11th St and Nicollet Mall (tickets at minnesotaorchestra.org).
- 12 **The Theater District** is just a short cab ride (or a 15 minute walk) away. Check Minneapolis-theater.com for ticketing information ahead of time.

Miscellaneous Information

Weather Information

It has been fairly balmy for a Minnesota spring lately, with temperatures in the 50s and 60s nearly every day. My suggestion is a windbreaker or sweatshirt for downtown walking, something you can get out of easily once inside. For a warmer indoor alternative, the skyways let you get nearly anywhere downtown.

Smoking

Hennepin County (including Minneapolis) has banned smoking in all bars and restaurants. If you choose to smoke, you must be outdoors and at least 30 feet away from public entryways. And as always, please throw away your butts.

Getting around town

Minneapolis is laid out as a grid, with streets running roughly East-West and avenues running North-South. Almost every paved surface is one-way traffic; the even numbered streets run (south)east, and the odd streets run (north)west. Some of the avenues no longer have numbered names, but when they do, odds go north and evens go south.

Hospital

Hennepin County Medical Center occupies 5 city blocks in downtown Minneapolis, and is a world class medical center. The 900 bed facility includes a Level 1 Adult and Pediatric Trauma center and over a dozen other specialty care centers. General Information ☎ +1 612 873-3000

Magic: the Gathering

In case you are looking to play some Magic at a store during the weekend, the three stores closest to downtown are Universe Games (<http://universegames.com>), Dreamers, and the Monster Den (both at <http://www.dreamersgames.com>).

Consulates :

Canada, 701 4th Ave S, Suite 901, ☎ +1 612 333-4641 (mnpls-td@international.gc.ca, fax: +1 612 332-4061)

Mexico, 797 E 7th St, Saint Paul, ☎ +1 651 771 5494 (<http://www.sre.gob.mx/saintpaul>, fax: +1 651 772 4419).

Norway, 901 Marquette Ave, ☎ +1 612 332-3338 (hcg.minneapolis@mfa.no, fax: +1 612 332-1386)

Austria (Honorary), 10700 Highway 55, Suite 300, Plymouth, ☎ +1 763 543 0109 (herbk@crowntonka.com, fax: +1 763 543 2384)

Finland (Honorary), 2429 Girard Ave S, ☎ +1 612 374 2718 (kmwargelin@comcast.net, fax: +1 612 374 2718),

Germany (Honorary), 60 S 6th St, Suite 2800, ☎ +1 612 342-9899 (HonoraryConsul@tripleink.com, fax: +1 612 596-3899)

Netherlands (Honorary), 33 S 6th St, Suite 4200, ☎ +1 612 373-8831 (consul@minnesotaconsul.nl, fax: +1 612 373-8881)

Switzerland (Honorary), 18250 39th Ave N, Plymouth, ☎ +1 763 478 3018 (rudigutmann@cs.com, fax: +1 763 478 3018)

United Kingdom (Honorary), 800 Nicollet Mall, Suite 2600, ☎ +1 612 338 2525 (fax: +1 612 339 2386)