

## Travel to the Conference Hotel

If you travel by flight, please land at Minneapolis / St. Paul International Airport, you can take a free hotel shuttle bus from the airport to the hotel (about 5-10 minute driving time). The shuttle bus runs every 30 minutes.

If you travel by car, please check the driving directions via the following hotel link.

<http://www.himspairport.com/location.php> or call (952) 854-9000

## Convenience & Comfort

Bloomington is one of Minnesota's largest cities, conveniently located within minutes of Minneapolis / St. Paul International Airport (MSP), 10 miles (15 k) of Minneapolis and St. Paul and less than 20 minutes from popular area attractions. You'll find over 35 family-friendly to elegant hotels to choose from in Bloomington, offering convenience, comprehensive amenities and impeccable service. For your convenience, most Bloomington hotels provide free shuttle service to and from the airport and free transportation to Mall of America®. Our city is also linked to the popular new Hiawatha Light Rail Line providing easy access to the heart of downtown Minneapolis.

## Destination Bloomington

For unique experiences that rival some of the country's top locale, Bloomington provides a dynamic mix of first-class attractions, vibrant restaurants and elegant hotels. From an exhilarating walk in a wildlife refuge to a relaxing dinner at an exceptional restaurant, we've got you covered.

No visit to Bloomington would be complete without exploring Mall of America (<http://www.mallofamerica.com>), the country's largest indoor retail and entertainment complex. 520 stores, including Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Nordstrom and Sears. 50 restaurants to satisfy every taste. Free parking. Free shuttles. Fabulous indoor entertainment. And "Mega" more.

- Tax Free shopping on clothing and shoes
- Nickelodeon Universe® Theme Park
- Underwater Adventures® Aquarium
- Moose Mountain Adventure Golf
- LEGO Imagination Center
- A.C.E.S. Flight Simulation
- NASCAR Silicon Motor Speedway
- Theatres at Mall of America™

## Beyond the Mall

For the art lover, special exhibits and programs are highlighted throughout the year at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Walker Art Center and the Weisman Art Museum. A variety of theaters and performing arts centers bring impeccable first-run Broadway theater and top notch local talent to the stage at venues including the Guthrie, the Ordway, the Orpheum and State theaters.

The younger set will find fun ways to learn at the Science Museum and the Children's Museum in Saint Paul. And they can "go wild" at the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley and the Como Zoo in Saint Paul.

Speaking of "wild," the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a unique 14,000-acre, 45-mile natural habitat - one of the few found in an urban setting. Take a stroll along the winding paths, cross-country ski, bike, hike, watch migrating birds or simply relax and enjoy the pristine wilderness.

## Brief Bloomington, Minnesota History

Since its founding in the early 1830s, Bloomington, Minnesota has thrived, emerging as a dynamic urban township that rivals nearby Minneapolis and St. Paul as a major Twin Cities retail and hospitality center. Dakota Indians were the area's first residents, followed by missionaries and pioneers. In 1851, the area was formally opened up to settlers and named after Bloomington, Illinois. The population continued to grow from Minnesota's 1858 admission to statehood, through WWI and into the 1950s. After WWII, the development of low-cost housing, the completion of Interstates 35W and 494 and the relocation of many large businesses to the Bloomington area sparked major growth and expansion. In the 1960s, another boost came from the Minnesota Twins and Vikings who both played their home games in Bloomington's Metropolitan Stadium. Sporting events brought traffic and revenue to the city, until the teams were relocated to the Metrodome in 1982. The old "Met Stadium" transformed into an even bigger draw – the Mall of America®. Today, Mall of America and the hospitality industry is the largest private employer in Bloomington and is perhaps the most popular attraction in Minnesota. As its past attests, Bloomington, Minnesota's history of continual development has helped to foster this beautiful city into the thriving hospitality hub it is today.

## Area Facts

### *Bloomington, Minnesota Facts*

- Early pioneers who moved to the Bloomington area in 1851 named their new settlement after their hometown: Bloomington, Illinois. The name, ironically enough, means flowering field.
- During the 1960s, Bloomington experienced a population boom as businesses moved into the area, I-35W and I-494 were completed and every major sports team in Minnesota played within its city limits. Bloomington's slogan became "All the Businesses That Will Fit."
- Nearly a third of Bloomington's 39 square miles is comprised of reserved park land, including the Minnesota Valley wetlands and Hyland Lake Park Reserve.
- Bloomington celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2008. The state of Minnesota, along with the city of Bloomington, was officially recognized in 1858.
- The cities of Bloomington and Minneapolis are the farthest north latitude cities to ever host a World Series game.
- Tom Burnett, a Bloomington native, was among the 44 people killed on United Airlines Flight 93 during the September 11 terrorist attacks. He was able to call his wife after the plane was hijacked and is credited with helping fight the terrorists. A memorial recognizing his heroism now stands in Bloomington.
- The Mall of America® is located on the former site of the Metropolitan Stadium, home of the Minnesota Twins and Vikings until 1982 when the Humphrey Metrodome opened in Minneapolis.
- Mall of America is big enough to hold 32 Boeing 747s.
- If a shopper spent 10 minutes browsing at every store, it would take them more than 86 hours to complete their visit to Mall of America.
- Bloomington is the 5th largest city in Minnesota, with a population of 85,000.
- Thanks to the Mall of America, several large company headquarters like International Dairy Queen, Toro, Ceridian, HeathPartners, Best Buy, and a booming hospitality network, the city of Bloomington has more jobs per capita than either St. Paul or Minneapolis.

### *Minnesota Facts*

- Land of 10,000 lakes: Well, actually there are 12,034 lakes in Minnesota larger than ten acres. Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world.

Minnesota boasts 90,000 miles of lake and river shoreline, more shoreline than California, Florida and Hawaii combined.

- The Headwaters of the Mississippi River is located in Itasca State Park.
- Minnesota's economy consistently ranks as one of the nation's strongest and best.
- Famous firms with headquarters in Minnesota include Best Buy, Northwest Airlines, Medtronic, Carlson Companies, Target Corporation, SuperValu, 3M and more.
- The metro area boasts an astonishing 929 lakes.
- Minneapolis alone has over 170 parks.
- Minnesota has nearly 475 golf courses and adds more each year.
- The Twin Cities are recognized nationally as a cultural center, with a strong arts community in everything from music and literature to dance and visual arts.
- There are nearly 400 professional and community theaters statewide, with about half of them in the Twin Cities—which has more theater seats per capita than any other city outside New York.

## **Climate & Weather Forecast**

Mild springs, warm summers, crisp, cool falls and chilly winters—Bloomington enjoys four well-defined seasons each year. Although winters are quite cold (January averages a high of 22° Fahrenheit and a low of 4° Fahrenheit), summers are never oppressive. While the Southeast and Southwest are battling temperatures in the 90s and 100s, Bloomington, Minnesota's climate offers warm days with an average high of 83°. Spring and fall are generally temperate, with average highs of 58° and 59°, respectively. A great place to visit any time of the year, Bloomington features events and activities ideally suited to both frosty winter days and balmy summer afternoons.

## **Monthly Averages**

- Month Average Low Average High
- January 4° 22°
- February 12° 29°
- March 23° 41°
- April 36° 57°
- May 48° 79°
- June 58° 70°
- July 63° 83°
- August 61° 80°
- September 51° 71°
- October 39° 58°
- November 25° 40°
- December 11° 26°