

TWIN CITIES METRO

Weather Guide

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

FALL

What to actually expect when you move to Minnesota: four seasons, honest answers, and what daily life looks like year round.

The Four Seasons at a Glance

WINTER**December - February****20–28°F**

Cold, snowy, and sustained. Roads get cleared fast and the city keeps moving. Infrastructure is built for this. Manageable once you have the right setup.

SPRING**March - May****45–68°F**

Variable but energizing. By May the city is fully alive — farmers markets, patios, trails, and a general sense that everyone is very happy to be outside.

SUMMER**June - August****78–84°F**

Warm, sunny, and loaded with outdoor options. Low humidity compared to most of the country. Long evenings well past 9pm. Lake access everywhere.

FALL**September - November****40–65°F**

Arguably the most beautiful season here. Peak foliage in October, crisp air, and a city that's active right up until winter sets in. Often surprises people the most.

"Each season makes the next one more meaningful. That's something you don't fully appreciate until you've lived it."

 **DECEMBER - FEBRUARY**

Winter: The Honest Truth

What You're Actually Dealing With

January is the coldest month, with average highs around 23°F and lows that dip well below zero during cold snaps. Wind chill is a real factor. Snow accumulates and stays.

That said, this is a city that has been doing winter for a long time and is very good at it.

- Roads get plowed quickly — life doesn't stop after a snowstorm
- The downtown Minneapolis skyway system connects blocks of restaurants, offices, and retail without stepping outside
- Remote starts and heated garages make a bigger difference than people expect
- You dress for it, develop a routine, and it becomes normal

What most transplants say after their first winter:

More manageable than expected. The cold is real, but the city handles it well and life doesn't grind to a halt the way it might somewhere that isn't built for it.

23°F

AVERAGE JANUARY HIGH

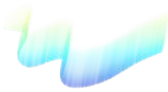
54"

AVERAGE ANNUAL SNOWFALL
SPREAD ACROSS 5 MONTHS

4:30pm

SUNSET IN DECEMBER
SHORTEST DAYS OF THE YEAR

Daylight is short in December and January — sunrise around 7:45am, sunset by 4:30pm. Some people feel this more than others. Getting outside when you can and using good lighting at home makes a real difference.



Northern Lights

Minnesota sits far enough north that the aurora borealis is visible from the Twin Cities several times a year — especially during periods of high solar activity. You don't need to drive to the Boundary Waters to see them. A clear night away from direct downtown light is often enough. It's one of those things that sounds like a stretch until you see it yourself.

Spring and Summer The Payoff




Spring

March is a transition month — variable, muddy, with late snow still possible. By April things start to shift. May is one of the best months of the year.

- Farmers markets open across the metro starting in May
- Lakes warm up for kayaking and paddleboarding
- Restaurant patios open and people take full advantage
- The city has a distinct energy — people are genuinely happy to be outside

Spring in the Twin Cities feels earned. That's not a cliché — it's one of the things transplants say most consistently about their first year here.

Summer by the Numbers

June		Avg high 80°F
July		Avg high 84°F
August		Avg high 82°F

Summer

This is where the Twin Cities genuinely deliver. Temperatures are warm but not brutal. Humidity exists in July but is nowhere near what you'd deal with in Florida, Houston, or the mid-Atlantic. Long days mean outdoor time well past 9pm through June and July.

- **900+** lakes within an hour of downtown — swimming, boating, fishing, paddleboarding
- Neighborhood festivals and events almost every weekend
- The Grand Rounds and Midtown Greenway trail systems are packed
- Minnesota State Fair in late August draws over 2 million visitors
- Rooftop bars, outdoor dining, and patio culture are a big part of city life

The thing people don't expect

A lot of people move to the Twin Cities for affordability. A lot of them stay because of summers like this. The lakes change everything — they're not a destination, they're part of everyday life.

Fall — The Season that Surprises People

What Fall Actually Looks Like

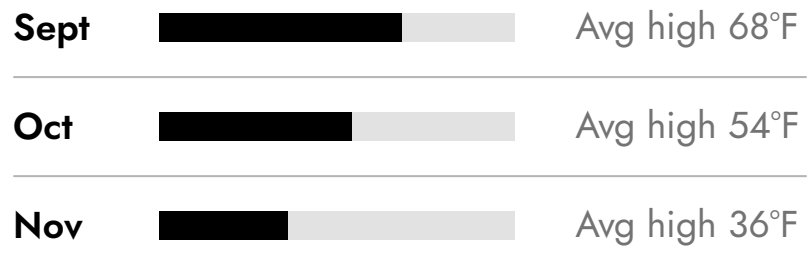
Fall is arguably the most beautiful season in the Twin Cities — and the one that catches most newcomers off guard. September and October bring cooler temperatures, brilliant foliage, and some of the best outdoor conditions of the year.

- Peak foliage typically hits early to mid October
- Apple orchards and pumpkin patches across the metro and greater Minnesota
- Hiking, biking, and trail use at its best
- College football, pro sports, and the arts season all kick off simultaneously
- Crisp air, clear skies, and smaller crowds than summer

The transition

First frost typically arrives in early to mid October. By November temperatures drop quickly and winter starts to set in. The window is real — enjoy it while it's there.

Fall by the Numbers



What's Happening in Fall

ACTIVITY	WHEN
Peak foliage color	Early - mid October
Apple orchards open	Mid September - October
Vikings/Twins season	September- November
Arts & theater season	September - May
First frost	Early - mid October
First significant snow	Late October - November

Most people who move here in summer don't fully fall in love with the Twin Cities until their first October. That tends to be the moment it clicks.

How it Compares to Where You Are Now

WHERE YOU'RE FROM	WINTER SHIFT	SUMMER SHIFT	OVERALL
Florida	Major adjustment — real cold for the first time	Much lower humidity, actually enjoyable outdoors	
Texas/Arizona	Significant — dry heat replaced by cold winters	Dramatically more comfortable — summer is a relief	Heat fatigue is real; most find the trade-off worth it
California	Biggest weather shift on this list	Warmer and more humid, but still very enjoyable	Cold is the adjustment; lifestyle often exceeds expectations
Illinois/Wisconsin	Slightly colder, but you already know winter	Very similar, with better lake access	<i>Minimal weather shock — infrastructure here is excellent</i>
Michigan	Colder but drier — less lake effect wind	Similar temperatures, less humidity on average	Familiar overall — Upper Peninsula folks barely notice
Iowa	Slightly colder than southern Iowa	Very similar	Not a significant weather adjustment
North Dakota	Often warmer than where you came from	More to do in every season	Twin Cities is practically mild by ND standards

The bottom line on weather

Most people adapt faster than they expect. The infrastructure here — snow removal, indoor connectivity, year-round events — makes winter genuinely livable. And the summers are the kind that make people forget why they were worried.

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