

# ADVENTURE, LITE

*Mild but amazing ventures into nature.*

## DAY ONE

### 1:00 POLK CO. INFORMATION CENTER

Gain some background about the St. Croix Valley and all it has to offer. Have a friendly chat with Director Sue, and take in the historical photos, area happenings and the not-to-miss-places.

### 1:30 BIKE N' HIKE WITH GUIDE

Explore our wooded city-limits bike trails—via rented bike--and end up at one of several Ice Age Trail trailheads. The guided hike will lead you back in time on a one-time railroad bed, the first land farmed in St. Croix Falls and the ancient basalt of Wisconsin's glacial times.

### 3:00 HISTORIC TAYLORS FALLS AND ST. CROIX FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD STROLL

Back in the day, these two towns were one community. Some settlers came for fortune and some to simply raise a family, but people stayed for the exceptional scenery and the quality of life in this friendly valley. History is all around. It's easy to imagine what life might have been like and even more fun to hear a story or two from our local historical guides.

### 5:00 SUNSET DINNER CRUISE

Board the Taylor's Falls Princess and enjoy a relaxing two-hour tour down the St. Croix. A fantastic dinner buffet including barbeque ribs and roast beef will make you think heaven just might be around the next bend.

## DAY TWO

### 8:00 BREAKFAST BUFFET HOLIDAY INN

### 9:00 INTERSTATE PARK--POTHOLE TRAIL

Ranger Julie Fox was raised in St. Croix Falls and knows these Dalles well. On a guided trail hike, she'll explain how the rare and amazing potholes and this very first of Wisconsin State Parks came to be.

### 11:00 CANOE TRIP AND PICNIC LUNCH FROM FINE ACRES MARKET

Having just celebrating 40 years as one of our nation's very first protected Wild and Scenic rivers, the St. Croix's pure water and natural beauty is an experience beyond compare. Canoes, guide, picnic and peace on the quiet river included. Take the day and make some memories.

### 5:00 *Hotel down time*

### 6:00 WINE TASTING DINNER AT CHATEAU ST. CROIX WINERY

Finish the day in style at this European-inspired estate. A tour, some fabulous wines and an exquisite dinner to match is most definitely a delightful exploration.

## DAY THREE

### 7:00 COFFEE AND ROLLS TO GO

Pick up a quick breakfast at the hotel—an exciting day is in store!

### 7:30 BIRDING EXCURSION—STRAIGHT LAKE STATE PARK

"Straight Lake is one of Wisconsin's best places--a pristine natural area with beauty that is second to none," said Governor Doyle of Wisconsin's newest state park. Containing 850 acres of mature forest with trees approaching 100 years old, birding with expert ranger Robin Maerklein is ideal. On a quiet walk in this untouched land, you'll see the woods in a new way—through birdsong.

### 11:00 LUNCH AT CAFÉ WREN

Proclaiming the most creative menu in the northwoods, Café Wren is a unique environment where folks gather to enjoy delicious, thoughtfully made food. Fresh local ingredients on the tables and art from local artists on the walls, it's such a popular destination, people drive from miles around to feel right at home!

### 1:00 ARTIST STUDIO TOURS

**ADRIANNA STUDIOS:** Gloria Adrian's studio is an inspiration. The one-hundred year old Swedish homestead is the space that led her mid-life to a career as an artist. The Amish and women who work with their hands are among her favorite subjects.

### **BLACKBERRY HILLS FARMS:**

Loretta raises her sheep, llamas and alpacas, harvests the wool, dyes the wool and creates gorgeous original garments. She's the definition of homemade. You'll leave her idyllic, hillside farm in absolute awe.

### 3:30 ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC DAM TOUR

The river had always been very heart of the City of St. Croix Falls, and this tour lends a special story with a very special view. See the new film featuring the river at the National Park Service then stroll Gaylord Nelson Riverway to the Overlook Deck. Here, the Falls of the St. Croix definitively thundered below the hills of the city until 1906 when turn-of-the-century progress changed the scene forever. Celebrating 100 years.

### 5:00 *Hotel downtime*

### 6:00 DINNER AT GRECCO'S ON THE ST. CROIX

Tucked inside one of the historic building on Washington Street, the awarding-winning Dam Bistro offers food that need not be hidden. Locally grown veggies and organic meats are featured in creative presentations. Located two blocks from Festival Theatre.

### 7:30 FESTIVAL THEATRE

This 1917 Vaudeville house has been home to a professional theatre company since 1990. The space is intimate and welcoming—the perfect place to settle back and watch life's foibles and fancies, troubles and triumphs unfold on stage, themes that urge us to remember what life was like, to savor the here and now and *to live life's adventure.*

**NOTE:** We can also provide assistance securing fishing guides and equipment, golf outings and photography outings.