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Minnesota

2013 GROUP & PACKAGED TRAVEL PLANNER

Celebrating
75 Years
along the Great River Road

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HEADWATERS:

Where the Mississippi River Begins

SCENIC

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Sample Itineraries



"Great Mississippi"

"She's the great Mississippi

She's a winding road

Every turn, every bend will bring you back again

For a story told"

GREAT MISSISSIPPI, Words & Music by Charlie Maguire

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I'll tell you a story, and it all begins right here ...

Seventy-five years ago in 1938, "The Great River Road" was established along one of the most famous rivers in the world: the Mississippi. This road, marked with its distinctive ship's wheel on green signs, will take you on a story-telling journey of a lifetime.

If you want to experience the tales of the Mississippi you must first start here and travel through Minnesota; the state where the great river began at Lake Itasca more than 12,000 years ago.

Rivers can't "talk" exactly, but the landscape speaks of the song of the river amid the huge red and white pines of Itasca State Park. As you travel, imagine a sound track in your head starting first with Native-American songs of the river beaten on drums, then add fiddle and banjo tunes known to Mississippi River travelers more than 100 years ago, as well as old-sounding new folksong ballads by troubadours such as myself.

Fortify your musical wanderings and river scenery with books on the Minnesota Mississippi, with heartfelt reminiscences like one of my favorites, Charles A. Lindbergh's memoir of his boyhood as he grew up on the



banks of the river in Little Falls.

As the pace quickens and the rising of Minnesota's largest cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul greet you, you realize that if not for the river and Saint Anthony Falls, these great cities, home of world famous stages and concert halls, may never have existed.

I also love the towns of Hastings and Red Wing, Lake City and further downstream, Winona, built with the limestone carved and created by the very river you are riding along. The people in the towns all along the way will gladly bring you up to date on the latest chapters of the river's story.

With my guitar on my back, I have traveled Minnesota a lot and I can tell you that there is nothing better than leaving the driving to somebody else! So settle back and watch the river flow, check in with river singers and writers you've stashed in your travel bag, and celebrate the anniversary of a stellar idea for an awesome natural resource: the Great River Road and the mighty Mississippi!

Charlie Maguire

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MISSISSIPPI RIVER
ten states, one river.

