

AVA Convention & Capitals 2011

Adventure Memo

Greetings from the WAI Travel Team,

Join walkers from around the USA in 2011 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of volkssport in the USA at the 17th Biennial Convention of the American Volkssport Association in Des Moines, Iowa. The clubs in Iowa have pulled out all the stops to prepare a fun and memorable walking jamboree and we are excited to invite you to participate!

This travel program is designed specifically with avid volkswalkers in mind. We start and finish in Minneapolis-St. Paul, and walk in 7 upper Midwest states and 6 state capitals, including 5 Convention walks. In addition to walks, you can look forward to a taste of American history at Fort Abraham Lincoln in Bismarck (last station of General George Custer before Little Bighorn), and several intersections with the Lewis & Clark Expedition in North and South Dakota and Iowa. Two dinner cruises are included, one on the Missouri River from Bismarck and one on the Mississippi River from Davenport. All in all, it's shaping up to be a fun, fast-paced exploration of a part of America the Beautiful we rarely visit. We hope you can join us!

How do I lock in my place on this Adventure?

Contact us to register with a \$500 payment as soon as possible - check out the Registration Form and General Tour Conditions for more details. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis!

How do we arrange airfare for this Adventure?

This Adventure begins and ends at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. Airfare to and from the start points is not included in the package price. We recommend that you contact the travel agent we work with to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is a good investment! More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be provided in the *Adventure Advice* flyer which will be mailed to you after you register for the Adventure.

Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice flyer!

Convention Registration and Activities

We arrive in Des Moines on June 21 in time for the Tuesday Meet & Greet, and offer participation in all Convention walks and activities from then on - June 22 to 26. We will not attend Convention walks offered on June 19, 20, and 21.

Because travelers will have different objectives and participation levels during Convention, registration for the Convention Walks is NOT included in the Adventure price. We will contact you with the Convention registration booklet when it is available and coach you on filling it out. Choices will be

necessary in the following areas: walk credit; walk awards; social activities/dinners; workshops and lunches; transportation (not applicable since WAI will provide transportation to walks and activities). Registration fees may be discounted by any AVA membership you currently have. We'll then ask you to return the form and we will bill you for your choices so that Walking Adventures can make one group payment to AVA.

Adventure Pricing

Discounted pricing for this Adventure will be available for a larger group of travelers:

- \$2700 with 30 travelers or more
- \$2550 with 35 travelers or more
- \$2400 with 40 travelers

Group Travel Credit

If you are part of a Group, remember that your full deposit of \$500 is still required to hold your spot on this Adventure. Your group leader is responsible to submit your name in writing to us before you pre-register, qualifying you for the Group Travel Credit, but a full deposit is needed to officially reserve your place.

Travel Insurance

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the back of the General Tour Conditions sheet for more detailed information.)

IMPORTANT: The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for some benefits, including pre-existing conditions and trip cancellation coverage for any reason (with additional fee), **provided you purchase the insurance within 14 days of your registration.** Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office after you purchase your airfare.

Insurance – What if I need to place a claim?

Jumping through hoops to get results from large, bureaucratic organizations can be enough to try the patience of Job! Travel insurance companies, unfortunately, are not immune to bureaucracy. Ambiguity and forms-overload sometimes seem to outweigh reason and logic. Ultimately, however, travelers are paid and the *Preferred Benefits* policy we recommend works! Though it is easy to view insurance as a necessary evil, we have seen the benefits of travel insurance time and again. We believe it is worth the cost... and hoop-jumping required!

What Happens Next?

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter, initial invoice, and Adventure Advice flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. **Please do not buy your airline tickets until you receive the Adventure Advice flyer.** The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a factsheet of additional information about the Adventure to help you get prepared! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

Sometimes, as travelers, we tend to explore every other region before delving into the delights our own “backyard” has to offer! Our Midwest states, the heartland of America, offer a wonderful opportunity to get reconnected to America, the Beautiful! Join us next summer as we walk our way to AVA Convention 2011 together!



More than a vacation...it's an Adventure!