

PGA MSP Airport Experience
Best Airport for Golfers
By Tim Cotroneo



Someone told the PGA of America that 35 million travelers pass through the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport annually. The PGA must have also learned that Minnesota has more golfers per capita than any state in the union. The result of these two revelations is a 12,000 square-foot retail golf experience called the *PGA MSP Airport*. Golf enthusiasts will discover apparel, club fitting, lessons, golf simulation, a driving range, a putting green, two bars, and a restaurant.

Once you've made it through security at the MSP airport, turn right and walk toward Gate E. Proceed a short distance and you'll notice the sparkling new Ike's Restaurant. Look skyward to the second level and you'll see the sweeping PGA MSP golf lifestyle facility.

After taking the steps or elevator to peruse the PGA MSP layout, you're torn between turning right or turning left. On the right you'll find an illuminated retail apparel facility which carries the latest in golf clothing and accessories. A few steps further and you'll find a wonderful spot for grabbing a bite or a drink at the 84-seat Champions Grille. A walk on the right side is decked out with 16 high-definition televisions showcasing your favorite sporting events. There is also a terrific vantage point for simply observing the air passengers churning below.

Bubba, Big Screens, Beers, and Strokes Off Your Game



If you decided to turn left, you can't help but gaze at Bubba Watson's autographed golf bag, and then another bar, sitting area, and finally the PGA MSP golf experience area. This is where things get interesting for the golf enthusiast looking to relax or improve his or her game.

Overstuffed leather chairs are positioned in front of a reading area, a huge big screen television, and a sanctuary to check emails or catch up on business calls. The PGA MSP is wired for WiFi, and you'll also find arrival/departure screens available to keep an eye on your flight.

What's exciting for the golfer with a layover is this: Minneapolis is home to the only airport in the world where you can shave strokes off your game. Why not take a lesson from the PGA MSP team of golf professionals? The aboutGolf simulation area offers the latest in golf swing technology. You'll be amazed by what this analysis reveals regarding balance and weight transfer, as well as whether or not you're staying within the desired swing plane zone.

Luke Liebel, the Director of Player Development, is pumped after witnessing the results and smiles he sees from golfers using the aboutGolf simulator. "I've learned more from teaching six months indoors with this technology than in my previous 12 years outdoors."

Simulate and Stimulate



If you prefer spending your layover playing some of the greatest courses in the world, the PGA MSP also has a separate simulation booth featuring famous 18 hole-layouts. This is a best case scenario for the passenger looking to decompress by working on his or her game in a pristine indoor environment.

If you're traveling with children, the PGA MSP has got you covered. The facility's putting greens immediately grab the attention of most kids. If video is your child's diversion of choice, one of the simulation areas is devoted to video games. The teaching area is also a great option for the beginning golfer.

Non Flying Golfers- Easy Airport Access



The good news for Minnesota and Wisconsin residents who are curious about checking out the new PGA MSP golf lifestyle facility is this: you're just an email away from visiting without a plane ticket. "If you go to our www.pgamp.com website and email us at info@wexfordgolf.com, we can arrange for a VIP pass so you can pass through airport security" Liebel said.

The *PGA MSP Airport* retail store is also the only place, other than Hazeltine National Golf Club, where you can purchase Ryder Cup merchandise. If you need a special gift for that hard to please golfer, the store is home to many top retail brands like Nike and Golftini. For travelers who would rather not carry extra poundage in their suitcase, the staff will arrange for convenient shipping options.

During your next layover at MSP International Airport (Terminal 1,) take the stairway to golf heaven up to the second floor. At *PGA MSP Airport*, you'll discover a new airport refuge for relaxing, talking golf, having a bite, and maybe even taking strokes off your game. www.pgamp.com