

MINNEAPOLIS • EAT

Take Cover in the Best Skyway Restaurants in Minneapolis

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My Burger

Snow season is upon us, presenting downtown Twin Cities' residents with the looming quandary: Where do you eat when the food trucks are packed up for the year, it's well below freezing outside, and you'd rather just stay curled up under a blanket? Savvy Minnesotans know you don't go outside at all. Instead, stay up in the air and traverse the skyway system.

For the uninitiated, think of skyways as human-sized hamster tubes that allow people to traverse between the second floor of buildings across busy downtown streets during any kind of inclement weather. In downtown Minneapolis, you can walk nearly 13 miles of skyway system; downtown St. Paul has almost five miles of its own. Although you can find any kind of business in this urban ecosystem -- seriously, anything from chiropractors to nail shops to tailors to clothing stores and pharmacies -- we winnowed through the hundreds of culinary options for the top food destinations when it's just too damn cold to be outside.



Sphere Kitchen + Bar

Sphere Bar + Restaurant

Have your happy hour in the sky(way)

Because the skyways tend to experience high traffic during business hours, there aren't many evening dining options. Sphere is a rare exception, serving not only happy hour and dinner, but cocktails from a full bar. Many cocktails feature locally distilled booze, such as the Apricot Gimlet with Duluth-founded Vikre spruce gin, Bailoni apricot liqueur, and cinnamon orange syrup, or the Rhu Collins with Minneapolis's Tattersall Gin, rhubarb shrub, and fresh lemon juice. Order off the simple shareables menu if you have a group, or splurge on a filling entree like a signature skewer and salad or camembert burger slathered in maple-bacon aioli.