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By [SARAH STURMON DALE](#)

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Monday, Jun. 21, 2004

A tour of the Minneapolis, Minn., riverfront and such historic landmarks as the Stone Arch Bridge and the Mill City Museum can take a lot of time and shoe leather. But Bill and Emily Neuenschwander's tours can guide you through much of the city's history quickly, with a nod to the future: the mode of transportation is the Segway Human Transporter. The Neuenschwanders started offering tours via the scooter-like device this spring as a sideline to their computer-consulting business. Now they have a fleet of 21 Segways and are attracting 150 customers a week, who pay \$69.95 for the three-hour tour. It starts with a quick safety and riding lesson for those who have never used a Segway, then covers five to seven miles of town, with running commentary via a radio on the handlebars. On a recent trip to Minneapolis, Katrina Patterson, 37, of San Jose, Calif., booked a tour for her family, including two young sons. "Because they were on a Segway, they actually listened," she says with a laugh. "It was the highlight of their trip."

Segway sightseeing is catching on around the world. David Mebane, 28, added a Segway tour to his repertoire of bike tours of Paris last year. It has been so successful that he now offers a similar tour of Nice and plans to expand into Chicago and New Orleans this summer. "The growth has been really quick and unbelievable," says Mebane. It's also not a bad bit of promotion for Segway, which has sold relatively few of the space-age transporters since introducing them in 2002. "Tour groups have definitely raised the awareness and familiarity people have with the Segway," says spokeswoman Carla Vallone.

From the Jun. 21, 2004 issue of TIME magazine

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