

Canada's Calgary Stampede



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

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Tour Summary

Calgary's Stampede is a 10-day world-class family festival. It starts with a lively parade and ends with an especially intense competition of bull and bronc riding aimed at a million dollars in prize money. Famed also for its Chuckwagon Races, it is known for its free daily pancake breakfasts, native Indian Village, and innumerable Midway rides. It includes international contests with miniature horses, dog herding, horseshoeing, and team cattle herding. Your kids will learn where milk and wool really come from. The Super Dogs, and famed country singers like Taylor Swift and Reba McEntyre, have delighted Stampede crowds.

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Introduction





The Calgary Stampede is for fun-lovers. You get to dress up western-style and shout “Yee Haw” a dozen times a day. This is Calgary’s way of saying “Yahoo!” or “Yippee!” as the town celebrates its cowboy heritage. Every year a horse rides up the elevator in Calgary Tower. The town goes Stampede-crazy.



The thrilling Rodeo gives out over a million dollars in prizes. It attracts the most daring and skillful competitors in the world. You'll also see the meanest, liveliest bulls and world-champion bucking horses. You'll find yourself clutching your seat in fear that riders will be trampled.



The Chuckwagon Races are unique and awesome. They were begun in the Calgary area as an official sport almost 90 years ago. Just imagine the rumble of 32 horses and 4 wagons racing wildly, neck to neck, with dust flying.



There are unusual international marching bands, and horses can show up in the most unexpected places.



A delightful two-hour parade starts off the celebrations with 170 entries, including beauty queens, amusing floats, and waving politicians. There are Indian chiefs in their feathered war bonnets, and Scottish bands. There may even be dragons, mini-cars, Mounties and tanks.



You'll enjoy the amusing street-cleaning vehicles too. With over 750 healthy horses, the city has to clean up, even during the parade - mostly on behalf of the marching bands behind the horses.



In many places you can get free pancake breakfasts every morning during the event - in churches, office buildings, Rope Square downtown, some shopping malls, and even private homes. You can find a list of locations on the Web and in newspapers. It's Calgary hospitality, and don't be surprised if local volunteers serve you

champagne, bacon, eggs, and coffee too.
At some venues you will be entertained with
pony rides, country singers, and marching
bands.



At Stampede Park, your kids will see where wool, eggs, and milk really come from. And they can even pat the big horses.



I saw the popular Super Dogs there. These poodles, collies, bull dogs and mixed breeds do high jumps and zippy slaloms at top speeds, at the behest of running human handlers. An amazing sight!



There are games and competitions for children, many in keeping with the western theme. Also you can see exciting rural-inspired contests such as dogs that herd sheep, teams of cowhands penning cattle, and horseshoeing.



The main Midway gives you a choice of at least 34 rides. You can play innumerable games of skill for giant prizes. You can reach for your sweetie in mid-air, while riding giant swings. There are also the Banzai and the amazing Sling Shot, which is so challenging it's not recommended for pregnant women.



And not to be missed is the on-site native Indian Village with its many tipis, flamboyantly-costumed dancers, and demonstrations of native cooking and craft-making.

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