

RMM

SUMMER 2012
Your Complimentary Copy

Shock & Aww THE WEST'S
WONDERFUL
WILDLIFE

» **CRUSHING CLICHÉS**
First Nations Art

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD
go Gourmet
IN GOLDLEAF

» **UNCORKED!**
The rapid rise of BC wines

Great
Canadian
Movie Stars



FACE TIME
Jasper's new pole

CANYON WAR
How Britain got BC

CONFESSIONS
of a Cruise Blogger

GO WEST, EH?
Trivia

INSIDER INFO
The train stops here



» Calgary

POPULATION 1,100,000

TIME ZONE Mountain (MST)

AREA 825 km² (318 mi²)



Visitor information

Tourism Calgary Visitor Centre, base of Calgary Tower, 101 - 9 Ave. SW. 403-750-2362. visitcalgary.com. Look for *Where Calgary* in your hotel room.



Cool fact

Visitors may zipline off the 90-m (295-ft) ski-jump tower at Calgary Olympic Park, site of the 1988 Winter Olympics.



The main attraction

Best known for the July Calgary Stampede – turning 100 this year (2012) – the city of 1.1 million welcomes thousands of international visitors year-round, eager to sample cowboy culture and observe First Nations traditions. Calgary, the urban hub for thousands of hectares of ranchland, celebrates its western identity daily in first-rate museums and historical sites.



Cocktail

A Calgary bartender at the Westin Hotel invented the Caesar cocktail: vodka, Clamato juice, Worcester sauce and a celery flourish. The Derelict cocktail is anything but, at The Raw Bar at Hotel Arts. The summer sipper is a blend of vodka, lychee liqueur, pineapple juice, and home-made plum-and-clove jelly.



Patios

Munch a lunch of fresh BC peaches, arugula with toasted walnuts and blue cheese, alfresco under orange sun umbrellas at Boxwood. Eat your bag lunch at a café table in the shaded walkway at Olympic Plaza. Linger on the garden patio at Tuscan-flavoured Bonterra Trattoria.



Brew

Big Rock Brewery hoppy beers remain uncontested.



Canadiana

- » Find antique collectibles at Eau Claire Festival Market, downtown by the Bow River near Prince's Island Park.
- » For clothes and shoes, including Canada's famous Fluevog, explore Fashion Central boutiques, corner of Stephen Ave. and 1st St. SW.
- » Art Central rounds up galleries, studios and cafés at 100 - 7 Ave. SW.



Regional highlight

Some working ranches near Calgary, such as Bar U, welcome day or overnight guests for trail rides, roping lessons, a barbecue and cowboy songs around the campfire. Yee-haw!



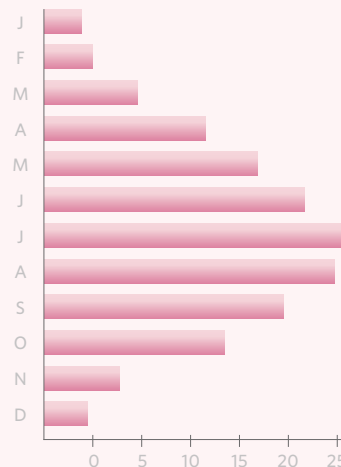
A must-have local souvenir

The white cowboy hat worn at Stampede, available only at Smithbilt. Riley & McCormick also makes its own.



Weather

Calgary enjoys more sunshine than any major Canadian city: 2,400 hours per year. Mountain-weather squalls can hit quickly, though.



Average annual temperatures (Celsius)



DON'T MISS

- ❑ The trading post at **Heritage Park Historical Village**, a whole town of pioneer buildings staffed by costumed “villagers.” Its Gasoline Alley Museum is a car-buff’s dream.
- ❑ The dizzying view from the top of the **Calgary Tower**, 189 m (626 ft) above downtown.
- ❑ **Stephen Avenue Walk** Historic 8th Ave. from 1 St. SE to 4 St. SW, is a summer browser’s delight a pedestrian outdoor mall of department stores, boutiques, galleries, restaurants, pubs and cafés.
- ❑ **Globalfest**: Every August, this musical fireworks and food event in Elliston Park celebrates Calgary’s many international cultures and cuisines.
- ❑ Testing the massive Kimball Theatre organ at **Cantos Music Foundation**, home to a 700-piece collection of keyboard instruments, including a harpsichord from the 16th century.
- ❑ The **Inglewood Bird Sanctuary**, a 36-hectare oasis minutes from downtown, with over 270 species of birds.
- ❑ The **Glenbow Museum** Western Canada’s largest museum is a treasury of history and culture, with permanent exhibits from traditional Blackfoot life to oil-patch mavericks.
- ❑ The **Military Museums** Seven regimental and forces museums share one roof, with interactive displays of Canadian combat and peacekeeping missions from 1899 to the present.
- ❑ The **Royal Tyrrell Museum** in Drumheller. Jurassic Park, move over. This prehistoric jungle of a museum houses three T-Rex specimens and hundreds of other fossils. 90 minutes from Calgary, NW of Drumheller.
- ❑ **Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park** is a superb showplace of the Siksika Nation, one hour SE of Calgary.
- ❑ **Calgary Zoo** Over 1,000 animals in habitat from around the world: gorilla in rainforest, hippo in savannah, grizzly bear in forest.
- ❑ **Fort Calgary** A living museum, where Calgary began. Deane House Restaurant serves casual Canadian cuisine.



WILDLIFE WATCH

Bison (or buffalo; a sub-species of American bison) once roamed the plains and were the mainstay of First Nations. Hunted by Europeans to near-extinction, the shaggy giants are now farmed for restaurant menus (rarer wood bison roam free in the north). Robotic dinosaurs roar at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, and Western bars can be pretty wild after dark, but most Calgary wildlife lives in captivity at the Calgary Zoo. Head to the Rockies for other indigenous-species sightings.



MAJOR MILESTONES

- 1875** North-West Mounted Police (later called RCMP or Mounties) build Fort Calgary where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet.
- 1883** The Canadian Pacific Railway reaches Fort Calgary.
- 1884** Fort Calgary becomes a town.
- 1894** Calgary is decreed a city.
- 1914** Oil! Calgary is the darling of Canada’s energy industry.
- 1968** Calgary Tower opens. (We dare you to stand on the glass floor.)
- 1988** Calgary hosts the Winter Olympics.

FIRST NATIONS

Tsuu T’ina people are the First Nation riders you’ll see in the Calgary Stampede parade, wearing ceremonial regalia including feathered warbonnets. Although they descend from northerly Dene “Beaver” people and still speak an Athabaskan language, they adopted Plains culture, including the buffalo hunt. The city is built on their ancestral lands and their reserve borders Calgary’s SW corner. Historically, they were engaged in a territorial dispute with the mighty Blackfoot Confederacy.

The Blackfoot Siksika Nation are traditionally semi-nomadic Plains dwellers, originators of the moveable tipi. Once reliant on the bison (buffalo) herds for food, shelter, clothing and spiritual inspiration, Blackfoot would drive the big mammals over cliffs at Head-Smashed-in Buffalo Jump, now a UNESCO heritage site outside Fort Macleod.



QUICK DINING GUIDE

- » **Rouge** Oh la la: a stately Edwardian brick house and rambling garden make a picturesque setting for French cuisine par excellence.
- » Wittily named organic donuts at **Jelly Modern Doughnuts** are worthy of the accolade "guilty pleasure."
- » Fabio Centini's perfectly executed Italian menu is a tour de force at **Centini Restaurant & Lounge**. Fabio and his wait staff are happy to make suggestions.
- » **Charcut Roast House** Hip downtown room prepares its own meat and gets raves for hamburgers and prime rib.

- » Meat lovers also like **Vintage Chophouse** for aged Alberta beef.
- » **River Café** is the epitome of quality Canadian cuisine and enjoys a rustic setting.
- » Michael Noble's **Notable** is, well, just that: gourmet burgers at good prices for gourmands.
- » Gluten-free dishes account for three-quarters of the tapas menu at **JAROB**lue.
- » The perfect place to power-lunch, **Blink Restaurant & Bar** plates local ingredients in a modern room. The thrice-cooked fries are a necessary indulgence.
- » **Ox and Angela**, Latin-flavoured eatery named for its signature

cocktails, is the latest 17 Ave. trendsetter.

- » **Chef's Table** at Kensington River Inn is an elegant award winner.
- » Quench that summer thirst: quaff a craft beer from **Wild Rose Brewery**.
- » Game for a change? Try wild boar bacon and bison short ribs at **Chicago Chophouse**.
- » **Osteria de Medici** Olde-world European-style décor, white-linen service, and gourmet Italian menu, in trendy Kensington.
- » Beyond steak: unpretentious eateries on "**International Avenue**" (17 Ave. SE) represent the cuisines of multicultural Calgary.

CALGARY

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Glenbow

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www.glenbow.org/visiting/shop
8 Avenue & 1 Street SE, Calgary AB

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INSIDER TIPS

- » Over 400 stores are connected by Calgary's indoor walkway system, the **Plus-15**. The system is 16 km (9.9 mi) long with 59 bridges, and the skywalks are about 15 ft (4.5 m) above street level.
- » **C-Train** light rapid transit is free along 7 Ave. SW downtown.
- » The **Chinese Cultural Centre** is the largest of its kind in N America, with a domed ceiling patterned on Beijing's Temple of Heaven.
- » To give a facelift to a tired wardrobe, book a three-hour **personal shopping appointment** with resident stylist Carl Abad at the CORE, Calgary's downtown shopping centre.
- » The Inglewood neighbourhood is sweet on Choklat's menu of **customizable chocolates**.
- » Major **nightlife** hub, 17 Ave. SW is 10 blocks of dance clubs and pubs.
- » **Ride the mechanical bull** at Ranchman's Cookhouse & Dance-hall or at Stockyards Saloon, both on Macleod Trail S.
- » Calgary's Bow River is famous for its **trout fishing**.
- » CORE/TD Square offers four storeys of **shops and services**, a large food court, and an indoor tropical garden, downtown along Stephen Ave.

CREDIT RM magazine enjoyed the hospitality of Kensington Riverside Inn, 1126 Memorial Dr. NW. 888-587-9149. kensingtonriversideinn.com. Thanks to Tourism Calgary staff for their suggestions. 

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