



WELCOME TO
CALGARY, AB, CANADA
and the

23rd CANADIAN NATIONAL FESTIVAL
July 17-20/24

YAHOO!!

In this issue:

- Remember to...
- New Hotel Information (Festival Headquarters fully booked)
- Campgrounds
- Things to See & Do - Outside Calgary
- Registration Information

REMEMBER TO...

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS! This includes hotels & camp-grounds, both fill up fast!

Passports up-to-date? Flights looked into?

Join our Facebook group - "2024 Calgary SRD Festival". Watch for fun & informative posts.

Visit the ASRDF website for updates: www.squaredance.ab.ca

THE HOTEL BLACKFOOT

The Festival Headquarters – the Glenmore Inn, is fully booked so we have made arrangements at a nearby hotel with a discounted Festival rate.

The Hotel Blackfoot is about an 8 to 10 minute drive from the Festival Headquarters and is offering a discounted room rate for two days before and a full week after the Festival. The hotel rate includes complimentary parking and breakfast for two.

The committee is looking into a shuttlebus service to transport dancers to/from the two hotels.

Go to the ASRDF website, www.squardance.ab.ca for the new hotel information and registration link. Or scan the below QR code to take you directly there.



CAMPING

While there is no camping located within the City of Calgary itself, there are numerous campgrounds around the city. The ASRDF Festival link has a dropdown list showing the campgrounds in the area. Here are a few highlights: (link, distance/time, start booking info, amenities)

[Mountain View Camping Ltd. | Tourism Calgary \(visitcalgary.com\)](http://www.visitcalgary.com) – 20KM/12M/20 mins east, unknown, full hookups, store, 18 hole mini-golf, laundromat, coin op showers, group bookings, 2 dogs allowed with surcharge

[Okotoks Lions Campground – My WordPress Blog](http://www.okotoks.com) – 31KM/19M/25 mins south, April 1/24, full hookups, coin op showers, close to Okotoks for full amenities, may allow pets

<http://www.balzaccampground.com/> - 33KM/20.5M/25 mins north, Mid-April 2024, this is not a resort but perfect for those just needing a place to park while they visit in Calgary, located adjacent to the QEII Hwy. Full hookups, close to RV dealers & repairs, HUGE CrossIron Mills Mall, easy drive to Glenmore Inn

<https://www.calawaypark.com/stay-and-play/campground/> - 34KM/21M/40 mins west, end of Nov 2023, full hookups, next door to Calaway Park amusement park, laundry, coin op showers, pets welcome with kenneling available at Calaway Park next door, no fires.

<https://riverbendcampground.ca/> - 37KM/23M/30 mins south, May 1/24, full hookups, store, showers, laundry, pet friendly, mini golf, paddle boats, fire pits

<https://bowriversedge.com/> - 58KM/36M/1 hr west, a year in advance, located in the Town of Cochrane, full hookups, laundry, showers, pet friendly, horseshoe/bocce ball, walking paths

[Wyndham-Carseland - Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](http://www.albertaparks.com) – 70KM/43.5M/45 mins SE, unknown, sorry not much info about this campsite, outhouse type toilets, water tap

<https://www.carstairs.ca/p/campground-visitor-info-centre> 75KM/45M/50 mins north, first come first served, full hookups, showers, next door to 18 hole golf course, on east edge of the Town of Carstairs

<https://www.aspencrossing.com/campground/> - 75KM/45M/50 mins SE, a year in advance, full site services, store, washroom/shower, swimming lagoon, group camping, pets welcome.

Things to See & Do - Outside Calgary
[Travel Alberta | Official Destination Website](#) | [Canada's Alberta](#)

Calgary is a vibrant city with something for everyone in any direction you choose to go. With SIX World Heritage sites all around us, five within driving distance of Calgary, you'll need more than a few days just to take in a few of these beautiful, wonderous locations.



Calgary skyline west



Three Sisters, Canmore



Castle Mt, Banff

West - Calgary is nestled in the foothills of the breathtaking Canadian Rocky Mountains, one of the six World Heritage Sites. A person can see these giants from almost anywhere in Calgary. Sometimes they look so far away and other days it seems you can almost touch them.

Canmore: A 1.25 hour drive takes you to this beautiful town in Kananaskis country. Here you can explore caves, visit the many art galleries & museums, book an alpine helicopter tour, or a rafting tour, shop, shop, shop and don't forget to visit the candy store. <https://www.explorecanmore.ca/>

Banff: A bit farther west on the #1 Hwy gets you to this gorgeous mountain town. Here you can simply park your car and spend hours walking up and down main street checking out the shops, restaurants and galleries. Bring your bathing suits and spend some rejuvenating time in the natural hot springs pool. No trip to Banff should go without a gondola ride up to Sulphur Mt. Enjoy lunch at the top and take in the spectacular scenery.



Downtown Banff



Sulphur Mt. View

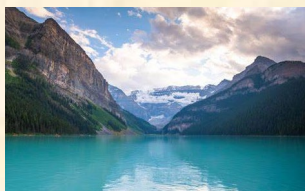


Gondola up Sulphur Mt.

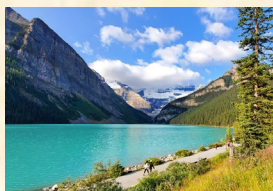


Banff Hotsprings Pool
(even in the winter!)

Lake Louise & Moraine Lake: 30 minutes west of Banff is stunning Lake Louise. You need to book well in advance to get to see this gem.



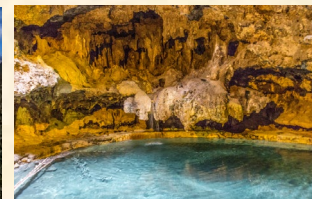
Lake Louise



Lake Louise Walking Trail



Moraine Lake



Cave & Basin Historic Site, Banff

There are dozens of tour links to Banff, Lake Louise. Just open your favourite browser and start typing Banff & Lake Louise and start clicking. Below are a few to start you off:

[Banff & Lake Louise Tourism | Official Destination Website \(banfflakelouise.com\)](http://banfflakelouise.com)

[Visiting Lake Louise and Moraine Lake - Banff National Park \(canada.ca\)](http://canada.ca)

[The Banff Express - Scheduled Bus Service Between Banff, Canmore and Calgary.](#)

Northeast: Driving 1.5 hours in this direction takes you to another World Heritage Site, Dinosaur Provincial Park.

In the heart of this unforgettable landscape of the famous Alberta Badlands & Hoodoos is Drumheller, home of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology. It's worth every minute to go check out this unusual museum and it's sleeping giants. Did you know the Hoodoos are shaped from erosion by wind?

[Visit | Royal Tyrrell Museum](#)

[2023 Dinosaur World 1 Day: Drumheller-Badland-Hoodoo-Mine National Historic \(tripadvisor.com\)](#)



Welcome To Drumheller



Royal Tyrrell Museum



Badlands Hike



Hoodoos

South: Going south brings to you another World Heritage Site, Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump and if you're a Trekkie - Vulcan!

Driving 1.5 hours south brings you to Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. A two hour visit includes the Interpretive Centre and Cliff Top Viewpoint. So much Plains People culture to learn about.

[Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site | Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump \(headsmashedin.ca\)](#)

Just over an hour south of Calgary is Vulcan, the "Official Star Trek Capital of Canada". Here you'll tour the Vulcan Trek Station turned Star Trek Museum! Inside is an extensive memorabilia collection, interactive displays on a holodeck, and giftshop with vintage & unique Star Trek merchandise. Ever want to dine with Klingon's & Ferengi? The next Star Trek Convention is July 26-28/24. Boldly go where no-one has gone before.

[HOME | Vulcan Tourism & Trek Station](#)



Head Smashed-In Centre



Jumping Cliffs



The USS Enterprise NCC-1701



Star Trek Museum

North: Wetaskiwin & Edmonton. One unassuming stop and one not-so unassuming stop.

Let's go 2 hours north on the QEII Hwy to Wetaskiwin first. This city has a very interesting museum celebrating "The Spirit of the Machine". This unique museum is home to over 500 vehicles, 130 aircraft & 5000 agricultural & industrial machines.

[Reynolds-Alberta Museum](#) | [Reynolds Museum](#)



trains



planes



and automobiles

Another hour further north (three hours north of Calgary) is North America's largest shopping mall, the West Edmonton Mall. This mall is phenomenal! Eat, shop, play, sleep. A vacation in itself.

Play - bowling, ice skating palace, a waterpark with 20 waterslides, a few you'll be dared to go down on. Galaxyland is North America's largest indoor amusement park with over 27 rides and play areas for all ages. Two 18-hole mini golf courses, a marine life show with seals & penguins & turtles, oh my! Plus, the first indoor, multi-level electric race carts. What more can kids of all ages ask for?

Shop - 800 stores gives a whole new meaning to "shop till you drop"! Stroll & shop in Chinatown, BRBN Street & Europa Blvd.

Eat - Hungry? This mall has over 50 fast food options in multiple food courts and over 100 coffee shops. There are also numerous full-service restaurants. Enjoy the nightlife in pubs, clubs, a casino and The Rec Room with virtual reality, arcade games, Canadian cuisine and live entertainment.

Sleep - I'll bet you'll be tired after all that shopping & playing. How many malls do you know have TWO hotels? The WEM Inn hosts 88 tasteful rooms to lay your head. OR the famous Fantasyland Hotel. This place has rooms for every fantasy. Luxury room themes include: Pirate, Western, Sports, Polynesian, Roman, Glamping, even sleep in an Igloo! Sleep in a Victorian Coach, Hollywood Nights, Space, Africa or even a Truck. So many choices.

[West Edmonton Mall](#) | [North America's Largest Shopping Mall \(wem.ca\)](#)



Pirate Ship mid-mall



Waterpark - slides!!



Igloo room Fantasyland Hotel

Plan your trip to Alberta, Canada with extra time to explore and take in some of our many interesting destinations.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

If you are receiving this newsletter via e-mail, you have already registered, Yahoo!!

If you are reading this from a friend, on the WWW or on a Facebook page, WHY haven't you registered yet?? We have a limit of 600 participants so get your registration in today!

To register for this grand event, go to: www.squaredance.ab.ca and click on the "Festival 2024" link. Here you will find the on-line registration link and a printable .PDF to print, fill in and mail with your registration fee or e-mail to csrds2024festival@gmail.com. OR use your cell phone to scan this handy QR code which will take you directly to the ASRDF website.



Saddle up, folks, the time is here,

For the festival of the year, have no fear.
The cheap seats are gone, it's full price now,
So don't delay, make your move, take a bow.

The ranch is filling up, spaces are few,
Grab your partner, this is your cue.
Online, snail mail, or e-transfer's the way,
To secure your spot and join the fray.

The party's heating up, like the desert sun,
Western fun for everyone, second to none.
So don your boots, your hat, and your vest,
Join us at the festival, be our honored guest.

With square dances, round dances, and more,
Underneath the stars, on the dance floor.
Don't miss this hoedown, it's gonna be a blast,
In the heart of the West, make memories that last.

So ride on in, don't hesitate or stall,
To the festival grounds, where good times call.
Yahoo, partners, let's make history,
At the National Festival, where fun runs free!

composed by Brent Daignault