

Western Canada and Calgary Stampede Tour 2012

“Excellence in Agriculture” & Better Than Ever Before



Our 22nd Annual Tour to The Calgary Stampede

Every year the City of Calgary throws open the doors to cowboys and girls from near and far and hosts what is now known as the “greatest outdoor show on earth.” In 2012, we will join them in **Celebrating 100 Years of the Calgary Stampede!**

Our tour offers an itinerary that combines world class scenery with innovative agricultural opportunities. For some, this might just be considered the perfect reason to visit Canada – we invite you to join us for an incredible journey!

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Australian Farmers Travel Celebrating over 22 Years of Travel in Canada **STAMPEDE ITINERARY** July 11-27, 2012

DAY 1 – Wednesday, July 11

DEPART SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT / ARRIVE CALGARY

HIGHLIGHTS: Welcome to Calgary!

Welcome to Calgary, home to the famous Calgary Stampede. Meet your tour director at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Get ready for a night on the town. Calgary is alive with the energy and excitement of Stampede Fever. Anyone up for some two-stepping?

Overnight Hotel International, (or similar)
Calgary Downtown

DAY 2 – Thursday, July 12

CALGARY (B)

HIGHLIGHTS: Heritage Park. Admission to Calgary Stampede and afternoon Rodeo

After breakfast, it's a trip back in time to the early 1900s during a visit to the Calgary Heritage Park. Live entertainment and authentic heritage displays provide a firsthand glance at the rugged and challenging conditions of days gone by. This afternoon it's time to hit the action of the Stampede with admission to the Gold Section seating at the action packed

Rodeo. Your tour package includes unlimited entry to the Calgary Stampede Grounds, exhibitions, cattle and horse exhibits and entrance to the International Guest Reception Room.

Overnight Hotel International, (o.s.)
Calgary Downtown

DAY 3 – Friday, July 13

CALGARY (B)

HIGHLIGHTS: Livestock Auction, Calgary Stampede & Evening show.

This morning, the group travels to the Livestock Auction where premium Alberta beef cattle go under the hammer. Enjoy this authentic Alberta agricultural experience. In the afternoon your coach will leave the livestock selling centre and return to the Stampede grounds. This evening, it's time to hit the action of the Stampede with admission to Platinum Section of the Chuck Wagon Races followed by the Grand Stand Finale, an incredible display of young local talent that will keep you on the edge of your seat! When Calgary claims "The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth" they mean it!

Overnight Hotel International, (o.s.)
Calgary Downtown

DAY 4 – Saturday, July 14

CALGARY (B)

HIGHLIGHTS: Calgary and "The Stampede"

Today you have the opportunity to understand what the stampede means to Calgarians, the whole city becomes part of this annual spectacle. Enjoy "The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth" at your leisure and in the afternoon reserved Platinum seats for the Rodeo.

Overnight Hotel International, (o.s.)
Calgary Downtown

DAY 5 – Sunday July 15

CALGARY – PINCHER CREEK (B,L,D)

HIGHLIGHTS: Cowboy Trail, Crowsnest Pass and Frank Slide, Waterton Lakes National Park, BBQ dinner with local ranchers.

This morning it is time to hit the trail, more specifically, the picturesque Cowboy Trail which runs south through stunning Alberta prairielands. Stops along the way include the historic Bar U Ranch and the Frank Slide, find out how a town simply disappeared, and not that long ago. Drive into Waterton Lakes National Park which borders the USA, enjoy a picnic boxed lunch overlooking Cameron Lake. A truly scenic

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Day 5 – Tuesday July 15, continued...

experience. Keep an eye out for wildlife this is a popular area for brown and black bear. This afternoon we head up to Pincher Creek, a land without limits and undulating grazing country, rich in history, culture and tradition. Tonight the ranching community has prepared a welcome dinner to celebrate your visit. This is a unique opportunity to interact with the locals and get first hand information on the issues that Canadian farmers are facing.

Overnight Hotel Ramada (o.s.)
Pincher Creek, Alberta

Day 6 – Monday July 16

PINCHER CREEK – LETHBRIDGE (B,L)

HIGHLIGHTS: Ranch visits, Hutterite Colony, "Head-Smashed-in-Buffalo-Jump" National Monument.

In Pincher Creek we meet up with local ranchers for a tour of the local livestock and feedlot operations as well as a tour of a Hutterite Colony, enjoy a sumptuous lunch provided by your Hutterite community hosts, great Canadian hospitality and friendliness. After lunch the group tours the "Head-Smashed-in-Buffalo-Jump", a Unesco World Heritage sight. Learn about the Blackfoot Indian culture, how they hunted Bison and what was involved in "the jump".

Overnight Hotel Coast (o.s.)
Lethbridge, Alberta

Day 7 – Tuesday July 17

LETHBRIDGE (B,D)

HIGHLIGHTS: Excellence in Agriculture-ranch touring of the best kind.

With AF Travel, our focus is on Excellence in Agriculture and Alberta certainly fits the criteria. Lethbridge is the centre of agricultural activity and today the group will have a first hand look at a number of exciting ranches and farms. We'll tour Canada's finest, feedlots, irrigation farms, machinery, livestock and auction facilities. Witness extensive mixed cropping operations. This evening dinner in Lethbridge.

Overnight Hotel Coast (o.s.)
Lethbridge, Alberta

Day 8 – Wednesday July 18

LETHBRIDGE – KANANASKIS (B)

HIGHLIGHTS: Feedlot tour and Kananaskis Country.

Today is a full day filled with contrast and rich scenery. The morning will be spent touring a 7,000 head feedlot farm, then we head off on our way towards the Rocky Mountains, our first real experience of the Rockies occurs as we progress. We move on into Kananaskis Country, vast valley floors and high mountain peaks, brilliant scenery. We stop at Claresholm for lunch and leisure time for "western" shopping.

Overnight Delta Lodge Hotel
Kananaskis, Alberta

Day 9 – Thursday July 19

KANANASKIS (B,L)

HIGHLIGHTS: Ranch visit, BBQ lunch at Boundary Ranch, optional horse-riding or nature walk.

You wake up in Kananaskis Country. After breakfast we visit the LJ Ranch "Naturally Grown Beef" production and marketing. Enjoy a traditional Albertan BBQ lunch at Boundary Ranch. For those looking for soft adventure enjoy a 2 hour horseback ride in the Rocky Mountains, this is a ride that anyone can do, or you may prefer a leisurely nature walk from your hotel, a magnificent setting viewing the Rocky Mountains. Make sure you catch the sunset amongst the mountains, a knockout.

Overnight Delta Lodge Hotel
Kananaskis, Alberta

Day 10 – Friday July 20

KANANASKIS – CANMORE (B)

HIGHLIGHTS: Optional helicopter ride, time in Banff.

This morning is at leisure at the Delta Lodge or optional Helicopter ride into the Rocky Mountains back country. Lunch is at leisure. After lunch we drive on to Banff and spend some time shopping and exploring Banff before heading on to Canmore.

Overnight Canmore Rocky Mountain Inn (o. s.)
Canmore, Alberta

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Day 11 – Saturday July 21

CANMORE – BANFF (B,L)

**HIGHLIGHTS: Sno-coach,
Lake Louise, "Meet a Mountie"**

After a good sleep and hotel breakfast we get ready to explore the Canadian Rockies and Banff National Park. Pristine Lake Louise. Take the Sno-coach tour onto the Columbia Icefields, walk on the glacier and feel the enormity of the glaciers that surround you. Enjoy a picnic lunch enroute to the icefields. This is one day you will never forget, (other surprises await).

Overnight Canmore Rocky Mountain Inn (or similar)

Canmore, Alberta

Day 12 – Sunday July 22

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER, JASPER – KAMLOOPS (B,L)

**HIGHLIGHTS: The World Famous
Rocky Mountaineer rail journey.**

The tour climbs aboard "the Most Spectacular Train Trip in the World" – courtesy of Rocky Mountaineer Railtours. As you journey through the Canadian Rocky Mountains enjoy breakfast and lunch served by friendly, informative staff who provide commentary about this spectacular area of Canada. As you journey west and south you will be surrounded by the dramatic scenery of the Continental Divide and by the river valleys of the Monashee and Columbia Mountain ranges.

Overnight Popular Style Hotel, Kamloops

NOTE: You leave the train for an overnight stay in the city of Kamloops, BC

Day 13 – Monday July 23

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER, KAMLOOPS – VANCOUVER (B,L)

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Fraser Canyon Railtour

Your journey continues west towards the Pacific Ocean and the coastal city of Vancouver. On today's journey you will again see dramatic changes in scenery, from the desert-like environment of the interior, through winding river canyons and forests surrounded by peaks of the Coast and Cascade Mountains to the lush green fields of the Fraser River Valley. Highlights include the steep slopes and rock sheds along the Thompson River and the rushing waters of Hell's Gate in the Fraser Canyon. Your journey ends in Vancouver. Breakfast and lunch are provided on board. You arrive in Vancouver in the evening and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight Hampton Hotel
Vancouver, BC

Day 14 – Tuesday July 24

VANCOUVER (B,D)

**HIGHLIGHTS: West Coast Agriculture
Tours, Celebration Dinner**

After a hearty hotel breakfast, drive to the lush agricultural area of Chilliwack located outside of Vancouver. Visit Corner's Pride Dairy Farm that has over 800 head of cattle, 320 acres of corn and 200 acres of grass silage. After lunch, take in the sites of Bridal Veil Falls and then head to Muxlow Cattle Company, a feedlot with 700 head and housing for 400 heifers. We are back in Vancouver in the late afternoon. This evening is the last night of the

tour and we celebrate a fantastic tour with our Farewell Dinner at the Steamworks Brewery that is a favourite spot for the locals and yes, beer sampling is included! It's been a super tour and tonight we'll end it in proper celebration – Australian style!

Overnight Hampton Hotel
Vancouver, BC

Day 15 – Wednesday July 25

VANCOUVER (B)

HIGHLIGHTS: Vancouver City Tour

Vancouver is truly one of the most breathtaking cities in the world – a place where cosmopolitan flair meets amazing mountain and ocean views. This morning, enjoy a grand city tour including the North Shore Mountains. In the afternoon the city is yours to explore at leisure. Tour Stanley Park on a tandem bike, take the ferry to Granville Island, wander Robson Street for a taste of true Vancouver living or just relax or do that last minute shopping. Dinner is at your leisure and an 8pm check out of the hotel before transferring to the airport for the return flight home.

Day 16 – Thursday July 26

In Flight, Crossing the
International Date Line

Day 17 – Friday July 27

Arrive Sydney International Airport 0810hrs

Thank you for travelling with us!

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THE DETAILS:

17 Day Tour
July 11-27, 2012
\$9,250/person

Twin share (ex Sydney)
Single Supplement \$1920

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AFTRAVEL

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ADD-ON TOURS!

Please take a look on our website for optional Add-on Tours including:

- **6 day Agricultural tour of California**
- **Alaska Inside Passage Cruise**
- **Vancouver Island excursion**

AF Travel can arrange any optional extension you require.

www.aftravel.com.au

CALGARY STAMPEDE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy airfares from Sydney to Calgary, Vancouver to Sydney
- Transfers and transport in Deluxe Coach whilst in Canada
- Professional Agricultural Tour Director
- All accommodation in comfortable hotels whilst in Canada (14 nights accommodation and late check out in Vancouver)
- Two Day Rocky Mountain Rail Tour, Red Leaf;
Red Leaf to Silver Leaf upgrade available for \$565 / person
Red Leaf to Gold Leaf upgrade available for \$1030 / person
- All admission fees and excursions as mentioned in the itinerary including:
Admission to Calgary Stampede for 3 days and Reserved seats for 2 afternoon Rodeos in Gold and Platinum seating and one Evening Show & Chuck Wagon Race in Platinum seating. Heritage Park, Livestock Auction, Waterton Lakes National Park, Hutterite Colony visit, the "Head-Smashed-in-Buffalo-Jump" National Monument, Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, tour of Banff National Park and surrounding region, Sno-coach glacier experience, "Meet-a-Mountie" Rocky Mountaineer Red leaf Class for 2 days, multiple ranch visits.
- Guided city tour of Vancouver
- All professional and farm visits as mentioned in itinerary
- 14 hearty continental breakfasts
- 6 lunches, 3 dinners including the Farewell meal with ale tasting
- Baggage handling (1 suitcase per person)
- All tax and services for meals, visits, hotels mentioned in the itinerary
- Gratuities for tour guides and driver

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airline taxes, Fuel Surcharges, Airport improvement taxes or additional airfares
- Personal expenses
- Meals and activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel Insurance
- Optional extension tours
- Pre or Post tour accommodation

PLEASE NOTE: all accommodation, services and ranch visits are subject to change

Jeanne Crosby
AFTRAVEL

Australian Farmers Travel > Celebrating over 22 Years of Travel in Canada

Toll Free 1300 366 275 • website: www.aftravel.com.au • email: tours@aftravel.com.au

All prices quoted in Australian dollars. Prices subject to change. Terms and conditions apply.

Itineraries are subject to change without notice and terms and conditions apply. AFT/RT license number 2TA003038.