

2025 RCNA Tours

Tours Offered During the 2025 RCNA Convention in Calgary

by James Williston, RCNA Convention Chairperson

Tuesday July 15th

Day Tours Cost \$98

Bus leaves at 8:15 am from the hotel lobby

Leighton Art Centre

9:00 to 10:30 am

The Leighton Art Centre is a non-profit public art gallery, museum, and education center located near Millarville, Alberta, 45 minutes southwest of downtown Calgary. Situated on 80 acres of foothills grasslands, the center offers panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains and serves as a hub for art, nature, and history enthusiasts. The Leighton Art Centre encompasses a heritage home, museum, galleries, and outdoor trails. It hosts year-round educational programs, workshops, and exhibitions featuring contemporary artists. Visitors can explore the gallery shop, which features works by numerous Alberta artists. They can also enjoy the natural landscapes through the center's outdoor trails or relax on one of the benches and take in the 180-degree panoramic view of the foothills. <https://leightoncentre.org>



Leighton Art Centre

(Image: Tourism Alberta)

Turner Valley Gas Plant

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Guided Tour

Closed-toe shoes are required

This walking tour is approximately 40 minutes and is on level terrain.

The Turner Valley Gas Plant, a cornerstone of Alberta's energy history, offers visitors a fascinating glimpse into the early days of Canada's oil and gas industry. Located in Turner Valley, Alberta, this historic site was established in 1914 as one of the country's first natural gas processing plants. It played a pivotal role in pioneering gas extraction and processing technologies that shaped Alberta's economy and energy sector.

The guided tour leads visitors through key parts of the facility, including separator units, processing towers, and historical machinery. Guides provide vivid accounts of how the plant operated, from its early beginnings during Alberta's energy boom to its eventual closure in 1985. The tour also sheds light on the lives of workers who toiled in challenging conditions, bringing to life the industrial heritage of the site.

One of the tour highlights is the plant's original machinery, much of which remains intact. Visitors gain insights into the evolution of energy technology and the environmental impacts of early industrial operations. The experience is both educational and thought-provoking, especially for those curious about Alberta's transformation into an energy powerhouse.

<https://turnervalleygasplant.ca>

Eau Claire Distillery

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Lunch and Tour

Lunch at your expense

Eau Claire Distillery is a well-regarded craft distillery located in Diamond Valley, Alberta. It is known for producing high-quality, small-batch spirits that emphasize locally sourced ingredients and traditional distillation methods. The distillery prides itself on blending Alberta's agricultural roots with modern innovation to create premium spirits. It is Canada's most awarded craft distillery.

Farm-to-Glass Philosophy: Many of their products emphasize the use of grains and ingredients sourced from Alberta farmers.

Tasting Room: Eau Claire Distillery operates a tasting room that offers tours, tastings, and a cozy ambiance to learn about their craft.

Rupert's Parlour & Store: Rupert's Parlour provides a full-service kitchen with a menu featuring local cuisine and handcrafted cocktails made with Eau Claire's spirits. The establishment combines historical charm with modern gastronomy, creating a unique dining atmosphere.

<https://eauclairedistillery.ca>



Turner Valley Gas Plant

(Image: Travel Alberta)

Spirit Hills Winery

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Spirit Hills Winery, located in Millarville, Alberta, and is renowned for its unique flower wines crafted from local wildflowers and honey. The Bonjean family, with generations of French winemaking heritage, established the winery in 2012, integrating traditional techniques with Alberta's natural flora. Unlike conventional grape wines, Spirit Hills produces "flower wines" using wildflower nectar harvested by their bees. These wines incorporate local ingredients such as black currants, saskatoon's, dandelions, and wild roses, resulting in distinctive flavors that have garnered international acclaim. Notably, their wines have been served in Michelin-starred restaurants across Europe and Japan.

5:30 pm - Back at hotel



Eau Claire Distillery

(Image: Eau Claire Distillery)

Early Bird Dinner at Forbidden City Restaurant

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
(Shuttle Available)

Just a short walk across the parking lot from the hotel to the Forbidden City Restaurant featuring a variety of Chinese dishes with seafood specialties (a la carte menu; dinner at your own expense).



Forbidden City Restaurant

(Image: Yuu Seafood)

Wednesday, July 16th

Day tours cost \$85
Bus leaves at 9:45 am from the hotel lobby

The Hangar Flight Museum

10:00 am to 11:45 am
Guided Tour

The Hangar Flight Museum is an aviation and space museum located in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Originally established in 1975 as the "Aero Space Museum of Calgary," the museum highlights the history of flight and aviation in Western Canada. It showcases an extensive collection of civilian and military aircraft, space technology exhibits, and various artifacts that tell the story of Canada's aviation heritage.

<https://thehangarmuseum.ca>

ELYMI Family Buffet

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
Buffet style lunch,
at your own expense

ELYMI Family Buffet is a family-friendly restaurant, offering a diverse selection of dishes that reflect the city's multicultural spirit. Their menu includes Canadian classics and international favorites, catering to a wide range of tastes and ages.

Fire Escape Pottery Painting and Ceramic Arts Studio

2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Fire Escape offers a variety of services, including pottery painting, pottery wheel sessions, and hands-on-building classes. We will be designing and creating our own coin!

<https://www.fireescape.com>

5:00 pm - Back at hotel

6:30 pm - Gather in the lobby
Walk over to Welcome Reception
(5 minute walk) (Shuttle available)



Fire Escape Studio

(Image: Fire Escape)

RCNA President and CNS Host Club Welcome Reception/Calgary House at Sunny Cider Bar and Kitchen

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Sunny Cider Bar and Kitchen is a unique establishment dedicated to craft ciders. As Calgary's first brick-and-mortar cider house, it offers a cozy atmosphere with large windows, a bar, and has both inside and outside communal seating.

<https://www.sunnycider.ca>



Sunny Cider

(Image: Sunny Cider)

Thursday, July 17th

Day Tours Cost \$75
Bus leaves the hotel lobby at 10:15 am

PaSu Farms

11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Lunch included

We will enjoy a locally sourced lunch, including homemade soup, salads, sandwiches, and an assortment of desserts. They are well known for their wonderful and tasty lunches.

The menu blends Mediterranean, South African, and Mauritian cuisines, with meals prepared from scratch using fresh produce from their gardens or local markets.

Gallery Boutique: Offers an eclectic shopping experience with sheepskins, wool clothing, quilts,



Irvine's Tack and Western Wear

(Image: Irvine's Tack & Western Wear)

Irvine's Tack and Western Wear

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Irvine Tack & Western Wear, located in Crossfield, Alberta, is Canada's largest western store, offering over 140,000 square feet of retail space.

The store carries a variety of brands, including Wrangler, Cinch, Ariat, Kimes, Weaver, and Professional's Choice, catering to the entire family. Just walk around and explore all the Western fashions to check out from head to toe.

<https://irvinesaddles.ca>

and fashion accessories. Recognized as one of Alberta's longest-established purveyors of moccasins.

<https://pasu.com>

Nose Creek Valley Museum

3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

The Nose Creek Valley Museum, located in Airdrie, Alberta, offers a comprehensive look into over 2,000 years of local history, showcasing more than 20,000 artifacts across ten exhibits.

<https://nosecreekvalleymuseum.ca>

4:50 pm Back at hotel

5:30 pm Depart hotel

Nickel Arts Museum hosts the CAFNE Reception

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Free Event

This year the Canadian Association for Numismatic Education (CAFNE) reception is being hosted at the University of Calgary's Nickle Arts Museum. It is home to one of Canada's largest numismatic collections and the Calgary Numismatic Society also stores their club archives at the Museum. There will be an exhibit titled "Money Art" for attendees to enjoy. This exhibit has objects from both the Nickel Gallery and the Bank of Canada Museums. For more information on the Museum please visit www.nickle.ucalgary.ca

9:30 pm Back at hotel



Nose Creek Valley Museum

(Image: Nose Creek Valley Museum)

Friday, July 18th

Mission District

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

The Mission District is one of Calgary's oldest inner-city communities established in 1900. Its historic buildings, parks, and cafes are full of European flair. Lisa will lead a walking tour of the area and the opportunity to explore all the unique shops and landmarks.

<https://www.visitcalgary.com/things-to-do/stories-from-calgary/mission-neighbourhood-guide>

SAM Centre (Stampede History Showcase)

2:20 pm to 4:10 pm

The Sam Centre, located in Calgary's Stampede Park, is a year-round facility dedicated to bringing the stories of the Calgary Stampede to life through interactive exhibits and immersive experiences. Opened in 2024, it offers visitors an opportunity to explore the rich history and cultural significance of the Stampede beyond its annual events.

samcentre.calgarystampede.com

4:30 pm Back at hotel

5:45 pm Depart from lobby to Jubilations Theatre



SAM Centre

(Image: SAM Centre)

Day Tours Cost \$57

10:00 am: Depart from the hotel

Jubilations Dinner Theatre

6:00 pm to 9:40 pm

With meal: cost \$95

We will enjoy a dinner and musical parody of the iconic band ABBA. The show blends their beloved classics with side-splitting humor and outstanding twists.

<https://www.jubilations.ca>

Saturday, July 19th

Day Tour Cost \$49

10:00 am: Depart from the hotel

Telus Spark (Science Centre)

10:20 am to 3:00 pm

TELUS Spark is a science center located in Calgary, Alberta. It's an engaging destination for individuals and families to explore interactive exhibits, immersive galleries, and hands-on learning experiences related to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM).

<https://www.telus.sparkscience.ca>

3:20 pm Back at hotel



Telus Spark

(Image: Telus Spark)