

'Tis the season for equestrian holiday road trips

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With the show and trail riding season winding down and the holidays fast approaching why not consider an equestrian-themed holiday trip? Here are three suggestions.

The Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, Canada, November 4-13, 2016, at the Canadian National Exhibition Grounds along the lake front in Toronto

Few venues offer more diverse shopping opportunities and gift ideas along with daily entertainment and international horse and livestock and crop shows.

Tack, equestrian clothing and stable supplies, crafts and gifts, home décor and home improvement supplies, artwork,

health and beauty items, clothing and footwear, and a wide variety of food gifts are available for purchase at the fair.

The Royal has a diverse international food court offering Asian, British, Canadian, German, Indian and Italian cuisine along with candy, pastries, apple dumplings and ice cream.

Tips for Royal Trip: Don't forget your passport as you pack. Sign up on the Royal web site as an international agriculture visitor so you can visit the visitors' lounge with refreshments, free WIFI and tourist information. Don't leave the fair without trying the apple dumplings or the maple ice cream!

For more information go to the Royal's web site at www.royalfair.org/ or the Toronto Visitor's Bureau web site at www.sectortonow.com/.



Nightly entertainment is part of the Royal International Horse Show. Cavallo was the entertainment at the 2015 Royal. Photo by Kim MacMillan



Indoor eventing competition thrills the crowds on the first weekend of the Royal Winter Fair. Buck Davidson of the U.S.A. competing at the 2015 Royal. Photo by Shelley Higgins



The Royal Winter Fair International Horse Show includes classes for Arabian horses. Photo by Kim MacMillan

International jumper competition attracts competitors from the U.S.A., Europe and South America as well as the home country. Jonathan Millar of Canada competing at the 2015 Royal. Photo by Kim MacMillan



Draft horse hitch classes are very popular at the Royal Winter Fair. Photo by Kim MacMillan



A saddle maker in action in the equestrian shopping area at the 2015 Royal Winter Fair. Photo by Sarah Miller



There are many horse-related items for sale including saddles, stable supplies, equestrian clothing, equestrian artwork and trailers. Photo by Shelly Higgins