

Calgary tour digs deep into city's past



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The story of how Calgary became known as the Sandstone City is part of a new city tour. *TED JACOB / CALGARY HERALD*

A new full-day tour of Calgary delves deep into

the city's past. The Herald asked Judy Uwiera of Lifetime Adventures Travel to talk about the new offering for visitors and residents alike.

Q: How was the tour conceived?

A: Ken Brown and I are the owners of Lifetime Adventures Travel. We started the company to offer African Safaris, but in the process, felt we wanted to initiate our business by offering Calgary tours. We also wanted to ensure that we provided a unique view of the city. While we were doing our research we realized no one was doing a full-day history tour of Calgary. We both have lived in Calgary for 35-plus years and love this city, however, we didn't know a lot about its history. We realized that if we didn't, there was a good chance most Calgarians didn't either. In our travels abroad, we have always taken city tours that gave us an appreciation of that city. As an up-and-coming cosmopolitan city, this tour is an opportunity to connect and understand Calgary's influential history.

Q: What will people see and learn?

A: We focus our tour on the history of Calgary from 1875-1935. The tour shows how Calgary came to be, and the people who were influential and helped form the city, with interesting personal stories. We also show some of its geological formations, early names of various neighbourhoods (i.e. Bridgeland was Germantown), homes of prominent Calgarians and influential Calgarians, such as R. B. Bennett.

Q: Who are your guides?

A: At the moment we have one tour leader, Al Kimmel. He is a geologist and has worked in oil and gas his entire life. Several years ago he started his own company, GeoHistory Tours, and is a tour leader for groups on a geological tour of Calgary and area. He has a vast knowledge of the history of Calgary and area. We are also in the process of interviewing other tour leaders with a background in Calgary history.

Q: Is the tour just downtown or does it move around?

A: Our tour travels throughout the city and includes a lunch. The pick -

up point is downtown and we travel to Fort Calgary, Inglewood, Scotsman Hill, Victoria Park/Ramsay, downtown, Fish Creek Park, Bridgeland, Beltline, Crescent Hill, Nose Hill Park, Glenmore Park, Heritage Park (just a quick stop here), Upper Mount Royal, and back downtown to the drop-off point. Lunch is either at the Lougheed House or Fish Creek Park, depending on the day of the tour as both locations are closed one or two days a week.

Q: The perception is often, 'we're too new to have history, let's go to Banff.' How are you changing that perception?

A: While Banff provides a beautiful view and a CP Rail history, Calgary provides a gateway to the development and settlement of southern Alberta. Our history was developed from a mixture of influences from First Nations, NWMP, CP Railway, and the Oil and Gas industry. This all contributes to a variety of stories and influences that give Calgary a colourful and interesting history.

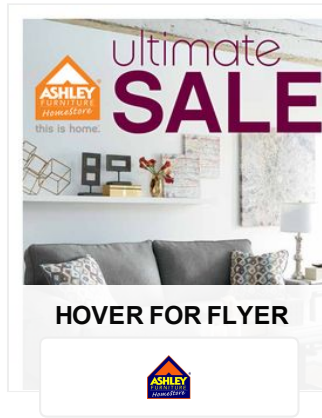
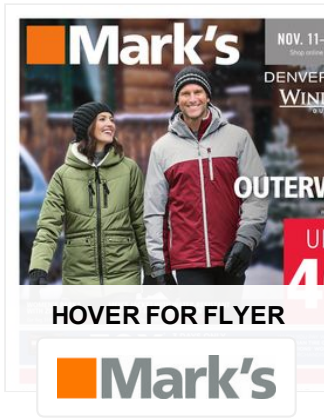
Q: Who would this tour be tailored to, visitors or locals?

A: This tour is tailored to visitors to our great city and locals who want to know more about where they live. It's also a great activity for locals who have visitors from out of town.

Q: What else would you like readers to know about the tour?

A: This is the only full-day history tour offered in Calgary. The price includes lunch and a souvenir summary of the tour. It offers our guests a complete look at the events, surprising stories, and history of the city. We encourage everyone to ask as many questions as possible to make the tour a more personal experience. Whether you are a visitor to Calgary or lived here your whole life, this tour has something for everyone.

For more information, go to www.lifetimeadventurestravel.com or call 587-435-5433



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