

Top Manitoba Festivals & Events 2011-2012

*Unique heritage, culturally-infused cuisine, hot jazz,
awesome country and fragrant lilies are just a few of the many
things that give Manitobans reason to celebrate.
Plan your getaway around any of these fine events
and come revel with us!*

Winnipeg International Children's Festival: Features 30 shows daily of music, dance, puppetry and hands-on activities with local, national and international artists. Location: Winnipeg. Tel: (204) 958-4730; www.kidsfest.ca. Date: June 9-12, 2011. June 7-10, 2012.

Manitoba Summer Fair: Midway and rides for all ages, trade show, demolition derby, petting zoo, antique tractors, horse show. Location: Brandon. Tel: (204) 726-3590; www.brandonfairs.com. Date: June 8-12, 2011. June 6-10, 2012.

Jazz Winnipeg Festival: Features the hottest jazz and blues performers from around the world at both free and ticketed events. Location: Winnipeg. Tel: (204) 989-4656; www.jazzwinnipeg.com. Date: June 16-25, 2011.

Red River Exhibition: North America's #1 midway, stage acts, children's entertainers, exhibits, youth talent shows, opening day fireworks. Location: Winnipeg. Tel: (204) 888-6990; www.redriverex.com. Date: June 17-26, 2011. June 15-24, 2012.

Dauphin Countryfest: Incredible country music from some of the hottest stars in the business. Location: Dauphin. Tel: 1-800-361-7300; www.countryfest.ca. Date: June 30-July 3, 2011. June 28-July 1, 2012.

Manitoba Highland Gathering: Scottish heritage is celebrated with dance, pipe and drum competitions, heavy games of brawn, sheep shearing and herding, canoe and kayak races, clan booths, Scottish market, massed bands and Scottish pub. Location: Selkirk. Tel: (204)757-2010. www.manitobahighlandgathering.org. Date: TBA

Winnipeg Folk Festival: Internationally acclaimed celebration of people and music featuring over 60 acts, six daytime stages, evening main stage, family area, artisan tent and food court. Location: Birds Hill Provincial Park. Tel: (204) 231-0096; www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca. Date: July 7-10, 2011. July 5-8, 2012.

Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival: North America's second largest Fringe festival features more than 100 theatre groups over 11 full days. Outdoor stage and Kids Fringe feature street performers, buskers and bands from noon to midnight. Location: Winnipeg. Tel: (204) 943-7464; www.winnipegfringe.com. Date: July 13-24, 2011.

World Lily Festival: Celebration of lilies with a flower show, walking tours, entertainment, tea parties and much more. Location: Neepawa. Tel: (204) 476-8811. www.lilyfestival.com. Date: July 22-24, 2011. July 20-22, 2012.

Manitoba Stampede and Exhibition: One of Canada's largest professional rodeos, it offers four days of top level competition. Location: Morris. Tel: (204) 746-2552; www.manitobastampede.ca. Date: July 21-24, 2011. July 19-22, 2012.

Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede: Heritage festival that brings all aspects of the museum to life. This includes vintage parade and machinery displays, horse power demonstrations, pioneer lifestyle activities and operating pioneer village. Also enjoy the Central Canada's Fiddler Festival. Location: Austin. Tel: (204) 637-2354; www.ag-museum.mb.ca. Date: July 28-31, 2011.

Manitoba Sunflower Festival: Mennonite culture is celebrated with ethnic food, family entertainment, parade, car show, motocross races, pancake breakfasts, ball tournament, farmer's market, crafts, queen pageant, street dance. Location: Altona. Tel: (204) 324-9005; www.townofaltona.com. Date: July 22-24, 2011.

Canada's National Ukrainian Festival: In this special celebration of Ukraine's independence, experience the flavour of old traditions and culture through song, dance, costume and delectable Ukrainian cuisine. Location: Dauphin. Tel: (204) 622-4600; www.cnuf.ca. Date: July 29-31, 2011.

Steinbach Pioneer Days: Celebrate pioneer life with festivities featuring interpretive demonstrations such as butter churning, threshing, log cutting and quilting. Auction sale, horse show, children's events and barbecues. Location: Steinbach. Tel: (204) 326-9661; www.mennoniteheritagevillage.com. Date: July 29–Aug. 1, 2011. Aug. 3–7, 2012.

Islendingadagurinn (Icelandic Festival of Manitoba): Second oldest ethnic gathering in Canada held in the largest Icelandic community outside Iceland. Includes midway, beach volleyball, Amma's kitchen, folk festival, fine art show, sandcastle building contest, New Iceland historic and cultural exhibits, traditional program, parade. Location: Gimli. Tel: (204) 642-7417; www.icelandicfestival.com. Date: July 29–31, 2011. Aug. 3–6, 2012

Folklorama: Canada's Cultural Celebration: Represents cultures from around the world in a two-week extravaganza full of ethnic richness and traditions in culture, food and art. With over 40 pavilions, this multicultural event is held throughout the city. Location: Winnipeg. Tel: (204) 982-6210 or toll-free 1-800-665-0234; www.folklorama.ca. Date: July 31–Aug 13, 2011. Aug. 5–18, 2012.

Morden Corn & Apple Festival: It's fun and free! Free admission, free shuttle bus, free live stage entertainment, free hot buttered corn-on-the cob, free apple cider and free bus tours. Also a midway, crafts, dances and gospel stage on Sunday. Location: Morden. Tel: (204) 822-5630. www.mordenmb.com. Date: Aug 26–28, 2011. Aug, 24–26, 2012.

Manito Ahbee: Celebration of Aboriginal music and culture, International Pow Wow Competition Summit, Music Festival, Indigenous Marketplace, Trade and Education Conference. Métis celebration. Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards. Location: Winnipeg. Tel: (204) 956-1849, 1-866-449-0251; www.manitoahbee.com. Date: November 2–6, 2011.

Manitoba Livestock Expo: Agricultural extravaganza with shows and exhibits, auctions, Kids World, Manitoba Rodeo Championship finals. Location: Brandon. Tel: (204) 726-3590; www.brandonfairs.com. Date: November 3–6, 2011.

Canad Inns Winter Wonderland: Enjoy a winter drive-through light show in the warmth and comfort of a vehicle. The massive light show features 15 animated theme areas with over 100,000 lights and displays as large as 125 feet wide and 40 feet high. Location: Winnipeg. Tel: (204) 888-6990; www.redriverex.com. Date: December 2011 – January 2012

International New Music Festival: Come and see this unique music festival that spawned new music festivals across the country. “Must be seen to be heard.” Location: Winnipeg. Tel: (204) 949-3999; www.wso.mb.ca. Date: TBA

Festival du Voyageur: Western Canada’s largest winter festival celebrates Canada’s fur trading era and combines the joie de vivre of the voyageurs with more than 300 music performances, magnificent snow sculptures, historical interpretation of the early 19th century at Fort Gibraltar, live entertainment, traditional dishes, arts and crafts, the voyageur International Sled Dog Classic, a governor’s ball. Location: Winnipeg. Tel: (204) 237-7692; www.festivalvoyageur.mb.ca. Date: Feb 16-27, 2012.

Northern Manitoba Trapper's Festival: Oldest winter festival--originating in 1916--celebrates the cultural heritage of the northern pioneer with skills and entertainment; World Championship Dog Race; King Trapper events include canoe packing, trap setting, moose calling, bannock baking and more; arts and crafts show, beard growing contest, children’s games, evening rendezvous. Location: The Pas. Tel: (204) 623-2912. www.trappersfestival.com. Date: Feb 15-19, 2012.

Royal Manitoba Winter Fair: A week of excitement with world-class equestrian events, children’s shows, livestock sales and displays, 300 agricultural and commercial exhibits, top entertainers – Keystone Centre. Location: Brandon. Tel: (204) 726-3590; www.brandonfairs.com. Date: March 26-31, 2012

Hudson Bay Quest: A 400-km dog sled race linking Churchill, Manitoba with Arviat, Nunavut. This self-sufficient dog sledding adventure is a traditional race built on the history of the fur trade, The Hudson’s Bay Company and the early days of Churchill, Manitoba. Location: Churchill. Tel: (204) 675-2887; www.hudsonbayquest.com. Date: TBA