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Camel Racing on the Comstock Dates Back 63 Years – Almost as Historic as the Town it Calls Home

Virginia City Nevada Welcomes Back Racing Fans Sept. 9-11, 2022

VIRGINIA CITY, Nev. (June 3, 2022) – Camels, zebras and ostriches may not be a common sight in Nevada’s landscape, however for the past 63 years, over the second weekend of September that changes. The small historic mining town of Virginia City, Nevada, becomes the epicenter of the action with racing camels, ostriches, zebras competing for bragging rights and offering up a spectacle for visitors from around the country. Taking place Sept. 9 – 11, 2022, in the town made famous by the discovery of the Comstock Lode in 1859, it’s located just 25 minutes from Reno yet feels like you’ve stepped back in time.



With a rich history of silver and gold, world-wide recognition thanks to the 1960s television show “Bonanza,” Virginia City embraces its quirky events and mining history equally. The International Camel & Ostrich Races is at the top of the list encapsulating both.

The first camel race in 1959 was the result of a sort of rivalry between the Territorial Enterprise, Virginia City’s newspaper (known for being Mark Twain’s first writing gig) and the San Francisco Chronicle. The editor of the Territorial Enterprise printed a fictitious story about camel races in Virginia City as a hoax, and the editor of the Chronicle reprinted it. The following year, not happy about being made a fool, the Chronicle sent a team to race in Virginia City with a camel borrowed from the San Francisco Zoo – thus beginning a tradition.

Starting Friday, Sept. 9, Hot Camel Nights offers a Friday evening race and an opportunity to soak in a bit more of Virginia City by exploring the town during the day and staying for the nightlife afterward. Races continue with two shows Saturday, Sept. 10 and Family Day Sunday, Sept. 11.

Ticket are available now online at VisitVirginiaCityNV.com. Pricing is as follows:

- General Admission - \$20
- Premium Shaded Seating - \$30
- Kids (3-12)/Seniors General Admission - \$13
- VIP Bleacher Seating - \$55 (includes tent and dinner)
- VIP Reserved Front Row Table for 6 - \$400
- VIP Reserved Interior Table for 6 - \$365
- Upper Arena Reserved Parking Pass - \$25

For more information on Virginia City, Nevada, visit VisitVirginiaCityNV.com or call the Virginia City Tourism Commission (VCTC) at 775-847-7500.

A short 45-minute drive from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport takes visitors to one of the largest historic districts in the United States - [Virginia City, Nevada](#). Come experience this mining “boomtown” as it was in the 1800’s. Step back in time while visiting the numerous historic buildings, saloons, churches and museums or take a mine tour or even ride a real steam train. The Comstock Adventure Passes offer the best value with discounted attraction packages. For lodging, event calendar or Comstock Adventure Passes, [visit online](#) or call 775-847-7500. The Visitor Information Center is located at 86 South C Street, Virginia City.

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MEDIA: Journalists are invited to attend the annual races. There are limited spaces for media to race a camel during the event. Request an application by emailing vc@radstrategiesinc.com.

MEDIA RESOURCES:

[Watch the video](#)

[Download Photos](#)