

REINERS WELCOME IN OKC

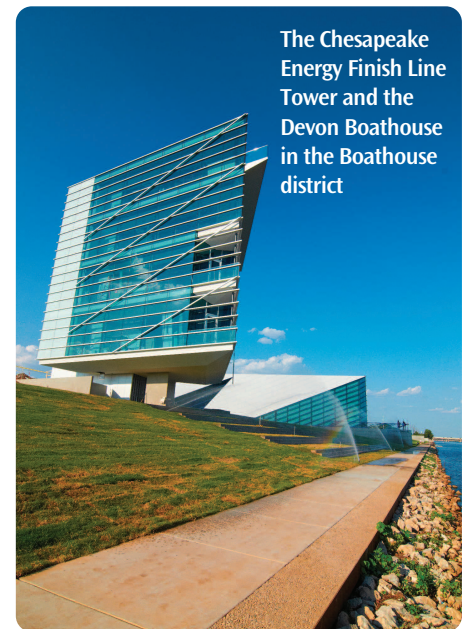
Photos courtesy of
Oklahoma City Convention
and Visitors Bureau

“Executives at State Fair Park know the impact the equine community has on Oklahoma City and strive to continue Oklahoma City’s legacy as the “Horse Show Capital of the World.”

There’s Plenty to See & Do While in Oklahoma City

If you’re coming to Oklahoma City this June for the 2015 National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Derby, chances are you’ve been here before. After all, as the “Horse Show Capital of the World,” Oklahoma City hosts more equine events annually than any other city in the world. But if this is your first time, we think you’re in for a treat. With so much to see and do in OKC, you’ll soon see why your fellow competitors are so excited to keep coming back year after year.

“We love having the reiner’s come home to Oklahoma City each year,” said Mike Carrier, president of the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB). “It’s wonderful to welcome back our friends and show off all the great attractions we have to offer, and for our friends to see the changes that are continually happening in Oklahoma City.”



The Chesapeake Energy Finish Line Tower and the Devon Boathouse in the Boathouse district



View from the glass overlook at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

FREE TIME IN OKC

While we know you’ll be busy competing for more than \$650,000 in prize money here in Oklahoma City, we have some recommendations for a few must-see destinations to visit when you’re not in the saddle.

Just minutes from your hotel and State Fair Park, downtown Oklahoma City is home to the Bricktown Entertainment District, which offers several restaurant and entertainment options. There are pubs and live music, as well as attractions such as the American Banjo Museum and Exhibit C, the Chickasaw Nation’s newest art gallery highlighting authentic pieces of artwork hand-crafted by Chickasaw artists. Bricktown also offers the Bricktown Water Taxi, where you can get a fun, narrated tour of the district while floating along the mile-long Bricktown Canal.



The Bricktown Entertainment district canal

Downtown OKC also offers world-class museums such as the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. Even if you’ve been to the National Memorial before, now is your time to experience something new. The museum has recently undergone \$8 million in renovations, adding more interactive digital displays for the younger generation, as well as new exhibits and artifacts such as Timothy McVeigh’s car. As you end your tour through the museum, make your way to the newly installed 40-foot glass overlook to view the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial and OKC’s gorgeous skyline.

Also while downtown, make sure to experience Native American art at The Red Earth Museum and one of the most comprehensive collections of Chihuly glass in the world at Oklahoma City Museum of Art. If you’re more of an outdoors person, spend some time at the 15-acre Myriad Botanical Gardens & Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory or head just east of Bricktown to the Boathouse District along the Oklahoma River for adventure on and off the water.

Just northeast of downtown, Oklahoma City's Adventure District is packed full of family fun and Western heritage. Make it a day at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Science Museum Oklahoma for kid-friendly fun or have an adult night out and place your bet on more than 750 games at Remington Park Racing Casino. For a glimpse of the Wild West, experience the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, home to one of the most comprehensive collections of Western art in the world. During your visit, the annual Prix de West exhibition is taking place, featuring more than 300 works by the finest contemporary Western artists that will be on display—it's the perfect time to be in town.

Oklahoma City has 12 distinct districts, all with their own uniqueness. And, almost each district offers a monthly festival, which never leaves you without something to do in the city. If you're feeling hungry and in the mood for good music, head over to the world's largest monthly food-truck festival, H&8th, on June 26. With more than 40 food trucks lining Hudson Avenue in Midtown, this festival is one the entire family must try. The event starts at 7pm and promises to satisfy the hungry.

INVESTING IN THE HORSE SHOW CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

In 2005, Oklahoma City citizens voted and approved a 3.5 percent increase to the hotel/motel occupancy tax rate, which paid for upgrades to State Fair Park. New fans and air conditioning for the 70,000 square foot Cox Pavilion and Performance Arena were added in 2011, as well as a new feed and bedding building near the horse barns. In 2013, a cover was added to the existing 150' x 400' outdoor arena. Other improvements to the outdoor arena included enclosing the north end, placing windscreens on the south end, as well as the addition of eight Big Ass Fans and show-quality lights and sound. Also included was the creation of covered cattle holding areas complete with misting fans. With the completion of the covered exercise arena project, Oklahoma City has invested more than \$95 million in facility improvements at State Fair Park. Improvements and renovations continue at State Fair Park with an approximately 300,000 square foot Expo Center, including a 200,000 square foot Expo Hall, currently under construction where the Travel & Transportation Building, Carriage Hall, courtyard and south parking were previously. Construction is slated to be completed in Spring 2016.

Executives at State Fair Park know the impact the equine community has on Oklahoma City and strive to continue Oklahoma City's legacy as the "Horse Show Capital of the World."

"This is an exciting time for us here at State Fair Park as we have begun construction on the new Expo Center," said Timothy J. O'Toole, President & CEO of Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. "This Expo Center will complement the recent improvements to our equine facilities and further position State Fair Park as a 21st century tourism destination."

The Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau values our working relationship with the NRHA and is proud to be the hometown of the association's headquarters. We look forward to having many of you in Oklahoma City for the 2015 NRHA Derby.

For more information on all there is to see and do while in Oklahoma City for the NRHA Derby, go to visitokc.com. ♦



Rowing at the Chesapeake Boathouse in the Boathouse district.



The world's largest monthly food truck festival, H&8th, in the Midtown district