

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Folklorama

By Tom Kirvan

WINNIPEG'S POPULAR MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL TO MARK 55TH ANNIVERSARY

Called Canada's "most surprising capital," Winnipeg will host the 55th version of Folklorama August 2-15 in what is billed as the world's largest and longest-running multicultural festival.

The two-week event is expected to attract upward of 300,000 attendees and will feature 45 volunteer-run pavilions that pop up Manitoba's capital and is home to nearly 750,000 residents. Each pavilion will offer an immersive cultural experience through traditional entertainment, authentic international cuisine, and extensive educational displays.

Winnipeg, which is known as the "cultural cradle" of the Canadian prairies, is located at the geographic center of North America, and is celebrated for its rich Indigenous heritage, remarkable cultural diversity, and thriving arts scene. The city is home to the stunning Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the historic Exchange District, and The Forks – a 6,000-year-old meeting place where the Red and Assiniboine rivers converge.

Folklorama was originally created as a one-time, week-long event in 1970 to celebrate Manitoba's Centennial. The festival was so well-received by the community that it was brought back the following year and eventually expanded to a two-week format in 1988.

More than 20,000 volunteers serve as the engine that drives the festival's success each year, making the event a massive grassroots production attracting 3,000 entertainers who put on 1,500 shows featuring traditional dance, music, and storytelling. The Folk Arts Council of Winnipeg is the organizing body of Folklorama.

Adding spice to the event are the various cultural pavilions that spring up in community halls, churches, parks, and recreation centers, transforming the venues into vibrant international hubs that come alive each day with assorted activities. According to festival organizers, the city's cuisine scene gets a major boost during Folklorama, as an average of 600,000 meals and some 1 million beverages are served over the course of the event.



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FEEL THE BEAT. LIVE THE CULTURE.

FOLKLORAMA

Image credit: Folklorama (2026). Folklorama 2026 Travel Guide Cover cropped [Graphic]. Folklorama. Retrieved July 29, 2026 from <https://folklorama.ca/festival/plan-your-visit/travel-guide/>.

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"The 55th Festival will feature two new additions – Salvadorian Pavilion and Heart of Romania Pavilion – and we're excited to welcome back First Nations Pavilion, after a hiatus in 2025, Mexican Pavilion, back after a hiatus in 2024, and Chilean Pavilion, back for the first time since 2019," said a spokesperson for Folklorama. "We'd also like to congratulate German, Scandinavian, and Ukraine Kyiv Pavilions, also celebrating 55 years in 2026."

During Week 1, which runs from August 2-8, the following pavilions will be featured:

- Africa/Caribbean Pavilion
- Belgian Pavilion
- Budapest-Hungarian Pavilion
- Casa do Minho Portuguese Pavilion
- Chilean Pavilion
- Croatian Pavilion
- First Nations Pavilion
- German Pavilion
- Ghana Pavilion
- Greek Pavilion
- India Pavilion
- Irish Pavilion
- Israel Pavilion
- Japanese Pavilion
- Pavilion of Scotland
- Pavilion Canadien-Francais
- Pearl of the Orient Philippine Pavilion
- Polish Pavilion
- Romanian Pavilion
- Scandinavian Pavilion
- South Sudanese Pavilion
- Ukraine Kyiv Pavilion

Week 2, which takes place August 9-15, will highlight 23 more pavilions:

- Africa Pavilion
- Argentina "Tango" Pavilion
- Brazilian Pavilion
- British Isles Pavilion
- Caribbean Pavilion
- Celtic Ireland Pavilion
- Chile Lindo Pavilion
- Chinese Pavilion
- Egyptian Pavilion
- Ethiopian Pavilion
- Heart of Romania Pavilion
- Hungary-Pannonia Pavilion
- Italian Pavilion
- Korean Pavilion
- Mabuhay Philippine Pavilion
- Mexica Pavilion
- Spain Pavilion
- Pavilion of Portugal
- Punjab Pavilion
- Salvadorian Pavilion
- Slovenia Pavilion
- Spirit of Ukraine Pavilion
- Tamil Pavilion

"Our goal is to bring people together by sharing ethno-cultural experiences and education," said the spokesperson for Folklorama. "Our vision is to embrace and celebrate cultures from around the world, promoting respect for all people while gaining an appreciation for diversity."

Image credit: Folklorama (n.d.). Argentina "Tango" Pavilion [Photograph]. Folklorama. Retrieved July 29, 2026 <https://folklorama.ca/festival/plan-your-visit/pavilion/argentina-tango-pavilion/>