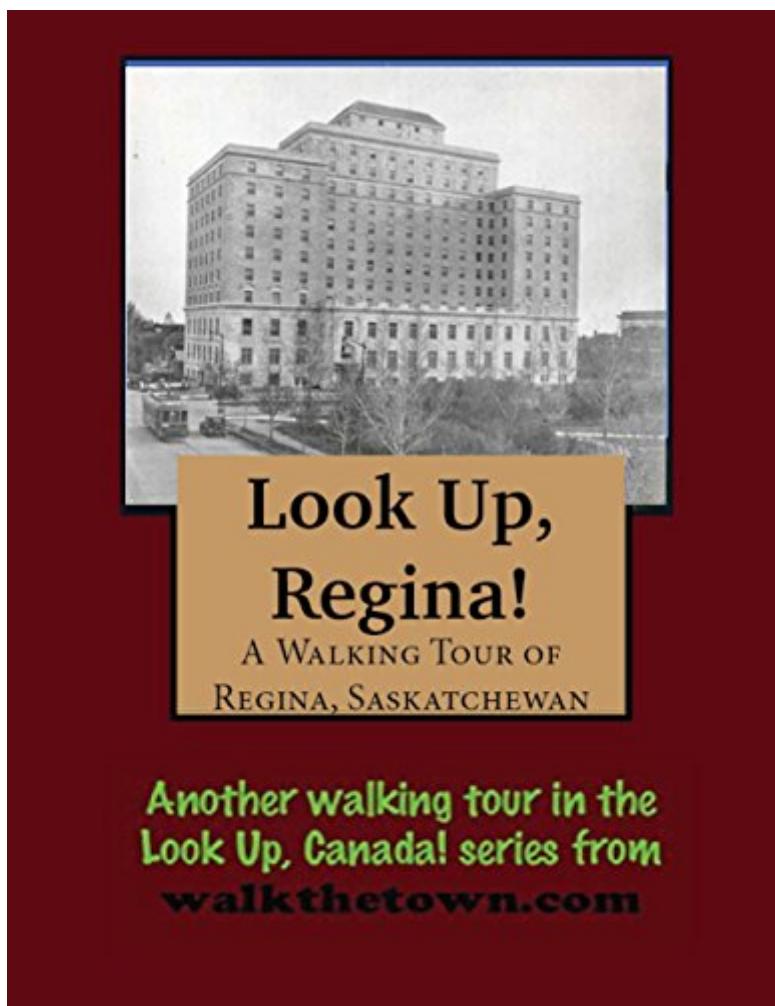


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A Walking Tour Of Regina, Saskatchewan



Synopsis

There is no better way to see Canada than on foot. And there is no better way to appreciate what you are looking at than with a walking tour. Whether you are preparing for a road trip or just out to look at your own town in a new way, a downloadable walking tour from walkthetown.com is ready to explore when you are. Each walking tour describes historical and architectural landmarks and provides pictures to help out when those pesky street addresses are missing. Every tour also includes a quick primer on identifying architectural styles seen on North American streets.

There were more than a few eyebrows raised when it was announced in 1883 that old Pile of Bones would become the new capital of the vast North West Territories, an area greater than the size of Europe. The name came from massive piles of buffalo bones that Cree hunters had stacked on the Canadian plains rather than the deadly prospects for settlement. But still it was a featureless prairie with scant supplies of water nearby. It wasn't called Pile of Bones anymore. The year before the wife of Canada's governor general thought it was better to call the settlement "Regina" from the Latin word for queen. Princess Louise was thinking about her own mother, Queen Victoria, then in the middle of a 63-year reign. But by any name Battleford, the territorial capital since 1876, and Qu'Appelle, the town with the brightest future, and Fort Qu'Appelle, the headquarters of the North-West Mounted Police, all seemed like better choices for a capital. But Regina was located on the planned route of the transcontinental railroad and, oh by the way, Territorial Lieutenant-Governor Edgar Dewdney had bought up a lot of cheap land in Pile of Bones. So Regina became a capital and officially a town on December 1, 1883. The Mounties moved into town and the Canadian Pacific Railway arrived as promised. By 1903 the population had grown to 3,000 and Regina became a city. Agriculture was booming and when Saskatchewan became its own province Regina segued smoothly from territorial capital to provincial capital. Some 350,000 trees were planted in this new oasis on the prairie and the population grew tenfold in the first decade of the 20th century. On June 30, 1912 a tornado formed south of the city at 4:50 in the afternoon, roaring through the city ten minutes later. The Regina Cyclone damaged or destroyed over 500 buildings and 2,500 of the city's 30,213 residents were left homeless. Twenty-eight people were killed, making the storm still the deadliest tornado in Canadian history. It took two years to fully rebuild and the Regina Cyclone left a permanent mark on the downtown streetscape. There have not been any devastating downtown natural disasters in the past 100 years but crusaders in the name of progress have taken a toll. Regina has sacrificed some significant civic and commercial buildings to urban renewal but plenty heritage properties remain. To kick-off our explorations of the Queen City we will begin in a place that carries the name of the monarch who inspired the name of the city...

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