

Motor Sports & Rodeo Photography

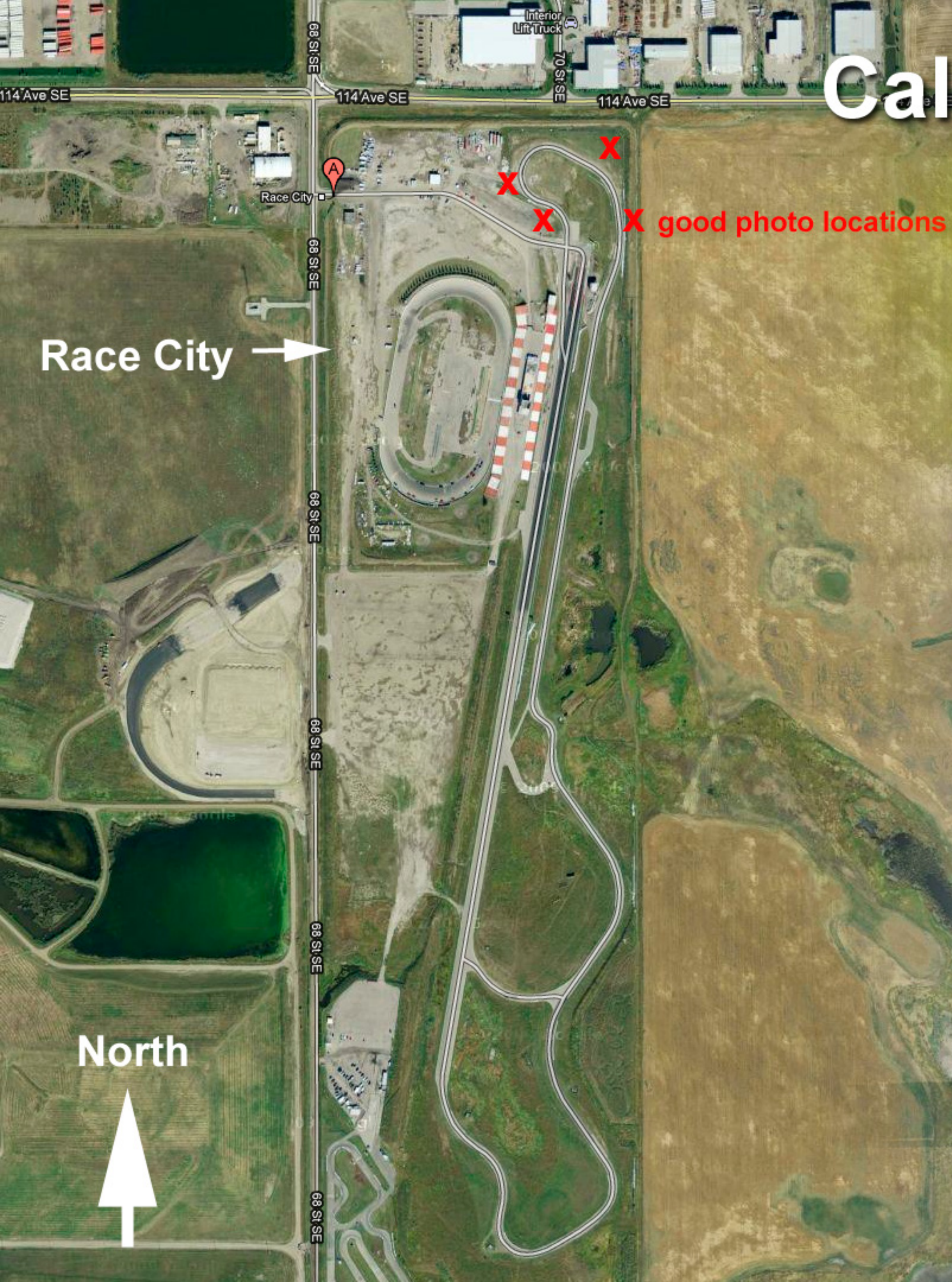


Photographs by Robert Berdan ©
www.canadiannaturephotographer.com

Motor Sports & Rodeo

- 1. Prepare - call ahead, check when the events start, ask if there are any photo restrictions and what costs there might be - arrive early to get the best spots.**
- 2. Once there scout good locations to shoot from. Observe the background, and anticipate where the best action might occur. Use Google Satellite maps to check out the track before you go.**
- 3. Note the direction of light and where the sun will be, if possible try to get the sun behind you. You may be restricted in where you can take photographs.**
- 4. Determine how close you can safely get to the track or competitors.**
- 5. Most rodeos and motorcycle racing events do not require a model release, but if the competitors faces are clearly recognizable and you hope to sell the images for stock or advertising, or enter some photo contests - you will need a model release.**

Calgary Race City



Race City - Competitors Tents



Race City Competitors Tents







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x good spots to photograph from



























Calgary Stampede & Rodeo

Meet Here

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Rodeo Photography

- 1. The Calgary Stampede is the biggest rodeo in Alberta and features events such as chuck wagon racing that many smaller rodeos don't have. Smaller rodeos in nearby towns such as Cochrane, Airdrie, and Bragg Creek give photographers more intimate opportunities to get close.**
- 2. The best lens for rodeo photography is a 70-200 zoom lens or a 300 mm lens and a camera with a fast frame rate.**
- 3. If the sky is overcast try to shoot down or eliminate much of the sky, overcast light will give you nice tones and is great for photographing the competitors as well.**
- 4. Some rodeos have children riding sheep and while I am sure no one minds if you take their picture just remember you can't use the photos for commercial use unless you have both parents sign a release.**
- 5. Rodeos are ideal to try and freeze the action and try panning with slow exposures. Don't forget to take some close-ups e.g. knee braces, saddles sitting on a fence, cowboy hats, belt bucklers and the rodeo clown.**
- 6. To find a rodeo - search the web or visit www.albertarodeo.ca**





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Summary

- 1. Good photography is about “seeing” - focus your attention on the events and be open to possibilities and opportunities that present themselves.**
- 2. You are more likely to get good pictures if you have an interest in the event, learn as much as you can and get to know some of the folks involved and ask them questions or ask them politely if you can take their pictures - smile :-)**
- 3. Examine other photographers images, visit their web sites, look at photographs in magazines and identify elements that make for a good photo.**
- 4. Take a lot of photographs, with digital photography there is no additional cost to shoot more, then edit your images ruthlessly reject those that do not meet your standards and as you get better continue to raise your standards.**