



DRAGSTER AUSTRALIA 2011 March Meet Auto Club Famoso Tour

The first race of NHRA's 2010 Heritage Series, the historic March Meet at Famoso Raceway, Bakersfield, in California, has always been a headline event on the annual drag racing calendar. First run in 1959, the event is nowadays a magnet for nostalgia drag racing and hot rod and muscle car fans.

Due to celebrate its 53rd running in 2011, the world famous March Meet is a three-day speedfest that enthusiasts call 'the jewel of Nostalgia Racing.' It attracts drag racers and spectators from around the world and also includes a hot rod and muscle car show, swap meet and a high performance industry display, as well as appearances from some of drag racing's most famous identities.

The 2011 March Meet is also the first race of the Hot Rod Heritage Series, the NHRA's 9-race nostalgia racing series.

The event traditionally attracts the top nostalgia teams from around the US and abroad, with big fields of front-engined Top Fuel dragsters, and wild Funny Cars and Fuel Alterededs, Junior Fuel and Supercharged Gassers ensuring fans get their moneys worth.

Historically, the March Meet played a big part in the US drag racing scene. Originally called the US Fuel and Gas Championships, the event was founded and run by the Smokers, a local race club. The Smokers, who began racing at Famoso in 1951, became sceptical of reported times and speeds set in the east by "Big Daddy" Don Garlits, so they invited him to Bakersfield to compete. In March 1959 he did just that. The result was the March Meet, often called the "Woodstock of drag racing." Although Garlits lost in the first round and Art Chrisman became Top Eliminator, Garlits went on to become the most celebrated drag racer in history and the March Meet now has its own place in drag racing history.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Mind-blowing nostalgia drag racing action
- Cacklefest and trade and club displays
- Swap meet
- 2 nights in spectacular Las Vegas
- Visit the NHRA Museum and John Force race shop and museum
- Visit LA attractions, including Venice Beach, Malibu and Hollywood

PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

DAY 1. Thursday, March 3

Depart Australia Arrive LA. Coach transfer to the Wally Parks NHRA Drag Racing Museum at Pomona for a special welcoming reception. Then coach transfer to Bakersfield, approximately two hours north. Arrive hotel and complete check-in.

DAY 2. Friday, March 4

Coach transfer to Auto Club Famoso Raceway for day of action and qualifying. Also, attend special tour reception, including meeting some of drag racing's most famous drivers and identities.

DAY 3. Saturday, March 5

Coach transfer to Auto Club Famoso Raceway. Plenty of nitro-fuelled action as racers compete in time trials and qualifying. Also, special exhibition passes by famous race cars.

DAY 4. Sunday, March 6

Coach transfer to Auto Club Famoso Raceway. Race day, with competitors taking to the quarter-mile for drag racing glory at the California Hot Rod Reunion. Exhibition runs will occur throughout the day, along with final eliminations and presentations.

DAY 5, Monday, March 7

Coach transfer to Los Angeles, including a visit to the John Force race shop and museum at Yorba Linda. John Force is the world's most famous and successful drag racer and his race shop and museum are a 'must do' for every serious drag racer. Check out the many race cars and other displays and stock up on the souvenirs and merchandising.

DAY 6. Tuesday, March 8

Coach tour of LA highlights, taking in such famous attractions as Venice Beach, the Pedersen Automotive Museum, the prehistoric La Brea Tar Pits and Hollywood. Transfer to airport for late evening return flight to Australia. Arrive Australia and transfer to other flights as necessary.

LAS VEGAS NIGHTS OPTION

This is an optional package for tour members who would like to wind down after the hectic tour schedule. It offers two nights in Las Vegas, experiencing all that the spectacular desert city has to offer. Take in the amazing casinos, shows and themed bars and restaurants over two nights, or take the opportunity to visit the awesome Grand Canyon or nearby Hoover Dam.

DAY 6. Tuesday, March 8

Transfer to airport for 1 hour flight to Las Vegas. Transfer to hotel.

DAY 7, Wednesday, March 9

Day free to explore Las Vegas and surrounds.

DAY 8, Thursday, March 10

Day free to explore Las Vegas and surrounds. Late afternoon flight to LA and transfer to International Terminal for return flight to Australia.

DAY 9, Saturday, March 12

Arrive Australia and transfer to connecting flights as necessary.

Please note: Tour itinerary may vary and is subject to change depending on flight availability and race schedules.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

Contact Susanne Sharp at Wodonga Travel on 1800 247 946 or go to www.wodongatravel.com.au