



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Experience the Camel and Ostrich Races**

**Indio, CA** – When was the last time you witnessed a camel or ostrich race? If you haven't yet experienced it, you must make it a point to attend this hilarious and unpredictable event. A Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival tradition for years, camel and ostrich races continue to captivate audiences with their crazy riders and unexpected animal behavior. They will be here again for your enjoyment at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, Friday, February 17 through Sunday, February 26.

Did you know that the ostrich is the largest bird on earth today and the only two-toed bird on Earth? Ostriches grow a foot per month until they reach 8 or 9 feet tall! Don't believe the myth that ostriches stick their heads in the sand when frightened, they get low to the ground to hide from natural predators such as lions. One true fact, however, is this bird's ability to run at very high speeds in excess of 40 MPH. At that speed, it's a good thing that ostriches have excellent eyesight, and it makes for more excitement at the races!

Camels are fun to watch too, and are a force to be reckoned with. Did you know that camels can kick in all four directions with each of their legs? Or that the hump does not store water, but in fact stores fat? This lessens the heat-trapping insulation around the rest of the body. Camels have played such an important role in Arabian culture that there are over 160 words for 'camel' in the Arabic language! Check out these amazing creatures at the races! Races are free with admission. (Race times include: February 17<sup>th</sup> at 3p.m.; February 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> at 11a.m.; February 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.; February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11a.m., and February 26<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m.)

The Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival is presented by Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, the desert's leader in gaming and entertainment. The Fair runs February 17-26, 2017. Gates open at 10 a.m. and close at 10 p.m. Purchase your tickets early and receive them at a discounted price: \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for youth, \$7 for group tickets or bus tours (minimum of 25), and \$22 for Unlimited Carnival Ride Wristbands. For more information, call 800.811.FAIR or visit [www.datefest.org](http://www.datefest.org) where you can buy and print your Fair tickets at home.

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