

# Things To Know About Edmonton

## What Do You Need To Know About Edmonton, AB?

Start a journey of discovery as we unveil the hidden gems and essential things to know about Edmonton. With its vibrant cultural scene and breathtaking natural wonders, this bustling Canadian city is a tapestry of experiences waiting to be explored.



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Whether you're a local seeking discoveries or a [traveler planning your next adventure](#), Edmonton offers a unique charm that sets it apart.

Join us in exploring the city's heartbeat and uncover the diverse facets that make Edmonton a destination like no other.

Read more about what to know of Edmonton AB>>

Edmonton: A Brief History

Learn about the arrival of European settlers that brought a new era in Edmonton's history.

Witness the city's rapid modern development and how it has shaped the vibrant present.

From its humble beginnings to its current state, Edmonton's history is a tapestry of diverse cultures and stories waiting to be explored.

#### Indigenous History

In Edmonton, you can learn about Indigenous history through the rich and complex interactions between the First Nations peoples and the land. Edmonton, nestled along the North Saskatchewan River, has a profound connection to the Indigenous communities that have thrived in the region for millennia.

The city is home to Fort Edmonton Park, where you can navigate the history of Indigenous peoples and their contributions to the area. This park showcases the diverse cultures and traditions of the Indigenous communities, offering an immersive experience that highlights their way of life, art, and spirituality.

Stunning natural landscapes surround Edmonton, and Elk Island National Park, located just east of the city, provides an opportunity to navigate the natural beauty of the Canadian wilderness and learn more about the region's ecological significance.

Edmonton's Indigenous history is a testament to the resilience and strength of the First Nations, who've called this land home long before European settlement.

#### European Settlement

Edmonton, located in Alberta, Canada, has a rich history shaped by the arrival of European immigrants. In the 18th century, the Hudson's Bay

Company established a trading post in the area, attracting settlers from Europe.

The city's European roots are evident in its architecture, culture, and traditions. To learn more about this fascinating history, visit the Edmonton History Museum, where you can immerse yourself in exhibits showcasing early European settlement and the impact of Canadian immigration.

#### Modern Development

Like many other Canadian cities, Edmonton has experienced significant growth and development in recent years. The real estate sector has played a crucial role in this process, with numerous high-rise buildings and residential complexes popping up across the city.

The development of modern infrastructure, including transportation systems and public spaces, has contributed to Edmonton's progress. The city's commitment to sustainable development is evident in its efforts to incorporate green spaces and environmentally friendly initiatives into its urban planning.

As a result, Edmonton has become a vibrant and thriving city that continues to attract residents and businesses alike.

#### Geography And Climate Of Edmonton

Edmonton sits along the North Saskatchewan River within the province of Alberta, Canada. The city is known for its varied topography, with rolling hills and river valleys adding to its scenic beauty.

#### Location and Topography

You'll be fascinated by this one of Canada's geography and climate of Edmonton town. In Canada's central region, within the province of Alberta, lies the town of Edmonton. Its location is unique, as it lies on the North Saskatchewan River and is surrounded by the stunning beauty of the Rocky Mountains.

The river valley, the largest urban parkland in North America, characterizes the city’s topography. This expansive green space offers residents and visitors opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and picnicking.

The river valley adds to the city’s natural charm, creating a picturesque backdrop for Edmonton town’s skyline, where occasionally, lucky observers can catch glimpses of the mesmerizing northern lights illuminating the night sky.

Regarding climate, Edmonton experiences a continental climate with distinct seasons. Winters are cold and snowy, while summers are warm and sunny days, making it an ideal destination for year-round outdoor adventures.

Climate and Weather Patterns

Understanding the climate and weather patterns in the city will help you prepare for your visit to this stunning city. The city experiences a humid continental climate with long, cold winters and short, warm summers.

The city is renowned for its significant temperature variations throughout the year. In the winter, temperatures can drop below freezing, sometimes reaching as low as -30 degrees Celsius (-22 degrees Fahrenheit). The city enjoys plenty of sunshine, averaging 2,299 hours per year.

This makes the city a great destination for outdoor activities, such as skiing and snowboarding.

So, pack warm clothing and be prepared for the winter chill when visiting Edmonton.

Climate	Weather Patterns
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Humid continental climate	Long, cold winters
Short, warm summers	Extreme temperature fluctuations
Plenty of sunshine	Average of 2,299 hours of sunshine per year

## Economy Of Edmonton

The city is known for its diverse major industries, including manufacturing, construction, and healthcare.

It's important to consider factors such as employment and unemployment rates.

Consider the significant economic impact of the oil and gas industry on the region.

### Major Industries

The city boasts a diverse economy, with numerous industries driving its thriving business landscape. As Alberta's capital city, the provincial capital of Edmonton plays a significant role in the province's economy.

One of the major industries in Edmonton is oil and gas. With Alberta being home to vast oil and gas reserves, it serves as a hub for the industry. This sector offers several job opportunities, from engineering and construction to finance and technology.

Besides oil and gas, the city has a strong presence in other industries, such as healthcare, education, manufacturing, and technology. As the northernmost city, it is a key center for several northern initiatives. These industries contribute to the city's economic growth and provide diverse employment opportunities for its residents.

Oil and Gas Industry's Employment and Economic Impact

Edmonton boasts a robust job market with a relatively low unemployment rate of approximately 7%. Home to the University of Alberta, the city attracts skilled workers and fosters a thriving economy. Compared to other major Canadian cities, affordable housing options make it an attractive destination for residents. The provincial government's investment in infrastructure projects and job creation further supports economic growth.

With diverse industries—including oil and gas, technology, healthcare, and education—Edmonton offers ample employment opportunities. Its downtown areas are bustling hubs featuring businesses, restaurants, and cultural attractions contributing to the city's economic vibrancy.

The oil and gas sector has historically played a significant role in Edmonton's economy, providing employment opportunities and driving prosperity. Since the early 20th century, the industry's presence has shaped the city's growth and development. Today, Edmonton continues to benefit from the economic impact of the oil and gas industry, with several companies and supporting industries contributing to its thriving economy.

### Culture And Lifestyle In Edmonton

Regarding culture and lifestyle in Edmonton, there are three focal aspects to consider: arts and entertainment, sports and recreation, and food and cuisine.

You'll find a thriving arts scene with numerous galleries, theaters, and music venues to navigate, providing a vibrant atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Music events, ranging from concerts to festivals, contribute to the dynamic cultural landscape of the city.

Sports enthusiasts can enjoy several recreational activities, from hiking and biking in the river valley to cheering on the local hockey team.



And when it's time to eat, Edmonton offers a diverse culinary scene with a wide range of international cuisines to satisfy any palate. The city hosts several music events, enriching Edmonton's cultural tapestry.

#### Arts and Entertainment

The city is home to numerous art galleries that showcase diverse artwork from local and international artists. You can wander through these galleries, soaking up the creativity and inspiration.

And when the bright sunshine calls you outside, Edmonton has many festivals and outdoor events to entertain you. Whether it's the lively atmosphere of the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival, the soulful tunes at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, or the delicious offerings at the Taste of Edmonton Festival, there's always something happening in the city.

And, of course, no visit to Edmonton is complete without a trip to West Edmonton Mall, North America's largest indoor amusement park, water park, Hawrelak Park, and mall. With its mix of retail, entertainment, and dining options, you're sure to find something to suit your taste.

#### Sports and Recreation

Immerse yourself in Edmonton town's vibrant culture and lifestyle through its sports and recreation activities. Edmonton Town is a city that caters to sports lovers and offers several recreational opportunities. Whether you enjoy outdoor adventures or prefer to watch professional sports teams in action, it has something for everyone.

The area boasts beautiful parks, trails, and river valleys for outdoor enthusiasts, perfect for hiking, biking, and picnicking. The region is also home to numerous golf courses, providing ample opportunities for golf lovers to indulge in their favorite sport, including mini golf.

If you're a professional sports fan, the region is the place to be. The city is home to the Edmonton Oilers, a renowned NHL team, and the Edmonton Eskimos, a beloved CFL team.

Attending their games is a thrilling experience that immerses you in the electric atmosphere of live sports.

#### Food and Cuisine

Indulge in Edmonton's rich and diverse food culture, where a wide array of culinary delights await you. Edmonton is known for its vibrant food scene, with numerous festivals and events celebrating the city's love for food and cuisine.

Taste the flavors of Edmonton at the annual Edmonton Food Festival, where you can sample several dishes from local restaurants and food vendors.

Navigate the city's diverse dining options, from cozy cafes and trendy bistros to upscale restaurants offering international cuisines.

Support the local economy by dining at farm-to-table restaurants, which prioritize using locally sourced ingredients and supporting local farmers.

Edmonton's food and cuisine scene satisfies your taste buds and contributes to the city's thriving local economy.

#### Education In Edmonton

The city offers a strong primary and secondary education system, with a wide range of public and private schools to choose from.

Edmonton is home to several prestigious higher education institutions, providing opportunities for further academic pursuits.

The city offers several adult and continuing education programs, ensuring that individuals of all ages have access to lifelong learning opportunities.



#### Primary, Secondary, Post-Secondary Education

Edmonton offers a diverse range of educational opportunities for both primary/secondary and higher education. For international students considering a move to Edmonton, the city provides numerous options tailored to their needs.

Both public and private primary and secondary schools in Edmonton maintain high academic standards, ensuring quality education for students of all backgrounds. The city's public schools are particularly renowned for their commitment to academic excellence.

In terms of higher education, Edmonton boasts several esteemed institutions, including the University of Alberta, consistently ranked among Canada's top universities. MacEwan University, NorQuest College, and NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) offer a variety of programs catering to different interests and career paths.

Whether pursuing primary, secondary, or higher education, international students can find suitable options in Edmonton to achieve their educational goals and immerse themselves in its vibrant community.

#### Adult and Continuing Education Opportunities

Edmonton offers a variety of programs and schools that cater to adult learners who are looking to enrich their knowledge and skills. These opportunities allow individuals to continue their education and gain new qualifications, even if they're already working or have other commitments.

Whether you're interested in pursuing a specific field of study or simply want to expand your horizons, Edmonton has options for you. From professional development courses to certificate programs, you can find educational opportunities that fit your interests and schedule.

#### Tourist Attractions In Edmonton

From historical sites that tell the city's story to beautiful parks and natural attractions that offer a breath of fresh air, there's something for everyone.

And let's not forget about the vibrant festivals and events that bring the city to life, providing endless entertainment and cultural experiences.

#### Historical Sites

One of the most significant historical sites to visit in Edmonton is Fort Edmonton, a replica of the original Hudson's Bay Company trading post. It offers a glimpse into Edmonton's rich history and allows visitors to experience what life was like in the 19th century.

The city of Edmonton itself has a fascinating history, from its humble beginnings as a small settlement to its growth into the vibrant metropolis it is today. Edmonton communities such as Old Strathcona and Highlands are worth exploring, as they showcase the city's architectural heritage and charm.

Don't forget to visit Edmonton's River Valley, which holds archaeological sites and provides a beautiful backdrop for leisurely walks and outdoor activities.

#### Festivals and Events

Edmonton is known for its lively and diverse festival calendar, offering something for everyone throughout the year. One of the highlights is the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival, the world's largest, and oldest fringe festival in North America. This event showcases an array of performances, from comedy shows to thought-provoking dramas.

Another must-visit event is the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, attracting renowned musicians from around the world. For those interested in culinary delights, the Taste of Edmonton festival is a must-attend, celebrating the city's vibrant food scene. Edmonton is often referred to as the festival city, emphasizing its commitment to hosting a variety of exciting and engaging events for residents and visitors alike.

Don't miss the opportunity to capture stunning views of the city skyline during your visit to Edmonton. The urban landscape offers a picturesque backdrop for your exploration of its cultural and entertainment offerings.

### Living In Edmonton

The cost of living in the city is relatively affordable compared to other major Canadian cities, making it an attractive option for many looking for a home in Edmonton.

The housing market in Edmonton offers a range of options, from apartments to single-family homes, catering to different budgets and preferences for those seeking a home in Edmonton.

The city has a well-developed public transportation system, making it easy to get around without a car for those who have made their home in Edmonton.

### Cost of Living and Housing Market

Living in Edmonton can be pricey, but there are affordable housing options available. Compared to other major Canadian cities, Edmonton generally boasts a lower cost of living. The median income in the city is approximately \$80,000 per year, which exceeds the national average.

While housing prices have been on the rise in recent years, there are still opportunities for finding reasonably priced accommodation. The average cost of a house in Edmonton sits around \$400,000. There are more affordable options for renting apartments or condos, particularly when compared to other urban centers in Canada. When searching for housing, it's essential to carefully consider your budget and preferences, as prices can vary significantly based on the neighborhood and amenities.

Edmonton's diverse housing market offers several options for homebuyers, including singlefamily homes, townhouses, and condos. Collaborating with a real estate agent can help navigate this market

effectively. Your affordability, influenced by Edmonton's median salary, is a critical factor in your housing search. Establishing a clear budget and working closely with your agent can lead you to a property that aligns with your financial capabilities and lifestyle needs.

#### Public Transportation

Transit in Edmonton is a source of pride, with its well-connected system making it easy for residents and visitors to navigate around the city.

Edmonton Transit (ETS) operates an extensive network of busses, LRT (Light Rail Transit), and specialized services, ensuring that you can reach your destination hassle-free. Whether you need to commute to work, navigate downtown Edmonton, or travel to the outskirts of the city, the public transportation system has got you covered.

ETS offers several fare options, including single-ride tickets, day passes, and monthly passes, making it convenient for regular users. With frequent service, well-maintained vehicles, and dedicated routes, Edmonton public transportation system ensures a smooth and reliable journey for all.

#### Government And Politics In Edmonton

You'll learn about the local government structure, the major political issues that the city faces, and how provincial and federal politics influence the decisions made in Edmonton.

Understanding these aspects will give you insight into the governance and political landscape of the city.

#### Government Structure & Political Issues

Edmonton's municipal government, comprising a mayor and city council, oversees several services and decisions for its residents. Situated in the province of Alberta, the city's administrative center plays a pivotal role in managing infrastructure, public services, and policies. Collaboration with

the provincial government is crucial for effective governance and service delivery, addressing Edmonton's distinct needs and challenges.

Key political issues in Edmonton encompass healthcare improvement, ensuring access to quality services. Social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook serve as vital tools for politicians to engage with citizens and disseminate updates. Education is a priority, striving for high-quality provision from early childhood through post-secondary levels. Advocacy for preserving historical sites and promoting heritage tourism aligns with Edmonton's rich history.

#### Influence of Provincial and Federal Politics

Edmonton plays a significant role in provincial politics. The Alberta legislature, located in Edmonton, is where important decisions are made that affect the entire city.

As the capital of Canada's Alberta province, Edmonton is impacted by federal politics. The federal government sets policies and provides funding that directly affect the city's infrastructure, economy, and social programs.

Edmonton's political landscape is shaped by the interplay between provincial and federal politics, as decisions made at both levels have a direct impact on the city and its residents. It's crucial for Edmontonians to stay informed and engaged in the political process to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met.

#### Health And Healthcare In Edmonton

In terms of health and healthcare in Edmonton, there are several important points to consider.

Public health statistics in the city provide valuable information about the overall well-being of the population.

Access to healthcare is a crucial factor, and understanding the availability and affordability of healthcare options is essential in ensuring the well-being of Edmonton residents.

#### Public Health Statistics & Healthcare Facilities

Edmonton boasts a robust healthcare system, with high accessibility to medical care facilitated by numerous hospitals, clinics, and healthcare facilities. The majority of residents have health insurance, minimizing financial barriers to treatment. The city is well-prepared for natural disasters, with emergency response systems in place.

Edmonton's healthcare infrastructure encompasses state-of-the-art hospitals, clinics, and medical centers staffed by skilled professionals, providing a full spectrum of services from specialized treatment to routine check-ups.

Beyond traditional healthcare, the city offers several services including home healthcare, mental health support, and rehabilitation programs, emphasizing a holistic approach to wellness. These efforts underscore Edmonton's dedication to providing quality healthcare and safeguarding the well-being of its population.

#### Access to Healthcare

To access healthcare in Edmonton, you can easily find a variety of healthcare facilities and services available to meet your needs. The city of Edmonton is home to numerous hospitals, clinics, and medical centers that provide comprehensive healthcare services.

Whether you need primary care, specialized treatment, or emergency services, you can find accessible healthcare options throughout the city. Edmonton is known for its well-developed healthcare system, with a wide range of medical professionals and specialists available to address your healthcare needs.

The city is committed to promoting health and wellness, offering several programs and initiatives to improve public health. With its strong healthcare infrastructure and commitment to accessibility, Edmonton ensures that residents and visitors have easy access to quality healthcare services.

#### Environmental Sustainability Efforts

You can expect Edmonton to prioritize environmental sustainability in its future development plans. Edmonton is committed to implementing several environmental sustainability efforts to ensure a greener and more sustainable future.

One of the key initiatives is the promotion of eco-friendly practices during festivals and events held in the city. Edmonton encourages event organizers to adopt sustainable practices such as waste reduction, recycling, and energy conservation.

The city is actively working towards expanding and improving its public transit system, which won't only reduce traffic congestion but contribute to a decrease in carbon emissions.

Edmonton is investing in renewable energy and green infrastructure to minimize its environmental impact.

With its focus on environmental sustainability, Edmonton is taking proactive steps to create a more sustainable and eco-friendly future for its residents and visitors.

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the typical expense of living in Edmonton?

The average cost of living in Edmonton is relatively affordable compared to other major Canadian cities. You can expect to spend less on housing, transportation, and groceries, making it an attractive place to live.

Are There Any Famous Celebrities or Athletes From Edmonton?



Yes, there are several famous celebrities and athletes from Edmonton. Some notable ones include Nathan Fillion, Michael J. Fox, and K.D. Lang. Each of them has attained remarkable success in their respective fields.

How Safe Is Edmonton for Residents and Tourists?

Edmonton is generally safe for residents and tourists. Crime rates are relatively low, but it’s always wise to take precautions like staying in well-lit areas and being aware of your surroundings.

What Are the Most Popular Annual Events and Festivals in Edmonton?

The most popular annual events and festivals in Edmonton include the Edmonton International Fringe Festival, the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, and the Ice on Whyte Festival. They offer a variety of entertainment for residents and tourists alike.

How Easy Is It to Find Employment Opportunities in Edmonton?

Finding employment opportunities in Edmonton is relatively easy. The city offers a diverse range of job opportunities across several industries. With a proactive approach and proper research, you can find suitable employment options in Edmonton.

Related Term	Definition
Edmont on’s River Valley	A vast network of green space and parklands along the North Saskatchewan River, offering recreational activities and natural beauty within the city of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Urban Parklands	Areas of open space within urban environments designated for public recreation, relaxation, and conservation, often featuring amenities such as trails, playgrounds, and picnic areas.
Technical Institutes	Educational institutions focused on providing specialized training and education in technical and vocational fields, typically offering programs in areas such as engineering, computer science, healthcare, and skilled trades.
Ice Castle	A large-scale structure constructed primarily of ice, often featuring intricate designs and architecture, typically built for seasonal attractions, festivals, or events, and offering visitors a unique and immersive winter experience.