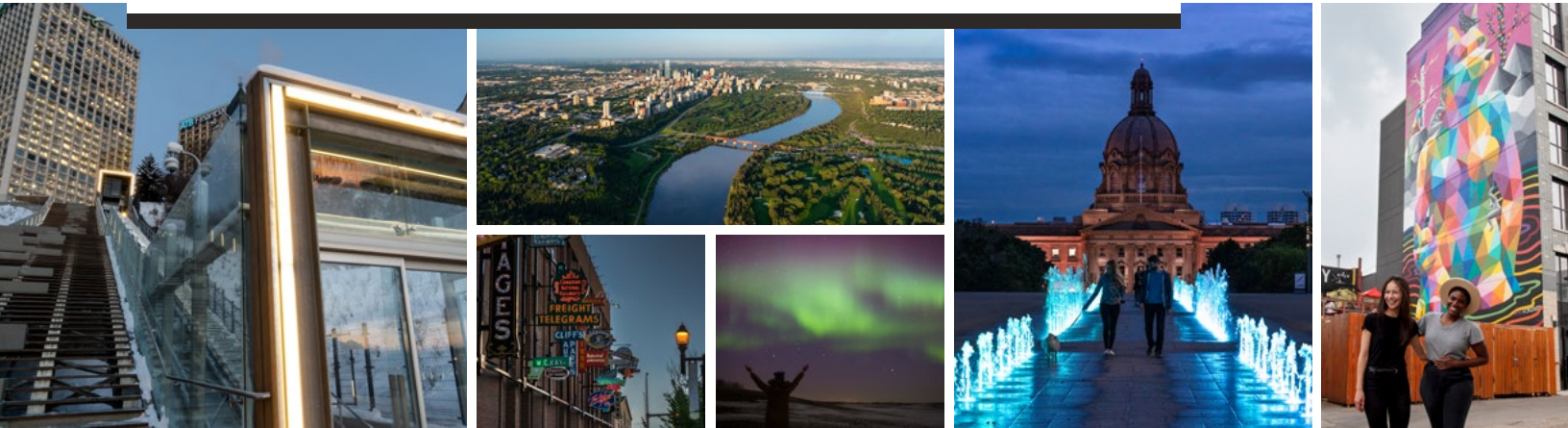


FREE THINGS TO DO IN EDMONTON

Experiencing the city on a budget can open your eyes to incredible overlooked adventures all over town. Peruse this list, then take your day up a notch with these fun, fabulous and free activities.



TAKE A PICTURE WITH A LOCAL CELEBRITY

Snap a pic with the famous Wayne Gretzky statue located outside the main doors of Rogers Place or venture a little further south to find Bob and Doug McKenzie, true Canadian icons.

RIDE THE 100 STREET FUNICULAR

Catch a free ride on the 100 Street Funicular - your link from Downtown Edmonton to the North Saskatchewan River Valley. Take in the sights and sounds of Edmonton's River Valley as you ride along the side of the bank in the glass-walled elevator.

GO ON A SELF-GUIDED MURAL TOUR

Take a self-guided walking or driving tour of the murals in Edmonton using the [mural map](#).

CHECK OUT THE LIGHTS AT THE ALBERTA LEGISLATURE

Known to Edmontonians as "the Ledge", the Alberta Legislature Building is a marvel of marble pillars, carved oak, beautiful Beaux-Arts architecture and stunning grounds. Check out the impressive display of holiday lights, music and skating right in the heart of downtown.

EXPLORE EDMONTON'S RIVER VALLEY TRAILS

Taking time to connect with nature is a wonderful way to clear the mind and soothe the soul. Luckily, Edmonton's river valley boasts over 160km of trails just waiting to be explored.

DRIVE BY THE INFAMOUS TALUS DOME

[Talus Dome](#), Edmonton's most expensive and perhaps most provocative piece of public art, always has people talking. Yup, it's a massive pile of nearly 1000 steel balls forming an abstract talus shape located beside Quesnell Bridge. While you've probably driven past the structure hundreds of times, we encourage you to take a closer look at it.

WALK THROUGH THE NEON SIGN MUSEUM

On your way to Rogers place check out the Neon Sign Museum. Volunteers have collected neon signs from old or demolished buildings and brought them back to life for display on the 4th Street Promenade. The outdoor museum started with 8 signs representing early styles and iconic signage in Edmonton's history, today featuring 20 signs.

DISCOVER EDMONTON'S OLDEST NEIGHBORHOOD: OLD STRATHCONA

Anchored by the funky, bohemian spirit of Whyte Avenue, historic buildings blend with youthful exuberance to make Old Strathcona one of Edmonton's trendiest neighbourhoods. The city's celebrated arts and cultural community makes its home here, as does a plethora of unique local boutiques, one-of-a-kind art galleries and music shops, and trendy restaurants and cafés.

CATCH THE MOST MAGNIFICENT SHOW ON EARTH

Did you know that Edmonton is North America's northernmost city with a population over one million? This means a couple of things: long bright days in the summer and long dark nights in the winter. No complaints about winter from our end though. We are lucky to experience one of the most magnificent shows on earth: the Northern Lights.

Images from left to right: 100 Street Funicular, River Valley, Neon Sign Museum, Elk Island National Park, Legislature grounds, Mural (Whyte Ave)

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FOOD & DRINKS IN EDMONTON

Edmonton embraces new flavours and ideas, allowing big-thinking chefs to thrive. Looking for Edmonton's best restaurants and culinary experiences? Let us take you on a journey through some of the hottest craft beer taprooms, hyper-local bistros and indie bakeries in Canada. Your tastebuds will thank you.

COFFEE SHOPS

TRANSCEND - Masters of coffee since 2006, Transcend is a must-try destination for true coffee fanatics. Staff are well trained and passionate, often reciting the complicated alchemy of handcrafted coffees.

CREDO - Credo is a set of sibling coffee shops well-known amongst locals for their quality coffee (and London Fogs for those non-coffee folks). Each cup of Credo coffee is filled with feel-good flavour.

ROGUE WAVE - Rogue Wave is owned by two caffeinated Daves, yes that's right, two Daves. The roasted beans in-house make a huge difference; the coffee is earthy and smooth. Must try: Mexican hot chocolate.

LOCK STOCK COFFEE -

At Lock Stock, espresso is pulled with care, savoury biscuits are baked fresh and heated to order, and English muffins are fried daily for a variety of sandwiches, making them a necessary stop when in the downtown neighbourhood.



Lock Stock Coffee

BRUNCH SPOTS

PIP - Award-winning, and rightfully so, PIP changed the brunch scene when it made its appearance in Edmonton. Serving up a bangin' brunch every single day of the week, we wouldn't judge you if you showed up for each one. We'd highly recommend the short rib eggs benedict, or of course a classic favourite, avocado on toast.

SUGARBOWL - An absolute staple in Edmonton, you cannot leave Sugarbowl without trying one of their massive homemade cinnamon buns. And we really do mean massive, these things were made for sharing (unless you want to eat it all yourself, we wouldn't judge). Of course they have other amazing things on the menu, but really, try the cinnamon bun.

OEB - This breakfast haven may not be exclusive to Edmonton, but it's worthy of this list all the same. From oodles of different french toast varieties, to a full list of breakfast poutines (we highly recommend Soul in a Bowl. It's so good it's been registered and trademarked), you won't go wrong with whatever you pick.

CAFÉ BICYCLETTE - If breakfast with a little je-ne-sais-quoi is your jam, then checking out Café Bicyclette for your morning meal is a must. Their omelet is light, fluffy and packed with tasty ingredients like mushrooms and chopped bacon sautéed with chive butter and brie. Their bennies are a delight as well, made with ingredients that won't disappoint (like smoked salmon - yum!).



Eleanor & Laurent

BAKERIES

DUCHESS BAKE SHOP -

Whether you've never stepped foot in Duchess Bake Shop before or you've been coming for years, this bakery is a mandatory stop when you're on 124 Street! The macarons are sweet pillows of delight, and just the right size to pretend that eating 10 of them doesn't add up to that many calories. Grab an assorted box to try all the flavours. And then get the pastry box. And then a cake, too. What the heck. Just get everything.

ELEANOR & LAURENT -

The Sugar Bowl's sister eatery, Eleanor & Laurent, is a café, boulangerie, patisserie, rotisserie, charcuterie, and meeting place. Come for the to-die-for pastries, stay for the elegant and adorable décor.

ITALIAN CENTRE SHOP BAKERY

- Not to be confused with the Italian Bakery, The Italian Centre is a well-known Edmonton staple in the heart of Little Italy (plus two other locations throughout the city!) and it's always stocked with the freshest Italian ingredients. This, of course, means that the desserts are out of this world.

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LUNCH TO GO

MEUWLY'S - No sandwich list worth its weight in carbs would be complete without a mention of Meuwly's. Part local marketplace, part delicatessen—this 124 street hotspot is the bees knees. The crew behind Meuwly's keeps it simple, with a choice of three rotating sandwiches at lunchtime.

FARROW - Sandwiches go punk at Farrow. Their tiny, original 109 Street location screams DIY— from the hand-drawn chalk menu to the tight kitchen just steps behind the counter. Farrow focuses on a small, unpretentious menu of delicious grab & go creations and high-quality coffee. The menu changes frequently, except for the Grick (their signature sandwich), so expect new flavours every visit. You can also check them out for your sandwich fix in Ritchie or on 124 Street.



Farrow



Biera

DINNER

BIERA - Welcome to a brewpub with a twist. Nestled in Ritchie Market, Biera ditches traditional pub food for contemporary shared plates, paired with freshly brewed beer by Blind Enthusiasm. Chef Christine Sandford serves up some seriously inventive dishes, with a mix of Prairie and European influences.

UCCELINO - Foodies, listen up. Uccelino has some of the best Italian cuisine in Canada. This downtown gem introduces customers to unique Italian flavours through their incomparable food and wine. The Uccellino menu is traditional in its structure and modern in its execution, employing contemporary techniques while utilizing the highest quality ingredients to prepare simple and flavourful dishes.

COCKTAILS

BAIJIU - Baijiu (pronounced "Bye Joe" and translating to booze in Cantonese) is a cocktail bar & eatery that dishes out Asian-inspired plates meant to be shared. Tucked inside the historic Mercer building, located in the heart of Edmonton's ICE District, this late-night joint brings old world Shanghai chic to the once-upon-a-time warehouse with legendary cocktails and hip-hop spinning every night.

ALCHEMY BAR AT THE JW -

Alchemy is Edmonton's go-to spot for an all-encompassing cocktail experience. Located on the fifth floor of the JW Marriott hotel in Edmonton's ICE District, Alchemy features an intimate indoor cocktail bar and lounge. Serving up handcrafted beverages and next-level bar snacks, Alchemy's menu is a curated collection of both classic and modern cocktails.

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