

EDMONTON

ALBERTA

1

WHERE TO STAY

Be close to the action at the Union Bank Inn. This boutique hotel inside a former bank features newly renovated guest rooms and the on-site Madison Grill. Hotel guests are a quick stroll from the restaurants and specialty food shops of the 4th Street Promenade, including Jack Chocolate Couture and Credo Coffees.

WHAT TO DO

Edmonton's darling wine is on fire right now. Local favourites such as Strathmore Spirits and the Hansen Distillery offer tours and tastings. Rig Hand Distillery—located in Nisku, a hamlet between Edmonton and Leduc—is worth the trip to sample a cocktail made with its many flavoured vodkas, like sour cherry.

WHERE TO EAT

\$6 cocktails at Clementine (**shown**)—the bar's Art-Nouveau interior emits a trendy vibe, with knowledgeable servers who will walk you through an impressive cocktail list. For dinner, award-winning Burdock is a can't-miss. The small-plates change seasonally, but if the roasted cauliflower is on the menu, you must try it.

FOOD FANATIC



2

WHERE TO STAY

Few buildings in the city are as iconic as the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald, which has overlooked the North Saskatchewan River since 1915. Built in a Chateau style and faced with Indiana limestone, "The Mac" is a 10-minute walk to the Arts District and features two on-site restaurants and a lush public garden.

WHAT TO DO

Visit the newly opened Royal Alberta Museum (**shown**). Located in the city's Arts District, Western Canada's largest museum—there are 5,300 objects on display and 2.4 million in the collection—tells the story of Alberta. There is a gallery dedicated to human history, another to nature, plus the Bug Gallery and play area.

WHERE TO EAT

For French food, head to Parakee, a cozy bistro tucked between two of Edmonton's most historic neighbourhoods, Glenora and Oliver. Opt for classics such as escargot and French onion soup, and do not miss the pressaladère—a savoury onion tart topped with salmon, anchovies, caramelized onions and pesto.

CULTURE SEEKER



Alberta's capital exudes a laid-back confidence thanks in part to its business and cultural communities that have transformed the city into a must-visit destination. Whether you find yourself in the Arts District or historic Oliver, the city's neighbourhoods are full of charm.

3

BUDGET HUNTER



WHERE TO STAY

Located downtown besides Rogers Place arena, Crash Hotel is a unique experience in the city. The themed rooms offer a variety of accommodations and various price points, including standard rooms, hotel-style options and the Party Bunk Room, where you can share a classic bunk bed with a buddy.

WHAT TO DO

Spend your visit enjoying the warmer weather and soaking up the sun. Rent a bike or stroll along the city's 800 kilometres of multi-use trails, or pack a picnic and enjoy the river valley's Hawrelak Park. If the weather isn't co-operating, a guided tour of the beautiful Alberta Legislature Building is totally free.

WHERE TO EAT

There's no shortage of budget bites around Edmonton. Commodore Diner is an institution—it's been around for more than 75 years—and a full breakfast costs less than \$10. Or opt for Filipino street food at Kanto (**shown**). This spot serves barbecue, bao and bowls; portions are generous and run about \$15 a dish.

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FAMILY ADVENTURER



GETTING THERE

WestJet flies to Edmonton 54 times a day from 15 Canadian, four U.S., and two international cities.

WHERE TO STAY

The Matrix's comfortable rooms mean there is plenty of space for the family—plus, there's loads of shopping, restaurants and attractions within walking distance. Free wine tastings will keep parents happy, while the complimentary Wi-Fi and bike rentals are sure to keep the kids entertained.

WHAT TO DO

Hang out at the West Edmonton Mall's World Waterpark (**shown**), visit the River Valley Zoo and explore the Telus World of Science. Or head to Elk Island National Park. In roughly 30 minutes, you're at this natural wonder, a dark-sky preserve where the lion roars, and hiking, canoeing and camping abound.

WHERE TO EAT

Picky eaters can create their own pie at Love-Pizza, and everyone will be into the tasty tater tots with dipping sauce. Need a coffee break? The Hook Cafe caters to families with a selection of kid-friendly food and drinks—there's even a little corner with books and toys where they can hang out. —Sara Samson