



EDMONTON FAST FACTS

Edmonton, the sixth largest city in Canada, is the capital of the province of Alberta.

POPULATION	Metro Edmonton	1, 034, 945 (2006 census, Statistics Canada)
	Edmonton proper	730, 372 (2006 census, Statistics Canada)
AREA	Metro Edmonton	941, 720 hectares – 3, 636 square miles
	Edmonton proper	68, 437 hectares - 264 square miles
ALTITUDE	668 metres	2,192 feet

BRIEF HISTORY of Edmonton from trading post to metropolis

1795 - Fur trading fort established by the Hudson's Bay Company at the junction of the North Saskatchewan River and the Sturgeon River. Edmonton is named after the home of the HBC chief factor's clerk in London, England.

1830 - Fort Edmonton moves to its final location (the present day location of the Alberta Legislature Building)

1861 - Father Albert Lacombe establishes St. Albert (north of Edmonton)

1891 - The C & E (Calgary and Edmonton) Railway reaches Strathcona, south of the North Saskatchewan River

1897 - Edmonton firmly established as the Klondike Gold Rush overland route to the Yukon

1904 - Edmonton incorporated as a city

1905 - Alberta became a province with Edmonton the capital city

1906 - Establishment of Elk Island National Park east of Edmonton

1926 - Blatchford Field became the first public licensed airfield in Canada (renamed City Centre Airport)

1942 - Construction of the Alaska Highway solidified Edmonton as the gateway to the north

1947 - Leduc Number One oil well strikes oil southwest of Edmonton

1978 - Host city for the XI Commonwealth Games

1978 - Light Rail Transit (LRT) service commenced

1983 - Host city for the twelfth World University Games (Universiade)

1983 - Opening of the Edmonton Convention Centre (renamed Shaw Conference Centre)

1984 - Completion of Northlands AgriCom at Northlands Park

1985 - West Edmonton Mall's Phase 3 opened (Phase 1-1981, Phase 2-1983) – the world's largest shopping centre

1996 - Host city for the World Figure Skating Championships

1997 - Opening of the Francis Winspear Centre for Music

2001 - Host city for the IAAF World Championships in Athletics

2004 - The City of Edmonton celebrates its 100th Birthday

EDMONTON DESTINATION OVERVIEW

- Marvel at the world's largest shopping centre and Alberta's number one attraction - West Edmonton Mall, with its nine theme park attractions.
- Celebrate the spirit of *Edmonton Festival City* at dozens of year-round festivals and special events.
- Explore Canada's largest living history park - Fort Edmonton Park and many other attractions, such as the Royal Alberta Museum, Muttart Conservatory, the Alberta Legislature Building and TELUS World of Science.
- Enjoy a nature walk, voyageur canoe ride, gold panning, and other recreational activities year-round in the longest stretch of urban parkland in Canada, the North Saskatchewan River valley.
- Experience the eclectic shops, cafes, nightclubs, theatres and attractions of the Old Strathcona heritage area.
- Try your luck at one of seven casinos or choose from more than 70 golf courses in the region.
- Discover an abundance of wildlife at Elk Island National Park within a few minutes of the city.
- Just a few hours drive from Edmonton are the majestic Canadian Rockies - Jasper and Banff National Parks.
- Enjoy the outdoor recreational activities of Alberta North including Aurora viewing at Fort McMurray.
- Travel the TransCanada Yellowhead Highway, which accesses more national and provincial parks than any other route across Canada.

Within the region promoted by Edmonton Tourism are:

- more than 40 attractions
- over 12,000 hotel rooms (120 properties) and approximately 2000 restaurants
- and more than 30 annual festivals and a variety of sports and cultural events

Edmonton Tourism Visitor Information

Tel: (780) 496-8400

Toll Free: 1-800-463-4667

Web site: www.edmonton.com

MAJOR FACILITIES

Citadel Theatre	Northlands AgriCom
Commonwealth Stadium	Northlands Spectrum
Francis Winspear Centre for Music	Shaw Conference Centre
Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Rexall Place (formerly Skyreach Centre)
Kinsmen Sports Centre	Telus Field
Mayfield Trade Centre	The University of Alberta

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

National Hockey League (NHL): Edmonton Oilers at Rexall Place
Pacific Coast League (PCL) baseball: Edmonton Trappers at Telus Field
Canadian Football League (CFL): Edmonton Eskimos at Commonwealth Stadium
Thoroughbred and Harness Racing at Northlands Spectrum
Auto racing at Castrol Raceway

TRANSPORTATION

Edmonton International Airport is located 29 km (18 miles) south of the city centre.

For further information about air services to Edmonton, visit www.edmontonairports.com

Edmonton City Centre Airport - Effective June 1, 1996, scheduled passenger air service with major airlines was consolidated at the Edmonton International Airport.

Train Service

Edmonton is served three times per week by VIA Rail Canada's "The Canadian" route (Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Jasper, and Vancouver). The VIA Rail station, at 12360 - 121 Street, is located about 10-15 minutes drive (6 km) north of the city centre.

Highways

Located near the geographic centre of Alberta, Edmonton is 514 kilometres (320 miles) north of the Montana, United States/Canada border. Edmonton is located on the TransCanada Yellowhead Highway #16 and on Highway #2.
45 km (30 miles) west of Elk Island National Park
294 km (184 miles) north of Calgary
362 km (226 miles) east of Jasper National Park
404 km (252 miles) northeast of Banff National Park

Public Transportation

Edmonton Transit operates Light Rail Transit in the city centre to major facilities and bus routes throughout the city.

CLIMATE

Average	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
Temperatures	APRIL	JULY	OCTOBER	JANUARY
High	11C (52F)	23C (73F)	11C (52F)	-7C (19F)
Low	0C (32F)	12C (54F)	0C (32F)	-16C (3F)
Mean	6C (43F)	18C (64F)	6C (43F)	-12C (10F)

Average annual hours sunshine 2289 hrs Note: In June, Edmonton enjoys up to 17 hours of daylight per day!
Average annual rainfall 37 cm (14 inches)
Average annual snowfall 124 cm (49 inches)

Edmonton has four distinct seasons: spring, summer, autumn (fall), and winter. With clear blue skies, low humidity and little wind, Edmonton is an ideal city for both summer and winter outdoor activities. Although Edmonton's temperatures can fluctuate greatly from long-term averages, snow cover normally begins from mid-November and stays until mid-March. January is typically the coldest month and July the.

- On the Climate Severity Index, Edmonton (37) and Toronto (36) compare favorably to Ottawa (44), Halifax (47) and Montreal (43) Source: Environment Canada