

## **Edmonton: A City with Heart and History**

Nestled along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, Edmonton is more than Alberta's capital—it's a city with a story. Originally a fur trading post established by the Hudson's Bay Company in the late 18th century, Edmonton grew from humble beginnings into a thriving prairie community. Its role as a gateway to the North earned it a reputation as a hub for explorers, traders, and later, resource industries that shaped Western Canada.

Today, Edmonton is one of Canada's fastest-growing cities, home to over one million people and the heart of a metropolitan region of more than 1.4 million. It's a place where opportunity meets diversity, attracting newcomers from around the globe who bring their traditions, talents, and dreams. This multicultural spirit is woven into the fabric of daily life—European, Asian, Indigenous, and African communities all contribute to Edmonton's vibrant identity.

What makes Edmonton truly special is its balance of urban sophistication and down-to-earth warmth. The city pulses with creativity, hosting world-class festivals like the Edmonton International Fringe Festival—one of the largest in North America, Taste of Edmonton—a celebration of culinary delights, and Edmonton Heritage Festival—the world's largest three-day celebration of multiculturalism. Its Arts District, anchored by the Art Gallery of Alberta and the Royal Alberta Museum, reflects a deep commitment to culture and learning.

Economically, Edmonton stands strong. Known as the "Gateway to the North," it remains a centre for energy and resource industries while embracing innovation in technology, health care, and construction. With a future focused on sustainability, infrastructure, and public transit, Edmonton is building a city that's not only livable but visionary.

Above all, Edmontonians are known for their resilience and community spirit. Whether it's braving long winters or rallying around local causes, this is a city that thrives on connection. It's a place where innovation meets tradition, where festivals light up the summer nights, and where every newcomer can find a sense of belonging.