### CALGARY & SURROUNDING AREA



ionGUIDE



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# INTRODUCTION



Calgary is a vibrant and modern city located in the western province of Alberta, Canada. Known for its friendly people, beautiful landscapes, and booming economy, Calgary offers a high quality of life with a mix of urban amenities and outdoor recreation opportunities.





Calgary is a city located in the province of Alberta, Canada. The city's history dates back to the 1800s, when it was founded as a fort and trading post for the North West Mounted Police. It grew rapidly during the early 1900s due to the discovery of oil nearby, which brought wealth and investment to the city. Today, Calgary is the largest city in Alberta and one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada.

Calgary is situated in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies, at the confluence of the Bow River and the Elbow River. The city has a semi-arid climate with cold winters and warm summers. The surrounding landscape features rolling hills, prairies, and mountain vistas, making it a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

As of 2023, Calgary's population is estimated to be around 1.6 million people. The city has a diverse population, with a mix of ethnicities and cultures. The largest demographic group is English speakers, followed by Chinese, Punjabi, and Tagalog speakers. The city's economy is driven by industries such as energy, finance, technology, and transportation, and it has a high standard of living with a relatively low cost of living compared to other major Canadian cities.



# TOP SURROUNDING CITIES



### Airdrie

20 km north of Calgary – Airdrie is a growing city with a population of around 70,000. It offers a mix of urban amenities and outdoor recreation opportunities, including parks, golf courses, and hiking trails.

### Chestermere

20 km east of Calgary – Chestermere is a growing city with a population of around 20,000. It is situated on a large lake and offers a variety of water-based activities like boating, fishing, and swimming.





### Cochrane

35 km west of Calgary – Cochrane is a charming small town with a population of around 30,000. It is known for its scenic beauty, including the nearby Rocky Mountains and Bow River, and offers a variety of outdoor activities like hiking, fishing, and skiing.

### Okotoks

20 km south of Calgary – Okotoks is a growing town with a population of around 30,000. It is known for its historic downtown area, which features a variety of shops, cafes, and restaurants, as well as its proximity to the Rocky Mountains.





# LIVING IN CALGARY

Living in Calgary offers a high quality of life with a strong sense of community, beautiful natural surroundings, and a booming economy.





### COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Calgary is generally considered to be lower than other major Canadian cities like Vancouver and Toronto. However, prices can vary depending on the neighborhood and the type of housing. The city has a sales tax (GST) of 5% and a provincial sales tax (PST) of 0%, and the average income after taxes is around \$70,000 CAD per year.

### HOUSING OPTIONS & NEIGHBORHOODS

Calgary offers a range of housing options, from apartments and condos to single-family homes and estates. Some popular neighborhoods include downtown, Beltline, Bridgeland, and Inglewood. The median home price in Calgary is around \$550,000 CAD, but prices can vary widely depending on the location and size of the property.





# TRANSPORTATION AND GETTING AROUND

Calgary has an extensive public transportation system, including buses and a light rail transit (LRT) system called the CTrain. The city also has a bike-sharing program and a network of bike lanes and pathways. Driving is also common, and there are several major highways and roads that connect Calgary to other cities in the region.

### HEALTHCARE AND HOSPITALS

Calgary has a high-quality healthcare system, with several hospitals and medical centers located throughout the city. The largest hospital is the Foothills Medical Centre, which is affiliated with the University of Calgary. The city also has several private clinics and healthcare providers.





## EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

Calgary has a diverse range of schools, including public, Catholic, and private schools. The public school system is operated by the Calgary Board of Education, which oversees over 200 schools in the city. There are also several postsecondary institutions in Calgary, including the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University.



# WORKING IN CALGARY

As a hub for industries such as energy, finance, and technology, Calgary has a thriving job market and attracts talent from around the world. As a hub for industries such as energy, finance, and technology, Calgary has a thriving job market and attracts talent from around the world.











### JOB MARKET AND ECONOMNY

Calgary has a strong and diverse economy, with a focus on industries like energy, finance, technology, and transportation. The city has a relatively low unemployment rate, and there are many opportunities for skilled workers in various fields.



#### WORK PERMITS AND VISAS

Foreign nationals who wish to work in Calgary will generally need a work permit and a valid visa. Work permits can be obtained through various programs, including the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and the International Mobility Program. The application process can vary depending on the individual's situation and the type of work they will be doing in Canada. It's important to note that some jobs may require specific qualifications or certifications, so it's important to research the requirements before applying.



### TOP INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYERS

The top industries in Calgary include energy, finance and insurance, transportation and logistics, and technology. Some of the largest employers in the city include energy companies like Suncor Energy and Imperial Oil, financial institutions like the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal, and technology companies like Shaw Communications and WestJet Airlines.



### FINDING A JOB IN CALGARY

There are many resources available to help job seekers find employment in Calgary, including job search websites, networking events, and career fairs. The city also has several government-funded employment centers that provide job search assistance and training programs.