

# RELOCATION GUIDE



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**Calgary**  
**and Surrounding Area**



# CITY GUIDE

Calgary is a city that stands on its own. It continues to grow with many people moving from other countries as well as other parts of Canada. Space is not an issue here. Lying at the foothills of Alberta's Rocky Mountains, and at the meeting point of the Bow and Elbow Rivers, Calgary is the largest city in Alberta with over 1 million residents and growing.



Calgary is a diverse and expansive city built on a quadrant system with easy access to the mountains and river valleys. Calgary's appeal goes beyond oil, gas and cowboy hats. This city has something for everyone.

# Calgary

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Calgary has seen much economic success and is growing quickly. Calgary is experiencing an enormous boost in real estate, employment, and general population wealth.

Alberta tends to have a more conservative or libertarian approach to governing and politics. The province therefore has some of the lowest taxes in all of Canada. Alberta's political climate also ensures very attractive investor incentives and benefits, not to mention comparatively high wages and salary.

Calgary is close by to many national parks. Banff National Park and Jasper National Park are well known for their spectacular natural sites and year-round outdoor adventure opportunities – they are popular destinations for those who love to ski, hike, bike, walk, and enjoy the scenery. In addition to the natural attractions in and around Calgary, the city boasts a bustling nightlife, local theatre, and the world famous Calgary Stampede - an annual event that showcases the Cowboy culture of Alberta.

Calgary is a relatively new city gaining a place on the international stage. It is growing by the minute – expanding its safe and secure residential neighbourhoods, its growing and highly profitable commercial presence, and its continuing promise of happiness and prosperity to all who live within its boundaries. Calgary is a significant immigration destination with about 23% of its population coming from outside of Canada.



# Calgary Region



There are 18 very diverse municipalities in the Calgary region, from Banff in the west to Wheatland County in the east, and from Airdrie in the north to Nanton in the south.

You can see why: some of the finest untouched wilderness areas in all of Canada are on the doorstep, with limitless opportunities for hiking, camping, fishing and just about every other outdoor activity imaginable.

These small towns also have all the advantages of modern, well-serviced communities. Schools are well established, and offer a range of specialty subject and extra-curricular choices. Many towns have their own hospitals and municipal services, including recreation facilities, police and fire departments and road links with Calgary.

The Calgary Regional Partnership website at [www.calgaryregion.ca/crp](http://www.calgaryregion.ca/crp) also provides valuable information on life just outside of the city boundaries.

When you live in one of the many communities close to Calgary, you enjoy all the friendly comforts of small town living, plus the advantages of nearby big city services and opportunities.

# Utilities



The services listed below are of some of the most popular service providers available in our area. Quite often you will be able to find companies which offer package deals and include two or three of these services together.

## Recycling and Composting

The city offers a blue cart recycling program for all single family residences, as well as residential buildings with up to four units. The service collects paper, cans, cardboard, glass and plastics on the same day and from the same location as regular garbage collection. If you need a blue cart, please call 3-1-1. As well, there are almost 60 community recycling depots around the city. The city also offers electronics drop-off spots and special seasonal services or events, such as hazardous materials disposal days, Christmas tree pick-up, and fall leaf and pumpkin collection days.

Check out the City of Calgary's website at [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) for more information.

There is no curbside organics composting program, but the City of Calgary, working with Green Calgary, [www.greencalgary.org](http://www.greencalgary.org), provides subsidized composters for your home for \$25 each.

## Electricity and Natural Gas

The Utilities Consumer Advocate are our voice when it comes to Alberta's electricity and gas markets. The UCA represents Alberta small consumers by advocating for reasonable costs, empowering Albertans, safeguarding consumer interests, providing balanced representation and resolving concerns respectfully. They also provide unbiased information to help you decide which energy providers to use.

Check out their website [www.ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://www.ucahelps.alberta.ca) to find out which energy providers are available in your city/town.

## Call Before You Dig

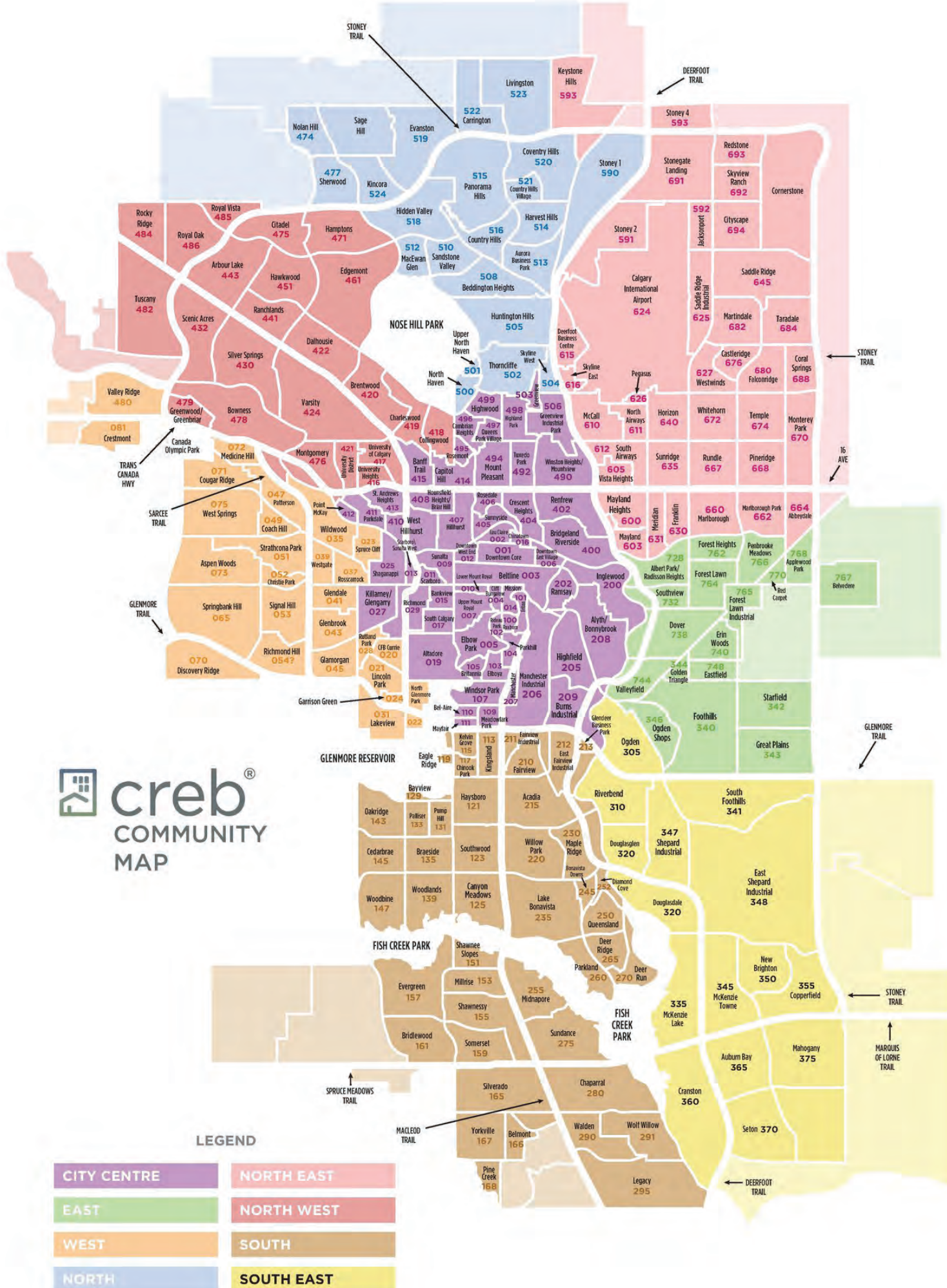
If you plan to disturb the ground, find out where the buried facilities on your property that are owned by the utilities are as part of your project planning process. If, for example, you are planning to build a fence, the presence of buried facilities may dictate where posts cannot be installed, which may affect the design of the fence, including the location of gates.

Website [www.albertacall.com](http://www.albertacall.com) Phone 1-800-242-3447

## Sewer and Water

Sewer Phone 403-268-1155

Water Phone 403-268-4355



**creb**<sup>®</sup>  
COMMUNITY  
MAP

**LEGEND**

CITY CENTRE	NORTH EAST
EAST	NORTH WEST
WEST	SOUTH
NORTH	SOUTH EAST

## Calgary is an expansive city with many unique ways of getting around.

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### Calgary International Airport (YYC)

Calgary is a transportation hub for much of central and western Canada. The airport, in the city's North East, is the third largest in Canada by aircraft movements and is a major cargo hub. [www.calgaryairport.com](http://www.calgaryairport.com)

### Trains

The Rocky Mountaineer, [www.rockymountaineer.com](http://www.rockymountaineer.com), and Royal Canadian Pacific, [www.royalcanadianpacific.com](http://www.royalcanadianpacific.com), operate railtour services to and from Calgary.

### Roads

The city is divided into four quadrants (North East, North West, South East and South West). Much of the city is on a grid where roads are numbered with avenues running east-west and streets running north-south. In Calgary it is not uncommon to find non-numbered streets within a new community that have the same name prefix as the community itself so that streets can more easily be located within the city, but this also makes it very important to make sure you know if it is a Street or Road or Boulevard, etc... that you are looking for.

### Transit

Calgary Transit provides public transportation services throughout the city with buses and light rail. Calgary's rail system, known as the C-Train, was one of the first such systems in North America and consists of three lines (two routes) on 90 kilometres (56 mi) of double tracks. It's also the only emissions-free, wind-powered public transit operation in North America. The bus system has over 160 routes and is operated by 800 vehicles.

### Pathway System

At any time of the year you can walk, run, ride or rollerblade through the entire city without ever touching a main road. Approximately 700 kilometres of pathways run along the Bow and Elbow rivers, connecting Fish Creek Provincial Park, Nose Creek, West Nose Creek, the Western Irrigation District Canal and the perimeter of the Glenmore Reservoir. Dozens of Calgary communities are linked by the pathway system and the City of Calgary works extremely hard to keep these pathways clear for use.

With another 260 kilometres of on-street bikeways, the city of Calgary can boast the most extensive urban pathway and bikeway network in North America.



# Getting Around

# Schools

Calgary is proud to be home to some of the best primary and secondary learning institutions in Canada. Whether you are looking for Public, Private or Catholic education, ESL classes, or schools that specialize in sports or the arts, Calgary has something to offer.

The websites below are a great place to start searching for a school that is right for you and your family.

## Child Care and Preschools

To find daycares, pre-schools, family day homes, out of school care or group family care, the government of Alberta has a great child care search tool at [www.child.alberta.ca/home/ChildCareLookup.cfm](http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/ChildCareLookup.cfm).

## Calgary Board of Education

Website [www.cbe.ab.ca](http://www.cbe.ab.ca)

Phone 403-294-8255

## Calgary Catholic School District

Website [www.cssd.ab.ca](http://www.cssd.ab.ca)

Phone 403-500-2000

## Rocky View School Division

Serving communities west, north and east of the city of Calgary

Website [www.rockyview.ab.ca](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca)

Phone 403-945-4000

## Foothills School Division

Serving communities south and south west of the city of Calgary

Website [www.fsd38.ab.ca](http://www.fsd38.ab.ca)

Phone 403-652-3001



# Post Secondary

Calgary has a variety of specialized post secondary institutions available providing a wide range of world-class programs that help meet the diverse needs of new students including adult learners.

## The University of Calgary

Website [www.ucalgary.ca](http://www.ucalgary.ca) Phone 403-220-5110

## Mount Royal University

Website [www.mtroyal.ca](http://www.mtroyal.ca) Phone 403-440-6111

## Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

Website [www.sait.ca](http://www.sait.ca) Phone 403-284-7248

## Alberta College of Art + Design (ACAD)

Website [www.acad.ca](http://www.acad.ca) Phone 403-284-7600

## Bow Valley College

[bowvalleycollege.ca](http://bowvalleycollege.ca) Phone 403-410-1400

## DeVry

Website [www.devry.ca](http://www.devry.ca) Phone 403-235-3450

## Government of Alberta: Alberta Learning Information Service

Website [www.alis.alberta.ca](http://www.alis.alberta.ca)

## Global Village (Study English as a second language)

Website [www.gvenglish.com](http://www.gvenglish.com) Phone 403-543-7300



# Health



Calgary is one of the safest and healthiest cities in the world. With an abundance of health resources and many safety contacts, we consistently rank near the top in global quality of living surveys.

If you are looking for a specific health, safety, government or social service you can dial 2-1-1 in Calgary or visit the Inform Alberta website at [www.informalberta.ca](http://www.informalberta.ca), Alberta's province-wide service directory.

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## Alberta Health Care Insurance

The Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan is a service available to all permanent residents, and their dependants, of Alberta. There is absolutely no charge for this service, not even a monthly premium. You may choose to opt-out of the program, but every Albertan must register. You will find the application forms and more information on the program at:

Website [www.health.alberta.ca/health-care-insurance-plan.html](http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-care-insurance-plan.html).

**Alberta Health Services** Website: [albertahealthservices.ca](http://albertahealthservices.ca)

## Hospitals

Foothills Medical Centre	1403 - 29 Street NW	Phone 403-944-1110
Rockyview General Hospital	7007 - 14 Street SW	Phone 403-943-3000
Peter Lougheed Centre	3500 - 26 Avenue NE	Phone 403-943-4555
Alberta Children's Hospital	2888 Shaganappi Trail NW	Phone 403-955-7211
South Health Campus	4448 Front St SE	Phone 403-956-1111

## Healthlink

Healthlink provides access to health advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The phones are always answered by registered nurses and anyone can call.

Phone 403-943-LINK (5465)

## Find a Doctor

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta provides a very handy online search tool that you can use to find a doctor in Alberta.

Website [www.cpsa.ab.ca](http://www.cpsa.ab.ca)



# Family Activities

## The Calgary Zoo

Saying there is so much to see and do at the zoo doesn't begin to describe everything that you can do there. Besides getting to see some amazing animals from all over the world you can journey through the dinosaur park and learn about the giants from the past.

## Heritage Park

This is Canada's largest living history museum. Meet friendly pioneers, ride the steam train or cruise Glenmore Lake on the SS, enjoy the antique midway and be a part of the old west.

## Canada Olympic Park

This is a great place to visit at any time of the year. Whether you enjoy skiing or snowboarding in the winter or mountain biking or checking out the Skyline zip line in the summer.

## Telus World of Science

Here is a unique way to learn through creative exhibits and shows. This gives everyone an opportunity to learn and grow through science.

## Peter's Drive-In

There is nothing better than a cold milkshake on a hot day. Maybe you are hungry for a little more. Then you will have to try their burgers, fries and onion rings. You will definitely come back for more.

## Village Square & Southland Leisure Centres

There is so much to do and a whole lot of fun to be had. From the water parks with a wave pool, dive tank, kiddies pool and hot tub to the gymnasium, weight rooms and fitness studios.

## Butterfield Acres

Butterfield Acres is a great place to take the family and just watch animals eat hay and forget about the city! It is like a small farm which can be a lot of fun for little kids who have never seen live farm animals before.

## Shakers Family Fun Centre

Shakers is a seven acre indoor and outdoor fun park with attractions and fun events for all ages, including two go cart tracks, mini golf, laser tag, a climbing wall, huge indoor playground and 60+ game arcade.

## Bowness Park

Bowness Park is located in NW Calgary along the Bow River. A shallow lagoon runs along the park's southern edge, a favourite spot for paddle boating in the summer and ice skating in the winter. Bowness Park is highly used for picnicking and accessing the Bow River.

## Fish Creek Provincial Park

Fish Creek Park is Canada's largest urban park. The park contains a mix of forest and open prairie. Historic Bow Valley Ranch House (now a restaurant), archaeological sites, visitor centre and extensive environmental education programs are some of the parks attractions.

# Festivals

There is a variety of festivals and various expos offered in Calgary. Below is a short list of some of the options available throughout the year, the most popular being the Calgary Stampede

## Calgary Stampede

Built on the foundations of western tradition it's billed as the **Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth**, and the Stampede Board never falls short of meeting that billing! They kick off 10 days of Stampede with an exciting, jam packed full of people, parade in downtown Calgary. The rodeo is held each afternoon, the chuck wagons race each night and closes with the Grandstand Performance and Fireworks for the entire 10 days. The Agriculture Pavilion allows visitors to learn about farm animals and enjoy all the displays and showings, allowing interaction with a wide variety of animals.



## Calgary Winefest

Winefest is one of the most distinguished all inclusive wine events in Calgary. You have a chance to sample hundreds of international wines, ports, sparkling and dessert wines from the world's most celebrated wine regions.

## Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo

Where else can you dress up like your favourite comic character and walk amongst your heroes? If you do dress up be sure to enter in the costume contest. You can go down for just one day or get a weekend pass.

## Chinatown Street Festival

This celebration is located in Chinatown and gives everyone the opportunity to experience traditional Chinese culture.

## Lilac Festival

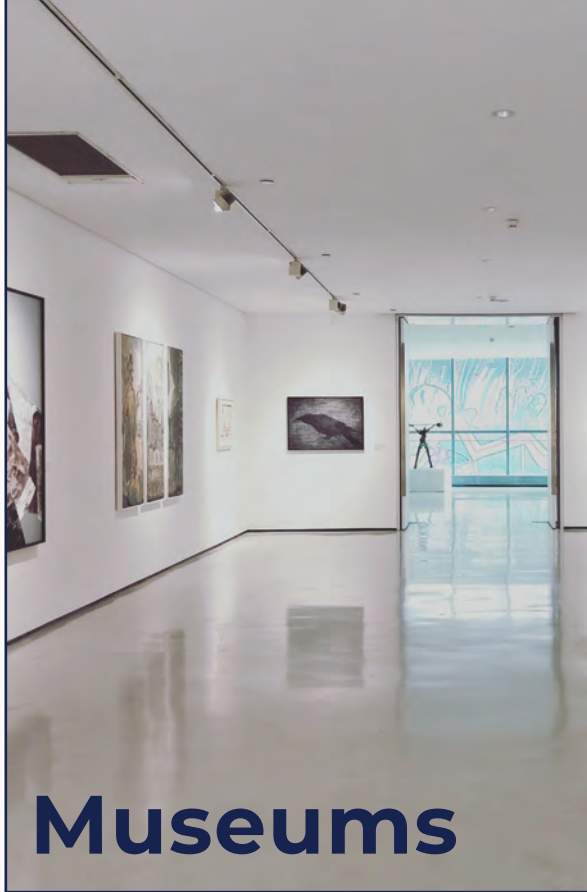
The Lilac Festival is a one day event held along 4th Street with a variety of entertainment, great food and shopping to enjoy. With usually over 500 vendors along the street there is something for everyone!

## Calgary Greek Festival

OPA!! This is your chance to join in on the festivities and celebrate the very best of traditional Greek food and entertainment.

## Expo Latino Festival

When they say this is the hottest outdoor festival they don't mean the weather! They celebrate and party at Princes Island park come rain or shine, their goal is to make sure everyone has a great time!



# Museums

### The Lougheed House

The Lougheed mansion was built in 1891 and was originally known as Beaulieu, which is French for beautiful place. During the early years the Lougheed house, many of the elite of society were guests of the Lougheed family, royalty, celebrities and politicians

### Glenbow Museum

One of the great things about the Glenbow is that it brings together a museum, library, archives and an art gallery all in one place. Their artifacts are extensive and their art collections are nothing short of brilliant.

### Aero Space Museum

An afternoon spent at the aerospace museum is a chance to take a walk back in time through aviation history. The hangar presently used to house the museum pieces was used as a training hangar in WWII and then as a helicopter hangar.

### Military Museum

The Military Museum is Western Canada's largest military museum. Go and discover the victories, the tragedies and the sacrifices of the Canadian Forces.

### Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump

Plan to spend the day at this attraction, it is well worth it! Native guides will take you through the center and go back in time. Learn the history of the Blackfoot nation and the importance of the jump to its people, see important artifacts and discoveries.

### The Royal Tyrrell Museum

The Royal Tyrrell Museum is the only museum in Canada which is entirely about paleontology and this place is over the top! Besides having the largest display of dinosaurs there is the opportunity to take part in a variety of fun and creative programs that take you back in time.

### Fort Calgary

Fort Calgary is the only National, Provincial and Municipal Historic Site in the city. North West Mounted Police built their fort at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers in 1875. You can discover stories of Calgary's past from 1875-1914 at the lively interpretive Centre.


### Deane House

The Deane House was built in 1906 for the superintendent Captain Richard Deane of Fort Calgary. The Deane House hosts Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre year round.

With all of its rich history there are bound to be a few hauntings. The Calgary Association of Paranormal Investigations deems the Deane house as definitively haunted.

### Cantos Music Foundation

They have interesting exhibits and displays, which are diverse and celebrate all types of music. On the last Monday of the month enjoy the All Ages Blues Jam, everyone regardless of age can participate, each month features a special guest.



Calgary is a rich with a diverse Arts and culture scene. There really is something for everyone to enjoy!

# Performing Arts

## Stage West Theatre Restaurant

Taking in a show at Stage West means that you can expect to be entertained and very well fed! With six shows scheduled to run during the season there is a lot to choose from. Prepare to thoroughly enjoy the buffet which is always delicious and afterwards sit back and enjoy the show.

## Jubilations Dinner Theatre

A fun night out where you will be treated to a delicious four course meal as well as an amazing theatre production. As far as the show goes, they do things a little differently which is what makes a production at their theatre so unique. Tickets for their productions can be purchased by contacting the box office.

## Loose Moose Theatre

If you are looking for something different than the usual theatre you attend then head to the Loose Moose! This theatre company offers improvisational theatre at its best and has an international reputation for their work. They also have a training centre in place for anyone interested in doing improvisational theatre.

## Yuk Yuk's

Get out for a night of hilarity and treat your funny bone to a good time. This, of course, means lots of laughter and enjoyment on your part. The club features and promotes mainly Canadian comics and gives you a chance to see some great standup comedy.

## Theatre Calgary

Large stadium style theater in Downtown Calgary which puts on various shows for your entertainment. One of the most popular being the longtime running "A Christmas Carol" that plays during the holiday months.

# Immigrating

You've made a big decision in choosing to immigrate to Canada, and there are a lot of questions that you probably want answered before, during and even after the big move.

## Immigration Alberta

Alberta's official immigration website has important information on moving to the province. Their checklists are excellent for planning all aspects of your new life in the province.

Website [www.albertacanada.com/immigration](http://www.albertacanada.com/immigration)

## Career Connect

Career Connect helps newcomers upgrade or transfer work skills, relaunch careers or enter brand new professions.

Website [www.calgarycareerconnect.com](http://www.calgarycareerconnect.com)

## Citizenship & Immigration Canada

There are a few different ways to apply for immigration to Canada: this Canadian government website will give you all of the information you need, as well as the relevant application forms.

Website [www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate)

## Going to Canada

This invaluable resource includes information on immigrating to—and living and working in—Canada.

Website [www.cic.gc.ca/english](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english)

## Social Insurance Number (SIN)

This important card is required if you want to work in Canada: all employers ask for it.

Website [www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/sin](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/sin)

