Edmonton

Pulsing with cultural events, Edmonton is known for its historic neighbourhoods, superb museums and its lengthy roster of festivals. However, the No. 1 crowd-pleaser continues to be West Edmonton Mall, with its new Sea Lions’ Rock attraction. Spanning some 48 city blocks, this massive complex is a kingdom unto itself. And shopping here won’t cost you a king’s ransom, for Alberta is the only province without a provincial sales tax.

Edmonton Attractions

Edmonton Queen Riverboat
A trip to Edmonton would not be complete without a river cruise aboard The Edmonton Queen Paddlewheeler. Cruise by day through the heart of Alberta’s capital; by night enjoy delicious buffet style dining. Open: Seasonal.
Location: 9734-98 Ave.
Admission: Varies depending on package.
Phone: (780) 424-2628
E-mail: sales@edmontonqueen.com
Website: www.edmontonqueen.com

Fort Edmonton Park
The largest living history park in Canada. Join the costumed historical interpreters and try your hand at living life as an early pioneer. You’ll experience life as it was at the 1846 Hudson’s Bay fort, and on the streets of 1885, 1905, and 1920. Enjoy the day and spend the night at Hotel Selkirk on the parks’ 1920 street. Open: Daily, May 21 to Sept 4, 2006. Call for fall hours and admissions.

Edmonton Tourism
World Trade Centre Edmonton, 9990 Jasper Avenue, Suite 500, Edmonton, Alberta. T5J 1P7. Visit our new downtown visitor information centre at 9990 Jasper Avenue or Gateway Park at the Hwy. 2 south entrance to Edmonton.
Phone: (780) 496-8400 or 1-800-463-4667
Fax: (780) 496-8413
Websites: www.edmonton.com or www.TravelAlberta.com/edmonton

North Saskatchewan River Valley, Edmonton

Whyte Avenue, Edmonton

Fort Edmonton Park
John Janzen Nature Centre
A family-oriented nature centre featuring the natural history of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and a new interactive exhibit, Seasonal Changes. Special events throughout the year. 3.5 km (2.2 mi.) of signed pedestrian nature trails and nature exhibits are available. Open: Year-round. Location: Fox Dr. and Whitemud Dr. beside Fort Edmonton Park.
Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 496-8787
Website: www.edmonton.ca/johnjanzen

Muttart Conservatory
Features four glassed pyramids, each holding the botanical treasures of a distinctive climatic zone: visit a steaming jungle, trek through a hot desert and view a cool and misty temperate forest. The fourth pyramid exhibit is a "show pyramid" and changes throughout the year. Open: Year-round.
Location: 9626-96A St. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 451-3344
Website: www.edmonton.ca/muttart

TELUS World of Science®— Edmonton
This multi-purpose space and science centre allows you to discover our world and beyond. Contains a state-of-the-art IMAX® Theatre and the largest planetarium dome theatre in Canada with five exciting themed galleries, the Space Place, the Body Fantastic, The Greens' House, Mystery Avenue and Discovery-Land. Open: Year-round, closed Christmas Day.
Location: 11211-142 St. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 451-3344
Website: www.telusworldofscience.com/edmonton.

The Royal Alberta Museum
On May 24, 2005 the Provincial Museum of Alberta became a part of history when her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II bestowed upon it a new name – the Royal Alberta Museum. Situated in a park-like setting just west of downtown, the museum takes visitors on a journey through time and space to explore the human and natural history of Western Canada.

The Wild Alberta Gallery is like no other museum experience in Canada. It is a journey across, over and under Alberta’s landscape. Seeing beneath the prairies' surface; inside a mountain stream; or deep below the snow pack, the natural world becomes more meaningful.

The Natural History Gallery packs a billion years into Canada. It is a journey across, over and under Alberta’s landscape. Seeing beneath the prairies' surface; inside a mountain stream; or deep below the snow pack, the natural world becomes more meaningful.

Location: 11211-142 St. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 451-3344
Website: www.telusworldofscience.com/edmonton.

University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden
Nature's Destination – 190 acres to explore, includes 80 acres of display gardens and 110 acres of natural areas. Visit indoor show houses, gift shop, plant sales, tours, special events...and much, much more. Experience nature at its best. Open: May 1 – Dec. 3, 2006. Location: 25 min. SW from West Edmonton Mall on Hwy 60, 5 km (3 mi.) N of Devon.
Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 987-3054
Website: www.discoveredmonton.com/devonian

Valley Zoo
This 70-acre zoological park is home to more than 100 exotic, endangered and native species. Enjoy one of the many interpretive presentations: daily elephant and sea lion demonstrations, pony rides, a birds of prey show, miniature train and paddle boats.
Open: Year-round. Location: 134th St. and Buena Vista Rd., 10 min. E of West Edmonton Mall. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 496-8787
Website: www.edmonton.ca/valleyzoo

West Edmonton Mall
The greatest indoor show on earth offers more than 800 stores and services, plus 100 eating establishments and world-class attractions. Swim in the waves at the World Waterpark, take a thrill ride at Galaxyland Amusement Park, skate at the Ice Palace, play miniature golf at Professor Wem's Adventure Golf or Putt 'n Glow and watch 3 California Sea Lions perform daily at the NEW Sea Lions' Rock attraction! Stay where you play at the Fantasyland Hotel offering 354 rooms, 118 of which are "themed." Open: Year-round. Location: 170th St. and 87th Ave. Admission: Mall free, attractions charged. Phone: (780) 444-5200 or 1-800-661-8890
Website: www.west Edmontonmall.com

KidTropolis
KidTropolis is a new 50,000 sq. ft. indoor theme park attraction for young families where "entertainment is educational." Kid's play as doctors, shoppers, trades people, journalists, firemen and more, in a kid-sized city designed, tailored and built just for them. Each job site (pavilion) is like a movie set, with costumes, props, and supervised activities that help kids learn about the real world while playing. KidTropolis is located at West Edmonton Mall. Phone: (780) 444-7935
Website: www.kidtropolis.ca

Parks and Recreation
Alberta TrailNet
11759 Groat Rd.
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K
Phone: (780) 422-7150 or 1-877-9-TRAILS
Website: www.albertatrailnet.com

This charitable society promotes all types of trails that span Alberta, including the growth of the Trans-Canada Trail.

Budweiser Motorsports Park
More than 50 motor sport events each race season. Open: Seasonal. Location: Next to the Edmonton International Airport. 20 km (12.4 mi.) S of Edmonton on Queen Elizabeth II Hwy then 2 km (1.2 mi.) W on Hwy 19. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 461-5801 or 1-877-331-RACE
Website: www.budpark.com

Commonwealth Stadium
Home of the Canadian Football League's Edmonton Eskimos, regular season games are played July – Nov. The facility is also a popular venue for large concerts and has a sports and fitness centre.
Location: 11000 Stadium Rd. (86th St. and 111th Ave.).
Phone: (780) 944-7400 or (780) 448-ESKS/1-800-667-ESKS for tickets
Website: www.esks.com

Kinsmen Sports Centre
The Kinsmen Sports Centre is Edmonton’s premier sports and fitness facility. Located in Edmonton’s beautiful river valley, the centre has everything you need to pursue your recreational endeavours.
Open: Year-round. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 944-7400 for hours.
Website: www.edmonton.ca/kinsmen

For information visit TravelAlberta.com/edmonton or call 1.800.252.3782
Alberta Legislature
The seat of Alberta's democratic system and the province's foremost historical building, opened in 1912 on the site of the original Fort Edmonton. Beautifully landscaped grounds offering flowers, fountains and pools in the summer and a skating rink in the winter. The Alberta Legislative Assembly interpretive centre houses an array of displays and special exhibits. Tours are available, call for times. Open: Year-round. Location: 97th Ave. and 107th St. Admission: Free. Phone: (780) 427-7362. Website: www.assembly.ab.ca

City Hall
Edmonton City Hall is designed to enhance the downtown core. The building has a dramatic elongated, sloping pyramid roof reaching 8 storeys high, art collection, large outdoor reflective pool, 66-m (200-ft.) clock tower with a 23-bell carillon. Location: 1 Sir Winston Churchill Square. Phone: (780) 486-8200 Website: www.edmonton.ca

Old Strathcona Historic Area
A unique historical area located in south Edmonton. The area is known for its ambience and the variety of shopping, including antiques, gift shops, bookstores and a farmer's market, as well as many pubs and restaurants. Also serves as the site of Edmonton's popular Fringe Theatre Festival. Information: Old Strathcona Foundation Office, Suite 401, 10324 Whyte Ave. (82nd Ave.). Phone: (780) 433-5866 Website: www.osf.strathcona.org

Shaw Conference Centre
Overlooking the North Saskatchewan River, the Shaw Conference Centre is a unique and architecturally appealing meeting and show facility. The Centre's Hall D, opening in spring of 2006, adds 26,900 sq. ft. of meeting space to the 82,000 sq. ft. of column-free exhibit space and 27 meeting rooms. The Shaw Conference Centre provides amenities of international standards for conventions of up to 5,000 delegates. Open: Year-round, events vary. Location: Downtown, 9797 Jasper Ave. Admission: Varies with event. Phone: (780) 421-9797 Website: www.shawconferencecentre.com

The Arts

Citadel Theatre
The Citadel Theatre is one of the top theatres in Canada and ensures Edmonton's place as one of Canada's leaders in the cultural community. The Citadel houses five theatres. Location: 9828–101A Ave. Phone: (780) 426-4811 or (780) 425-1820 (ticket office) or 1-888-425-1820 Website: www.citadeltheatre.com

Edmonton Art Gallery
Located in the heart of Edmonton's Arts District, the gallery houses a superb collection of historical and contemporary artwork in every medium. Besides showing over 30 exhibits each year, it presents lectures, tours and family programs. Open: Year-round. Location: 99th St. and 102A Ave. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 422-6223 Website: www.edmontonartgallery.ca

Jubilee Auditorium (Northern Alberta)
State-of-the-art performance facility. Newly renovated in 2005 to mark Alberta's Centennial. Resident companies include Alberta Ballet and Edmonton Opera. A variety of other performances are also held here throughout the year. Location: 11455–87 Ave. Admission: Varies with performance. Phone: (780) 427-2760 or (780) 451-8000 Website: www.jubileeauditorium.com

The Francis Winspear Centre for Music
Home of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and one of the finest acoustic halls in the world. Location: NE corner of 99th St. and 102nd Ave. Phone: (780) 428-1414 or 1-800-563-5081 Website: www.winspearcentre.com

Northlands Park
The grounds at Northlands house the AgriCom, Sportex, Northlands Spectrum and Rexall Place. Northlands Spectrum is Alberta's premier year-round horse racing and entertainment centre. Produces 3 major events annually – Edmonton's Klondike Days Exposition, Farmfair International and Canadian Finals Rodeo. Open: Year-round. Location: 116th Ave. and 73rd St. Phone: (780) 471-7210 (Northlands Park) or 1-888-800-PARK (7275) for racing info. Website: www.northlands.com

Rexall Place
Home of the NHL's Edmonton Oilers, games are played Oct. – April. The Canadian Finals Rodeo is held here in Nov. This is also a popular venue for concerts. Location: 118th Ave. and 74th St., off Wayne Gretzky Dr. Phone: (780) 471-7210 or (780) 451-8000 (Ticketmaster)

Telus Field
Location: 10233–96 Ave. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 451-8000 (tickets)

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River Valley Parks
Edmonton is the proud home of the largest urban parks system in North America. The lush greenery stretches over 28 km (17.3 mi.), on both sides of the North Saskatchewan River. This area offers excellent opportunities for picnicking, golfing, fishing, boating, hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, skating and many special events. Open: Year-round. Phone: (780) 496-2950 Website: www.edmonton.ca/parks

Telus Field
Location: 10233–96 Ave. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 451-8000 (tickets)

Buildings and Landmarks

Alberta Government House
The former residence of Alberta's first six lieutenant-governors, the building is now used as the province's official government meeting and conference centre. Includes an impressive collection of Canadian art. Open: Year-round. Tours available Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, mid-February through mid-December. Location: 12845–102 Ave., on the grounds of The Royal Alberta Museum. Phone: (780) 427-2281

Telus Field
Location: 10233–96 Ave. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 451-8000 (tickets)

Edmonton Art Gallery
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Telus Field
Location: 10233–96 Ave. Admission: Charged. Phone: (780) 451-8000 (tickets)
Edmonton International Street Performers Festival
July 7 – 16, 2006. Edmonton welcomes the world’s best street performers at Sir Winston Churchill Square for more than 1,500 performances. The parks and streets are alive with family fun provided by magicians, clowns, jugglers, musicians and comics.
Phone: (780) 425-5162
Website: www.edmontonstreetfest.com

Grand Prix of Edmonton
July 21 – 23, 2006, City Centre Airport. Bridgestone Presents The Champ Car World Series Powered By Ford. For three earth shaking days in July, Edmonton, Alberta, the City of Champions becomes the City of Champ Car. Join over 200,000 fans as the best race drivers in the world take the green flag reaching over 200 mph on the 1.96 mile, temporary race facility in the heart of Edmonton. This fan-friendly track welcomes the stars of motorsport and their fans to Champ Car’s largest spectator event in Canada. Don’t miss the sights, sounds and smells that define the world of Champ Car on their annual visit to Western Canada. 2006 Grandstand Packages on sale November 7, 2005.
Call Ticketmaster (780) 451-8000.
Website: www.edmontonstreetfest.com

Edmonton’s Klondike Days
July 20 – 29, 2006. For 10 days every July, Northlands Park’s grounds are transformed into Klondike Days. Enjoy thrilling midway rides, acclaimed international shows, wild chuckwagon races, daredevil feature attractions, a colourful parade and much more. Also enjoy the Sourdough Raft Festival, a Taste of Edmonton and bathtub races, as goldrush celebrations take place across the city.
Phone: (780) 471-7210, 1-888-800-PARK or (780) 423-2822
Website: www.klondikedays.com and www.eventsedmonton.ca

Edmonton Heritage Festival
Aug. 17 – 27, 2006. Edmonton’s Old Strathcona area plays host to the largest and most exciting festival of alternative theatre in North America. New plays, innovative interpretations, street entertainment, theatre in the park and dance come together to create a festival offering something for everyone in the family.
Phone: (780) 448-9000
Website: www.fringetheatreadventures.ca

For information visit TravelAlberta.com/edmonton or call 1.800.252.3782

The Francis Winspear Centre for Music, Edmonton

Edmonton Folk Music Festival
Aug. 10 – 13, 2006. The 27th Annual Edmonton Folk Music Festival is a 4-day celebration of music from around the world, featuring the best of local, national and international musicians. All the activity takes place in Gallagher Park’s natural amphitheatre in Edmonton’s river valley. An affordable, accessible event with programming for all tastes and ages, tickets go on sale in June at substantial savings over the gate prices.
Phone: (780) 429-1899
Website: edmontonfolkfest.org

Carifest – Edmonton Caribbean Arts Festival
Aug 11 – 13, 2006. Phone: (780) 421-7800
Website: www.carifestfestival.com
Edmonton's Labatt Blues Festival
August 25 – 27, 2006. Phone: (780) 708-7230
Website: www.bluesinternational.ltd.com

Symphony Under the Sky Festival
Sept 1 – 4, 2006. Five-day extravaganza of classical music excitement awaits you in the Hawrelak Park Heritage Amphitheatre with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's annual festival. The sky's the limit for festivities, children's entertainment and outstanding symphonic music.
Phone: (780) 428-1414 or 1-800-563-5081 Fax: (780) 425-1913
Website: www.edmontonsymphony.com

Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival
Feb 10 – 11, 2006. Phone: (780) 430-7153
Website: www.canadianbirkie.com

Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR)
Nov. 8 – 12, 2006. Shine up your belt buckle, grab your hat and head down to the Canadian Finals Rodeo, the professional rodeo championships of Canada. Watch the country's top cowboys battle it out against the nation's toughest stock for their share of a $1 million purse. It's non-stop action, featuring the world's top rodeo entertainment performers, and Corral Parties to round out your visit. Tickets available through all Ticketmaster locations at (780) 451-8000.
Phone: (780) 471-7210 or 1-888-800-7275
Website: www.canadianfinalsrodeo.ca

Surrounding Area
Website: www.edmontondaytrips.com for fun attractions and activities in the Edmonton region. www.visitthecountry.ca for Edmonton region agricultural tourism experiences

Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village
30-min. drive from Edmonton makes this park ideal for day trips. Open: Year-round. Location: 50 km (31 mi.) E of Edmonton along Hwy 16. Admission: National Park entrance fee.
Phone: (780) 992-2950 or 1-800-748-7275
Website: www.parkscanada.ca

Sherwood Park and Strathcona County
Strathcona County abounds with natural wilderness and a wealth of activities and facilities. Sherwood Park, the urban centre of Strathcona County, features Millennium Place Recreation Facility, Strathcona County Museum and Broadmoor Lake Park. Be sure to visit the new Dow Centennial Centre in Fort Saskatchewan.
Phone: (780) 464-0801 or (780) 464-8216
Website: www.strathconacounty.com

Fishing Adventures
Get Hooked Fishing Adventures
Keith Rae
Box 10, Site 201, RR 2, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1X2
Phone: (780) 963-4279, (780) 953-0759 or 1-866-963-1888 Fax: (780) 963-3062
Website: www.gethookedfishing.com
All-inclusive guided fishing adventures in the Edmonton area on the North Saskatchewan River or a local lake just W of Edmonton.

Hatch Chasers Fly Fishing Instruction and Guiding
Box 69129, 13915-127 St., Edmonton, AB T5L 4Y0
Phone: (780) 732-1122 or (780) 983-9122
Website: www.hatchchasers.com
Fly-fishing instruction on local lakes and guided trips to streams with accommodation packages available.

Northern Spirit Fishing Experiences
Box 69129, 13915-127 St., Edmonton, AB T5L 4Y0
Phone: (780) 476-3606 or (780) 497-9858
Fish for walleye, perch, pike, trout and jumbo whitefish. Winter ice fishing excursions, overnight packages. Catch 20-100 fish a day. Open: Year-round

Reel Angling Adventures
Phone: (780) 961-3726 or 1-866-961-3425
Website: www.reelangling.com
Year-round guided fishing, jet boat tours on Athabasca River, nature hikes, wildlife viewing and snowshoeing.
**Specialty Tours**

**Alberta Trapline Adventures**
21061 A Wye Road, Sherwood Park, AB T8G 1G7
Phone: (780) 446-0204 Fax: (780) 430-1686
E-mail: babercrombie@traplineadventures.com
Website: www.traplineadventures.com
This wilderness adventure company specializes in hands-on, interactive, wilderness experience for people of all ages, from school children to seniors.
Open: Year-round.

**Klondike Jet Boats**
Mike Tynan
Phone/Fax: (780) 486-0896

**Andora Can Aurora Tours**
Johan Louw
11223–132 Street, Edmonton, AB T5M 1E7
Phone: (780) 452-5187
E-mail: sales@altacan.ab.ca
Website: www.altacan.ab.ca
High-quality aurora borealis and soft adventure tours. Open: Year-round.

**Edmonton Ghost Tours**
Phone: 1-866-814-7378 Fax: (403) 245-6210
Website: www.andersonvacations.ca
Advance reservations are required.

**Elk Island Retreat**
Phone: (780) 998-0708
Website: www.elkislandretreat.com
Experience an aboriginal program. Advance reservations are required.

**Double J Riding Centre**
Phone: (780) 922-2344 Fax: (780) 922-0585
Website: www.doublejriding.com
Operates trail rides into Cooking Lake–Blackfoot National Park. Rides are guided and vary in length. Custom tours on request. Open: Seasonal.

**Magic Times Tour**
Website: www.magictimes.ca

**Klondike Jet Boats**
Phone: (780) 922-2941 Fax: (780) 922-6874
Website: www.peterstedmonton.com

**Webtsite: www.edmonton.com**

**Trail Riding/Pack Trips**
Website: www.strathconacounty.com
Website: www.edmonton.com
Website: www.visitthecountry.ca
Website: www.edmontondaytrips.com

**Moon Shadow Adventures**
Phone: 1-888-467-9697 Fax: 1-866-339-3960.
E-mail: info@moonshadowadventures.com
Website: www.moonshadowadventures.com
Guided and unguided wilderness canoe trips, as well as an Edmonton/Devon canoe shuttle service.

**Nite Tours Double Decker Bus**
Nite tours, trolley tours, motorcoach and double decker charters, ghost tours, ski charters.
Phone: (780) 454-0303 Fax: (780) 454-0290

**Out an' About Tours**
Phone: (780) 909-8687 or 1-888-488-8687
Fax: (780) 463-0743
Website: www.outanabouthotels.com
Historical driving and walking tours of Edmonton and area. Plus, wildlife tours and day trips to the Rockies and Dinosaur Country.

**Peter's Edmonton Tours**
Phone: (780) 469-2641 Cell: (780) 904-6973
Fax: (780) 450-9521
Personalized small group tours featuring an excellent introduction to Edmonton and history.

**Via Rail Canada**
Phone: 1-888-VIA-RAIL
Website: www.snowtrainojasper.com

**Watchable Wildlife Tours**
Phone: (780) 405-4880
Website: www.birdsandbackcountry.com
See a wide variety of wildlife and birds. Wetland areas along the backroads provide the opportunity to observe waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as wildlife in their natural habitat. Custom tours on request.

**Windship Aviation Ltd.**
5615 Gateway Blvd., Edmonton, AB T6H 2H3
Phone: (780) 438-0111 or 1-888-463-5283
Website: www.windshipaviation.com
Hot air balloon flights, twice a day over the city of Edmonton.

**Lost Guide Adventure Tours**
Sherry Wesson
8715-68A St., Edmonton, AB T6B 1T6
Phone: (780) 469-9602
Fax: (780) 480-7803
Website: www.lostguidetours.com
Six days all-inclusive horseback adventure in the Canadian Rockies for people who want a true western experience with great food. Base camp on Ranger Creek, which borders the northern boundaries of Banff National Park. 4 trips scheduled per year. Open: Seasonal.

**Water Adventures**

**Klondike Jet Boats**
Phone: (780) 486-0896

**Camper and RV Rentals**

**ArrKann Trailer and RV Centre**
Phone: (780) 440-4811 or 1-800-216-4811
Fax: (780) 440-2019
Website: www.arrkannrv.com

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**Water Adventures**

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**Camper and RV Rentals**

**ArrKann Trailer and RV Centre**
Phone: (780) 440-4811 or 1-800-216-4811
Fax: (780) 440-2019
Website: www.arrkannrv.com

**Leisure RV Rentals and Sales/CanaDream**
Phone: (780) 387-5250 or 1-877-387-5250
Fax: (780) 387-5018
Website: www.leisurerv.com

**Northern Lights Vacation Ltd.**
Phone: (780) 944-9169
Fax: (780) 944-9633
Website: www.northernlightsvacations.com
Alberta’s North to Alaska Trail
About 14 to 21 days by car

For an unforgettable 2- to 3-week odyssey, start off on the Montana/Alberta border and wind up in Alaska. Begin on the Trail of the Great Bear and then head N through Calgary, Edmonton and up to Grande Prairie. The 1,209-km (756-mile) long trail then veers in to B.C., where you’ll join the legendary Alaska Highway at the historic town of Dawson Creek.

1 Start at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, home of the largest concentration of petroglyphs and pictographs in North America. Superb camping, canoeing and guided hikes take place in this park that almost straddles the U.S. and Canada border.

2 Head W on Hwy 501 to Waterton Lakes National Park, which united in 1932 with Montana’s Glacier Park to become the world’s first international peace park. Since 1979, UNESCO has recognized the park as a biosphere reserve. Numerous hiking trails, scenic boat cruises, horseback riding, golf and tennis are here.

3 The Trail of the Great Bear travels N through Pincher Creek, Fort Macleod, Claresholm and High River, following Queen Elizabeth II Hwy to Calgary. From here you could dip westward on the Trans-Canada Hwy through the Rocky Mountains.

4 Or, remain on Queen Elizabeth II Hwy bound for Edmonton and discover why they call it the “Festival City.” Power shoppers, of course, will want to visit West Edmonton Mall, which spans some 48 city blocks and includes 800 shops and services. Don’t miss a visit to the Royal Alberta Museum, which catalogues one billion years of natural history.

5 Then head W on Hwy 43 to Grande Prairie. Pop into its Pioneer Museum and visit an eclectic collection of dinosaur bones and farm implements — plus there’s an art gallery jammed with Canadian works and 2 theatres in town that offer extensive summer programs.

6 Continue W to the town of Dawson Creek in B.C., near the Alberta border, which is the location of Mile 0 on the Alaska Highway. While here, visit the Northern Alberta Railway Station Park, which features an award-winning restoration of a historic train station.

7 If you continue N on the Alaska Hwy (Hwy 97) another must-see on the 1,140-km (700-mi.) long route to Watson Lake on the B.C./Yukon border is Toad River (at Mile 422), a town of 60 with a bizarre collection of 4,580 hats.

For a detailed itinerary, complete with historical information and distances, visit TravelAlberta.com/trails
Alberta's Northern Lights/Oil Sands Trail
About 3 days by car
Where can you see dancing lights, heritage villages, wild bison plus one of the world’s largest oil reserves — all on a 3-day loop? Right on this memorable 971-km (607-mi.) long circuit that runs from Edmonton to Fort McMurray, but in reality slices through far more spectacular diversity than maps could ever show.

1. From Edmonton head E on Hwy 16 to Elk Island National Park. In the 100-km (62-mi.) ‘web of trails that criss-crosses this park, you’re bound to spot a few of the 1,700 elk, 600 plains bison and 375 wood bison, as well as deer, moose and beaver that call this place home.

2. Continue E to the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. Costumed interpreters lead you through more than 30 restored historic buildings on a 320-acre site — and then let you loose to experience everything from tasting homemade borscht to churning butter and painting eggs.

3. Now head W and then N on Hwy 63 to Fort McMurray, the hub of the Athabasca Oil Sands. Spend a night in this boom town and take a fascinating tour through the award-winning Interpretive Centre, a showcase for modern technology of oil sands mining. Then spend an unforgettable evening under the northern lights, the aurora borealis. Guided tours take guests to prime viewing spots outside the city where the colourful sky dance unfolds. This area is also famous for its freshwater fishing rivers and lakes. Six of the province’s seven “trophy lakes” are in this region.

4. Located on the banks of the Athabasca River, you’ll discover the historic town of Athabasca, once a thriving boat-building town where the renowned poet Robert Service once lived.

5. Zigzag N to Hwy 36 and follow it to Lac La Biche to see this historic town’s main attraction — a mission that was built in 1853. Besides acting as a base for priests who had missions along the Athabasca, Peace and Mackenzie Rivers, Lac La Biche was used as a supply depot for voyageurs still using the northern trade route. Tour the original buildings and/or take in a service, still held on Sundays.

6. Stop in the city of St. Albert and visit the Father Lacombe Chapel, restored to look much as it did in the early 1860s.

Shopping and Entertainment Alberta Style
About 1/2 to 6 days by car
Alberta is famous for its one-of-a-kind restaurants, shops and entertainment. Combine those experiences with no provincial sales tax, and you’ll see why Alberta is called a treasure trove. From international designer clothes to ultra-hip western wear to charming antiques to the Greatest Indoor Show on Earth a.k.a West Edmonton Mall — Alberta has a store that carries exactly what you want.

1. In Edmonton, amble down historic Whyte Avenue for trendy boutiques, pottery shops, off-the-wall shoe stores, antiques and superb bookstores. If you’re there on a Saturday, rub elbows with the locals at the Old Strathcona Farmers Market.

2. In Calgary you’ll find affordable Canadian antiques in the historic neighbourhood of Inglewood, plus art galleries as well as exclusive boutiques along Uptown 17th Avenue. “Themed” shopping malls appear all over the city as do “power centres” loaded with bargain outlets. Downtown’s “Restaurant Row” is where you’ll discover a revival of turn-of-the-century sandstone buildings — recently converted into swanky restaurants with eclectic menus that brag of Alberta beef, fresh exotic seafood and wild game.

3. South of Calgary, entire towns such as Nanton are jammed with antiques. Our charming alpine villages such as Waterton, Banff, Jasper and Canmore, brag of excellent outdoor and sporting goods stores as well as native art galleries, western wear, jewelry boutiques, quirky museums and scores of excellent restaurants that specialize in “Rocky Mountain Cuisine.”

For a detailed itinerary, complete with historical information and distances, visit TravelAlberta.com/trails