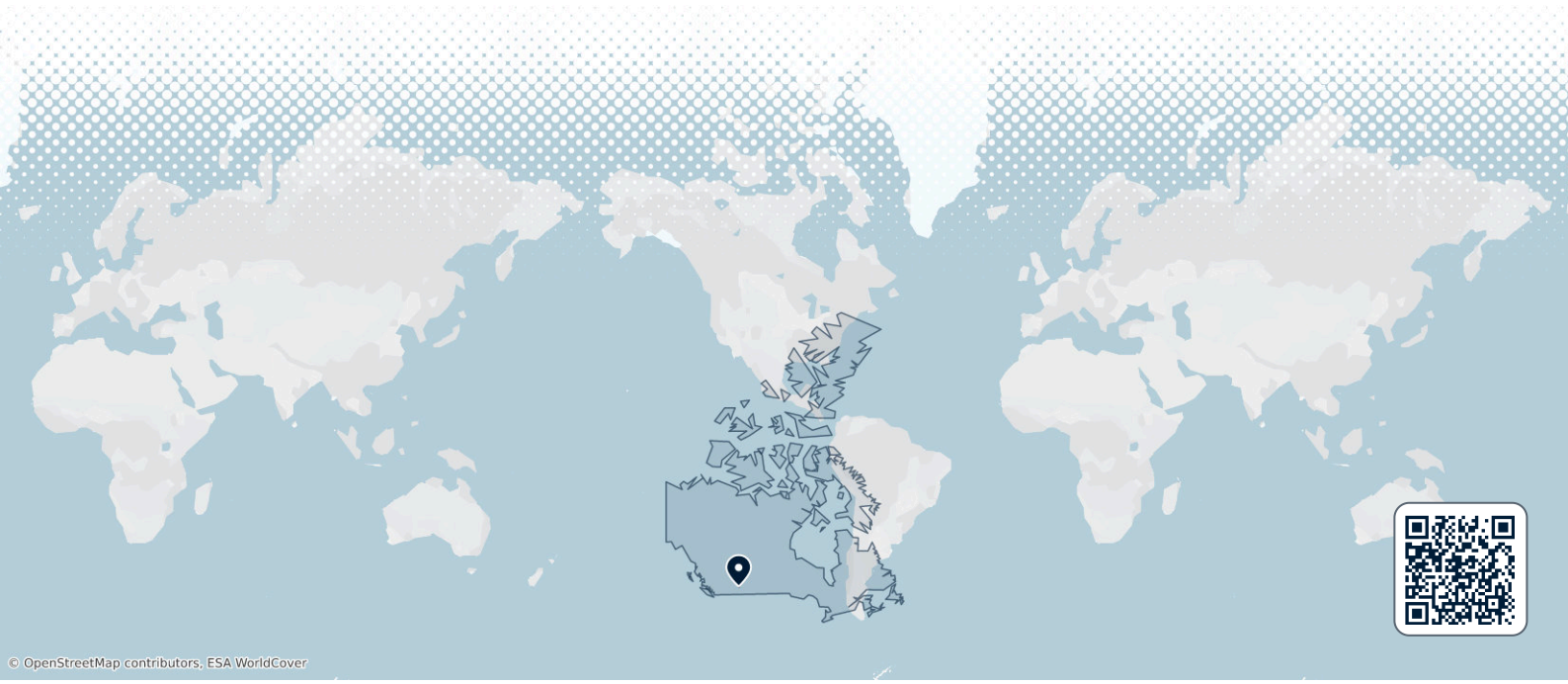


Calgary

Alberta · Canada

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Calgary is a modern city in Alberta, on the edge of the Canadian Prairies. The Rocky Mountains are visible on the western horizon. It is a business and energy centre with a strong cowboy heritage, and it is the home of the Calgary Stampede.

Most visitors stay two or three days, or use Calgary as the gateway to Banff and Kananaskis. The downtown is compact and sits next to the Bow River, with parks and pathways along the water. Sunny weather is common, even in winter.

When to visit

July and August are the best months. Days are long, warm and mostly dry, with some short afternoon storms. June is greener but wetter. Winters are cold and dry, with sudden warm spells caused by Chinook winds. Spring and autumn can bring snow.

Plan around the Calgary Stampede, a 10-day rodeo and festival in early July. The 2027 dates are 9 to 18 July. Hotels fill early and prices rise, so book well ahead.

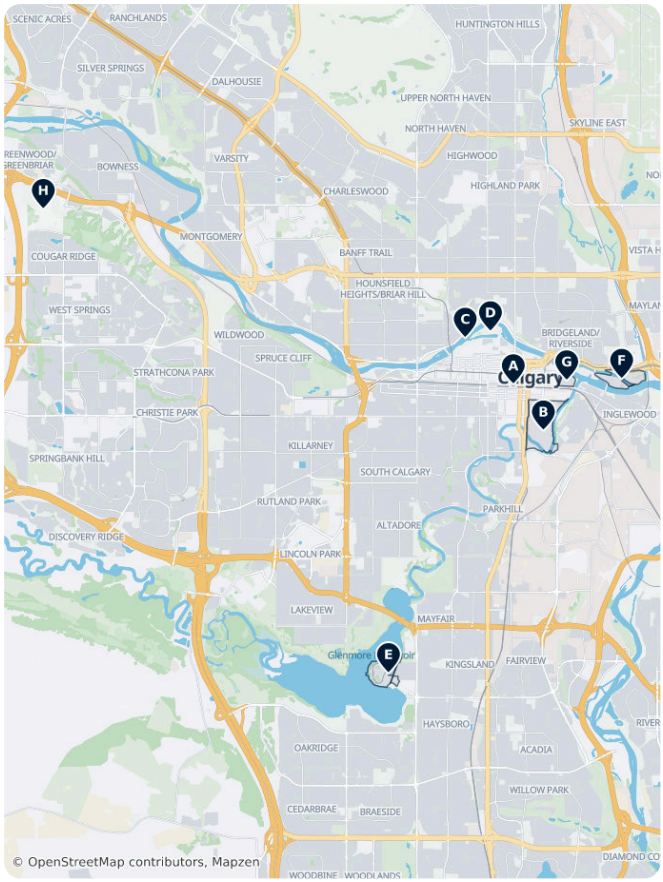
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-2° / 6° Feels like -7°	-10° / -25°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 9° Feels like -5°	-10° / -24°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 14° Feels like 0°	-6° / -18°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for cycling	11° / 20° Feels like 6°	-2° / -9°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for cycling	17° / 26° Feels like 13°	4° / -3°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 28°	8° / 4°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	11° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 31°	11° / 6°	Dry air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for cycling	20° / 29°	6° / 0°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	12° / 22° Feels like 8°	1° / -7°	Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 12° Feels like -1°	-5° / -16°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-2° / 6° Feels like -7°	-10° / -23°	Dry air

Best months: July, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Calgary Tower is the main landmark of the downtown skyline. The observation deck has views of the city and the Rockies.
- B Stampede Park is the home of the Stampede in July. The rest of the year it hosts events, markets and shows.
- C Peace Bridge is a pedestrian and cycling bridge over the Bow River. Its white, twisting design makes it a popular photo stop.
- D Prince's Island Park is a green island park near downtown. Locals walk, picnic and attend festivals here.
- E Heritage Park is a large living-history park with a heritage village. It is mainly open in summer.
- F Calgary Zoo is one of Canada's largest zoos. It also has a botanical garden and a dinosaur exhibit.
- G Fort Calgary is the site where Calgary began as a police fort in 1875. The museum tells the story of the early city.
- H Canada Olympic Park is a sports park from the 1988 Winter Olympics. It is used for skiing, tubing and other activities.



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Scan to download the app

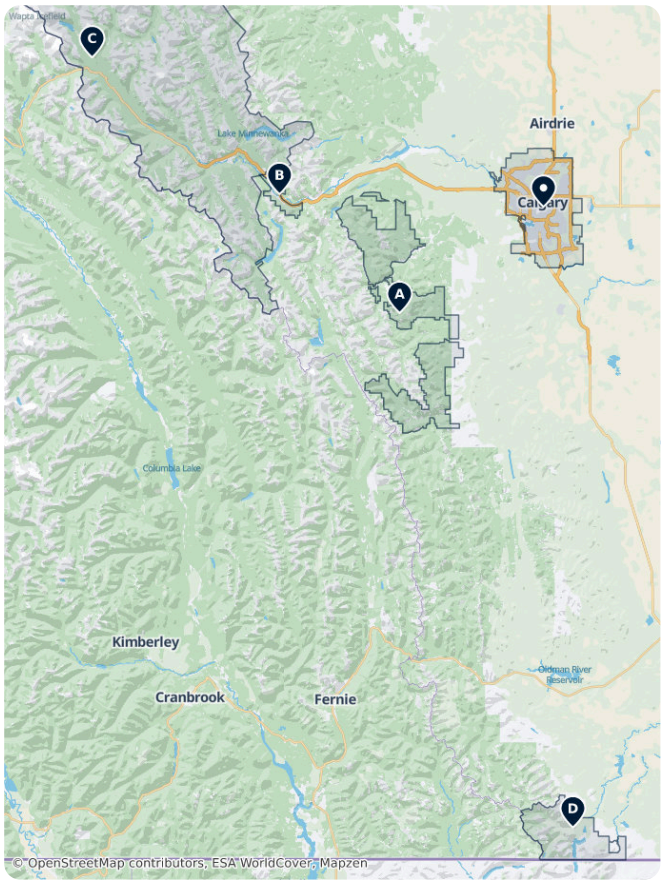
What to experience

- **Join the Calgary Stampede in July.** Watch the rodeo and the chuckwagon races, and see the parade on the first Friday. Many downtown venues serve free pancake breakfasts.
- **Float the Bow River in summer.** Rent a raft or tube and drift through the city. Water is cold and can be fast, so check conditions first.
- **Attend the Calgary Folk Music Festival in July.** Concerts take place on Prince's Island Park over a long weekend.
- **Ski or tube in winter.** Canada Olympic Park has runs close to the city centre, and the Rockies are about an hour away.

Day trips

All trips are one way from downtown, in order from closest to farthest.

- A Kananaskis Country Public Land Use Zone: about 1 hour by car. Mountain valleys, lakes and hiking trails. Public transport is not practical.
- B Canmore: about 1 hour by car or shuttle bus. A mountain town below the Three Sisters peaks, with good hiking and cafés.
- C Banff National Park: about 1.5 hours by car, and 2 hours by coach. Mountain scenery, turquoise lakes and a lively town. This is the most popular trip from Calgary.
- **Drumheller**: about 1.5 hours by car. A badlands town with dinosaur fossils and the Royal Tyrrell Museum. A car is the easiest way to go.
- D Waterton Lakes National Park: about 3 hours by car. A quieter park where the mountains meet the prairie. Best with an overnight stay.



Where to explore

- Banff National Park is Canada's first national park and the main mountain destination near Calgary.
- Canmore is a smaller and quieter mountain town on the way to Banff.
- Kananaskis Country Public Land Use Zone has hiking, skiing and lakes close to the city.
- Edmonton is Alberta's capital, about 3 hours north by car.
- Waterton Lakes National Park lies in the far south of Alberta, next to the US border.

Getting there

- **By air**: Calgary International Airport (YYC) is about 17 km north-east of downtown, a 25-minute drive. Calgary Transit bus Route 300 runs to downtown, about 40 to 50 minutes. Taxis and ride-hailing are faster. YYC has many flights across Canada and the USA, and some to Europe and Asia.
- **By train**: There is no VIA Rail service to Calgary.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches link Calgary with Banff, Canmore and Edmonton, about 3.5 hours north. Banff coaches also run from the airport.
- **By car**: Highway 2 connects Calgary with Edmonton to the north. The Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 1) leads west to Banff.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Calgary Transit runs the CTrain light rail (Red and Blue lines) and buses. Buy tickets in the My Fare app or at CTrain station machines. A single ticket is about 4 CAD and is valid for 90 minutes. See Calgary Transit.
- **Taxi and ride-hailing**: Both are available. They are useful for sights outside the centre, such as Heritage Park.
- **On foot and by bike**: The downtown is compact and walkable. In winter, the Plus 15 is a network of enclosed walkways above the streets. Paved pathways follow the Bow and Elbow rivers and are popular for cycling.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The downtown is compact and has covered walkways, but the rest of the city is spread out.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Paved pathways follow the rivers and are popular in summer.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for a city stay. The downtown is compact and the CTrain covers the main areas. A car is useful for Kananaskis, Drumheller and other trips from the city.
- **Parking**: Downtown garages and street parking are paid and costly. Street parking uses the Park Plus app. Parking is easier at CTrain park-and-ride stations.
- **Winter**: Snow and ice are common from October to April. Check road conditions before driving to the mountains.

Food & drink

Calgary is known for Alberta beef and steakhouses. The Caesar, a cocktail of vodka, clam-tomato juice and spice, was invented here. Ginger beef, a sweet and crispy fried dish, was also created in Calgary's Chinese restaurants.

Good areas for eating are Inglewood, Kensington and 17th Avenue SW, where restaurants and cafés cluster. For Asian food, try Chinatown Calgary. Tipping of 15 to 20 percent is normal in sit-down restaurants.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Tourtière
A savory meat pie, traditionally made with pork, beef, or game, especially popular in Quebec.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Poutine
Fries topped with cheese curds and hot gravy, originally from Quebec and now popular nationwide.

Bannock
A simple fried or baked bread with roots in Indigenous cooking, found in many regional variations across the country.

Montreal-style Bagel · Bagel montréalais
A smaller, sweeter, denser bagel than the New York style, boiled in honey water and baked in a wood-fired oven.

Maple Syrup · Sirop d'érable
Syrup tapped from maple trees, mainly in Quebec and Ontario, used on pancakes and in baking and savory dishes alike.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Butter Tart
A small pastry shell filled with a sweet, gooey butter, sugar, and egg filling, sometimes with raisins or pecans.

Nanaimo Bar
A no-bake dessert bar from British Columbia with a chocolate-crumb base, custard filling, and chocolate topping.

DRINKS

Caesar
Canada's signature cocktail: vodka, Clamato juice (tomato and clam broth), and spices, served with a celery stalk.

Canadian Whisky
A lighter, smoother style of whisky than Scotch or Bourbon, often blended with rye.

Ice Wine
A sweet dessert wine made from grapes frozen on the vine, produced mainly in Ontario's Niagara region and British Columbia's Okanagan Valley.

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Safety & health

Calgary is a safe city for visitors. Normal city care is enough. Do not leave valuables visible in parked cars, as car break-ins happen. Some areas east of downtown are rough at night.

Winter is cold, and temperatures can drop far below freezing. Wear warm layers, a hat and gloves. The sun is strong at this altitude, so use sunscreen in summer. Summer storms can bring hail.

History

The Blackfoot, Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nakoda peoples lived in this area long before settlers came. The Blackfoot name for the place is Mohkinstsis. In 1875 the North-West Mounted Police built a fort at the meeting point of the Bow and Elbow rivers, now Fort Calgary.

The railway arrived in 1883 and the town grew quickly. The first Stampede took place in 1912 and is now held at Stampede Park. Oil and gas made the city rich in the 20th century. Calgary hosted the 1988 Winter Olympics, and Canada Olympic Park was built for the Games.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Canada at a glance:

CURRENCY
CAD $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY

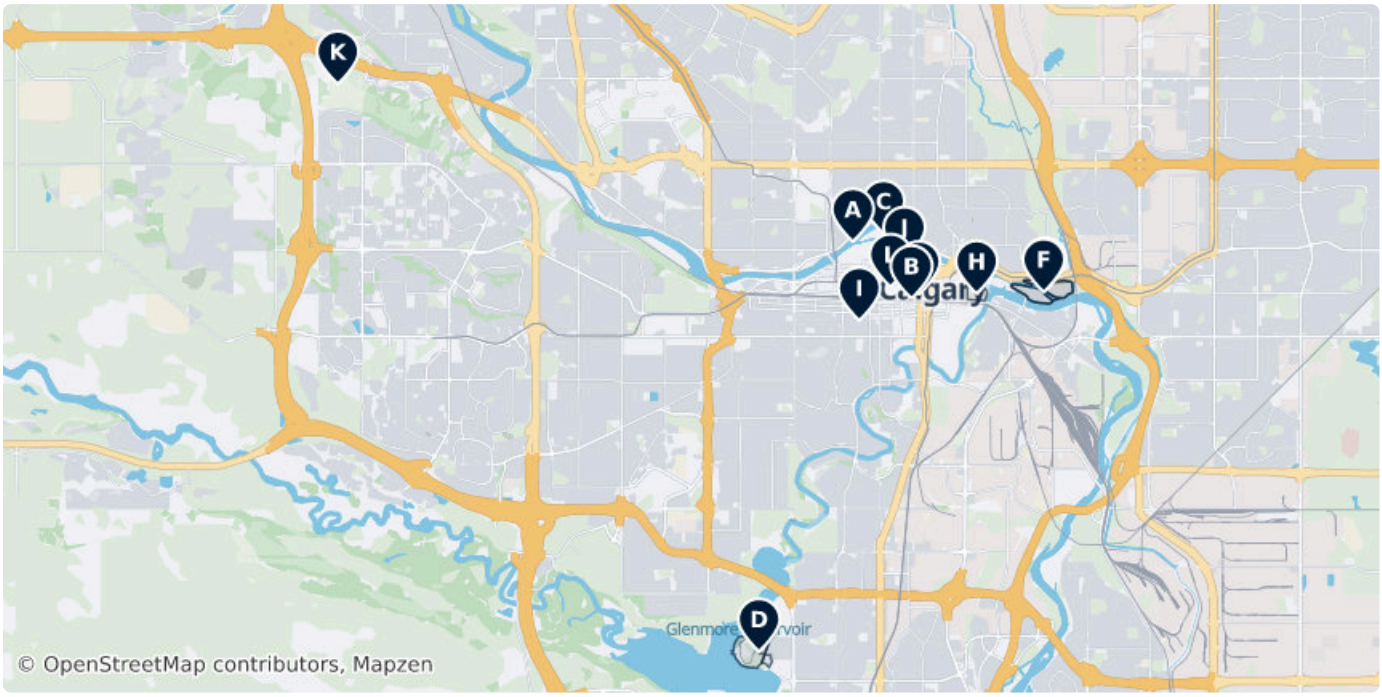
Type A / Type B
120 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
English, French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Calgary's Essential Experiences

This selection highlights Calgary’s evolution from a North-West Mounted Police outpost at Fort Calgary to a modern urban center. Architectural landmarks include Santiago Calatrava’s Peace Bridge and the 190.8-metre Calgary Tower. Cultural heritage is preserved at Heritage Park’s 127-acre living history museum and the Victorian-era Lougheed House. The city’s 1988 Winter Olympics legacy continues at Canada Olympic Park, while Prince’s Island Park and the indoor Devonian Gardens offer diverse green spaces. Regional art and history are showcased at the Glenbow Museum, alongside the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo and the historic Chinatown district.





A Peace Bridge

Peace Bridge is a bridge that accommodates people walking and cycling across the Bow River in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

(Unnamed Road), Calgary T2P, Canada
(51.05391, -114.07891)



B Calgary Tower

The Calgary Tower is a 190.8-metre free standing observation tower in the downtown core of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

9 Avenue SE 101, T2P 1J9 Calgary, CA
(51.04430, -114.06312)

calgarytower.com, +1403 266 7171



C Prince's Island Park

Prince's Island Park is an urban park in the city of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

4 St. and 1 Ave. S.W., Calgary, AB, Kanada (51.05525, -114.07061)

calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Locations/Downtown-parks...



D Heritage Park Historical Village

Heritage Park Historical Village is a living history museum in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on 127 acres of parkland on the banks of the...

Heritage Drive SW 1900, Calgary (50.98452, -114.10414)

heritagepark.ca, +1403 268 8500



E Glenbow Museum

The Glenbow Museum is an art and history regional museum in the city of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

130 9 AVE SE, T2G 0P3, Calgary, AB, Canada (51.04503, -114.06103)

Tu–Su 09:00–17:00

glenbow.org, +1403 268 4100



F Calgary Zoo

The Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo is located in Bridgeland, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, just east of the city's downtown and adjacent to the...

Zoo Road NE 1300, Calgary (51.04541, -114.02752)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

calgaryzoo.com, +1403 232 9300



G Calgary Zoo

The Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo is located in Bridgeland, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, just east of the city's downtown and adjacent to the...

(51.04563, -114.02714)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

calgaryzoo.com



H Fort Calgary

Fort Calgary was a North-West Mounted Police outpost at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers in present-day Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

750 - 9th Avenue SE, T2G 5E1, Calgary, AB, Canada
(51.04510, -114.04557)

fortcalgary.com, +1403 290 1875

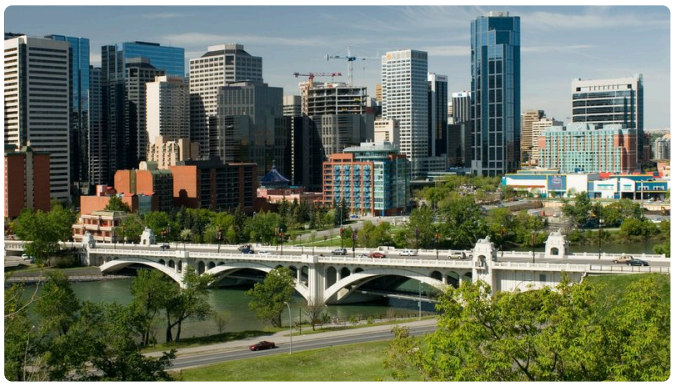


I Lougheed House

Lougheed House, or as it was originally known Beaulieu, is a National Historic Site located in the Beltline district of Calgary, Alberta.

707 13 Ave SW, T2R 0K8, Calgary, AB, Canada
(51.04057, -114.07716)

lougheedhouse.com, +1 403 244 6333



J Chinatown Calgary

Calgary's Chinatown is a district of Calgary located along Centre Street in the southeast area of Downtown Calgary immediately west of the...

250 1 St SW, Calgary T2P1M3, Canada
(51.05081, -114.06502)

chinatowncalgary.com

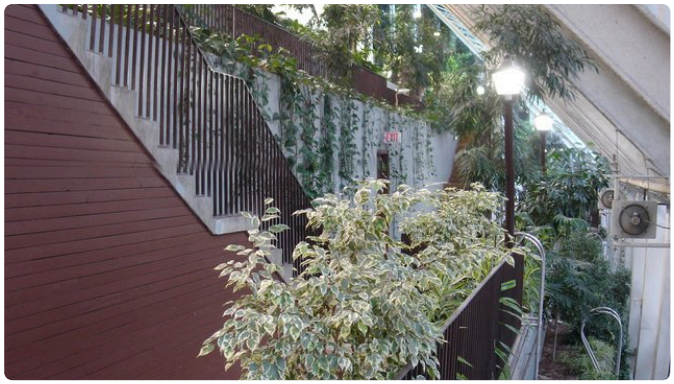


K Canada Olympic Park

Canada Olympic Park, formerly known as Paskapoo Ski Hill, is a ski hill and multi-purpose training and competition facility located in...

88-226 Canada Olympic Rd SW, T3H 4E5, Calgary, AB, Canada (51.08054, -114.21753)

winsportcanada.ca/cop/index_cop.cfm, +1403 247 5452



L Devonian Gardens

Toronto-Dominion Square, originally Oxford Square, is a full-block building complex in Calgary, Alberta built by Oxford Developments.

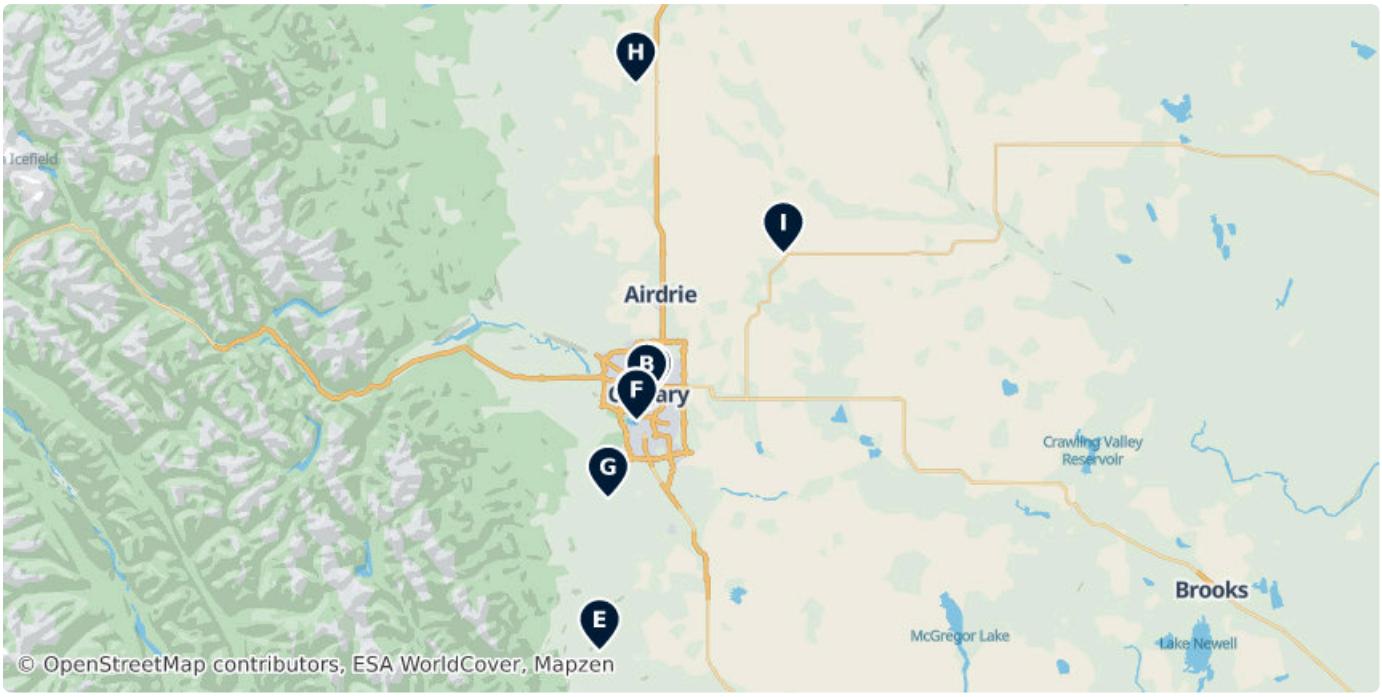
324 8 avenue sw, T2P 2Z2, Calgary, AB, Canada (51.04623, -114.06876)

Mo–We	10:00–18:00
Th–Fr	10:00–20:00
Sa	10:00–18:00
Su	12:00–17:00

calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Locations... , +1-403-268-2489

Calgary Museums & Galleries

Calgary's cultural landscape spans from the 19th-century North-West Mounted Police outpost at Fort Calgary to the 190.8-meter Calgary Tower. Heritage Park Historical Village and Gasoline Alley showcase Western Canadian history through living exhibits and vintage automotive collections. Regional art and history are preserved at the Glenbow Museum, while the Leighton Art Center and Bar U Ranch National Historic Site offer insights into the region's ranching heritage and artistic development.





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130 9 AVE SE, T2G 0P3, Calgary, AB, Canada (51.04503, -114.06103)

Tu–Su 09:00–17:00

glenbow.org, +1403 268 4100



E Bar U Ranch National Historic Site

The Bar U Ranch National Historic Site, located near Longview, Alberta, is a preserved ranch that for 70 years was one of the leading...

T0L, Canada (50.42330, -114.24456)



F Gasoline Alley

Indoor museum at Heritage Park showcasing vintage vehicles, restored gas pumps, and automotive memorabilia from the early 20th century.

Heritage Drive SW 1900, T2V 2X3, CA (50.98290, -114.10214)

Mo–Su 10:00–17:00

heritagepark.ca/plan-your-visit/attractions-and-exhibits/g...

G Leighton Art Centre

Located on 80 acres of foothills, this former home of artists A.C. and Barbara Leighton functions as a gallery and museum showcasing regional art.

144 Street 282027, T1S 0Y4 Foothills (50.79559, -114.21243)

H Different Strokes

Art gallery specializing in original works by local Alberta artists and custom framing services.

50 Avenue 5010, Olds (51.79171, -114.10579)

I Beiseker Station Museum

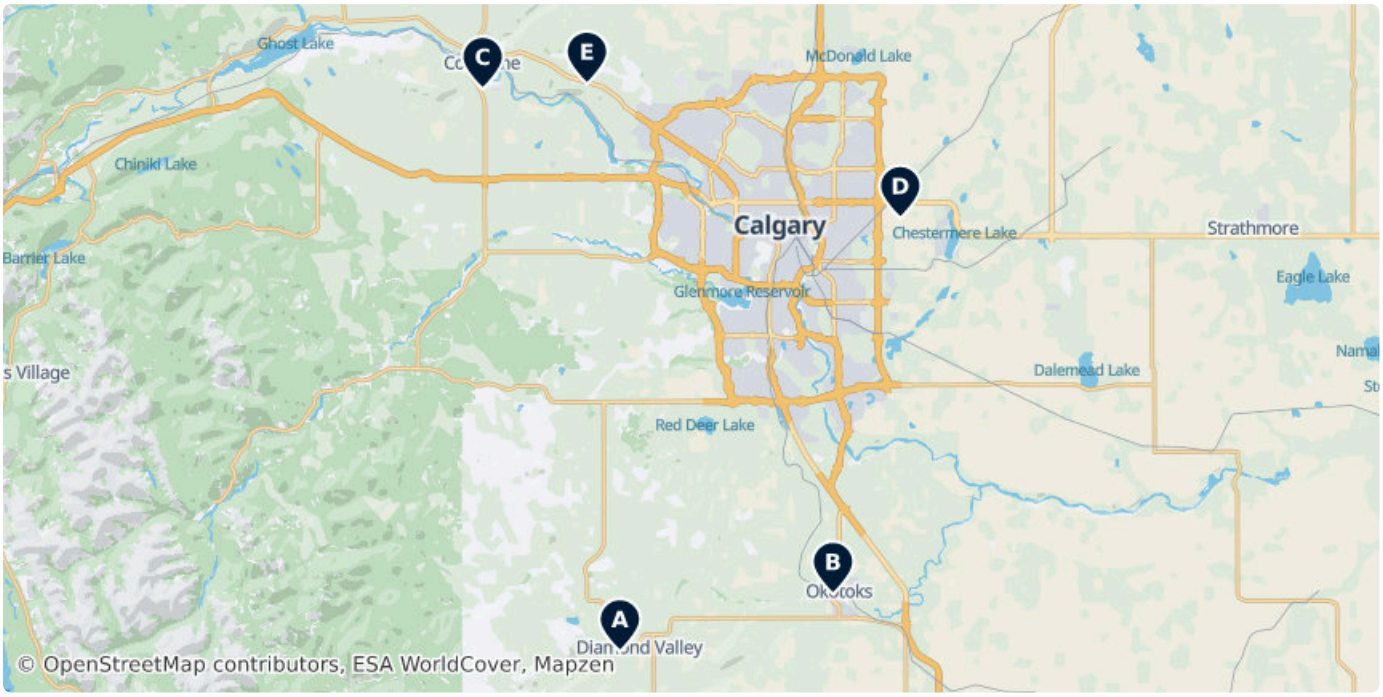
Located in a 1910 Canadian Pacific Railway station, this museum preserves local history, railway artifacts, and agricultural memorabilia from the Beiseker region.

1 Avenue 700, T0M 0G0 Beiseker (51.38540, -113.53855)

beisekerstationmuseum.wordpress.com

Calgary Religious Sites

This collection highlights several Christian places of worship situated throughout the Calgary Metropolitan Region. The list spans various denominations, including Anglican parishes in the southern foothills, a Roman Catholic church in Cochrane, and a Seventh-Day Adventist congregation on the city's eastern edge. These sites represent the diverse architectural styles and spiritual communities that characterize the region's religious landscape, from traditional parish buildings to modern multi-site church campuses.



A St Georges

Anglican place of worship located in the Foothills County area south of Calgary.

204 Main St S, Turner Valley T0L, Canada (50.67311, -114.27937)

B St. Peter's Anglican Church

Anglican church serving the community of Okotoks, situated south of Calgary.

31 Riverside Way, T1S, Canada (50.72358, -113.98337)

stpo.ca, +1-403-938-4261

C St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Roman Catholic parish located in Cochrane, serving the community northwest of Calgary.

42053 River Heights Lane, T4C, Canada (51.16536, -114.46999)

stmaryscochrane.ca

D Garden Road Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Seventh-Day Adventist congregation located on the eastern outskirts of the Calgary area near Chestermere.

(51.05288, -113.88995)

gardenroadsdachurch.ca, +1-403-280-3500

E RockPointe Church

Large Christian church campus located in the Bearspaw area northwest of Calgary.

(51.16994, -114.32521)

rockpointe.ca

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