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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

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Calgary Winter Romance

Calgary, 2 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Calgary Snapshot 9

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Calgary is a great city for couples, as there are many fun and romantic activities and venues to check out. This trip works better in the winter - a better season for snuggling, warming up by the fire and enjoying the bright lights at night. Also, activities for this trip are scheduled to start in the afternoons, as mornings are left open for leisurely breakfasts and lounging in bed - it's too cold to get up early!

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Calgary

DAY NOTE: Begin your romantic endeavours with a walk through Prince's Island Park, one of the most beautiful spots in Calgary to take in the riverbank and riverwalk path. Get a coffee, and spend the afternoon strolling around the park and surrounding paths. The venue is equally as picturesque in summer and winter, but it's immaculate right after a snowfall, so make sure to bring your camera. Once you're finished enjoying the outdoors, move inside for an unreal dining experience. Conveniently enough, one of the most romantic restaurants in the city is located right within Prince's Island Park – River Cafe. Set in an old fishing lodge, with authentic but upscale finishings, this restaurant is warm and cosy, and features seasonal and organic foods from local farmers and producers. Try to get a spot by the fireplace in the winter. You can make a reservation ahead of time, but note that the restaurant closes in January for a month. Now, if you're not too sleepy from the food and wine (a must for keeping warm during Alberta winters), head to Eau Claire market's Globe Theatre for an evening movie, or to the Plaza Theatre in Kensington for an alternative movie or documentary, followed by one last coffee or glass of wine at Higher Ground in Kensington – that's how we fight off the cold during Alberta winters!

River Cafe
Prince's Island Park's hidden gem.

Higher Ground
For that Post Movie Coffee

Prince's Island Park
The park for lunch-time picnics

Plaza Theater (The)
Alternative Cinema

Globe Cinema
Popular indie cinema located on west Stephen Ave, Calgary's film district

Day 2 - Calgary

DAY NOTE: If you thought Day 1 was romantic, just wait for Day 2! Begin your afternoon with a trip to to the top of the Calgary Tower. It's best to go on a bright, clear day, so you can see all the way to the Rocky Mountains in the distance, but you take what you can get! Make sure you do a full walk around the top of the tower to take in all of the panoramic views, and spend a little time getting freaked out by stepping onto the glass floors. Once you've seen it all, have a drink in the rotating restaurant on the top floor.

After the Tower, walk the few blocks to Teatro, a former banking hall that was turned into a beautiful grand dining room in the centre of the city. Draw out your meal there by having cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, tapas and lots of wine (you'll need to keep warm for the next portion of the evening). Please don't forget to order dessert (which you'll work off in the next portion of the evening). Finally, the best part of the evening and what makes for a true Canadian winter experience ... head right outside of Teatro into the courtyard to the Olympic Plaza skating oval! During the winter, the city-run oval is lit up with bright lights and is open until 9 p.m. daily from November until March. You can rent skates there, but contact the city beforehand to make sure of times.

Calgary Tower
Calgary's most famous urban landmark features a rotating dining room from which to take in the best view in the city

Teatro
Elegant and upscale Italian dining

Olympic Plaza
A central park for skating, water-wading, and festivals!

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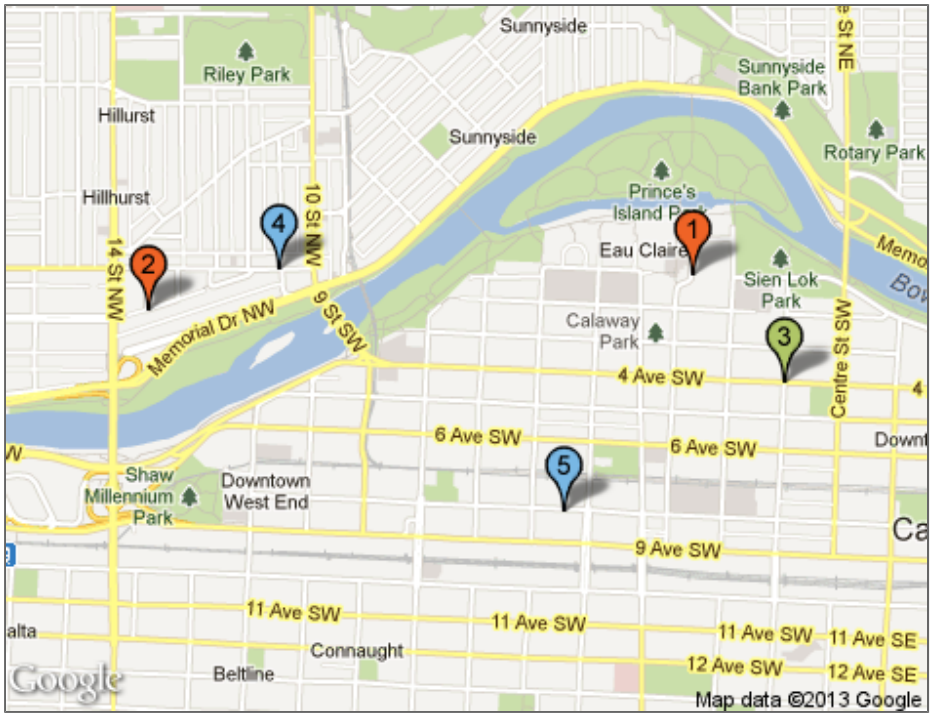
Day 1 - Calgary



QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: 4032617670x
fax: 403 261 8795
http://www.river-cafe.com

location:
200 Barclay Parade SW
Calgary AB T2P OR1

1 River Cafe

DESCRIPTION: River Cafe, the small, tranquil restaurant is located in a refurbished building among the trees, lawns and wildlife of Prince's Island Park. Surrounded by the Bow River, the setting alone is enough to draw you to its charms. But that isn't all this hot spot has to offer; it features one of the best menus in the city, with wood-fired regional cuisine such as Lentil and Wild Rice Risotto and Flatbread Sandwich of Roasted Caribou. You won't mind paying a little more for this cafe's winning combination of ambiance and flavor. Do check the website for timings, as they vary seasonally. © wcities.com

mastermaq

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contact:
tel: 403 270 3780
www.highergroundcafe.ca

location:
1126 Kensington Road NW
Calgary AB T2N 3P3

hours:
M-Th 7a-11p, F 7a-midnight, Sa-Su 8a-11p

2 Higher Ground

DESCRIPTION: Worth visiting just to defy the Seattle mega chain star bucking next door, this no-frills but comfortable cafe offers the regular assortment of hot caffeine, as well as a huge selection of loose teas. Grilled sandwiches and pastries are also available as well as a selection of beers and wine. On sunny days, the few tables outside are filled with the neighborhood's trend-conscious latte sippers, newspaper readers, dog walkers and crowd watchers. With the Plaza Theatre just across the street, this is a perfect spot for post-movie coffee and conversation. © wcities.com

photo courtesy of Higher Ground

contact:
tel: 403 268 3888
http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Locations/Downtown-parks/Princes-Island-Park.aspx

location:
1st Ave and 4 St SW
Calgary AB T2P 4R5

3 Prince's Island Park

DESCRIPTION: Prince's Island is one of the most used urban parks in North America. Right downtown, this park is one of the most beautiful areas in Calgary. It's an ideal place to stroll though in the summertime, to watch the Canadian geese, play in the lagoon or walk along the adjoining pathway. There are also flower gardens and seasonal water fountains. In the winter, get a hot chocolate and enjoy the beauty the snow adds to the riverbank. Or stop into the River Café for a delicious bite to eat. The park also hosts a variety of events throughout the year – check with the city to see what's going on. © NileGuide

Photo courtesy of Kevin Saff

contact:
tel: 403 283 2222 (Box Office) / 403 283 3636 (Infoline)
http://www.theplaza.ca/filmjournals.html

location:
1133 Kensington Road North West
Calgary AB T2T 3P4

4 Plaza Theater (The)

DESCRIPTION: Avoiding the hollow glamor and violence of typical Hollywood productions, the Plaza Theater caters to a more thoughtful crowd by showing films renowned for their artistic and intellectual content. A supporter of the local arts community, the Plaza hosts press screenings of new movies and shows unusual films that the larger cinemas do not. If you are tired of the shallowness and glitz of megaplex theaters, this movie house offers a refreshing look at cinema as art rather than just entertainment. © wcities.com

wcities

contact:
tel: 403 262 3309 / 403 262 3308 (Infoline)
fax: 403 262 6051
http://www.landmarkcinemas.com/index.asp

location:
617 8th Avenue Southwest
Calgary AB T2P 1H1

5 Globe Cinema

DESCRIPTION: It must be great to be a projectionist at this downtown movie house. Instead of changing the reels on Hollywood's latest high school prom flick, you get to handle the kind of films first seen at festivals, or overseas in foreign languages. This multiple screen cinema typically shows critically acclaimed films from around the world, with the occasional French farce thrown in so as not to seem too

Silveira Neto

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pretentious. The Globe is for those who like to think over their popcorn. Call for timings. © wcities.com

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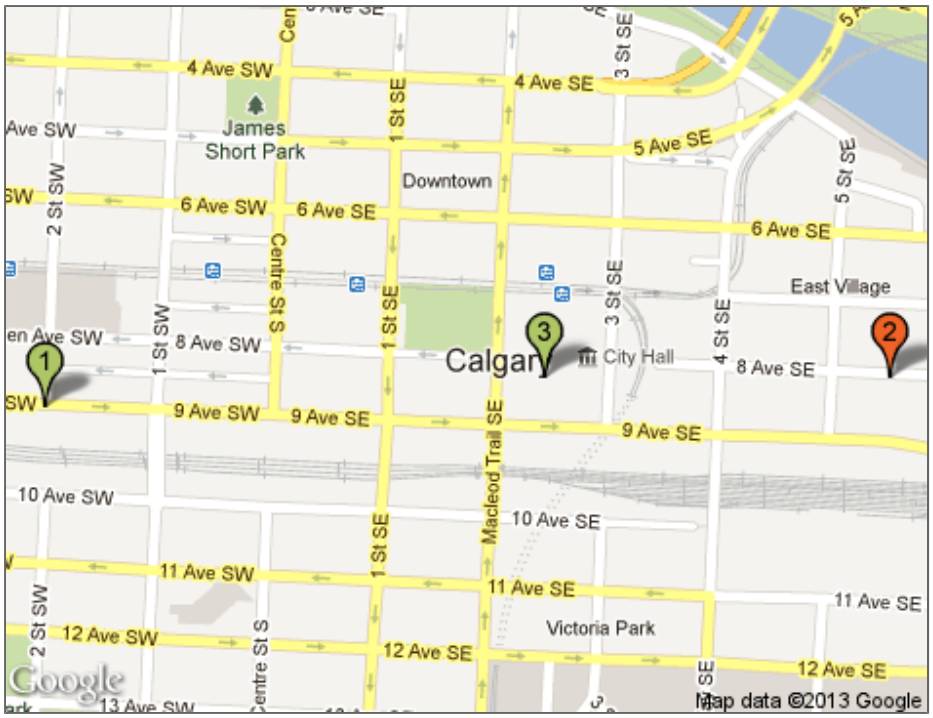
Day 2 - Calgary



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contact:
tel: 403 266 7171
fax: 403 266 7230
http://www.calgarytower.com/

location:
101 9th Avenue SW
Calgary AB T2P 1J9

hours:
October to May daily 9am-9:30pm; June to September daily 7am-10:30pm

1 Calgary Tower

DESCRIPTION: Although some of downtown Calgary's office towers are actually taller, the Calgary Tower remains the city's most distinctive landmark. Officially opened in 1968, it remains a popular visitor attraction, providing a panoramic view of the mountains to the west and the surrounding foothills and prairie. On the observation deck there is access to binoculars, multimedia information kiosks and the thrilling Glass Floor Experience. The dining room rotates, allowing visitors the chance to relax with a meal while viewing the entire city from their window-side tables at the Panorama Dining Room. Tops Grill, located above the observation deck, is open seasonally and offers a light menu. © wcities.com

wcities

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contact:
tel: 403 290 1012
fax: 403 290 1082
www.teatro.ca

location:
Olympic Plaza, 200 8th Ave SE
Calgary AB T2G 0K7

2 Teatro

wcities

DESCRIPTION: The menu and daily specials at this hot spot are created by one of the region's top chefs. The varied selections feature the best of the predictable and the unusual, including Risotto of Chanterelle, butternut squash and ruby chard. The Italian-inspired market cuisine is a favorite of the loyal downtown business lunch and pre-concert crowd. The décor still holds a hint of its roots—the building originally housed the old Dominion Bank. By combining the warmth of the original stone walls and wood floors with a few modern touches, a hip and elegant dining atmosphere was created. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 403 263 8510
fax: +1 403 538 6111(Tourist Information)
http://www.calgaryplus.ca/portal/profile.do

location:
228 8th Ave. SE
Calgary AB T2N 1J9

3 Olympic Plaza

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OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Make sure to bring your own skates in winter as rentals are not offered here. Parking downtown is a pain during the day, but it's pretty easy to find in the evening. There's a C-train station at Olympic Plaza for public transit users.

DESCRIPTION: In 1988, Calgary became the first Olympic city to present medals at one specific location, ie. Olympic Plaza, which is in the heart of Calgary's Downtown next to City Hall and Stephen Ave. It is now home to festivals, winter skating, and summer lunch-breaks. Each year there is a famous Stampede breakfast held at the Plaza, and many Calgarians gather for Canada Day firework celebrations on July 1.
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Calgary Snapshot

Local Info

There are a lot of words that fit Calgary: Youthful. Dynamic. Enterprising. Independent. Pioneering. Innovative. From our spectacular Rocky Mountain backyard to our livelyStampede spirit, Calgary has a pace of life that is vibrant and energetic. Calgary is quickly becoming Canada's economic power-house. It is second only to Toronto in its number of Corporate Head Offices and is clearly the hub of Canada's petroleum industry, making Calgary a boom town like none other.

The city is a massive urban-sprawl, taking up approximately 215,000 acres(4.6 persons per acre), which is divided up into four quadrants(NE, NW, SE, SW) which meet in the Downtown Core. It can make getting around town difficult, but it's easy to navigate with a car. Calgary has huge open parkland, includingFish Creek Park,Nose Hill Park, and the Bow River pathways, and maintains world-class athletic facilities, which are remnants of the 1988 Winter Olympics.

Downtown Core

Downtown Calgary is always on the move. FromStephen Ave. toEau Claire Market, there's always business being done. While you enjoy a coffee at a Starbucks, it's very likely the group next to you is putting together a deal to drill for oil! The industry operates at a frenetic pace. But for 10 days in July, that is. Downtown ceases working duringStampede week, as there's a party on every corner! Don't even think about wearing professional business attire; it's jeans and cowboy duds, only!

TheCalgary Tower remains an icon from the Olympic era, although it's now dwarfed by other buildings, including the newly built Bow Tower. A trip up the Calgary Tower is still great, though, especially on clear days when the Rocky Mountains look close enough to touch.Olympic Plaza is ideal for skating in December, as the city drapes Christmas lights over the trees. It's an easy stroll to get a coffee or hot chocolate on Stephen Ave. In the summer, the Eau Claire Market and the trails aroundPrince's Island Park provide a refreshing break from downtown, and are popular lunch spots with downtown office workers.

Southwest

The Southwest is the most affluent quadrant of the city. It includes the haute couture shopping of 17th Ave, aka the Red Mile, and 4th Street. The Elbow River winds its way from the Glenmore Reservoir to the Stampede Grounds, where it meets up with the Bow River. It's a fun afternoon to float from Sandy Beach past Stanley Park to the Talisman Centre.North Glenmore Park is also a great spot for a picnic, andHeritage Park is a favorite for locals. And, don't miss out on the world famousSpruce Meadows!

Southeast

The Southeast is largely an industrial center. The Scotiabank Saddledome and the Stampede Grounds are in the SE near the Core, and are easily accessible by the C-train. There's also the shopping district of Inglewood, which has some unique stores, as well asFort Calgary. Just down McLeod Trail from the Saddledome, you can findChinook Centre, which is one of Calgary's best shopping malls.

Northeast

Sadly, the Northeast is a largely'forgotten' about quadrant, separated from the rest of the city by Deerfoot Trail. It is a largely residential area, except for the Calgary International Airport. Also, theCalgary Zoo is in the NE, near the Core. If you want shopping, Canada's largest mall, CrossIron Mills, recently opened in Balzac, just a few minutes north of the airport.

Northwest

The Northwest is home to the University of Calgary, which boasts over 30,000 students! The Calgary Stampeders, our beloved Canada Football League team, play atMcMahon Stadium, which is the home of the U of C Dinos, as well. Canada Olympic Park is an in-city ski hill and world-class athletic training facility. Nearer to the Core you can findKensington Village, a small collection of shops, galleries and restaurants. It's one of Calgary's most trendy, artistic areas. Check outCrave Cupcakes for something uniquely Calgarian(and delicious!).

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History

Experts believe that humans have inhabited the Bow River Valley for at least 11,000 years, having made their way down the Bering Straight from Siberia at the end of the last Ice Age. The Piikani(Peigan), Siksika(Blackfoot), Kainai(Blood), Nakoda(Stoney) and Tsuu T'ina(Sarcee) nations lived in what is now Southern Alberta, where they hunted bison and other plains/woodlands animals. David Thompson was the first European to document his interaction with the native peoples, having wintered along the Bow with the Piikani in 1787.

The Hudson's Bay Company, who owned the lands which comprised the Hudson's Bay watershed, set up trading posts around what was then called Rupert's Land. They traded for animals pelts with the natives, which were transported to Paris, London, and New York and commanded high prices for their quality. The native way of life would not change drastically until the 1870's, when the bison were hunted almost to extinction.

In 1870, the Dominion of Canada purchased Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company for 300,000 pounds sterling. In 1873, the federal government created the Northwest Mounted Police to protect the native peoples and the fur trade from American whiskey traders. They establishedFort Calgary in 1875 and helped to restore order to the region.

Meanwhile, homesteaders began moving westward into Alberta's fertile prairies. Historians consider John Glenn to be the first settler in Calgary in 1873. By 1884, Calgary incorporated into a town. Ten years later, it incorporated again into"the City of Calgary," which was at that time a part of the Northwest Territories. Hundreds of settlers continued to come west, forever changing the region.

Due to fears of American expansion into the Northwest Territories, the Canadian government proposed the creation of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which would connect the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Rocky Mountains posed a huge obstacle, but they managed to work through the Kicking Horse Pass. This decision routed the railroad through Calgary in 1883, dramatically increasing the profile of the city by making it the'jumping off' point for settlers to the area. The land around

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Calgary was ideal for homesteaders to grow grains and herd cattle.

In 1914, oil and gas were discovered in Turner Valley, and by 1919 many of the local ranchers had become wealthy supplying the First World War effort. It was Calgary's first, but certainly not last, oil boom.

In 1912, Guy Weadick, an American entertainer, founded theCalgary Exhibition and Stampede. It did not continue through the war years, but did come back in 1919 as a celebration of the returning troops. After 1923, it became an annual celebration of western culture and rodeo, dubbing itself the"Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth." It is now one of the most famous aspects of summer in Calgary, attracting 1.2 million visitors per year.

The oil and gas industry did not assert itself in Alberta until 1948, when Imperial Oil discovered the Leduc formation. This proved to be one of the greatest discoveries of oil in Alberta's history. It also introduced seismic technology to the region, which would lead to major discoveries all over Alberta. Calgary became the financial hub of the oil industry in Alberta in large part because of its proximity to the railroad and is now home to many of the largest energy companies in the world. The industry now employs about 30% of Calgarians.

During the 1990's, many of Canada's largests corporations also moved the head offices to Calgary from more traditional centers, such as Montreal and Toronto. It is not just oil and gas, anymore, as Calgary has growing electronics and e-commerce sectors. Tourism is also a major industry in Calgary, thanks to the Stampede, the 1988 Winter Olympics, and the nearness of Banff National Park.
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Hotel Insights

Because Calgary is so spread out, you will have to consider where your desired activities are located before choosing your accommodations.

Definitely the highest quality and most luxurious hotels are Downtown. These are surrounded by Calgary's finest dining, entertainment, and business districts, too. You can choose from major brands, such asHyatt,Sheraton, andWestin, or stay in the historic(and beautiful)Palliser Hotel. There are also many options for hotels near the airport and all throughout the city.

Downtown

The first major hotel in Calgary was thePalliser Hotel, built by the Canadian Pacific Railway(they also built the Banff Springs Hotel, among many others). The Palliser is a testament to the railroad history that put Calgary on the map in the 1880's. Most travelers come to Calgary by plane, now, but the Fairmont Resorts company has continued to provide excellent quality and service at these classic hotels. Other top end choices include theEau Claire Sheraton Suites, theWestin, and theHyatt Regency.

Airport

Calgary International Airport is in the NE part of Calgary, a fair distance from the Core. There is aDelta hotel at the airport, but there are a lot of options near the airport that offer shuttle service, including theSheraton Cavalier and theHoliday Inn Express Airport.

Bowness/ Banff Trail

Bowness is conveniently located near the western end of 16th Ave(the Calgary section of the Trans-Canada Highway). It makes this part of town an easy location to jump off from in order to get to Banff. Bowness is across the highway fromCanada Olympic Park and only about 10 minutes from the Core. These areas, though, are difficult to access without your own vehicle.

The Banff Trail is closer to the Core than Bowness, but it is also near 16th Ave. These hotels are near McMahon Stadium and the U of C, and they have a C-train station very nearby.

MacLeod Trail

MacLeod Trail runs from the Core to southbound Highway#2. There are many hotels along this strip, all of which are moderately priced franchises, such asBest Western andHoward Johnson. The C-train runs along MacLeod, making it easy to get back and forth to the Core and the Stampede Grounds. MacLeod also has many restaurants, nightclubs, and malls.

B&B

Calgary has a few excellent options for B&B, includingAlong River Ridge B&B,Bankview House B&B, andBetty's Bed& Breakfast.

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Restaurants Insights

Calgary, like most major North American cities, has a wide variety of food and beverage options.

Stephen Avenue Walk

Stephen Ave. is a pedestrian only section of 8th Ave. that runs from City Hall through the Core. There is a huge selection of restaurants in this area. For up-scale dining,Teatro, theBelvedere, andCatch are great choices. For ethnic food,The Rose Garden has good Thai andMango Shiva has Indian.James Joyce is a great pub, and don't forget aboutFlames Central!

17th Avenue/Fourth Street

This district, known mostly for its shops, has a number of restaurants.The Ship and Anchor is one of Calgary's best pubs.Kashmir and theSpicy Hut offer an ethnic twist. And, theLiving Room is a trendy, casual spot. There are also a lot of big franchises, too, such as Subway, Wendy's, etc.

Fourth Street offers more variety and is known as Calgary's restaurant row with 35 different restaurants offering all kinds of styles of food: Sushi, Indian, Greek, Pub, Diner, etc. A great district for foodies.

Kensington

Kensington is known for its coffee shops. The House is a unique one. But, it also has a lot of restaurant options, too.Pulcinella serves authentic neapolitan-style pizza. Broken Plate serves Greek. In Kensington, you can get Vietnamese, Ethiopian, sushi, or traditional pub fare. There's a lot of choice.

Inglewood

Inglewood is next to Calgary's'east village', which is a largely run-down side of the Core. There are plans to revive the area, soon. Still, there are some goodies in this part of town. Club Paradiso is a piano bar, andThe Hose and Hound Pub is a deserted fire-hall turned restaurant.

MacLeod Trail

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MacLeod Trail has standard, chain restaurants and fast food for the most part. However, one great restaurant isBolero, a Brazilian steak house.

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Nightlife Insights

Although its not renown for world-famous nightlife, Calgary loves to party, particularly during theStampede.Cowboys Nightclub is especially famous for its Stampede week festivities, among others, such asRanchman's and Nashville North(which is set up on the Stampede Grounds every year). There are plenty of other nightclubs, too: theWhiskey, theBack Alley, theRoadhouse. If you want nightclubs, they aren't hard to find.

But, there's other sources of entertainment in Calgary, too. Check out the Scotiabank Saddledome for someCalgary Flames(orHitmen) hockey, or any number of musical acts who come through town. TheCalgary Stampeders(and U of C Dinos) play Canadian Football at McMahon Stadium. There's nothing else quite like an Canadian outdoor stadium in November! Or, if you want comfort and good food, tryFlames Central on Stephen Ave.

Calgary'sJubilee Auditorium is world-famous for its acoustic quality, and it hosts many Broadway favorites, such as Momma Mia!, Les Miserables, and The Lion King, among others. It also regularly shows opera and other artistic performances. TheEpcor Centre for the Performing Arts and the Jack Singer Concert Hall hosts a wide variety of entertainers, from classical musicians to comedians, and it makes for a great evening downtown, as you can enjoy the best of Stephen Ave and a top-notch show. TheLoose Moose Theatre is well liked for its improv, or try the Comedy Cave for stand-up.

For the indie movie lover, thePlaza and Uptown Stage and Screen are a must. TheCalgary International Film Festival usually runs in late September. There are huge multi-plex cinemas in Calgary, too, for the mainstream movie lovers. They can be found in most of the major shopping malls, Chinook Centre, Market Mall, CrossIron Mills, etc.

There are a number of shopping districts, such as 17th Ave SW, Inglewood, and Kensington, and there are five major shopping malls. Downtown there is TD Square, Banker's Hall, andEau Claire Market. Many communities have large shopping areas, too, such as 130 Ave SE, Westhills, etc.

TheCalgary Folk Music Festival is a summer-time favorite, attracting an eclectic assortment of musicians. There's also theCalgary Jazz Festival every July. The Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra performs on a regular basis, as well. And, there's a steady stream of popular acts that come to town to perform at the'Dome or one of the many clubs in Calgary.

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Things to Do Insights

Much of Calgary's appeal is its nearness to the Rocky Mountains, and many of the best things to do in Calgary are mountain related. Kananaskis Country, or K-country, is a local favorite. This provincial park is not as famous of Banff National Park(and not even half as touristy), but it may be the most beautiful area in Canada. There is a profound amount to do in K-country, miles of hiking or biking, fishing, golfing at Kananaskis Country Golf Course(probably the best value for your dollar in Alberta), camping, sightseeing, horseback riding... and, it's only 45 minutes out of town!

In Calgary, there are plenty of ways to keep active. Try jogging or biking alongCalgary's Bow River bike paths orFish Creek Park orNose Hill Park.Prince's Island Park is Downtown Core's peaceful spot and is great for a picnic or frisbee toss.Canada Olympic Park is fantastic for the sport lover. Try bobsledding, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, ski jumping, or mountain biking, or theOlympic Oval on the U of C's campus is a great place to skate!Chinook River Sports can help you take advantage of the Bow River, if you want to raft or fish.

You can also learn the history of Calgary atHeritage Park Historical Village orFort Calgary. TheGlenbow Museum is also a neat place to learn about the First Nations or the geological history of Alberta. The Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller is a world-class paleontology museum. Check out theCalgary Zoo, which is has a wide range of animals and will soon include Pandas!

Spruce Meadows is a famous show jumping facility, and it is a must for horse lovers. It has been host to Queen Elizabeth during some of her visits to Alberta, and is truly a great facility.

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Travel Tips

Getting There

By Air

Calgary International Airport(+1 403 735 1200/ http://www.calgaryairport.com) offers service on numerous airlines. Its terminals house the following airlines:

Alaska Airlines(+ 1 800 426 0333/ http://www.alaskaair.com) American West Airlines(+1800 235 9292/ http://www.americawest.com) Air Canada(+1 800 776 3000/ http://www.aircanada.ca) American Airlines(+ 1 800 433 7300/ http://www.aa.com) Canadian North(+1 800 661 1505/ http://www.canadiannorth.com) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/ http://www.continental.com) Delta(+1 800 221 1212/ http://www.delta.com) Jetsgo(+ 1 866 440 0441/ http://www.jetsgo.net) Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/ http://www.nwa.com) QuickAir(+ 1 800 551 7845/ http://www.quikair.ca) United(+1 800 241 6522/ http://www.ual.com) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/ http://www.usairways.com) WestJet(+ 1 800 538 5696/ http://www.westjet.com) Zoom Airlines Inc(+1 866 359 9666/ http://www.flyzoom.ca)

Calgary Transit(+1 403 262 1000/ http://www.calgarytransit.com) offers service from the airport to destinations throughout the city.

Shuttle services are provided by Allied Limousine(+1 403 299 9554), Ambassador Limousine(+1 403 299 4910), Air Linker Limousine Service(+1 403 250 8300), and Limojet(+1 403 863 5268).

Rental Cars

Avis(+1 800 831 2847/ http://www.avis.com) Enterprise(1+ 800 736 8227/ http://www.enterprise.com/car_rental/home) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/ http://www.budget.com) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/

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http://www.hertz.com) Thrifty(+1 800 367 2277/ http://www.thrifty.com)

By Train

Calgary is serviced by VIA Rail Canada(+1 888 842 7245/ http://www.viarail.ca) and Royal Canadian Pacific(+1 403 508 1407/ http://www.cprtours.com).

By Bus

Calgary can be reached by Greyhound(+1 800 661 8747/ http://www.greyhound.ca), Red Arrow Motorcoach(+1 800 232 1958/ http://www.redarrow.ca/home), and a number of regional providers.

By Car

Calgary can be reached by Trans-Canadian Highways 1, 2, and 72. Cab facilities from reputed companies like Associated Cabs Limited and Mesi Executive Limousine are available.

Getting Around

Calgary Transit(+1 403 262 1000/ http://www.calgarytransit.com) offers extensive public transportation throughout the city.
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Fun Facts

1. In 2010, the Mercer Quality of Living survey ranked Calgary as the#1 Eco-City in the world, based on water availability and drinkability, waste removal, quality of sewage systems, air pollution and traffic congestion.

2. 2. Interesting fact: Calgary recently elected Naheed Nenshi as mayor. He is the first Muslim mayor in North America.

3. 3. Fun fact: The 1988 Calgary Winter Olympic Games Torch Relay lasted 88 days and spanned over 18,000 kilometers, making it one of the longest relays ever.

4. 4. At 58 stories, The Bow will be the tallest office tower in Canada outside of Toronto, when completed.

5. 5. Random fact: Downtown Calgary's Plus-15 system is North America's largest indoor network of walk-ways.

6. 6. Interesting fact: the Trans-Canada Pipeline, completed in 1958, was the longest pipeline in the world for more than two decades. It nearly bankrupted the federal government but it helped make Calgary a petroleum hub.

7. 7. The Calgary Flames moved from Atlanta to Calgary in 1979, winning the Stanley Cup in 1989.

8. 8. Founded by Guy Weadick, the first Calgary Exhibition and Stampede was in 1912. It has become one of the richest rodeos in the world and attracts over 1.2 million visitors per year.

9. 9. Calgary's population has increased nearly 35% since hosting the Winter Olympics in 1988 and crossed the 1 million mark in 2007.

1010. Random fact: Deerfoot Trail is named after the legendary long-distance runner, Api-kai-ees, aka Deerfoot, who couriered messages on foot between forts in southern Alberta.

1111. Weird fact: Calgary's urban sprawl covers a geographical footprint the same size as New York City but with only about 10% of the population.

1212. Calgary is the hometown of Canada's current Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, whose riding is Calgary SW.

as Calgary, Alberta, Canada- **Quick Facts**

Population: 1,071,515

Elevation: 3556 feet

Average Winter Temperature: 19 degrees F Average Summer Temperature: 62 degrees F

Electricity: 110 volts, 50 cycles, AC

Time Zone: GMT-7

Country Dialing Code: 1 Area Code(s): 403, 587

Calgary is located at the foothills of the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

The city is located 151 miles north of the U.S./Canadian Border, 246 miles east of Jasper, and 176 miles south of Edmonton.
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