

# GoMedia **Canada** 2020

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## **Edmonton, Alberta**

## **Discover Indigenous history, art and culture in Edmonton**

**September 5-9, 2020**

### **Theme**

Discover the arts and culture of the city, stories of Indigenous peoples and their history in Alberta's capital city, Edmonton.

### **Description**

Come to Edmonton, a city brimming with arts and culture waiting to be explored. Head to Métis Crossing in Smoky Lake and learn about the culture of the Métis people through crafts, dancing, storytelling. Discover the Royal Alberta Museum's interactive Indigenous feature gallery entitled *What Makes Us Strong*. Examine how Alberta's Indigenous communities maintain strong connections with significant places and stories of their past. Come along on a neighborhood tour to discover Edmonton's street murals with Trevor and Annaliza of Rust Magic, talented street artists and passionate Edmontonians. Finally, get your taste buds ready for traditional Métis and Indigenous cuisine – the food inspired by ingredients found in the prairies.

### **Considerations**

- This trip includes a one-night stay in comfort camping tents. Each media guest will stay in their own trapper's tent equipped with a bed, mattress and wood burning stove. Showers, running water and indoor flush toilets are available. Please bring warm clothing for around the fire and in the tents at night.
- Travel will include highway road trips to Elk Island National Park which is 35 minutes east of Edmonton, Métis Crossing is 80 minutes away, and Prairie Gardens is 30 minutes north of the city.
- While this adventure is not overly strenuous, participants must be of "fair" physical fitness (e.g. must be able to walk on uneven terrain, endure outdoor conditions). A paddling canoe experience is included at Métis Crossing.
- There is limited cellular phone service at Métis Crossing, however the gift shop and registration office have Wi-Fi and land lines.
- Participants should advise in advance if they have any dietary restrictions or food allergies
- Three meals are provided daily and two meals if required on arrival and departure days
- Transfers to and from the airport will be provided

# Itinerary

## Day 1 – Saturday, September 5

- Daytime** Fly to Edmonton International Airport (YEG)  
Transfer to your hotel. Arrangements will be provided.  
Check in at JW Marriott Edmonton Ice District
- With approachable luxury in mind, the [JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District](#) is Edmonton's newest hotel and one of only three JW Marriott branded hotels in Canada. Located in Edmonton's hottest new neighborhood the ICE District, it's an imaginative mix of work and play and located in the heart of downtown, the district will be the epicenter of all things Edmonton and rival any entertainment area in North America. Our central location and proximity to Edmonton's Arts District, river valley, conference center and financial core makes the hotel the ideal venue for business, pleasure, social events and group meetings.
- Noon** For media arriving in the morning, lunch will be hosted at Kindred Food + Drink at JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District
- Afternoon** Afternoon optional activity  
Explore 124<sup>th</sup> Street
- Specialty shopping, a plethora of artisan shops and fantastic independent restaurants make [124 Street](#) special. As one of the most desirable neighbourhoods to live in Edmonton, this charming area is also home to art galleries, specialty and antique stores, fashion boutiques, indie coffee houses (Remedy Cafe and Credo), and fabulous eateries. The art galleries in the area collaborate to offer a Gallery Walk twice a year, and seasonal exhibits that focus on work by Canadian artists.
- 7:00 pm** Welcome dinner at Uccellino
- [Uccellino](#) is a modern trattoria and stand-up bar that serves beautiful rustic Italian food. The dishes highlight the qualities of distinct ingredients, whether they are imported from Italy or produced locally. The wine list is exclusively Italian and is designed to complement the food. Chef Daniel Costa also owns Bar Bricco and Corso 32.
- Overnight** JW Marriott Edmonton Ice District

## Day 2 – Sunday, September 6

- 7:30 am** Breakfast at Kindred Food + Drink in the hotel
- 8:15 am** Depart for Elk Island National Park (Drive time: 35 minutes)
- 9:00 am** Elk Island National Park
- Less than an hour's drive from a capital city that is a million people strong is a place of quietness, where pristine starry skies shine next to city lights. This is where Cree and Métis have lived and hunted, and generations of families have chosen to picnic and play. Take part in the Bison Backstage Tour where you'll get a backstage pass to [Elk Island National Park](#) bison handling facility. You'll learn about the techniques

behind the successful conservation facilities with demonstrations, hands-on activities and a tour.

Elk Island National Park has higher densities of hooved mammals per square kilometer than any other area in the world and is the cornerstone of Canada's bison conservation story. Without this place and the dedication of its people, herds of plains and woods bison would not thrive in Canada today. Connections are made here; it is where you can become a steward of these iconic creatures and discover their importance to the heart and soul of this nation.

12:30 pm

Lunch at Biera

[Biera](#) co-exists within Ritchie Market with local coffee superstar Transcend, butcher shop Acme Meat Market, and new-kid-on-the-block brewery Blind Enthusiasm. The menu features beautiful fresh Alberta ingredients from local farms and pairs beautifully with the brews from Blind Enthusiasm.

With over a decade of experience as a chef, Christine Sandford has worked in a wide range of restaurants including Culina Mill Creek (as head chef) in Edmonton, La Buvette, Cafe Des Spores and In de Wulf's restaurant, De Superette in Belgium. She brings tremendous creativity and refined European sensibilities to the kitchen at Biera.

2:00 pm

Street Art Tour with Annaliza and Trevor of Rust Magic

Edmonton has over 70 street murals in various parts of the city. Head out on a walking tour with Trevor and Annaliza. They will give insight in the artists, the artwork and stories from the murals that were created. The [Rust Magic](#) Festival this past August brought 17 new murals to the city.

7:00 pm

Dinner at RGE RD

Driven by a passion for Alberta's abundance of quality produce, Chef Blair Lebsack's philosophies around using local, healthy and ethical food was the foundation of his dream to build an urban gathering place where the farm dictates the menu. Since 2013, the rustic 60-seat restaurant located just outside of Edmonton's downtown core invites guests to "eat off the beaten path", sourcing ingredients and provisions from farms and small-scale producers across Western Canada. [RGE RD](#)

Overnight

JW Marriott Edmonton Ice District

### Day 3 – Monday, September 7

Morning

Breakfast

Check out of the hotel

9:00 am

Explore [ᐃᓄᓄ \(îNÎW\) River Lot 11](#) Edmonton's Indigenous Art Park

In the Fall of 2018, Edmonton opened its first Indigenous art park situated in Queen Elizabeth park, complete with breath taking views of the river valley and downtown Edmonton. It is called îNÎW (EE-nu), which in Cree means "I am of the Earth"— Indigenous peoples are very connected to land, so this name is very fitting. îNÎW sits on the historic river lot which was originally owned by Joseph MacDonald, a Métis man.

The park was created in partnership with the City of Edmonton, Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations, Métis Nation of Alberta, the Edmonton Arts Council and Indigenous artists. Here you will find six art installations, created by Indigenous artists who were asked to create pieces "inspired by this land".

When you first arrive, you see the Treaty Acknowledgement and îñîw welcome rocks. The rocks tell the story of the Cree word îñîw, an ode to the ancestral lands of the Indigenous groups who were here prior, primarily the Cree.

11:30 am Depart for Métis Crossing. (Drive time: 1 hour 30 minutes)  
We will provide lunch on the road.

1:00 pm Paddle into the Past at Métis Crossing

To understand the Métis, is to better understand Canada. The Metis are one of Canada's three distinct Indigenous peoples. [Métis Crossing](#) is Alberta's center for Métis cultural interpretation, education, gatherings, and business development. The 512-acre site is designed to engage visitors and is comprised of river lot titles from the original Métis settlers to this region in the late 1800s. Take part in Paddle into the Past, an immersive cultural experience and learn about Métis culture, history and the great outdoors. Try traditional Métis crafts like finger weaving, paddle down the North Saskatchewan River in a traditional Voyageur canoe and cook bannock over an open fire.

6:00 pm Dinner by Chef Brad Lazarenko

Brad Lazarenko, the Founder and Executive Chef de Cuisine of the Culina Family of Restaurants, is a self-taught Chef who is Métis and has been active in Edmonton's food scene for over 30 years. Utilizing his Métis background, Brad has written an Indigenous food curriculum for Norquest College's new culinary program. Brad will incorporate traditional Métis foods into the dinner this evening.

Afterwards we'll enjoy some traditional Métis music and dance from a fiddler and some Jiggers.

Overnight Métis Crossing - Comfort Camping in trappers' tents. Showers, washrooms, picnic tables, fire pits and firewood are available.

#### **Day 4 – Tuesday, September 8**

Morning Breakfast at Métis Crossing

9:30 am Depart Métis Crossing for Edmonton (Drive time: 90 minutes)

11:00 am] Arrive back in Edmonton

11:30 pm Check into Metterra Hotel on Whyte Avenue

[Metterra](#) is a luxury boutique hotel that combines the simplicity of contemporary custom-designed furnishings with an eclectic collection of global artifacts and unique art. It is conveniently situated on Whyte Avenue in Edmonton's most eclectic neighborhood amongst numerous stylish bistros, spas and shops.

2:30 pm Behind the Scenes tour of the Royal Alberta Museum

The new [Royal Alberta Museum](#) is the largest museum in Western Canada and a welcome addition to Edmonton's Arts District. The architecture of the building reflects Alberta's diversity of landscapes and culture. New galleries in both the natural and human history wings will tell Alberta's incredible archaeological and cultural stories, from changing landscapes to First Peoples to where we are today. The Royal Alberta Museum has the largest public collection of early fur trade artifacts from the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company posts in western Canada, dating from 1790.

5:30 pm Depart for Prairie Gardens (Drive time: 40 minutes)

6:30 pm Long table dinner at [Prairie Gardens Adventure Farm](#) with food prepared by contemporary indigenous chef Scott Iserhoff and a performance from a traditional Métis Jingle Dancer

Overnight Metterra Hotel

### **Day 5 – Wednesday, September 9**

Morning Breakfast at hotel at leisure

9:30 am Transfer to airport

Noon Depart Edmonton International Airport to head to GoMedia in Victoria, BC. Flight WestJet WS335, arriving in Victoria at 2:39 pm

## **Recommended items to bring**

- Warm clothes as it may get cooler in the evenings and for overnight in trapper's tents.
- Light gloves and toque for cooler mornings/evenings
- Water bottle
- Comfortable walking shoes