



EDSON, ALBERTA AREA INFORMATION

Despite its size of approximately 8400 residents, [Edson, Alberta](#) has a full range of recreational and cultural facilities, excellent health care services, a high quality education system, and a vibrant business sector that serves all of the shopping needs of the local and area residents.

Edson lies in the McLeod River valley, immediately east of the Canadian Rockies foothills and is strategically located on Highway 16, the TransCanada Yellowhead Route, benefitting from private, commercial and industrial traffic. The TransCanada Yellowhead Route carries some of the heaviest traffic flow in Alberta, and has been officially declared the second TransCanada Highway.

The main industries that drive the local economy are resource based – coal, oil, natural gas and forestry products.



Transportation

By Car

Edson is connected to the Yellowhead Highway, passing through mountains, forest and farmland all the way from Edmonton to the east and Prince Rupert, British Columbia to the west.



Taxis

- [Edson Taxi Ltd](#)
- [Five Star Delivery & Cabs](#)
- [Avenue Cabs](#)

By Bike

Bicycling is green and it's stress-free!

- [Edson Cycling](#) is committed to building new trails in the area improving the quality of life and health of residents by promoting cycling in the Edson area.

Rail

[VIA Rail Canada](#) provides passenger rail service, offering service to Vancouver and other major cities in Canada.

Schools

Education

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Canada is one of the few countries in the world that has a high public education standard making it possible to enroll your child into a public school. Primary education covers grades 1 – 6 and children will attend from the age of 4 to the age of 11. In secondary school the education covers grades 7 – 12 in the majority of provinces. Children are obliged to attend school until the age of 16. Those who graduate with a high school diploma in Canada will find that many countries worldwide will accept this as a qualification.

The school year begins in September and runs until June, with breaks for Christmas and Easter. The school usually starts between 8 am and 8.30 am and finishes between 2.30 pm and 3 pm. The schools have a wide variety of extra-curricular activities such as sports and crafts. Most schools offer programs to educate children in native studies, combat racism and involve aboriginal members of the community in educating the children about their history and culture. Some schools may offer courses in Aboriginal languages.

Area Schools

- [Grande Yellowhead Public School Division](#) - French Immersion Program available
- [Living Waters Catholic Regional Division No. 42](#) - French Immersion Program available
- [Yellowhead Koinonia](#) Private Christian School (K-12)

Additional Resources

- [Compare School Rankings](#)

Area Recreation

Edson is home to several tourism, arts, and cultural attractions such as the [Red Brick Arts Center and Museum](#), [the Galloway Station Museum](#), [Cardinal Divide](#), [Silver Summit Ski Hill](#) and [Hornbeck Cross Country Ski Trails](#).

Edson's proximity to the beautiful [McLeod River](#) provides excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation. On hot summer days the sandy beaches of the McLeod River are a very popular spot to head for a swim or soak up the sun. In winter, the park is a popular destination for families and friends as it offers a spectacular tobogganing hill for sledding and all our winter fun. On a good snow year the trails also offer opportunities to snowshoe and cross-country ski.

Edson has a full range of [recreational and cultural facilities](#). Additional recreational include:

- [Indoor Swimming Pool, Water Slide](#)
- [Kinsmen Spray Park](#)
- [Movie Theatre](#)
- [8 Sheet Curling Rink](#)
- [18 Hole Golf Course](#)
- [Hiking Trails](#)
- [Outdoor Ice Rinks](#)
- [Baseball diamond facilities](#)
- [Rotary Skateboard Park](#)
- [Public Library](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

Two provincial parks are located west of Edson: [Sundance Provincial Park](#) along Sundance Creek and [Obed Lake Provincial Park](#) surrounding the three Obed Lakes.

Edson has excellent deer, moose, bear and elk hunting and some of the best fishing in Alberta.



Sundance Provincial Park

Obtaining a Driver's License

As a foreign national you are able to use the license that was issued in your own country but for a limited period of time. Alberta allows you to drive on your own license for up to **90** days, but then you will need to make arrangements to exchange it for a Canadian license. If there is an agreement between Canada and your home country the exchange can be fairly straightforward, although there are some issuing countries which are not accepted by Canada so you will need to take a driving test there.

When you exchange your driving license you will need to do so at the provincial offices. You will need to show that you are a current resident of the area and should show visa documentation to support this. Alberta regulations will expect you to have an eye test, show that your current license is valid (and if this is not already in French or English then it will need to be translated), show proof of ID, proof of address, pay the relevant fee and if you have been driving for less than a couple of years then you may need to take a knowledge test. Each province deals with their own documentation so enquiries should be made to the ministry of transportation.

If you need to take a Canadian driving test then you should make yourself aware of the regulations in your particular province, as these vary across the country. You will need to apply for a novice license and this can be done from the age of 16. Drivers will find that most states have a graduated licensing program which encourages drivers to slowly build on their driving skills. You will be asked to take an eye test and a theory test on road signs, driving regulations and safe driving. Some provinces will expect a driver to take more than one practical test before a full license is issued.

Detailed information for Alberta can be found [here](#).

Your IOR Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.