

WORK CENTRAL AB

Community Maps

Getting Oriented Across Central Alberta

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

Community Maps: Getting Oriented in Central Alberta

Understanding how Central Alberta's communities relate to one another geographically helps with everything from choosing where to live to planning your commute. This guide gives you the orientation - for interactive, zoomable maps, visit the Work Central AB website.

1. The Region at a Glance

Central Alberta sits along Highway 2 (the Queen Elizabeth II Highway), roughly halfway between Calgary and Edmonton - each about 90 minutes away by car. Red Deer anchors the region as its largest city, with a ring of smaller communities surrounding it.

2. Approximate Distances from Red Deer

Community	Approx. Drive Time	Direction
Sylvan Lake	20 minutes	West
Lacombe	25 minutes	North
Blackfalds	15 minutes	North
Innisfail	20 minutes	South
Olds	45 minutes	South
Rocky Mountain House	1 hour	West
Sundre	1 hour	Southwest
Calgary	1.5 hours	South
Edmonton	1.5 hours	North

3. Getting Around Within Red Deer

- The Red Deer River valley runs through the heart of the city, with Waskasoo Park following it and linking major parks and trails (see our Recreation & Parks guide).
- Highway 2 runs north-south along the city's eastern edge, providing quick access to communities north and south.
- Gaetz Avenue (Highway 2A) runs through the downtown core and connects to many central neighbourhoods.

4. Using Maps to Plan Your Move

What to Map Out Before Choosing Where to Live

- Your likely commute to work, school, or key services.
- Proximity to healthcare (see our Healthcare Services guide for facility locations).
- Access to recreation and green space that matters to your lifestyle.
- Distance to Calgary or Edmonton if you'll need occasional access to big-city amenities or a specific airport.

5. Finding Interactive Maps

For turn-by-turn directions, live traffic, and detailed neighbourhood-level views, use a mapping app like Google Maps alongside this guide. The Work Central AB website also features an interactive regional map highlighting employers, amenities, and community boundaries across the region.

6. Rural and Surrounding Areas

- Red Deer County and Lacombe County surround the urban centres and include smaller hamlets and significant agricultural land.
- Rural properties often mean longer commutes but more space and, in many cases, lower land costs - see our Finding Housing guide for considerations specific to rural purchases.
- Confirm internet and cell service availability before committing to a rural property, since coverage can vary significantly outside town centres (see our Utilities & Internet guide).

7. Frequently Asked Questions

Common Questions

Is there a printable regional map available? Yes - check the interactive map feature on the Work Central AB website, which can be printed or saved as needed.

How accurate are these drive times? They're reasonable estimates under normal conditions - winter weather or highway construction can extend travel times, particularly to communities further from Red Deer.

Which community has the shortest commute to Red Deer? Blackfalds and Sylvan Lake are among the closest, each roughly 15-20 minutes away.

Community Orientation Checklist

- ✓ Identified which communities are within a reasonable commute of your likely workplace
- ✓ Mapped out proximity to healthcare, schools, and recreation relevant to your household

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- ✓ Explored the interactive regional map on workcentralab.ca
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Explore More at Work Central AB

See our Community Profiles guide for a description of what each community offers day to day. Visit workcentralab.ca/resources.