

Against all odds, your liver has survived the first few days of university life—though the small-town girlfriend is in for some bad news—and so it's time to hit the streets, to see what grand ol' Edmonton has to offer.

Now, I know the world outside of campus can be a scary place, but don't worry, we at the Gateway are here to help. Fortunately, the only decent neighbourhoods that Edmonton has to offer are right on your doorstep: all these places are but a short walk or bike-ride away.

The Campus Guide to Eating Out



.....(no, not that kind).....

First, however, a caveat—though I've tried to be as broad as possible in compiling this list, keep in mind that it's but one man's opinion. It's an opinion that happens to be right, but it's an opinion nonetheless. Let me, then, declare some biases: I don't like shitty dance bars; I'm picky about coffee and cheese, but not much else; I try to be a vegetarian for, you know, ethical reasons, but I just love meat too much; I'm an especially big fan of bacon. That's it, I think. Dig in.

Written by Matt Frehner

1 **BLACK DOG** \$\$\$ (10425 - 82 Ave)

When you're sick of the top-40 rotation at most Whyte Avenue bars, stop by the Dog for some hipster-fuelled pretentiousness. Play some darts, chill on the rooftop patio (if you can find a place to stand) or enjoy some pints of Alberta's own Big Rock beers, on special every Thursday and at various other times. The newly renovated upstairs and the "underdog" downstairs offer a variety of cozy seating arrangements if you're sick of bar stools. They also often have live improvised jazz on Sundays.

2 **DADEO** \$\$\$ (10548 - 82 Ave)

For a taste of New Orleans without the racial strife and hurricane deluge, head over to this little '50s-style café. Listen to BB King, Otis Reading or some classics from the Deep South, while you sip your cherry Coke and venture a taste of the complimentary Jalapeno jelly and biscuits. The po' boy sandwiches are also a huge hit (try the blackened chicken, the pulled pork or the eggplant) and are on sale every Monday and Tuesday. Try them with a side of sweet-potato fries, washed down with a fresh-squeezed lemonade.

3 **FAT FRANKS** \$ (10329 - 82 Ave)

It's 3am. You're hosed and stumbling down Whyte, and a faint, beautiful smell wafts through the air. Hot dogs. Dismissing everything mom taught you about healthy eating (perhaps something about how, if you ate a dozen hot dogs a month for two years, you'd die), you b-line it for Franks. With a dangerously high blood-alcohol level, what difference is a sleazy meat-stick-in-a-bun going to make? None, that's what. Try the dog with cheese and bacon (fuck yeah), or if a tube of processed meat/entrails makes you gag, the veggie dog is apparently one of the best in town—or so my vegetarian friends say anyway. I always go for the bacon.

4 **FOUR ROOMS** \$\$\$ (137 Edmonton City Centre)

This little jazz bar manages to remain eminently stylish, even though it's attached to Edmonton's atrociously designed City Centre mall. Pretend you have a bit of class and take a date here for live jazz and \$5 martinis from 9pm–12am every Friday and Saturday. Get there early if you want to be able to see the band, though. As for the menu, the hors d'oeuvres are good if you don't want to break the bank, especially the calamari.

5 **HIGHLEVEL DINER** \$\$\$ **BREAKFAST \$, LUNCH/DINNER \$\$\$** (10912 - 88 Ave)

Unobtrusive, friendly service, high-quality ingredients and great coffee make the Highlevel stand out amongst a heap of other breakfast joints. The weekday menu offers simple, healthy choices, while the Sunday brunch (be sure to get there early, it fills up fast) offers some more extravagant fare. For dinner they offer the basics—meat or veggie burgers, chili, soup and the like—along with some interesting specials. Their cinnamon buns, which they share with the Sugarbowl next door, are fantastic, as is the iced coffee.

6 **LEVA** \$\$\$ (11053 - 86 Ave)

If you want to get a decent espresso in this town, there are really only two places to turn: head across the bridge to little Italy, or down the block to Leva. If you're a sissy and can't stand strong coffee, or want an extra-special kick, try the *caffè corretto*, a shot of espresso with a dash of sambuca or grappa. Leva also offers some surprisingly delicious *panini* and thin-crust pizzas. Try the *pizza á la Norma* (eggplant and cheese), or come by for a desert of gelato or tiramisu.

7 **MOSAICS** \$\$\$ (10844 - 82 Ave)

Remember that Seinfeld episode where Elaine's investigationalism proves that the new no-fat

yogourt place isn't no-fat after all (and Kramer dates the sexy laboratory scientist)? Well, Mosaic's has this chocolate cake that they insist is vegan, but I think we need to run some tests. I don't have any idea how one would go about making a vegan cake to begin with, let alone one that's so *fucking* good. If you know of a place on campus where I can get a piece of cake tested, let me know. Oh, yeah, Mosaics also has some other super-good vegan and vegetarian stuff, a casual atmosphere and cheap falafel on Fridays.

8 **NEW ASIAN VILLAGE** \$\$\$ (10143 Saskatchewan Drive)

Debatably the best Indian food in the city, New Asian Village offers the perfect blend of traditional and modern atmospheres. The extensive menu offers a range of curries and other traditional dishes: the beef vindaloo and the channa masala are great, as is the garlic nan bread. Or, you could take the easy way out and attend the lunchtime or Sunday- and Wednesday-evening buffets, which offer a bit of everything—including a chocolate fountain. At \$20 a person, it's not something you can do everyday, but the food-quality is definitely worth it. They also have an enormous selection of international beers. I'm a big fan of the slightly sweet *Heffeweisse* beers from Germany.

9 **OODLE NOODLE** \$ (10803 - 82 Ave)

Former U of A president Rob Fraser dreamt of making our school the "Ivy League of the north." Now, Edmonton may have a bit to go before it can really compete with centres like Boston, Los Angeles or New York. But, in one regard at least, E-town is really no different than the Big Apple and company: we, too, have Asian cuisine in cute little fold-up boxes. Drop a mere \$6.50 (for chicken, tofu or beef) and pretend your living the jetset life of a totally metropolitan, Columbia-attending dude/dudette, rather than busting your balls at a B-level institution in the backwaters of western Canada. Try the Tokyo Glaze, the eponymous Oodle Noodle box or the classic fried rice.

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