

## Edmundston – *Viva La République!*

If you think the city of Edmundston is a fleeting name on the map as you enter or leave New Brunswick on the Trans-Canada Highway – think again! The many travellers who have been drawn into the history, culture and sheer *joie-de-vivre* (joy of life) of Edmundston would be sure to advise you otherwise. Stay a while in Edmundston. Relax. Soak up the good-natured independent spirit of the city and its mythical Republic dating back to the early 1800s. And get to know this little corner of the province and meet its people.



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Start your visit at City Hall, where a vibrant mural by internationally renowned artist Claude Picard depicts 200 years of European settlement. Close by, wooden sculptures by Albert Deveau bring to life the six different nationalities that came together to build the region. Wander in the picturesque city centre with its shops and restaurants and perhaps enjoy a stroll on the Petit-Témis Interprovincial Linear Park that starts in the city on the banks of the Madawaska River and wends for 130 km (81 mi.) north all the way to Rivière-du-Loup on the St. Lawrence River. And don't forget those golf clubs for a round at the scenic Edmundston Fraser Golf Club.

The New Brunswick Botanical Garden is a Top Attraction. There are two arboretums, eight theme gardens, 1,500 species, 30,000 annuals and 80,000 other plants in this seven-hectare (17-acre) "Garden of Eden." Everywhere you wander, the colours and scents of the plants are complimented by classical music to ensure your soul is well and truly soothed.

For a hands-on experience, visit the Candle Economuseum® where you can make your own candle under the expert guidance of craftspeople, as well as learn all about the history of candles and the ways in which they are made and coloured.

Time your visit to coincide with one of several festivals and events that enliven the city. The Festival Jazz et Blues d'Edmundston in June brings together musicians from near and far for four days of musical entertainment. In July, La Foire Brayonne is a joyful celebration of the Acadian Brayonne heritage, including concerts, crafts and regional cuisine. And l'Acadie des terres et forêts presents daily shows in Saint-Jacques, just north of the city from July 6 to August 14.

After a fun-filled day, you can unwind at de la République Provincial Park, where you can hike, bike, camp, swim and play tennis on the beautiful banks of the Madawaska River. Enjoy all that the city of Edmundston and the surrounding region have to offer, but don't forget to practice the oft-repeated phrase: "I am a citizen of Madawaska!"

*Editor's Note: The city of Edmundston has a helpful tourism office (tel.: 1 866 737-6766, Web site: [www.edmundston.ca](http://www.edmundston.ca)). The New Brunswick Botanical Garden opens on June 12 and costs \$5.25 per adult (tel.: 506 737-5383, Web site: [www.umce.ca/jardin](http://www.umce.ca/jardin)). The Candle Economuseum® has no entrance fee (tel.: 506 735-5514). The Festival Jazz et Blues d'Edmundston runs June 22-25 this year and La Foire Brayonne is celebrated July 27-31.*

