

West Edmonton Mall:

Heritage at its Funnest

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Located in the capital city of Alberta, West Edmonton Mall is an amazing place to visit! Being the biggest mall in Canada, the WEM has everything you could need! I am going to tell you all about this landmark that is a newer part of Canadian heritage but something that will be there (hopefully!) for years to come. I chose this topic because it is a place I love to visit, and I wanted to know more about it. I am excited to share with you details about the owners and how the building was made as well as the mall's importance to Edmonton's tourism industry and the economy. And, of course, we don't want to forget about the entertainment options in the mall, and its' record-setting features!

Owner, Making, and Construction

The Ghermezian family are the people responsible for the construction of West Edmonton Mall. They were immigrants from Iran. The family also owns other entertainment properties in Canada and beyond. You might have already known that the Ghermezian family (through their corporation Triple 5) owns West Ed, but did you know that it was built in 4 stages? The 4 stages each began in 1981, 1983, 1985, and 1999. Stage 1 of the mall first opened for business on September 15, 1981 – over 40 years ago. West Edmonton Mall is around 5.3 million square feet! West Edmonton Mall, as you know, is also the largest shopping centre in North America. West Edmonton Mall cost about \$1.2 billion dollars to build. It consumes the same amount of power as a small city. The construction of West Edmonton mall was clearly a massive undertaking that paid off for the family.

Entertainment and Features

The most important parts of the mall, obviously, are the rides and the other attractions! West Edmonton Mall owns two main attractions: Galaxyland and World Waterpark. At the time I am writing this, Galaxyland has 27 rides and World Waterpark contains over 17 waterslides. The waterpark also has a 4-foot-deep wave pool with 3.3 million gallons of water and a zipline. Even more, the WEM also features all of the following: minigolf, bowling, movie theatres, an underground aquarium, paddle boats (in the shape of birds!), race cars, mazes, a skating rink, and an escape room. Now that you know a ton about the entertainment and features you can learn about the mall's contribution to tourism and the economy!

Tourism and Economy

West Edmonton Mall is the leading tourist attraction in all of Alberta, with 30 million visitors every year - twice as many as Disneyland! These visitors come to spend money in the whopping 800 stores and 100 dining venues, and it gets busier and busier as it gets closer to Christmas. You can even sleep in the mall in one of 351 rooms at the Fantasyland Hotel located on the premises. West Edmonton Mall is a busy tourist filled place that is fun filled for everyone!

Employment

West Edmonton Mall is a major employer with cool benefits for employees. According to some sources it has over 24,000 employees. You can start working at West Edmonton Mall as young as 15 years old! There are many different types of jobs you can get. For example, you could work at a store or a restaurant or maybe even Galaxyland! In addition to receiving more common employment benefits, every second pay-check, employees get free attraction passes. There are lots of perks to getting a job at WEM!

World Records

In this paragraph you will be learning all about the world records West Edmonton Mall has or used to have. West Edmonton Mall, having many world records has the world record for being the most record holding mall in the world. It was once promoted to the 8th wonder of the world, as a joke! West Edmonton Mall was the largest mall in the world for 24 years. WEM used to hold many world records, but the only world record it currently holds is largest parking lot. I could mention all the world records it used to have but that is an extensive list. Now you have learned about West Edmonton Mall's world records!

Conclusion

West Edmonton Mall is particularly important because it supplies tons of jobs and gives entertainment to all! I found it incredibly fun finding out WEM's world records. If I did this again, I would put more pictures on my backboard.

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Mathew. Best Edmonton Mall. <https://bestedmontonmall.com/>

Building the West Edmonton Mall <https://dozr.com/blog/building-the-west-edmonton-mall>



The Santa Maria, the ship that sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492 can be seen inside the mall.