

EAST VILLAGE (DE)TOURS

The rich past of East Village has played a huge part in its transformation into a place where Calgary's future is unfolding—and around every corner, there stands an ode to its origin stories. Here are the highlights of a story spanning tens of thousands of years, of a place as important to the past as it is to the future.

(DE)TOURS FOR DEVOTED HISTORIANS



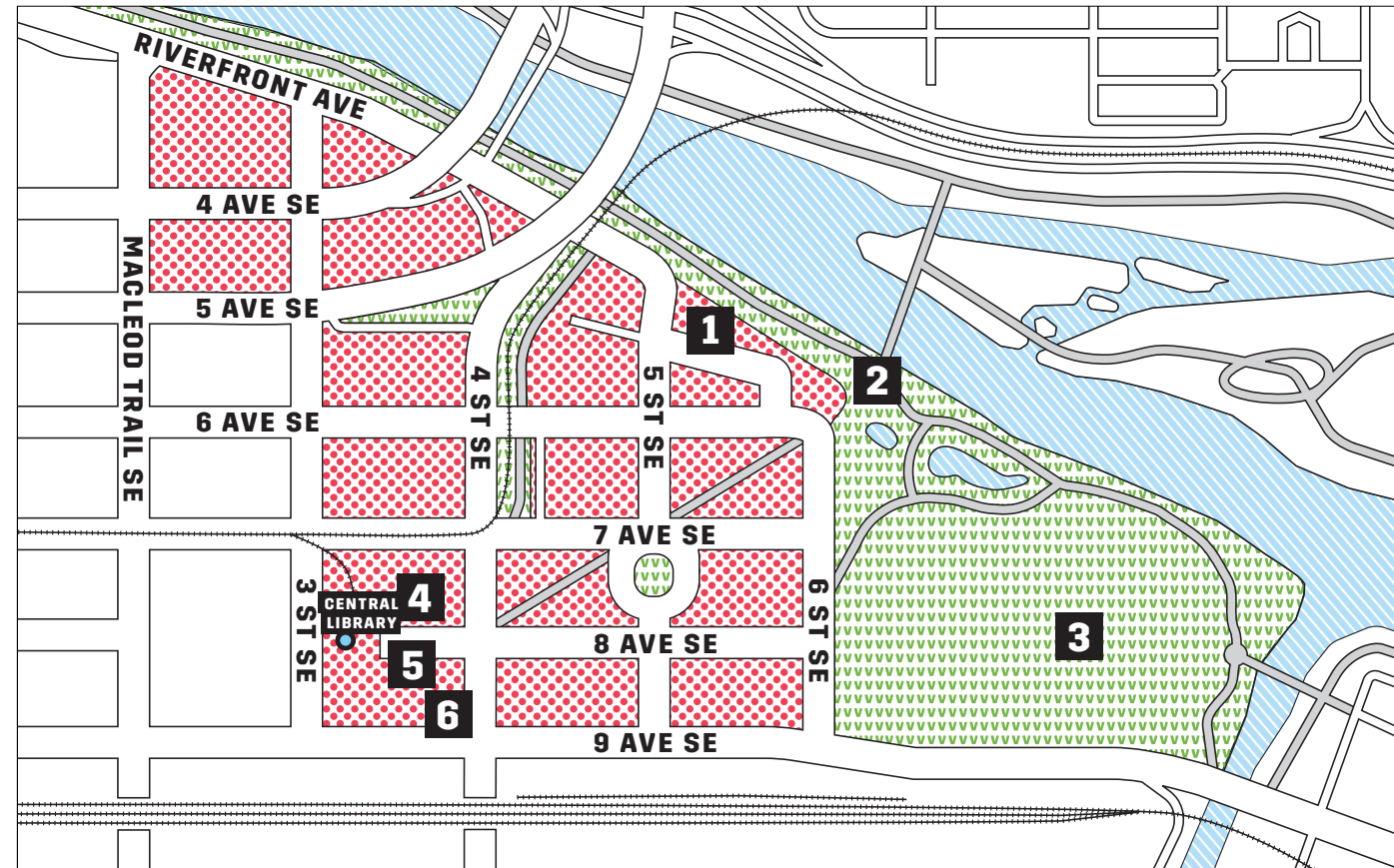
SELFIE SITES

Don't miss out on the great historic photo-ops all around East Village—here are our top three to start you off!

- 1 Gaze out at the sunset and the neighbourhood as you enjoy a refreshing cocktail at Rooftop Bar@Simmons
- 2 Get a shot of the Sentinels at Fort Calgary—5 glass and concrete pillars depicting historical city figures, keeping watch over East Village.
- 3 Pose alongside the mural installation on the east wall of the St. Louis Hotel—and don't forget to share it using #UpTheAlley!

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1 // **SIMMONS BUILDING**

Built in 1912 as a mattress factory, this structure, which cost an estimated \$20,000, was thought modern for its time. In 2015, it was carefully restored by Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, and today, it is an East Village icon, a gathering place for locals and visitors, and most importantly, a foodie paradise with a boutique eatery, an artisan bakery and coffee roasterie.

2 // **WHEEL OF WOMEN**

This contemporary ground-level installation at the base of the George C. King Bridge along RiverWalk™ celebrates 30 pioneering Calgary women who made great contributions in community and city-building. Decorative plaques tell each of their stories, paying homage to their role in paving the way for a bright future for our city.

3 // **FORT CALGARY**

A museum and National Historic Site, Fort Calgary narrates the origin stories of the confluence of two rivers and its significance to the Indigenous People who have inhabited this area for tens of thousands of years. Learn about the Europeans who first crossed the Bow River, Calgary's origins as a Northwest Mounted Police Outpost, and its eventual evolution into the birthplace of a metropolitan city.

4 // **ST. LOUIS HOTEL**

In the old days, this hotel was best known as a raucous basement tavern where politicians held court, munching on chicken and chips while (imaginary) horses races were hosted on Fridays. Of course, the hotel also had a sparkling cameo in 1984's Superman 3.

5 // **HILLIER BLOCK**

Built in 1910, the Hillier Block was originally a billiards hall, barbershop and rooming house, featuring sandstone detailing on the window sills, lintels and parapet coping. Currently, it serves as renovated commercial office space, but still features ghost signs on both the east and west elevations.

6 // **KING EDWARD HOTEL**

Popularly known as The King Eddy, the hotel was built in the early 1900s on Calgary's Whisky Row, gradually evolving into the Home of the Blues, where the likes of Buddy Guy and Jeff Healey performed. In 2014, the building was restored brick by brick (literally) to become part of Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre. Today, it's both a live music venue and home to local radio station, CKUA.