

Bridgeland Walks Self Guided #6: Bridges



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Welcome to our walk to many of the bridges which connects Bridgelanders with our neighbours in East Village and Inglewood.

You can answer questions along the way and enter a contest with a prize!

This walk starts and finishes at the BRCA Community Centre and takes you first to explore St. Patrick's Island. From there you can either take the shorter East Village (Blue on map) route which is 4 kilometres long, or the longer Inglewood Route 5.5 kilometres (Red on Map). The walk is mostly flat sidewalks with some inclines, and gravel paths on St. Patrick's Island. You will be crossing the Bow River at least twice on both routes; the Inglewood route takes you over the meeting point of the Elbow & the Bow, where Calgary was born! Both routes are steeped in Calgary's history and are also a cultural experience with fine examples of public art.

Start from the BRCA Community Centre at 917 Centre Ave, proceed South to McDougall Rd. Be cautious during day time construction in the area. Proceed East to 12 St. Turn South again Walk till you reach the bridge over Memorial Drive.

Stop #1. This bridge is part of the East Memorial Drive project. Constructed in the early 1970's, the new multi lane road called Memorial Drive - necessitated the cutting back of Tom Campbell Hill by several hundred meters. 12 Street and St George's Drive NE is one of three road entries to Bridgeland. The bridge is notable for the 'steel art' animals that cover its sides – they are mostly visible to the vehicles on Memorial Drive below.

Stop #1 Question: How many different animals are represented here?

Cross the bridge and pedestrian crosswalk on the South side and turn right. Walk West till you reach the next bridge, and then cross the bridge on the West side

Stop #2. The **Baines Bridge** was constructed in 1964 and named for Tom Baines who worked at the zoo for many years. Read the plaque on the bridge to learn more about him. The bridge crosses a minor channel of the Bow River that separates St Patrick's, St George's and formerly St Andrew's Islands from the North bank of the river and the area of our community called Riverside.

Stop #2 Question: What was Tom Baines job at the zoo for all those years?

Proceed just beyond the bridge, turn right into the parking lot area for the St Patrick's Island Park.

Stop #3. The bridges of St Patrick's Island Park. This park was reconstructed in 2015 as part of the East Village project. The river channel that had separated St Patrick's Island and which had been closed off for many years, was opened and numerous other interesting features were added to the park. The signs along the way tell the story. There are many different types of bridges and areas crossed (river channels, swamp areas, etc.) Take your time and walk around the island and find as many of the bridges as you can. Stop and relax at the picnic tables, stylish benches or metal chairs and tables that you find along the way. Finish up at the West end where you can access the next bridge.

Stop #3 Question: How many bridges (big or small) are on St. Patrick's Island?

Walk up the ramp to access the Bridge that crosses the full span of the Bow River.

Stop #4. This is **George C King Bridge**. He was credited with being the first white man to set foot on land between the Bow and Elbow Rivers in 1875. This place soon became Fort Calgary and after 100 years, a city of 1.5 million that we see today. George C. King was Calgary's postmaster in 1885. The new Bridge was partially constructed when the 2013 flood hit Calgary. The bridge has a nickname.... "Stepping Stone Bridge" and at night lights on the railings "dance" as you walk across. So neat! Both St Patrick's and St George's (Zoo) Islands were flooded and the bridge was badly damaged. It was completed and opened in 2014. Stop to admire the sculpture on St Patrick's Island called "Bloom" which sculptor Michel de Broin made using retired city street lights to create a "bunch of flowers". Look closely to see what's on the top of Bloom.

Check this out: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/sculpture-to-bloom-on-calgary-s-st-patrick-s-island-1.3079943>

Stop #4 Question: What is the nickname of the George C. King bridge?

Cross the King bridge going South and make decision to take either the shorter East Village Route or the longer Inglewood Route

A. Shorter Option: East Village Route

East Village Community Info: <https://www.evexperience.com/who-we-are>

Turn right/East after crossing King Bridge. You are on the Riverwalk, part of a scenic walkway that extends along the South side of the Bow River as far as the 14 Street Bridge. Be aware that there are cyclists, scooter riders, joggers and walkers along here. Walk West till you reach the next bridge.

Stop #5. Over a distance of only 100 meters, you walk under two bridges! These are: CTrain Blue Line bridge, and 5th Ave Flyover. Look up and read the plaque on the concrete beam of the CTrain Bridge. It has the name of the Provincial Minister of transportation who this bridge is named after. As you walk under the two bridges take some time to enjoy the "quirky" murals on the bridge columns (and also on the closely cluster of small buildings). Artist Katie Green photographed East Village residents wearing masks to share something about themselves! The art installation on the bridges shows bridges support both our transportation and cultural needs!

Check this out: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/art-installation-features-murals-of-East-villagers-1.5233869>

Stop #5 Question: Who is the Minister of Transportation named on the CTrain Blue Line bridge plaque?

Stop #6. Since 1888, this was known as **Langevin Bridge** and named for Hector-Louis Langevin. He was the Federal Minister of the Public Works who provided funding so that the new settlement of Calgary had a reliable river crossing - taking traffic from the growing town centre across to Riverside, Bridgeland and North to the province's capital city of Edmonton. The initial wooden version of the bridge was replaced in 1910 by this 'two span Parker Camelback through truss bridge'. In 2017, city council voted to rename the bridge - to **Reconciliation Bridge** - as a response to the national Truth

and Reconciliation Report. It is now 110 years old and the bridge has carried many millions of pedestrians and vehicles across the river and has withstood numerous floods. See if you can find the plaque on one of the columns about special kids: Chuck Anderson and his twin brother. LED lights were added as part of its East Village connection and the colours change to recognize special events and honour city organizations. More recently the bridge deck was reinforced, walkways widened and painting completed. It looks pretty good nowadays and should last for another 100 years.

Stop #6 Question: What is the large building found at the South end of the bridge?

On the North side of the Bow River, turn right/East and follow the path through the small park towards Memorial Drive. Cross Memorial Drive (high traffic location) and arrive at the site of Bridgeland's neWest park!

Stop #7. Flyover Park. The 5th Avenue Flyover takes all the traffic from the city centre to the North side and onto Edmonton Trail or East onto Memorial Drive. Building of this was a key part of the 1970's East Memorial Drive project that increased access to the downtown as our city grew and 'car culture' dominated. However, the area below the Flyover was transformed from a lively commercial corner to an area of urban decay. This area is being rejuvenated as an inviting space by the presence of the Murdoch Building (Blush Lane Market & Benevity Company) and Flyover Park which has recently broken ground and is scheduled for opening in the Fall of 2020. Flyover Park is the vision and hard work by the BRCA Planning Committee, led by Ali McMillan. Flyover Park will be Bridgeland's "front porch".

For more information click: <https://engage.calgary.ca/flyover?redirect=/flyover>

Stop #7 Question: When is Flyover Park scheduled to be opened?

Walk East on the pathway between the yellow construction fences and carry on the North sidewalk of McDougall Rd until you reach 7 Street and turn left to arrive at Bridgeland Riverside Vacant Lot Garden.

Stop #8. Garden. The Bridgeland Riverside Vacant Lot Garden is significant as an excellent example of a community garden. It was started sometime between 1924 and 1930 affordable high quality produce to working-class, German-speaking Russian and Italian residents. It is the oldest, and is also the only known remaining community garden that was once part of the Vacant Lots Garden Club. Stop and take in the growing garden. The larger historical plaque on the Northwest corner indicates the name of Calgary's first librarian and Canada's first female alderman.

Stop #8 Question: Who was Calgary's first librarian and also Canada's first female alderman?

Walk East on the path alongside the garden fence and take the 7A St stairs towards the South West corner of Murdoch Park. Walk on the path through the Park towards the General Hospital brick wall which take you up to the General Avenue Promenade. Walk East to the finish at the BRCA Community Centre.

See next page for Inglewood Longer Route option....

B. Longer Option: Inglewood Route

Inglewood Historical info: <https://inglewoodyyc.ca/index.php/about/https-livewirecalgary-com-2019-09-11-calgarys-inglewood-looking-to-catalogue-stories-of-past-and-present-11400-2/>

Walk East along the pathway passing several historic displays including a short length of railroad tracks... till you reach the pedestrian bridge that crosses the Elbow River. Cross over.

Stop #9 The **Elbow River Traverse** was constructed in 2013-14 to extend the Bow River pathway to connect East Village with Inglewood. This is a very old part of Calgary and you can see numerous aspects of the history of the area – Fort Calgary, statues, park interpretive area, etc.

Stop #9 Question: Who is depicted in the statue on the East side of this bridge?

Continue East along the pathway as it parallels the Bow River to the North and the community of Inglewood to the South.

Stop #10 The **12 Street /Zoo Bridge** was built in 2015-17 to replace a 108 year old steel bridge, similar design as Reconciliation Bridge. The earlier bridge was the only vehicle access to the Zoo until the Baines Bridge was constructed on the North side of the Bow. A remnant of the old bridge has been preserved on the South-East side of the new bridge.

Stop #10 Question: What is the name of the public art sculpture found at the South end of the 12 St. Bridge?

Check this out: <https://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Recreation/Pages/Public-Art/12-Street-Bridge.aspx>

Cross the bridge to St Georges Island, home of the Calgary Zoo. Follow the sidewalk to the left and continue West along the promenade with the river on one side and Zoo Road and the Calgary Zoo to the North side. You may hear the roar of the lions or the call of the peacock as you walk along. Also look for Dinny, the Zoo's concrete Dinosaur "hatched" in 1935 and rebuilt in 2019.

Continue on and re-cross the Baines Bridge and then turn left and proceed along the Bow River pathway till you reach the C Train station access.

Stop #11. C-Train Crossing. This span, crossing Memorial Drive is one of the earlier C Train stations built as part of the North line in the 1980's. The Calgary General Hospital was the expected destination of many of the people taking the train at that time (CGH was imploded in 1998). The South side spiral access ramp is perhaps the only one of this style remaining on the line. The North side ramp & stairs to 9 Street replaced the original spiral ramp as part of the Bridges Redevelopment project in the early 2000's.

Admire the BRIDGELAND sign inviting visitors to discover our neighbourhood.

Stop #11 Question: What is the correct name of this CTrain Station?

Walk North up 9 St to finish your walk at the BRCA Hall.

We hope you've enjoyed the Bridges Walk!
Good Luck on the Quiz Contest!

Bridgeland Walks Self Guided #6 Bridges QUIZ CONTEST

PRIZE: \$20 gift certificate to Bridgeland Market

Answer the following questions and Email the completed page or a numbered list of your answers to bridgelandwalks@gmail.com. Include your name & email address

Indicate the route you took (East Village shorter route or Inglewood longer route) and answer only the questions for stops along that route.

Deadline for contest entries: June 22.

If there's more than one entry with all correct answers, we'll draw for the prize.

Questions:

Stop #1: How many different animals are on the bridge across Memorial Drive?

Stop #2: What was Tom Baines job at the zoo for all those years?

Stop #3: How many bridges (Big or Small) are on St Patrick's Island?

Stop #4: What is the nickname of the George C. King bridge?

East Village Route Stop #5: Who is the Minister of Transportation named on the CTrain Blue Line bridge plaque?

East Village Route Stop #6: What is the large building found at the South end of the Reconciliation Bridge?

East Village Route Stop #7: When is Flyover Park scheduled to be opened?

East Village Route Stop #8: Who was Calgary's first librarian and also Canada's first female alderman?

Inglewood Route Stop #9: Who is depicted in the statue on the East side of this bridge?

Inglewood Route Stop #10: What is the name of the public art sculpture found at the South end of the 12 St. Bridge?

Inglewood Route Stop #11: What is the correct name of this CTrain Station?

Name _____ **email** _____

Please tell us...

1. Route taken: **East Village** shorter route or **Inglewood** longer route:
2. How many people walked with me:
3. What did you like most about this walk:
4. If possible, please share photos of your walk with us. Thank you!