

#Welcome Afghans



Welcome Home – Abbotsford, British Columbia



Population: 195,726 people (2021 Census)

(includes many South and West Asians, Arabs and Afghans)

About the area

Abbotsford¹

- is one of the largest cities in British Columbia outside Vancouver, Victoria, and Kelowna
- is known as “the city in the country”

The Fraser Valley Regional District

- is in the province of British Columbia
- includes the municipalities of Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, and Kent

The province of British Columbia

- borders the province of Alberta, the Pacific Ocean, and Washington state in the United States of America
- is one the most diverse provinces in Canada
- has a large immigrant population

Abbotsford has warm summers with an average daily high temperature of 24°C in July and moderate winters with an average daily low of -1°C in January.

¹ All the links provided here are in English only.





Cherry blossoms in the spring, Abbotsford, BC.

Indigenous land acknowledgement

[Indigenous peoples](#) have lived in Canada since before European settlers and explorers arrived. Abbotsford is located on the traditional territory of the [Matsqui](#) and [Sumas](#) First Nations.



Street view of Abbotsford residential housing in springtime.

Living, working and going to school

The Fraser Valley region is an ideal place to work, raise a family, do business, and study. The Fraser Valley region is a major agriculture centre of British Columbia, which means there many types of businesses like farms, orchards, and fishing vessels.

You can also find jobs in

- aerospace
- technology
- manufacturing

As of June 2023, the [official minimum wage in British Columbia](#) is \$16.75 an hour.

Housing costs vary. The [average price to buy a single-family house](#) is approximately \$1,600,000. [Renting a 2-bedroom apartment](#) costs approximately \$1,400 per month.

Learn more about renting and tenants' rights from the [Government of British Columbia](#).

There are many [schools](#), daycares, and after-school programs. In Canada, students usually go to school from kindergarten (age 3 or 4) to grade 12 (age 17 or 18). After that, they can go to college or university or start working.

British Columbia has over 10 major universities, with the following within 100 kilometres driving distance from Abbotsford

- [University of the Fraser Valley](#)
- [Kwantlen Polytechnic University](#)
- [University of British Columbia](#)
- [Simon Fraser University](#) (two campuses: Vancouver and Surrey)
- [British Columbia Institute of Technology](#)
- [Capilano University](#)
- [Emily Carr University of Arts and Design](#)
- [Justice Institute of British Columbia](#)

There are also many [colleges](#) where you can study in British Columbia. The following are within 100 kilometres driving distance from Abbotsford

- [Vancouver Community College](#)
- [Douglas College](#)
- [Langara Collge](#)
- [Nicola Valley Institute of Technology](#)

You can play many types of sports, like

- [cricket](#)
- [soccer \(football\)](#)
- [squash](#)
- [hockey](#)

You can enjoy [year-round events](#) in the Abbotsford area, such as

- the Abbotsford Airshow
- music festivals
- [museums](#)
- theatrical productions
- a winter festival
- a farmers' market
- [other events](#)

The City of Abbotsford offers over [2,500 acres](#) of green space with over 150 parks.

Find out more about recreation from the [City of Abbotsford](#).

Religious and cultural associations

Under the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#), you can practise the religion of your choice in Canada. Your service provider organization (SPO) can connect you to local ethno-cultural and multicultural associations in the Fraser Valley.

Specialty foods

Several grocery stores in the area sell international goods. Most major supermarkets and many Middle Eastern grocery stores also sell halal meat. Your service provider organization can help you find the store closest to you.

Useful information for newcomers

More resources to help you settle in the area:

- [Welcome to Canada: Publications for newcomers](#)
- [Find free newcomer services near you](#)
- [VIDEO: Immigrating and Settling in Canada](#)
- [Fraser Valley Refugee Readiness Team](#)
- [Abbotsford Local Immigration Partnership](#)
- [City of Abbotsford](#)