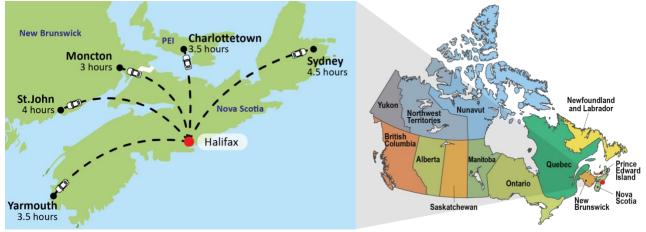# #Welcome Afghans

Welcome Home – Halifax, Nova Scotia

Population: 465,703 people ([2021 census](#))
(including many South and West Asians, Arabs and Afghans)

About the area

[Halifax](#)
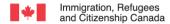- is the largest city in the province of Nova Scotia

[Nova Scotia](#)[1]
- is located in Atlantic Canada, which also includes the provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador
- is home to Canada's largest naval base

Halifax is known for its historical charm, community spirit, fresh seafood, and incredible landscapes. Winters are cold and snowy, with an average daily low of -7°C in January. Summers are warm, with an average daily high of 23°C in July.

You can enjoy [public parks](#) and outdoor spaces in the summer, and fun activities like skiing, sledding and skating in the winter.

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[1] All the links provided here are in English only.

Canada

Halifax waterfront.

Indigenous land acknowledgement

Indigenous peoples have lived in Canada since before European settlers and explorers arrived. Halifax, like much of Nova Scotia, is located on the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq (Meeg-mah) Nations.

Snowy residential street, Halifax.

Living, working and going to school

Halifax is a great place to develop careers, do business, study, and live a fulfilling life.

You can find jobs in Halifax in industries such as

- agriculture
- fishing
- mining
- forestry
- banking
- hospitality
- shipping ports

As of April 1, 2023, the official minimum wage in Nova Scotia is $14.50 an hour.

Housing costs vary. The average price to buy a single-family house is approximately $755,000. Renting a 2-bedroom apartment could cost approximately $1,500 a month.

Learn more about renting and tenants' rights from the Government of Nova Scotia.

There are many schools, daycares, and after-school programs in both English and French. 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.

Nova Scotia has 10 public universities, with the following within 100 kilometres driving distance from Halifax:

- Dalhousie University (three campuses in Halifax and one in Truro)
- Mount Saint Vincent University
- NSCAD University
- Université Sainte-Anne
- University of King's College
- Saint Mary's University

Nova Scotia also has an extensive community college with 14 campuses across 17 communities in the province, including Halifax.

You can play many sports, like

- cricket
- soccer (football)
- basketball
- boating
- swimming
- track and field
- squash
- hockey

Find out more about recreation organizations from the YMCA and the City of Halifax.

You can enjoy year-round events in Halifax and surrounding areas, such as

- Halifax Busker Festival
- Halifax Jazz Festival
- Neptune Theatre
- Clam Harbour Beach Sandcastle Competition
- FIN Atlantic International Film Festival

Learn more about events in the area from Discover Halifax and the City of Halifax.

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 can help connect you to local ethno-cultural and multicultural associations in Nova Scotia.

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
- Immigration and Settling in Canada
- Newcomer's Guide to Halifax
- Nova Scotia Immigration
- Acadian Affairs and Francophonie
- Islamic Association of Nova Scotia
- Afghan Society of Halifax