

day 01

# AFGHANISTAN



## FAQS

### SIZE

Smaller than Texas

### POPULATION

38,889,920

### CAPITAL

Kabul

### LANGUAGE

Afghan Persian or Dari

### RELIGION

Islam

### UPG'S

76

### POP. IN CHICAGO

556

### LOCATION

Albany Park,  
Rogers Park

### VISIT

Afghan Restaurant  
2818 W Devon Ave  
Chicago, IL  
773.262.8000

Afghanistan is located in Central Asia. It is bordered by six countries and often called the “Crossroads of Central Asia.”

The country has had a turbulent history plagued by hostile take-overs and war. In 1998, the Taliban occupied 90% of Afghanistan and imposed an extreme interpretation of Islam. Massive human rights violations occurred, especially against women and ethnic minorities. Under pressure from the United States military and anti-Taliban forces, the Taliban regime disintegrated in 2001.

Afghan society is based on kinship groups which follow traditional customs and religious practices. Islam is the main religion, but there are two sects that are practiced, Sunni and Shi'a. The Sunni Muslims are more liberal and believe that the successors of Muhammad should be elected by the people. Shi'a Muslims are more militant and believe the successors of Muhammad are hereditary.

The main source of income in Afghanistan is from agriculture. The major food crops produced are corn, rice, barley, and wheat. Sadly, opium has become a quick source of cash for many Afghans because it is easy to cultivate and transport. In 2006, Afghanistan supplied 91% of the world's opium.

The political condition of the country has caused over three million Afghans to flee Afghanistan. Many Afghans came to Chicago as refugees and were severed from family relationships. Most are Muslim and look to Islam for cultural identity and community. **Pray that Christians will reach out to Afghans in Chicago, and that the Christian community will be used by God to fill the void caused by loneliness in their lives.**

### PSALM 22:27

“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.”

