



Afghanistan at a Glance

Getting to know Afghanistan



A street vendor prepares food.

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Basic facts about Afghanistan

Capital	Kabul
Population	28.4 million (as of July 2009)
Borders	5,529 km, shared with six countries: Pakistan (south and east); Iran (west); Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan (north); and China (far northeast)
Provinces	34, in an area slightly larger than Alberta
Ethnic groups	There are several ethnic groups, including Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Aimak, Turkmen, and Baloch
Languages	Pashto and Dari (both official), and many dialects
Literacy rate	28.1%
Life expectancy	44.2 years

Interesting facts about Afghanistan

Arts	Love of architecture and Persian poetry
Communications	Growing use of wireless technology, including SMS (text messaging) on mobile phones
Movies	Bollywood films
Historic craft culture	Woodworking, calligraphy, ceramics, weaving, handicrafts, and embroidery
Sports	Buzkashi (team sport on horseback), soccer, volleyball, and cricket
Olympic moment	First-ever Olympic medal won—a bronze in tae kwon do at the 2008 games
Favourite foods	Rice, qabili (rice and meat dish), kabobs, rice pudding, dried fruit, and nuts
Favourite beverages	Green and black tea

