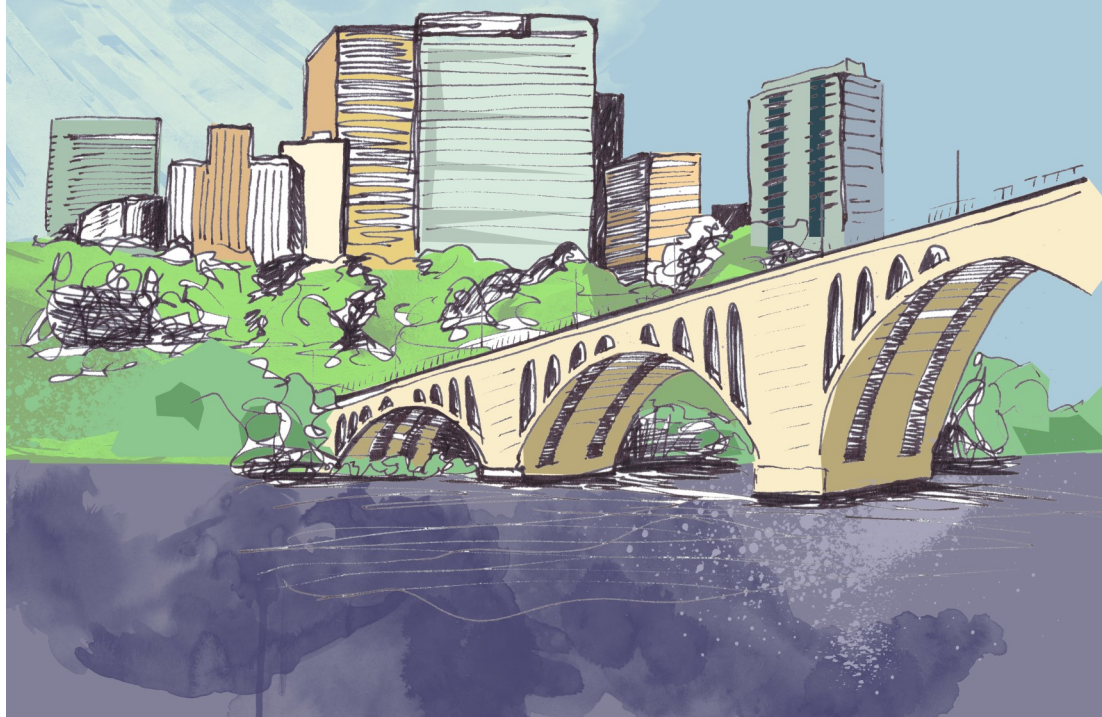


Arlington Ethnic Embrace



What is Ethnic Embrace Arlington?



“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations (ethnic groups)...” Matthew 28:19

As He has throughout history, God is moving and shaking the nations in our lifetime. Globalization and urbanization continue to bring scores of internationals to the United States. Within the 26 square miles of Arlington County, Virginia, we are privileged to have a kaleidoscope of nations and unreached people groups (UPGs) living all around us. As Christians, we have a unique opportunity to befriend and get to know these near neighbors from over 125 foreign countries. You don't need a visa, just a vision to love, learn, and serve!

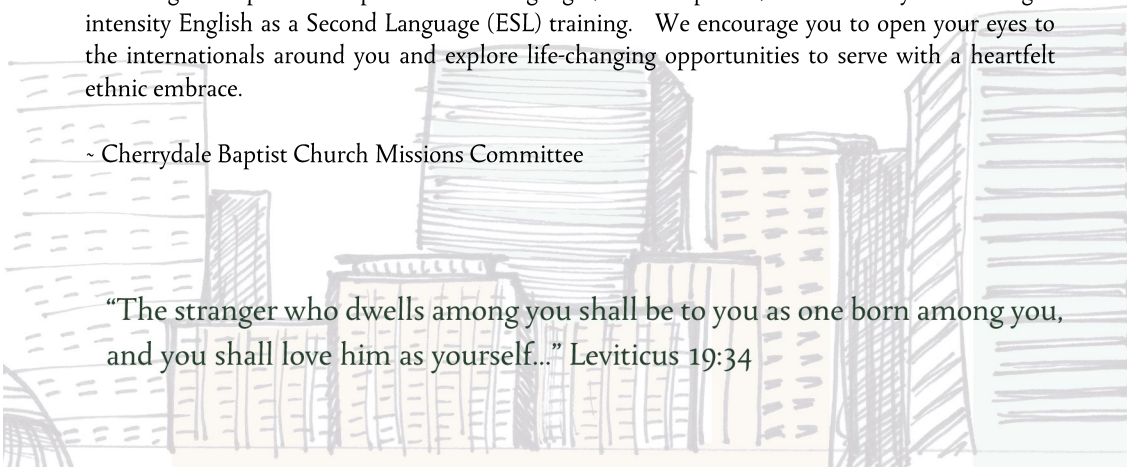
- Start by using this booklet to daily pray God's blessing on 20 of the largest groups living in Arlington.
- Check out the listings on each page labeled “Experience It!” and visit Arlington's ethnic neighborhoods, businesses, and restaurants.

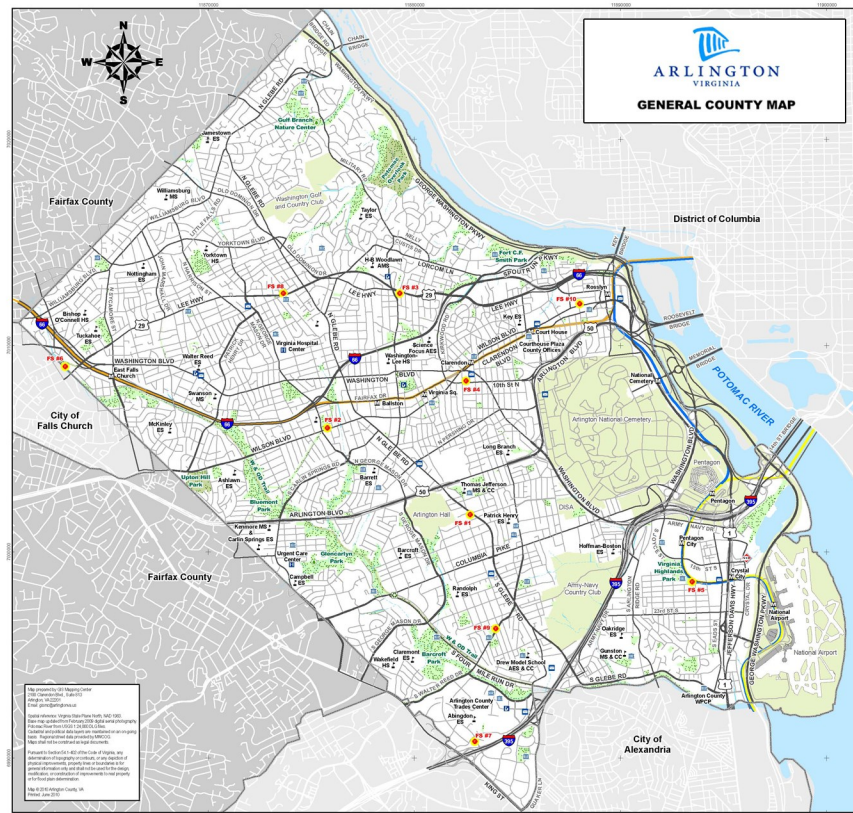
In Arlington County, 28% of the population is foreign born. Latino immigrants are the most numerous, comprising about 15% of the 2010 county population of 208,000. Latinos are one of the few immigrant groups that conspicuously cluster in neighborhoods such as Arlandria, Barcroft, and Buckingham. But did you know that Arlington County is home to more immigrants from Mongolia than Mexico, more than 2,600, complete with a Mongolian school? There is also a local Friends of Mongolia organization. This is exactly the type of useful information you will find inside this publication.

For the 2010-2011 school year, the Arlington County School System serviced students with 98 distinct native languages. Recent refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan have joined other new immigrant groups from the Horn of Africa and South Asia. So much so that Amharic, Arabic, Urdu, and Bengla comprise the top four native languages, behind Spanish, in the County schools' high-intensity English as a Second Language (ESL) training. We encourage you to open your eyes to the internationals around you and explore life-changing opportunities to serve with a heartfelt ethnic embrace.

~ Cherrydale Baptist Church Missions Committee

“The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself...” Leviticus 19:34





“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all of Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

We who live in the Metro D.C. area have a large ‘Samaria’... those living in our midst who are ethnically, culturally and religiously different from us. As followers of Christ who have the Holy Spirit living within us, we have the great privilege and responsibility of making Jesus known to them with His power. Let *Ethnic Embrace Arlington* be a starting point for you to reach out to the foreigners in your midst. Take time to notice them, talk to them, pray for them, and share the love of Jesus with them through your actions and with your words. As you experience the joy associated with this ministry, consider expanding your outreach to international students through our Friendship Partners program and/or getting involved in our Refugee Ministry.

For His Glory,

Ed Grudier, Missions and Outreach Pastor (egrudier@cherrydale.org)



FAQs



SIZE:
Smaller than Texas

POPULATION:
30,419,928

CAPITAL:
Kabul

LANGUAGES:
Dari, and Pashtu

RELIGION:
Islam

UPGs:
73



The Islamic Republic of 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 U.S. 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. All Afghans adhere to Islam and there is no freedom to propagate another faith or to convert from Islam. About 80% are Sunni Muslims while 20% are Shi’a Muslims. Their main source of income is from agriculture. Sadly, opium has become a quick source of cash and in 2006, Afghanistan supplied 91% of the world’s opium.

Ten years of peace building efforts have failed to quell a tenacious insurgency. Given that the U.S. government has pledged continuing assistance to Afghanistan until 2024, refugees from that country will continue to resettle in the U.S. Many Afghans come to Arlington County severed from family relationships yet hoping to find a better life.

Experience It

Afghan Kabob House
2045 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201
703-294-9999
afghankabobhouse.org

Bamian Restaurant
5634 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041
703-820-7880
bamianrestaurant.com

Pray

Pray that Christians will reach out to Afghans, and that the Christian community will be used by God to fill the void caused by loneliness in their lives.



When British India was partitioned to become India and Pakistan in 1947, the region of Bengal was divided along religious lines. The Muslim eastern half was called East Pakistan, while the predominantly Hindu western part became the Indian state of West Bengal. Tensions rose between East and West because of linguistic, cultural, and ethnic differences. After the Pakistani Army killed many Bengali's in 1971, the Bengali nationalists declared an Independent **People's Republic of Bangladesh**. Bangladesh is one of the few democracies in the Muslim world.

Recent Bangladeshi immigrants seek to escape socio-economic stresses in their homeland, one of the world's poorest nations. A large proportion of the immigrants are professionals and white-collar urban dwellers. As a result, most of them have had an easier time in finding employment than immigrants and refugees from other Asian countries. As a result of chain migration there are many extended families among the settled immigrants. Groups living in the same area have tended to form civic associations that form a focus for various activities and mutual support for adapting to life in the U.S.. In Arlington the Bangla School offers language, religious and music classes from 10am -3pm each Saturday at the Gunston Community Center.

FAQs



SIZE:
State of Wisconsin

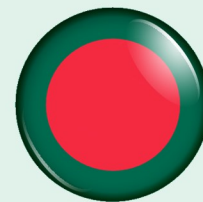
POPULATION:
161,083,804

CAPITAL:
Dhaka

LANGUAGES:
Bangla, or Bengali
and English

RELIGIONS:
Islam, Hinduism

UPGs:
328



Pray

Pray for God to provide a key catalyst like the Apostle Paul who can bring a strong Christian witness. Pray for churches to be raised up within the Bangladeshi community that will demonstrate God's love and acceptance.

Experience It

DC Bangla School
2700 S. Lang St., Arlington, VA 22206
703-828-5319
dcbanglaschool.org

Bangla Bazar
5149 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22207
703-241-7040

Gharer Khabar
5151 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA 22207
703-973-2432
gharerkhabar.com



FAQs



SIZE:
3x State of Montana

POPULATION:
10,290,003

CAPITAL:
La Paz

LANGUAGE:
Spanish, Quecha,
Aymara

RELIGION:
Roman Catholicism

UPGs:
2



The Republic of Bolivia is a landlocked and mountainous, multi-ethnic society. In fact, its official name is the Pluri-national State of Bolivia, and the Quechua and Aymara languages have official status alongside Spanish. The *Altiplano* is one of the most striking geographic features of Bolivia; this 12,000 foot high plateau is one of the highest inhabited regions in the world. Although it is cold and wind-swept, it is the most densely populated region of the country. Bolivia is one of the least developed Latin American nations despite being rich in natural resources. The predominant religion in Bolivia is Roman Catholicism; in practice it is often mixed with other folkloric beliefs.

Economic problems marked by hyperinflation prompted a wave of migration to the U.S. in the 1980s. The top 10 U.S. communities with the highest percentage of people claiming Bolivian ancestry are all in Northern Virginia! Arlington County celebrates Bolivian National Day every August 6th because it is home to 4,000 Bolivian immigrants. For soccer fans in the Washington DC area, the Bolivian footballer Marco Etcheverry remains well known as the one who led DC United to the Major League Soccer championship in 1996 and 1997.

Experience It

Pike Restaurant

4111 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204
703-521-3010
pike4you.com

Escuela Bolivia (educational center)

2801 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 216
Arlington, VA 22201
703-228-2560
escuelabolivia.org

Luzmilla's Cuisine

809 W Broad St., Falls Church, VA
703-237-0047

Pray

Please pray for the continued impact of television and radio ministries in Bolivia since illiteracy, poverty and isolation restrict many other forms of media.



In 1953, **The Kingdom of Cambodia** was granted independence from France. The Khmer Rouge came to power in the 1970's and turned Cambodia into a land of horror. The new regime ordered the evacuation of all cities and towns, sending the entire urban population to the countryside. Between 1975 and 1979, it is estimated that 1.7 to 3 million people died under the Khmer Rouge regime from starvation, disease, and executions. In 1993, the Royal Government of Cambodia formed, giving some freedom to Cambodians who had experienced decades of war.

Ninety-five percent of all Cambodians practice Theravada Buddhism. Theravada Buddhism means "Way of the Elders" and is the oldest surviving Buddhist school of thought. Buddhists believe that they can reach a state of perfection and enter into nirvana. They also maintain an animistic mixture with a strong belief of influence of spirits on daily life.

Most of the Cambodians who came to Arlington did so as refugees during the Khmer Rouge Holocaust and the oppressive Vietnamese occupation. Pray for healing and reconciliation with Vietnamese immigrants, who are often their neighbors. With limited education, most Cambodian refugees seek jobs in factories, crafts, and blue-collar service jobs.

FAQs



SIZE:
State of Missouri

POPULATION:
14,952,665

CAPITAL:
Phnom Penh

LANGUAGE:
Khmer

RELIGION:
Theravada Buddhism

UPGs:
30



Pray

Pray for deliverance from fear toward animistic spirits through acceptance of Jesus as their Deliverer and Healer. Pray for Christian programs that can help alleviate the poverty that still plagues their community.

Experience It

Cambodian Community Day Committee
7713 Royston St., Annandale, VA 22003
cambodiancommunityday.org

Ghin Na Rhee
(Thai restaurant run by a Cambodian)
2509 N. Harrison St., Arlington, VA 22207
703-536-1643
ghinnaree.com



FAQs



SIZE:
Continent of Europe

POPULATION:
1,343,239,923

CAPITAL:
Beijing

LANGUAGE:
Mandarin Chinese
Total Lang: 296

RELIGIONS:
Taoism, Buddhism,
Islam, Atheism,
Christianity

UPGs:
428



The People's Republic of China boasts a population of 1.3 billion people. The government officially allows only one child per family and the Chinese culture traditionally favors boys over girls. The rich history, diverse geography and fascinating culture of China are worth exploring in some depth. Annual Chinese New Year events in our area give a window into the rich Chinese culture.

In 1949, China's government became communist and limited personal freedom, especially freedom of religion. Despite stringent laws, the underground Christian Church is growing at an astronomical rate. The government reports that the main religion is officially atheism. However, many Chinese are Taoists, Buddhists, and Muslim. More than 50 Chinese minorities are identified by the government and make up about 9% of the population.

The first Chinese immigrants to the U.S. arrived in the 19th century. They were willing to work long hours at menial and even dangerous jobs. The many universities located in the Metro DC area bring thousands of Chinese students and scholars into Arlington County. Many of the college students and young adults are being influenced by a Western form of agnosticism and distrust of religion.

Experience It

Hunan Village

4775 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22207
703-524-9874
hunanvillagearlington.com

The Great Wall Supermarket

2982 Gallows Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042
703-208-3320

Oriental Gourmet

2503 N. Harrison St., Arlington, VA 22207
703-534-7182

Pray

Pray for relevant campus ministry and a representation of real Christianity to influence the youth. Pray for relational doors to open and trust to be built through faithful friendships.

El Salvador



The Republic of El Salvador is the smallest and the most densely populated country in Central America. It has a tropical climate where the Pacific lowlands are uniformly hot; the central plateau and mountain areas are more moderate. El Salvador is undergoing rapid modernization, and in 2010 ranked third among Central American countries in the Human Development Index.

As civil wars engulfed several Central American countries in the 1980s, hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans fled their country and came to the U.S.. In the 1990s and 2000s, a wave of new arrivals fleeing a series of earthquakes and hurricanes followed.

Chirilagua (Arlandria), an ethnic neighborhood of supermarkets, eateries, shops, video stores and hair salons along Mt. Vernon Avenue between South and West Glebe Roads, is so called because it is the name of the Salvadoran city where most of the immigrants originated. The Arlandria-Chirilagua Business Association (ACBA) strives to embrace the community's diversity and vibrancy, and to serve as an advocate, representative, and educator for local businesses. For example, Arlandria holds an annual cultural festival in the summer. Arlington County's "sister city" in El Salvador is San Miguel.

FAQs



SIZE:
Slightly smaller than
Massachusetts

POPULATION:
6,090,646

CAPITAL:
San Salvador

LANGUAGE:
Spanish

RELIGION:
Roman Catholicism

UPGs:
2



Pray

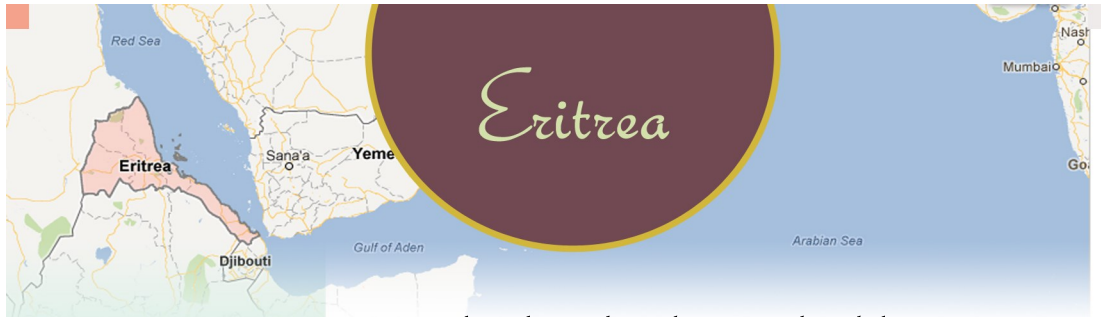
Pray for the ministry of Casa Chirilagua and their leaders who pour the love of Christ into the community through after-school and summer camp programs.

Experience It

El Rancho Migueleno
3709 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204
703-486-8689
elranchomigueleno.com

La Union Grocery
4308 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22207
703-812-9484

Casa Chirilagua
A ministry to the families and children in Arlandria.
Casachirilagua.org



FAQs



SIZE:
State of Pennsylvania

POPULATION:
6,086,495

CAPITAL:
Asmara

LANGUAGE:
Tigrinya, Tigre,
Arabic

RELIGIONS:
Islam, Coptic
Christianity

UPGs:
8



In 1886, the Italians colonized Eritrea and used the country as a springboard to conquer Ethiopia. When Italy surrendered to the Allies after World War II, Eritrea was placed under British military administration and later became part of Ethiopia. Eritrea was promised a degree of independence and democratic rights from Ethiopia. In 1962, the Emperor of Ethiopia dissolved the Eritrean parliament and annexed the country. This led to a thirty-year civil war. Finally in 1993, the **State of Eritrea** became independent. Between 1965 and 1991, an estimated 750,000 people fled the country due to war, famine, political unrest, and persecution.

Orthodox Christians who live in the highlands make up 50% of the population of Eritrea. Muslims, who are 48% of the population, live in the lowlands.

By the year 2000, approximately 30,000 Eritreans lived in the U.S. Most Eritreans came as refugees and many struggle relationally with Ethiopians whom they have largely been identified with. Soccer, via an annual Eritrean Tournament played in the U.S., has brought the two ethnic groups closer together. The annual Eritrean Festival in Washington DC each August features outstanding musical performances.

Experience It

Emmanuel Eritrean Church
935 23rd St. S., Arlington, VA 22202
703-979-0065
eritreanchurchdc.org

Café Aurora
50 S. Picket St., Unit 24
Alexandria, VA 22304
703-567-4050

Pray

Pray for healing through Jesus of the wounds experienced through war and ethnic oppression, as well as reconciliation with Ethiopians.



The landlocked African country, **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** is home to over 93 million people with origins from over 60 tribes. Sixty-five percent of the population speaks Amharic but there are 85 other languages spoken in Ethiopia. Coffee, which is believed to have originated in Ethiopia, is the main export and the government is working hard to put a better functioning infrastructure in place following decades of underdevelopment due to wars and famine. The Arlington County Public Library regularly conducts a free 'Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony' for the public to enjoy.

Ethiopians were among the first African immigrants to voluntarily come to the U.S. In 1991 there were an estimated 50,000 to 75,000 Ethiopians living in the U.S. Ethiopians were the most heavily represented group from Africa admitted to the U.S. between 1982 and 1994. Only Somalis have exceeded Ethiopians in the numbers of African immigrants arriving in the U.S. after 1994.

North Ethiopia was one of the first Christian nations – dating from the 4th Century. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church enjoyed a seven century reign as the State Church until the Marxist Revolution in 1974. Many churches were burned down and evangelical Christians persecuted until 1991 when more freedom for worship and witness was initiated.

FAQs



SIZE:
Slightly smaller than
2x Texas

POPULATION:
93,815,992

CAPITAL:
Addis Ababa

LANGUAGE:
Amharic

RELIGION:
Coptic Christianity
Islam

UPGs:
32



Pray

Pray for a deep work of the Holy Spirit to bring this ancient Church to its biblical heritage and to new life. Pray for Ethiopian believers in the U.S. to find churches to worship in to build their faith.

Experience It

Ethiopian Market

2444 26th Rd. S., Arlington, VA 22206
703-979-1091

Ethiopian Comm. Development Council

901 S. Highland St., Arlington, VA 22204
703-685-0510
ecdCUS.org



FAQs



SIZE:
Slightly Smaller than
Tennessee

POPULATION:
14,099,032

CAPITAL:
Guatemala City

LANGUAGE:
Spanish
Total Lang: 52

RELIGION:
Roman Catholicism

UPGs:
1



The Republic of Guatemala has a population of about 14 million, half of whom are of Mayan origin. A beautiful country known for its mountains, Mayan ruins, lakes, and volcanoes, Guatemala has a dark history of conflict, conquerors, and a 36-year civil war, that ended in 1996.

Corruption and systemic financial problems contribute to high unemployment leaving many people trapped in poverty, semi-literacy, and without adequate health care. In the 1970's, desperation caused many Guatemalans to leave and make the risky journey to the U.S., where they could find work in service occupations, construction and maintenance, sales, agriculture and fisheries.

Guatemalan Americans comprise a very culturally diverse group of people. Within Guatemala there are about 23 distinct ethnic groups that speak different languages and maintain unique cultural traditions. Guatemalan Americans represent a broad cross-section of this multicultural society, and assimilation processes, traditional beliefs, and customs vary from group to group.

About 3,000 Guatemalans live and work in Arlington County. The Awal dance group raises cultural awareness of the indigenous Mayan culture and is part of Gran Dia Chapin, an annual Guatemalan festival in the DC area.

Experience It

Rinconcito Chapin

303 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA 22203
703-807-0025

Pollo Campero

5852 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041
703-820-8400

Pray

Pray for Guatemalans in our area to find salvation in Christ and a home within a local church where they can experience a solid sense of community celebrating the multicultural nature of the family of God.



Religion, caste, and language are major determinants of social and political status in the **Republic of India**. Eighty-one percent of the population is Hindu, while 13% is Muslim. Hinduism is based on the concept that human and animal spirits reincarnate, or come back to earth, to live many times in different forms. Moksha, a peaceful escape from reincarnation, can only be achieved by good works and the pursuit of knowledge.

The political, economic and social challenges within India, as well as the issues that flow from a population of over one billion people, have prompted many Indian nationals to immigrate across the globe. It is estimated that 30 million Indians reside abroad; and approximately 2.2 million in the U.S. In Northern Virginia, the number of Indians rose from 13,900 in 1990 to more than 36,100 in 2000. Many immigrants from India are professionals in the sciences, medicine, computer industry, and management. Indians are also visible as taxi drivers, shopkeepers, and gas station owners. Traditional dance is one very powerful force in maintaining and teaching Indian youth about their homeland. Locally, the Dakshina Dance company performs regularly, offers workshops, and holds various events.

FAQs



SIZE:
1/3 the size of the
USA

POPULATION:
1,205,073,612

CAPITAL:
New Delhi

LANGUAGES:
English, Hindi
with 22
official languages,
456 total languages

RELIGIONS:
Hinduism, Islam

UPGs:
2,280



Pray

Pray for relational evangelism to take place in the vast number of Indian run establishments in Arlington through regular contact with Christians.

Experience It

India A1 Grocery
4815-A Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22207
703-841-9626

Dakshina Dance Company
dakshina.org

Virginia Indian Community Guide
vaindia.us



FAQs



SIZE:
Larger than Alaska

POPULATION:
78,868,711

CAPITAL:
Tehran

LANGUAGE:
Farsi (Persian)

RELIGION:
Shi'a Islam

UPGs:
90



The Qajar dynasty ruled the **Islamic Republic of Iran** from 1794 to 1925. In the 1970's, the Shah, which means monarch in Persian, fled Iran and in his place, an Islamic theocracy was established. Since then, Iran has been under authoritarian rule. Cleric Ayatollah Khomeini implemented strict Islamic laws and traditions that permeate the society. Women were greatly impacted as they were required to wear veils. Western influences, music, art, political, and religious thought were discouraged. In the wake of the 1979 Revolution, many Iranians immigrated to the U.S. seeking new opportunities and freedoms.

The Iranian community in the U.S. is very diverse, with representatives of most of the major ethnic groups from Iran, including the Azeri Turks and the Kurds. Most Iranian immigrants are Persian (Farsi)-speaking Muslims. In order to perpetuate Iranian culture among American-born children, immigrants, cultural centers offer Farsi language courses, and Iranian arts, dance, and music. In nearby Montgomery County, Maryland, the Iran Cultural and Educational Center holds numerous events celebrating Iranian culture.

Experience It

Kabob Bazaar
3133 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201
703-522-8999
kabobbazaar.com

Kodoom
(A Cultural Website)
kodoom.com/en

Pray

Pray that God will send Christians who are willing to make long-term commitments to relational evangelism into apartment buildings and neighborhoods where Iranians live.



Known in ancient times as Mesopotamia, **The Republic of Iraq** is believed to be the site of the Garden of Eden and Babylon. In the aftermath of World War I, Iraq became a British territory until 1932. Following its independence, a series of rulers led Iraq and waged costly wars to suppress Kurdish rebellions. After the Persian Gulf War (1990-1991), roughly 10,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees were admitted to the U.S. In 2003, U.S. troops invaded Iraq to overthrow Saddam Husain and stayed until 2010. The two main groups admitted into the U.S. were the Kurds and the Shi'a Muslims, who had been persecuted in their own country.

Having endured many years of conflict, Iraqi refugees arrive in the U.S. hoping to build a new life and future for their family. Iraqis consider family and honor to be of paramount importance. Families hold their members responsible for their conduct, since any wrongdoing brings shame to the entire family. Loyalty to the family comes before other social relationships. Given the history of U.S./Iraq relations since the Gulf War, integration into life in America is full of difficulties.

FAQs



SIZE:
State of California

POPULATION:
31,129,225

CAPITAL:
Baghdad

LANGUAGE:
Arabic

RELIGION:
Islam

UPGs:
23

Pray

Pray for a growing disillusionment with Islam and an interest in the Biblical story of Jesus. Pray for whole families to receive salvation in Christ.

Experience It

Iraqi Embassy
3421 Massachusetts Ave.
Washington, DC 20007
202-742-1600
Iraqiembassy.us/contact-us

Zuhair's Café & Greill
720A Grant St., Herndon, VA 20170





FAQs



SIZE:
Larger than Alaska

POPULATION:
3,179,997

CAPITAL:
Ulaanbaatar

LANGUAGE:
Khalkha Mongolian

RELIGION:
Buddhist Lamaism,
Shamanism

UPGs:
20



In the thirteenth century, Genghis Khan formed his expansive empire by uniting nomadic Mongol tribes. Over time, the once mighty Mongol empire was squeezed between the growing Russian and Chinese empires. In the early 1920's, **Mongolia** became a Marxist state until its quiet democratic revolution in 1990. In 2006, Mongolia celebrated its 800th anniversary.

The predominant religions of the country have been Tibetan Buddhism and Shamanism. Shamanists believe in the unseen world of gods, demons, and spirits. They depend on the shamans, medicine men, to cure the sick by magic, communicate with gods, and control events. *Obos*, heaps of stones thought to be inhabited by local spirits, can be seen on almost every hilltop. Before the 1990 revolution, there were only a handful of Mongolian Christians. In 2010, it was estimated that there were over 40,000 believers.

Mongolian immigration to Arlington County is unique in that many of the 2,500+ Mongolian immigrants originated in urban centers in Mongolia and have settled in the urban Rosslyn neighborhood at River Place. Many Mongolians come to the U.S. as students with the immediate need to learn university level English.

Experience It

The Mongolian School
1601 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209
703-336-7121
themongolianschool.com

Friends of Mongolia
3701 S. 5th St. #304, Arlington, VA 22204
202-294-6465

bd's Mongolian Grill
7201 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814
301-657-1080

Pray

Pray for Christians to help teach ESL to Mongolians, creating great opportunities to share the gospel, as many are looking for friendships. Pray for contacts with Christians on college campuses.



Perched on the southern slopes of the Himalayan Mountains, the **Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal** has eight of the world's ten highest mountain peaks, including Mount Everest. Religion is very important in Nepal, which is a Hindu kingdom that worships the king as an incarnation of the Hindu god, Vishnu, the protector and preserver of the world. They recognize local gods, goblins, and spirits. Offerings are made to these spirits in order to appease them.

From 1846 to 1951, Nepal was ruled by the Rana family in an autocracy. The Rana's were overthrown in a democratic movement. Maoist rebels have caused havoc in Nepal since 1996. The Maoists wage a violent insurgency of killing, torture, bombing, kidnapping, extortion, and intimidation of civilians, police, and public officials. The first church was formed in 1952 with 29 Christians and since then sustained growth has seen a church planted in each one of Nepal's 75 districts.

In Arlington, many of the Nepali refugees actually immigrated from Bhutan where they had been robbed of their Hindu identity in a predominantly Buddhist country. Coming from one of the most isolated countries in the world, these refugees understandably have difficulty adjusting to life in the U.S.

FAQs



SIZE:
State of Tennessee

POPULATION:
29,890,686

CAPITAL:
Kathmandu

LANGUAGE:
Nepali

RELIGION:
Hinduism

UPGs:
317



Pray

Pray for God to soften their hearts to receive truth. Pray for revelation that God is the true Healer.

Experience It

Nepali Embassy
2131 Leroy Pl. NW, Washington, DC 20008
202-667-4550
nepalembassyusa.org

**Nepal American Society
of Greater Washington**
americanepalsociety.org



FAQs



SIZE:
2x size of California

POPULATION:
190,291,129

CAPITAL:
Islamabad

LANGUAGE:
English,
Urdu
Total Lang: 77

RELIGION:
Islam

UPGs:
448



The Islamic Republic of Pakistan's history is wrought with invasions, starting in the second millennium B.C with invasions by Persians, Greeks, Arabs, Afghans, Turks, and later by the British in the 18th century. Even after the 1947 partition of British India that created an independent Pakistan tensions between India and Pakistan remain high.

Political instability and poverty plague Pakistan. The Pakistani government has played a vital role in supporting and assisting millions of Afghan refugees. A whole generation of Afghans were born and raised in Pakistan.

Fundamentalist Islam, political violence and war, the imposition of shari'a law, and natural disasters have brought many immigrants and refugees to the U.S. from Pakistan. Pakistani immigrants tend to be urban, well-educated, and professional. A Pakistan Circle of Friends group meets in nearby Silver Spring, Maryland, to celebrate Pakistani heritage, history, festivals, culture, languages, cuisine, national days, etc.

Experience It

Ravi Kabob
305 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington 22203
703-522-6666
ravikabobusa.com

Halalco Supermarket
155 Hillwood Ave., Falls Church, VA 22046
703-532-3202

Pray

Pray for the Lord to mobilize the Church to reach out to them as they settle in the U.S. and for them to recognize the love of Christ.



Somalia is sadly pointed to as a failed state. After independence in 1960, the socialist government was heavily dependent on the Soviet Union. In 1980, a civil war broke out between the North and South that pit the socialist regime in Mogadishu against ethnic groups in the North. Various factions sought control of the country and fought bitter, clan-based wars in the early 1990s that left much of the population on the brink of starvation. Two United Nations operations failed to end civil strife and bring stability to the country. The country still lacks a central government, which has left a power vacuum that terror groups seek to fill.

Beginning in the 1990s, a wave of Somali refugees, many seeking asylum from political persecution, settled in the Minneapolis area. Somalis, who had been connected to the last Somali regime often settled in and around Washington, DC. The Northern Virginia-based Somali Family Care Network offers unpaid internships to those interested in community development and refugee/migration issues. Most Somalis came to the U.S. fleeing civil war, clan rivalries, and famine. Somalis are predominately Muslim and have many needs integrating into American society.

FAQs



SIZE:
Smaller than Texas

POPULATION:
10,085,638

CAPITAL:
Mogadishu

LANGUAGE:
Somali,
Arabic

RELIGION:
Islam

UPGs:
17



Pray

Pray for the country of Somalia to find its way to stability. Pray for refugees in our midst to find Christian friends and for healing to take place through the love of Christ.

Experience It

Somali Family Care Network
2724 Dorr Ave., Suite 100
Fairfax VA 22031
703-560-0005
somalifamily.org



FAQs



POPULATION:

N: 32,206,710

S: 10,625,176

CAPITAL:

N: Khartoum

S: Juba

LANGUAGE:

N: Arabic

S: English

Total Lang: 134

RELIGION:

N: Sunni Islam

S: Animistic, Christian



The history of turmoil in **Sudan and South Sudan** has left many scars on its people. The north is primarily Arab Muslim, whereas the south is largely black African, non Muslims. There is strong animosity between the groups and each staunchly defends its own culture and traditions. While there is more than one group in the south, a common dislike for the northern Arabs has proved to be a uniting force among these groups.

In 1956, Sudan received independence from Great Britain. The government has changed hands several times and has backed certain factions in civil wars, to include launching attacks on civilians. Since 2003 the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan brought much international attention. Even after the birth of the new nation of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, conflict between north and south continues.

Sudan and South Sudan have over 200 different languages and cultures, hence to use the word Sudanese is as broad as saying European. Sudanese tend to identify with their tribes rather than their nation. The refugees fleeing these war torn countries have endured much suffering yet find that adjustment to a new country brings with it a new type of difficulty.

Experience It

El Khartoum Restaurant

1872 Florida Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20009

202-986-5031

Pray

Pray that some Christian Sudanese would feel the call to return to Sudan as missionaries in the face ongoing uncertainties about peace. Pray for the forgiveness of Christ to rule in the hearts of believers who have faced serious difficulties.



Centuries ago the Thai people lived in North China. Relentless pressure by the Chinese gradually forced them southward. By the 10th century they had settled in what is now central Thailand. A bloodless revolution in 1932, led by Westernized intellectuals, instituted a democratic constitutional monarchy. **The Kingdom of Thailand** was the only country in Southern and Southeast Asia to avoid European colonization. However, the country has suffered numerous governmental upheavals. Today, Buddhism is the central and unifying force in Thai society and even maintains social control. Thailand is the largest exporter of rice in the world. Thailand is also a trafficking center for sex and narcotics.

Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand, was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1927. He is the only American-born monarch in history. Known as Rama IX, he is also the world's longest-serving current head of state.

Northern Virginia is home to thousands of Thai immigrants. A Thai Institute for Healing Arts is located in Arlington County. The Institute exposes students to the spiritual traditions of Thailand, to include Theravada Buddhism, meditation, and a chanting club. Reaching out to the Thai population with the gospel, the Thai Christian Church meets in Cherrydale Baptist Church's facilities every Sunday afternoon (see <http://thaichurchdc.org/>).

FAQs



SIZE:
Smaller than Texas

POPULATION:
67,091,089

CAPITAL:
Bangkok

LANGUAGE:
Thai

RELIGION:
Buddhism

UPGs:
81



Pray

Pray for Pastor Supot and the Thai believers to win many to Christ and to walk humbly with the Lord Jesus.

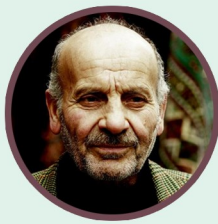
Experience It

Thai Thai
5123 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22207
703-533-1919
thaithairesturant.us

Urban Thai
561 South 23rd St., Arlington 22202
703-939-0777
urbanthairestaurant.com



FAQs



SIZE:
Larger than Texas

POPULATION:
79,749,461

CAPITAL:
Ankara

LANGUAGE:
Turkish

RELIGION:
Islam

UPGs:
38



The Republic of Turkey was founded in 1923 by the progressive former military officer Mustafa Kemal, since known as Atatürk, following the collapse of the 600 year-old Ottoman Empire and a three-year war of independence. Because of its strategic location, Turkey is considered to be a bridge between East and West. Turkey is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and has aspirations to join the European Union. Compared to the millions of Turks who have immigrated to Western Europe since the 1960s, New York and New Jersey have been the primary destination of a small number of Turks who have settled in the U.S.

Since a financial crisis in 2002, Turkey's economy has flourished. For that reason, Washington DC and environs increasingly attract Turkish students, businessmen, and diplomats. In fact, Turkish Airlines recently added direct flights between Istanbul and Washington-Dulles. The Metro area boasts the American Turkish Friendship Association and the American Turkish Association of Washington DC. The latter sponsors a Turkish school, language classes, and an annual fall Turkish Festival. In 2011, the Turkish Festival was voted the best festival in DC.

Experience It

Attila's Restaurant

2705 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204
703-920 8100 atillasrestaurant.com

American Turkish Friendship Ass'n

3949 University Dr., Fairfax VA 22030
703-267-5751 atfa.us/web1

American Turkish Assn of Wash. DC

1526 18th St. NW, Wash DC 20036
888-282-3236 atadc.org

Pray

Pray for a positive Christian witness to Turks visiting or working in the U.S., and that through relationships a door for the gospel will open. Pray that Turks who have become Christ followers will make their faith public and evangelize other Turks.



France annexed all of Vietnam in 1885, and integrated it into the colony of French Indochina. The French refusal to leave Vietnam after WWII led to an eight-year guerilla war between the Communist Viet Minh and the French and their anti-communist allies. Vietnamese Communists under Ho Chi Minh organized a coalition of anti-colonial groups. Vietnam was then divided into two states at the 17th Parallel North. Communist North Vietnam continued its aggression against the South, which led to U.S. military intervention. Over 57,000 U.S. troops lost their lives fighting for an independent South Vietnam. After Saigon fell in 1975, North and South Vietnam were unified and became the **Socialist Republic of Vietnam**. Thousands of Vietnamese then fled their homeland and many resettled in the U.S..

The Eden Center is a Vietnamese shopping mall and garden in Falls Church, Virginia. It is known as the Little Saigon because many Vietnamese goods are not available anywhere else in the Eastern U.S. In addition to the 58,000 Vietnamese immigrants in the DC area, many Vietnamese-Americans travel from other states to spend a Saturday or a weekend at the Eden Center reminiscing about home over coffee or fruity bubble tea or a game of chess.

FAQs



SIZE:
Ohio, Kentucky, and
Tennessee combined

POPULATION:
91,519,289

CAPITAL:
Hanoi

LANGUAGE:
Vietnamese

RELIGION:
Buddhism

UPGs:
67



Pray

Pray for the few Vietnamese churches to find creative and effective means of evangelism. Pray for believers to move into the Vietnamese neighborhood and build long-term relationships with Vietnamese.

Experience It

Eden Center at Seven Corners
6795 Wilson Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22044
703-204-4600 edencenter.com

Minh Restaurant
2500 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201
703-525-2828 minhdcrestaurant.com

Saigon Saigon
1101 S. Joyce St., #B16, Arlington, VA 22202
703-412-0822
saigonsaigonpentagonrow.com



3910 Lorcom Lane
Arlington, VA 22207
703.525.8210
www.cherrydale.org

Statistics and information for this booklet were gathered from many sources; the most significant ones are: Arlington Public Schools, Operation World, U.S. Census Bureau, CIA World Factbook, The Joshua Project, and everyculture.com.

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