

## TRAVEL

# After the Games, Olympic Venue City Comes to Life

NewsUSA

(NU) - Nearly 3 billion people watched the 2010 Olympic Winter Games on television. Those who tuned into the long track speed skating competition received what was probably their first view of Richmond, British Columbia, the city that hosted the competition in its Richmond Olympic Oval.

But as visitors to the games can attest, there's more to Richmond than the Richmond Olympic Oval. The Games gave visitors a chance to discover a unique city with plenty of dining, shopping and multicultural attractions – and more are following in their stead. The city is fast becoming a growing tourist destination with a variety of activities for all ages and abilities.

Richmond, which is located where the Pacific Ocean and the Fraser River meet, is home to the Vancouver International Airport (YVR), a vibrant city center and the new Canada Line rapid transit system, which connects visitors to Richmond and Vancouver in under 25 minutes.

The city offers attractions all its own. Richmond's 65 percent Asian population results in one of the most authentic Asian food scenes in North America. On Alexandra Street, which is known colloquially as "Food Street," visitors can enjoy dim sum, as well as Cantonese, Szechuan, Shanghainese, Northern Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese and Malaysian cuisine. Richmond has over 375 Asian restaurants and three modern Hong Kong-style malls, where a day of shopping can include a tea ceremony and karaoke.



**After the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, the Richmond Olympic Oval became an icon of British Columbia.**

History buffs won't want to miss picturesque Steveston Village. The historic fishing village has two national heritage sites, as well as London Heritage Farm, which recreates life in Steveston from 1880 to 1930 with furniture, clothing, quilts, farm implements and a garden. Today, Steveston houses the largest commercial fishing fleet in Canada, not to mention boutiques, views and local seafood. Animal lovers should book a whale-watching tour to see orcas, as well as seals, sea lions and porpoises.

There are opportunities for recreation as well. In the months following the Olympics, the city transformed the Richmond Olympic Oval into a sports and wellness facility, where families can take a walking tour or get involved in other activities. Visitors can also enjoy 1,500 acres of parks and open spaces, including 80 kilometers of interconnecting dike trails, cycling routes and walkways.

For more information, visit [www.allinrichmond.com](http://www.allinrichmond.com).