



GENERAL INFORMATION

- Official language – **Kazakh**; most of the country's population can speak Russian, while many of those employed in the services sector in Almaty and Astana speak good English.



- Two Time Zones:** UTC/GMT+5 (in the West) and UTC/GMT+6 hours (in the East).

- Electric power: 220 V AC, 50 A.

- CEE 7 standards 2-pin plugs and sockets.

- The best time** for visit: between April and October.

- There are several climatic zones in Kazakhstan; and the weather is highly dependent on location and time of year. The average January temperature is -18°C, in the north of the country it is very frosty (up to -50°C) and windy. Astana is considered the coldest capital in the world after Ulaanbaatar. Spring and autumn are usually warm and sunny with little rainfall. In summer there is a dry heat, the air temperature in the south of Kazakhstan can reach over +40°C.

- Tips are welcomed in Kazakhstan and in most cases are about 10%.

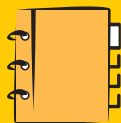


- For **photo and video** shooting on the territory of museums and historical monuments, an additional fee may be charged.



IF I HAVE A CHILD WITH ME

- To bring your child to Kazakhstan you must provide her/him with an international passport.



ABOUT US

CENTRAL ASIA TRAVEL

Tour Operator in Central Asia

Central Asia Travel Company is specializing in all possible tours in Uzbekistan and all over Central Asia:

- Sightseeing and heritage tours:** guided tour packages along Great Silk Road cities in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.
- Adventure tours:** expeditions, trekking and hiking tours in Pamir and Tian Shan Mountains, 4WD jeep tours in desert and mountains, ski&heliski, biking, horse&camel riding.
- M.I.C.E. services:** arrangement of business and corporate trips, team building activities and events.
- Thematic tours:** gastronomic tours, Christmas tours, tours arranged to coincide with local cultural celebrations and festivals etc.
- Booking of hotels, air and railway tickets; transportation services.

Central Asia Travel

UZBEKISTAN

Tel: +998 71 200 02 99

Tashkent@centralasia-travel.com

KYRGYZSTAN

Tel: +996 55 665 77 99

Osh@centralasia-travel.com

📍 @Central_Asia_Travel_Tours

☎ +998 94 358 60 06

www.centralasia-travel.com

tours@centralasia-travel.com



Central Asia
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Travel Advice



KAZAKHSTAN

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PERSONAL SAFETY

- **Kazakhstan** is a secular polyconfessional country, absolutely safe for travelling.
- The most common religions are Islam and Christianity (Orthodoxy).
- The people are tolerant of and friendly and hospitable to foreigners and representatives of different religions.
- Do not exchange currency with unauthorised persons in the streets or at markets.
- Do not take photos or videos at strategic sites. If you would like to take photos and videos in religious places, please pay attention to the appropriate permission or prohibition signs. Kazakhstan uses the right-hand traffic.



CLOTHES AND SOME LOCAL SPECIFICITIES

- **There are no special restrictions and prescriptions** either men or women – wear any comfortable and familiar clothes, including shorts, T-shirts, etc. In hot weather, it is better to give preference to breathable clothing made from natural fabrics and wear a hat.
- When visiting **religious sites**, be sure to have a scarf or scarf with you to cover your head and shoulders.
- The air in the mountain regions is usually much cooler than in the cities; and temperature fluctuations may be very significant during the day. The weather in the steppes of Kazakhstan is very dependent on the time of year. The most comfortable time is late spring and early autumn when the average daytime temperature is about +25°C. **The steppe** is a huge open space, so frequent and strong winds are common here. So you should bring windproof and waterproof clothing and shoes, as well as a hat and sunglasses.
- If you are planning to go for a **trekking/expedition** to the Tian Shan Mountains, please prepare the necessary equipment, appropriate clothing and footwear in advance.
- The main national features of the Kazakhs are hospitality, respect for elders, peacefulness and tolerance. If you are offered a bowl of tea or some bread, it would be impolite to reject them. In cities people generally follow a secular lifestyle, while rural population adheres more to Islamic traditions.



DOCUMENTS AND MONEY

For citizens of more than 54 countries, a **visa-free regime** has been established for up to 30 days. Entry to Kazakhstan with an international passport.



- If the amount of imported foreign currency does **not exceed 10 000 USD** or the equivalent in another currency, and there are no specially declared goods, then you **do not need** to fill out a **customs declaration**. If the imported amount is more than 10 000 USD, then you must fill out a customs declaration and save it until the end of the trip.
- When entering Kazakhstan, a foreign citizen must obtain an immigration card. When leaving, **the immigration card** is confiscated by border guards.
- Foreigners who do not require a visa are exempt from a **temporary registration** as well if the period of their stay in the Republic of Kazakhstan does not exceed 30 days. At the same time, the host in Kazakhstan (hotels or citizens of Kazakhstan – relatives, friends) must notify the Migration service about foreigners staying with them within 3 working days from the date of their arrival (online through the portal vmp.gov.kz or Egov.kz).
- The national currency of Kazakhstan is the Kazakhstani *tenge* (**KZT**).
- **Currency exchange** offices accept **US dollars**, Euros and other foreign currencies; we recommend that you bring with you only new banknotes, without creases or folds, having on them no written notes or any other marks. Currency can be exchanged in banks (opening hours 9:00–20:00) or at official exchange offices, which are common everywhere. It is advisable to keep all documents on the exchange until leaving the country.
- **Visa, Mastercard** and **American Express** are acceptable in most large hotels, shops and restaurants in Almaty and Astana. ATMs are generally located in hotels, banks, shopping centers, airports and railway stations. When visiting small towns, it is better to have enough cash with you.



TELEPHONE AND INTERNET

- **Kazakhstan country code is +7**.
- **SIM card** of local cellular operators (Beeline, Tele-2, Kcell, Altel), if desired, can be freely purchased at official service centers, markets, shopping centers. This does not require any official documents.
- Local mobile telephony is quite cheap. All providers have 2G, 3G, and 4G/LTE networks.
 - Connection failures may occur in the mountains and steppes.
 - **Free Wi-Fi** is available in hotels, some restaurants and cafes.



NUTRITION AND HEALTH



- Negative PCR test or COVID-19 vaccination certificate are **not required** to enter Kazakhstan. **No special vaccination** is required to visit Kazakhstan as well.
- **Health insurance** must be issued in advance, before entering the country. The medical insurance policy must cover cost of COVID-19 treatment as well.
- As a rule, there are no problems as to purchasing medicine in Kazakhstan, because pharmacies are provided with all necessary medication. If you need specific medications, please bring them with you along with a prescription from your doctor.
- You should drink only bottled water and hot tea after meals. In bars and restaurants, you should ask for drinks **without ice**.
- If you have gastrointestinal problems you should be careful about local food. It is very tasty but contains much fat.
- **Kazakh cuisine** has similarities with the traditional cuisines of other nomadic peoples. Meat dishes (horse meat, lamb, beef) are most common. Meat is most often served boiled. The most famous national dish is *bezbarmak*. Dairy products and sour-milk drinks (*airan*, *koumiss*, etc.) are also very popular. There are 3 types of local bread: *tandoor* flatbread, *boursaks* – pieces of dough fried in oil, *shelpek* – flatbread fried in oil.
- There are no strict prohibitions as to alcohol use. You can buy alcoholic beverages in shops (from 12 am to 21:00 pm), in cafes, bars and restaurants. Alcohol may not be sold to persons under the age of 21. Taking alcohol in streets and public places is not acceptable.