

Azerbaijan

Information for applicants

Azerbaijan

Formerly a Soviet republic and now a country, Azerbaijan is situated between the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus, which spans Asia and Europe. With a total area of 86,600 km², the country is roughly the same size as Austria. It has a population of some 9.5 million people and its capital city is Baku. Other major cities include Ganja, Sumgait and Mingachevir. Azerbaijani has been the official and national language since the country gained independence on 18 October 1991.

Climate and sights

The climate varies greatly across the country due to the relief. A semi-desert and steppe climate prevails in the lowlands, while the coastal regions are sub-tropical. Weather conditions are usually sunny and dry, with occasional winds. Temperatures in the winter months rarely fall below freezing, while summer temperatures in excess of 40°C are not uncommon, especially in July and August, when the likelihood of rainfall is also extremely low.

Azerbaijan's culture is just as diverse as its climate, geography and topography. The country shares nine of the earth's thirteen climate zones. It boasts snow-capped mountain peaks, flat wetlands, arid steppes, lush forests, beaches and the world's largest number of mud volcanoes. It is also home to eleven state nature conservation areas and eight national parks.

Medical care

Medical care does not meet West European standards everywhere and is often inadequate outside the capital, Baku. It is not always possible to obtain prompt and reliable treatment in the event of injury or serious illness. Not all doctors and only a few nurses speak a Central European language. You should bring sufficient supplies of any regular medication you need and any medication for common travel illnesses with you from Germany. You are advised to take out private overseas health insurance and repatriation cover for travel in the region.

The GIZ country office will provide you with an up-to-date list of recommended hospitals and doctors.

Accommodation and quality of life

There is a wide range of accommodation on offer in Baku. Detached houses tend to be located on the outskirts of the city, from where it normally takes at least 30 minutes to travel into the centre/to the GIZ office. Apartments are usually fully furnished. Rents vary greatly depending on the size, location and features of the accommodation in question, and are comparable with those in German cities. It is rare to find unfurnished apartments, with the few that are available almost always forming part of new-build projects.

There are many different websites offering a wide range of accommodation online. See for example: <http://www.expats.com/en/housing/asia/azerbaijan/>

Baku plays host to a wealth of leisure and cultural activities, though the number of English-language offerings is more modest.

Shops and services

'If it exists, they've got it' would be one way of describing the availability of goods and services in Azerbaijan. Basic foods are available around the clock from small street stores and Baku has numerous shopping centres selling a range of international products.

Living costs in Azerbaijan are low by German standards. This is especially true of local markets selling fresh fruit and vegetables.

Shops usually open from 9:00 to 21:00 and markets and bazaars from 08:00 to 18:00. Good discounts can be obtained if you are willing to negotiate. Paying by credit card (Visa) is straightforward in hotels and larger stores in the capital, but you should carry sufficient cash with you if you are travelling to rural areas, as this is the usual method of payment in these regions and exchange bureaus are few and far between. Cash is readily available from ATM machines.

Accompanying partners and children

Partners can obtain an Azerbaijani employment contract if the employer can demonstrate that the job in question cannot be performed by an Azerbaijani national.

Decisions on this matter are taken by the local authorities. There are no issues with international employment contracts, which are geared to the requirements of the employer. Self-employment is also an option, provided partners register their business in accordance with local legislation in order to obtain a work permit.

Schools and childcare: Baku offers an excellent range of international pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools all the way up to university entrance qualification level. There is no German school.

Prominent schools include QSI – Baku International School (<https://www.qsi.org/azerbaijan/azb/>), TISA - The International School of Azerbaijan (<http://www.tisa.az/>) and Baku Oxford School.

Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/aserbaidtschan-node>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/367.html>

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Street address
Postcode, town/city, country
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Eschborn 2017

Responsible/Editor, etc.
Ulrich Heise, Eschborn

URL links:
The providers of linked external websites are always responsible for their own content. GIZ explicitly disassociates itself from all such content.

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.