

Kazakhstan

Information for applicants

Kazakhstan

Its surface area of 2,724,900 km² makes Kazakhstan the ninth largest country in the world. Its territory comprises a range of different landscapes, valuable natural resources and a highly multi-ethnic population. A look at this young and varied state reveals a fascinating mix of opportunities and challenges.

Climate and sights

Kazakhstan has a continental climate. And Central Kazakhstan is extremely continental. Cold winters with temperatures of up to -40°C are directly followed by long hot summers of +40°C. Temperatures in Almaty are somewhat milder. But here too temperatures below -20°C are to be expected in winter and the summers are very warm.

Almaty's landmarks include the Zenkov Cathedral, the Medeo skating rink, a Russian-Orthodox tsarist-era church and the Central State Museum of Kazakhstan where thousands of Kazakh exhibits are on show. But Kazakhstan's charm also derives from its pristine nature, wide mountain ranges and unique attractions, such as the Baikonur Cosmodrome.

Medical care

Vaccinations are not required for entry and are not expressly recommended by WHO. Immunisation against polio, measles, hepatitis A and B, TBE and rabies might be advisable, depending on the duration and location of your stay.

If you are planning to spend time in rural Kazakhstan, it would be expedient to pack a basic first aid kit (disposable syringes, antibiotics, cold and flu remedies, disinfectant and diarrhoea medication for your personal use, as well as medicines for infants/small children). Ample supplies of any medicines you require on a regular basis should be procured in advance. Certification from your GP will help avoid any issues with customs on entering the country.

Always boil tap water and wash fruit and vegetables thoroughly. Almaty's (mostly) wintertime smog can be challenging for people with a sensitive respiratory tract.

Accommodation and quality of life

Following depreciation of the national currency, rents in Almaty and Astana are now relatively cheap. A three-bedroom apartment in a new building in a good location costs around US\$ 1,000. Ancillary costs are based on actual consumption or on the number of people living in the accommodation. Most landowners like to be paid in person (monthly or every three months). Various real estate agents and expat sites can help in finding accommodation. Your colleagues will also gladly provide assistance. In addition to new builds, offerings also include unrenovated flats and houses from the Soviet Era or property that has undergone 'ewroremont' – total refurbishment that at least makes the rooms look decades younger. Housing is generally rented furnished.

Shopping and services

The range of goods on sale in Kazakhstan is as extensive as the country itself. The shopping centres in Almaty and Astana literally sell everything – and lots of it: from (Western) luxury goods and everyday products to food items made by household names in Germany,

too. Supermarkets and smaller retailers also offer a good selection, but this can vary greatly between branches of the same chain. The same applies to restaurants. Until recently, prices in shops and restaurants were relatively high and roughly comparable with those in major European cities. However, these have dropped considerably following depreciation of the national currency. Basic foodstuffs, especially fruit and vegetables, are cheap to buy. On the outskirts of town, there are container-shop markets and – idyllic – green bazaars, where you can sample typical Kazakh food, such as kumis. Here price is generally a matter of negotiation.

Accompanying partners and children

On entering the country, you will receive a migration card that has to be handed in when you leave. You must always carry your passport and migration card (or at least a photocopy of it) with you at all times.

Local employers apply for work permits. Officially, this process takes 30 days, but it can last considerably longer.

Schools and childcare: In Almaty and Astana there are several international, English-language schools (Almaty: Miras International School, Haileybury, QSI Almaty International School, Kazakhstan International School (KIS); Astana: Miras International School, Haileybury, QSI International School of Astana, NURORDA – Turkish with an English-language branch). Kazakhstan's oil capital Atyrau also has an international school. Most of these schools also have nurseries or pre-school facilities. Furthermore, several cities in Kazakhstan have schools with

additional German lessons. All schools close in the summer for three months (June, July, August). Enrolment is usually mid-July.

Find out more

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

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/350.html>

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Registered offices in
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Street address:
Post code, town/city, country
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

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Responsible/editor etc.:
Ulrich Heise, Eschborn

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