



Useful information for international students

Climate

Climate in Almaty is continental, and it is much milder than the climate in Northern and Central Kazakhstan. Summer in Almaty is very hot. The hottest month is July. The average day temperature is +30°C, night temperature is much more comfortable (continental climate), at average 18 degrees Celsius. Winter in Almaty is quite mild. The coldest month is January. The average day temperature in January is -7°C, at night around -12 degrees Celsius.

Preparation for education in Kazakhstan

We recommend you prepare for your departure carefully and as early as possible, because it is often difficult and time consuming to complete all formalities and prepare the necessary documents.

Before You leave your native country:

Get a passport valid during your stay in Kazakhstan (it is recommended that the validity of your passport exceeds the period of your intended stay in Kazakhstan for at least 6 months);

If necessary, apply for a visa (please contact your nearest Embassy or Consulate in your country for more information);

Get a written confirmation (from the Bank) that you have sufficient financial support for the entire period of study. You can also need it for visa application.

Currency and exchange offices

The national currency of Kazakhstan is tenge. According to official data of National Bank of Kazakhstan exchange rate of \$1 is 319 tenge. Tenge is fully convertible and there are a lot of exchange offices and banks in Almaty and all other cities of Kazakhstan. The exchange rates relatively stable, but there are small fluctuations (about 1 US dollar = 319,56 tenge and 1 Euro = 356,62 tenge). To check the current exchange rate, please visit the website of National Bank of Kazakhstan. ([rates available here](#))

Banks are the safest places to exchange currencies. However, they can offer lower exchange rates than in other places. Some of them charge a fee for the service (around 2-3% per transaction). Banks are usually open from Monday to Friday (usually 9.00 to 6.00), and some of them on Saturdays. More favorable exchange rates are offered by specialized currency exchange offices. You can also take out money from your own Bank or credit accounts through ATMs, which are widely available throughout the city.

Approximate prices in Kazakhstan

- Lunch in a cafe: starting from 1,500 KZT (about \$ 5)
- Cup of coffee: 900 KZT (3 USD)
- Loaf of bread: starting from 70 tenge (about 30 cents)

- A bottle of water: 100 tenge (40 cents)
- Taxi: inside the city starting from 500 KZT (1.5 USD)
- Movie ticket: starting from 1500 tenge (about 5 US dollars)

Sights of attraction. One of the most beautiful and amazing places of the city is Kok-Tobe mount, located at an altitude of 1100 metres above sea level. You can go up to Kok-Tobe by cable car, aerial tram, on foot or in a minibus. From the top you can see amazing views of the mountains and the city. It is especially beautiful at night when the city is illuminated with colored lights.

Official website: www.koktobe.com

Charyn canyon stretches for 154 km along the canyon of the river Charyn in Kazakhstan. The canyon is located 195 km to the east from Almaty, near the border with China. Canyon is in the territory of Charyn national Park, established on 23 February 2004.

Charyn canyon is a natural monument, built of sedimentary rocks whose age is about 12 million years. The height of steep mountains of the canyon reaches 150-300 m. The most interesting place for tourists is so-called Valley of castles, the length of which is about 2 km, width — 20-80 m. Charyn canyon stretches for 154 km along the canyon of the river Charyn in Kazakhstan. The canyon is located 195 km to the east from Almaty, near the border with China. Canyon is in the territory of Charyn national Park, established on 23 February 2004.

Charyn canyon is a natural monument, built of sedimentary rocks whose age is about 12 million years. The height of steep mountains of the canyon reaches 150-300 m. The most interesting place for tourists is so-called Valley of castles, the length of which is about 2 km, width — 20-80 m.

“**Medeu**” ice skating rink is located at the altitude of 1,691.2 meters above the sea level, known all over the world. It was built in 1972. The ice surface occupies 10.5 thousand sq. m, which allows to conduct contests in skating sport, hockey and figure skating.

High-mountain skating rink is beautiful in any weather. You can admire its beauty from the high point to which You can go up the popular stairs of ascension, built on the side of Mokhnatka mountain. From the city it looks like a slope covered with dense trees, hence the name.

Official website: <http://medey.kz/ru/about.php>

Ski resort Chimbulak is known not only in Kazakhstan, thousands of tourists come to the slopes of Zailiy Alatau from the whole of the CIS. In early forties of the last century, skiers- enthusiasts discovered Chimbulak tract, which has everything you need for perfect skiing —unique snow covers with unbeatable traction and slip, long slopes and variety of terrain.

The climate of Chimbulak resort, located at an altitude of 2260 meters above sea level, is also almost perfect — there is 90 % of sunny days a year and the sun is warm even in bitter cold, snow lies from November to May and the average winter



temperature is -7°C .
The length of the longest track is 3620 meters. The elevation of a slope is more than 900 meters (from 3163 to 2260 meters). Width of tracks is from 100 to 600 meters. In addition to shallow slopes for beginners and more challenging slopes for advanced skiers, the resort offers off-track skiing, half-pipe for snowboarders, a special track for mogul. Downhill and giant slalom are certified according to the standards of FIS and are the world's top ten complex tracks.

Official website: <http://www.shymbulak.com/>

Big Almaty lake is located in the mountains of Zailiy Alatau at the altitude of 2,500 meters above sea level. It appeared in the course of activities of an ancient glacier. In the 60s of the last century a hydroelectric power station was built on Big Almaty lake, intake facilities were installed, and currently thus Almaty is provided with water.

The local name of the lake is Zhasykol, which means Blue lake. It is small in size, about 500 m to 1000 m, depending on season and water level. Big Almaty lake is surrounded on all sides by mountain peaks and glaciers. This is a pretty popular place with the locals.