

Internet Resources for AZERBAIJAN

General Information

Travel Information: <http://azerbaijan.tourism.az>

Azerbaijan Portal: www.azerbaijan.az

Azerbaijan News Service: <http://www.anspress.com>

"Today" On-line Newspaper: www.today.az

Azerbaijani Research Server: www.az/eng

Azeri Translation Dictionary On-Line: <http://www.lingvozone.com/LingvoSoft-Online-English-Azeri-Dictionary>

Maps of Azerbaijan: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/azerbaijan.html>

Youth in Action Programme related links

EAC Executive Agency: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.php

SALTO Resource Centres Network: www.salto-youth.net

European Youth Portal: www.europa.eu/youth

Eurodesk: www.eurodesk.eu

EVS Volunteers Blogs: www.myevs.net

SALTO EECA Support Service (www.salto-eeca.eu)

- Contact List of Organizations,
- Forum (Partner Finding, Exchange of Experience, Reports and Photos from Events, Documents and Articles download and more),
- Blogs and Chat Room for EVS Volunteers.

...moreover

Regional Multipliers Network: www.salto-youth.net/eecamultipliers

Manual on EECA Countries: www.salto-youth.net/eecamanual



Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan, is a country in the Caucasus region. Located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Southwest Asia, it is bounded by the Caspian Sea to the east, Russia to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west, and Iran to the south. The Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic (an exclave of Azerbaijan) borders Armenia to the north and east, Iran to the south and west, and Turkey to the northwest.



Azerbaijan re-established its independence upon the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Despite a cease-fire in place since 1994, Azerbaijan has yet to resolve its conflict with Armenia over the predominantly ethnic Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh region. Azerbaijan has lost control of 20% of its territory including Karabakh, and must support some 800,000 refugees and internally displaced persons as a result of the conflict.

Most Azerbaijanis are very nominal Twelver Shia Muslim. They represent about 80% of the Muslim population. Other religions or beliefs that are followed by many in the country are the orthodox Sunni Islam, the Armenian Apostolic Church (in Nagorno-Karabakh), the Russian Orthodox Church, and various other Christian and Muslim sects. The Tats in Quba, as well as several thousand Ashkenazim Jews in Baku follow Judaism.



Flag



Coat of Arms

The official language of Azerbaijan is Azerbaijani, a member of the Oğuz subdivision of the Turkic language family, and is spoken by around 95% of the republic's population, as well as about a quarter of the population of Iran. Its closest relatives in language are Turkish and Turkmen. As a result of the language policy of the Soviet Union, Russian is also commonly spoken as a second language among the urbane.

(source: *Wikipedia*)

Visas and registration

Citizens of EECA countries don't need visas. All EU citizens need to obtain visa to enter Azerbaijan. Travel visa (up to 30 days of stay) for 40 USD can be issued in Azerbaijani consulates and at the Baku airport. Additional photos and official invitation from Azerbaijani citizen or tourist voucher from hotel or travel agency are necessary. It is not possible to get visa at the land and sea border-crossings. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months.



Year-long visas require official invitation, which confirms institutional support and purpose of stay in Azerbaijan, it costs: 250 USD. Foreigners staying longer than 30 days should be registered in the local Ministry of Internal Affairs office (OWIR). If staying in hotel, the registration should be organized automatically. Visas can be prolonged in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Baku.

Bringing to Azerbaijan more than 500 USD requires official declaration. From sums higher than 2000 USD there is a tax of 1% being charged.

www.mfa.gov.az, 2007

Basic information

Full country name:
Republic of Azerbaijan

Government type: Republic

Capital: Baku (Bakı)

Independence: 18 October
1991 (from Soviet Union)

National holiday: Founding
of the Democratic Republic
of Azerbaijan, 28 May (1918)

Area: 86,600 sq km

Administrative divisions: 59 rayons (rayonlar; rayon - singular), 11 cities (saharlar; sahar - singular), 1 autonomous republic (muxtar respublika)

Population: 8,238,672 (July 2009 est.)

Ethnic groups: Azeri 90.6%, Dagestani 2.2%, Russian 1.8%, Armenian 1.5%, other 3.9% (1999 census)

Language: Azerbaijani (Azeri) 90.3% - official, Lezgi 2.2%, Russian 1.8%, Armenian 1.5%, other 3.3%, unspecified 1% (1999 census)

Religion: Muslim 93.4%, Russian Orthodox 2.5%, Armenian Orthodox 2.3%, other 1.8% (1995 est.)

(source: *The World Factbook*)

