

Embassy of Kazakhstan and accredited countries

Central Asia

The Central Asia region (CA) comprises the countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It is a diverse region with a mix of upper middle and lower income countries with major strategic importance due to their geographic location and natural resource endowments. South African Embassy is based in Kazakhstan, accredited to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Kazakhstan



Map of Kazakhstan



Kazakhstan, a Central Asia region (CA) and former Soviet republic, extends from the Caspian Sea in the west to the Altai Mountains at its eastern border with China and Russia. Its largest metropolis, Almaty, is a long standing trading hub whose landmarks include Ascension Cathedral, a tsarist-era Russian Orthodox church, and the Central State Museum of Kazakhstan displaying thousands of Kazakh artifacts.

Its geographical location in Central Asia is in North West of China; a small portion west of the Ural Zhayyq River in eastern most Europe. It is a landlocked country with the continental climate, cold winters and hot summers, arid and semi-arid. Its border China – 1 533 km; Kyrgyzstan – 1 224 km; Rusia – 6 846 km; Turkmenistan – 379 km; Uzbekistan - 2 203 km. (Total – 12 185km).

Kazakhstan has an export-oriented economy, highly dependent on shipments of oil and related products (73% of total exports). In addition to oil, its main export commodities include ferrous metals, copper, aluminum, zinc and uranium.

Its main imports are: electronics, machinery and mechanical appliances (25 percent of total imports); mineral products (15 percent); transport equipment (12 percent); base metals and related products (10 percent); chemicals and related products (8 percent) and foodstuffs and beverages (6 percent).

Turkmenistan



Map of Turkmenistan



The country is bordered by Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the south and southwest, Uzbekistan to the east and northeast, Kazakhstan to the northwest and the Caspian Sea to the west. Turkmenistan was part of the Persian Empire in ancient times. Arabs invaded the region in the eighth century, bringing Islam. Turkic tribes conquered Turkmenistan in the tenth century, followed by the Mongols and the Uzbeks.

Turkmenistan is located in the southwest of the Central Asia region. It is bordered by Kazakhstan to the northwest, Uzbekistan to the north and east, Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the south, and the Caspian Sea to the west. Though Turkmenistan is the second largest country in Central Asia in terms of land area, most of the land consists of oases scattered amid otherwise uninhabitable.

It is the world's fourth largest exporter of natural gas. Turkmenistan's other exports include oil, cotton, polymers, cotton, textiles and vegetable products.

Turkmenistan mainly imports iron and steel pipes, heavy construction equipment, wheat, grading machinery and vehicles.

Tajikistan



Map of Tajikistan



Tajikistan is nestled between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to the north and west, China to the east, and Afghanistan to the south. Mountains cover 93 percent of Tajikistan's surface area. The two principal ranges, the Pamir and the Alay, give rise to many glacier-fed streams and rivers, which have been used to irrigate farmlands since ancient times. Central Asia's other major mountain range, the Tian Shan, skirts northern Tajikistan. Mountainous terrain separates Tajikistan's two populous centres, which are in the lowlands of the southern and northern sections of the country.

Tajikistan has an area of 142,600 km² (55,100 sq mi), Tajikistan has a maximum east-to-west extent of 700 km (430 ml), and its maximum north-to-south extent is 350 km (220 mi).

Tajikistan mainly imports alumina for aluminium production, energy (electricity, natural gas, petroleum and petroleum products), consumer and capital goods, grain and flour. It relies on cotton farming; only 5-6 percent of country's land is arable, or suitable for growing crops

In Tajikistan, aluminium and cotton account for over 75 percent of exports. Electricity is the third most important export, a by-product of the country's hydroelectric dams.

Kyrgyzstan



Map of Kyrgyzstan



Over 90% of Kyrgyzstan is dominated by massive, rugged mountain ranges, including the Alai, Kirghiz and Tien Shan, and their associated valleys and basins. Large areas of those

mountain regions are covered by glaciers. A few flat areas (lower valleys) are found in the north and far southwest, but almost 35% of the land is higher than 9,842 ft. (3,000 m) above sea level. Kyrgyzstan's highest point is Jengish Chokusu which peaks at 24,406 ft. (7,439 m). Dozens and dozens of rivers flow from the upper reaches of the mountains; the most significant ones include the Al-Say, Chu, Kara Daryya and Naryn. Issyk-Kul is the world's second largest alpine lake.

It is home to stunning mountain scenery, including toothy-edged, snow-covered peaks, and lush river valleys, some adventure travellers feel that Kyrgyzstan is one of the most beautiful spots on the planet. The majority of the modern citizens in Kyrgyzstan are descendants of nomadic Turkic peoples that roamed Central Asia for centuries, and, to this day, most prefer to live in the rural areas.

Kyrgyzstan's major exports include gold, cotton, wool, garments, meat, mercury, uranium, electricity, machinery, and shoes.

Its main imports are: fuel and other mineral products (22 percent of total imports); transport equipment (13 percent); machinery (12 percent); chemicals and related products (9 percent); food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, vinegar and tobacco (8 percent); nonprecious metals (7.7 percent) and textiles (7 percent).