

# Information about Karaganda, Karkaralinsk, Astana

*(Summer School 2018 “Amazing Kazakhstan”)*

## KARAGANDA CITY

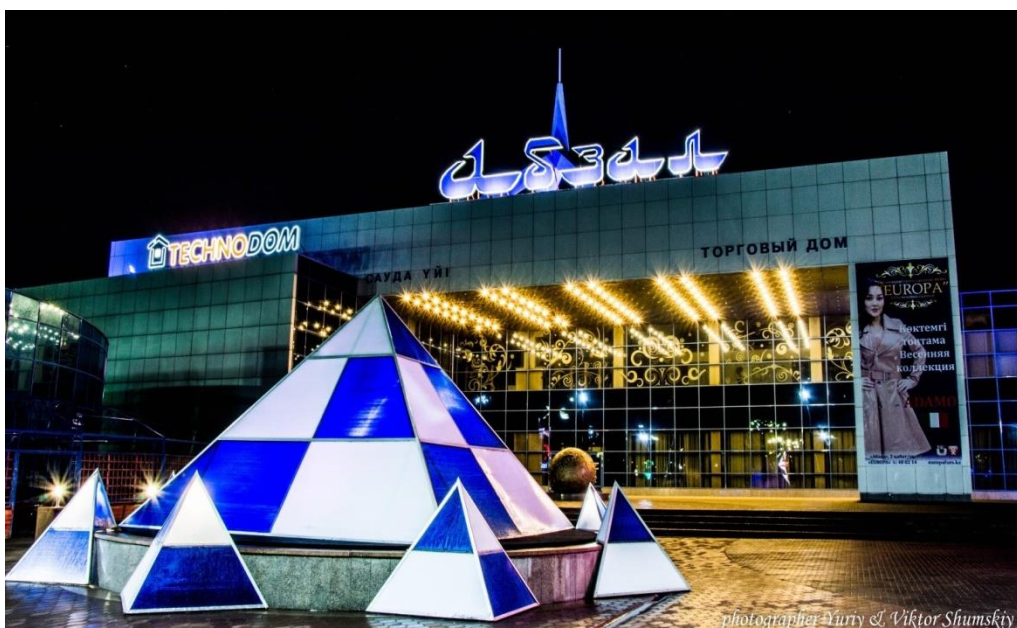
The city of *Karaganda* is an industrial center of Kazakhstan, an important railway and air routes, the city of high science and culture, a lively point of many tourist routes. The city was founded on February 10, 1934. In economic, scientific and cultural potential of Karaganda takes one of the leading places in Kazakhstan, which has over 500 thousand people and representatives of more than 113 nationalities.



The territory of the city is 497.8 square kilometers. In Karaganda coal mining, machine building, metalworking and food industries are enterprised. In the city there are a large number of enterprises of transport and communications. It is believed that the city got its name from the common in these places bush Karagan (yellow acacia). Even in the XIX century on a place of the city was nothing. Legend says that in 1833 a shepherd boy Appak Baizhanov found coal. At the end of XIX century the production of coal, begun from Russian merchants, then the French and British entrepreneurs.



Cultural life of the city is an interesting and diverse. In the town of connoisseurs of art are waiting for the concert hall “Shalkyma”, where recitals of classical music are the composers, conductors and musicians. Also, residents and visitors welcome to Kazakh Drama Theatre named after S. Seyfullin, Russian Drama Theatre named after K. Stanislavski and Academic Theater of Musical Comedy, Karaganda Regional History Museum has in its fund of 134 810 exhibits. The Karaganda Regional Museum of Arts, Karaganda Ecological Museum, which are specialized in the preservation and development of ecological culture. Within the city there are about 50 monuments of history and culture: Culture Palace of the miners, Sports Palace named after N. Abdirov, hotel “Chaika”, the circus, monuments for Bukhar Zhyrau, G. Mustafin, A. Baizhanov “Miner's Glory”, military glory monument “Eternal Flame”, architectural memorial ensemble in honor of the war-Karaganda, who died in Afghanistan, and others.





## KARKARALINK

**Karkaraly** is the oldest town in Karaganda Oblast (Karaganda Region). Karkaraly is also known as **Karkaralinsk**.



Karkaraly is the administrative center for Karkaraly District. By demography and economy, Karkaraly district is one of the largest in Karaganda Region. The district has an area of 35 million hectares and a population of 42,500 people. 75% of that population lives outside the city limits of Karkaraly. 16 ethnic groups are represented within the Karkaraly district. Of these, the largest ethnic group is Kazakh (96.2%), followed by Russian (2.23%), and Ukrainian (0.49%).

A fortress was built here in 1824. Three years later the Cossacks took it over. In 1869 Karkaraly was given the status of a city. In the 19th century, the city was an important trade center. The famous Koyandy fair helped in the development of trade, economic relationships, and culture. During this time, Karkaraly was the regional capital of Semipalatinsk Region. Gradually, Karkaraly became a large public and political center where politicians, people in literature and art, educators, scientists and travelers came.





## ASTANA CAPITAL CITY OF KAZAKHSTAN

**Astana** is the capital city of Kazakhstan. It is located on the banks of the Ishim River in the north portion of Kazakhstan, within the Akmola Region, though administered separately from the region as a city with special status.



After Astana became the capital of Kazakhstan, the city cardinally changed its shape. The master plan of Astana was designed by Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa. As the seat of the Government of Kazakhstan, Astana is the site of the Parliament House, the Supreme Court, the Ak Orda Presidential Palace and numerous government departments and agencies. It is home to many futuristic buildings, hotels and skyscrapers.

Astana also has extensive healthcare, sports and education systems.

Astana is the northernmost capital city in Asia. At present, the territory of Astana makes up more than 722 square kilometres, its population size amounts to nearly 853,000 people. The city consists of three districts - Almaty, Saryarka and Yessil. Astana is located in the centre of Kazakhstan in the dry steppe zone and in the grass steppe subzone. The area of the city stands above the flood plain. The Yessil River is a major waterway of the capital. The city has an extreme continental climate with cold winter and hot dry summer.



The architectural concept of Astana was based on the idea of Nursultan Nazarbayev implying a special Eurasian style of Astana should harmoniously combine the cultural traditions of both the East and the West. A well-known Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa became the author of the general layout of the capital city.

The major symbol and a brand of Astana is the Baiterek monument. Among other unique buildings of the capital are the Palace of Peace and Accord designed by a renowned British architect Norman Foster, the Khan Shatyr shopping mall built in the shape of a tent and Duman, the farthest oceanarium from the sea in the world.

There are also Astana Opera theatre, the largest Central Asian mosque Hazret Sultan, Cathedral of the Assumption, Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Archdiocese of the Blessed Virgin Mary, synagogue Bate Rachel - Habad Lubavitch, as well as the Kazakhstan Central Concert Hall, the Kazakh Yeli monument, the Museum of Modern Art and the Presidential Cultural Center.

The construction of the highest in Kazakhstan and Central Asia 88-storey skyscraper Abu Dhabi Plaza is scheduled for 2016. The new sports facilities of Astana include the 30,000-seat closed stadium Astana-Arena and a unique 10,000-seat SaryArka National Cycling Centre acknowledged as the best cycling facility in the world in 2011. Another major sports facility is the Alau ice palace, which corresponds to the highest international standards. The capital of Kazakhstan became the center of attention for students from across the country. In Astana, the country's leading universities are located, involving Nazarbayev University, Gumilev Eurasian National University, Kazakh National University of Arts, Seifullin Kazakh Agro Technical University, as well as Kazakh branch of the Lomonosov Moscow State University and Astana Medical University.

On 1 July 2010, at the 153rd General Assembly of Bureau International des Expositions held in Paris, representatives from Astana presented the city's bid to host the Specialised Expo 2017. Kazakhs concept for this exhibition relates to the impact of energy and social on the modern world. The theme of the Astana Expo was "Future Energy". Expo 2017 opened to much fanfare on June 10, with Heads of State from 17 different nations in attendance. The two-millionth visitor was registered on August 7. It is the first world's fair to be held in Central Asia and its central pavilion, *Nur Alem*, is the largest spherical building in the world.

More than 4 million people visited EXPO-2017 in Astana, two times more than was expected. Recently it was announced that Expo pavilion will be opened again on 11 November. Entry will be free for all the visitors. The only places that will require additional fees for entry are "Nur Alem" and centre of art.

