

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Information for the participants of the International Conference T-H-E NARXOZ 2019

### **Where and when the conference will take place?**

T-H-E NARXOZ 2019 International Academic–Practical Conference will take place on April 19-20, 2019 within the campus of Narxoz University located on Zhandosova Street 55 in Almaty. Almaty (formerly known as Alma-Ata) is the largest city in Kazakhstan with population of 1,8 mln people. In 1997, the government relocated the capital to Astana in the north of the country. During the week April 15-20 the series of events will take place what can be combine with the participation in the conference, including Creative Spark – workshops and trainings on art, design and entrepreneurship as well as Kazakhstan International Tourist Fair (KITF).

### **Is it safe to travel to Kazakhstan?**

Kazakhstan is a country where the population has a long history of balanced and multi-ethnic relationships, where locals as well as guests and visitors are always treated with respect and kindness. Tourists will feel welcome and experience hospitality in this country. When it comes to women traveling alone, they shouldn't encounter any incidents if following common sense and basic precaution measures. Of course, as everywhere in the World, your safety as a tourist depends on the location.

### **Which are the most important cities to visit in Kazakhstan?**

The Republic of Kazakhstan, the ninth largest country in the world, bordering with Russia, China and the Central Asian countries of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. Kazakhstan became an independent entity in 1991 as a result of the collapse of the USSR. With a vast territory, covering the size of Western Europe (2.7 million km<sup>2</sup>) and huge oil and gas resources, it is the natural leader of the Central Asia region in terms of its economic position. As a tourist destination, Kazakhstan is seen as a country of endless steppes and it is connected with traditions of the Silk Road joining the East, the Middle East and the West.

The most visited cities are Almaty and Astana.

Almaty - largest city, and capital prior to December 1998. Definitely a must-see. Make sure to attend a city sightseeing tour offered by the Conference organizers. See the night panorama of the city from the top of Kok Tobe hill, where you can go by the funicular railway right from the city center. You may want to go to the Medeu (famous winter sports stadium) and Shymbulak ski resort in the nearby mountains.

Astana (Aqmola) - second largest city, and capital since December 1998. You only need a few days to get to the most recommended sightseeing. The city is brand new and being built very rapidly. Astana was a location of the EXPO 2017.

Shymkent - Kazakhstan's third largest city, very crowded with Uzbek people, it is an old market town located near Tashkent and some beautiful mountains; now booming with oil exploration.

Turkestan - another ancient city, long a border town between the Persian culture to the south and the Turkic nomadic culture to the north, now majority Uzbek and home to several important cultural-historical monuments.

Other cities: Karaganda - industrial city between Astana and Almaty; worth visiting if you like mining history; Atyrau - oil capital of Kazakhstan; Aktobe - an industrial city; Pavlodar - Kazakh city in very north of the country, Ust-Kamenogorsk - mining city in the Altai mountains.

### **How to get to Almaty?**

For the tourist development of Kazakhstan with its vast area, communication accessibility, especially by air, is a key issue. The largest airports in Kazakhstan are the airports of Almaty and Astana, which have recently been reconstructed and modernized. Almaty airport is the largest airport in the country, accounts for half of passenger traffic (5,6 million persons per year). The Almaty Airport has one terminal.

The distance from Almaty Airport to the centre of Almaty is 15 kilometres. By car, it takes 30 minutes to get to the centre of Almaty. A taxi is the quickest and most comfortable way to get to and from Almaty Airport. The price for a taxi ride from the airport to the centre of Almaty is about 10 USD (KZT 3500-4000).

Travelling by plane is the fastest, comfortable and easiest way to travel between Almaty and Astana. There are many daily connection, time of flight: 90 minutes. The distance between the two cities is about 1300 km. If you want to get at the normal speed and not spend too much money, train can be a choice, however even by the high speed train "Talgo" it will take 14 hours

### **How to know directions in Almaty?**

Navigating in a location is always essential to feeling safe and happy. Since Almaty is located in a mountain valley with hill terrain all over, there are such concepts as 'upwards', 'downwards' and 'sideways'. The slope goes so that the highest level is the south-east of the town. Thus there are streets that go 'upwards and downwards' (Nazarbayeva, Seyfullina, Gagarina, etc.) and the ones that go 'sideways' (Satpayeva, Abaya, etc.). Usually the slope is obvious if you know that, so it is difficult to get lost.

### **What the Almaty residents suggest for visitors?**

Almaty is very interesting city with lots of tourists attractions. Such places as Kok Tobe or Medeo can be find in any tourist itinerary. Instead you can familiarize with some other options:

- Panfilov street and Arbat: new renovated walking streets with nice infrastructure, lots of art pieces, street musicians, fountain and special romantic atmosphere of Almaty
- Kasteyev art gallery: here you can find exhibits of modern and classical art from different countries. Moreover, art gallery has lots of Kazakh traditional culture exhibits. Often some interesting events are held over there too, it can be checked on websites;
- Terenkour river: Terenkour river is located in the city near Newton street. The scenery over there is pretty picturesque in the spring and summer time;
- BHB bar: BHB bar is a place to visit for young generation. It is a great representation of underground Almaty nightlife with its own subcultures, music and fun.

### **Useful links**

- Visit Almaty tourist information center: <https://visitalmaty.kz/>
- Conference website: <https://the-narxoz-2019.syskonf.pl/>