

# KYRGYZSTAN



## Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++996

**State Committee for Tourism and Sport:** ul. Togolok Moldo 17 720033  
Bishkek Kyrgyzstan Tel: (312)220657 Fax: (312)212845

**Capital:** Bishkek **Time GMT + 6**

**Background:** A Central Asian country of incredible natural beauty and proud nomadic traditions, Kyrgyzstan was annexed by Russia in 1864; it achieved independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Current concerns include: privatization of state-owned enterprises, expansion of democracy and political freedoms, inter-ethnic relations, and terrorism.

**Location:** Central Asia, west of China

**Map References:** Commonwealth of Independent States

**Area:** total: 198,500 sq km land: 191,300 sq km water: 7,200 sq km

**Climate:** dry continental to polar in high Tien Shan; subtropical in southwest (Fergana Valley); temperate in northern foothill zone

**Terrain:** peaks of Tien Shan and associated valleys and basins encompass entire nation

**Natural Resources:** abundant hydropower; significant deposits of gold and rare earth metals; locally exploitable coal, oil, and natural gas; other deposits of nepheline, mercury, bismuth, lead, and zinc

**Population:** 4,685,230 (July 2000 est.)

**Nationality:** noun: Kyrgyzstani(s) adjective: Kyrgyzstani

**Ethnic Groups:** Kirghiz 52.4%, Russian 18%, Uzbek 12.9%, Ukrainian 2.5%, German 2.4%, other 11.8%

**Religions:** Muslim 75%, Russian Orthodox 20%, other 5%

**Languages:** Kirghiz (Kyrgyz) - official language, Russian - official language

**Economy:** Kyrgyzstan is a small, poor, mountainous country with a predominantly agricultural economy. Cotton, wool, and meat are the main agricultural products and exports. Industrial exports include gold, mercury, uranium, and electricity. Kyrgyzstan has been one of the most progressive countries of the former Soviet Union in carrying out market reforms. Following a successful stabilization program, which lowered inflation from 88% in 1994 to 15% for 1997, attention is turning toward stimulating growth. Much of the government's stock in enterprises has been sold. Drops in production had been severe since the breakup of the Soviet Union in December 1991, but by mid-1995 production began to recover and exports began to increase. Pensioners, unemployed workers, and government workers with salary arrears continue to suffer. Foreign assistance played a substantial role in the country's economic turnaround in 1996-97. The government has adopted a series of measures to combat such severe problems as excessive external debt, inflation, inadequate revenue collection, and the spillover from Russia's economic disorders. Kyrgyzstan

had moderate growth in 1999 of 3.4% with a similar rate expected for 2000.

**Industries:** small machinery, textiles, food processing, cement, shoes, sawn logs, refrigerators, furniture, electric motors, gold, rare earth metals

**Currency:** 1 Kyrgyzstani som (KGS) = 100 tyiyn

**Railways:** total: 370 km in common carrier service; does not include industrial lines broad gauge: 370 km 1.520-m gauge (1990)

**Highways:** total: 18,500 km paved: 16,854 km (including 140 km of expressways) unpaved: 1,646 km (1996 est.)

**Waterways:** 600 km (1990)

**Ports and Harbors:** Balykchy (Ysyk-Köl or Rybach'ye)

**Airports:** 54 (1994 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 14 over 3,047 m: 1 2,438 to 3,047 m: 3 1,524 to 2,437 m: 9 under 914 m: 1 (1994 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 40 1,524 to 2,437 m: 4 914 to 1,523 m: 4 under 914 m: 32 (1994 est.)

**Visa:** required by all

**Duty Free:** goods permitted: 1000 cigarettes or 1000g of tobacco products, 1.5 litres of alcoholic beverages and 2 litres of wine, a reasonable quantity of perfume for personal use.

**Health:** no specific precautions.

## HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

### BISHKEK

**ALPINIST HOTEL,** Kyrgystan, Bishkek 113 Panfilov Str, tel/fax 996 (312) 44-15-22, e-mail – [alpinist@elcat.kg](mailto:alpinist@elcat.kg), <http://www.alpinisthotel.centralasia.kg>

**ASIA MOUNTAINS, BISHKEK,** 1A., Lineinaja Str., Bishkek 720021 Kyrgyzstan, Phone: 996 312 69 02 35

**DOSTUK HOTEL, BISHKEK** , 429-B Frunze Ulitsa, Bishkek 720021 Kyrgyzstan, Phone: +996 284251

**HOTEL AK KEME, BISHKEK,** 93 Mira Avenue, Bishkek Kyrgyzstan, Phone: 7 (495) 3632549, E-mail: [info@akkemehotel.com](mailto:info@akkemehotel.com) , [www.akkemehotel.com](http://www.akkemehotel.com)

**HYATT REGENCY BISHKEK,** Sovetskaya 191, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 720011, Tel: +996 312 66 1234 Fax: +996 312 66 5744, Email: [bishkek@hyattintl.com](mailto:bishkek@hyattintl.com), [www.bishkek.reGENCY.hyatt.com](http://www.bishkek.reGENCY.hyatt.com)

**MBA BUSINESS CENTER HOTEL,** Bishkek, 237 Panfilova Ulitsa, Bishkek 720040 Kyrgyzstan, Phone: 312-623120

**THE SILK ROAD LODGE** , Abdumomunova Street, no. 229, Bishkek 720033, Kyrgyzstan, Telephone (996 312) 66 11 29, Facsimile (996 312) 66 16 55, [www.silkroad.com.kg](http://www.silkroad.com.kg)

## AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

**BISHKEK - MANAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** , Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, 720062, Tel: +996 (0)312 693011, Fax: +996 (0)312 693583, Email: [info@airport.kg](mailto:info@airport.kg) , Website: [www.airport.kg](http://www.airport.kg)

**KYRGYZSTAN ABA ZHOLDORU,** Region: Asia, Address: Manas Airport Bishkek 720062, Tel: 00996 3312 44 51 32, Fax: 00996 3312 257 162, Web site: [www.kyrgyzstanairlines.kg/](http://www.kyrgyzstanairlines.kg/), Main Base: Manas Airport

