

TAJIKISTAN

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++992**

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Capital: Dushanbe **Time:** GMT + 5

Background: Tajikistan has experienced three changes in government and a civil war since it gained independence in 1991 when the USSR collapsed. A peace agreement among rival factions was signed in 1997, but implementation has progressed slowly. Nevertheless, a number of opposition political parties have been legalized and are participating in elections, suggesting that the country may be stabilizing politically. Russian-led peacekeeping troops are based throughout the country, and Russian-commanded border guards are stationed along the border with Afghanistan.

Location: Central Asia, west of China

Map References: Commonwealth of Independent States

Area: total: 143,100 sq km, land: 142,700 sq km, water: 400 sq km

Climate: midlatitude continental, hot summers, mild winters; semiarid to polar in Pamir Mountains

Terrain: Pamir and Alay mountains dominate landscape; western Fergana Valley in north, Kofarnihon and Vakhsh Valleys in southwest

Natural Resources: hydropower, some petroleum, uranium, mercury, brown coal, lead, zinc, antimony, tungsten

Population: 6,440,732 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Tajikistani(s), adjective: Tajikistani

Ethnic Groups: Tajik 64.9%, Uzbek 25%, Russian 3.5% (declining because of emigration), other 6.6%

Religions: Sunni Muslim 80%, Shi'a Muslim 5%

Languages: Tajik (official), Russian widely used in government and business

Economy: Tajikistan has the lowest per capita GDP among the 15 former Soviet republics. Cotton is the most important crop. Mineral resources, varied but limited in amount, include silver, gold, uranium, and tungsten. Industry consists only of a large aluminum plant, hydropower facilities, and small obsolete factories mostly in light industry and food processing. The Tajikistani economy has been gravely weakened by six years of civil conflict and by the loss of subsidies from Moscow and of markets for its products. Tajikistan thus depends on aid from Russia and Uzbekistan and on international humanitarian assistance for much of its basic subsistence needs. Even if the peace agreement of June 1997 is honored, the country faces major problems in integrating refugees and former combatants into the economy. The future of Tajikistan's economy and the potential for attracting foreign investment depend upon stability and continued progress in the peace process.

Industries: aluminum, zinc, lead, chemicals and fertilizers, cement, vegetable oil, metal-cutting machine tools, refrigerators and freezers

Currency: Tajikistani ruble (TJR) = 100 tanga

Railways: total: 480 km in common carrier service; does not include industrial lines (1990)

Highways: total: 13,700 km, paved: 11,330 km (these roads are said to be hard-surfaced, meaning that some are paved and some are all-weather gravel surfaced), unpaved: 2,370 km (1996 est.)

Ports and Harbors: none

Airports: 59 (1994 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 14, over 3,047 m: 1, 2,438 to 3,047 m: 5, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 7, 914 to 1,523 m: 1 (1994 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 45, 914 to 1,523 m: 9, under 914 m: 36 (1994 est.)

Visa: required by all.

Duty Free: 200 cigarettes or 500g cigars of tobacco products; 2 litres of alcoholic beverage; a reasonable quantity of perfume for personal use; other goods to the value of US\$500 for personal use only.

Health: cases of malaria have been reported in some central, western and northern areas. All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

DUSHANBE

ASIA GRAND HOTEL, A Block, 21, M. Tursunzade Str. Dushanbe, Tajikistan, telephone: +992 44 600 77 77, www.asiagrandhotel.tj

AVESTO HOTEL, 105a, Rudaki Ave., Dushanbe, Tajikistan, telephone: +992 37 221 12 80

BEST EASTERN TAJIKISTAN HOTEL, Shotemur str, 22, Dushanbe, Tajikistan 734001, Phone: 992 372-213352, <http://www.hotel.tajikiston.com>

HOTEL MERCURY, str. Lev Tolstoy 9. 734003, Tajikistan, Dushanbe, Tel: (+992 37) 224-44-91, fax: (+992 37) 224-41-37, mobile: (+992 918) 888889, (+992 918) 822222, E-mail: info@hotel-mercury.tj, <http://www.hotel-mercury.tj>

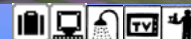
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VAKHSH HOTEL, 24, Rudaki Ave., Dushanbe, Tajikistan, telephone: +992 37 227 81 88, 221 40 31, fax: +992 37 227 53 93

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

DUSHANBE AIRPORT, Tajikistan, Titov 32/1, 734012 Dushanbe, Tel: +992 47 4411129, +992 372 211025, Fax: +992 372 211025, +992 372 218685, Email: info@tajikairlines.com

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