



# Uzbekistan



<b>Area</b>	173,351 Sq. Mi. (about 6% larger than California)
<b>Capital</b>	Tashkent
<b>Population</b>	35 mln (about 80% as much as the state of California)
<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	84% Uzbek, 5% Tajik, 3% Kazakh, 2% Russian, 2% Karakalpak, 4% Other
<b>Religions</b>	88% Muslim (mostly Sunni), 9% Eastern Orthodox
<b>Human Dev Index</b>	0.727 (High); (USA at .921 ranks 21 <sup>st</sup> in the world)
<b>Currency</b>	Uzbekistan Som (UZS)
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	\$335,222 billion (world's 59 <sup>th</sup> largest by PPP)
<b>GDP (PPP) per cap</b>	\$9,500 (121 <sup>st</sup> in the world– US at \$63,669 ranks 10 <sup>th</sup> in the world)
<b>Economy</b>	Agriculture 17.9%, industry 33.7%, services 48.5%
<b>Agriculture</b>	Cotton, milk, wheat, potatoes, carrots/turnips, vegetables
<b>Industries</b>	Textiles, food processing, machinery, metallurgy, mining, chemicals
<b>Major Trade Partner</b>	Switzerland, United Kingdom, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Turkey
<b>Organizations:</b>	Member of UN, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and making progress in its WTO accession

Uzbekistan is the geographic and population center of Central Asia. The country has a diverse economy and a relatively young population (people under 30 years constitute 60% of the population). Independent since the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, the country has diversified agricultural production while developing its mineral and petroleum export capacity and increasing its manufacturing base.

Uzbekistan has a long history dating back to 3000 BC. Uzbek culture is very diverse and over the centuries influenced by the Persians, Arabs, Greeks, Mongolians, and Russians.

The climate is mostly mid-latitude desert, with long, hot summers, mild winters, semiarid grassland in east.

**Some Additional Facts:** One of only 2 doubly landlocked countries in the world. Was at the heart of the Silk road. Home of the worlds' largest open pit gold mines, Uzbekistan is the world's twelfth-largest producer of gold. Uzbekistan is the sixth largest cotton producer in the world. The Aral sea, once the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest lake has almost disappeared due to its irrational use by soviets for farming. Topped the boxing medal table at the 2016 Rio Olympics. The most populated country in Central Asia.