

Azerbaijan

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Azerbaijani

Population: 10,200,000

Currency: Azerbaijani manat (AZN)

Area: 86,600

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Maiden Tower', 'writeup': "A 12th-century monument in Baku's Old City, symbolizing Azerbaijan's rich history and architecture."}
- {'name': 'Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape', 'writeup': 'An archaeological site featuring ancient petroglyphs dating back 5,000 to 40,000 years.'}
- {'name': 'Heydar Aliyev Center', 'writeup': 'A modern architectural landmark in Baku designed by Zaha Hadid, known for its flowing, curved style.'}

Head of State / Government:

Ilham Aliyev (President)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Novruz Bayram', 'writeup': 'A traditional celebration of the Persian New Year marking the arrival of spring with various rituals and festivities.'}
- {'name': 'Baku International Jazz Festival', 'writeup': "An annual event attracting international jazz artists, celebrating Azerbaijan's jazz heritage."}

Food & Cuisine:

Azerbaijani cuisine features diverse dishes with influences from Middle Eastern, Eastern European, and Mediterranean cuisines, known for kebabs, plov (rice pilaf), dolma, and rich use of herbs and spices.

Brief History:

Azerbaijan has a history dating back to ancient times, influenced by Persian, Turkish, and Russian empires. It became a Soviet republic in 1920 and gained independence in 1991 after the USSR's dissolution.

Important People:

- Heydar Aliyev - Former president and influential political leader.
- Ilham Aliyev - Current president.
- Nizami Ganjavi - Renowned 12th-century Persian poet.

Current Conflicts:

Ongoing tensions and intermittent clashes with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, a disputed territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but with a majority ethnic Armenian population.

Youtube Links:

- Azerbaijan Travel Guide - Top Things to Do in Azerbaijan

- History of Azerbaijan - From Ancient Times to Present
- Azerbaijani Cuisine: Traditional Foods You Must Try
- Exploring Baku: The Capital of Azerbaijan
- Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Explained