SPREAD YOUR WINGS!
Winter Universiade

Ceremonies and cultural events

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Almaty, Kazakhstan will host the 28th Winter Universiade 2017. The city is actively preparing for the event, in addition to the recently constructed and newly refurbished venues, the construction of three additional venues has been commissioned, specifically for the festival.

It is estimated that 2000 athletes from 55 countries will attend the Winter Universiade competitions in Almaty. 2000 volunteers will be involved, including foreigners and representatives of different regions. 30000 guests and tourists are expected to visit Almaty during the WU 2017.

It is planned that the number of TV viewers will reach approximately 1 billion. Broadcasting of the WU 2017 will be available in 80 countries.

The 28 Winter Universiade in Almaty will include 12 disciplines: Biathlon, Alpine skiing, Curling, Speed Skating, Nordic combined, Cross-country, Ski jumping, Snowboard, Figure skating, Freestyle skiing, Ice hockey and Short Track.
Almaty is actively preparing to host the Winter Universiade 2017. Three new venues will be ready by September. By the time of opening of the 28 Winter Universiade 2017, the city will have Athletes' Village for 5 000 people, Ice Palace with 12 000 seats and Ice Arena with 3 000 seats.

It's not the first time Almaty has hosted this kind of event. In 2011 Almaty hosted the 7th Asian Winter Games. For this event International Ski-Jump Complex “Sunkar” and Cross Country Skiing & Biathlon Stadium “Alatau” were built.

Moreover, the High-mountain Sports Complex “Medeu”, “Shymbulak” ski resort & Baluan Sholak Sports Palace were modernized according to the international requirements. All sports venues are essential elements of sports infrastructure of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
The Winter Universiade 2017 will take place in Almaty city from January, 29 until February, 8.
Opening Ceremony will take place at the Ice Palace on the 29th of January, 2017.
Closing Ceremony will take place at the Ice Palace on the 8th of February, 2017.
In addition to sporting events, there will be numerous cultural activities and contests aimed to promote cultural awareness and interest, both abroad and in domestic regions. Athletes, visitors, tourists and natives of Almaty are all free to participate in these events.
Cultural Events and contests include:
- Ethnic aul
- Various cultural entertainment programmes (Operas, Choir Singing, Musical Ensemble performances, Ballet dancing, National Instrument performances, Jazz and Organ Music performances and Aitys)
Commissioned specifically for the Winter Universiade, Almaty Ice Palace is a multi-purpose indoor arena currently under construction. Ice Palace is the biggest venue of the Winter Universiade 2017.

It will include two arenas: main arena with 12,000 seats and training arena with 475 seats. The main arena will host the opening ceremony and closing ceremony of the Winter Universiade, as well as figure skating competitions. The training arena will host the curling event.

This venue is perfectly planned for holding conferences, forums and exhibitions at various levels with equipped halls, meeting rooms and etc.

Apart from hosting the Winter Universiade events, the venue will also stage boxing, figure skating, basketball, concerts, and other events. It has been designed to be the second largest venue in CIS, in its respective disciplines.
Similar to the Ice Palace, the Ice Arena was commissioned specifically for the Winter Universiade. The Ice arena will be able to hold 3000 spectators. The new arena will become a permanent venue for professional athletes for training process as such conditions are executed at the highest level. At the same time, the Ice arena will be available to the public (public skating, amateur competitions, organization of sports clubs and others events). It is expected to be completed by September 2016.

Along with the Ice Palace, this venue will be among the top sports establishments during the Winter Universiade and it will continue to attract spectators long afterwards. Both venues are designed with the perspective of their large-scale to be used after the WU. These Arenas are built with the possibility of transforming ice covered rinks into courts for volleyball, basketball, indoor soccer, etc. as well as holding large-scale concerts provided with the latest technologies of sound and light systems.
For the first time in the history of Winter Universiades, an Athletes’ Village is being constructed specifically for the event. Athletes’ Village consists of 8-9 storey apartment blocks in total amount of 8 buildings and 4-14 storey, universal square in the middle of the village, dining room for 800 people, swimming pool, medical center, cinema and domestic service facilities as well, as 2 storey platform with a rich infrastructure that will ensure comfortable service for Winter Universiade participants.

Total size: 21.5 hectares
Total living space: 124,902 m²
Operational zone space: 27,542 m²

As a legacy of the 28 Winter Universiade, the Athletes’ Village will be used as a student campus and brand new rental apartments for teachers.
Medeu is the greatest high-mountain complex for the winter sports with largest area of artificial ice rink – 10,5 thousand m². It sits 1,691 meters above sea level, making it the highest skating rink in the World. Medeu has seen many world records in all speed skating distances from 1951 until the 1980s.

In 1972, the rink made a very successful transition from natural ice rink to artificial ice rink. This venue experienced major reconstruction during the preparations for 2011 Asian Winter Games and complies to international standards.

Most of the engineering and technical systems were replaced. The capacity of spectator stands increased to 8500 seats.
Built in November 1967. Similarly to Medeu, the palace was renovated in accordance with international standards, for staging hockey, short track and figure skating events.

The number of seats was increased to 5,000, and support facilities such as gyms, locker rooms and a press center were added, as well as a medical and rehabilitation complex, commentator booths and electronic displays. The plan also included multi-storey parking for 850 cars.
It is located on the upper part of the Medeu Valley in the Zailiyskiy Alatau mountain range, with an elevation of 2,200 meters (7,200 ft) above sea level. During the winter holiday seasons, it becomes a favorite sport for natives and guests of Almaty.

The resort area is about 25 kilometers (16 mi) south of Almaty city by Medeu. It is popular for its mild climate, large quantity of sunny days and a great amount of snow through the winter.

Shymbulak tract was significantly reconstructed. The total length of the runs have increased to 6 km.

Trails were certified Internationally by Ski Federation (FIS). In 2011, an ultra-modern Gondola lift was built for the Asian Games from high-mountain sports complex “Medeu” to the ski resort where 114 comfortable gondolas operate, with a carrying capacity of 2500-3000 people per hour.
Located at an altitude of 900 meters above sea level. The complex was built in 2010 at the site of the old ski jumping complex. It is unique because it is located in a place where there is almost no wind.

The complex consists of five ski-jumps: K-125, K-95, and the training ramps K-60, K-40 and K-20. Both artificial turf and snow can be used in every season. The complex also features a permanent multifunctional building with stands for 5,500 seats, a media press centre, a hotel, snowmaking and irrigation systems, a chairlift and underground car park, track and finish area for Nordic Combined, and a helipad.
This complex is an autonomous system with its own infrastructure which includes the main building of the stadium, several parking areas, a helicopter landing pad, visual plan of tracks and a shooting range. The construction and disposition of stadiums is made in strict accordance with international standards. The complex is the ideal place for holding competitions and training sessions, both during the winter and summer. Favourable terrain and high complexity of tracks provide excellent conditions for training and preparing athletes. Also Alatau Stadium provides optional entertainment for spectators during the competitions.

Stadium buildings are located at the centre of the complex, while tracks are placed with the possibility of simultaneously holding competitions in both biathlon and cross country stadiums. The artificial snow production is also included to support the quality of tracks in the winter, while during the summer, tracks are used for roller-skiing.

The uniqueness of the complex is that it can function all year round, it is suitable for holding international competitions and training sessions for professional athletes, according to International technical officials.
Snowboard and Freestyle skiing events are planned to take place in Almaty downtown. For this reason, a temporary ramp for both Aerials and Big Air events is to be constructed at the Astana Square of Almaty.

Astana Square served as a main Square for the capital of Kazakhstan until 1980. The area hosted various mass demonstrations, celebrations, festivals, military parades, rallies and folk festivals. However, due to increasing number of the population, the square could no longer accommodate all the residents of the city during the massive events.
Kazakhstan is located in the heart of the Eurasian continent. Its territory occupies 2,724,900 square kilometres (1,049,150 square miles). It is the CIS’ second and world’s ninth largest country. The Kazakhstan territory is larger than the twelve countries of the European Union. Kazakhstan borders with China, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Russia. The total length of the borderline is 12,187km.

The remoteness of the country from the oceans and the vastness of its territory affect the climatic conditions of Kazakhstan. The climate is sharply continental with an average temperature between -19…-4 degree in January and between +19…+26 degree in July. The temperature in the winter can be lower to -45 degree while in summer rise up to +30 degree.
Despite being one of the oldest cities in Kazakhstan, Almaty is positioned as a modern city for young people. A third of its population is 30 years old or younger. It is also a city of sport with modern competition and training facilities.

Almaty has hosted the highest number of various sporting events and campaigns to promote a healthy lifestyle – over 250 events annually. The landscape of Almaty allows each of its inhabitants to have an active and interesting lifestyle and go in for their favourite sports. The most popular sports in Almaty are skiing, snowboarding and ice skating.

There is a high concentration of business centres, theatres, museums, art galleries, showrooms and modern entertainment complexes. In addition to numerous cultural and entertainment facilities within the city, residents and guests of Almaty can visit various sport stadiums, hippodrome, High-mountain Sports Complex, Ski Resort, mountain parks and Big Almaty Lake.
The main entry point for international delegations is Almaty International Airport. It is the largest international airport in Kazakhstan. It is located about 15 km (9.3 mi) northeast of Almaty, with a recently established overpass road that leads from airport straight to the heart of the city in less than 20 minutes. In 2012, the airport handled 4 003 004 passengers, including 1 997 570 arriving passengers, and 2 005 434 departing passengers.

As of 2016, the airport providers services for over 40 airlines and has over 50 000 flights annually, having the trust of more than 5 000 000 satisfied passengers.

Airport management has planned to build a new passenger terminal for international flights with six loading bridges and capacity up to 2,500 passengers per hour in the near future. A developed infrastructure complex consist of a Marriott Hotel, conference halls, business centre, shopping centre and cinemas will be located within the territory of this terminal. The new terminal will be located along Kuldja Road in order to help reduce traffic on the way to the airport.
The Kazakh people are rich in traditions. From birth through death, every step of their lives has historically been marked with a specific celebration. These traditions and celebrations often include being respectful to old people, being patriotic to the motherland; being honest, and learning to love mankind.
Kazakh culture, traditions and cuisine are based on a nomadic lifestyle practiced by ancient Kazakhs. For example, one of the defining features of Kazakh culture is a yurt. The yurt is one of the most sensible types of movable house. It is a comfortable and practical home, ideally suited to local conditions and ways of life - one of the greatest inventions of the Eurasian nomads.

It is easily taken apart and carried by horses and camels. The yurt consists of three main elements: an extensible trellis base (the kerege), a dome made of poles (the uyk) and a round top (the shanyrak).

Handicraft
In ancient times, steppe nomads were reputed as the most skilful felt-makers. These days the Kazakhs use felt to cover the yurt and for its internal decoration. The Kazakh’s lives are surrounded by ornaments. They richly decorate their yurts with wall carpets and multi-colored embroideries. Traditional handicrafts include harnesses, felt mats (tekemets), and articles made of wood, bone and metal - are lavishly decorated. Headdresses, dresses, bags and saddle-cloths are beautifully embroidered. They use traditional designs and carvings to make and decorate the wooden cups, large bowls and ladles used to serve kumis (fermented mare’s milk).
Another popular Kazakh tradition that is practiced from ancient times to the modern days is observed through famous Kazakh hospitality. Hospitality has always been a main character trait of Kazakh people. Even if you have just a minute to pop in to a Kazakhs house, an owner will still ask you to sit down and will offer tea with sweets.

Traditionally every guest is offered Kazakh cuisine at the dastarkhan (the low table) in a yurt. Kazakhs are very hospitable people and enjoy hosting dinners at their homes. You will be served tea and bread, even if you are not invited to a hot meal.

Since Kazakh’s consider bread to be sacred, serving bread is a sign of respect. When served tea, your cup will often only be filled halfway. To fill the cup would mean that your host would want you to leave.
Hospitable owner would offer his guest a seat at a place of honor. Traditionally, meal is served at a low round table, called dastarkhan. First and foremost, in order to quench thirst of the guest a hostess would treat him with a bowl of yogurt drink. This can be "kumys" - a drink based on mare's milk - or shubat the main ingredient of which is camel milk.

Then, table will be filled with baursaks - balls of dough, pre-fried in boiling oil (Asian analogue of donuts), samsa - triangular pastries with meat, kausyrma - a kind of thin pastries or fried doughs filled with meat and onions, raisins, kurt (small, salted cheese balls) and, of course, tea.
CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

After a long-drawn tea ceremony, assortment of dishes on the festive table will be complemented by meat dishes: kazi, shuzhuk, zhal, zhaya, karta, kabyrga. The above dishes are traditionally prepared from horse meat or lamb. The main dish of Kazakh cuisine, with which owners welcome their guests is besbarmak. Name of this dish is translated from Kazakh as “five fingers” because of a manner to eat the dish by hand. Besbarmak’s main ingredients are: meat (lamb or horse meat), a special kind of pasta or noodles that is cut into small squares, as well as herbs (dill, parsley, cilantro, etc.).
Some interesting facts

Kazakhstan is the 9th largest country by size in the world. It's a huge place with a very small population of only 17 million people.

Half of Lake Balkhash, one of the largest lakes in the world, consists of fresh water, the other half of the salt water.

It's the largest landlocked country in the world, with Russian to its North, China to the West, Uzbekistan down South and the Caspian Sea on its Western Border. The border between Russia and Kazakhstan is the longest continuous land border in the world – 7512.8 kilometers.

Astana – the name of the capital of Kazakhstan – means “capital city”.

The capital of Kazakhstan is Astana, in the central Northern region of the country. It's a relatively new city with a unique, over-the-top skyline!

Kazakhstan is home to the Baikonur Cosmodome, the world’s first and largest space launch facility. It is leased by the Russians until 2050. The first artificial satellite (Sputnik 1) and the first man (Yuri Gagarin) were sent into space from Baikonur cosmodrome located in Kazakhstan.

Russian word for money (“dengi”) comes from the Turkic word “tenge” – the name of current currency of Kazakhstan.
THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION