

Kyrgyzstan

Country information

A country of striking beauty and towering peaks, Kyrgyzstan became independent with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

While Kyrgyzstan does possess oil and gas resources, it imports the vast bulk of what it needs.

The economic situation is dire, particularly in the south where unemployment is very high and poverty rife, and the country's politics have turned volatile in recent years.

AT A GLANCE

Area: 199,900 sq km (77,182 sq miles)

Population: 5.3 million (UN, 2007)

Capital City: Bishkek (population: 600,000)

People: 67% Kyrgyz, 14% Uzbek, 11% Russian, 1% Ukrainian, Dungan, Uighur

Languages: Kyrgyz and Russian

Major Religions: Islam, Christianity

Life expectancy: 62 years (men), 70 years (women) (UN)

Main exports: Fruit, vegetables, gold, tobacco

GNI per capita: US \$440 (World Bank, 2006)

Currency: Som

Exchange rate to 1 USD: 36.00 (26 June 2008)

Exchange rate to 1 Euro: 56.64 (26 June 2008)

Weather: +25 +30°C (26 June 2008)

Time zone: UTC +6

Internet domain: .kg

International dialling code: +996

Major political parties: : Ak Zhol, Asaba, Ar-Namys, Ata-Meken, Erk, Party of Communists of Kyrgyzstan, Social Democratic Party, Turan Democratic Party

Head of State: Kurmanbek Bakiev

Membership of international groups/organisations: WTO, OSCE, UN, IMF, EBRD.

Kyrgyzstan had a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the EU since July 1999 and has been part of NATO's Partnership for Peace programme since June 1994.

ECONOMY

Basic Economic Facts (for 2007)

GDP: US\$3.488 billion

Annual GDP Growth: 6.5%

Inflation: 6.4%

Major Industries: Mining, hydropower, agriculture

Major trading partners: The United Arab Emirates, Russia, China, Kazakhstan

Debt: US\$2.205 billion

Kyrgyzstan is a poor, mountainous country with a predominantly agricultural economy. Cotton, tobacco, wool, and meat are the main agricultural products, although only tobacco and cotton are exported in any quantity. Industrial exports include gold, mercury, uranium, natural gas, and electricity. Following independence, Kyrgyzstan was progressive in carrying out market reforms such as an improved regulatory system and land reform. Kyrgyzstan was the first Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) country to be accepted into the World Trade Organization. Much of the government's stock in enterprises has been sold. Drops in production had been severe after the breakup of the Soviet Union in December 1991, but by mid-1995, production began to recover and exports began to increase. The economy is heavily weighted toward gold export and a drop in output at the main Kumtor gold mine sparked a 0.5% decline in GDP in 2002 and a 0.6% decline in 2005. GDP grew more than 6% in 2007, partly due to higher gold prices internationally. The government made steady strides in controlling its substantial fiscal deficit, nearly closing the gap between revenues and expenditures in 2006, before boosting expenditures more than 20% in 2007. The government and international financial institutions have been engaged in a comprehensive medium-term poverty reduction and economic growth strategy. In 2005, Bishkek agreed to pursue much-needed tax reform and, in 2006, became eligible for the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative. Progress fighting corruption, further restructuring of domestic industry, and success in attracting foreign investment are keys to future growth.

HISTORY

The modern nation of Kyrgyzstan is based on a civilisation of nomadic tribes who moved across the eastern and northern sections of present-day Central Asia. Following a brief period of independence after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution toppled the Russian empire, the territory of present-day Kyrgyzstan was designated a constituent part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1924. It achieved the status of a full republic of the Soviet Union in 1936. Kyrgyzstan became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991.

ETHNIC CONFLICT

Relations between the Uzbeks and Kyrgyz communities are strained in the south of the country. Serious disputes between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan over the two separate Uzbek enclaves, Shahimardan and Sukh, located in southern Kyrgyzstan have hindered progress on the delimitation of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border. In February 2006, fighting also broke out between Kyrgyz and Dungans (Chinese Muslims) communities in the village of Iskra near Bishkek.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Like Akayev before, Bakiev has maintained a strong relationship with Russia. In October 2003, Russia leased an airbase at Kant near Bishkek. Since the March Revolution, Russia has been courting Bakiev with promises of large investments. Bakiev has tried to follow Akayev's policy of striking a balance between Moscow and Washington. However, relations with the US have been strained recently following protracted negotiations over the future of the American leased Ganci Air Base (now completed), expulsion of two US diplomats in August 2006, and fatal shooting in

December of a Kyrgyz citizen by a US security guard. More recently Kyrgyzstan has been making efforts to develop its relationship with China.

As a land-locked country, Kyrgyzstan has, at times, had to rely on its neighbours. Relations with Uzbekistan have been difficult, though Bakiev visited Tashkent in October 2006. Uzbekistan has often interrupted gas supplies to press for debt repayments and has used the threat of cutting gas as a political tool. Kyrgyzstan has also had longstanding negotiations with Tajikistan concerning the demarcation of the common border. There continue to be periodic incidents on the border. On 12 May 2006, an armed gang from Tajikistan attacked a border post and the killed five Kyrgyz border guards. Kyrgyzstan is a keen member of regional organisations: the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC). The SCO held their annual summit in Bishkek in August 2007. In October 2007, Kyrgyzstan took over the Chairmanship of the CIS.

GEOGRAPHY

Kyrgyzstan is land-locked by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. Around 75% of the land area is mountainous, while between the snow covered mountain summits lie broad grassy highland valleys and a large salt lake, Issyk Kul, which occupies a highland basin in the north-east.

POLITICS

The 1993 constitution defines the form of government as a democratic republic. The executive branch includes a president and prime minister. The parliament currently is unicameral. The judicial branch comprises a Supreme Court, a Constitutional Court, local courts, and a Chief Prosecutor. In March 2002, in the southern district of Aksy, five people protesting the arbitrary arrest of an opposition politician were shot dead by police, sparking nationwide protests. President Akayev initiated a constitutional reform process which initially included the participation of a broad range of government, civil, and social representatives in an open dialogue, leading to a February 2003 referendum marred by voting irregularities. The amendments to the constitution approved by the referendum resulted in stronger control by the president and weakened the parliament and the Constitutional Court. Parliamentary elections for a new, 75-seat unicameral legislature were held on February 27 and March 13, 2005, but were widely viewed as corrupt. The subsequent protests led to a bloodless coup on March 24, after which Akayev fled the country and was replaced by acting president Kurmanbek Bakiyev.

Interim government leaders are developing a new governing structure for the country and working to resolve outstanding constitutional issues. On July 10, 2005, acting president Bakiyev won the presidential election [in](#) a landslide, with 88.9% of the vote, and was inaugurated on 14 August. However, initial public support for the new administration substantially declined in subsequent months as a result of its apparent inability to solve the corruption problems that have plagued the country since its independence from the Soviet Union, along with the murders of several members of parliament. The political opposition organized demonstrations in Bishkek in April, May, and November 2006 resulting in the adoption of a new constitution that transferred some of the president's powers to parliament and the government. In December 2006, the Kyrgyz parliament voted to adopt new amendments, restoring some of the presidential powers lost in the November 2006 constitutional change. By late-September 2007, both previous versions of the constitution were declared illegal, and the country reverted to the Akayev-era 2003 constitution, which was subsequently modified in a flawed referendum initiated by Bakiyev. The president then

dissolved parliament, called for early elections, and gained control of the new parliament through his newly-created political party, Ak Jol, in December 2007 elections.

MEDIA

The media in Kyrgyzstan have traditionally enjoyed greater editorial freedom than their regional counterparts, but have been subject to increasing pressure in recent years. Large fines, often the outcome of legal actions for slander, create financial burdens for opposition and private media outlets, according to press freedom watchdog Reporters Without Borders. Editorial content is also influenced by informal government censorship and self-censorship among journalists, says the US-funded Internews media organisation. TV is the dominant medium. National state-run radio and TV networks have yet to achieve complete coverage, especially in the south of the country. Most private broadcasters and publishers operate in a difficult financial climate. Most of the non-state TV and radio stations are based in Bishkek. The internet has yet to make significant inroads outside the towns and cities.

The press

- [Slovo Kyrgyzstana](#) - government-owned, published three times a week
- [Vecherniy Bishkek](#) - private daily
- [MSN](#) - private daily
- ResPublica - private daily
- Litsa - mouthpiece of Ar-Namys Party
- [Delo No](#) - private weekly
- Liberalnaya Gazeta - private weekly
- [Obshchestvennyy Reyting](#) - private weekly
- RIF Obozreniye - private weekly
- [Times of Central Asia](#) - Bishkek-based, English-language, regional coverage

Television

- [Kyrgyz National TV and Radio Broadcasting Corporation](#) - state-run, two networks
- Piramida - private, Bishkek area
- Kyrgyz Public Educational TV (KOORT) - private
- Ecological Youth TV (EYTV) - private, Issyk-Kul
- Osh TV - private, Osh
- Independent Bishkek TV - private, Bishkek
- [NTS](#) - private, Bishkek

Radio

- [Kyrgyz National TV and Radio Broadcasting Corporation](#) - state-run, operates Kyrgyz
- Radio 1 and 21 Vek (21st century) networks
- Ekho Bishkeka - private, Bishkek
- Almaz - private, Bishkek

- Europa Plus - private, Bishkek, Osh
- Russkoye Radio - private
- Auto Radio - private

HUMAN RIGHTS

Kyrgyzstan is a signatory to UN Conventions, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The media is more independent than before March 2005. However, the Government still retains considerable control. The President controls the appointment of the Head of State TV and new media outlets are having difficulties breaking into the market. Many regional journalists also lack professional writing skills.

On 29 December 2005, President Bakiev prolonged the moratorium on the death penalty until its full abolition in law. The death penalty was legally abolished on 27 June 2007. However, prison conditions are poor and prison reform has been limited. International NGOs, such as Penal Reform International are trying to encourage the Kyrgyz authorities to introduce alternatives to imprisonment.

ORIENTATION GUIDE

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Central Asia is sometimes perceived as dangerous by foreigners and their families. This perception is heightened by media coverage of violent incidents, which fortunately occur infrequently. Most of the feeling of danger stem from the situation being new and not knowing how to react. There is a different feeling in Central Asia sometimes and it is best to have your guard up. Below you would find some tips to help you stay safe during your time in one of the most welcome destination in the world.

Avoiding Theft

It is very important that you watch your belongings at all times, especially when you are at busy public places such as: "bazaars", stores, underground ways ("podzemka"), streets, etc. Beware pickpockets and bag slashers. Try not to keep your wallet in the bag hanging on your back because somebody can cut the bag and take your wallet out. It is recommended that women wear their purses diagonally across the body, with the strap on one shoulder and the purse close to the body on the opposite side. Bags should be carried with a firm grip. Do not display money, jewelry, or other valuable items. If you know you are going to carry a lot of money, it is better to divide it into several parts and put it into several different places in your purse, wallet, and on your clothes. You should also avoid keeping large amounts of cash or other valuable items (such as expensive jewelry) in the hotel room. Valuable items can be kept in the safe of the hotels or banks.

Safety at Night

It is especially important to guard your safety at night in big cities as well as small towns and

villages. Try to avoid walking in the streets after dark all by yourself. You might want to find someone to accompany you during your night trips.

There are some general safety tips to protect you and your valuables:

- Never leave your bags unattended in public places, even if you are only walking away from them for a few minutes.
- Do not carry large amount of cash, or store money in your apartment. Deposit money in a bank account, where it will be protected.
- Always lock your door when you are leaving, even if only for a short period of time.
- Never ever open your door to people you don't know even if they know your name. This applies to anybody even if they say they are from the police.
- Be careful about lending or giving money to anyone, especially strangers or people you have only met a few times. If you lend money, consider it a donation, don't expect it to be returned regardless of the promises they make.
- If you're called on the telephone and you're not interested in or do not understand the caller's offer, just interrupt, say "No, thanks, and hang up the phone.
- Always carry your passport with you. Also make a photocopy of your important documents, and keep the copies at hotel room.
- If a stranger does try to steal your bag, do not fight. It is not worth risking serious injury for a few belongings.

Talking with Police

Occasionally you may be stopped by police and asked for identification. First is that most often the police will stop you at night. These stops are most always routine and end up with a friendly shaking of hands, but there have been reports of people having money stolen from their pockets so you do need to be on guard.

First, you should always carry your passport with you, also keep a copy of your passport and visa in safe place. If they say they need to talk with you somewhere else, and try to get you to walk with them stand your ground in a friendly but firm manner. If they try to search your pockets do not let them, they do not have a right to do this. You can show them the contents of your pockets, but do not let them touch you. The police must show identification; they have been required to wear uniforms and badges. If somebody without a uniform should stop you assume they are not real police. Ask them for identification, if you have pen or pencil write down the information in the document, by now they will wonder what you are doing, but if you have their information from their document.

This explanation is not meant to scare you or make you worried about being out and about in town. But you should be aware of what to do in case you are stopped.

MONEY

National currency: Kyrgyz Som= 100 tyin. Bank notes are in denominations of Som 1000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1. And 50, 10 and 1 tyin which hardly can be used. There are no coins in Kyrgyzstan.

Currency exchange

It is easy to change money in Kyrgyzstan. Foreign currencies can be exchanged at banks and at authorised exchange offices which located in abundance in Bishkek, Osh and Issyk-Kul area. The US Dollar is the easiest currency to exchange. Other currencies can be changed in banks in Bishkek only. Nonsense but small bills of US Dollar (1, 2, 5, 10, 20) have low rate of exchange, while 50 and 100 US Dollars banknotes are exchanged in normal rate.

Credit & debit cards

Acceptable only in Bishkek, Osh and Cholpon Ata. Credit cards are accepted in some of the major hotels, restaurants and cafes, some shops and major travel and tickets agencies. Facilities exist for credit-card cash withdrawals in Bishkek, Cholpon Ata and Osh. Check with your credit or debit card company for merchant acceptability and other services which may be available.

Travellers cheques

There are limited acceptance of these, but some banks in Bishkek accept travellers cheques; commission charges might be high. Cash is recommended.

Currency restrictions

There are no restrictions on the import or export of foreign currency, provided declared on arrival. The import and export of local currency is unlimited for Kyrgyzstan residents only.

Your Finances

Note! Banking hours: Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00. All banks are closed Sat-Sun.

ATMs are available, but it is recommended using only those connected with major banks.

Recommended banks: AKB Bank (Togolok Moldo, 54 - German operated), Bank Baikal (Isanov, 75), and Demir Kyrgyz Bank (Chui, 245) all offer exchange, ATM, and cash advance. The Kazkommerzbank ATMs, including the one at Tsum, are also a safe bet.

HEALTHCARE

Emergency health care is available free of charge for visitors although, as in most parts of the former Soviet Union, Doctors in Kyrgyzstan are well trained and professional but in some specialties medical practice may lag behind the West. Doctors and hospitals sometimes lack the latest equipment and medicines and the physical facilities of hospitals are somewhat run down and below Western standards. However, facilities are now being improved and visitors can obtain a good level of care and treatment, especially in Bishkek, though at a price. But in any case travellers are advised to take a well-equipped first-aid kit with them containing basic medicines and any prescriptions that they might need on their journey. For minor difficulties, visitors are advised to ask the management at their hotel. Travel insurance is essential.

Emergency Ambulance Service: Dial "151" from any land line.

General Care: German-Kyrgyz Medical Center (94/1 Akhunbaev; Tel: 51-21-97; E-mail: balbakell@elcat.kg) or VIP Clinic (110 Kievskaya Street; Tel: 66-35-49, 22-89-60)

Surgery: Chui Hospital (10 Saratovskaia; Tel: 28-07-94, 28-08-02)

Chiropractic Care: Dr. Peter Dinich (US Certified - Tel: 58-83-66)

Dental Care: Private Dental Clinic VYTAS (89 Shopokova; Tel: 99-63-12, 28-46-59) or The

Diplomat Dental Salon (Tel: 99-63-12, 28-67-31), Dental clinic "Hollywood smile" 112 Kievskaya st. Tel.66 65 22
Trauma unit: (policlinica stroitelei) 24 hours first aid in case of minor traumas.
 41 Manas St./Toktogul. Tel: 216875
Pharmacies: Prestige (Kievskaya, 95a; Tel: 62-14-62) or Neman (Moskovskaya, 139; Tel: 62-29-37; or (Manas, 8; Tel: 21-67-92) or Central Pharmacy (Frunze, 340; Tel: 68-10-05)

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but it can be recommended that your protection against Tetanus, Typhoid, infectious Hepatitis and Polio is up to date. If you are trekking in the mountains in early summer, you should contact your doctor about immunisation against tick-borne encephalitis.

Disease	Vaccination	When to see your doctor	Certificate
Tick-borne encephalitis	Advised if*	3 months before travel	No
Typhoid and Polio	Advised	10 days before travel	No
Hepatitis A	Advised	2 weeks before travel	No
Hepatitis B	Advised if*	2 months before travel	No
Diphtheria	Advised	3 months before travel	No
Tuberculosis	Advised if*	3 months before travel	No
Japanese encephalitis	Not required		No
Yellow fever	Not required		No
Meningococcal meningitis	Not required		No
Rabies	Advised if*	1 month before travel	No
Malaria	No		No
Cholera	Advised		**

* Recommendations that are marked "advised*" should be considered as "Vaccination strongly recommended" if a person is travelling frequently or spending extended time in that country.

** Following WHO press release, a cholera vaccination certificate is not longer a condition of entry to Kyrgyzstan. However, cholera is common in this country and precautions are essential. Up-to-date advice should be sought before deciding whether these precautions should include vaccination, as medical opinion is divided over its effectiveness. Recommendations can change from time to time and it is well advised to discuss your personal requirements with your doctor or GP.

Other risks

Diphtheria outbreaks might have a place. Hepatitis A and E are common. Hepatitis B is endemic. Rabies is present. Typhoid is common in rural areas. Polio eradication is underway, rapidly reducing the risk of infection with the disease, therefore all travellers are advised to ensure that tetanus and polio vaccinations are kept up to date. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay.

Food and drink

The water has been tested by the US-based "Centre for Diseases Control" and found to be

generally bacteria-free; however, it does have a high metal content. We do provide the water during our tours. Only pasteurised milk and dairy products are safe for consumption. Always ask for well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot if eating outside. Pork, salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. Vegetables and fruit should be well washed, cooked or peeled. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining a balanced diet in some parts of Kyrgyzstan, visitors are recommended to take vitamin supplements.

Natural disasters

Kyrgyzstan is located in an active seismic zone. Avalanches and landslides frequently block roads in the spring. There have been a number of tremors in recent months – the strongest of which measured 6 on the Richter Scale on 8 January 2007.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone

Kyrgyzstan has a monopoly in the sector of telecommunications, and Kyrgyz-Telecom and Saima-Telecom are the main providers of telephone services with regard to stationary telephones. So, unless you're using a mobile phone, you can't really choose your provider, nor can you choose different calling plans and options. Country code: 996 . International calls can be made from a telephone office which will usually be found attached to a post office or from card phones which located in abundance in Bishkek, Osh, Karakol, Naryn and other towns of Kyrgyzstan; they can also be made from some hotels but need to be arranged through reception or the floor attendant. Many of internet cafe offers IP calls which will be much cheaper making international calls. Local calls within the city are free of charge if made from private telephones; hotels sometimes levy a small charge.

You should also be aware that there are two types of telephones connections: pulse (or "analogovyi" in Russian) and tone or digital ("tsifrovoy"). This has implications when you call areas other than the one you are in. Please remember that when you're using a tone (digital or 'tsifrovoy' in Russian) line phone to call outside your area you can dial all the digits without any pausing. When you're using a pulse phone you have to wait for a beep after dialling the first zero, and then continue to dial.

To place local calls do not dial an area code. For example, in Bishkek a telephone number will consist of six digits: 24-00-11

Street phones

In Kyrgyzstan and in particular Bishkek there are both coin and card operated telephones on the streets. The coin itself is called a "zheton" and it is sold in some newspaper-stands, kiosks, etc. It costs 2 to 3 soms (depending on whom you buy it from), but you can not make any long-distance telephone calls using coin-operated telephone. The connection is pretty bad too. With a zheton first place the call, listen for the receiver to be picked up and then insert the zheton.

Card phones called "taksophon" can be used to make both local and long distance calls. Cards can be for 50, 100, 200, 400 units. Prices for cards with different number of units are different and are set by KyrgyzTelecom. Some kiosk venders might add a small mark up, but the general rule is the more units are on the card, the less the cost per unit.

Emergency numbers

-Fire Department (Bishkek, Osh)	101*
-Police (Bishkek, Osh)	102*
-Ambulance (free) (Bishkek, Osh)	103*
-Gas Service (Bishkek, Osh)	104*
-Operator assisted long-distance calls (Bishkek, Osh)	107
-Information Department	109
-Rescue Service (private) (Bishkek)	110*
-Ambulance (private) (Bishkek)	151*
Rescue	161*
Traffic police (Bishkek accidents)	530181
Traffic police (Republic's accidents)	630900, 630901 add 0(312) if calling from the outside of Bishkek using street or private phones.
Mountain search and rescue team	+996 (312) 611322

*Free calls from any card and coins street phones, as well as from mobiles and private phones.

Telephone Directory

Any time you want to know the telephone number of some organization, person, you can call 109 and ask, by telling the title of an organization or last name/address of a person.

Calling Cards

Calling cards were introduced by Elcat and other companies. Calling cards let make both local and long distance prepaid calls from private phones. Prices for cards with different number of units are different.

Calls via Internet

If you have access to Internet, there is another way to make long distance calls which doesn't cost anything or makes it very cheap. There are Internet sites which allow one to make calls to foreign countries (<http://www.dialpad.com>, <http://www.net2phone.com>, <http://www.gotocall.com>, <http://www.hottelephone.com>). In this case you will need three things: register at this site, credits to call, microphone and earphones. Another option to make a phone call via Internet from an Internet Cafe. Phone call rates differ in each of Internet Cafes. The connections can be slow or quite good, it is all a matter of luck that you call at a good time.

Mobile network

There are several private mobile telephone service providers, GSM 900 network provided by Bitel GSM (www.bitel.kg) and MegaCom (www.megacom.kg), TDMA and CDMA, Katel (www.katel.kg) and Fonex (www.fonex.kg) networks are also in use but coverage of Fonex is limited to certain areas around Bishkek and Issyk-kul lake south shore. Bitel, MegaCom and Katel networks cover the most part of Kyrgyzstan except for the most remoted and uninhabited regions. Calling *999 from GSM phones the one can reach Roamer's Guide service giving a lot of useful and helpful information.

Fax

Services are available from business centres of major hotels (if they have such) for residents

only. Also you can send it from the main post office located on 96, Chui avenue, Tel.: 662356 and from APMS fax service, located on 96B, Kievskaya st., Tel.: 600666.

Internet

ISPs include VPM Internet Services. There are a number of providers, some hotels also have business centers where that kind of service is available. There are also plenty of internet cafes around the downtown.

Internet providers

Internet provider	Info	Contacts
ELCat	Internet, IP and long distance calls provider. Hosting and web site design.	71, Kievskaya st., Tel.: 664400 e-mail: office@elcat.kg http://www.elcat.kg
Asia Info	Internet. Hosting, domains in KG zone.	175, Abdrahmanova st., Tel.: 664488, 663434 e-mail: asiainfo@infotel.kg http://www.asiainfo.kg
Saima Net	Internet, IP and long distance calls provider.	121/205, Chui ave., Tel.: 600000 e-mail: marketing@saimanet.kg http://www.saimanet.kg
Totel	Internet, web design and hosting	70, Mir ave., Tel.: 681772, 542382 e-mail: office@total.kg http://www.total.kg
AkNet	Internet, IP calls.	265a Chui prospect, office 114 address, Tel.: 611155 e-mail: office@aknet.kg http://www.aknet.kg
Kyrgyztelecom	Internet in remote regions of Kyrgyzstan	96, Chui ave., Tel.: 681616 e-mail: info@kt.kg http://www.ktnet.kg

As most homes are not yet equipped for high-speed Internet, and many people can not afford their own computer or a permanent connection, Internet cafes are extremely popular in Bishkek. Going rates for an hour are around 1-2 USD.

Internet cafes in Bishkek

Internet cafe	Contacts
Neo planet	145, Abdrahmanova st., Tel.: 665664
Randevu	180A, Chui ave., Tel.: 243598

Elki Palki	7th mikrorayon on Yunusalieva str. Tel.: 510182
Internet Planet	48, Chui ave., Tel.: 283998
Park Net	134 Chui ave, Tel: 61-10-22
Soyuz	57 Ibraimova, Tel: 68-12-15