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The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

Uzbekistan

Country name	Uzbekistan
State title	Republic of Uzbekistan
Name of citizen	Uzbek
National official language	Uzbek
Country name in official language	Oʻzbekiston (*uzb*)[1]
State title in official language	Oʻzbekiston Respublikasi
Writing system	Roman script (with continuing use of Uzbek Cyrillic, see below)
Romanization System	[Table of correspondences between Uzbek Cyrillic and Roman](#)
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	UZ/UZB
Capital (English conventional name)	Tashkent[2]
Capital in official language	Toshkent (*uzb*)
Population/Area	Total area 447,400km^2 / population 34.4 million[3]

Introduction

Uzbekistan is one of only two doubly-landlocked countries; it neighbours Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. Part of the Soviet Union until 1991, it became the Republic of Uzbekistan on independence.

Geographical names policy

PCGN policy for Uzbekistan is to use the national Uzbek Roman-script names found on official sources from Uzbekistan. As described further below, Karakalpak-language names may be added in brackets within the autonomous republic of Karakalpakstan (Qoraqalpogʻiston Respublikasi)[4].

The national cadastral agency of Uzbekistan (sometimes referred to as Yergeokadastr) https://kadastr.uz/en publishes a national map on its website:

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[1] ISO 639-3 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

[2] Though *Tashkent* is undoubtedly the most commonly used English conventional name, given its similarity to the Uzbek form *Toshkent*, HMG products usually do not include both spellings. For maps the Uzbek alone is usually sufficient.

[3] UN data as of 2022 https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/UZ

[4] Though Karakalpakstan's autonomous status is to be preserved in the forthcoming new Constitution, the word autonomous (*muxtor*) appears not to be part of the official name.

(1:1,550,000-scale). This website also indicates that work is ongoing to improve geographical names collection and access.

Uzbekistan does not maintain a detailed, up-to-date geographical names dataset and official geographical names sources beyond the map listed above are not easy to find. Additionally, as seen in *Languages* below, the official Roman script has not always been well implemented, so a variety of scripts and languages may be seen on the ground.

The US Geographic Names Server is also a good source of names in Uzbekistan.

Languages

Uzbek (*uzb*) is the sole nationally official language, though Karakalpak (*kaa*) has regionally official status within Karakalpakstan (Qoraqalpog'iston Respublikasi). Uzbek is a Turkic language with over 40 million speakers worldwide. Karakalpak is also a Turkic language, rather closer to Kazakh than Uzbek.

Additionally, Russian (*rus*) is termed the 'language of inter-ethnic communication' and continues to be widely used in many areas of life (including by approximately one million ethnic Russians).

Other minority languages include other Turkic languages, e.g. Kazakh (*kaz*) and Kyrgyz (*kir*); and Indo-European languages: Tajik (*tgk*). Additionally, the Uzbek language itself contains many influences from Arabic, Persian (or Tajik, which is very similar to Persian) and Russian.

Writing systems
Uzbek
Uzbek was quick to alter its official writing system to the Roman script after independence (introducing it in 1992 and formalising the alphabet, after alterations to the original form, in 1995). PCGN and BGN publish the table of correspondences between Uzbek Cyrillic and Uzbek Roman here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1116634/TABLE_OF_CORRESPONDENCES_FOR_UZBEK_2022_final.pdf

However, adoption and implementation of the Roman script has not been complete, and there have frequently been proposals to alter the alphabet used. As of 2022, there is a mooted alternative alphabet[5], and a stated intention to introduce the altered alphabet in 2023. Until another form has been finalised and approved official in Uzbekistan, the alphabet as laid out in the table of correspondences linked above should continue to be used.

Karakalpak
There is evidence of the Karakalpak Roman script in use, though national official mapping uses only Uzbek language forms. If they are available and if desired, Karakalpak names can be included in

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[5] The currently proposed alternatives are more consistent with Turkish and other Turkic languages (e.g. /ç/ and /ş/ in place of /ch/ and /sh/).

brackets after the Uzbek spelling, where they differ: e.g. Nukus (No'kis). It is of note that the Roman alphabet used for Karakalpak has undergone changes in 2009 and 2016[6].

A correspondence table between the former and current spellings is available on request. The up-to-date Roman script spellings for the district centres in Karakalpakstan can be shown in the Uzbek (Karakalpak) form:

Beruniy *[same spelling in both languages]*
Bo'ston (Bostan)
Bo'zatov (Bozataw)
Chimboy (Shımbay)
Kegeyli *[same spelling in both languages]*
Mang'it (Mańǵıt)
Mo'ynoq (Moynaq)
Oqmang'it (Aqmańǵıt)
Qanliko'l (Qanlıkúl)
Qo'ng'irot (Qońırat)
Qorao'zak (Qaraózek)
Shumanay (Shomanay)
Taxiatosh (Taqiyatas)
Taxtako'pir (Taxtakópir)
To'rtko'l (Tórtkúl)
Xo'jayli (Xojeli)

People
It is difficult to be certain about demographic data for Uzbekistan as there has been no census since independence. Estimates suggest it is likely that the ethnic proportions are about 84% Uzbek, 5% Tajik and 2% each Kazakh, Russian and Karakalpak.

Post-Soviet name changing
Uzbekistan has undertaken some activity since gaining independence to change its place names to remove its Soviet legacy[7]. A number of streets and districts (ADM2s=*tuman*) within Tashkent have had name changes, and monuments have been removed. Tashkent's district name changes are:
Mirobod (formerly Lenin)
Mirzo Ulug'bek (formerly Kuybishev)
Olmazar (formerly Sobir Rahimov)
Shayxontoxur (formerly Oktabr)
Uchtepa (formerly Akmal-Ikromov)
Yakkasaroy (formerly Frunze)
Yashnobod (formerly Hamza)
Yunusobod (formerly Kirov)

There have additionally been some changes to names of populated places elsewhere in the country, though fewer in Uzbekistan than in many other former Soviet countries. Examples include:
Boyovut (formerly Dimitrovskoye) *[location: 4016N 6903E]*

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[6] In brief, the changes being: /ts/ replaced with /c/ and pairs /İ i/ and /I ı/ being replaced with /I i/ and /Í ı/ and the forms A'a', U'u', O'o', G'g', and N'n' being replaced with acute accents Áá, Úú, Óó, Ǵǵ and Ńń. For further information and a full table of correspondences between Karakalpak Cyrillic, Karakalpak Roman, and Uzbek Roman please contact PCGN.
[7] For continuity, former names in the lists below are shown in their Uzbek language (rather than Russian) form.

Eshonguzar (formerly Kalinin) *[4115N 6909E]*
Nurafshon (formerly Toytepa) *[4102N 6921E, and see Administrative structure table, below]*
Payariq (formerly Narimonovka) *[3959N 6650E]*
Pitnak (formerly Drujba) *[4113N 6118E]*
Qanliko'l (formerly Leninobod) *[4250N* 5900E] (see also this town in the Karakalpak reference list above)

Inventory of characters (and their Unicode encodings[8]):

The Table of Correspondences between Uzbek Cyrillic and Roman contains the following special characters in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script (shown with the appropriate Unicode encoding):

Roman script	Unicode encoding	Note
'	2018	' is found in combination with o' and g' (representing the Cyrillic characters / IPA sounds, Ў / o and ғ / ɣ or ʁ respectively)
'	2019	' is the Roman-script equivalent of the Cyrillic characters ъ and ь

Karakalpak in its Roman script form contains the following letter-diacritic combinations and special characters in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script (shown with the appropriate Unicode encoding):

Upper-case characters	Unicode encoding	Lower-case characters	Unicode encoding
Á	00C1	á	00E1
Ǵ	01F4	ǵ	01F5
Ń	0143	ń	0144
Ó	00D3	ó	00F3
Ú	00DA	ú	00FA
Í	00CD	ı	0131

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[8] See Unicode – The World Standard for Text and Emoji

Administrative structure

Uzbekistan is administratively divided into 14 first-order territorial units, comprising 1 republic (*Respublika*; compound form, *Respublikasi*), 12 provinces (*viloyat*; compound form, *viloyati*) and 1 city (*shahar*; compound form, *shahri*). These are tabulated below; the generic terms can be omitted if short forms of the names are required.

Administrative division (ADM1)	ISO 3166-2 code	Administrative centre	Location of centre
Qoraqalpog'iston Respublikasi[9]	UZ-QR	Nukus[10]	42°27'11"N 59°36'37"E
Andijon viloyati	UZ-AN	Andijon	40°46'55"N 72°20'39"E
Buxoro viloyati	UZ-BU	Buxoro[11]	39°46'29"N 64°25'43"E
Farg'ona viloyati[12]	UZ-FA	Farg'ona	40°23'36"N 71°46'46"E
Jizzax viloyati	UZ-JI	Jizzax	40°07'24"N 67°49'42"E
Namangan viloyati	UZ-NG	Namangan	41°00'00"N 71°39'00"E
Navoiy viloyati	UZ-NW	Navoiy	40°06'00"N 65°22'00"E
Qashqadaryo viloyati	UZ-QA	Qarshi	38°51'30"N 65°48'00"E
Samarqand viloyati	UZ-SA	Samarqand[13]	39°39'15"N 66°57'35"E
Sirdaryo viloyati	UZ-SI	Guliston	40°29'23"N 68°47'03"E
Surxondaryo viloyati	UZ-SU	Termiz	37°14'00"N 67°17'00"E
Toshkent viloyati	UZ-TO	Nurafshon[14]	41°02'00"N 69°21'00"E
Xorazm viloyati	UZ-XO	Urganch	41°33'12"N 60°37'14"E
Toshkent shahri	UZ-TK	Toshkent	41°19'00"N 69°15'00"E

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[9] = Republic of Karakalpakstan. Articles 70-75 of the 1992 Constitution state that *Qoraqalpog'iston Respublikasi* is a "sovereign" part of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and has the right to secede from it. These articles also state that *Qoraqalpog'iston* shall have its own Constitution, but that this must be in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and that the latter's laws shall be binding throughout.

[10] And see p2 above, the Karakalpak form may be included if desired: Nukus (No'kis).

[11] The English conventional name, derived from the Russian form, is Bukhara, and this form can be added in brackets if deemed useful.

[12] Note that *Farg'ona viloyati* incorporates four exclaves of Uzbekistan located within the territory of *Batken oblusu* in Kyrgyzstan (two are of a significant size: *So'x* and *Shohimardon*).

[13] The spelling Samarkand is also seen, and this may be considered the name used conventionally in English. Given its similarity to the Uzbek form, however, this conventional name is unlikely to be needed.

[14] Toshkent was the administrative centre of Toshkent viloyati until 2017. At this time another town, previously named Toytepa, became the centre and was renamed Nurafshon.

Other Significant Locations

PCGN Approved Name[15]	Name in Uzbek	Conventional Name	Location	Feature Type
Amu Darya	Amudaryo	Amu Darya	44°06′30″N 59°40′52″E	River (Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)
Aral Sea	Orol dengizi	Aral Sea	45° 00' 00"N 60° 00' 00"E	Sea (now mostly desert) (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan)
Farg'ona vodiysi or Fergana Valley according to product/label location	Farg'ona vodiysi	Fergana Valley	40°54′03″N 71°45′28″E	Fertile valley, predominantly in Uzbekistan but extending into Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
Naryn or Norin according to product/label location	Norin	Naryn	40°54′03″N 71°45′27″E	River (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan)
Qizilqum (if labelled in Uzbekistan)	Qizilqum	-	42°43'13"N 63°58'18"E	Desert (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan)
Shohimardon	Shohimardon	-	39°59'00"N 71°48'18"E	Uzbek exclave within Kyrgyzstan[16]
So'x	So'x	-	39°56'49"N 71°08'44"E	Uzbek exclave within Kyrgyzstan
Syr Darya (or local names labelled as appropriate)	Sirdaryo	Syr Darya	46°03'00"N 61°00'00"E	River (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan)

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[15] PCGN recommends use of conventional names for international features where they exist. If there is no conventional name, then the relevant name can be shown on the appropriate side of the international boundary on cartographic products.

[16] There are four such exclaves, the two of significant size are included here. Additionally, a Kyrgyz exclave, Barak, lies within Uzbekistan.

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Useful references

- BBC Country Profile: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-16218112
- CIA World Factbook: Uzbekistan - The World Factbook (cia.gov)
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Travel Advice: https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): www.iso.org
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): https://www.iso.org/obp/ui
- Languages: https://www.ethnologue.com/, www.omniglot.com
- PCGN paper, 2006: Stretching from Red Sands to Green Oasis: The Soul of Central Asia
- Unicode Consortium: www.unicode.org
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server: http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html

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January 2023