

## TERRITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

### CONTENTS

<b>I. GENERAL INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II. BAKU.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>II. BAKU.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. General background of Baku .....	5
2. History of the city of Baku.....	6
3. Museums .....	15
4. Historical Monuments.....	19
<i>The Maiden Tower.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>The Shirvanshahs' Palace ensemble.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>The Sabaal Castle.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Towers of Absheron .....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>The Fire Temple Ateshgah .....</i>	<i>24</i>
<b>III. AZERBAIJAN DISTRICTS .....</b>	<b>25</b>
District of Absheron .....	25
District of Aghdam .....	27
District of Aghdash.....	28
District of Aghjabedi.....	30
District of Agsu .....	31
District of Aghstafa .....	32
District of Astara .....	34
District of Balakan .....	36
District of Barda .....	38
District of Beylagan.....	40
District of Bilasuvar .....	41
District of Dashkesan .....	43
District of Fizuli.....	44
District of Gabala .....	46
District of Gazakh .....	47
District of Gakh .....	49
District of Goychay.....	51
District of Goranboy .....	53
District of Gobustan.....	55
District of Guba .....	57
District of Gusar .....	61
District of Ganja .....	63
District of Gedebe.....	68
District of Geygel (Khanlar).....	70
District of Hajigabul.....	71
District of Imishli.....	73
District of Ismayilly .....	75
District of Jalilabad.....	77

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

District of Jebail.....	78
District of Kelbajar .....	79
District of Kurdamir .....	81
District of Khachmaz .....	82
District of Khojavend.....	84
District of Khojaly .....	85
District of Khyzy.....	87
District of Lachin.....	89
District of Lankaran.....	91
District of Lerik .....	93
District of Masalli.....	95
District of Mingechaur .....	97
Nafhtalan town.....	100
District of Neftchala .....	101
District of Oghuz .....	102
District of Saatly .....	103
District of Sabirabad.....	105
District of Salyan .....	107
District of Siazan .....	109
District of Sumgait .....	111
District of Shabran (Devechi).....	113
District of Shamkir.....	115
District of Sheki .....	116
District of Shemakha.....	119
District of Shusha .....	121
District of Shirvan .....	124
District of Terter.....	126
District of Tovuz.....	127
District of Ujar.....	128
District of Yardimli .....	129
District of Yevlakh .....	131
District of Zaqatala .....	133
District of Zangilan .....	135
District of Zardab.....	137
<b>IV. NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC .....</b>	<b>139</b>
General information.....	139
<b>V. CITIES AND DISTRICTS OF NAKHICHEVAN .....</b>	<b>142</b>
City of Nakhichevan.....	142
District of Babek.....	145
District of Julfa .....	146
District of Kengerli.....	147
District of Ordubad.....	148
District of Sadarak .....	149
District of Shahbuz.....	150
District of Sharur .....	151
<b>VI. SOURCES .....</b>	<b>152</b>

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

	<b>Territory, thsd. square km</b>	<b>86.6</b>
<b>2015 year)</b>	<b>Number of population, thsd. person (at the beginning of</b>	<b>9593,0</b>
	<b>Population density, per km <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>107</b>
	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Baku</b>
	<b>Official language</b>	<b>Azerbaijani</b>
	<b>Monetary unit</b>	<b>manat</b>
	<b>Number of administrative units:</b>	<b>90</b>
	<b>Autonomous Republics</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Districts</b>	<b>66</b>
	<b>Towns</b>	<b>78</b>
	<b>Districts of cities</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Settlements</b>	<b>261</b>
	<b>Rural territorial division</b>	<b>1727</b>
	<b>Rural settlements</b>	<b>4249</b>

### Towns

Baku	2.204.200 per.
Ganja	328. 400 per.
Sumgayit	332.900 per.
Mingechevir	101. 600 per.
Shirvan	82. 900 per.
Nakhichevan	82.552 per .
Sheki	62. 965 per.
Khankendi	55.500 per.
Yevlakh	57. 681 per .

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY



Copyright 2000-2001 Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Scale: 1 : 2 000 000

## II. BAKU

### 1. General background of Baku

Baku is the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It is a large scientific, cultural and industrial center. Ancient foundations, a large area and population all make Baku one of the oldest and largest cities in the East.

People have lived and founded their settlements in Baku city and the Absheron peninsula since ancient times. This was motivated by continuous migrations from north to south and from west to east due to the physical and geographical conditions, a favorable location in the center of trade routes that crossed Silk Road, climatic conditions, production of petroleum fuel in ancient times and the availability of large power resources.



Baku is situated on the shore of the Caspian Sea in the south of the Absheron peninsula. It covers an area of 2,200 square km and has a population of 2 million. Nearly 500,000 refugees from Armenia as well as IDPs from the occupied territories, currently reside in Baku.



Baku has 11 administrative districts and 5 settlements.

Modern Baku is a large industrial complex with a developed extraction of oil and gas, petro-chemical, machine-engineering and metalworking industry, production of construction materials.

Baku is a great transport junction. The leading part in freight turnover belongs to the commercial seaport. Airlines connect Baku with a number of cities in the world. The railway lines connect Baku with Georgia, Russia, Iran.

Baku's twin cities are Izmir (Turkey), Naples (Italy), Dakar (Senegal), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Bordeaux (France), Basra (Iraq), Houston (the USA) and Mainz (Germany).

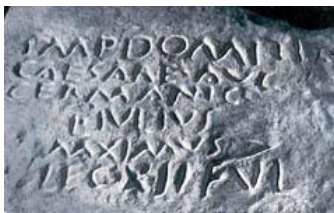
2009

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
Baku city (including settlements) total	2.039.725	100,0	998191	100,0	1.041534	100,0
Urban population	2.039.725	100,0	998191	100,0	1.041534	100,0
Including:						
Binagadi district	237837	11,66	117684	11,79	120153	11,54
Garadag district	107724	5,28	52708	5,28	55016	5,28
Narimanov district	160520	7,87	77936	7,81	82584	7,93
Nasimi district	207861	10,19	101756	10,19	106105	10,19
Nizami district	177448	8,70	87037	8,72	90411	8,68
Sabail district	90020	4,41	43592	4,37	46428	4,46
Sabunchi district	220055	10,79	108944	10,91	111111	10,67
Surakhani district	194059	9,51	94881	9,51	99178	9,52
Khazar district	168688	8,27	83321	8,35	85367	8,20
Khatai district	244110	11,97	118824	11,90	125286	12,03
Yasamal district	231403	11,35	111508	11,17	119895	11,51



## 2. History of the city of Baku.

The history of the city of Baku goes back to the great antiquity, though the exact date of its rise is not known up to now. The territory of the Apsheron Peninsula where the city is situated enjoys a favourable geographical position, a convenient bay, a warm, dry climate, a fertile soil, natural minerals, and therefore the emergence of the ancient settlements here is quite natural. The district of Gobustan is to the southwest of modern Baku by the Caspian Sea. Here in the vast space were pastured numerous herds of animals the images of which are fixed on the rocks of the neighbouring mountains. The pictures dating back to 8 millenniums reflect different hunting scenes, ceremonial and ritual processes of the ancient dwellers of these places.



Noteworthy is the Latin inscription of the 80s-90s of our era found at the foot of the mountain of Boyukdash in Gobustan which runs, "The time of Emperor Domitianus Caesar Augustus Germanicus, Lucius Julius Maxim, Centurion XII of the Lightning Legion". And the name of the settlement of Ramana or Romana in the vicinity of Baku perhaps also speaks of the Roman troops' stay in Apsheron in the I century. The Roman troops' distribution in Gobustan indicates the presence of a large settlement or city in the vicinity, which might have been Baku at that time towards

which the Roman troops must have made for.

The archeological excavations carried out in the city of Baku and its vicinities prove the existence of the settlement here before our era. The archaic pre-Zoroastrian burial places found in 1888 during the digging of the foundation pit of the base of the former Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in the place of an old Muslim cemetery speak of the city's ancient origin too. In the foundation pit were found ancient burials in the form of stone boxes in several rows one above another, also a tomb in the shape of a big *tendir* (fireplace) the contents of which were six or seven human skeletons in half-seated position. There were clay bowls of an irregular shape in front of the skeletons. This was a family tomb going to the times of the tribal system of the society.

Since olden days Baku, its oil, "a burning soil" has been known far beyond its borders. The Medieval written sources related to Baku invariably refer to "the eternal flames" in its vicinities. One of the first to report about them at the beginning of the V century was Byzantine Prisk Paniyski who, while describing the cities of Caucasian Albania, mentioned the place where "the flame rises out of the reef". The Arabian historian al-Balazuri also informs of oil and salt in Shirvan in 754. With the spread of Islam in the region beginning from the IX century Baku is mentioned in the written sources of Arabian geographers and historians as a small, but a developed feudal city. Invariably there are sources of white and dark gray oil in Baku. Caravans came here for oil from all parts of the Middle East. Slavonic, Khazar, Byzantine, Chinese, Iraqi, Syrian, Kenyan, Venetian, Iranian, and Indian tradesmen arrived in Baku. Being located in the intersection of trade routes Baku was always in the focus of attention of foreign invaders fighting for the influence in the region.

In the second half of the IX century the decline of Abbas' caliphate and the reinforcement of the tendency of decentralization in the countries under the caliphate led to the formation of a number of independent states. The state of the Shirvanshahs was one of such states. Medieval Baku, along with Shamakhy turned into one of the main cities of Shirvan. The city started its real development in the XI century when the state of the Shirvanshahs gradually found itself in the centre of developments in the region.



It was at this time that they first started to wall Baku. The evidence of this is the stone inscription discovered during the restoration of the walls, which runs that the walls were erected by Shirvanshah Manuchuhr II (1120-1160).

The further development of the Shirvanshahs' state was achieved under Akhsitan I, Manuchuhr II's son. He successfully repelled the assaults of Saljuks and nomadic Kypchaks. During his reign a strong fleet was created in the Baku port. So in 1175 he managed to repel the Russians' assault that had attacked the vicinity of Baku on 73 vessels. In 1191 Shirvanshah Akhsitan transferred his residence from Shamakhy to Baku. For the first time Baku became the main city of the Shirvanshahs.

With the consolidation of the Shirvanshahs an enormous construction was carried out in the territory of the Apsheron Peninsula. Many castles and minarets, madrasas (Islamic religious schools) and towers, caravansaries and bathhouses, reservoirs, mosques and dwelling houses were built at that time. The earliest construction of that period remaining up to our days is Mahammad's Mosque, erected within the Baku fortress in 1078-1079. Towers and castles hold a special place among the constructions of that period - they served as a reliable stronghold of feudal lords in their intestine struggle as well as a refuge and shelter during the assaults. Much attention was paid to fortify the fortress walls and the Baku fortress. To defend Baku from the coastal side a fortress - the Sabail castle, which is presently under water, was built in the Baku bay in 1232-1235.

In the XIII century the entire country found itself under the Mongolian yoke. In 1230s after a long siege Baku also surrendered to the Mongols. The city was ruthlessly destroyed and plundered "as a punishment" for its resistance. Oil extraction and trade came to decline. The local rulers tried to revive the city's life. This is testified particularly by Soltan Mahammad Oljite's edict (1304-1316) carved in the wall of Juma Mosque within the old fortress. Some taxes were abolished by the edict in order to stimulate the trade and to restore the economy.

At the beginning of XIV century trade, particularly marine trade revived. The ships belonging to the Italian merchants from Genoa and Venice arrived in the Baku port. Baku traded with the Golden Horde, the Moscow principedom, European countries. Oil, carpets and other goods were exported from here. Goods were also exported to Astrakhan, Middle Asia. The Caspian Sea was often referred to as Baku in connection with the growing economic and political role of Baku in the II half of the XIV century. In particular it was so referred in an atlas of 1375. The surviving architectural monuments in the Baku fortress - the Bukhara caravansary (XIV century), the Multani caravansary (XV century) and others testify to the wide links of Baku with Middle Asia and India.



Following the rise of Baku's economic and political importance in XV century, Shirvanshah Khalilullah I (1417-62) moved the Shirvanshahs' residence from Shamakhy to Baku. A large construction was developed in the city. At this time there was constructed a complex of the Shirvanshahs' palace - the largest monument of the Shirvan - Apsheron branch of the Azerbaijani architecture. Trade, art, handicraft were developed. Diplomatic relations were established with the Moscow principedom.



In 1501 Shah Ismail Khatai of the Safavis' dynasty invaded Shirvan and laid a siege to Baku. At this time the city was enclosed with the lines of strong walls, which were washed by sea on one side and protected by a wide trench on land. The besieged inhabitants of Baku fought with fortitude, relying on the impregnability of their fortification. In the absence of the city's ruler Gazi-bay his wife led the city's defence. She ordered to execute Shah Ismail's messengers who had come to her with the proposal to lay down their arms. Having seen the reluctance of the besieged to surrender Ismail ordered to undermine and explode the big stone in the wall. The inhabitants resisted 3 more days, but then the fortress's defense was broken by the Safavis' troops who annihilated lots of inhabitants. Realizing the uselessness of further resistance

70 noble citizens of Baku with the Koran in their hands, the swords round their necks and shrouds on their backs turned to Ismail and declared their obedience to him. Ismail occupied the fortress without delay. Plenty of gold and jewelry were taken away from the occupied treasury of the Shirvanshahs. Though this campaign of Ismail against Shirvan inflicted a heavy blow on the Shirvanshahs' state, it still managed to survive till 1538. In 1538 Shah Tahmasib, the Safavis' ruler put an end to the Shirvanshahs' reign and united the entire Shirvan including Baku under the Safavis' state.



The II half of the XVI century and the beginning of the XVII century were marked by the sequence of wars between the Safavis' state and the Ottoman Turkey. At that time Baku changed hands. In 1578 the city was occupied by the Ottoman army. In 1580 the Safavis defeated the Ottoman forces, but in 1684 the Ottomans recaptured Baku. In 1590 the Safavis' Shah Abbas I had to make heavy peace with the Turks according to which they took over the northern and southern provinces of Azerbaijan. Shah Abbas I made use of the respite in the war with the Ottomans, reinforced the army and resumed the war. In 1607 Baku was transferred to the dominion of the

Safavis again. According to the agreement reached in Istanbul in 1612 the Safavis took over the entire Azerbaijan and the neighbouring provinces.

The reinforcement of the centralized power, the termination of the devastating wars and feudal discords in the 40s of the XVII century gave an impetus to the flourishing of the urban life. Copper coins were minted, carpet weaving, as well as extraction and trade of oil and salt were developed in Baku in the period of the Safavis. The houses built in the city in the XVII-XVIII centuries testify to the flourishing of architecture and stone carving. At this time Baku was enclosed with a second row of fortress walls.

The XVII century is marked by the inroads of the Don and Volga kazakhs on Apsheron. In April 1660 the kazakhs led by Stepan Razin attacked the Baku coast and plundered the village of Mashtaga. He was said to have lived in a cave near the village of Sabunchu from where he made his plundering raids.



Beginning from the XVIII century the rich natural resources and significant strategic importance of the city started to attract the attention of Russia to it. Peter I tried to occupy the western and southern shores of the Caspian and become the host of the Caspian by ousting the Turks and Iranians. To capture the Caspian coastal areas he organized a special naval expedition. At the end of June 1723 a squadron of 7 vessels was sent from Astrakhan under Mayor-General Matyushkin. On 26 June 1723 after a lasting siege and firing from the cannons Baku surrendered to the Russians. According to Peter's decree the soldiers of two regiments (2382 people) were

left in the Baku garrison under the command of Prince Baryatyanski, the commandant of the city.

Wishing to consolidate his position in the region Peter I pursued an active policy to settle the Christians, mainly the Armenians in Baku. On November 10, 1724, shortly before his death, Peter I received 4 delegates of the Armenian people who were petitioning for "the relief to the Armenians and permission for them to settle in the Caspian provinces". On the same day Peter I presented the credentials to the Armenian Patriarch Isay and the entire Armenian people permitting the Armenians to settle in Gilan, Mazandaran and Baku. General Matyushkin and Brigadier Levashov were ordered "to make all possible efforts to arrange the Armenians' settlement in Gilan, Mazandaran, Baku, Derbend and so on, and to oust the Persians (the Azerbaijanis) when opportunity offers" (Butkov's report). Thus the settlement of the Armenians in Baku mainly goes back to that time. In 1724 about 5 thousand Kazan Tatars, Cheremisses, Chuvashes who had been deported to Baku for shipbuilding also started to settle in Baku.



After Peter's death in 1725 the Caspian areas became a burden on the Russians. A big army was required to maintain the occupied territories, but the incomes did not cover the expenses. By 1730 the situation had deteriorated as Nadir shah, a talented commander rose in Iran. Nadir Shah's successes in Shirvan made the Russians conclude an agreement near Ganja on March 10, 1735 according to which the Russian troops were withdrawn from Baku. Again Baku went under the dominion of Iran.

Nadir Shah was murdered as a result of a palace revolution in 1747 which was followed by his empire's fall. A number of independent khanates were formed in the territory of Azerbaijan, one of the significant among them was the Baku khanate. Seizing power Mirza Mahammad khan (1747-1768) stood at the head of the Baku khanate. During his 20 year power Mirza Mahammad khan was involved in the restoration of the economy of the country, contributed the development of trade. Being an admiral he directed all his efforts at shipbuilding for the freight transportation and military purposes.

He was followed by his son Malik Mahammad khan. There was no end to the feudal intestine dissensions among separate khans. The Baku khan was also involved in this struggle and fought on the side of Fatali khan of Guba subject to him and having ties of relationship with him. In 1784 Malik Mahammad khan died leaving the Baku throne to his son Mirza Mahammad khan II, who later became the father of A.Bakikhanov, the famous Azerbaijani historian. The following years were also spent on the struggle among khans. The intestine dissensions in the Baku khanate took place mainly because of the oil fields which brought enormous incomes.

Despite a certain revival in the economy in this period, Azerbaijan suffered heavy losses at the end of the XVIII century as a result of devastating inroads by the Iranian ruler Aga Mahammad khan Gajar who overrode all



the provinces of Iran and the south of Azerbaijan. In 1795 Aga Mahammad khan Gajar invaded and destroyed Baku, but soon his army left Shirvan.

Having seen Aga Mahammad khan Gajar's reinforcement the czarist government began to pursue a policy of subduing Azerbaijan to Russia. In the spring of 1796 by Yekaterina II's order General Zubov's troops started a large campaign of the tsarist military forces in Transcaucasia. Baku surrendered after the first demand of Zubov who had sent 6 thousand militants to capture the city. On June 13 1796 the Caspian flotilla entered the Baku bay and a garrison of the Russian troops was placed in Baku. General P.D.Sisianov was appointed the commandant of the city. But after Yekaterina II's death her son Pavel I ordered to cease the campaign of the Russian forces and withdraw them back to Russia. In March 1797 the tsarist troops left Baku. After his father Pavel I's death in March 1801 Alexandre I began to show a special interest in capturing the Caspian provinces and Baku in particular. The Russian – Iranian wars (1804-1813) accelerated his plans. Prince Sisianov was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the troops in the Caucasus.

In 1803 Sisianov reached an agreement with the Baku khan to compromise. The khan even swore an oath of citizenship to Russia, but the agreement was soon annulled. At the beginning of 1806 marching with a big army Sisianov united with General Zavalishin's fleet at 2 verst distance of Baku and restarted to conduct negotiations with the Baku khan on the surrender of the city. In a reply to the refusal on capitulation the city was exposed to firing of the marine flotilla after which the ruler of Baku Huseingulu khan gave his consent to surrender the city. On February 8, 1806 under the accompaniment of the retinue Huseingulu khan of Baku left the city to present the city's keys to Sisianov. When Sisianov accepted the keys he and Prince Elizbar Erstov standing next to him were suddenly killed by two people from among the retinue. Sisianov's body was chopped on the spot by the citizens of Baku who had run out of the fortress. After this his head was sent to Fatali Shah in Iran and his body was buried in front of the Shamakhy gates where his murder had taken place. Having heard of Sisianov's death the Russian army retreated. But this murder only put off the city's capture. On October 3, 1806 General Bulgakov's forces captured Baku without striking a blow the Baku Khanate was annexed to Russia. Huseingulu khan of Baku fled to Iran.



In addition the Gulustan treaty signed between Russia and Iran in 1813 legalized the annexation of the Baku kahanate to the Russian empire. However, the treaty did not solve all the Russian-Iranian contradictions. And the former Baku khan did not give up his hope to return to the power. In July 1826 when the Iranian army invaded the boundary of Northern Azerbaijan a detachment headed by Huseingulu khan made for Baku and sieged the city. He was actively supported by the inhabitants of Baku and its neighbouring villages that revolted against the Russians. But the defeat of the Iranian army as well as the action of the Russian army directed against the Baku khan, forced the latter to return to Iran in October 1826. With the termination of the last Russian-Iranian war in 1828 the Turkmanchay treaty was signed which divided Azerbaijan between

Russia and Iran along the river Araks and officially annexed the occupied areas including Baku to Russia. That was a national tragedy, however the treaty contributed to the termination of wars in the region and its further development.

At that time Baku was limited itself to Ichari Shahar – the Inner City surrounded by the fortress walls with only about 300 houses and 3000 inhabitants. Only after the termination of the Russian-Iranian war of 1826-1828 the city began to grow gradually.

After the occupation of the Baku khanate by Russia all the estates and properties belonging to the Baku khan and his surroundings were confiscated. A military-administrative government was implemented in Azerbaijan: the khanates were changed into *provinces* and *okrugs* headed by the commandants appointed from among the tsarist officers. According to the regulations that came into force on January 1, 1841 the commandant form of government was liquidated and as a whole a system of administration similar to the all-Russian one was introduced in Transcaucasia. Baku became the centre of the Baku uyezd of the Caspian region. With the approval of the region ruled by vice-gerent in the Caucasus in 1846 a new administrative-territorial division of the area took place according to which the Baku uyezd was included in the newly established Shamakhy province.

In 1859 after a devastating earthquake in Shamakhy, the centre of the province was transferred to Baku, and the province was renamed as Baku. Government offices began to be formed in the city. As a result Baku

entered a qualitatively new level of development taking the first place for its social and economic indices among other cities of Azerbaijan in the second half of the XIX century.

Oil extraction played an important role in the development of the city. Baku was involved in the fast industrial development of Russia the economy of which sharply reinforced its requirement for oil. For the first time the tsarist government which controlled the oil wells farmed them out to individuals for a certain period. But in the 60s of the XIX century it turned out that the farming system of exploiting the oil reserves was a worthless remnant of the past, and a different arrangement of the oil issue was needed for the development of this branch of industry. In 1872 new rules were ratified according to which the formal farmed out oil reserves were transferred to individuals by auction. The abolition of the farming system brought a decisive change to the entire oil issue. The started oil fever could be compared only with the gold fever in Klondike. An intensive exploitation of the Baku oil fields started and it provided a big flow of capitals of foreign oil companies. Within a short period of time departments and representations of Swiss, English, French, Belgian, German, American firms were established in Baku and the most famous among them were the firms of the Nobels and the Rotschields.



Since 1873 “an oil belt of Baku” began to be formed which was known as a Black City. A little later an industrial district of Baku including “oil villages” of Surakhany, Bibi-Heybat, Balakhany, Sabunchu was established. Here in 1848 the first oil wells in the world were drilled, the first tankers for oil transportation were constructed (1880-1885), Baku-Batumi (1897-1907) oil pipeline was laid. It was in Baku that “The Oil Issue” - the first periodical dedicated to oil and its extraction was published. This periodical was released from 1899 to 1920. By the beginning of the XX century almost half of the oil reserves in the world had been extracted in Baku.

Along with the oil industry other branches of economy also started to develop. There were constructed cement works, machinery factories and breweries, electric power stations, foundries, textile and tobacco mills, steam-mills, banks. Commercial firms, marine steam navigation, “Caucasus and Mercury” - the largest among them opened their own representations. At that time 40% of the marine transportation of Russia was realised across the Caspian. In 1883 a railway line was opened to connect Baku and Tbilisi, in 1892 a horse-drawn tram began to run in the city and in 1900 a railway line Baku – Petrovsk (now Makhachkala) was laid which had exits to central regions of Russia and further to Europe. In 1868-1879 the first telegraph cables were laid to connect Baku, Tbilisi and Krasnovodsk, and in 1886 the first telephone station was constructed. By 1917 Shollar water pipeline started to provide the city with water. This pipeline has been smoothly functioning up to now.



Baku was developing not only economically, but also culturally. In 1873 the first Azerbaijani National Theatre was founded. In 1875 the first newspaper began to be published. In 1864 Nariman Narimanov founded the first national public library. In 1908 the first opera in the East “Leily and Majnun” was staged. Printing work was developing, publishing houses were being opened, newspapers including “Baku”, “Kaspiy”, “Bakinskiy rabochiy”, “Hummat”, “Yoldash”, also different brochures, books and magazines came to be published in Azerbaijani and Russian.

The city in the Apsheron Peninsula grew with an extraordinary speed that had been experienced neither in Russia, nor in Europe at all. From all parts of Russia and from abroad people of different nationalities rushed into Baku in search of work and happiness. By 1883 there were more than 45 thousand inhabitants in Baku, and in 1913 this number rose to 200 thousand. The vicinity of the city was equipped with modern amenities, there was an increase in the number of architectural monuments distinguished by their unusual elegance. Among them are a railway station known as “Tiflis”; the Baku municipal дума; Realny vocational school (now the building of the University of Economy); Ismailiyya” (the Presidium of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences); the Public Assembly (Philharmonic Society) and so on. At the same time a lot of trees and gardens were planted, there appeared a boulevard with a nice complex of the city bath-houses, gardens: Mikhaylovski (at Baksoviet underground station), Marinski (Molokanski), Nobelski (the park after Nizami) and Kolyubakinski park.

So the economic rise at the end of the XIX century turned Baku into one of the greatest centres of Russia and the biggest and the most important city in the Caucasus. At the beginning of the XX century the development

of Baku continued, though at times this development was delayed by crises. The fall of the price for oil led inevitably to the reduction of the payment, to the deterioration of the labour conditions and to the growth of the number of the unemployed. The hard economic situation resulted in a range of actions of the workers in 1901. The biggest one was the strike of the Baku workers in July 1903, which acquired a general character.

On December 12, 1904 "The Organisation of Balakhany and Bibi-Heybat Workers" called all the industrial workers to a general strike. The work was ceased in the Nobels', Rotschiolds', Mantashev's and Mirzoyev's firms, the workers of Bibi-Heybat, Black City and White City, the Balakhany and Sabunchu industrial districts joined the strike. On the very first day workers and employees of about 40 firms joined this grand action. On December 30 the first collective agreement in the history of the Russian workers' movement known under the name "The Fuel Oil Constitution" was signed in the presence of a huge crowd of workers at the factory "The Electric Power". This agreement was the Baku workers' greatest victory, which actually improved their material conditions.

The year of 1905 became the culminating stage in the struggle of the masses with the autocracy against social and national oppression. The January actions of the Baku workers were the continuation of the December general strike. One of the forms of the autocracy's struggle against the mass movement was the provocation of inter-ethnic clashes. The first one of them was arranged in Baku on February 6-9, 1905. To inflame the passions the tsarist authorities aggravated contradictions between the Azerbaijani and Armenian bourgeoisies. The police and the army did not intervene in the bloody struggle and it resulted in the death of hundreds of people.

A martial law was imposed in Baku and in the province of Baku in February 1905. But in the summer of the following year a new rise of the revolutionary activities started. To suppress the workers' actions a state of siege was declared on August 22. The tsarist authorities moved the army against the strikers, and the repression started, and a police terror began raging in the city. At the same time the government tried to regulate the interrelations between the oil industrialists and workers. By the decree of October 28, 1906 the borough of Baku was established to govern Baku and the neighbouring oil industry districts. The head of the borough was appointed directly by the Emperor and was allotted the rights of a governor. In December 1906 the martial law in Baku and in the region of Baku was replaced by the state of an emergency guard, and the position of an acting general-governor was abolished. World War I that broke out in 1914 caused elements of disorganisation in the Baku oil region too. The unemployment sharply grew; the living standards of the workers grew worse. Revolutionary movement grew in the country. In February 1917 the tsarist government fell in Russia. Under new conditions the "Musavat" Party holds a dominating position in Azerbaijan. Having been established in October 1917 it upheld the self-determination of the nation since the very beginning of its foundation. At the end of October 1917 the first congress of the "Musavat" Party took place in Baku which determined the tactics and strategy of the organisation in the coming political struggle. The leader of the party was M.E.Rasulzade.

After the overthrow of the provisional government and the Bolsheviks' advent to power in Russia, on November 2, 1917 a conference of the enlarged Baku Soviet was held in Baku. In the conference the Bolsheviks managed to declare this organ a supreme power in the city and proclaim the Soviet power. However the power of the Baku Soviet failed to spread beyond the vicinity of Baku. The remaining part of Trans-Caucasus was controlled by the Trans-Caucasian commissariat, later reorganised into the Trans-Caucasian federation.



In March 1918 the Baku Soviet arranged a massacre against the peaceful defenceless population of the Turkish quarters which resulted in the death of about 10 thousand citizens. Under the pretence of the struggle against the Musavat members the Bolshevik and Armenian gangs started the annihilation of the peaceful Azerbaijani population. The Azerbaijani quarters were fired both from the air and sea. The massacre of the city's Moslem population was headed by S.Shaumyan, the Chairman of the Committee of Revolutionary Defence of Baku. The Chief of the headquarters of the Red Army in Baku was Z.Avetisyan, a

colonel of the tsarist army and a member of the Dashnak Party. The outrages in Baku from March 30 to April 2, and further in the uyezds, were nothing but a genocide committed against the Azerbaijani people. It was because of this that the Soviet power failed to last longer and quit the stage ignominiously in the very year of 1918.

After the collapse of the Trans-Caucasian Federation on May 28, 1918 the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was proclaimed with the "Musavat" Party at its head. That was the first republic in the entire Islamic East. Because of the complicated situation in the Republic the first Azerbaijani government convened its session not in

its native land, but in Tiflis. Later it moved to Ganja. At this time Baku was under Baku Commune, and later it was controlled by the Sentrokaspi Dictatorship consisting of Dashnaks and Mensheviks. Turkey came to the rescue of the young Azerbaijan Republic. Along with the Turks in its Caucasian Islamic army of 15 thousand soldiers were fighting the newly formed Azerbaijani military units under the command of General Shikhlinski. Having fought in the battles all through Azerbaijan on September 15, 1918 the Caucasian Islamic Army broke the resistance of the opposing army of 50 thousand soldiers and entered Baku.

Baku became the capital of the independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. On September 17, 1918 the government headed by F.Khoyski arrived in Baku. New bodies of the government power started to be formed. On December 7, 1918 the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Republic started to meet.



Having been defeated in World War I, Turkey, according to the

terms of Mudros armistice, had to withdraw its forces from the borders of Azerbaijan in mid November. According to the same armistice the English troops were brought in here. Headed by General W.Thomson who had declared himself the military governor of Baku, the English troops of 5 thousand soldiers arrived in Baku on November 17, 1918. By General Thomson's order a martial law was implemented in Baku until the moment when "the civil power would be strong enough to release the forces from the responsibility to maintain the public order".



The young Republic stood the test successfully and it opened a free way to the cultural, social and economic progress. In April 1919 General Thomson's restrictions, according to which the Ministry of Defence had been in Ganja, were lifted. The Azerbaijani troops solemnly entered Baku. At the end of August 1919 a mass evacuation of the English troops from Baku that put an end to their 9 month stay here started. Thus all the sections of the state apparatus were transferred without exception to the full jurisdiction of the Azerbaijani government.

The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic existed for about 2 years and was overthrown by Russia. On April 27, 1920 the units of the Russian Eleventh Red Army crossed the border of Azerbaijan and began to march towards Baku. At the same time the Soviet Russia presented the Azerbaijan Republic with an ultimatum to surrender. On April 28 the Eleventh Red Army entered the capital of Azerbaijan. The perfidious intervention and overturn were declared as "the Socialist revolution of the workers and peasants". The first thing the Red Army did was to deliver oil to Russia. Only from April 30 to May 2 1920 that is literally after the establishment of the Soviet power in Baku, 12 tankers with 1.3 million poods of oil were sent to Russia. Already in the May of the same year the amount of the exported oil increased to 15 million poods and in June to 21.2 million poods of oil and oil products.

After the Soviet power had been established in Georgia and Armenia in March 1922 a contract was signed to form the Federative Union of the Trans-Caucasian Republics which was soon reorganised into the Trans-Caucasian Federative Republic. In December of the same year the Trans-Caucasian Republic, along with Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Russian Federation formed the USSR. In compliance with the new Constitution of 1936 Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia became independent republics within the USSR.

The development of Baku also continued after the establishment of the Soviet power. To attach the Baku oil district towards herself more strongly Russia took measures aimed at giving Azerbaijan the status of "a model Soviet Republic in the Islamic East". This kind of measures included the improvement of the living conditions of the Baku workers, mainly of the oil workers, as well as the solution of the problems related to the town-building of the capital. From 1924 to 1937 three variants of the city's over-all plan had been worked out. In this period the widest housing and cultural constructions were being carried out in the central historical part of the city and its suburbs, the foundations of the new housing unit areas were laid: the settlements after M.Mammadyarov, P.Montin, S.Razin, etc. In 1926 the first electric railway in the USSR was constructed to connect Baku with the suburban settlements of workers. The work on the considerable increase of the areas under green plantations in Baku also dated to these years. Gardens, squares and parks were laid both in the historical part of the city and in its new districts with the compulsory participation of thousands of citizens of Baku in numerous *subbotniks*.



Beside these achievements, obtained due to utter enthusiasm and labour of the rank and file citizens of Baku one must also remember the innocent victims of Stalinist repression of the 1930s. The losses were particularly great among the reviving young Azerbaijani intelligentsia, whose best representatives were either exiled or shot dead.

With the outbreak of World War II again Baku turned out to be in the focus of attention of the great world powers. After the Soviet-German non-aggression pact had been signed in 1939, the USSR started to provide Germany with oil. In 1939-1940 France and England planned to bomb Baku and to occupy the Baku oil industry district. In the French generals' opinion such kind of operation would have weakened the economic might of the Soviet Union and led to the collapse of the Soviet system. England also had an analogous plan. The headquarters of the British Royal Air Forces thought that "three squadrons of bombers operating for a period of time from 6 weeks to 3 months could put the oil fields out of action". Only the Germans' powerful attack on the western front forced the allies to postpone their plans with respect to Baku.

The contribution of Baku in the successful defeat of fascism was very weighty. During the war the oil reserves of Baku comprised 75% of the country's overall oil reserves, and 90% of the jet fuel consisted of Baku oil. Taking into consideration the growing demand for oil, the Baku oil workers reached the record level of oil extraction in 1941 – 23,482 million tons. Never before such amount of oil had been extracted and up to now, this record has not been surpassed yet.

When the German military forces attacked the Caucasus, Hitler fixed the date of seizing Baku – September 25, 1942. German reconnaissance planes started to appear over Baku and one of them was shot near the city. 764 oil wells were deadened and prepared for destruction and 81 sets of drilling equipment with the personnel were sent to Turkmenistan in case of seizure of the city by the autumn of 1942. Despite this, Baku provided the front with oil, restoring and exploiting the old oil wells. Thousands of oil workers went to front to fight and in the oil fields they were replaced by the women. A considerable number of military equipment and ammunitions were produced here. Baku was the most important transport junction in providing the USSR with military and humanitarian aids rendered by the allies through Iran. During the years of war Baku as a city in the rear received about 440 thousand wounded from the front.

The further development of the city continued after the war. In 1949 the construction of Oil Rocks started and this was the first world experience in exploiting oil fields in the open city. The construction of living houses and public buildings was recommenced in Baku from the very first years in the post-war period. Thanks to the classics in the Azerbaijani architecture, M.Huseinov and S.Dadashov, as well as G.Majidov, E.Gasimzade, G.Alizade, G.Alasgarov and others and due to their talent and artistic skills the centre of Baku and its new districts enriched themselves with new and very important architectural constructions.

Baku became one of the biggest and most significant industrial centres of the former Soviet Union. Electronics, instrument engineering, light and food industry developed intensively along with the oil extraction, oil refining and oil machine building. Within a relatively short period of time there were built in Baku such big industrial objects as the factory of domestic air conditioners, the Baku instrument making factory, and the factory of electronic computers, the factory of champagne wines, the factory of deep water bases and other enterprises which won not only the domestic market of the Soviet Union but also the markets of numerous foreign countries for the products of high quality.

Enormous was the role of Baku as an important transport junction of the former USSR. In those years it held the third place among the other cities in all the Union Republics for its volume of the freight turnover. Of a particular importance was the Baku commercial seaport - the biggest port not only in the Caspian but also among the numerous Soviet ports. In 1967 the opening of Baku underground – the first of its kind in the entire Middle East became a significant event.

Baku became the biggest centre of education and culture. Almost all the big higher educational institutions of Azerbaijan were located in Baku, here tens of theatres, palaces of culture functioned successfully, there were held social, scientific, professional forums of international and All-Union significance.

For its achievements the city was repeatedly rewarded with Challenge Red Banners of the Central Committee of the CPSU, of the Cabinet of Ministers, All-Union Central Trade Unions and of the Central Committee of the All-Union Young Communist League. And on November 24, 1977 Baku was awarded the Order of Lenin according to the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The perestroika movement started in mid 1980s turned the entire country including Baku into a chaos and instability for a long period of time. A number of bloody hotbeds of interethnic conflicts broke out in the territory

of the USSR, the first one of which was and is still in Garabagh. The conflict arose because of the Armenian nationalists' territorial claims. In 1988 there appeared a claim of annexation of Mountainous Garabagh of Azerbaijan to Armenia. At the same time the entire Azerbaijani population was driven out of Armenia – more than 200 thousand people whose greater part arrived in Baku. A movement for the protection of the territorial integrity started in Azerbaijan. In view of the reluctance of the USSR leadership to stop the Armenian nationalists' claim, it grew into a national liberation movement. On November 17, 1988 continuous protest meetings against the Soviet leadership's policy and for the national independence started in Lenin Square (now Liberty Square) in Baku. Now this day is officially celebrated as the Day of National Revival. Despite the introduction of the state of emergency in Baku on November 25, the meeting lasted till December 5 when the square was cleared of the strikers with the help of the military forces. But the national movement in Azerbaijan gathered power.



To suppress the national movement, to ban the calls for national sovereignty and not to allow the collapse of the USSR, the Soviet leadership's punitive action unprecedented in cruelty and cynicism and savage reprisal against unarmed population of the city were carried out in Baku in January 1990. At night from January 19 to 20 troops were brought into Baku. The engagement of the military units and formations in the city was accompanied with firing which victimised the peaceful citizens: the youth, the old and the children – part of the defenceless unarmed population of Baku who either protested against the entry of the unbidden army into the city or happened to be on its way. Tanks crushed the passing emergency vehicles, the cars on the roadside, the wounded were crushed, and the

medical personnel rendering first aid on the spot were fired at. Death overtook some people in their flats, in the porches of the houses, in buses and at their workplaces. As a result, 131 people died and 744 were wounded and a lot of them were crippled forever. The January tragedy of 1990 entered the Azerbaijani people's national consciousness as the most sorrowful event, at the same time, as the turning point in the history of Azerbaijan in the XX century on its way to the national independence.

After the collapse of the USSR the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan accepted a declaration "On the Restoration of the State Independence of Republic of Azerbaijan". In accordance with this declaration Republic of Azerbaijan was proclaimed sovereign on October 18, 1991. For the second time in the history of the XX century Baku became the capital of an independent state.

With the independence gained in 1991 Baku as well as the entire Azerbaijan clashed with a range of uneasy problems associated with the collapse of the planned economy and the hardships of the transition period. The independent Azerbaijan fighting for the territorial integrity had to solve also a range of complicated problems caused by the aggression of neighbouring Armenia which had occupied one fifths of the Azerbaijani territory. The most complicated were the questions associated with the solution of living problems of more than one million refugees who had to leave their homes. The Armenian aggression inflicted on the economy of Azerbaijan such a heavy blow that it stops the reform processes, has an impact on the micro-economic indices of the country and impedes the further economic structure.

Heydar Aliyev's return to the leadership of the Republic in 1993 enabled to stabilise the internal political situation in the Republic and to attract the investments of the biggest international oil companies for its development. A significant event of this kind was the signing of the great oil contract in September 1994 also known as "the Contract of the Century". This enabled to start the realisation of several concrete issues including the ones connected with the consolidation of the independence of the Republic, the development of the city's economy and the constructions in Baku. Today being actively developed the capital of Azerbaijan plays a significant role and has become the biggest political and economic centres in the region.

The citizens of Baku are always notable for their belief in future and great optimism despite any adversity. And today when our young republic has chosen the road of its independent development, we are sure that Baku will achieve great successes and hold a place worthy of its past, present and future to rank with the famous capitals of the world.

### **3. Museums**

#### **Azerbaijan history museum**

Azerbaijan history museum is created in 1920. The museum has 8 sections, 2 laboratories, 11 funds, scientific archive and library. The exposition of the museum is situated in 35 halls. The scientific fund of the museum has over 300 thousand different exhibits.

History and culture of Azerbaijan have reflected since ancient period before our days here. In the hall of the museum "People's friends and employees" is presented exhibits of friendly people, gifts from foreign states, are demonstrated rare pearls. There are scientific works, monographs, albums-catalogues, exposures, booklets and others in the museum.

#### **Memorial museum of Mammad Said Ordubady**

The memorial museum of the famous Azerbaijan writer, playwright and journalist - M.S.Ordubady was founded on October 31 1979 after the decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan republic. The museum is placed in the centre of Baku. Here the writer had lived since 1937 till 1980.

Being a cultural enlightenment hearth the museum preserves creative heritage of the writer.

M.S.Ordubady was born in 1822, Ordubad city. Ordubady lost his father early and began to work in a silk mill at his fourteen.

His first poem was published in 1903. Later he began to publish articles and topical satire in such newspapers as "Irshad", "Shargy-Rus", "Taza hayat", "Ittifag", "Taraggy". The exposition of the museum consists of 2 rooms. The first room is the writer's drawing room and at the same times his study where books, memorabilia of the writer, his documental photos are presented. The view of the room is kept as it was in poet's life-time. A noteworthy exhibit of the hall is M.S.Ordubady's portrait by honored culture worker, artist - Altai Hajiyevev. The table presented in the room witnessed the creative process of the writer. Just at this table M.S.Ordubady created his best works "Underground Baku", "A foughting city", "A sword and a feather".

The second room of the exhibition is dedicated to the writer's creative activity. Here the examples of writer's works are shown. In exposition there are examples of M.S.Ordubady's books beginning from his first two books - "The Ignorance", "The motherland and the freedom" published by "Geyret" publishing house, till his latest novels.

The excursions with visitors are lead in Azerbaijanian and Russian.

#### **Museum of Azerbaijan literature named after Nizami Ganjavi**

The whole area of the museum is 2500 sq.m. The exposition occuppies 1409 sq.m, the scientific funds occuppies 173 sq.m. Sculptures of the six famous representatives of Azerbaijan literature: Fizuli (sculptor F.Abdurrahmanov), Vagif (sculptor S.Klyatsky), M.F.Akhundov (sculptor P.Sabsay), Natavan (sculptor E.Tripolskaya), D.Mammedkulizade (sculptor N.Zakharov), J.Jabbarly (sculptor S.Klyatsky) are located on the front side of the museum. The sculptures give the building a pantheon-like appearance.

Isrucco moulding, latticed wooden windows, original furniture decorate the halls, where the Museum's exhibits are displayed.

The memorial museum of literature, presenting Nizami Ganjevi's epoch, was inaugurated in May 1945 in the festive days of the victories ending of the great Patriotic War. The present-day Museum of the history of Azerbaijan literature based in Nizami Museum and it's collection of exhibits, was completed in 1967, the exposition was recreated in 2001-2003.

Nizami Ganjavi literary museum is one of the biggest and richest measure-houses of Azerbaijan culture. Valuable materials dealing with the history of Azerbaijan literature beginning from the very sources up to our days are kept in the museum.

Various valuable exhibits are on display in the halls of the museum. There are unique manuscripts of Azerbaijani as well as other Oriental poets, philosophers and scientists, samples of famous calligrapher handwritings, beautiful miniature illustrations, classic's books, copies of pre-Revolutionary magazines and newspapers, contemporary copies of the books written by Azerbaijani authors and scientific papers in many

European and Oriental languages. Also there are documentary photos and pictures, personal things of writers, interesting specimen of folk art, numismatic collections of coins of different epochs found in Azerbaijan, old rugs, various samples of material culture-ceramics bronzes and many other valuable exhibits connected with Azerbaijan people's culture.

There are above 3000 literary and art exhibits in the 26 halls of the museum. Much attention is given to extracts from books, fragment from works of fiction, quotations of famous writer and scholars, biographic and other explanatory texts.

Not all the treasures of the Nizami Museum are displayed in the halls, its fund contains above 75 thousands different exhibits.

The excursions with visitors are lead in Azerbaijanian, Russian, English and Persian languages.

### **Azerbaijan state museum of carpet and applied arts**

Museum of the azeri carpet, folk & applied arts is the first museum of carpets in the world. It is created in 1967, discovered in 1972.

The funds of the museum of Azeri Carpet have over 10 thousand valuable works of art. Carpets weaved in the XIII-XX centuries are objects of the ancient living; Bronze Epoch ceramic monuments and art metals of the XIV century are among them. The high-level mastering can be marked in decorations – silver and gold jewellery, traditional clothes, and art embroidery. There is also a collection with the wide representation of works of modern artists-craftsmen.

The excursions with visitors are lead in Azerbaijanian, Russian, English languages.

### **House-museum of Samad Vurgun**

Samad Vurgun was the scientist, academician of the Academy Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR. The last years of his life he, took the post of was vice-president of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR.

House-museum of Samad Vurgun, the great Azerbaijan poet, twice State prize winner, well-known playwright, scientist and a notable public figure is the first memorial Museum, established in Azerbaijan.

Museum, organized in 1974 by the decree of the Azerbaijan Government, was inaugurated in 6 October 1975.

Nowadays more than 16000 exhibits are kept in the Museum.

Three rooms of the Museum - a study, a drawing room and a bedroom are kept as they were in the poet's life time.

In this apartment were created plays "Vagif", "Farhad and Shirin", "Insan", poem "Aygyun" and a great deal another.

In the glass-cases one can see his memorial things: sheepskin coat, fowling-piece, saz and different presents given to the poet.

Twice a year on March 21 and on May 27 is hold as "The Days of Memory" of Samad Vurgun. In the Museum are also being prepared the mobile exhibition. There is a literary circle "Our favorite Poet", dedicated to Samad Vurgun. S.Vurgun was the first awarded the title of "National Poet of Azerbaijan".

In the Museum the excursions with visitors are lead in Azerbaijanian and Russian.

### **Museum of fine arts named after Rustam Mustafayev**

Arts Section of Azerbaijan State Museum is created in 1936 (formed in 1920). The section was opened in 1937. Nowadays 12 thousand wonderful art masterpieces are kept in the Museum. The exposition of the museum is situated in 42 rooms.

Arts museum is the treasure of Azeri, Russian, and West-European art works. It also contains incredible works of art of the East: Turkey, Iran, Japan and China. The museum tells about artists and the skills of the unique craftsmen of the XVIII-XX centuries in Azerbaijan.

Widely presented are the works of the matters of modern decorative and applied art in the museum. There are carpets made by A.Karimov and K.Aliyeva; tapestries of F.Huseinova, U.Gamidova, T.Afababayeva; large felt



mats of R.Ismailova, and ceramics of M.Avshara, N.Sultanova. The masterpieces of people's decorative and applied art are: carpets, embroideries, textiles, clothes, fretwork in stone, wood and metal, pottery and jewelry.

### **Memorial museum of Nariman Narimanov**

The memorial museum of the famous playwright and Doctor Nariman Narimanov was opened on November 6 in 1977.

The Museum is located at the house, which had been built by the project of architect M.M.Ismaylov and belonged to the merchant Babayev.

On the second floor of this house Nariman Narimanov had lived with his family since 1913 up to 1918. The exposition of the museum is situated in 4 rooms: the dining-room, living-room, bedroom and a study. The common area of the exposition is 96 sq.m.

In the first room we could get information about his youth-ages, his study in famous Gori seminary and his activity as a teacher by means of writer's rare family photos, and some state documents.

In the second room there are materials about Narimanov's study at the Medical Institute in Odessa.

The third room is kept as it was during Narimanov's life-time. Here you can see some memorial things of the writer.

In the fourth room you can see the study of the writer, his medical cupboard, the stand, and his medical instruments.

The most seminal period in Narimanov's creative activity is a last decennial event of the XIX century. In this time he wrote the history drama "Nadirshah", comedy "Shamdan-bek", play "Ignorance", novel "Bahadur and Sona".

More than 5000 exhibits, publication of books, original photos, autographs, genealogy of the Narimanov's is kept in the fund of the museum. Narimanov's day of birthday and the most noteworthy days of his creative activity are celebrated in the museum every year.

In the museum the excursions with visitors are lead in Azerbaijanian and Russian.

### **House-museum of Jalil Mammadguluzade**

The decree about the foundation of the J.Mammedguluzade's house museum was issued in 1978. But the museum was inaugurated on 29 of December in 1994, after Haydar Aliyev's decision about the celebration of poet's 125th birthday anniversary.

In a scientific fund of the museum more than 3000 exhibits are kept, 500 of them are in exposition. The exposition of the museum consists of 5 rooms of the house with the whole area 125 sq.m.

The first room of the exposition lightens the childhood, youth-ages and his period of study.

The second room is memorial drawing-room of the writer. In this room there are illustrations made by Azeri illustrator-artist on the theme of Jalil Mammadguluzade's stories.

The third room is the writer's memorial bedroom with corresponding interior and furniture.

The fourth room of the exhibition gives us information about creative activity of the writer by means of family photos, books and historical documents. Right in this room one can see some illustrations devoted to the journalistic activity of J.Mammedguluzade, particularly interesting are those dealing with "Molla Nasraddin" magazine's issues in Tebriz and Tiflis.

The fifth room is the poet's study and at the same time it served as editorial office of the magazine "Molla Nasraddin". The exhibits are presented in this room reproduces the activity period of "Molla Nasraddin"; in 1923-32, shows us literary environment of that time.

In the museum J.Mammedguluzade's Memory Days are celebrated annually.

### **House-museum of Huseyn Javid**

The house-museum of the famous poet - philosopher, playwright Huseyn Javid was opened on November 25 in 1981.

Working as a teacher in the seminary since 1920 H.Javid lived on the 3 floor of the seminary's building till June 4, 1937, that is to say, till his arrest.

The common area of the museum is 245 sq.m. Exposition occupies 130 sq.m., funds - 12 sq.m. A fund of the museum has got 4250 exhibits. The house-museum consists of 4 rooms and a foyer.

The foyer begins with the description of the planet named after Huseyn Javid. The model of the monument to Javid by people's artist, sculptor O.Eldarov in Baku is presented here. Triptych, created by the people's artist O.Sadygzadeh introduces visitors with literary heroes Javid's world.

"Javid's tragedy" - this is a title of the third room. The things are the same as they were in those days when the poet was alive: writing-table, fragments of letters from exile in Siberia, Sadygzadeh's illustration devoted to victims of 1937 year repression, Javid's "Last work". The documentary photos of bringing back to Baku from Siberia Javid's corpse, of the process of burying in Nakhchivan are also among the exhibits of the third room.

The publications of his works, play-bills of performances, A.Hajiyev's illustrations to Javid's work "The last summer", artist A.Aliyev's illustrations to "Iblis" (Demon), artist A.Kerimova's the carpet and other exhibits are demonstrated in the house-museum of Huseyn Javid.

### **House-museum of Jafar Jabbarly**

The house-museum dedicated to the founder of new period Azerbaijan dramaturgy, poet, translator, script-writer J.Jabbarly was opened in connection with 80-th anniversary of Jabbarly's birthday on March 23, 1982.

The common area of the museum is 200 sq.m. The exposition of the museum is situated in 7 rooms. A fund of the museum has more than 8000 exhibits.

The 1 room of the exposition dedicated to J.Jabbarly's childhood, youth ages, education, and the early period of his poetical and dramaturgic activity.

The 2 hall - the study has a memorial character. In such a small room the wonderful examples of Azerbaijan dramaturgy had been created by writer.

Exhibits of the 3 hall narrate about romantic period of writer's activity. The models to writer's plays "Aydin", "Ogtay Elogly", "Od galini" which are famous at the stage of Azerbaijan State Drama Theatre.

The exhibits of the IV room show us the musical activity of the writer. There are such musical instruments as piano, gramophone, tar.

The most interesting and fruitful period of writer's life is from 1928 till 1930. Just at that time the remarkable works had been created by Jabbarly as "In 1905", "Almas", "Sevil", the masterpieces of national dramaturgy.

The V room is about J.Jabbarly's activity as translator and scriptwriter. Translations of world classics' works as F.Shiller, W.Shakespeare, P.Bomarche, M.Gorky, L.Tolstoy and others belong to his pen.

The VI room includes the last period of J.Jabbarly's life and creative activity. The materials, historical photos, illustrations, last plays of the dramatist as "Yashar", "Turning point", the handwriting of unfinished work "Afghanistan" are presented in the exposition.

The VII room is conditionally called "The grief room". In this room the writer passed away.

The excursions are on Azerbaijanian and Russian languages.

#### 4. Historical Monuments

##### *The Maiden Tower*

The most majestic and mysterious monument of Baku is Gyz Galasy - the Maiden Tower rising in the south-eastern part of the fortress of Ichari Shahar. This unique building of the Azerbaijani architecture does not have any analogues in the East. There are numerous debates on the date of construction and purpose of this monument, at present it attracts the attention, most of all for its unparalleled form.

The tower was built on the ledge of the coastal rock and consists of a cylinder 28 m in height and 16,5 m in diameter which was inlaid with local grey limestone. The thickness of the walls at the foundation is 5 metres, and in the upper part 4 metres. On the eastern side a projection, the purpose of which is still unknown joins the tower. The internal space of the tower is divided into 8 tiers which can shelter more than 200 people simultaneously. Each of the eight tiers of the tower is covered with a stone cupola with a round opening. The light penetrated inside through the narrow window openings of a loop-hole type, widening inwards. The communication among the tiers was carried out with the help of the winding stone staircase, laid in the thickness of the wall. The first tier, like in other Apsheron towers was connected with the second one through an attached or rope-ladder, which could be taken away in case of danger. Bays are constructed in the same thickness with the walls, inside them are laid a pottery pipe 30cm in diameter. There is a well 21m deep inside the tower, cut in the rock to the water-bearing stratum from the third tier. The water here was clean and fresh.



The construction date of the Maiden Tower has not been fixed yet. Often its construction is ascribed to the XII century. This is the age of the plate with the inscription laid from the outside of the tower. The Cufi inscription, engraved on the plate reads “gubbe (the cupola, vault) of Masud Ibn Davud”. But this plate definitely appeared in the tower later, as it is accidentally and inaccurately fit to the masonry, not above the main entrance, but somewhere by the side, at a height of 14 m from the ground. Most likely it is a tombstone which was placed in the dent done up in the tower during the repairs. To date the tower two conditions are used. The first – in the construction of the Maiden Tower lime mortar was used, and the oldest building constructed with the mortar was found in Gabala dating to the I century of our era. This is the lowest temporal limit of the age of the tower. The highest limit can be defined, if the colour of the stone of the Maiden Tower is compared with that of the mosque of Mahammad Ibn Abu-bakr, situated in the fortress and constructed in the years of 1078-1079. Though both of the constructions were made of the same type of the local limestone, the stones of the Maiden Tower are much darker, that is, it is several hundred years older than the mosque of Mahammad. Thus the highest limit is not later than IX-X centuries. S.B.Ashurbayli, the well-known historian advanced a supposition on the construction of the Maiden Tower in the first centuries of our era, M.A.Nabiyev – in the VI century of our era. By D.A.Akhundov’s supposition the tower was erected in the VI century BC. L.Bretanitski, the historian of the Azerbaijani architecture considered that it had been erected in two stages: the lower part of the monument up to the height of 13,7 m was constructed in the V-VI centuries, and the upper part was completed in the XII century.

It is also rather hard to define the primary functional purpose of the Maiden Tower. The original construction of the tower as a defence structure gives rise to doubt. It is of little use for a defence because of the small area and the lack of the conditions for a long stay. The existing narrow window openings are directed towards the sea and is not intended to repulse the attack of the enemy. Though it is somehow possible to defend oneself from the enemy only from the top of the tower. Besides, it has been calculated that it could be possible to build another wall around the city with the stones and lime spent on the construction of the tower. There are versions that primarily the tower was constructed as a temple of fire (the word “Gala”- “tower” has another meaning in Azerbaijani – “to light a fire”), a Zoroastrian hut (that is the tower, where on the top were laid the bodies of the people for the black kites to tear to pieces), an observation point. But it is doubtless that in the XII century this splendid tower was part of the defence system of Baku and was the main citadel of the Baku fortress, one of the most powerful fortresses of the Shirvanshahs. In the XVIII-XIX centuries the Maiden Tower was used as a beacon. The beacon in the tower began to give light since June 13, 1858 but until then a fortress flag had been hoisted on it.

Later with the growth of the city the lights of the beacon on the tower began to mingle with the night lights of the city and the beacon was transferred to the Nargin Island (Boyuk Zira).

The tower has repeatedly been restored. During the repairs done in the middle of the XIX century by the Russian military department, the merlons (mashikuli) used for defence purposes disappeared from the top of the tower. The tower was last restored in the 1960s. In 1964 the Maiden Tower became a museum, and since 2000 has been included in the UNESCO list of the monuments.

The word "Maiden" is also found in the names of the other towers in the territory of Azerbaijan and the East and perhaps it means "unsubdued", "impregnable". There are a number of legends connected with the etymology of the name of the Baku "Maiden Tower". According to one of them, the shah fell in love with his own daughter and decided to marry her. Terrified by the forthcoming marriage with her father, and wishing to dissuade him, the daughter asked him to build a tower and wait until its construction was completed. When the tower was ready, the shah did not change his mind. And then the girl climbed the tower and threw herself into the sea.

Closely analysing the legend it is possible to surmise that the possibility of the marriage between the father and the daughter is believed to date the legend back from the pre-Islamic period. Besides this, the legend testifies to the fact that the Caspian Sea was swashing at the very foot of the tower. Irrespective of the etymology of the legend, its plot was the favourite theme of many artists and poets. In 1923 Jafar Jabbarly, the famous Azerbaijani playwright wrote a poem called "the Maiden Tower". The first Soviet film made in Azerbaijan in 1924 was also based on the plot of the legend. "The Maiden Tower" is also the name of the first Azerbaijani ballet, composed by Afrasiyyab Badalbayli in 1940.



*The Shirvanshahs' Palace ensemble*

The Shirvanshahs' Palace ensemble is the biggest monument of the Shirvan-Apsheeron branch of the Azerbaijani architecture. In the XV century following the rise of economic and political importance of Baku, which was one of the strongly fortified fortresses and the main port in the Caspian, Khalulullah, the Shah of Shirvan, transferred the Shirvanshahs' residence from Shamakhy to Baku. In connection with the flood of the Sabail fortress the construction of a new palace was carried out in a new safe place on the top of the Baku hill. The ensemble was not built according to a single architectural project and consists of a range of constructions located in accordance with the relief on three levels: the main building of the palace (the 1420s), Divankhana (the 1450s), the burial-vaults – (1435), the shah's mosque with a minaret (1441), Seyid Yahya Bakuvi's mausoleum (the 1450s) and the remnants of the Keyguba mosque. The palace constructions include a portal in the east – Murad's gate (1585), a reservoir and the remnants of the bath-house. According to some data to the north-east of the palace building there formerly used to be the shah's stables, but at present there are living houses in this place. To the north of Divankhana in one of the living houses one can see the foundation of the surviving ancient wall, the laying of which is similar to the laying of the palace facade. This seems to be the remnants of the laying of the buildings belonging to the palace ensemble. In 1964 the complex was declared a museum-reserve and was taken under the state protection.

*The Sabael Castle*

In 1235 Shirvanshah Fariburz III had a fortification built on one of the rocky islands of the Baku bay which was subsequently called the Sabael Castle, Shahri Saba, Shahri Nau, the city under water, the caravanserai, the Bail rocks, etc. Wrapped in legends, the castle is completely under water at present and is about 350 meters distant from the shore.



The castle was constructed by the project of the architect Zeynaddin Ibn Abu Rashid Shirvani. The plan of the building has a view of an irregular shaped rectangular of 180 m in length and 40 m in width sharply stretched from the north to the south. This shape coincided with the outlines of the island rising above the sea water on which the foundation of the building is entirely located. The castle was surrounded with the fortress walls of 1,5-2 m in thickness and had 15 towers, three of which were round and 12 - semicircular.

The entire fortress in the upper part is set in a frame with an inscription made of Arabic type. The greater part of the inscription was made in the Persian language – the official language of the period. The general length of the inscription is 400 metres. Each of the stones with an inscription was 70 cm lengthwise and 25-50 cm wide, the thickness reached 15-25 cm. These inscriptions do not have analogues in the entire Near East of the feudal period for their decorative design, the pictures of living creatures, first discovered in the Islamic monuments of the world. The text of the inscription gives the genealogy of the Shirvanshahs' dynasty Mazyadids. The inscriptions on the stones have not been deciphered up to now. The pictures of different animals perhaps show the years of one or another Shirvanshah. As is generally known, in the medieval period in the Near Eastern countries the years were marked by the names of animals. The pictures of human heads with a crown seem to refer to individual representatives of the Shirvanshahs' dynasty. Among the proper names one can see on the inscriptions are Mahammad Ibn Yazid, Khalid, Ali, Manuchuhr, Fariburz Afrasiyab, Jamaladdin, etc. One can also see the titles "shah", "soltan", the names of cities are also encountered. On one stone one can read Benderi-Baku, that is, the port of Baku. The name of Rashid an-Naggash, that is artist Rashid who had cut out human and animal pictures is also mentioned.



There are different versions about the purpose of the castle. The small width of the exit doors (1,25m) refutes the version that it was a caravanserai, as loaded camels and horses could not pass through them. The researches show that this was a defence sea fortress being at the same time a residence of the Shirvanshahs. The sea fortress on the approaches to Baku was necessary in case of an attack from the seaside. At the end of the XII century the Shirvanshahs had a marine which stood round the fortress. From outside round the walls one can see the stones with an opening to tie the ships.

In the XIII century the Mongols who did not have any fleet, laid siege to the fortress for a long time. Although they did destroy the upper part of the fortress with siege-guns, they could not occupy it.

In 1306 as a result of a strong earthquake in the south of the Caspian and the rise of the sea level the fortress sank into the water. From the beginning of the XIV century and to the beginning of the XVIII century the building was flooded with the Caspian waters. In 1723 in connection with the abatement of the water level in the Caspian the top of the tower appeared from beneath the water. The upper part of the building is completely destroyed, only the lower part of the walls and the towers reaching in some places about 1,5-2 m high is surviving.

The archaeological investigations of the castle were carried out in 1939, 1940, 1946, 1962 and 1969. In the course of the excavations the foundations of 9 habitual premises were discovered, two of them had a hearth. About 700 stones with inscriptions, fragments of earthenware crockery of black and red baking, intact vessels, copper coins of Shirvanshah Kershasb (1203/4-24) and others were lifted from the bottom of the sea. Also were found the fragments of potter's pipes of different diameters which seemed to be water-pipes. At present part of the stones lifted from the bottom of the sea are displayed in the museum of the Shirvanshahs' Palace.

### *Towers of Absheron*

In the XI-XIII centuries in connection with the consolidation of the Shirvanshahs in the territory of the Absheron Peninsula a great construction work was carried out. Among the buildings of that time the towers and castles hold a special place; they served as reliable strongholds for the feudal lords in the intestine wars, also as shelters and places of defence during the foreign invasions. Particularly this question was keenly raised in the XII century, when Absheron was exposed to the attacks of the Russian buccaneers from the sea. Thus in 1175 Shirvanshah Akhistan I repulsed several raids of the Russians, who attacked on 73 vessels.

Located along the entire Absheron Peninsula the towers were not designed for long stay in them. Unlike the West European castles of the same period the Absheron castles did not have wide inner courtyards with habitable rooms and office buildings. Such kinds of buildings were situated beyond the fortress walls. The towers served just as temporary shelters for the feudal lords and their vassals during the attacks and for a passive defense. All the towers of Absheron comprised the unified system of defense. In the XVII-XVIII centuries the towers played the role of a signal. While the enemy approached, oil was burnt on top of the towers and in this way the population was warned against the danger.

The towers of Absheron have a lot of similar features. All of them are or were situated in the outskirts of the settlements or in general beyond them. Round and quadrangular towers of Absheron have almost the identical planning in all cases. All of them are enclosed with quadrangular fortress walls. The courtyard side round all the towers made of stone walls is 20-25 m. In height the towers are divided into tiers (from two to eight), connected with one another by the stairs as thick as a wall. There are no stairs to the second floor; portable wooden ladders were likely used. The first floor of all the towers is 6,5 – 7 meters in height, the upper floors – 3,5 –4,5 meters. The diameters of the round towers and the length of the sides of quadrangular towers (3,5 –5,5 m), the thickness of the walls (up to 2 m) are also close to one another. All the means of defense of the towers are concentrated on the upper square. Being placed on it the riflemen sheltered themselves by a stepped parapet with merlons. The slot-like narrow openings widened inside on all the tiers of the tower except the ground floor, served mainly for lighting and ventilation. Their sizes did not allow using them for military actions; the zone for defeating was extremely limited. The primitive sewage lines – posts and wells with water also point to the fact that these towers served as temporary living quarters during the siege.

Better preserved towers are in Ramana, Nardaran and two - in Mardakan, but the towers in Bilgah, Shagan and Gala are in ruins. Towers also existed in the settlements of Mashtagha, Shuvalan, Keshla, Hovsan, Buzovna and others. Thus there were about 30 towers in the villages of Absheron.

### *The Fire Temple Ateshgah*

In early history Azerbaijan was called the “land of the sacred fire”. Although the “everlasting fire” mentioned by early travelers such as Alexandre Dumas was due to the gas and oil deposits erupting from the earth, it became surrounded by legend and mystery. Some 2,600 years ago, Zarathustra was formulating Zoroastrianism, one of the first major monotheistic religions. His idea to use fire as a metaphor for the mysteries of God probably came from witnessing the spontaneous flames that rise so eerily from Azerbaijan's Absheron Peninsula. Today some such fires still burn. Most notable is Yanar Dag near Mammedli, where a small hillside is constantly and naturally aflame.



On Absheron there were many temples of Fire as well. From their variety the most famous is the well-preserved temple Ateshgah ("the Fire Place") in Surakhany, located 20 kilometers east of the town center. The temple was built over a pocket of natural gas that fuelled a vent providing an 'eternal' fire. This kind of use of fire in Zoroastrian temples led to the followers of Zoroaster (Zarathustra).

Historians, archaeologists, and theologians have argued over the construction date of the temple. Some defend that there was a Zoroastrian temple in Surakhany since the 6th century, others delay that event for another seven centuries. As the introduction of Islam

to the region to the area resulted in the destruction of almost every Zoroastrian temple and documents, these claims are hard to assess. After Azerbaijan was Islamised some Zoroastrians escaped to India. But trade links with India in later centuries, led to renewed contacts with the fire-worshippers, who had migrated from to Northern India. During 17th and 18th Century, the site was rebuilt by Indian merchants and masons, who had established in Baku their settlement. More photogenic is a fortified 18th century stone fire temple built on the site of original at Surakhany Ateshgah. This fire temple, with a mixture of Indian and Azerbaijani architectural styles, is a surviving proof of age old relationship between the two countries. The pentagon shaped building is surrounded by a wall with a guest room over the gate ('balakhane'). There are still some wall inscriptions in Sanskrit and Gurumukhi, including poems. Cells for pilgrims line the wall inside and surround the the main altar in the center of the temple - a quadrangular pavilion with the fire on the altar inside.

Surakhany remained a popular destination for Indian pilgrims until the end of XIX century. The natural gas vent has been exhausted and in 1880 the last pilgrim returned to India.

The temple was last restored in 1975. Today low, dark cells for monks and pilgrims in the Ateshgah Temple at Surakhany house is an interesting museum, intended to introduce the rudiments of Zoroastrianism to the uninitiated.



### III. AZERBAIJAN DISTRICTS

#### District of Absheron

**Date of creation - 04. 01. 1963**

**Total territory - 1,97 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 202,2 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 103 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 6**

**Number of settlements - 8**

**Number of big and middle enterprises – 44**

**Number of infant schools - 21**

**Number of general education schools - 25**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools – 3**

**Number of higher educational institutes - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 3**

**Number of culture centers - 5**

**Distance between Absheron and Baku - 5 km**



#### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>District of Absheron</b>	189794	100,0	95235	100,0	94559	100,0
urban population	157410	82,94	78803	82,75	78607	83,13
rural population	32384	17,06	16432	17,25	15952	16,87

Favorable climate-geographical and geological conditions contributed to the fact that the Absheron was already inhabited 20000 years ago (e.g., an ancient human settlement site near the village of Yeni Surakhany). The whole peninsula is studded with ancient man settlement sites and mounds dated to the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. There are types of burial complexes with burials of anthropomorphic figures made of stone accompanied by plot pictures (villages of Dubandy, Turkani, Hashahuna, Mardakan, and Shuvelan) that are restricted only to the Absheron. More settlement sites have been found in Pirallakhi, on the lake of Zikh, in Binagadi and in Amiradzhani. This evidences that the whole Absheron was one of inhabited places in the most ancient times. However, geostrategic position of the peninsula attracted various invaders as well. The largest settlement site on the Absheron is Mashtaga.

Here, aside of settlements dated to the Bronze and Iron Ages there are also posterior monuments: mosques: Bira Argutai (1414), Hodzha Aydamir, Gazikhana, Hodzha Kerbalai Khusein, (18th century); a mosques dated to the 13th-14th centuries with a 40 m tall minaret built later, a bath of 17th century, Ovdan (a lodgment dated to the 19th century), mausoleums: Agilbara, Hodzha Aslan, Gasanbek, Hodzha Aydamir (18th century). "Gala" if the Baku State Historical and Ethnographic Reserve located in the Absheron village of Gala. Remained in "Gala" are ancient mosques, old roads, ovdans, an ancient cemetery (15th century), baths and settlement sites dated to the Bronze Age. Gala is a typical Absheron settlement and is sometimes called "Icheri Sheher" of Azerbaijan.

Attracting a great interest among guests of Baku is the temple of Zoroastrians - Ateshgah (the house of fire) in the village of Surakhany (17th century). It is situated on a rock where natural emergences of gas on the surface

have been burning for thousands of years. Near the village of Muhammedli one can observe an interesting natural phenomenon -the emergence of burning natural gases at the bottom of the mountains. The place is called Yanar Dag (The Burning Mountain"). In ancient times there were many such places in Azerbaijan.

Ancient, prehistoric tracts - complete analogs of the mystical road tracks in Malta have been found in every part of the Absheron. Many of them lead right to the sea vanishing in the depths.

The Absheron region was formed in January of 1963.

Over the past years the region of Absheron established a high-level control over collective- and state farms of Baku and Sumgait and their provinces, the industry of poultry keeping, offices and enterprises of agrarian sphere, the organizations of construction and melioration, scientific-research institutes and laboratories and serves to full supply of the both industrial centers with agricultural products.

The region of Absheron distinguishes from other regions of our republic for its geographical position and climate.

### District of Aghdam

**Date of creation- 08.08.1930**

**Total territory-1,15 th. sq. km.**

**Total number of population-191,7 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population-1 sq. km 167 per (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of villages-123**

**Number of settlements-14**

**Number of infant schools-30**

**Number of big and middle enterprises-286**

**Number of general education schools -145**

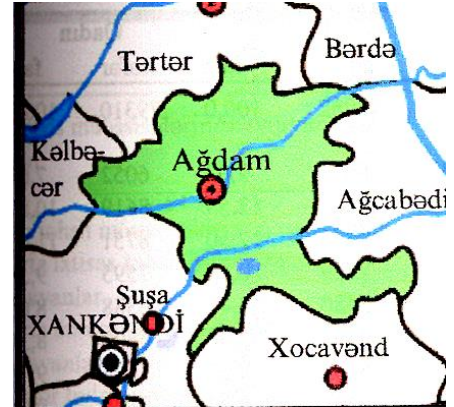
**Number of vocational and secondary schools-4**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises -54**

**Number of culture centers-79**

**Distance between Aghdam and Baku -362 km.**

**The district is occupied since July 23, 1993 by the Armenian armed forces.**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>District of Aghdam</b>	175577	100,0	85689	100,0	89888	100,0
urban population	39707	22,62	19127	22,32	20580	22,90
rural population	135870	77,38	66562	77,68	69308	77,10

The Gargar and Khachyn rivers flow through the region.

Aghdam is situated in the center of the ancient land of Azerbaijan Garabagh with its picturesque nature on the northeastern slopes of the Garabagh Mountains and on the west of the Kur-Araz valley.

It is at the height of 410 meters with the maximum height of 1365 meters. The climate is mainly warm and dry subtropical. With the rise in height the climate becomes more temperate. The precipitation is the highest on the foothills. The annual precipitation totals 300-550 mm.

Since the commencement of the Nagorno- Karabakh events Aghdam has been the center of evolving processes.

Armenia that established on the ancient Azeri lands involved Aghdam in its cruel actions from the commencement of war for the occupation of a new territory of Azerbaijan Nagorno- Karabakh in February 1988 and since the first time Aghdam and its population had to bear the hardest difficulties.

In late 1988 thousands of people forced away from the home lands in Armenia and later their native cities of Nagorno- Karabakh sought refuge in Aghdam.

Armenians under support of Russian army was not satisfied with the occupation of the whole Nagorno- Karabakh started to attack the region around Nagorno- Karabakh in 1992. The attacks on Aghdam were of particular long duration. This attacks that erupted on May 11, 1993 ended with the downfall of Aghdam on July 23 of the same year. As a result of the military attack lasting till May 12, 1994 Armenians managed to occupy 846.7 km<sup>2</sup> that is 77.4% of the total area of Aghdam.

Occupied Aghdam and 87 villages were destructed with an unrivalled cruelty.

Over 5 thousand Azerbaijanis died in the battles for Aghdam, thousands of people became invalids and over 126 thousand people of the region were driven out of their houses thus turning into the IDPs.

### District of Aghdash

**Date of creation – 08. 08. 1930.**

**Total territory - 1,02 th. sq. km.**

**Total number of population – 105,5 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 103 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of villages - 72**

**Number of settlements - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 17**

**Number of infant schools - 30**

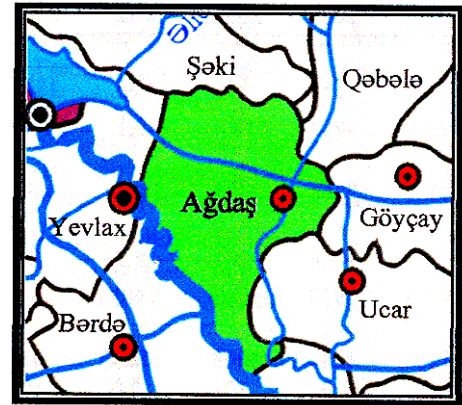
**Number of general education schools - 68**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools- 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 9**

**Number of culture centers - 141**

**Distance between Aghdash and Baku - 249 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Aghdash district</b>	98559	100,0	48836	100,0	49763	100,0
urban population	32804	33,27	15823	32,40	16981	34,12
rural population	65795	66,73	33013	67,60	32782	65,88

People settled in the territory of the Aghdash with favorable nature condition since ancient times. Ancients Greek author Strabon (1st century B.C) wrote in his notes that these territories were settled by people, they engaged in agriculture, population, living on the bank of the River Turyanchay, used this river for agriculture and navigation purpose.

Farming is highly developed in these territories as the climate and fertile lands of these places created favorable condition for the development of farming and cattle-breeding since ancient times. Therefore high quality grain, fruits were grown, silkworm breeding and then cotton-growing were wide spread in the places.

This territory, called Arash, was subordinated to the Shirvah baylarbaylik (territorial unit). This place was ruled by feudal lord, bearing title sultan. Then Arash sultanate passed around during the Safavi-Ottoman wars, weakened and became vassal of Shaki khanate in 1750s.

Sultanate was abolished and annexed to Shaki khanate in 1795.

Arash gaza (territorial unit) was established in the Yelizavetpol government in accordance to the administrative reform, carried out by Tsarism in the Caucasia in 1873. The area of the gaza was 3212,5 km<sup>2</sup>, while its population - 52371.

Aghdash region was established in 1930, after abolishment of Arash gaza in 1929.

The center of the region is constructed in 16th century. Aghdash became town since 1900.

There are remains of the historical monuments, towers and fortifications, belonged to the Middle Ages, in the territory of the region. The most important monument is Sukhray tower of 18 century. This tower is located near Arab village, between Turyanchay and Goychay valleys.

Favorable geographical position and natural condition of the Aghdash region gave opportunity to grow industrial crops and introduce them to the world market in 19th century. Processing enterprises were set in

Aghdash, located on the important trade roads, after construction of the Baku-Tbilisi railway in 1883. Product purchase and their transport to foreign markets caused development of trade and economy.

Ramendik, the director of the Lodz bureau of the Poznan Company, came to Aghdash, opened purchase points of cotton, bought 4 installations and set a press for initial processing and packing in 1887. 7 plants operated in Aghdash in 1897. Thus, Aghdash kept in touch with leading weaving centers of Europe since the 2nd half of 19th century turned into center of cotton production, processing and sale in late 19th century in the Caucasus. Calling of 1st congress of the Caucasian cotton-growers in 1904 in Aghdash testified to this.

If 3100 poods (one pood -16, 38 kg) were sold in the Aghdash market in 1888, this index came to 28000 poods in 1892.

Other traditional products, excepting cotton, were sold in the Aghdash market in 1870s as well. Newspaper "Kavkaz" wrote in early 20th century that Aghdash was the center of cruel silk and cocoon, transported to abroad, Marcel and Italy.

Liquorice dye, produced in the liquorice processing plant, constructed in Laki in 1886, was exported to America and France.

Fruit-growing was also developed in Aghdash. 69745 pood nut, 71017 pood other different fruits were transported to foreign markets by Laki railway station in 1900.



### District of Aghjabedi

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory -1,76 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population - 130,3 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 74 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of villages - 45**

**Number of settlements - 3**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 393**

**Number of infant schools - 40**

**Number of general education schools – 62**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 12**

**Number of culture centers - 125**

**Distance between Aghjabedi and Baku - 263 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Aghjabedi district</b>	121707	100,0	61684	100,0	60023	100,0
urban population	46624	38,31	23240	37,68	23384	38,96
rural population	75083	61,69	38444	62,32	36639	61,04

The Aghjabadi region (meaning of the name is large settlement) is one of the ancient settlements of the Azerbaijan Republic. Remains of ancient settlements, belonged to the Eneolit, Bronze, Antique and Middle Ages, like Kamiltapa, Nargiztapa, Garakobar, Yantapa, Galatapa and Gavur channel draw attention from this point of view. Historians compare them with Egyptian Pyramids and note that though repair of the Gavur channel by Macedonian Alexander is supposition and thorough repair of it by Teymurlang in 16th century is historical fact.

You can meet stone gravestones of the Middle Ages in the cemeteries of the region.

Aghjabadi region was established in 1930, then abolished in 1963 and given to subordination of Aghdam region, but became independent in 1965. The relief of Aghjabadi is plain; it gradually rises from north-east to south-west. The surface of the territory is formatted of continental and sea deposits. There is clay field in the region. The climate is mild, heat and dry subtropical. Average monthly temperature is 1,2-1,7 C in January and 25-30 C in August. The River Kur flows along north-eastern border for 45 km, the River Gargar - in the central part. The channels Yukhari Karabakh and Ordjenikidze pass through the region.

There are salty lakes in the territory. Gray-meadow, gray lands are spread. Saline lands are found the central part. Melioration works are used in the region.

There are 1 town and 46 villages in the Aghjabadi region. The capital is Aghjabadi town.

### District of Agsu

**Date of creation - 08 10 1943**

**Total territory - 1,02 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population - 76,3 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 75 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 78**

**Number of infant schools - 13**

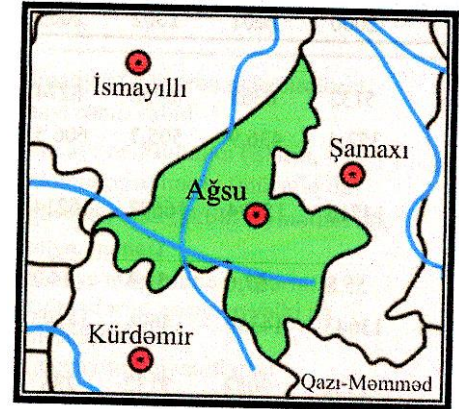
**Number of general education schools - 69**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 40**

**Quantity of culture centers - 81**

**Distance between Agsu and Baku - 162 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Aghsu district</b>	70536	100,0	35017	100,0	35519	100,0
urban population	19710	27,94	9803	27,99	9907	27,89
rural population	50826	72,06	25214	72,01	25612	72,11

The Aghsu region was established on October 8, 1943, liquidated and annexed to the Kurdemir region in 1963, and regained its independence in 1965. Administratively the region is divided into the city Aghsu and 78 villages. Former settlement of urban type Aghsu is today called a city since 1967.

The region Aghsu is a part of the territory Shirvan. It is located 156 km west from Baku city on the road of Gazakh highway. The region is bordered on Ismailli from west and north-west, on Shamakhi from north-west and east, on Kurdemir and Hajigabul from south.

Its relief mainly consists of mountains, mountain foos and sloping plains. The mountainous part is 700-1000 m high from the sea level. The mountainous relief is complicated with rivers, valleys and ravines. Small grey mountains stretch from the bank of Goychay till Pirsatchi and form Shirvan mountain chain. You may also find here the plateaus Hingar, Gurjuvan, Nuran, Kergenj, Gashad and Lengebiz stretching from west to east. The north of Shirvan plain is called *yasamal* (flat place of the height) of Garameryem, the place where Girdimanchay enters Shirvan plain is called the plain Khancobani.

Location of Aghsu on the south foot of the Great Caucasus has an effect on its climate, which is has subdivisions of moderate-hot climate with arid winter, semidesert, arid steppe climate (in the south) and moderate hot climate with arid summer (in the north). Winter in this is region dry, sunny and poorly snowed.

Average annual temperature of the weather is 13-14 Celsius. Average relative annual dampness is 50-81%. The annual amount of the rain is 400-600 mm.

### District of Aghstafa

**Date of creation - 24. 04. 1990**

**Total territory - 1,50 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – - 84,6 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 56 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 29**

**Number of settlements - 9**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 11**

**Number of infant schools – 35**

**Number of general education schools - 39**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 13**

**Number of culture centers - 40**

**Distance between Aghstafa and Baku - 461 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Aghstafa district</b>	80222	100,0	39273	100,0	40949	100,0
urban population	20147	25,11	9841	25,06	10306	25,17
rural population	60075	74,89	29432	79,94	30643	74,83

The region Agstafa is situated in the north-west of the Republic of Azerbaijan between the chains of North Caucasus and South Caucasus on Ganja-Gazakh plain and has a very favourable natural-geographical position. It is one of the oldest human settlements of Azerbaijan and of the whole world.

According to investigators, natural-geographical position, the relief of Azerbaijan formed at least 3 million years ago and was suitable for appearance and formation of the primitive human. Old monuments referred to the paleolit age prove the abovementioned. Archaeological digs carried out in old habitations such as Toytepe, Shomutepe, Gargalar hill and others spoke about development of cultivation and animal-breeding in the 6th -5th centuries B.C., formation of sedentary life and preparation of different things and accessories made with cold forging.

The world importance monuments of the region are Toyratepe habitation in the village Ashagi Goychali referred to Neolit (late Stone Age) Eneolit (Dark Age), old habitation and graveyard (Choban dashi) in the village of Dag Kesemen referred to Bronze and early Iron Age.

Agstafachay and Hasansu inflows of the river Kur cross the territory of the region.

3510 hectares of the territory of the region is covered with forests majority of which is the forest Tugay. Some plants and birds included into "Red Book" are preserved in the State reserve Garayazi, with the area of 9658 hectares.

In January 24, 1939 established an administrative region of Agstafa. In December 4, 1959 the region liquidated and annexed to Gazakh region. After the decision of the Council of the Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR in April 1990 Agstafa regained its status of the region. The region of Agstafa involves a city, 9 settlements and 29 villages.

The names of the habitations with the names of the figures of the Soviet party praising the Soviet government for a long time changed after Agstafa detached from Gazakh region in 1990. Thus Kalininkend changed as the settlement Vurgun in 1990, Iskra as the village Ashagi Kesemen in 1990, Marsovka as the village Khatai(1992), Kirovkend as the village Hasansu (1990), Orag-Chekij as the village Gachag Kerem and the settlement V.I.Lenin attached to the village Boyuk Kesik.

In 2004 the region underwent administrative divisions. Registered new habitations, such as Aggol for along time known as Khutor.

Today there are 48 libraries, 12 houses of culture, 1 musical school, 2 museums, 26 clubs, 3 urban hospital, 9 village hospitals, 6 ambulance stations for doctors, 18 stations of medical- attendant-midwife. The quantity of the doctors is 109 and that of the medical servants 418.

Department of Education of the region involves 1702 teachers. There are 33 secondary schools of general education, 2 main schools, 3 primary schools, a lyceum, 4 out-school educational institution and 35 kindergartens in the region. There is also Heydar Park, the park named S. Vurgun in the region, also park culture and recreation for the youth.

**District of Astara****Date of creation – 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 0,62 th. sq. km.****Total number of population – 103,9 th per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 168 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 90****Number of settlements - 1****Number of big and middle enterprises - 22****Number of infant schools – 17****Number of general education schools - 63****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 70****Number of culture centers - 141****Distance between Astara and Baku - 313 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Astara district</b>	96230	100,0	47752	100,0	48478	100.0
urban population	22112	22,98	10855	22,73	11257	23,22
rural population	74118	77,02	36897	77,27	37221	76,78

The Astara region is located in the south of the Azerbaijan Republic, at the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The region was established on August 8, 1930. The region was abolished and annexed to Lankaran in 1963, then became an independent region in 1965. Historical facts show that Astara town was one of the most developed and ancient settlements of Talish region. The name of Astara and interesting information about it was reflected in the books by world scientists, notes of travelers, and maps of geographer.

Well known mathematician, astronomer and geographer of the ancient world Claudius Ptolemy from Alexandria, lived in 90-160s A.D., drew up the map of the Caspian Sea, belonged to 2nd century, gave exact information about geographical names, objects and dwelling settlements, located on its shore. Claudius Ptolemy adduced names of many towns and villages of Albania, known to him, and the name of Astara was mentioned as "Astarata".

Other scientist of the ancient world Strabon mentioned the name of "Astara" in his notes "Historical events" and described how "sea waves wash and kiss foothills". English merchant Anthony Jenkinson was on the Caspian shores with purpose to establish trade relations between England and Bukhara in 1559. He returned to London in 1562, published the works about his travels "Rusia-Tataristan desription" and gave names of settlements around the Caspian Sea in this memory. Anthony Jenkinson showed Astara as "Stara" in Greek.

Astara was ancient dwelling settlement, where historical Silk Road passed and wide relations established with Central, Minor Asia, India and Arabic world. There was the most ancient caravanserai in the territory of the Gapidjimahalla village, located in the south-west part of Astara town, on the bank of the River Astarachay. The remains of this caravanserai was revealed and it was determined that they belong to 7th century.

German traveler Hans Shilberger (1394-1427), traveled over different Eastern states, as well as Azerbaijan, gave concrete information about international trade relations of Astara. The traveler mentioned that a great deal of



silk was produced in this town, the best kind of this silk exported to masters centers like Damask, Bursa, Kashan and Venetia. Fine velvet materials are weaved of this silk.

There are interesting information about Astara being province capital, religious, cultural and trade center in the Middle Ages. Pottery art was wide developed in the town as well. Monetary existed in Mashkhan settlement of Astara in late 13th - early 14th centuries. Russian scientist A. M. Markov studied the coins, minted in Darband, Shamakhi, Tabriz and Astara and gave detailed information about it in his works. The scientist proved that the name of Astara on the coins is identical with present Astara town. The Hulakis, Jalaris, Teymuris, their successors and others, ruled in different periods, minted coins in the Astara monetary. Coins of Amir Teymur's period and next period with legend "Zarbe Astara" (minted in Astara) are the coins, minted right in this town. This was proved in the works of European scientists. 16 pattern of these coins preserved in the Historical Institute, the Tajikistan National Academy of Sciences at present.

Astara was the capital of Talish region until 1747, then Astara ruler Garakhan moved the capital to Lankaran. During moving many ancient construction and architecture objects, fortifications were subjected to destroying.

Famous German traveler Adam Oleary (1599-1671), the one of the well known scientists of this period, visited Astara and gave certain interesting information about its residents. The traveler, been in Astara during Novruz holiday in 1638, wrote that Astara provine located on the shore of the Caspian Sea. There were man-sized grapevines. This fact was also mentioned by Strabon. According to Strabon, one small grapevine yielded a basket of harvest in the places, named Hikaniya at that time.

The big chapter of the book "Turkic countries" by well known Hungarian orientalist and traveler Armin Vanberin (1832-1913) devoted to Azerbaijan. The traveler wrote in his book that he was in Astara and people, lived there beautiful folk patterns.

Famous French scientist, archeologist and traveler Jak De Morgan (1856-1934) visited Astara, was astonished at overground and underground recourses and wrote: "Astara is an ancient Russian town. It plays role of custom-house between Iran and Azerbaijan, as well as keeps its former peculiarity. Now it is just custom-house. Astara is exit of caravanserais and ships from Azerbaijan to Iran (Ardabil)". Famous French writer Alexander Duma gave interesting information about Astara as well.

### District of Balakan

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 0,94 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 94,9 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 101 per (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 57**

**Number of settlements - 1**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 20**

**Number of infant schools - 24**

**Number of general education schools - 48**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 6**

**Number of culture centers - 93**

**Distance between Balakan and Baku - 394 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Balakan district</b>	89827	100,0	44012	100,0	45815	100,0
urban population	10316	11,48	4807	10,92	5509	12,02
rural population	79511	88,52	39205	89,08	40306	87,98

The region Balakan is located in 923 km<sup>2</sup> area of the valley Alazan-Haftaran at the foot of the Great Caucasus in north-west of Azerbaijan. It is one of the distinctive regions of Azerbaijan for its rich natural resources, economic potentiality and cultural heritage. It is bordered on Russian Federation (Dagestan AR) in the north, the Republic of Georgia in the west and south-west and the region Zagatala in the east. In as an administrative territorial unit it founded in 1930. In 1968 it got the status of a settlement of urban type and in 1968 the status of the city. According to information of January 01, 2004, 86.4 000 people live in 59 habitations of the region and 9294 people live in the centre of the city. 68% of the people are Azerbaijanis, 29% avars, 2% ingiloyes, and 1% the representatives of nations. 20 executive representations and 24 municipal boards function in the region. 123 farmers engaged in their economy.

The investigations carried out by the scientists, things found during archeological digs implemented in different period of time, some buildings remained today and tumulus state that Balaken is one of the ancient places of habitation.

According to written scripts Balakan was involved into the territory of the Old Albania. The ancient Greece historian Plutarkh participating in the battles between the troops of Rome and Albania on the bank of the river Alazan (Ganikh) in 65 B.C., wrote that the population of those places were tolerant in their nature, haughty and brave in the fight. The toponymy Hetovs (reminding Hets), Hunbulchay(remining Huns), Ingiloyes (reminding Gells) and others prove that Turkic tribes were the ancient settlers of this area.

Balakan locates at the foot of the mountains and is one of the beautiful places of Azerbaijan. It is distinguished for its marvellous nature, rich flora and fauna. Great part of the Zagatala State Reserve famous for its

rare nature is occupied by mountains Balakan. One of the miracles of the nature waterfall Katekh is also located on this territory.

In May 30, 1918 Azerbaijan declared its independence. People of Balaken gave positive reaction to the news. The political situation in the country was very difficult at that time; people needed intellectuals and progressive people. One who might face with the enemies at that time was Hamzat bey Khalilov, studied at Gori Seminary together with and became the relative of U. Hajibeyov. After destruction of Transcaucasia Seym he lead the cavalry group composed of Azerbaijanis from Tiflis to Balakan and together with newly established army of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan took an active part in the struggle for the territorial integrity of the country.

People of Balakan showed themselves as brave and courageous character in the II World War. 6882 went to fight against Germanic fascism, 2315 of them died in the battle. Hundreds of participators of the war deserved the state orders and medals for courage showed in the battle. More of 90 of them live in Balakan now.

In Garabagh war Balakan lost 152 martyrs and gained 82 invalids.

After war the people of Balakan gained great achievements in the sphere of labour. Balakan is the only region in the territory of the great USSR 19 natives of which got the highest state evaluation f tat period-the title of the Hero of the Socialist Labour and 4 of them are the pensioners by the President today. Those are Angbazova Maryam Omar gizi, Molloyeva Kerimet Mahama gizi, Khutrayeva Muzalifa Mahammad gizi and Shirinova Maral Ibrahim gizi.

All the changes in economical, social and cultural life of Balakan respond to 70-80s of the 20th century-the period when the national leader of Azerbaijan people Heydar Aliyev ruled the republic. Much work carried out but the most important among them was the establishment of Baku-Balakan railway.

The agrarian section in Balakan is the leading one. Tobacco, fruit growing, drawer and corn growing are the mostly developed spheres of the economy. Also developing animal goods production, vegetable growing, grain growing, and non-traditional wine-growing and gardening. Corn growing in Balakan reached its highest level in 2004- the obtained production exceeded 19 000 tons.

16872 pupils take their education and 1629 teachers work in 48 secondary schools of general education. Boys and girls master different professions and specialties at regional branch of Baku Industrial Pedagogical Technical School and two professional schools.

There is a stadium, 29 sport equipments 20 gymnasiums in the region. Hundreds of talented youngsters improve their mastership on chess, wrestling, football, volleyball and other varieties of sport at chess school and the sport school for children and youth.

126 doctors and 497 nurses serve people in 6 hospitals, policlinics, stomatological department, T.B prophylactic centre and consulting room for women and children.

The reading admires may use the system of the Central library and its affiliates in 49 villages. The museum of history and ethnography re-started to function on the day of the 10th anniversary of our state independence. 20 houses of culture, 17 clubs and 1 cinema-video association function in the region. The park on the bank of the river Balakan is a favorite place of the natives. The garden "Heydar" founded here on the occasion of the 80th year anniversary of the national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev. Majority of regional measures and ceremonies are held on the bust of the genius leader.

370 students educate at 7 year musical school of the region.

20 post offices serve people. The quantity of telephone subscribers reached 3800. More than 1400 subscribers use national gas.

12 political parties function in the region. First 53 regional organizations of the YAP (New Azerbaijan Party) involve 2447 people. There are 21 social associations, unions and NGO in the region.

### District of Barda

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 0,95 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population - 151,5 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 159 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 110**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 73**

**Number of infant schools - 32**

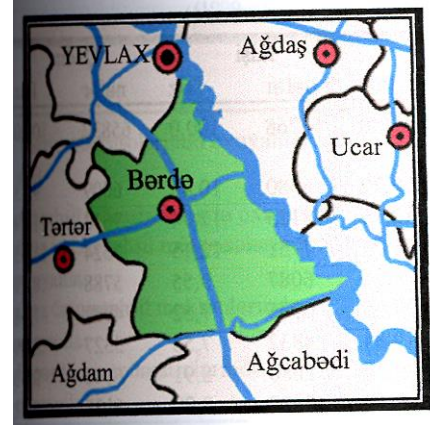
**Number of general education schools - 74**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 16**

**Number of culture centers - 205**

**Distance between Barda and Baku - 314 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Barda district</b>	141646	100,0	70689	100,0	70957	100,0
urban population	37807	26,69	18364	25,98	19443	27,40
rural population	103839	73,31	52325	74,02	51514	72,60

Barda was founded in 1930 and is situated in north-west of Kur-Araz lowland.

The centre of the region Barda is one of the oldest settlements of Azerbaijan and the whole Near East. Materials found in archaeological digs, coins referred to the period of Macedonian Alexander, Arakis and the Rome emperor August prove abovementioned facts. Mined sources show the relation of Barda with the states existing B.C.

According to Arabian historian Belazuri (9th century) Barda was built in the period of Sasanian ruler Gubad the 1st (483-531), to Iran historian Hamdullah Gazvini (14th century) in the period of Macedonian Alexander (336-323 B.C.). As to Movses Kalankatli, Barda founded by the order of Firuz (459-484) during the reign of Albanian ruler Vache the 2nd. At that time the name of Barda was "Firuzabad". The name of Barda is mentioned in the epic of "Kitabi-Dada Gorgud".

In the period of Sasanians Barda was the centre of janishinlik (region ruled by the governor). During the reign of Gubad the 1st Barda was surrounded by the wall. In the 19th century Barda was the capital of Albania and the centre of Albanian church also shifted to Barda in 552.

In 628 Khazaris and in 639 Iranian feudalists occupied Barda that was freed by Javanshir, the ruler of Albania.

After Barda was occupied by Arabian army during the reign of Khalifa Osman (644-656). The population of Barda in the 6th - 7th centuries was 100 000 people. Coins cut in Barda in the 13th century.

In 752 Barda was the centre of Arran province. During the 13th -19th centuries Barda turned the important centre of trade and culture. The famous market "Al-Kurkiy" located near Barda gates.

Barda was the centre of Sasanian state till 90s of the 9th century. It was also one of the nests of Khurramis movement.

In 944 Russians attacked Barda, known as art and trade centre of the Near and Middle East. Russian inflicted reprisals to those people of Barda who didn't leave the city according to their requirements. They killed 20 000 of them. But Russian army was obliged to leave the city for plague embraced it. Barda needed long time to restore.

In 933 Fazlin (985-1030), the representative of Shaddadi dynasty occupied the city. In the 11th century Barda was annexed to Seljugs and in the 12th century to Eldegizes.

Mongolian invasion destroyed Barda for the next time, restored during the reign of Elkhanis and again ruined by Amir Teymur. In the period of khanates Barda was within the composition of Garabag khanate.

Despite of its beauty and old history Barda suffered many difficulties. Its history was many times written by the foreigners. Many samples of material culture haven't been preserved to our days, but the traces of the history still exist reminding of rich past.



### District of Beylagan

**Date of creation - 24. 11. 1939**

**Total territory - 1,13 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 93,7 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 83 per (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 25**

**Number of settlements - 16**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 12**

**Number of infant schools - 30**

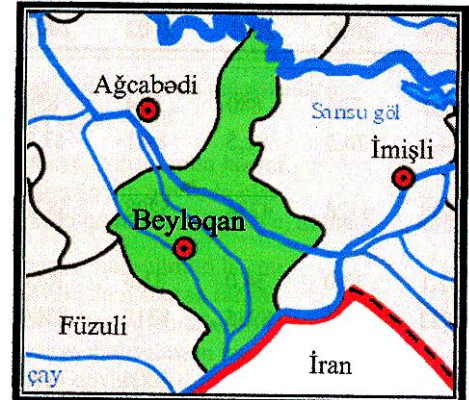
**Number of general education schools – 53**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 42**

**Number of culture centers - 68**

**Distance between Beylagan and Baku - 265 km**

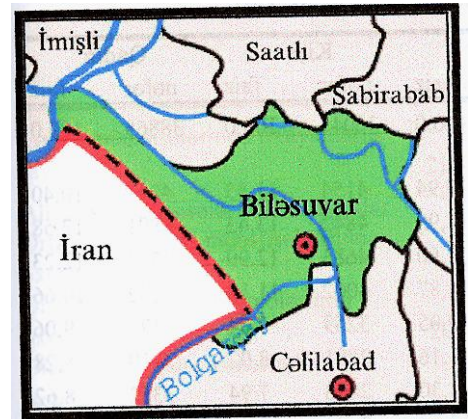


### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Beylagan district</b>	86192	100,0	43201	100,0	42991	100,0
urban population	36340	42,16	18201	42,13	18139	42,19
rural population	49852	57,84	25000	57,87	24852	57,81

The region of Beylagan was established on November 24th of 1939 under the name of Jdanov and is one of the Mil plain regions.

According to the decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan of March 19th of 1989 the region preserved the name of Beylagan. The territory of the region is bordered on the regions Agjabedi, Zardab, Fuzuli and Imishli of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Islamic Republic of Iran. The population density is 72 persons per square kilometer. The centre of the region is Beylagan city. Beylagan is 265 km far from Baku. The region is divided into 26 territorial units: a city, 3 settlements, 22 villages. There is a city, 16 settlements, 25 habitations and 40 municipalities in the region.

**District of Bilasuvar****Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 1,36 th. sq. km****Total number of population – 97,4 th. per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 72 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 25****Number of big and middle enterprises - 4****Number of infant schools - 10****Number of general education schools – 36****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 9****Number of culture centers - 61****Distance between Bilasuvar and Baku - 182 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Bilasuvar district</b>	87508	100,0	43630	100,0	43878	100,0
urban population	20119	22,99	10055	23,05	10064	22,94
rural population	67389	77,01	33575	76,95	33814	77,06

Bilasuvar region is one of the territories of the republic of Azerbaijan with a very rich history.

The following is said about Bilasuvar in the second volume of Azerbaijan Soviet Encyclopedia: "Bilasuvar or Pilasuvar is a Middle Age settlement of urban type. According to Hamdullah Gazvini- an Iranian historian, Bilasuvar was founded by emir of Buveyhi Pilasuvar in the 10th century." In the 14th century Bilasuvar city declined in the result of feudal civil strife and in according to Turkmenchay treaty divided into two parts in 1828. The population lived in the part of the city attached to Russia resettled to habitations built for Russians and other places 20-4- km apart from the borderline in 1914, for the reason that Russian empire made it impossible to cross the southern borders. Thus in 1930 established the region Bilasuvar the center of which was Pushkin settlement, resided by people resettled from Russia. In 1938 the name Bilasuvar changed into Pushkin.

In 1963 the territory of the region annexed to the region Jalilabad is a free region since 1964. Bilasuvar regained its historical name in 1991 after destruction of the USSR.

One can find many interesting historical information about Bilasuvar given by Sabir Nasiroglu in his adapted historical monograph "The Mystery of magic world". "Hemshetri" and "Sounds from Hamasharadan", published by the society that study history and culture of the western world. Referring to the historical sources the author writes that alongside with khazars, massagets and other tribes Mugan was also habited by bilyer and suvars. He comes to a conclusion that Bilasuvar means-the place where bilyer and suvars united to struggle against their enemies and he adds that the toponymy of Bilasuvar overlaps with that of "The passage for cavalry and messengers".

Some mention that the toponymy of Bilasuvar derived from "Bela"(such), "Su"(water) and "Var" (exist or there is). This explanation is preferable by the local people.

Today Bilasuvar is considered to be one of the developed regions of the independent Azerbaijan.

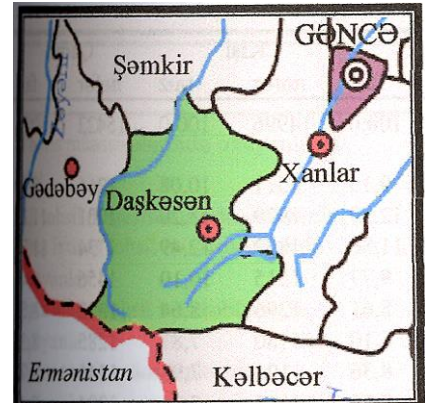
The area of the region Bilasuvar stretches about south-western and southern part of Mugan lowland. The general length of its border line is 241 km. 53 of them border it with region Imishli in the north, 23 km with region Saatli in north-west, 20 km with region Sabirabad, 23 km with region Salyan in the east, 4 km with the region Neftchala, 54 km with the region Jaliabad in the south and 64 km with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the west.

International custom control station is located in the territory of the region. The area of the region is 1358 km<sup>2</sup>.

According to historical investigations the river Bilasuvar, today known as the river Bolgar, changed its names several times. The Iranians call it Shenbechay, Adnabazarchay, Beyler chayi, Shirinsu, Gelebe chayi etc. The official name of the river reflected in the maps is the river Bolgar.

### District of Dashkesan

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**  
**Total territory - 1,05 th. sq. km**  
**Total number of population – 34,71 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Density of population - 1 sq. km 32 per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Number of towns - 1**  
**Number of villages - 43**  
**Number of settlements - 5**  
**Number of big and middle enterprises – 6**  
**Number of infant schools - 12**  
**Number of general education schools - 49**  
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**  
**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 7**  
**Number of culture centers - 118**  
**Distance between Dashkesan and Baku - 397 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Dashkesan district</b>	32694	100,0	16487	100,0	16207	100,0
urban population	14213	43,47	7011	42,52	7202	44,44
rural population	18481	56,53	9476	57,48	9005	55,56

The mountains of Dashkesan were used as pastures for a long time. The most beautiful pastures of the South Caucasus are located here and in Khoshbulag. Khoshbulag was inhabited by the primitive people in the Stone Age whose main engagement was hunting. In the 3rd century B.C. people engaged in animal breeding rose to Khoshbulag pastures. The tradition is followed up today.

Dashkesan summer pastures are 2000 m high from sea level. Different animal-breeding tribes settled here and built Cyclops-like small towers to protect themselves from attacks. Since that period Dashkesan turned to the place of settlement.

Tumuli type burying monuments found in the archaeological digs carried out in 1959-1960 in the places of ancient settlement in Dashkesan show that people used this area as summer pastures and there was only one way to those pastures in summer- north-east, the valley of the river Kur.

Before Islam the local population practiced Christianity and for the reason that Islam was poorly spread in the mountains of Dashkesan, one can find here plenty of Albanian-Christian temples.

The middle ages in Dashkesan are characterized with the development of cultural work.

The region Dashkesan is very rich for its natural resources. In the period of the Soviet Union the so-called strategic products of the region, i.e. iron-stone, aluminum, cobalt, marble and others were actively exploited.

The administrative region of Azerbaijan SSR-the region Dashkesan (formerly known as Destefur till 1956) established in 1930. In 1963 it was liquidated and the territory of the region attached to the region Khanlar and in 1965.

The region involves a city, 6 settlements and 42 villages. The centre of the region is Dashkesan city.

### District of Fizuli

**Date of creation - 04. 01. 1963**

**Total territory - 1,39 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population - 125,4 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 90 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 2**

**Number of villages - 32**

**Number of settlements - 16**

**Number of infant schools - 65**

**Number of general education schools - 86**

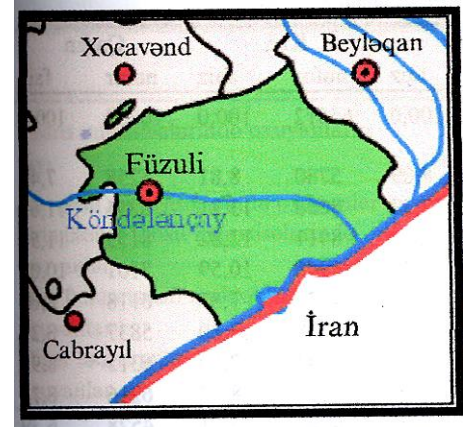
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises -13**

**Number of culture centers - 180**

**Distance between Fizuli and Baku - 310 km**

**The district is occupied since July 23, 1993 by the Armenian armed forces.**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Fizuli district</b>	115495	100,0	56723	100,0	58772	100,0
urban population	27601	23,90	13387	23,60	14214	24,18
rural population	87894	76,10	43336	76,40	44558	75,82

The Fizuli region, one of the large places of habitation in the Republic of Azerbaijan, was founded in 1827. The habitation of Garabulag formulated at that time served the basis for establishment of the region in 1930 that was first named as Garyagin. The centre of the region was Garyagin settlement and embraced the villages Gozluchaybolu, Kondelenboyu, Arazboyu and the villages on the both sides of Fizuli-Aghdam trunk way.

In 1959 the name Garyagin changed into Fizuli in the honour of 400 year birthday of great poet Mahammad Fizuli.

Before the occupation the region included a town, a settlement and 78 villages. The largest places of habitation are Fizuli town, urban settlement of Horadis and villages Boyuk Bahmanli, Horadiz and Gajar.

Freed from the occupation areas of the region embrace 13 settlements and 22 villages. In accordance with the orders 577, from September 7, 2001 and 700, from May 13, 2002 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at the expense of financial means allocated from the State Oil Fund 12 of the settlements re-established for habitation of IDP families

Fizuli region developed since 1970 and changed to industrial and modern agricultural region. Before the Armenian invasion the region disposed cotton-cleaning, butter-cheese and concrete factories, centre of grain production, weaving factory, stone quarry, 11 grape processing manufacture, more than 100 big and small enterprises and organizations, drama theatre, house of culture, public library, central regional hospital and others.

Before the invasion by Armenian armed forces wine-growing, grain-growing, silkworm breeding and animal breeding prevailed in the agriculture of the region; there were 15 collective-farms and 26 state farms in the region; about 85 000 hectares of the land were useful for agriculture; 50.9 000 hectares were pastures; Kondalan reservoir was built over Araz, lined water canals. 24 000 hectares of the land irrigated. Cotton-growing was the



most developing sphere of economy of the region till 1980. After the region specialized in wine-growing and had 17.4 000 hectares of vineyard. The peak of wine-growing production was in 1985 in the figure of 120 000 tons of grape.

Before the occupation the region disposed of 17 600 heads of cattle and 70 000 heads of sheep and goat.

The region was fully occupied in August 23, 1993. 22 habitations of the region freed from occupation in January 1994 with the initiative of the national leader Heydar Aliyev. Today the population of the region is 54 000 IDPs. The area of the released territory is 30 000 km<sup>2</sup>; the density of the population is 192 per km<sup>2</sup>.

Reforms carried out in the territories freed from the occupation since 1997, the lands distributed among the peasants.

The private agricultural sections of the region dispose 17328 heads of cattle and about 60 000 heads of sheep and goat. 20 000 grain produced in the freed areas of the region the past year.

86 schools of general education and 2 technical schools, 65 kindergartens, 90 libraries, 79 club enterprises, a museum of history and country-study, 9 musical schools, 7 hospitals, 16 medical centres, 9 centres of medical assistants and gynaecologists functioned before the occupation.

21 school buildings repaired in modern style, 8 school building and 11 medical centres re-established, 8 medical centres re-built, more than 3000 houses, destroyed by the Armenians repaired and presented to their owners with the initiative of the national Heydar Aliyev after people returned to freed lands.

Many of the services, objects of culture and administrative buildings restored during the abovementioned period.

Restoration and construction works in the region are still on.

Fizuli is rich with historical and architectural monuments. Ahmedalilar and Babi burial-vaults of the 13th century, the mosque of Ashagi Veysalli, Haji Giyaseddin mosque of the 17th century in the village of Gargabazar, caravanserai of the 17th century, burial-vaults of the 18th century, 18th century mosque in the village of Gochahmedli are the architectural monuments of the region.

Many natives of the region got the name of the Hero of the Socialist Labour; Shamama Hasanova deserved this name twice, elected the deputy of 7 calls of the Supreme Council of the USSR and of 9 calls of Supreme Council of Azerbaijan SSR. Iltas Efendiyev and Elchin Efendiyev awarded the names of folk writer, Islam Rzayev and Gandab Guliyeva awarded the name of the folk artists. More than 300 candidates of sciences and doctors of sciences are the natives of the region.

Fizuli town and 58 villages of 78 are under Armenian occupation now

### District of Gabala

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,55 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 101,5 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 65 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 60**

**Number of settlements - 3**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 28**

**Number of infant schools - 23**

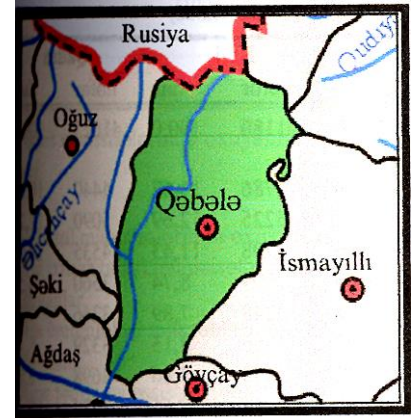
**Number of general education schools - 68**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 51**

**Number of culture centers - 126**

**Distance between Gabala and Baku - 225 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Gabala district</b>	93652	100,0	47485	100,0	46167	100,0
urban population	32064	34,24	16116	33,94	15948	34,54
rural population	61588	65,76	31369	66,06	30219	65,46

Gabala bears the name of the ancient Gabala city which had been the capital of ancient Albania locating 20 kilometers to southwest of the present center of the district. Like such ancient and famous cities as Babylonia, Troya and Pompey, ancient Gabala was one of the important, sociopolitical and trade centers of the world. The ruins of the city gates and a number of buildings are still preserved in Gabala. The ruins of the large buildings, tower walls and patters of material culture prove that Gabala was one of the most prominent cities at that time.

Ancient Gabala was created as a city in the late 4th-early 3rd century B.C. and survived up to the mid 18th century A.C. A great many of changes occurred in the life of the city through the period of existence. Due to different historical events the city was damaged more than once.

Though the Roman troops attacked Albania in the 60s B.C they were not able to occupy Gabala. During the Sasani period Gabala was a large trade and handicraft center. The situation remained the same in the times of the Arabian caliphate. Though Gabala experienced decline during the Mongolian invasion in the 13th century, it was restored later. Gabala lost its positions in the mid 18th century and the population gradually left the place.

The small feudal state Gutgashyn sultanate was established on the territory of Gabala in the mid 18th century. It was later included into the Sheki khanate and was ruled by the Sheki naibs appointed by the khans of Sheki.

Following the downfall of the Sheki khanate, Gutgashyn was included into the Sheki province. The Gutgashyn district was created in 1930. The district was renamed Gabala in March of 1991.

## District of Gazakh

Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930

Total territory - 0,70 th. sq. km

Total number of population – 93,7 th per. (January 1, 2015)

Density of population – 1 sq. km 134 per. (January 1, 2015)

Number of towns - 1

Number of villages - 34

Number of big and middle enterprises - 17

Number of infant schools - 31

Number of general education schools - 47

Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2

Number of higher educational institutes - 2

Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 9

Number of culture centers - 46

Distance between Gazakh and Baku - 470 km

Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Gazakh district</b>	89377	100,0	43672	100,0	45705	100,0
urban population	20793	23,26	10029	22,96	10764	23,55
rural population	68584	76,74	33643	77,04	34941	76,45

The Gazakh region is located in the western part of Azerbaijan and in the eastern part of the Ganja-Gazakh lowland which begins at the foot of the Minor Caucasus chain and stretches along the right bank of the Kur River. In the north-west, the region is bordered with the Republic of Georgia and in the south-west with the Republic of Armenia. This region has a complicated relief. The rivers of the region are Ağstafachay, Jogazchay, the river Injesu and others. The bank of the river Kur is 100 m high from the sea level. The altitude gradually rises to 1,000 meters. The highest point in the territory is the Odun Mountain (1,316 m). The climate of the region is characterized by moderate winter and hot summer.

In different periods Gazakh was the centre of oymag (territorial unit), sultanate and gaza (territorial unit). In 1909 Gazakh got the status of the city; today it is the centre of the region. Historian-toponymist T. M. Ahmedov making reference to V. F. Minorsky, Z. M. Bunyadov and A. K. Aliyev states that Gazakh was founded by a commander Marvan ibn Mahammad in the 8th century. The investigator of the Ancient Azerbaijan language G. Voroshityasel wrote: "Gazakh is not a new town. The sources of the 9th-10th centuries spoke about its existence 1270 years ago."

Nearly at late 15th century established Gazakh sultanate that included into Garabag beylerbeyi (territorial unit) in the period of the Sefevis.

The rulers of Gazakh sultanate carried the title of sultan and had hereditary ruling. When the Safavis left Azerbaijan under the influence of Turkish tribes in the 80s of the 16th century, the tribes Bayat, Gachag, Garamanlı and others left for Iran, while the Gazakhs remained in their lands. The ruler of the sultanate Nazar kahn (king) accepted the domination of the Turks and preserved the independence of the mahal (territorial unit). Azerbaijan and

the mahal of Gazakh for the second time invaded by the Sefevis and Nazar khan remained in his throne. Even his follower I Shah Abbas got the title of the khan (king) in 1605. For the second time the Osmanids move on Gazakh at early 18th and carried out administrative division in there. Gazakh declared sanjaglig (territorial unit) and divided into 4 nahiye (territorial unit): Akhtata, Inja, Turk and Juvar. People of Gazakh voluntarily supported the Osmanids, thus the Sultan III Ahmed (1703-1730) issued a decree where he appointed Miralibey the Sanjagbeyli (title-the head of sanjag) of Gazakh, who was the ruler of Gazakh in the period of the Safavis. In 1728 the Turkish composed a copy-book (an outline) "Defteri mufesseli ayaleti Tiflis"(the copy-book about the province of Tiflis) with 1046 pages in it. The outline is now kept in Istanbul in the archive of Bashganlig. 63 pages of the outline refer to sanjaglig of Gazakh. The outline informed about the 205 villages, 10 winter pastures and 5 moving tribes in the sanjaglig of Gazakh.

The sultanate of Gazakh was ruled by three dynasties. The first dynasty was the tribes of Shikhlinkis known as "Gazakhli", "Algazakhli". In the period of the Turkish sultan III Ahmed (1703-1730) the gazakhlis supported the Osmanids and thus when the Sevefis occupied Gazakh for the next time they dismissed the "Gazakhli" tribes from the ruling and appointed an Iranian commander Subhanverdi the sultan of Gazakh. Subhanverdi khan headed the 2nd feudal dynasty. The sultanate of Gazakh was still annexed to Garabagh beylerbeyi. In 1736 Nadir declared himself a king of Mugan. The beylerbeyi of Garabag Ugurlu khan protested Ziyad oglu Nadir and subordinated provinces of Gazakh, Shemseddin and Borchali to the (Georgian) kingdom of Katekhia with the purpose to lessen the authority of the khan of Ganja after Nadir passed to the head of the government. With a decree the tsar of Katekhia II Irakli appointed Panah aga-a representative of Kosa Mirzali aga that was a bey(title) in Salahli, the ruler (vekil-title) of Gazakh sultanate(the mentioned dynasty later took the second name of Vekilov). Started the ruling of the III feudal dynasty. In 1752 the sultanate of Gazakh subordinated to Sheki khanate that defeated II Irakli and after Haji Chelebi-the khan of Sheki died, Gazakh passed to the vassalage of II Irakli. In 1801 the sultanate of Gazakh annexed to Russia in the subordination of Georgia. In 1819 the sultanate of Gazakh liquidated and turned into a distance (territorial unit) and in December 9, 1867 turned into the gaza of Gazakh in the subordination of the Yelizavetpol governor. The territory of Gazakh covered 5908.24 km<sup>2</sup>, the population in 1911 was 130 000 people. According to the data of 1913 the gaza of Gazakh disposed 232 industrial products, sweet shops, 33 water mills, 15 factories of red brick, one timber, one leather processing, more than 17 wine and one brandy factories, one cotton and one cement factories. The gaza of Gazakh liquidated in 1929.

The region of Gazakh established in August 8, 1930 and part of it subordinated to the newly established region Agstafa in January 24, 1939. the region Agstafa separated from the region Gazakh in December 4, 1959.

### District of Gakh

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory – 1,49 th sq. km**

**Total number of population - 55,2 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 37 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 58**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 56**

**Number of infant schools - 36**

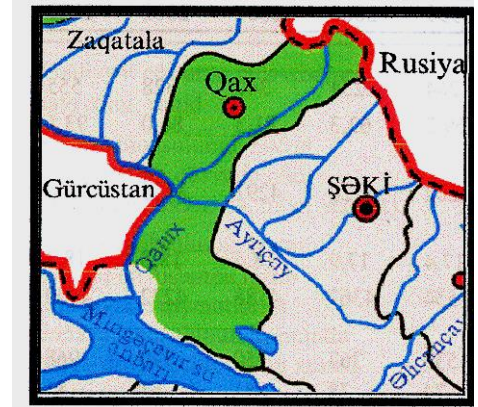
**Number of general education schools - 57**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 9**

**Number of culture centers - 113**

**Distance between Gakh and Baku - 345 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Gakh district</b>	53259	100,0	25823	100,0	27436	100,0
urban population	12328	23,15	5864	22,71	6464	23,62
rural population	40931	76,85	19959	77,29	20972	76,44

The region Gakh is one of the ancient lands with historical past and one of the centres of culture inhabited by the primitive tribes engaged in Azerbaijan in sedentary cultivation, animal-breeding and art. The archaeological digs revealed many habitations and tumulus referred to the Eneolit, Bronze and early Iron Age.

According to the historical sources the territory of Gakh was under ruling of Skif kingdom at early 7th century B.C. One could notice the traces of Skif kingdom and its founders-skif and sak tribes.

Christianity started to be spread about the territory of the Caucasus Albania at the beginning of our era. Some Christian temples built in the territory of the region Gakh at that time. The state of Albania regressed under Arabic occupation and beginning with the 11th century first Oguz-Seljug Turks and later Gipchag Turks inhabited the territory of today's Gakh. At that period the territory of Gakh was joined to the states of Atabeyler and Shirvanshahlar.

In the 13th century the territory of Gakh was under the control of the state Hulakus and Turk-Mongol tribes started to move to the southern part of the territory.

In 1562 the ruler of Safavis King Tahmasib I issued a decree that depended the northern part of Gakh to a big feudal Adi Gorklu bey from sakhur. Thus established the sultanate of Ilisu.

The power of Ilisu sultanate reached so high in the 18th century that the empire of Osmanids gave to Ali Sultan bey the greatest title for that time - pasha "İki Sanjigli" and recognised him as a beylerbeyi(title) of Sheki.

In 1803 the sultanate of Ilisu annexed to Russian empire. The ruler of the sultanate sultan Daniyal rose people against Russian empire in 1844 for disagreement between him and the government of Russia. Sultan Daniyel lost near the village Ilisu and continued his struggle together with the leader of national movement for freedom Sheykh Shamil. Russians burnt the village Ilisu and divided the territory of the sultanate into mahals (territorial unit) and annexed them to daire (territorial unit) Jar-Balaken and turned to the colony of tsarist Russia.

For the first time in 1918 in the history of Moslem countries of the east established an independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. After attack of the Bolshevik Russia in 1920 the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan regressed and established Azerbaijan SSR.

In 1930 in the north-west of the Republic of Azerbaijan appeared the region of Gakh occupying the land about 1494 km<sup>2</sup>.



## District of Goychay

Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930

Total territory- 0,92 th. sq. km

Total number of population – 115,8 th per. (January 1, 2015)

Density of population – 1 sq. km 156 per. (January 1, 2015)

Number of towns - 1

Number of villages - 55

Number of big and middle enterprises - 26

Number of infant schools - 35

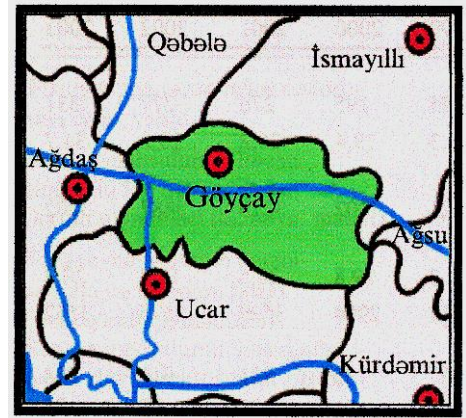
Number of general education schools - 57

Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2

Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 57

Number of culture centers - 29

Distance between Goychay and Baku - 226 km

Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Goychay district</b>	109018	100,0	54040	100,0	54978	100,0
urban population	35746	32,79	17461	32,31	18285	33,26
rural population	73272	67,21	36579	67,69	36693	66,74

Goychay district is located in the center of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the north of the Shirvan plain at the foot of the Major Caucasus. The district extends to 25 kilometers from the North to the South and 40 kilometers from the West to the East and covers an area of 736 km<sup>2</sup>. The district comprises 1 city and 55 villages. The Goychay city is 216 away from the Baku-Gazakh highway and 18 kilometers away from the Udjar railway station. The Goychay district borders with Ismayilly in the north-east, Kurdemir in the south-east, Udjar in the south and Aghdash in the west.

The word Goychay of Turkic origin was derived from the name of the River Goychay. As the water of the river was too transparent and its color resembled somewhat of a blue, it was called Goychay (The Blue River).

Goychay started to establish in the 1930s. A part of the Shemakha population moved to this region due to the earthquake of the 1950s and therefore the settlement was expanded. The Goychay region was created within the Baku province as a result of administrative reforms in the Caucasus conducted by Tsarist government in December of 1867. It became a city in 1916. The Goychay district was established by the regionalization of Azerbaijan in 1930.

The district is composed of two geological parts - mountains and plains. The mountains comprise the Garameryam block of Bozdagh, while the plain incorporates the remaining part of the district. The territory dates back to the third period of the Cenozoic era while the plain area refers to the fourth period of the same era. Some parts of the territory are covered with present-day sediments. On the whole, clayey and clay soils and sometimes sand-like sediments reach the level of 10-15 centimeters.

The river stones, gravel and sand found near the Djayirli village and in the Goychay river valley are used in construction. Moreover, the clay found on the territory of the Garabaggal village is used in the production of high quality bricks.

The climate of the district is the lukewarm and dry semi-desert climate with warm summers. This climate is characterized by weak humidity, moderate winters and warm and dry summers. The annual precipitation reaches 400-600 mm.

The river Goychay and Upper Shirvan canal pass through the district. Steppe formations dominate the vegetation. Mountain part is notable for a great many of bushes. The animal kingdom is not rich.

Wheat-growing, cotton-growing, cattle and silkworm breeding and fruit growing constitute the agriculture of the district.

The fertile soils cover 44171 hectares with 24403 hectares of irrigating soils. Sowing areas account for 23478 hectares, cultivated areas for 4700 hectares and pastures for 16686 hectares. Of them 28078 hectares of lands are private, 35397 hectares of municipal property and 4777 hectares of state property.

Goychay district experienced a rapid growth in the 1970-1980s and achieved great progress in the sphere of wine-growing, silkworm-breeding, animal breeding and fruit-growing.

A pomegranate refinery, cotton weaving-mill, milk plant, bread-baking plant, and wine processing plant were commissioned and two building and four building and assembly offices were established at that time.

The district accounts for 36 preschool institutions, 57 secondary schools, 13 culture houses, 64 library, 1 museum, 57 health establishments, 1 music school and 16 clubs.

Goychay brought up the famous public workers, writers and art workers.

These are Habibi, Gantemir, Rasul Rza, Ali Kerim, Anver Mamedkhanly, Isgender Djoshgun, Anar Rzayev, Ali Samedli, Ibragim Goychayly and others.

Goychay generated dozens of doctors of sciences, candidates of sciences and scientists.

A number of monuments reflecting the historical past of Azerbaijani people exist in Goychay.

Among them the Surkhay tower referred to the times of the Arabian caliphate and built in the 12th-14th century on the territory of the Arab Djabirli village, remainders of poll graves of the second century B.C. on the territory of the Indja and Arabdjebirli, underground bath built in the late 19th century and four Mosques.

The inhabitants of Goychay participated closely in the fights for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Goychay lost 163 people, 44 people were missed and 106 people became disables in the struggle against Armenian troops.

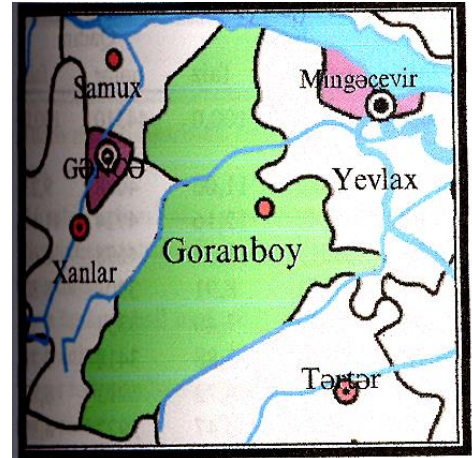
In time when the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Hydar Aliyev held the post of the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party, he visited Goychay three times and during his visits he made instructions for the settlement of the urgent problems of the district.

During the visit of Heydar Aliyev to Goychay in 1972 he proposed the construction of a dam on the river Arvan dividing the district into two parts for the protection of the population from flood. By his instruction a dam was constructed on the river Arvan within the shortest period of time and it protects the city from floods for already 25 years. Our leader made the due instructions for the settlement of the problems of water supply to the lands fit for sowing in the Tore and Chermedil mountains during his visit to the district in 1978. As a result of that 800 hectares of soils were turned into the sowing areas.

During the visit of the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev to Goychay in 1982 he instructed to build an enterprise for the receipt and processing of pomegranates grown in the district and on the same year the construction of the enterprise for pomegranate processing was initiated and commissioned within the shortest period of time by the order of Heydar Aliyev.

### District of Goranboy

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 19**  
**Total territory - 1,7 th sq. km**  
**Total number of population – 100,2 th per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Density of population – 1 sq. km 59 per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Number of towns - 2**  
**Number of villages - 81**  
**Number of settlements - 6**  
**Number of big and middle enterprises - 59**  
**Number of infant schools - 30**  
**Number of general education schools - 80**  
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**  
**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 73**  
**Number of culture centers - 180**  
**Distance between Goranboy and Baku - 317 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Goranboy district</b>	94244	100,0	46848	100,0	47396	100,0
urban population	20160	21,39	9945	21,23	10215	21,55
rural population	74084	78,61	36903	78,77	37181	78,45

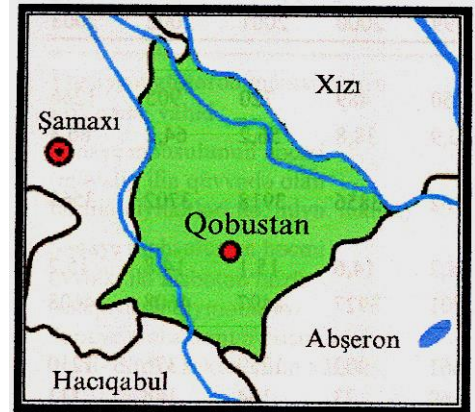
Goranboy region was first founded by the decision of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan SSR from August 8, 1930 relating to the administrative regional division and the establishment of the regions and the centre of the region was the village Goranboy. The decision of the Executive Committee of the Republic from September 8, 1938 changed the name Goranboy into Gazim Ismailov. According to the decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan from February 12, 1991 the existence of two regions in one territory considered to be unnecessary. Thus they liquidated Shaumyan region (village) and established Goranboy region.

The word "Goranboy" is explained in different ways. Most convincing idea is that the term "Goranboy" relates to "gel" and "ger" who were of 26 tribes spoke in different languages mentioned by Strabon in his 17-book "Geography". It is explained as Goranin (Gelan and Geran)-the placement of gel and ger tribes.

The ancient history of the region is proved by the samples of material culture found during the archaeological digs in related to the 2nd half of the 2nd millennium and early 1st millennium B.C. Sefikurd, Borsunlu and related to the bronze and iron age Osmantepe tumulus, and also in ancient habitations named Goran referred to the 6th-7th century B.C. Goranboy habitants of village type refer to the early Middle Ages (the 5th-7th centuries) and Middle Ages (the 8th-13th centuries). The former includes the habitations Sakhsili tepe, Gosh tepe and the latter 1st and 2nd Kerpilji, Hamanli and Mollaveledi. Urban type habitations of the early Middle Ages are feudal castles the 1st and the 2nd Kurekchay and Gulustan.

There is a town Shatal in the territory of the region related to the 2nd-5th centuries that Mongolians destroyed during their attack to Azerbaijan in the 13th century.

Kurekchay treaty concluded between Russia and Garabag khanate in May 14, 1805 signed on the right bank of the river Kurekchay crossing the region. Gulustan treaty concluded between Russia and Iran in October 13, 1813 signed in the village of Gulustan of the region.

**District of Gobustan****Date of creation - 24. 04. 1990****Total territory - 1,37 th sq. km****Total number of population – 44,0 th. per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 32 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 31****Number of settlements – 1****Number of big and middle enterprises - 6****Number of infant schools - 6****Number of general education schools - 30****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 3****Number of culture centers - 23****Distance between Gobustan and Baku - 101 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2011)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Gobustan district</b>	40112	100,0	19879	100,0	20233	100,0
urban population	8086	20,16	4064	20,44	4022	19,88
rural population	32026	79,84	15815	79,56	16211	80,12

Gobustan district is one of political provinces of our country's historical area called Shirvan. In the 8th-16th centuries one of principal states of Azerbaijan - the state of Shirvanshahs with the capital in Shamakhi was located on the territory of Shirvan. It was the longest-lived state in the history of medieval East.

Presently, Gobustan region is located to the south of Shamakhi, 101 km from Baku. The Azerbaijani word "Gobu" literally means "a hollow" which tomonimically reflects the outline of the ground: hollows, gullies and rocky canyons. With blossoming poppies, chamomiles and irises the place looks especially beautiful in spring. Climate in the region is predominantly semidesert.

Cave labyrinths (kures) located in a canyon not far off the town in the village of Sunlu, attract a great number of tourists. Here one can observe an original natural phenomenon which the locals named Aghlayan Gala, "The Tearful Rock". The legend says these are the tears of a mother mourning her fallen sons. The caves represent a large system of natural galleries and grottos, artificially expanded for habitation in The Middle Ages, at the times when Azerbaijan was an arena of civil wars and raids of foreign conquerors.

Maraza town is the administrative center of Gobustan district. It is situated on Maraza plateau, near the main roadway of the district. According to one of legends, the town's name, "Maraz", appeared when the wife of an influential man recovered from an ailment after moving to the town. There is no way of knowing if the legend is true or not. However, in the vicinity of Maraza there is a mineral spring. Water in the spring is bitter-salt but it does cure certain gastrointestinal diseases.

Famous mounds of Sheikh Duzu, remainders of old settlements dated to the 1st-8th centuries BC, situated on ancient trade roads near the present village of Dag Kolani; the mausoleum of Diri Baba (15th century) on the town's outskirts; remainders of Shah Abbas caravanserai in the very center of the town remind of the fact that the place was already inhabited in ancient times.

Since the earliest times the place has been a center of carpet production. The patterns of local carpets are known all over the world under the names of "Maraza", "Chukhanly" and "Dzhemdzhemli". Even today, "Nabur" carpets are woven in the village of the same name.

Maraza town is small, with no hotels, so for lodging one can rent a room or a private house. The hosts may take care of cooking meals of your choice.



## District of Guba

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 2,61 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 163,9 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 63 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages – 149**

**Number of settlements - 7**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 67**

**Number of infant schools - 15**

**Number of general education schools - 145**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools – 5**

**Number of higher educational institutes - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 16**

**Quantity of culture centers - 194**

**Distance between Guba and Baku - 168 km**



**Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Guba district</b>	152452	100,0	76885	100,0	75567	100,0
urban population	37952	24,89	19039	24,76	18913	25,03
rural population	114500	75,11	57846	75,24	56654	74,97

Guba district is one of the most advanced agricultural districts in Azerbaijan - local vegetables and fruits are transported to the capital's markets for sale, undergo processing at local canning factories, and are exported abroad. In spite of a large number of various fruit and vegetable species growing in the district every Azerbaijani first associates Guba with its apple orchards. Sellers in the capital praising their goods will certainly call their apples "Guba apples". The immensely rich flora of the district includes broad spectrum of herbal plants - hawthorn, juniper, balsam, nightshade, valerian, plantain, sally-bloom, althea, ephedra, laserwort etc.

The most popular and frequently visited places in the vicinity of Guba are such charming nature spots as Geshresh, Balbulag, and the canyon of Tenggealti, 400 m. to 600 m. deep.

The famous Afurdzhi waterfall on Velvelichai River is included in the list of "Monuments of Azerbaijani Nature" and is protected by the state. There are other waterfalls too, attracting tourists and travelers with their uniqueness and originality.

Taking tourist paths over these picturesque nature spots and climbing higher to the mountains, one can observe tall trees being alternated with bushes and even higher, by the river of Khashichai, there are thermal springs with water jetting out the rocks of a mountain canyon. Long time ago local craftsmen carved three large hollows in the very rock here - some kind of baths coated by stone walls. In the bath one could revel in warm medicinal water from sulfurated springs. Experts maintain that the natural stone bed enhances the medicinal effect of the spring water.

These places were once visited by French writer Alexander Dumas. While taking a break at the camp near the road he was invited to the fireplace by Guba residents that had also decided to take some rest and refresh themselves. He was very impressed by the skill Gubans cut the ram with and by the taste of kebab (shashlik) which they served him. The greatest modern traveler, Norwegian scientist Thor Heyerdahl also stopped in Guba during

his visit to Azerbaijan as he had been speculating that "aces" mentioned in the "Edda" epic were the most ancient ascendants of Azerbaijanis that moved to the north of Europe during the Great Migration of Nations. Here, in Guba district, 65 km from Guba is located a mountainous (2500 m above sea level) settlement Khinalig whose population constitutes a unique, separate ethnographic group. Residents of Hinalig speak an archaic language unrelated to any modern language of the world. The language is highly preserved although the locals also speak Azerbaijani. The phenomenon of Hinalig is a major enigma in not only in the history of Azerbaijan but in the world history, too.

Near Khinalig there is a sanctuary (9th century) where natural emergence of fire to the surface of earth can be observed. Due to this phenomenon the place was called Ateshgah by local residents, the name meaning "The Temple of Fire".

Remained in the village of Budug, whose population also constitutes a separate ethnic group with its rare language is an ancient construction named Dakhma - "The Tower of Silence", dated to the Zoroastrian ages. The towers were designed for Zoroastrian burial ceremonies.

Guba town is located on the bank of Kudial-chai River and on the northwest slopes of Shakhdag Mountain of the Greater Caucasus. This is the administrative center of Guba district with the population of 140000, located 168 km from Baku and 600 m above sea level. In the local Museum of History one can learn about the history of the town and Guba Khanate as well as about famous people that brought fame to this region. There is also a memorial estate of A. Bakhikhanov, a prominent public figure, writer and enlightener of Azerbaijan. One of his books, "Gulistani Irem" was devoted to the history of the country and virtually, was the first systematic research on the history of Azerbaijan.

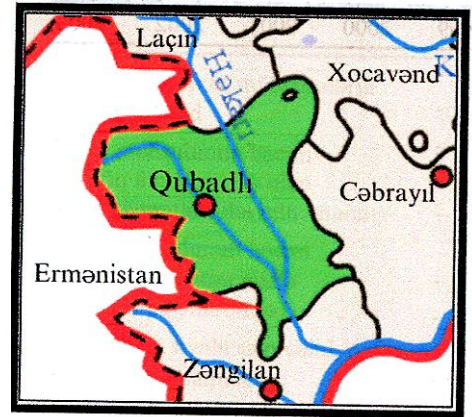
In Guba there is also a center of carpet weaving, since this zone have been famous with its carpets 'Chichi', 'Sirt Chichi', 'Gimil', 'Dzhimi', 'Erfi' that can be found in many museums and private collections around the world.

Also remained in the town preserved are such historical monuments as the mosque of Sakine Khanum, Juma mosque, mausoleum of the 16th century and ancient eastern-type baths. In the first half of the 18th century territories of the present Guba district as well as present Devechi, Gusar, Khachmaz, Khizi and Siazan districts were united to form Guba Khanate. Initially the center of the khanate was in Hudat city but soon after Guba khan Gusein Ali made the town of Guba the capital of his khanate and relocated his residence there. The most renowned ruler of Guba Khanate, Fatali khan always struggled to unite disconnected khanates of Azerbaijan under his reign. He conquered the whole northwest Azerbaijan from Derbent to Lankaran. At that time Jews were invited for settling in Guba, on the left bank of Kudial-Chai River. Initially the settlement was called Jewish community; in 1926 it was renamed to Red community.

From the north Guba Khanate was always threatened by Dagestan khans. With Russia developing its own geopolitical interests in Caucasus and Transcaucasian territories it became significantly harder to secure an independent existence and protect the borders of the khanate. At the beginning of the 19th century (in 1813) Guba khanate was incorporated into the Russian Empire.

Guba is a small town but present territory of Guba district, occupying northwest mountainsides of the Greater Caucasus are very picturesque and one can immerse into its beauty just outside the town. Neither Azerbaijani nor foreign tourists ever pass by this area. Similarly, Baku citizens, especially if they visit Guba to recreate often make car rides from Guba to the coastal resort Yalama located relatively close to Guba. And vice versa, tourists in Yalama (Nabran) sometimes make trips to Guba to combine the delight of recreation on the Caspian coast with the pleasure to observe forest foothills of Guba, plentiful of springs and beautiful nature spots. Guba district is one of the most beautiful in the country and its proximity to the capital, the vicinity of a forest zone and the Caspian coast as well as numerous tourist facilities and resorts in the area make it an important recreational and balneal zone of the republic.

Lodging is available at "Shakhdag" hotel and also in cottages and hotels of the newly constructed Olympic complex equipped with an indoor swimming pool (50 m), an outdoor stadium, indoor stadium for team sports, training halls, tennis and indoor football courts.

**District of Gubadly****Date of creation- 14. 03. 1933****Total territory - 0,80 th sq. km****Total number of population – 38,9 th per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 49 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 93****Number of big and middle enterprises – 115****Number of infant schools - 11****Number of general education schools - 56****Number vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 4****Number of culture centers - 111****Distance between Gubadly and Baku - 403 km****The district is occupied since august 31 in 1993 by the Armenian armed forces.****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Gubadly district</b>	35630	100,0	17660	100,0	17970	100,0
urban population	8046	22,58	3987	22,58	4059	22,59
rural population	27584	77,42	13673	77,42	13911	77,41

The region locates in the south-west of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the mountainous area and foothills. The highest point is Toragaj 2003 m high from the sea level. The climate is temperate continental. Ever-flowing rivers of Hakari and Bargushad cross the territory of the region. Gubadly region is bordered on the republic of Armenia along 120 km in the west, on Lachin and Hadrut regions in the north, on Jabrail region in the east and on Zangilan region in the south.

The population is composed of the Azerbaijanis that settled in 93 villages and the centre of the region Gubadly city.

Majority of the villages locate around the rivers Hakari and Bargushad. One can also notice the villages on the mountainous areas and foothills.

Gubadly is an agricultural region. People engaged here with grain-, wine-, tobacco- and melon growing as well as animal breeding.

The industry had in the recent years been fixing in the economy of the region.

Cubadli is a place of old human settlement. Though the territory has not been thoroughly studied yet, natural caves, shelters still preserved the signs of human work. Impassable rocks, defending fortifications rose on them and the remnants of the guard towers have still remained to our days.

Ancient sacred places prove the permanent settlement much ago Islam. This fact is also proved by the old graveyards, samples of the everyday life equipment and tools found near separate settlements. Ancient samples of the material culture inform about the development of cultivation and animal-breeding in this territory.

"Khirman yeri" found in the territory of Gubadly city, "Galacha", "Koroglu tower" in the village Aliquluushagi, "Cattle hill" in the territory of Muradkhanli refer to the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age.

Small fortifications remained on the impassable rocks in the villages Saray, Poladli, Khojamsakhli and Chardakhli are separately referred to the 7th-9th century. But the real fact is that those fortifications were the part of the unique guarding points system along the borderline between Atropatena and Albania in the 1st century B.C.

In the passed century Gubadly was constantly attacked by the Armenian invaders (1915, 1918 and 1920). The villages of Gubadly were burnt together with those of the Zangazur, people suffered damages. Despite of all difficulties the Armenian invaders were driven out of our lands.

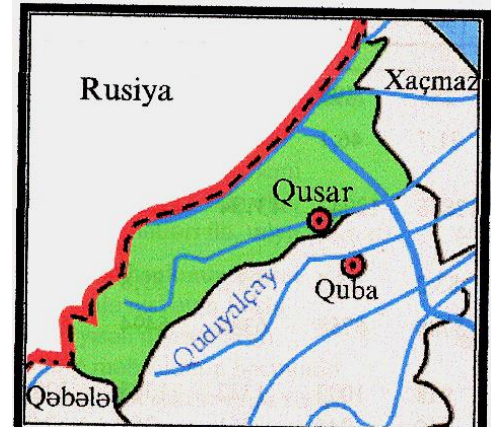
Invasion attacks from the both sides against Gubadly region, locating on the borderline between Armenia(120 km) and Daglig Garabag (45 km), started from 1988. Peaceful population of the region suffered terror acts.

During 5 year long war till late August, 1993 Gubadly region gave 238 martyrs. 9 of them posthumously deserved the name of the National Hero of Azerbaijan.

After occupation of Iachin, Agdam, Fuzuli and Jabrail Gubadly region was in partial blockade and in 30-31 August, 1993 it was occupied by the Armenian invaders. More than 30 000 Gubadly inhabitants urged to leave their homes and they settled in 2 cities and regions of the republic as IDPs.

Armenian invaders robbed and destroyed the private and social property in the cost USD 1.2 billion (with the prices of 1993).

Many prominent people of Azerbaijan were bred in Gubadli. Two of the national heroes of Azerbaijan-Gachag Nabi and Hajar were from Gubadli.

**District of Gusar****Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 1,50 th sq. km****Total number of population – 93,8 th per. (January 1,****2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 63 per. (January 1,****2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 88****Number of settlements - 1****Number of big and middle enterprises - 17****Number of infant schools - 15****Number of general education schools - 90****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 7****Number of culture centers - 143****Distance between Gusar and Baku - 180 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2011)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Gusar district</b>	87857	100,0	43477	100,0	44380	100,0
urban population	18520	21,08	8982	20,66	9538	21,49
rural population	69337	78,92	34495	79,34	34842	78,51

Gusar town, the center of the district, has a population of 15800. The district of Gusar borders Dagestan and is located in the northeast part of Azerbaijan 35 km from the Khudat railway station. The name of the district, Gusar, tomonimically ascends to the name of the tribe of Khisar which inhabited the region and vanished during historical ethnogeny. The region is predominantly populated by Lezghins.

Landscape of the territory is an alternation of mountains and plains covered with forests. Deciduous trees: hornbeams, oak, and beech are prevalent. In riparian woodlands grow medlar, sumach, hawthorn, dogrose, wild fruit trees, gooseberries, wild vines and plenty of herbal plants. There is also a beech forest called "Alistan Baba" (7 hectares) protected by the state. Not the less diverse is the local fauna - wolves, bears, mountain goats, eagles, owls etc. A game reserve named "Gusar" (with an area of over 15000 hectares) has been established with the purpose of preservation and restoration of species of hunting and farm importance and their habitat.

In mountain canyons one may observe beautiful waterfalls, the most popular of which, Laza and Shakhnabaz attract a great number of tourists and fanciers of wild nature of the Caucasus. Mountains and peaks of the district attract many climbers while local waterfalls have lately become a center of winter competitions. There is a walking path from the village of Laza to Khinalig village located in Guba district, the route becoming increasingly popular among foot travelers.

If taking an ecotourist route from the town of Gusar in the direction of Laza waterfall on the way one will cross the village of Anig with the remainders of fortress walls dated to the 13th century and an ancient mosque located nearby. By the village of Laza there is a resort named "Suvar".

Taking a route from Gusar to the village of Sudug (75 km) located on the slopes of Shakhdag Mountain, in the village of Khazra one may survey the ancient mausoleum of Sheikh Dzhuneid (16th century), the grandfather of Shah Ismail Khatai, the founder of Azerbaijani State of Sefevids.

This land, as the whole land of Azerbaijan, retains traces of ancient culture and life of its inhabitants. Remained in the villages of Khazra, Khil, Balagusar, Anig, Yasab, Keine Khudat and Gunduz Gala are ancient mausoleums, mosques, remainders of antique settlement sites and fortresses.

Gusar town is the administrative center of the district. It is located 183 km of Baku. The town was visited by a brilliant Russian poet M. Lermontov. There is a museum bearing his name in the town.

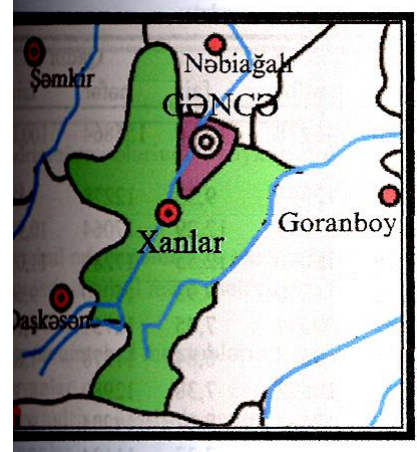
Among folk crafts the most advanced is carpet production, especially weaving of fleecyless Sumakh carpets, woven both at home and at the workshop located in the center of the town. Installed in the same carpet workshop is the biggest loom in the republic. Ten people can work at this loom at the same time.

Lodging is available at Garabulag, Gaibulag and Suvar resorts. Aside of lodgings these resorts also provide meals.



### Ganja city

**Date of creation – V century b.c.**  
**Total territory - 0,11 th. sq. km**  
**Total number of population - 328,4 th per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Density of population – 1 sq. km 2985 per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Number of settlements - 1**  
**Number of big and middle enterprises - 68**  
**Number of infant schools – 45**  
**Number of general education schools – 44**  
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 10**  
**Number of higher educational institutes - 4**  
**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 46**  
**Number of culture centers - 28**  
**Distance between Ganja and Baku - 375 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Ganja city</b>	313249	100,0	151277	100,0	161972	100,0
urban population	313249	100,0	151277	100,0	161972	100,0

### History of Ganja



A monument of the most ancient culture, the native land of the great Nizami - the city Ganja is located on the northeast bottom of Small Caucasus, on Ganja-Gazakh lowland, on both banks of Ganjachay River. This city, which has played a large role in social-economic, political and cultural life of Azerbaijan, was on caravan crossroads, where the travellers stopped, and enjoyed conversations with foreign scientists. Looking thru the pages of its rich history, in each line we meet traces of ancient city, we hear its voice and we feel its breath.

There are various points of view about the history of formation of Ganja as a city. Some scientists consider the foundation of city to the period BC, majority - to the beginning of the middle Ages.

Speaking about the history of city it is impossible to overlook, that it was formed as the social-economic and cultural centre. Ganja, as well as other cities of Azerbaijan (Kabala, Nakhichevan, Sheki, Shemakha), is considered as a settlement, which had a favourable geographical arrangement and gradually passed in a city.

Mausoleum of Dzhomard Gassab (Gassab - a butcher), can be considered as one of the certificates of the age of Ganja.



Dzhomard Gassab lived during governing of the fourth khalif Ali ibn Abutalib (656-661) and distinguished with his validity and honesty. In the times when the population of the city professed idols he secretly accepted Islam. The fact that someone could change his opinions and belief secretly, speaks that in VII century there was a strong political authority and influential clergy in Ganja.

Even in 1940 - ties, in time of archeological excavations, the researchers came in such conclusion, that there were settlements in territory of Ganja still BC.

There are different opinions in interpretation of toponym "Ganja". Toponym ("Dzhanza" - in Arabic, "Gandza" - in Georgian) was perceived as a Pehlevi word that designated - treasure, place of storage of a crop. All of these interpretations has no scientific basis. According Resler, this term is inherent in the Azerbaijan language. In the other reason it is marked, that the given term is connected to a tribe of Ganjak, which is closer to true. The existence of the tribe is proved scientifically for a long time ago. A number of places in Azerbaijan and Central Asia are connected to the name of the tribe. The historians of Central Asia challenge and prove, that they originate from the tribe.

In first half of VII century Ganja was destroyed by Persians, and in second half - by the Arabs. In the end of VII century the city was transformed into arena of fights between the Arabs and Khazars. In "Derbendname" it is marked, that in the beginning of VII century and in VIII century. The territory of Azerbaijan repeatedly was exposed to attacks, therefore considerably has suffered and Ganja.

After Barda, the capital of Arran, Ganja begins to play the important role in international trade, caravans frequently stopped here. There were Arabian dinars and dirkhams in circulation.



Since X century, when Barda loses its role of a capital, Ganja begins to play the important role in social-economic and cultural life of the country. Trade and craft occupy the important place in the life of the city. There is an economic potential for development of craft. Iron, copper, aluminous and other mines, which are taking place near Ganja, supplied the handicraftsmen with raw material. In process of formation, Ganja, as the capital of the country, gave the special attention also to strengthening of military power of city. Fortress walls were constructed and ditches were dug around the city already in this period.

The rests of Ganja fortress, being majestic at its times, are embodied in this photo. The angular tower of the fortress is visible in the foreground; the other tower is somewhere in a distance about 600 meters (marked with red arrow). This wall passes along the bank of the river Ganjachay. Being a natural barrier at one time, now the river constantly undermines the shabby walls of the fortress.

Because of easing of the khalifat in IX-X centuries, independent feudal states of Shirvanshakhs, Sadjadids, Salaridids, and Raevadits began to occur in Azerbaijan. In the middle of X century Ganja was in the hands of the state of Salaradids. Later it became the capital of the state of Shaddadids. During the reign of Fadlun I (895-1030) Ganja got stronger even more. The Shaddadids constructed fortress, palaces, bridges, and caravanserais here and began to mint money. A new and stronger fortress was constructed around the city.



In 1063 the smith Ibragim has made famous gates of Ganja. In process of transformation of Ganja to the large centre, its territory extended also: the new commercial and industrial quarters were under construction. Silk and the silk products have won sympathies of not only local, but also foreign buyers. Ganja was considered also as a religious centre. So, the residence Albanian katalikost was transferred from Barda in Ganja. Gatran Tebrizi wrote about this period so: «Now Ganja has changed into a paradise»

In the middle of XI century Azerbaijan has undergone to invasions of Seljuk. After the capture of Tebriz Togrul I (1038-1068) in 1054 moved his army towards Ganja. The ruler of Ganja Shavir has agreed to become Togrul's vassal. He has presented Togrul an expensive gift and a khutba was read in his honour.

The invasions of Seljuks did not stop. In 70 years of XI century Fadlun III, the governor of Shaddads, seeing senselessness of war, has surrendered, however a bit later, having taken advantage the convenient moment,

again has returned to authority. In 1086 Seljuk governor Malik shakh (1072-1092) has sent the commander Bugay to Ganja. Despite of strong resistance of the local population, the Seljuks have grasped city. During war the governor of Ganja Fadlun III was taken prisoner and, thus, end to the reign of Shaddadid dynasty, ruled more than 100 years, was fixed. Malik shakh has assigned the governing of Ganja to his son Gias ad-din Tapar. Gias ad-din Mukhammed Tapar, even after his election as a sultan (1105-1117), still remained one of the basic residents of Seljuk governors of Ganja.

In the first half of XII century Ganja some times was exposed to Georgian invasions, in reply to it Seljuk army have intruded Georgia and have plundered it.

Other event connected with Ganja, was an earthquake of huge force, which has taken place on September 25, 1139. Kirakos Gandzaketsi wrote: "the fog and clouds wrapped the mountains and the plains; an awful earthquake has taken place. Ganja has collapsed. As a result of it Kapazdag mountain has collapsed and has fallen on springs, which flew down ravines, having blocked them a way. So the lake was formed". The lake Gek-gol (Gek- blue, gol-lake) in the present time is in territory of the same reserve and is one of the most picturesque places of Azerbaijan. But the author forgot to mention or did not know that time about other seven lakes formed as a result of this earthquake and also distinguished by the rare beauty. They are - Maral-gol, Dzhehran-gol, Ordek-gol, Zalugolu, Aggol, Garagol and Shamligol.

Having taken advantage of the destruction of the city and absence of the governor of city, the Georgian feudal lords have made invasion, have grasped many trophies and have taken away with itself famous gates of Ganja. The rests of this monument of material culture of Azerbaijan, because of miscontrol and unsuitable condition, are in a courtyard of Gelat monastery of the Georgian Republic.

Long internal feudal wars have weakened the Seljuk state. It has created conditions for strengthening of the local feudal lords and occurrence of the new states. One of them was the state of Atabeks, founded by Shamsaddin Eldaniz. Ganja became a residence of this state in Arran. The beginning of XII-XIII centuries could be named as the period of bloom of Ganja - the second capital of the state of Atabeks, for that its products were known far outside the country, it has risen up to a level "the mother of Arran cities". A fabric, which was produced here and referred to as "Ganja silk", has received a high estimation in the markets of the neighboring countries and the Middle East.

### Present Days

After Azerbaijan gained independence, Ganja as well as all of the country experienced not so easy times. The happened events have not left the citizens as indifferent spectators. Every Ganjali taken separately as well as the whole city repeatedly influenced current of the basic events of Azerbaijan. In spite of the fact that today concentration of the investments is in Baku and Ganja is non-comparable with the capital, the town as well as always in the history of Azerbaijan occupies one of the conducting positions almost in all spheres. The changes pleasing one's eyes and installing hope in souls of the citizens gradually occur in Ganja. The prospectuses and streets, areas and the avenues of Ganja return to themselves their beauty lost as a result of thoughtless building of booths and shops. The submission of gas is renewed in new areas of the city (Yeni Ganja, Gulistan, Makhresa baghi), there are also works on restoration of the old branch of the gas pipeline in city centre. At the expense of development of private sector and the realizations of a privatization new workplaces are open. Having large intellectual, personnel and scientific potential Ganja became the place attractive to business circles. Firms and companies that functioned only in Baku are looking towards regions and especially Ganja. First of all Ganja have mastered branches of conducting banks of the country.



Today Stock-Commercial Bank "Ganjabank" is the only bank in city (not a branch) that works outside Baku. On the given moment the bank with the central office in the centre of Ganja has one branch "Kapaz". The bank serves about 200 clients, among which are Ganja Factory of Non-ferrous Metals Processing, Ganja Airrepair factory, Carpet Combine, JV "Elco" and SSL "Shamkir-cognac" also has correspondent accounts with conducting



banks of the world, such as "Citibank" USA, "Commerzbank" of Germany, "Unastrum" of Russia, "Roscredit" of Russia, "the International Bank" and "Mostbank" Azerbaijanians. The bank has 22 points of exchange in the city. Ganja Regional Department of National Bank, branches of such banks as "the International Bank", "Pochtbank", Agroprombank, "OUAB", "M-bank", "Parabank", Demiryolbank, "Turanbank", "Azalbank" also work in the city.

Ganja Regional Department of National Bank being a conductor of reforms of National Bank of republic in Ganja region covers Khanlar, Goranboy, Samukh, Dashkesan areas and Naftalan. The private business system accounting and remittances of the former Soviet Union have appeared as a good mechanism in hands of the unscrupulous people, taking billions at the expense of the credits and fictitious 'aviso' from absolutely tiny regional banks. Hearing the word 'Chechen aviso', 'MFO', becoming attributes of the end 94 beginnings 95 years, when a parity non-cash and cash rouble up to 95 %, i.e. having listed has risen to the firm - intermediary 100 r. You received in cash only 5 roubles (now these figures seem unnatural). The management founded on July 1994 as the zone Accounting-Cash Centre, where each bank has a correspondent account, was barrier arbitrariness in bank sphere of republic. Actually in one year all above-stated illegal operations have got rid themselves. It would be desirable to note the activity of the "International Bank", a winner of "Euromoney" magazine in the "Banks" nomination, which on estimations of the international experts is the most equipped bank of CIS.

As it is known banks are reflection of the condition of economy, but the basis of economy is manufacture. As a result of disintegration of the Soviet Union the majority of the industrial enterprises of city, which were of allied scale and constructed with account on the market and raw base of the whole country, has lost both market and raw base. As a consequence such giants as aluminium, porcelain, confectionery, instrument-making, canning, furniture and ferro-concrete factories, factory of processing non-ferrous metals, factory "Billur", beer factory, carpet and textile combines and other enterprises of the city have stopped. It resulted with sharp increase of the level of unemployments and accordingly downturn of a standard of living of the population of city. Many have left city and have set off in capital of republic or in neighbouring countries in searches of work. Followed by disintegration of the Soviet Union the periods of anarchy, arbitrariness and lawlessness still more have affected on level of emigration of the capable population of city, some of which even have preferred to become the citizens of other countries finding there application to their abilities and talents. But we hope very much, that Ganjalies never turned away from the native land and, that each of them in depth of soul dreams of returning back in the city, having proved business here, having created workplaces here and to contribute to prosperity of native city.

"The Life is a wheel of a cart. Ones are lifted upwards, while the others are gone downwards". And confirming words of Zaratushtira, Ganja having transferred breath after cataclisms (one can't name the happened event in other words) continues following the way begun many centuries ago. Small bakeries, confectionery shops are open, commercial shops have got over from cellars in smart rooms, privatization refueling successfully has passed stations, small enterprises, shops, hotels. One of vivid examples of development of private sector is Joint-Stock Society of open type "Metal-plastic" being on our opinion as a sample in the field of marketing, organization of manufacture and managements. Controlled by the managers of new generation, the enterprise makes more than 75 names of products, beginning from equipments for education as tables, boards etc., office furniture, uniforms, products of consumer goods from nails (40mm-120mm) up to accumulators (60,100 and 180 amper) and finishing by plastic products of weight from 1 gramme up to 5 kg. The production due to the balanced price policy and powerful marketing never lies too long in warehouses. On the photo at the left is shown only small part from very colourful and informative booklet of the enterprise.

Factory "Billur" with the industrial area more than hectare and with more than 100 workers, in the Soviet epoch basically specialized on electronics and letting out calculators, electronic games and military production, today lets out TV sets "Mercury" for the sum more than 900 millions manat per year capable to compete with the known marks of the world. Instrument-making factory on which more than 700 citizens work, is one of the conducting enterprises of city and makes counters of the gas and water charge and for the sum more than 4 billions manat per one year, the need in which sharp is felt in Baku and which are a product of export not making a concession similar to products of western companies, is strong differs with them in the price.

The special mention is worthy former Alluminium factory, and nowadays Industrial Association "Glinozem". This industrial giant constructed in 1976 and extended in 1986 at the expense of delivery in operation



of a site of manufacture boxits and designed on manufacture 450 thousand tons of alluminium oksidants, switching 300 thousand tons boxit and 150 thousand tons alunit. By a collateral product manufactures of the specified products were 390 thousand tons sulfat acid and 103 thousand tons calium sulfat. In different times on the enterprise was engaged from 2000 up to 3000 men. In the given time, having lost relations with the suppliers and by the consumers the factory functions only on 5-10 of % from the capacity, finding ways of exit from the usual situation and further development. Deserving attention it is possible to name that fact, that at offices of the enterprise will be carried out repairs, which will allow to not strike in a dirt in front of potential investors and clients, trying to follow the famous proverb " meet by one's clothes...", and one can't borrow wiseness from the managers of the enterprises.

### District of Gedebe

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,23 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 97,6 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 79 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 108**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 17**

**Number of infant schools - 7**

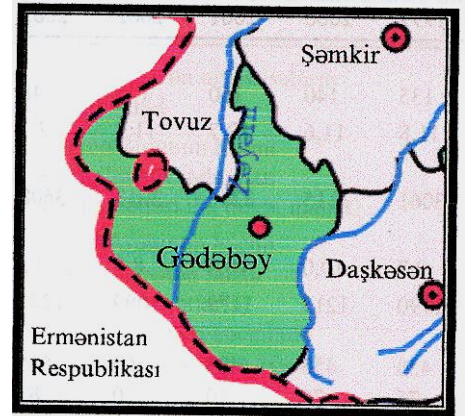
**Number of general education schools - 85**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 10**

**Number of culture centers - 162**

**Distance between Gedebe and Baku - 444 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Gedebe district</b>	93719	100,0	46610	100,0	47109	100,0
urban population	10146	10,83	4906	10,53	5240	11,12
rural population	83573	89,17	41704	89,47	41869	88,88

Gedebe region is one of the ancient sites inhabited by the humankind in Azerbaijan. The historical cultural monuments referred to the 12th -7th centuries B.C. are considered to be a part of the Khojali-Gedebe culture.

The discovery of a copper field in the territory of Gedebe in the middle of the 19th century was followed by the construction of a copper-smelting plant by local businessmen in 1855-1856. The plant was privatized and re-established by the German company "Siemens" in 1865. Siemens built the Galakend copper-smelting plant in 1883 and a narrow railway from Gedebe to Galakend in 1883. In the same year Tsarist Russia constructed the first water power plant in Galakend and carried out copper smelting electrolysis in the Galakend copper-smelting plant.

At the same time, the German scientists carried out archaeological digs in the Gedebe region. The results of the archaeological excavations were published in Germanys scientific periodical "Folkler Shpis" in Berlin in the form of a scientific work "Galakend". The work is kept in the Berlin State museum.

The administrative region of Gedebe was established on August 8, 1930. The region borders with the Republic of Armenia (123 km) in the west and south-west, with the region of Tovuz of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the north, and with the regions of Shemkir and Dashkesen in north-east and east.

The Gedebe region is located in medium and high mountains of the Minor Caucasus. It occupies north foots of Shahdag chain and part of Bashkend- Destefur saddle and the range of Shemkir mountains.

The highest points are Goshabulag (3,549 m), Gojadag (2,217 m) and Graagaj (3,549 m).

There is a dense river system in the region. The biggest rivers are Akhinja, Zeyem and Shemkir. The soil is of mountain-forest, Soddy mountain-meadow and other kinds. Mid the mountains are rich with bushy and rare forest meadows, broad-leaved forests, high mountains are covered with sub-alpine and alpine meadows.

Deposits of Jurassic, Cretaceous, Palaeogene and Anthropogenic periods prevail in the territory of the region.



The region is composed of a city and 108 villages. The centre of the region is Gedebe city. During 1935-1990 Gedebe was a city of urban type and it took the name of a city since 1990. there are 40 administrative territorial unit in the region.

### District of Geygel (Khanlar)

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 0,92 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 61,5 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 67 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 38**

**Number of settlements - 6**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 17**

**Number of infant schools - 19**

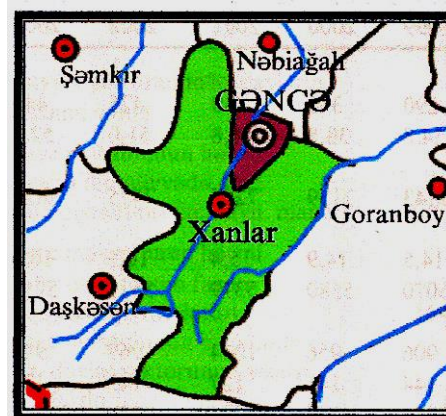
**Number of general education schools - 49**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 63**

**Number of culture centers - 85**

**Distance between Geygel and Baku - 364 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Geygel district</b>	57191	100,0	28599	100,0	28592	100,0
urban population	23241	40,64	11598	40,55	11643	40,72
rural population	33950	59,36	17001	59,45	16949	59,28

Geygel (Khanlar) district is situated at the foots of Small Caucasus, a bit south of Ganja. Agriculture is well-developed in this district, which has very nice landscape. Climate is mild hot. There are many bird nests here. Ganjachay and Gushgara rivers are best places for hunting and fishing. Highest peak of district is Murovdag range that is located in 3724m above sea level. This district is very popular among tourists and ecotourists. They lodge at houses of local people and surrounding villages.

Administrative center of Geygel district is Geygel city located in 364km from Baku.

Geygel city was built in XIX century by refugee Germans in place of ancient village called Khaniglar. They planned this city with order specific to themselves and called it Yeleniyendorf in 1819. Smooth streets of this city, facades, reflecting flutes, of houses built of wood, protestant church (Lutheran church) remind German style. Local Germans living here were exiled to Middle Asia during USSR time on the order of Stalin.

There are local history-regional geographic, music school, cinema, many cafes and restaurants in Geygel. Tourists visiting this silent and green city travel from there to tourist zones on different routes. Archeological findings belonging to Bronze and iron ages confirm that this city possess ancient history. Lutheran Church (1854), «Ikigozlu Korpu» (XVI c) and «Uchgozlu Korpu» (1896) on Ganjachay have remained safe till now as historical-architectural monuments. Monuments remained near Geygel include castle of XII century in Zurnabad village, Mausoleum of XVI century in Sari Gaya village, «Ag Korpu» of XII century in Topalhasanly village, a number of historical monuments in Chaykend village.

### District of Hajigabul

**Date of creation - 24. 04. 1990**

**Total territory - 1,60 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 71,2 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 45 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 25**

**Number of settlements - 5**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 35**

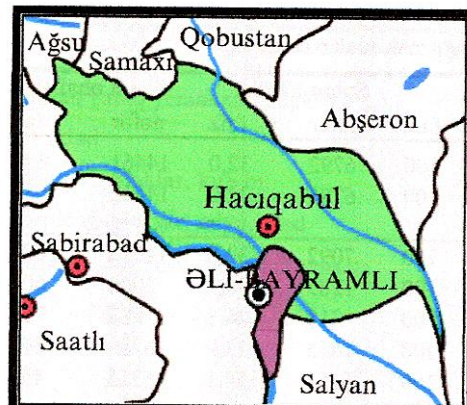
**Number of infant schools - 3**

**Number of general education schools - 30**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 5**

**Number of culture centers – 55**

**Distance between Hajigabul and Baku - 113 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2011)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Hajigabul district</b>	65837	100,0	32382	100,0	33455	100,0
urban population	33890	51,48	16466	50,85	17424	52,08
rural population	31947	48,57	15916	49,15	16031	47,92

Population of Hajigabul district is 60.000, center of district is Hajigabul city, number of its population is 22,000. Hajigabul district is located in a part of ancient fruitful land of Mugan in Kur-Araz lowland. Climate is semi-desert, dry and hot, winter is mild. Temperature of weather is not lower than positive 6 degree in winter. It rains less, but tugai forests and bushes exist along the Kur River.

Hajigabul lake created as a result of natural withdrawal of Caspian Sea in certain geological period is situated within this district. Bed of the lake was enlarged as a result of flood of Kur River in springtime. Now used hot waters of Ali-Bayramly State District Power Station flows into this lake. This lake, depth of which does not exceed 5 meter, is not frozen in winter. It has big importance as suitable place in winter for migrant birds, as well for water-march birds to build a nest. Many of those birds belong to unique types that face the danger of being ended.

Carpet-weaving has developed here since the ancient times. Shirvan school's tradition of weaving the hand carpets called "Sari khalcha" is continued still.

Hajigabul city, administrative center of district, is located in 113 km from Baku. Meaning of its name is 'God accept your Hajj visit'. Visit of Muslims to saint Medina and Mecca cities is called 'Hajj'. Honorary title 'Hajji' is granted to the person having visited Hajj and this word is used before its name. Hajj visit is a complex of religious concepts and covers the requests of mercy, different confessions from Allah. So, it comes clear from name of Hajigabul city that it was a camp not only for trade caravans but also for Hajj pilgrims. Sometimes pilgrims used to go in caravans, sometimes they promised to walk till Hajj. There were caravanserais here to receive both pilgrims and merchants traveling the Persian Gulf region.

In XVII century Shah Abbas built a big caravanserai near Hajigabul Lake and a city was built here when dynasty of the Safavi was in reign and this city was called Mahmudabad at the time. Later this name was forgotten and city was called again Hajigabul. But this territory was inhabited yet 5 thousand years ago - archeologists found out ruins of cyclopean buildings in HARAMI Mountain in north-west of city. Petroglyphs in walls of these

buildings catch the attention. There were found out images of people and extraordinary, fantastic animals on the stones near. Scientists suppose this object belongs to Eneolith era. Other historical-architectural monuments remain near Hajigabul. In Gubali Baloglan village Pir Huseyn Khanegah includes: ancient mosque with minaret, castle walls, caravanseraï, living buildings (XIII-XIV centuries), mausoleum of Sheikh Huseyn, who lived in XI century, (this mausoleum that was built in honor of sheikh was erected after two centuries after his death), as well ancient bridge (XVII-XIX centuries).

Glazed brick of Khanegah reflecting picture of lion is considered one of the best in the East. At the present time a part of this bricks is at The Hermitage in Saint-Petersburg and Nizami Ganjavi's Literature Museum in Baku. Gungormez defense tower of early middle ages remained in Udulu village.

Apparently from name of this tower people defended there were protected themselves till their last breath in fight against enemy.

### District of Imishli

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,89 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 123,6 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 65 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 48**

**Number of settlements - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 42**

**Number of infant schools - 16**

**Number of general education schools - 63**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 10**

**Number of culture centers - 111**

**Distance between Imishli and Baku - 230 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Imishli district</b>	114183	100,0	56412	100,0	57771	100,0
urban population	36613	32,07	17957	31,83	18656	32,29
rural population	77570	67,93	38455	68,17	39115	67,71

The Imishli region (called Garadonlu until 1938) embraces the Mugan and Mil plains of the Kur-Araz lowland.

It was given the name of the Garadonlu region in August 1930. The Garadonlu uyezd (territorial unit) which was established in the period of the tsarist Russia at first formed a part of the Salyan gaza (territorial unit) and later - a part of the Javad gaza. The Garadonlu village has an ancient history. The village is situated on the bank of the Araz River, on the intersection of caravan and trade routes. This, in combination with the vast water resources for rich water resources and fertile soil caused renovation, high development of agriculture and cultivation. Large melioration works carried out, irrigation equipment built and irrigated intensive cultivation developed in this region much before the October revolution. The first school started in Garadonlu in 1906 and there were examples of living houses, hotels, mills and shops in the village at that time. Administrative buildings, hospital and social objects built after establishment of Garadonlu region. Garadonlu Machine-Tractor station founded in 1933.

Foundation of Elet-Minjivan railway required to shift the centre of the region near the railway. Thus, a two-stored administrative building of baked brick constructed between the village of Imishli and Garadonlu railway station. The centre of the region shifted to this area and the region called Imishli. Forests and bushes covered the area at that time, but newly settled people cleared the territory and settled new houses and streets. Being the centre of the region the village Imishli speedily developed, increased the quantity of newly constructed buildings and the village changed its appearance.

The village Imishli gained the status of an urban type settlement in 1944 and the status of a town in 1960. In 1959 above the river Araz in the territory of Bahramtepe constructed unique for that time Bahramtepe water

station. It is the starting point of Chief Mugan and Azizbeyov canals that supply Imishli region and the plantation of Saatli, Sabirabad and Bilasuvar with water. A sand-shingle mine and the plan of reinforced concrete functioned at that period in the territory of the settlement.

During the first period of ruling of the national leader of Azerbaijan people Heydar Aliyev, i.e. from 1970 to 1980, the appearance of the centre of the region especially that of Imishly completely changed alike the other territories of the republic and turned into flourishing town. Large melioration works carried out in the land of Imishli region at that time, re-constructed irrigation systems, presented to the utilization 10 000 hectares of new irrigated lands and speedily developed production of agricultural goods.



### District of İsmayilli

**Date of creation - 21. 11. 1939**

**Total territory - 2,07 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 84,0 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 41 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 106**

**Number of settlements - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 365**

**Number of infant schools - 12**

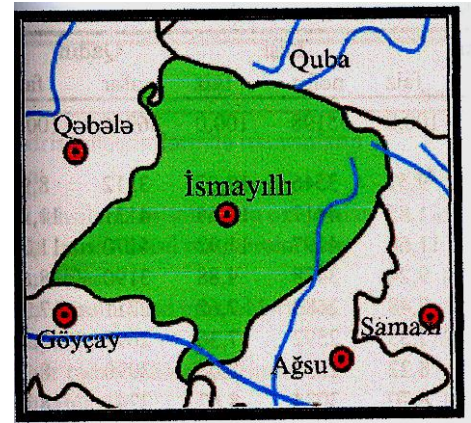
**Number of general education schools - 87**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 7**

**Quantity of culture centers - 122**

**Distance between İsmayilli and Baku - 185 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>İsmayilli district</b>	79330	100,0	39390	100,0	39940	100,0
urban population	17321	21,83	8716	22,13	8605	21,54
rural population	62009	78,17	30674	77,87	31335	78,46

İsmayilli district was created with the center in the İsmayilli village on November 21, 1931. Before the establishment of the district one of its part was within the Goychay province, another one within the Shamakhy province and the smallest part within the Sheki province.

The territory of the district like all the northern lands of Azerbaijan was part of the Albanian state in the 4th century B.C. Mehran Gyrdyman from the dynasty of Sasanies even created his own kingdom at the territory. Albanian rulers Varaz Grigor and his son Djavanshir (616-681) were also from the dynasty of mehranids. The Gyrdyman state was ruled by the most prominent ruler of Albania Djavanshir in 638-670. The ruins of the residence built by him on the Aghchay river 4 kilometers away from the Talystan village is still famous the the Djavanshir tower.

The district covers an area of 2074 km<sup>2</sup>. It borders on Guba in the north, Shamakhy in the east, Ağsu in the south-east, Kurdemir in the south, Goychay in the south-west and Gabala in the west.

The district includes 1 city, 2 settlements and 106 villages. These settlements are controlled by 34 territorial representations and 67 municipalities. Its population is 75500 people (January 1, 2004). Azerbaijanis account for 84.4%, lezguins, Russians and other people for 15.2% of the entire population.

The landscape of the district is mainly composed of mountains. The height of the lands hesitates between 200 meters up to 3629 meters (Babadagh) above sea level. The area is passed by the Goychay, Gyrdyman, Akhokh, Ayrichay, Sulut and other rivers, Yekekhana and Ashygbayram artificial ponds.

The district covers an area of 215875 hectares with 22058 hectares of winter and 13555 hectares of summer pastures. The lands used in agriculture account for 96630 hectares including 36263 hectares of fertile lands.

The woodlands account for 66799 hectares of the district. The district accounts for the State Reserve of Ismayilli. The part of the district was included into the Shahdagh National Park.

The district has a rich nature. The forests are composed of oak, hornbeam, beech-tree, alder-tree, birch-tree, poplar, pear, spoke and other trees. Such representatives of animal kingdom as elk, mountain goat, chamois, deer, roe deer, bear, boar, lynx, fox, wolf, squirrel, coon, pheasant, partridge, eagle, falcon, tetra and others are found in these forests.

A number of settlements of the district especially Lahydj and Basgal settlements, Ivanovka, Galadjyg, Talystan and Diyarly villages are notable for their ancient history and special beauty. Lahidj and Basgal were declared the reserves of history and culture.

The district accounts for a number of ancient historical monuments.

Significant measures are currently taken in the district for the development of tourism.

The Ismailly city was had been a village till 1959, a settlement till 1967 and after than he was transformed into a city.

Ismayilly is a region with a special agriculture. The district which lagged behind in all spheres before 1970 experienced a significant rise due to the special attention paid to it by the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev. The three visits of the wise leader (In July of 1981, in late November of the same year and early December and in 2002) were the most important events in the history of the region.

### District of Jalilabad

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,44 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population - 209,3 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 145 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 2**

**Number of villages - 117**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 17**

**Number of infant schools - 18**

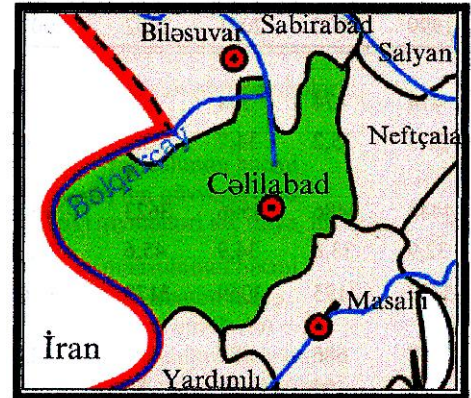
**Number of general education schools - 129**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 18**

**Number of culture centers - 145**

**Distance between Jalilabad and Baku - 210 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Jalilabad district</b>	192320	100,0	94962	100,0	97358	100,0
urban population	55910	29,07	27589	29,05	28321	29,09
rural population	136410	70,93	67373	70,95	69037	70,91

The region Jalilabad is one of the ancient habitations of Azerbaijan. Hamashara city once existed in the territory of the region refers to the 2nd millennium. Ancient sources mentioned that the city was surrounded by 3m high grand tower. After attach of the Arabians Hamashara city was destroyed and later known as Hasili city. Russians started to be resettled in the territory of Azerbaijan in 30-s of the 19th century. Astrakhanbazar-the city of joint habitation of Azerbaijanis and Russians turned the centre of the province.

Jalilabad region established in August 8, 1930. It was named Astrakhanbazar till July 2, 1967. The territory of the region is 144 km<sup>2</sup>, its population is 178690 people. Jalilabad is bordered on the regions Bilasuvar in the north, Neftçala in the east, Masalli in the south, Yardimli in south-west and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the west. There are 2 cities and 117 villages in the region. The centre of the region Jalilabad city is on the 210th km of Baku-Astara highway.

The relief of the region is mainly composed of the plains and low mountains, some areas in the east are lower than the level of the ocean. The climate of the region is temporally-hot. The average temperature in winter is 1-3 C and 25-30 C in winter, annual rainfall is 400-600 mm. Bologhachay, Misharhay, Injachay, Goytepechay and other temporary running rivers cross the territory of the region. Soil in the region is of alluvial- meadow, chestnut, brown mountain, forest and other sorts. There are forests and winter pastures for birds in 14.7 000 hectares of the region. one may find here rabbit, wild boar, badger, wolf, fox, jackal, beaver and other animals, eagle, crow, turaj, lark, duck, goose, coot, pheasant, stork, bustard and other birds.

### District of Jebrail

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,05 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 76,6 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 73 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 92**

**Number of infant schools - 35**

**Number of general education schools - 65**

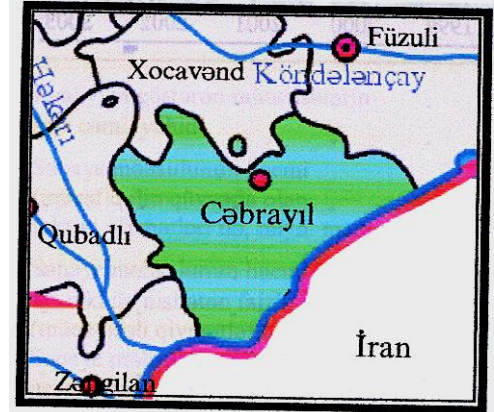
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 73**

**Number of culture centers - 63**

**Distance between Jebrail and Baku - 338 km**

**The district is occupied since July 23, 1993 by the Armenian armed forces.**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Jebrail district</b>	70585	100,0	34685	100,0	35900	100,0
urban population	11376	16,12	5570	16,06	5806	16,17
rural population	59209	83,88	29115	83,94	30094	83,83

Jabrayil region is administrative region, established in Azerbaijan on August 8, 1930. It is located on foothills of the Minor Caucasus and borders with the Iran Islam Republic in the south, Zangilan in south-west, Gunadli in west, Khodjavand in north, Fuzulli in the east.

The symbol of Jabrail is the well-known Khudaferin bridges built across Araz River between villages of Kumlakh and Khudaferin. Those are outstanding monuments of architecture of XII century and valued witnesses of the historical past of the country. The problem of enormous bridges' construction was solved at grand and fast flownrivers, except for constructional skills and special engineering training, it was necessary to possess the ability to pick up natural rocked exits in river bedding intended for bays supports and to bind out architectural composition of the bridge with environmental locality. Longevity that preserved up to now testify to the highest craftsmanship skill of Azerbaijan architects.

**District of Kelbajar****Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 3,05 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 88,3 th per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Density of population – 1 sq. km 29 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 145****Number of settlements - 1****Number of big and middle enterprises - 140****Number of infant schools – 90****Number of general education schools - 115****Number of vocational and secondary schools – 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 107****Number of culture centers - 214****Distance between Kelbajar and Baku - 445 km****The district is occupied since april 2 in 1992 by the Armenian armed forces.**

**Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Kelbajar district</b>	80769	100,0	40528	100,0	40241	100,0
urban population	10947	13,53	5485	13,53	5462	13,57
rural population	69822	86,45	35043	86,47	34779	86,43

Kelbajar region that is considered the edge of the southwest Azerbaijan is located in the Ter-Ter river valley of the Minor Caucasus at the height of 1500-3800 meters above sea level. Kelbajar as the monument of the ancient times is the natural museum with rich flora and fauna. The carvings on the shores of the Garagol and Zalkha lakes of the region as well as the Ayichyngyl and Perichyngyl mountains were studied not only by a number of researchers but also by late academician Mireli Gashgay. It turned out that the carvings reflected on the basalt stones locating 3000 meters above sea level differ from each other in size, composition and drawing technique. Most part of these monuments dates back to the late Bronze Age (the 3rd millennium B.C.). Even more complicated composition was created in the late Bronze Age that signaled the establishment of culture in the said place.

An ancient settlement was discovered in the area of the location of rocky carvings of Kelbajar in 1976. An establishment with the 2 meters thick walls and the clayey dishes found in the area prove Kelbajar to be one of the first human settlements in the 3rd millennium B.C.

The district has a mountain landscape. Delidagh, Keyti, Murovdagh, Kepez, Sergi Goychegolu, Mukhtoken and part of the Garabagh plateau constitutes the natural borders of Kelbadjar. The highest peak Djamyshdag (Murovdagh) is 3724 meters in height. The area is famous for its mineral springs, including thermal ones. The most famous of those, Istisu ("hot water") gave the name to a local resort. Other healthful springs are located 2000-2400 m above sea level, on the banks of the Terter River. In terms of chemical composition their waters are almost identical or even superior to waters of the world-famous Karlovy Vary springs (Czech Republic).

Kelbajar was established as an administrative region August 8, 1930. It covers an area of 1936 km<sup>2</sup> and borders on Goycha on the territory of West Azerbaijan. It has the population of 61 thousand people. It comprises a

city (Kelbajar), a settlement (Istisu) and 128 villages. It has to be mentioned that natural landscape, historical-architectural monuments, transit-communication set of Nagorny Karabakh and surrounding districts, occupied by Armenia, have been destroyed by Armenians, in a word; tourism infrastructure of top the region has fully been destructed.



### District of Kurdamir

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,63 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 111,6 th. per. (1 January 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 68 per. (1 January 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 59**

**Number of settlements - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 25**

**Number of infant schools - 11**

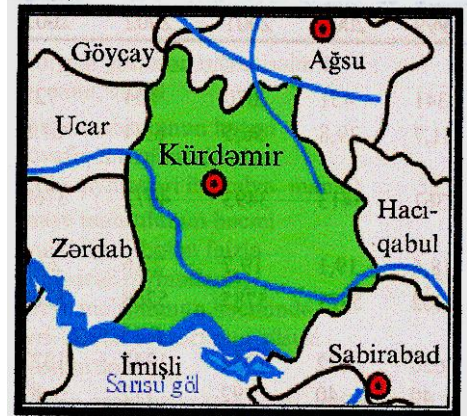
**Number of general education schools - 57**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 11**

**Number of culture centers - 40**

**Distance between Kurdamir and Baku - 189**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Kurdamir district</b>	103860	100,0	51504	100,0	52356	100,0
urban population	21037	20,26	10408	20,21	10629	20,30
rural population	82823	79,74	41096	79,79	41727	79,70

Kurdemir district is situated in Shirvan, historical province of Azerbaijan, in north-west from Baku. This beautiful and fruitful land is very attractive for tourism and recreation. It sometimes is called Gulustan.

Summer is hot and dry in Kurdemir. Climate is steppe. Fauna of district is diverse - there are wolf, fox, jackal, wild boar, pheasant, turac, wild duck and goose here. Vineyards of this land are very famous. The very famous type of grape is "Shirvanshahly". Kurdemir is famous with its carpet-weaving traditions. The most popular type of local carpets in world market is "Shilyan" carpet. This carpet is woven at the same-called village near Kurdemir.

Kurdemir city, administrative center of Kurdemir district, is located on the left bank of Kur River, in 189 km from Baku.

Numerous cafes and restaurants here located along the Baku-Ganja highway are available for lunch. Most popular of them is "Garabag" Restaurant situated in 5 km west of district center.

## District of Khachmaz

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,06 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 171,2 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 162 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 136**

**Number of settlements - 12**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 22**

**Number of infant schools - 26**

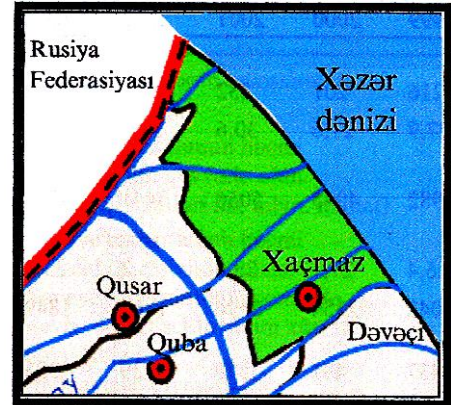
**Number of general education schools - 120**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 94**

**Number of culture centers - 164**

**Distance between Khachmaz and Baku - 157 km**



**Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Khachmaz district</b>	159245	100,0	78753	100,0	80492	100,0
urban population	62622	39,32	30479	38,70	32143	39,93
rural population	96623	60,68	48274	61,30	48349	60,07

The district of Khachmaz occupies a part of Samur-Devechi lowlands and is located on the northwest part of Azerbaijan. On the north it is bordered by Russia. Its territory is traversed by major roads and a railway (Baku-Moscow). Climate in the district is of temperate dry semideserts and dry steppes. Nevertheless, over 20 hectares of its territory are occupied by forests. There are three artificial lakes and plentiful of springs, including thermal and mineral.

Here, on the border with Dagestan formerly was a road used by conquerors - Scythians, Alans and Huns. This became a primary reason for the building of Caspian Defensive Constructions - reinforced walls with towers extending to the territories of the present Khachmaz district. At the beginning of the 18th century one of ancient stronghold cities, Khudat ("The Gift of God") became the capital of Guba Khanate. An aqueduct from local Shollar village to Baku was constructed in 1914.

Traces of settlements dated to the late Stone and Bronze Ages have been found on the territory of the region. Scientists link the toponym "Khachmaz" to the foreign Hun tribes - "Khachmataks or Khachmats" that were later assimilated by local inhabitants. Interestingly, from the territory of Khachmaz these tribes relocated to Oghuz region where they also founded a settlement and (sometime later) a fortress of the same name.

About 60 monuments of history and culture have been found on the territory of the district. However experts believe that their number should be much higher since the region was already densely inhabited in the earliest times. Settlements and mounds of the Bronze Age have been found near the villages of Mollaburkhan, Khulovlu, Garadzhik, Khasangala, and the Middle Age settlements - near the villages of Dzhanakhir and Bostanchi. The Mosque of Sheikh Yusuf (15th century) remained in the village of Shikhlar. It belongs to the early onset of architectural mausoleum complexes, which became widespread later, in the 16th-17th centuries. In the

villages of Morug Oba, Tagar Oba and Uzun Oba remained a mosque dated to the 19th century, in Garagurtlu village - a mosque and madrasah dated to the 15th century.

The town of Khachmaz is the administrative center of Khachmaz region with the population of 148400. It is located 157 km from Baku. Since carpet weaving is the most developed among local crafts a special faculty has been established at the local Lyceum. The faculty is often visited by city guests to see how deft fingers of young craftswomen are weaving magic carpet patterns, the patterns that have been preserved through hundreds of years, passing from generation to generation.

### District of Khojavend

**Date of creation - 26. 11. 1991**

**Total territory - 1,46 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 42,9 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 29 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 81**

**Number of settlements - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 1**

**Number of infant schools - 5**

**Number of general education schools - 23**

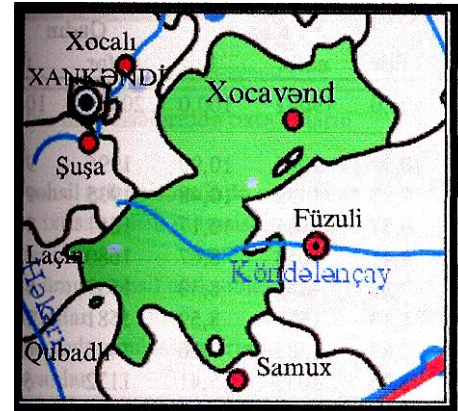
**Number of vocational and secondary schools 0**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 3**

**Number of culture centers - 3**

**Distance between Khojavend and Baku - 334 km**

**The district is occupied since October 2, 1992 by the Armenian armed forces.**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Khojavend district</b>	41599	100,0	20243	100,0	21356	100,0
urban population	9437	22,69	4600	22,72	4837	22,65
rural population	32162	77,31	15643	77,28	16519	77,35

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan 279-XII from November 26, 1991 liquidated the Autonomous Province of Daglig Garabag. According to this Law the name of the city and region Martuni changed into Khojavend. Region Hadrut liquidated and attached to the region Khojavend.

One of the most curious structures on the area territory is Amaras monastery located in Sos village, built in the beginning of IV century of A.C. During many centuries, it was a cathedral of Caucasian Albania. In V century a school was opened in monastery.

Mausoleum of XVII century in Khojavend settlement; Albanian temples of XII century in Mammedzar, Tug villages and Hadrut settlement; tower of II century and Albanian temple of VII century in Tagavard village; temples of XVIII century in Hadrut, Tug, Domi villages; temple of Bagir-khan of XII century in Niki village; Albanian temples of V and VIII centuries and churches of XII and XIII centuries in Gatsi village; Amaras monastery of IV century in Sos village; Albanian temple of X century in Gavakhan village; Albanian temple of XIII century in Guneychartar village; temple of XIII century in Meshtaglar village; religion complex of XIII century and tower in Sur village; temples of XIII and XIV centuries and ruins of mausoleum of XII-XIV centuries in Dolanlar village; temples of XVII century in Zamzur, Sur, Gerger and Agjakend.

## District of Khojaly

**Date of creation – 26. 11. 1991**

**Total territory - 1,00 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 27,5 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 28 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 50**

**Number of settlements - 1**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 4**

**Number of infant schools - 1**

**Number of general education schools - 12**

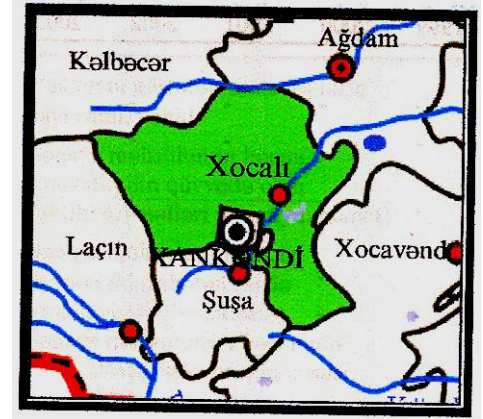
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 1**

**Number of culture centers - 54**

**Distance between Khojaly and Baku - 375 km**

**The district is occupied since February 26, 1992 by the Armenian armed forces.**



**Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Khojaly district</b>	26047	100,0	12751	100,0	13296	100,0
urban population	7711	29,60	3794	29,75	3917	29,46
rural population	18336	70,40	8957	70,25	9379	70,54

The ancient Khojaly town is located on Khojalichay riverbank. Here, you can see Askeran fortress («asker» in translation means warrior). The wall of two meter width in height of 5-6 m, constructed in XVIII century, during long period of time obstructed way for enemies on approaches to the centre Garabag khanate - Shusha.

In place of Yukhari Khanbagi, along the roadway leading to Shusha sometime there existed the well-known in all Caucasian territory by its traditions and hospitality caravanserai of Tanriverdi-kishi with tea house, musical saloon, hairdresser's parlour. Here there were permanently stayed phaetons, vans, keeping way to Barda, Ganja, Baku, Tiflis, Irevan and other cities of Caucasus.

Khojaly is known for Khojaly tomb related to Khojali-Gedabey cult. Connected with times of epoch of later Bronze and earlier Iron (end of II - beginning of I B.C.) Khoja tomb, or, as it is still called, Khojali mortuary field, gave name to whole material culture on territory of the Caucasus. At that field, mortuary structures in type of rock boxes and burial-mounds are widely presented at height ranging from 1 to 15 meters. Here you may find dolmens, menhirs and by separate areas - tills left from Ice Age period. At the time of archaeological excavations various objects were found - a big quantity of earthen dishes of black colour with incised, often geometrical pattern, weapon: wide straight swords, for the first time discovered on the territory of the former Soviet Union, as well as dirks, hatchets, pole-axes and also bronzed bells and whistles, which found their place in many museums of the world.

Round temple (1356-1357) and mausoleum of XIV century in Khojali city; Albanian temples X and XI centuries in Chanakhchi village; Albanian temple of X century in Shusha village; Albanian temple of XII century in Khansin village; Albanian temple of XII century in Khachmaz village; church of XIII century in Khanabad; Albanian temple of XIII century in Armudlu village; Aslan-galasi tower of IX century in Anabert village; Girkhlar

mediaeval tower and temple complex of VII century in Barada village; Askeran tower of XVIII century in Askeran settlement.

The Khojaly district was established on November 26, 1991.

The territory of the district was occupied by the Armenian armed forces in 1991-1992. The district covers 0.97 000 km<sup>2</sup> and had the population of 24,417 persons as of 1991. As of 2004, 12,194 of Azerbaijanis and 12,223 representatives of other nations lived in the region. The Khojaly district has a city, 2 settlements and 50 villages. The administrative center of the district is the Khojaly city which is located in the Garabag chain, 18 km away far from Agdam and 14 km from Khankendi.

Over the night from February 25 to 26, 1992 Armenian armed forces implemented the capture of the Khojaly city with support of hard equipment and the personnel of the infantry guards regiment 366 of former Soviet Union.

The massed firing with using artillery weapon, hard military equipment, which was began in the evening of February 25, preceded assault of the city.

As a result of this the fire began in the city and by five o'clock in the morning the whole city was in fire. The population (about 2500 people) remained in the city were forced to leave their houses in the hope to find the way to Aghdam - the district center and the nearest place mainly populated by Azerbaijanis.

But these plans have failed. Armenian armed forces with the military support of the infantry guards regiment destroyed Khojaly city and with particular brutality implemented carnage over the peaceful population. As a result:

613 people were killed, among them;

63 children,

106 women,

70 the elderly.

8 families were killed completely.

25 children lost both parents.

130 children lost one of the parents.

487 people were wounded, including;

76 children

1275 people were hostages

150 people were missing

The damage done to both state and private property estimated 5 billion rubles (according to the prices for 01.04.92)

These figures show the results of the most bloody tragedy of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which began on February, 1988 with illegal demands of ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of Azerbaijan SSR to join Armenia SSR that was provoked with direct support of ruling circles of the Armenian SSR, consent and inactivity of central authorities of Soviet Union.



**District of Khyzy****Date of creation – 24.04.1990****Total territory - 1,67 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 16,1 th per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Density of population – 1 sq. km 10 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 25****Number of settlements - 3****Number of big and middle enterprises - 243****Number of infant schools - 9****Number of general education schools - 14****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 4****Number of culture centers – 19****Distance between Khyzy and Baku - 104 km**

**Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Khyzy district</b>	14731	100,0	7210	100,0	7521	100,0
urban population	7471	50,72	3681	51,05	3790	50,39
rural population	7260	49,28	3529	48,95	3731	49,61

Khizi Barmak mahal (territorial unit), one of the Azerbaijan corners with magnificent landscape located on the high mountains and green forests, has centuries-old history like thorny path. Barmak is name of mountain, mahal, as well as kin.

People, living in Khizi, is called «ahli Khizon» i.e. population of Khizi in many sources, including Arabic ones. Historians of the Middle Ages called population of Khizi Barmaklis and its territory Barmak mahal. We can meet information about Khizi in the research works of the literary critics. There are information about Khizi and Khizigala tower in the monograph «Peoples eposes» by professor Mammadhuseyn Tahmasib, the well-known specialist in folk-lore, Caucasian epos «Nard» (13th century B.C.). According to the information about Khizi population and their characters, present population was not resettled here, but was aboriginal one.

The origin and vocabulary meaning of the name Khizi are related with the population's character. The vocabulary meaning of the word is «fast dancing», «fast standing up», figurative meaning – «lively», «prompt». This is related with the relief of Khizi. As the Sun rises it illuminates Khizi and adjacent villages.

The name of the work «Gulustani Iram» by A.Bakikhanov should be particularly mentioned among the historical sources. There is valuable information about Khizi Barmak mahal of the Guba khanate in his work. The monograph «Concerning Azerbaijan ethnic history» by historian Giyasaddin Geybullayev and other works told about the contract, signed with Khizonshahlig (Khizi state) in 644. We can meet interesting materials about the coming of Arabs to Khizonshahlig in the monograph «Azerbaijan in 7-9th centuries» by academician Ziya Bunyadov.

Khizi mahal was included into Baku sovet until 1928, then became independent region. Gilazi, Agh siyazan, Zargarli soventliks (territorial unit) of the region were included into the Siyazan region during its

establishment in 1940s. It had settlements Dagh guschu, Arzkush, Gizilgazma, 60 villages, 53 kolkhozes, 14 sovetliks since that period. Its population made up 14647. The region existed until 1956 and was annexed to Sumgayit. Absheron region was established in 1963 and Khizi zone was included into this region.

The Khizi region was restored in 1990. The center is located in the Khizi settlement. The number of the present villages is 24. 12 representatives and 13 municipalities operate here. There are two culture houses. The activity of the Khizi region culture house prolonged from 1926 to 1956. It was restored in 1993.

6 clubs, 4 artistic amateur collectives, 1 museum (J.Jabbarli's museum house), 13 libraries (1 centralized library, 12 village libraries) operate in the region.

### District of Lachin

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,84 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 74,1 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 40 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 125**

**Number of settlements - 1**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 133**

**Number of infant schools – 3**

**Number of general education schools - 101**

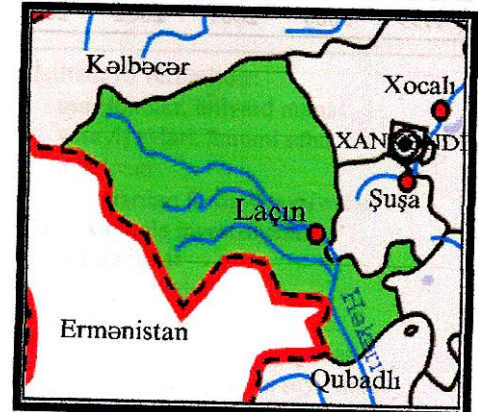
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 20**

**Number of culture centers - 217**

**Distance between Lachin and Baku - 414 km**

**The district is occupied since May 18, 1992 by the Armenian armed forces.**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Lachin district</b>	69087	100,0	34332	100,0	34755	100,0
urban population	11690	16,92	5802	16,90	5888	16,94
rural population	57397	83,08	28530	83,10	28867	83,06

The region of Lachin is located in the mountainous south-west of Azerbaijan Republic. It's bordered on Kelbajar in the north, Khojaly, Shusha and Khojavend in the east, Gubadly in the south and Armenian Republic in the west.

In 1923 Shusha gaza(territorial unity) liquidated and established new Agdam gaza, because of the foundation of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Republic. According to the decision of the Central Executive Committee of the Republic the same year Gubadly, Kelbajar and Lachin united into one gaza of Kurdistan. The first centre of the gaza was Pirjahan. Later in shifted to Minkend and then to Lachin.

The place and the name of Lachin was chosen by Tagi Shahbazi Simurg.

Daily consumption of water was 4800 cube from the centralised water supply system that of gas 173000 cube from gas network and 985000 kg of liquid gas.

Tagi Shahbazi Simurg, Husu Hajiyeve, Ismail Sherifov, Janbakhish Abdullayev were the founders of the town and many others played great role in its development.

During the World War 2nd Lachin sent 3660 people to the front, 2426 of them did not come back.

At the beginning of 1950-s highway appeared in Lachin.

The length of the highway till Baku was 450 km and that till Khankendi railway station about 60 km.

Beginning with 1962 the town and later the villages of the region supplied with electricity, radio and telephone lines.

The region disposed 166488 hectares of land, 75781 of which were useful for agriculture and 12102 hectares were cultivated. 1515 hectares of the land were water-retaining soil.

927 hectares of the region were farmland, 33205 hectares-forests and 72000 hectares summer pastures.

The region embraces a town, a settlement and 125 villages that are ruled by 48 representations on the mentioned administrative unities.

Animal breeding and cultivation are the main spheres of the economy of the region.

Decisions adopted by CC of Azerbaijan KP and the Council of the Ministers «About measures to perfect the economy of the mountain regions», «About measures to improve cultural and life services to Lachin labourers» dated from November 16, 1971 and the bureau of CC of Azerbaijan KP «About 50 years anniversary of Lachin» from august 6, 1974 with the initiative of the national leader of Azerbaijan people Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev, stimulated improved of social-economical and cultural life of the people and life conditions of the people. It also strengthened material-technical base of the economy, special concessions applied to acceptance school graduates to high schools. Well built the towns and villages, founded automatic-telephone station of about 1000 numbers and television translation stations as well, all the villages supplied with the telephones, radio, electricity. Lachin city and 53 vilages of the region supplied with natural gas.

Many of schools, objects of culture, domestic objects, medical objects, complexes of animal-breeding and other social-cultural and agricultural objects built with the initiative of the national leader, the villages supplied with highways, rebuilt Shusha-Lachin road, presented to the exploitation asphalt factories, stone mine, manufactories of lime, pemoksol, local industry and weaving, opened the affiliates of Sumgait plant of Aluminium and machinery construction and Baku medical technical school 1, also presented to the exploitation marble fields, extended the system of trade, public catering, culture, communication and communal services as well.

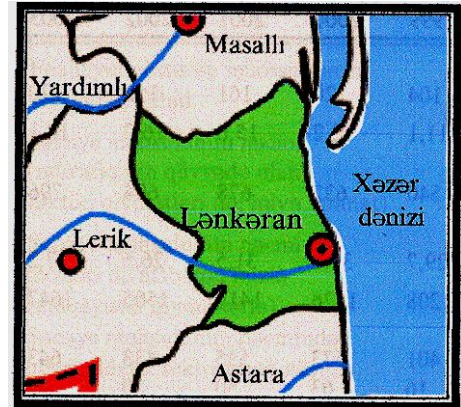
133 offices and enterprises-23 construction and 16 industrial enterprises functioned in the process of reforms. The region had a bus-station, 82 bus stops, 2130 km highways, 92 bridges, 1187 km water pipe, 33 water basins, laundry, 15 km central sewerage, 20 km heating system, 14 bathing houses, 8 refuelling stations, 1636 km electric air lines, 498 km gas line, 10200 km radio-phone communication lines, 3 TV stations and transmitters and so on. In May 18, 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied Lachin in the result of betrayal. The amount of carried out damages was \$ 7.1 billion USA.

Lachin gave 264 martyrs, 65 hostages and 103 men became invalids. 18 of 24374 children from 1 to 18 years old were martyrs, 255 became invalid, 1071 and 31 lost both their parents.

Armenians robbed all under- and over-ground riches, sell our lands, destroyed the graves of our ancestry. 65507 people of the region turned to refugees and settled in 59 cities and regions of the republic and 84 habitations in winter camp.

**District of Lankaran****Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 1,54 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 220,8 th per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Density of population – 1 sq. km 143 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 2****Number of villages - 83****Number of settlements - 8****Number of big and middle enterprises - 14****Number of infant schools - 53****Number of general education schools - 88****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 3****Number of higher educational institutes - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 17****Number of culture centers - 191****Distance between Lankaran and Baku - 268 km**

**Number of population**  
**(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Lankaran district</b>	205726	100,0	102195	100,0	103531	100,0
urban population	82807	40,25	40347	39,48	42460	41,01
rural population	122919	59,75	61848	60,52	61071	58,99

Territories of Lankaran district occupy the east coast of the Caspian Sea and whole Lankaran lowlands up to Talysh Mountains. On the local shore of the Caspian Sea there are many fine sand beaches. Wet subtropical climate without harsh winters, dry and hot summer and rainy autumn underlie the richness of the local flora and fauna. The major rivers are Lankaran, Verapvul, Gumbashi; their waters are replenished mainly by rainy precipitations. They are stormy in spring and autumn but rather quiet and shallow in summer. Due to this, the HanbulanChai reservoir has been constructed here for watering agricultural crops.

Lankaran district is another important agricultural region of Azerbaijan, whose climate favors the growing of subtropical crops - tea, tangerines, persimmons, feijoa and lemons of various sorts. This is the main region of the country where grows the famous Lankaran tea, well compared by quality and taste with the classical Indian tea.

It is not a coincidence that the area is a home to skilled engravers - the region is rich in unique sorts of trees, including relict and endemic ones. Lignum vitae, corkwood, velvet birch, hyrcanian box tree, silk tree, oak, eucalypt and the most abundant tree of Talysh forests of Lankaran - deciduous oak grow in this area. Aside of these there are many wild fruit trees, herbal plants and bushes in forests. Therefore it is not surprising that two reserves and one game reserve have been established on the territory of the region.

The reserve "Gizil Agach" is located on the southwest coast of the Caspian Sea, on the area of Gizil-Agach bay. The area of the reserve includes waters of the whole Greater Gizil-Agach bay and the north part of Smaller Gizil Agach bay, and also adjacent parts of the shore. The reserve was established in 1929 for protecting and reproducing wintering and migrant water birds, swamp and steppe birds. There are 248 species of birds and 54 species of fish.

Located on an area of 21435 hectares is the "Hyrcanian" reserve reorganized into the "Hyrcanian" National Park in 2004 (the park occupies a part of Astara and Lankaran regions).

The game reserve "Small Gizil Agach" was established in 1978 (on an area of 10700 hectares) on the Smaller Gizil-Agach bay to protect and restore the population of wintering and migrating swampy-water and coastal birds including rare and endangered species. It is bordered by the reserve "Gizil Agach".

Lankaran town is the administrative center of the district. Its population is 193700. It is located 268 km from Baku. This is a town of advantageous geographic situation, fertile soil and natural resources. Lankaran is situated on the southeast border of the country, on the bank of Lankaranchai River. It is speculated that the town was founded at this very place, near the sea, about 300 years ago. A fortress with watch towers and a lighthouse were built here. The initial name of the town, "Lengerkunan", means "an anchorage" indicating that it was a port town.

Presently, among architectural-historical monuments remained here there are "Khan Evi" khan palace with an original ornament of the front, Kichik Gala mosque, Guldasta minaret, and the ancient bath of Gadzhi Mirza. One can learn about the history of the region in the Museum of History, the very building of which attracts special interest from the architectural standpoint. There are workshops of decorative and applied art in the town where craftsmen engrave on wood, stone and metal. There is also a theater, the first performance at which occurred in 1850 year; the returns were donated to the poor. Lankaran is a hometown of the famous Azerbaijani commander, General Azi Aslanov and there is a monument erected in his honor. A museum exhibition was opened in the house he lived in.

Such traditional crafts as jewelry, carpet weaving, reed netting (according to some sources the whole town of Lankaran was constructed on a swampy place covered in reed) are developed on the outskirts of Lankaran, in the villages of Boladi, Vilvan Veravul. Among architectural and historical monuments remained to present day there are Abirlar tower in the village of Yukhary Nuvedi, the Tower of Sheikh Zahid in the village of Shihakaryan, and to the west of Lankaran there are ancient remainders of Balabur tower in the construction of which an unusual combination of materials - red bricks and fluvial stones was used. Local residents also call the tower "Boz Gala", which means "A Grey Fortress". There are ceramic aqueducts remained in the fortress to present day.

In the 18th century, during the reign of Garakhan, Lankaran became the capital of Talysh Khanate which marked the onset of its cultural and economic prosperity and development of crafts, especially works with metals: forging, jewelry and copperware production. With the goods from Iran, Central Asia, India and Russia shipping through Lankaran became an important trade center - in the town there were 9 major banks with advanced infrastructure. Due to its wealth and advantageous geopolitical position the town constantly drew the attention of aggressive forces of neighboring khanates and larger states. In 1795 it was ransacked by armies of Iranian Shah Mohammed Kadjar and in 1813 the whole Lankaran khanate was usurped by Russia. In 1813 this occupation was legitimated by the Turkmenchai treaty.



**District of Lerik****Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 1,08 th sq. km****Total number of population – 80,8 th per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 75 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 161****Number of settlements - 1****Number of big and middle enterprises - 309****Number of infant schools - 16****Number of general education schools - 111****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 12****Number of culture centers - 143****Distance between Lerik and Baku - 323 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Lerik district</b>	74522	100,0	36851	100,0	37671	100,0
urban population	7301	9,80	3603	9,78	3698	9,82
rural population	67221	90,20	33248	90,22	33973	90,18

Located high in Talysh Mountains, the district of Lerik is one of the most beautiful nature spots in Azerbaijan. A stunning landscape, clean mountain air with the balm of woods, springs, rivers, fertile soil...it is not a coincidence that this region is famous for its longest-livers. In summer temperature rarely exceeds 25°C but frequent autumn rains sometimes make the routes impassable and some villages become very hard to get to. Some nearly inaccessible areas of Lerik forests are habitat of leopards, now protected a special program.

It is possible to hunt wild boars, foxes, hares and birds (ducks and partridges). The tallest peaks of Talysh Mountains are Kemur-Gey (2492 m) and Gizyurdu (2433 m).

The unique history of this region reflects the most interesting periods in the complex history of the whole country. There are plenty of cultural and historical monuments evidencing that these places were inhabited already in the Late Stone Age. E.G. cave stop dated to the Stone Age, ancient site "Giz Yurdy" near a mountain village at the level of about 2430 m.

Mausoleums include "Baba Hasan" near the village of Jonu, "Baba Isa" in the village of Mondigah, "Hodja Seid" in the village of Hanagah (14th century), "Pir Yusif" near the village of Kekonu, Dabira (12th-14th centuries) and "Khaliph Zakariya" on the road to the village of Djengemiran in which both ancient and simply old trees are protected and honored by the residents. This village was once visited by Alexander Dumas who later pictured a heroic fate of a woman from the village in one of works.

Remained in the village of Lulukaran is an original mosque dated to the 19th century. Noteworthy are also numerous stone figures of rams remained in many villages.

We have already mentioned that the region is famous for its longest-livers. Shirali Muslumov, for instance, lived 163 years of active life (1812-1975) thus setting the world record. Mahmud Eyvazov lived 150 years (1808-

1958). Even today dozens of longest-livers who turned 100 and yet have not lost the ability to work live in the regions.

Among the developed folk crafts are carpet weaving, production of various domestic wares and pottery. An interesting feature of the local carpet weaving is that the carpets are woven not on a vertical loom but on horizontal one, laid out right on the floor.

Lerik town is the administrative center the district. It is located 323 km from Baku. The town is situated on foothills, on a fertile land. Here one can visit the Museum of History, survey the memorial erected in honor of victims of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

### District of Masalli

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 0,72 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 215,2 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 299 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 107**

**Number of settlements - 3**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 89**

**Number of infant schools - 16**

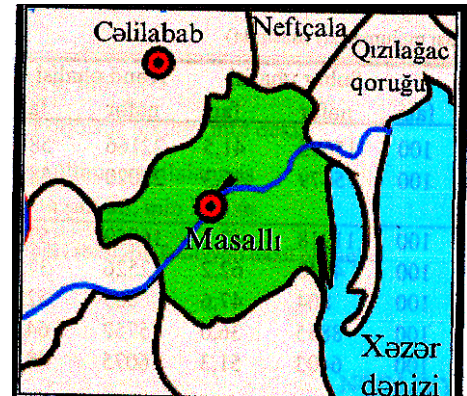
**Number of general education schools - 99**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 7**

**Number of culture centers - 130**

**Distance between Masalli and Baku - 232 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Massalli</b>	197147	100,0	98908	100,0	98239	100,0
urban population	30969	15,71	15860	16,04	15109	15,38
rural population	166178	84,29	83048	83,96	83130	84,62

The Masally region, located in the south of the republic, is the most healing and fascinating corner of Azerbaijan. This territory is bordering with the regions Lankaran, Lerik, Yardimli, Jalilabad, Neftchala. It is surrounded by the Caspian Sea in the east, the Talish mountains in the west. Masali draw attention with ancient towers, Yanardag, Istisu (thermal water), forest, rich in rare trees, springs clean as crystal.

Masally has very ancient history. Carried out archeological excavations, scientific and writing sources show that ancient people lived 15-10 thousand years ago in Masalli. Great Azerbaijan historian Abbasgulu Agha Bakikhanov («Gulustani-Iram», 1841), Mirza Seyidali Kazimbay oglu («Javanshirnameyi Lankaran», 1896), annalist Mirza Ahmad Mirza Khudaverdi oglu («Akhbarnama», 1882) as well as European and Russian travelers gave interesting information concerning the history of Masalli.

Numbers of suppositions and versions on formation of geographical name «Masalli» have set up till nowadays, this word is explained in the historical sources as the place where people say proverbs (masal). There are scientists supposed that «Masalli» originated from word «Mosullu».

It was noted in the form of «Masally» belonging to Masal generation' in the joint book «Azerbaijan georgafical names» by R. Yuzbashov and Sh. Sadiyev, toponimy scientists. N. Mammadov, the senior lecturer of the Baku State University, Ph.D. of Geografic Science, connected formation of this town with person Masal bay by name. It was noted in some historical resources that as residents of this place removed from the Masal province, Iran, this town was named Masalli. Thus, «Masal» is place, territory, «li» «ending denoting place».

Masally was a part of Midiya, Midiya-Atropatena, then Caucasian Albania, Caspiana province in the antique time, Safavis state until 16-18th centuries, Talish khanate since middle 18th century. The territory of the regions Astara, Lankaran, Lerik, Masalli, Yardimli and Jalilabad was named Lankaran gaza (territorial unit).

Masally administrative region was established on August 8, 1930 and the name of Masally entered into the map of the republic as center of the region.

Interest in Masali with ancient history, rich culture and high intellectual level increased since the certain period of the history. Visit of well known political figures, statesmen and cultural workers is just expression of such attitude. You can meet numbers of notes about visiting of founder the Safavis dynasty Sheykh Safiaddin in 1274, Shah Ismayil Khatayi in 1501, statesman and writer N.Narimanov to Masally and its villages in many works. During his visit N. Narimanov considered development of grain-breeding and rice-breeding important, along with underlining its natural potential and advantages. National leader of Azerbaijan people Heydar Aliyev was in Masally twice. President Ilham Aliyev visited Masally several times.

The mirror of the history of Masally is History and study of local lore museum, operating since 1952, in the Hishkandara village. More than 19 thousand exhibits gathered in the museum. Ancient town, tower burial mound, mausoleums discovered near the villages Arkivan, Hishkadara, Boradigah, Tatyan, Hadjitapa, Shahriyar, Khirmandali, Mahmudavar, Bambashi, Chakhirli, Arab, Gizilaghaj, Ondjagala, Kohna Alvadi. A great deal of material-cultural patterns of bronze and iron, belonged to the Antique period and Middle Ages were found in this territory. All these kept in the History and Study of local lore museum. The founder of the museum was honored teacher Rahim Taghiyev.

The territory of Masally is place of 168 ancient, mystical monuments, palaces, sanctuaries, bath-houses, springs etc. 51 of them are monuments of history and architecture, 70 «archeology, the rest» 20th century.

4248 of 10914 Masally residents, participated in the Great Patriotic War in 1941-1945, returned, 1573 missed, more than 5 thousand died. About 5 thousand brave sons of Masally fought for Nagorno-Karabakh. 150 of them fell martyr, 30 missed, more than 500 were wounded. Safarali Mammadov, Elshad Huseynov, Elshad Ahadov, Safa Akhundov, conferred with the name National Hero of Azerbaijan, are pride of the Masally residents. 3 Masally fighter were given order Azerbaijan flag.

Masally gave more than 230 Ph.Ds of Science and Candidates of Science, 6 generals, about 100 writers and poet, authoritative persons, working in different fields. More than 50 people were conferred with the honorable name of Socialist Labor Hero and Lenin order for achievements in the economy in different years.

More than 10 thousand specialists work in the fields science, education, health, culture, economy in Masally of 183,5 thousand population with 107 villages, settlements and one town.

The region has 721 km<sup>2</sup> territory. The density of Masally is 254 people for 1 km<sup>2</sup> and that is 7 times more than world density, 3 times republic one. Due to population density Masally region lived behind the Chinese People's Republic.

More than 10 nations, as well as 466 internal displaced persons and refugees live in the region.

The River Vilashchay is the only big mountainous river in the subtropical zone. The name of Vilashchay noted in the historical sources of B.C. Greek geographer Ptolomey, lived in 90-168 of A.D, showed that the River Vilahchay flowed into the Gizilaghaj bay in his map of the Caspian Sea. It began from the territories of Yardimli, Lerik and the Talish mountains. Its length is 115 km, while area of the basin comes to 935 km. Foundation of the Vilashchay reservoir was laid on Heydar Aliyev's initiative. The Vilashchay reservoir bears name of Heydar Aliyev.

Masally is famous for its springs. There are 37 springs only in the Arkivan village, considered museum of world springs. Each spring has its own name, taste, history.

Masally is rich in underground and overground resources. Its Istisu (thermal water) is mysterious corner of beauty. Istisu miracle, created by nature, is one of the most valuable resources, left for us by ancient past as a memory. The Istisu (thermal water) of Masally is useful during treatment of rheumatism, nervous system, and some skin, stomach-bowels, woman diseases.

### City of Mingechaur

**Date of creation – 1948**

**Total territory - 0,14 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 101,6 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 726 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of infant schools – 21**

**Number of general education schools - 20**

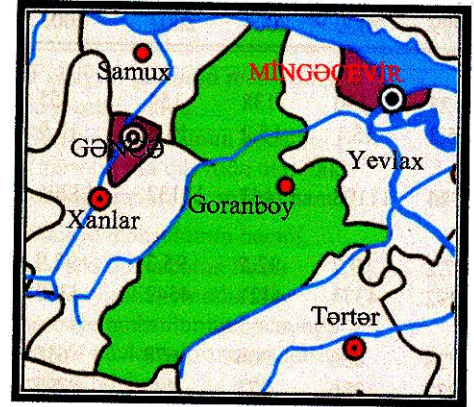
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 3**

**Number of higher educational institutes - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 16**

**Number of culture centers - 29**

**Distance between Mingechaur and Baku - 323 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

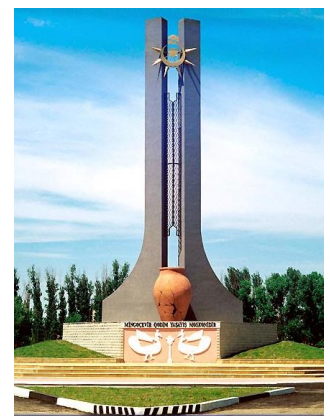
Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Mingechaur town</b>	96304	100,0	46492	100,0	49812	100,0
urban population	96304	100,0	46492	100,0	49812	100,0

Mingacevir, sometimes spelled Mingeecevir, is the fourth-biggest city in Azerbaijan with a population of about 100,000. It is known as city of lights because of its hydroelectric power station on the Kur River, which splits the city in half. The Kur is the biggest river in Azerbaijan, and the artificial lake behind the Mingeecevir dam is the biggest lake in the country. The area has been settled for thousands of years, but the current city was founded in 1948, partly by German soldiers who were taken prisoner during World War II. Mingeecevir is also home to Mingeecevir Polytechnic Institute.

Most ancient written monuments in Albanian alphabet and other archeological finds proved that Mingeecevir was a 5,000-year-old abode. The majority of these finds are currently exhibited in the Azerbaijani Historical Museum, while part of them is held at the Mingeecevir Historical Museum. History knows a great deal of facts about ancient Mingeecevir. Historical sources indicate that a fierce battle took place between the powerful army of Roman commander Pompey and the army of Albanian governor Oris just on the territory of the current dam on the bank of the River Kur in the I century BC. Historical facts also prove that the ancient Silk Road laid via Mingeecevir.

Renowned Turkish traveler Ovliya Calabi, who lived in the 17th century, wrote about Mingeecevir and described it as a large settlement on the right bank of the River Kur near the Bozdag Mountain. According to him, several mosques, workshops manufacturing fiber silk and silk cloth, bathhouses etc. were operating in this settlement. Interestingly, the road passing from here used to be called the “road of messenger”. The “road of messenger” was connecting lots of camelcade and trade roads to Middle East countries and Azerbaijani towns like Saki, Qabala, Samaxi, Barda, Beylaqan and others.

The territory of Mingachevir is characterized by ancient place of the settlement. Active life appeared here 5 000 years ago. Local people of this place were busy with cultivation, art, fishing, horse keeping etc. and founded





there own material and moral world. Further coming centuries are characterized by the creation of the Albanian history, culture and literature. In respect to it Albanian scripts and inscription (the epitaph Mingachevir-Sudagilan) carry particular importance among remnants of Albanian material and cultural wealth found in the territory of Mingachevir.

A stone with inscriptions in Albanian language, found in Mingachevir. Despite the fact that Mingecevir is a young town, the territory where the town is located is known as an ancient abode. The history of this abode covers a period from the eneolith era (3000 BC) to the XVII century. It was the chairman of the Caucasus archeological committee, A. I. Berje, who first gave information about the archeological monuments of Mingecevir at the second congress of archeologists in St Petersburg in 1871. Although this information was not precise, Berje presented Mingecevir as an ancient settlement. The first preliminary researches carried out here in 1871 by F.S. Bayer. He described Mingachevir as a town on the columns.

After this, Mingecevir remained out of archeologists' attention for many years. Archeological researches resumed in Mingecevir only in mid-1930s as part of the construction of the hydroelectric power station. The researches started under the leadership of Prof. Pakhomov in 1935. These researches revealed two ancient settlements and cemeteries, which were composed of various types of graves. Unfortunately, World War II prevented the research being completed.

The construction of the Mingecevir reservoir and hydroelectric power station was completed in 1953. The hydroelectric power stations soil dam, whose total capacity is 15.6 cubic kilometers of water, is one of the highest dams in Europe that was constructed through sprinkling. The length of the reservoir is 70 km, width from 3 to 18 km, deepest point about 75 meters and total area 605 km<sup>2</sup>.

Apart from the River Kur, the reservoir feeds two channels of the 172 km-long Upper Qarabag Channel and the 123 km-long Upper Sirvan Channel. These channels are used to irrigate 10,000 square kilometres of area in the steppes of Mil, Mugan and Sirvan. The Varvara reservoir and the Varvara hydroelectric power station are in 20 km east from the Mingecevir reservoir on the River Kur. The volume of the Varvara hydroelectric power station's energy blocks is 16 MW.

A great number of people came to Mingecevir from all districts in Azerbaijan in connection with the construction of the Mingecevir hydroelectric power station, and a total of 20,000 people took part in the construction of this power station. About 10,000 German POWs were among those who contributed to the construction of this power station by the end of the 1940s. The most experienced specialists of the country were involved in the construction of this building site as the biggest hydroelectric power station of the then Soviet Union.

Today's Mingecevir, which was built in connection with the hydroelectric power station, was granted a status of town in 1948. The population of the town currently stands at 120,000 people, including 20,000 internally displaced people from Karabakh and the occupied adjacent districts. The area of the town is 139.53 km<sup>2</sup>. Mingecevir is situated 55 meter above sea level on the foothill of the southeast of the Bozdag Mountain chain and on the edge of the Mingecevir reservoir in the Kur-Araz lowland in central Azerbaijan. The town was built in a mild and warm zone and has warm and dry summer, while mild winter. The average annual temperature is +14-15 °C, highest temperature +42 °C (July-August) and the lowest temperature (January-February) -10 °C. The average annual rain constitutes 250-300 mm.



The town lies on both banks of the River Kur - a 1515 km-long river, which is the biggest and longest one in the South Caucasus. (The river originates from Turkey, runs down Georgia and Azerbaijan and flows to the Caspian Sea.) Mingecevir is situated in 280-300 km west of the capital of the republic, Baku.

Mingecevir has been developing speedily over the last 54 years, since it has been established. Mingecevir, which is currently considered to be the fourth town of the country both for its economic potential and the number of population, is one of the central towns of the republic in terms of energy, industry, science, education and culture. The number of able-bodied people in Mingecevir is 53,000, while the number of people actually involved in labor is 16,000. The number of people engaged in small-sized businesses stands at 4,000 people



Sixteen public libraries with 406,677 books in total are operating in the town. The number of subscribers in these libraries stands at 46,282 people. Every book is requested 2.9 times in average annually, and readers took books from libraries 904,395 times last year.

The Mingacevir Historical Museum was established in January 1968. The museum has two branches – Martyrs' Memorial and Independence Museum. The museum has 14,461 exhibits.

There are 3 musical schools – Hacibayov School, Bulbul School and Martyr Qasimov School – in Mingacevir. The study in these schools lasts 7 years. A total of 1,500 students study at these schools, and 350 professional teachers train them. These schools have different courses on tar, kamanca, nagara, saz (national musical instruments), piano, violin and vocal.

**Nafthalan town****Total territory - 35.7 sq. km****Total number of population – 9,7 th. per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 243 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of infant schools – 1****Number of general education schools - 2****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 1****Number of culture centers - 1****Distance between Nafthalan and Baku – 338 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Nafhtalan town</b>	8869	100,0	4309	100,0	4560	100,0
urban population	7697	89,79	3724	86,42	3973	87,13

Number of population of small Naphthalan city located near Goranboy city, center of Goranboy district, is 6.5000. Patients coming to sanatoriums and pensions of this resort city are treated with Naphthalan oil and solutions made of it. Naphthalan oil is very effective for treatment of injures, dermatologic, nervous, urologic and gynecologic diseases, liver, joints and soft tissues around joints. Naphthalan city was built in the place of the same-called small village. The word 'naphtha', which is the base of this name, means «flowing, leaking» from language of Mydia that was one of the ancient state structures in Azerbaijani territory. Yet a few thousand years ago Azerbaijanis were able to use the naphthalene for different purposes. Not only local residents used Naphthalan oil to treat the wounds, also soldiers of Alexander of Macedonia, Roman legionaries and Vikings, as well alans, khezers and reps of other tribes that attacked Azerbaijan in due time used Naphthalan oil to treat their wounds. Naphthalane used to be exported as well. It was transported to other countries - Kiev Russian State, Central Asia, Afghanistan, India, Persian Gulf countries through caravan routes. Famous traveler of middle ages Marco Polo called the Naphthalan oil «magical solution to treat dermatologic diseases». When oil industry started to rapidly develop in Azerbaijan in XIX century, number of European engineers, manufacturers and bankers increased much in Azerbaijan. In 1874 German engineer Yeager took interest in what the local people said on Naphthalan oil and regulated the production of «Naphthalan» ointment in Germany. He exported that solution to different countries. Obviously, Germans producing solutions in base of Azerbaijani Naphthalane were good managers because this solution was used not only in European countries. First-aid set of Japanese soldiers included jars containing naphthalane ointments during Russian-Japan war in 1904. This ointment was used as first-aid means. It was written on those jars: One having this solution should not be afraid of any wound.

Visitors can stay at "Chinar" sanatorium here.



**District of Neftchala****Date of creation - 11. 02. 1940****Total territory - 1,45 th sq. km****Total number of population – 84,9 th per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 59 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 48****Number of settlements - 3****Number of big and middle enterprises - 21****Number of infant schools - 17****Number of general education schools - 53****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 7****Number of culture centers - 127****Distance between Neftchala and Baku - 176 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Neftchala district</b>	79525	100,0	38067	100,0	40458	100,0
urban population	37849	47,59	18617	47,65	19232	47,54
rural population	41676	52,41	20450	52,35	21226	52,46

Neftchala was established as the administrative region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 11, 1940. Before that he had been part of the Salyan region and within the Khyllly region established on January 24, 1939. Neftchala was mainly an industrial center. It was eliminated in December of 1959 and annexed to the Salyan region. In four years it was separated from Salyan and turned into the industrial zone of Neftchala. As such a mixed system was not useful Neftchala was abolished in 1965 and became part of Salyan region again. By the initiative of the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev it was turned into an independent region in seven years on April 27, 1973.

Animal world of the region is rich and diversified: from jeyrans and pelicans on the land up to salmons and sturgeon types of fishes habituated in the sea. On the territory of the area, the main part of Gizilagaj Reserve is located with the richest flora and fauna.

Region centre - Neftchala city is situated not far from Kura River mouth. In the city, there is palace of culture, regional study museum, and picture gallery. At that land, national poet and fighter for dependence of Azerbaijan Khalil Rza was born here. Among industrial enterprises, there is fishery factory, iodine-bromide plant upon breeding of sturgeon fishes. Here Kura experimental plant upon cultivation of sturgeon fishes is located, where whitebaits are grown in laboratory conditions and in purposes of reproducing of stocks of valuable types of fishes, they are then released to the Kura River.

In 10 km from the area centre, where Kura River falls into Caspian Sea, one can witness of extraordinary sight: Kura River waters is separated from sea water by ideal flatted line; as if thin vertical fence interferes waters to be mixed. Kurkosa Island is splendid place for making fishery; here motorboats will might transport inveterate fishermen hereto.

### District of Oghuz

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,08 th sq. km**

**Total number of population - 42,6 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 39 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 33**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 12**

**Number of infant schools - 19**

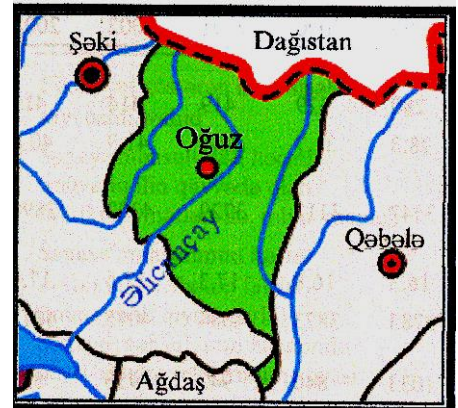
**Number of general education schools - 33**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 6**

**Number of culture centers - 63**

**Distance between Oghuz and Baku - 268 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Oghuz district</b>	40284	100,0	20172	100,0	20112	100,0
urban population	6891	17,11	3358	16,65	3533	17,57
rural population	33393	82,89	16814	83,35	16579	82,43

Oghuz region was established as Vartashen on August 8, 1930. Vartashen had been the center of the region till 1961. It was attached the status of the city type settlement from 1961-1968 and the status of a city in 1969. At the first session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan in February of 1991 the region was renamed into Oghuz and Vardany village into Kerimli.

Oghuz is a region with ancient and rich history. The book of geography composed of 17 volumes and written by Greek historian Strabon who lived in the 1st century B.C. provided the full coverage of the Caucasus Albania and showed that the Sheki-Zagatala zone that include of region of Oghuz was the place of the dense settlement of people 20-25 centuries ago (that is 2500 years ago).

Prominent archeologist, coming from Oghuz Saleh Gaziyeu proved by the patterns of material culture discovered during the researches on the territory of the region in 1956-1959 that the people lived in collectives on this area in the Neolithic Era (that is 6-7 thousand years ago).

Saleh Gaziyeu conducted the archeological researches south of the Vardany (present Kerimli) and Garabaldyr villages in 1948 and discovered ancient settlements and cemeteries.

The great scientist discovered the following material culture patterns related to the period 2500-3000 years ago in the monuments of Dash gutu (stone box): a bronze knife, lance point, bashlyks, different jewelries (belt, bracelet, ring, pearls and others), ceramic patterns and others. Some of them have a history of 500 years. The ancient graves of the unknown age belonging to the Oghuz tribes mentioned in the epos Kitabi dede Gorgut and differing from other modern graves with their length are still preserved in the north of Filfilli and Bash Dashaghyl villages of the region. The ancient necropolises of the Kerimli, Garabaldyr, Djalud villages and Oghuz city, the GKhachmaz Govur tower of the 7th century, the Mukhakh tower constructed in the 9th century, the Albanian temple of the early Middle Ages of Oghuz and Djalud villages also provide information on the past of the region. The names Vartashen, Oghuz, Maza, Vengey, Padar, Sazur, Shahra and other toponymies date back to 12-14 thousand years ago to the times of Avesta and prove the area of the region to be part of Zardusht.

### District of Saatly

**Date of creation – 25. 05. 1943**

**Total territory - 1,18 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 101,8 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 86 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 43**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 22**

**Number of infant schools - 19**

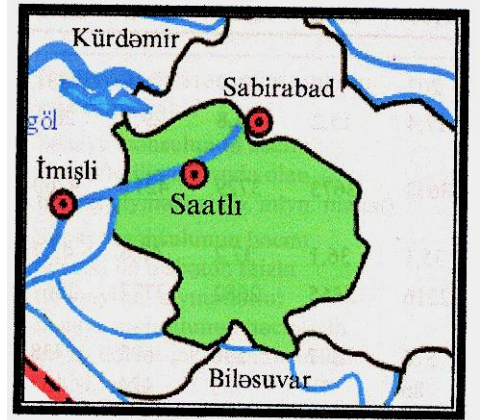
**Number of general education schools - 47**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 6**

**Number of culture centers - 90**

**Distance between Saatly and Baku - 182 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Saatly district</b>	92572	100,0	46553	100,0	46019	100,0
urban population	17442	18,84	8681	18,65	8761	19,04
rural population	75130	81,16	37872	81,35	37258	80,96

Saatli is located in the centre of the Mugan plain on both sides of the Araz River. It is an administrative region established as an independent region according to the decision 30/21 of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan SSR from May 25, 1943. It regained its independence in January 14, 1965 after it was subordinated to the region of Sabirabad in 1963. Saatli region is located 28 m lower from the sea level.

The ethnic name «Saatli» appeared at late 14th century in the province Chukhur Saad locating in the lower flow of Arpachay and right bank of the river Araz. Majority of the saatlis formerly inhabited the lower flow of Arpachay and right bank of the river Araz moved to the neighbouring territories in the 30-s of the 16th century. Part of them settled in Gazakh zone and part in Garabag during 1795-1798. The name of Saatli tribe is the ethnic name of a tribe, lived in Chukhur Saad or that of the Azerbaijani Turks - Saadlis that carried the name of Amir Saad and lived in valley Agridag from ancient times.

The climate of Saatli is characterized by temperate hot climate with arid summer, half-desert and arid steppe climate. There are habitations in the region that refer to the ancient time. The archaeological monuments, as well as the remnant of the pottery plates referred to the 2nd-3rd millenniums B.C. revealed in the villages Azadkend, Fatalikend, Jafarkhan, Varkhankend and Alisoltanli.

Location in the middle of Mugan plain and rich waters of the river Araz created favourable conditions for human habitation and the development of cultivation, animal breeding and poultry keeping. The experiment station established at early 20th in the village Jafarkhan of Saatli region later got the name «Mugan experiment melioration station» and played a great role in preventing of salinization of the soil and implementation of melioration on scientific-theoretical bases. After 1950-s, the station extended its activity and turned into a scientific base. Prominent scientists-researchers J.A.Aliyev, S.Kh. Huseynzadeh, V.P.Valabuyev and others carried out productive long term scientific investigations at Jafarkhan Mugan experiment-melioration station.



Establishment of Saatli region overlapped with the period of the 1941-1945 years war. 1600 soldiers sent to front from the region, the 77th, the 223rd, the 402nd and the 416th divisions distinguished for their courage. 553 of them fell down martyr. Majority of Azerbaijanis forcefully removed from the regions and the villages of Armenia SSR in 1949, population of the 7 villages of Jalilabad region removed from the borderline territories with Iran by the special order of the Central Committee in 1953, Akhiska turks from the Middle Asia Republics in 1958-1959 and 1989 and part of our compatriots again forcefully migrated from the Western Azerbaijan during Armenian occupation restarted in 1988-1989 settled in Saatli region.

The youth of the Saatli region fought courageously in the war started in the result of invasion of our lands by the Armenians. In the struggle for the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of Azerbaijan 116 soldiers from Saatli fell martyr. One of them- Huseynov Elshan Ibrahim oglu died in 1995 March events and deserved the name of the National Hero of Azerbaijan.

Alike other regions of Azerbaijan, development in all spheres of the social-economic and the cultural-political life of Saatli region and progress of life conditions witnessed after 1970-s. The national leader of Azerbaijan Peopleheydar Alirza oglu Aliyev visited Saatli 3 times-in 1974, 1976 and 1980 when he was the first secretary of the CC of Azerbaijan CP and in 1998 when he was the president of the independent Azerbaijan Republic. On his visits he gave his orders and consultations in growth of the economy of the region and perfection of life conditions and prosperity of the population.

19 schools for 8573 sits, central hospital for 390 beds, culture palace for 450 sits, 11 medical stations, a music school, pre-school institutions for 450 sits, five-storeyed and 32-flat 2 living houses, two-storeyed department-store, a self-service store, new administrative buildings for several offices and enterprises, cotton-cleaning and milk plants and baking industrial complex established in Saatli in 1970s-1980s, also industrial enterprises, transportation enterprises and service companies.

Construction and renovation works extended during the years of independence. 238 m and 320 m long two big bridges on the river Araz, the mosque «Jame» for 800 sits, 8 schools for 2030 sits, ceremonial house for 750 sits, monumental complex in the honour of the martyrs, memorial complex of the genocide against Azerbaijanis on march 31st, «Heydar» park, the parks «Mugan» and «Fevvareler»(fountains), 5 new medical points, a stadium, sport grounds, broiler poultry factory, a number of social objects and private industrial enterprises built at that period.

The bust of Heydar Aliyev placed in the square named in the honour of the national leader of Azerbaijan people in 2004 and created a monumental complex.



### District of Sabirabad

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,47 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 167,5 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 114 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 74**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 42**

**Number of infant schools - 22**

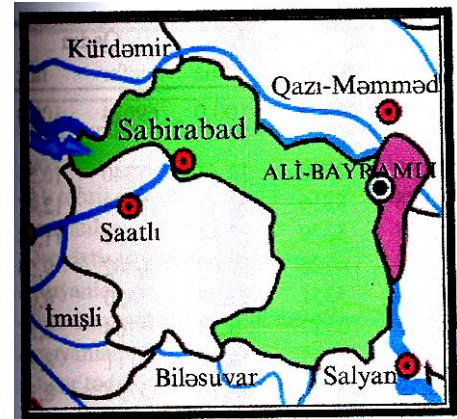
**Number of general education schools - 84**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 17**

**Number of culture centers - 131**

**Distance between Sabirabad and Baku - 170 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Sabirabad district</b>	151713	100,0	75019	100,0	76694	100,0
urban population	28281	18,64	13785	18,38	14496	18,90
rural population	123432	81,36	61234	81,62	62198	81,10

Sabirabad region is located in the north of Mugan field, a part of lands that make Azerbaijan, in the joint of Kur and Araz rivers. The region is situated 170 km far from Baku, 28 m lower from the sea level and 16 m lower from the ocean level. Sabirabad region is bordered along 30 km on the region Kurdemir in the north, along 5 km on Shamakhi in north-east, along 24 km on Ali-Bayramli in the east, along 48 km km on Salyan in south-east, along 18 km on Bilasuvar in the south, along 136 km on Saatli and along 8 km on Imishli regions in the west. The region stretches 66 km from north to south and 24 km from west to east. Part of the region locates on the right bank of the river Kur-on Shirvan lowland. Local importance sand, clay and other mineral wealth are used in construction works. Thanks to pastures and water resources of the region, cattle- breeding and animal-breeding old development history. Those conditions created opportunity for tribes engaged in cultivation to settle in Mugan. Much increased wealth of Mugan, more increased foreign attacks to that place. Soon this place turned in to the tower against the enemies and took the name of Galagayin (stable tower).

A village Petropalovka established on the bank of the rivers Kur and Araz in the late 19th. Peasants from Ukraine migrated in Mugan in 1887 and settled in this place. There were only 87 economies in this region in 1901. The beginning of past century is characterized by the economical development of Sabirabad called as Galagayin at that time. Two cotton-cleaning plants, two primitive industrial institutions-mills started to function here in 1913. The name of the place changed into Petrapalovka and economical development witnessed in there after 1920. In August 8, 1930 Petrapalovka determined the centre of newly established region. In the honour of the great Azerbaijan poet M.A.Sabir the habitation took the name Sabirabad in October 2,1931. In November 7, 1952 Sabirabad took the status of an urban type settlement and in December 4, 1959 the status of a city.

The territory of Sabirabad is rich with ancient and Middle Age habitations and graves. Those are habitations Sugovushan, Surra, Galagayin, Javad, Garatepe, Shehergah and Garadashli, Baba-Samid sacred place

(14th century), old bathing house (year 1900) and city mosque (1903). Two city ruins revealed during the archaeological digs carried out in the territory. Those are Middle Age cities Javad, the remnant of which revealed near the village Javad and Shehergah, revealed near the village Zengene of Sabirabad. Remnants of material wealth prove the both cities to be the commercial centres of Mugan zone.

The climate of the region is dry sub-tropic. Temperate-hot half-desert climate with arid summer and dry steppe climate dominate here all year long. The quantity of sunny hours in the region is much that positively influences the development of cultivation. The soil is mainly of grey-steppe. Grey-brown soil mainly dominates in Surra, Garatepe and Ulajali villages. Salty soil is mainly in the west of the region prevails in the territory of Moranli, Cholbeshdali and Nizami villages. The reason of salinization of the soil is its location 16 m lower the ocean level and rising to the surface of the underground waters. Tugay forests stretch along the river Kur. River system of the region is poorly developed. The river Araz flowing in the west of the region falls in Kur and comprise the basis of the hydrographic system of the territory. The cut of the river Araz in the territory of the region is 3 km, while that of Kur is 220 km.

There are one secondary school, one Special lyceum, 84 schools of general education, one museum of History and Ethnography, one national theatre, a Culture palace, 48 clubs, a music school, a chess school, Central regional hospital for 270 beds, 42 stations of medical assistant-gynaecologist, 13 provincial village hospitals and 18 doctor ambulatory in Sabirabad region.

210 people from Sabirabad region were martyrs in the war against Armenian invasion. It is also the motherland of two National Heroes and tree soldiers with the order of Azerbaijan Flag.

There are 25 territorial representations and 75 habitations about the region.

Reconstruction and development of Sabirabad is related with the name of the national leader of Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev. He visited Sabirabad 14 times. Laying of natural gas line, construction of drinking-water supplying Grup pipe-line, bridge over the river Kur, building of the Centre of communication, Palace of Culture, administrative buildings, many-storeyed living-houses and 30 schools for 16542 sits are all related with the name of the national leader of our people.

### District of Salyan

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,60 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 131,8 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 82 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 48**

**Number of settlements - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 15**

**Number of infant schools - 21**

**Number of general education schools - 52**

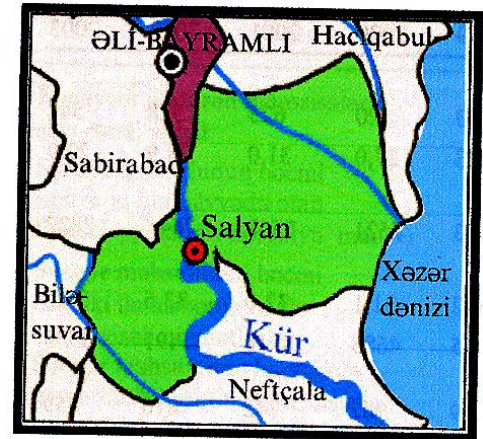
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of higher educational institutes - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 13**

**Number of culture centers - 112**

**Distance between Salyan and Baku - 126 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Salyan ditriect</b>	121871	100,0	60338	100,0	61553	100,0
urban population	40830	33,50	19715	32,67	21115	34,31
rural population	81041	66,50	40623	67,33	40418	65,69

There have been a number of versions on the etiology of the world Salyan. According to the scientific researches, a tribe called Sal existed among the Turkic tribes. They had lived along the bank of Volga and therefore one of the plains on the bank of the said river was called the plain of Sal.

Moreover, one of the branches of the Don River, passing the plains of Eastern Europe is also called the river Sal. The settlement of Salyan bears the name of the tribes that settled on this area in the remote past.

According to this fact, Byzantine historian Menandr speaking about the events of 558 wrote about the wars conducted by the tribe of Sal against the Turkic tribe Avar in the South Russia. Some part of Sals is proposed to settle in Azerbaijan together with Avars. Thus the historian of the 14th century Hamdullah Gazvin mentioned the existence of a city called Abar on the bank of the river Kur.

Salyan has been the most attractive and large settlement since the 13th century. The date of its foundation is not known. Yet as a settlement it is proposed to date back to the mid 15th century.

The trade relations of Shirvanshahs with Mughan, Tebriz and Iran were carried out through Salyan. The trade roads with Iran, North Caucasus, Turkic countries and Russia passed via Salyan in the 17-18th centuries. Salyan exported fish, caviar and tobacco, white and stripped coarse calico to these countries.

A mint existed in Salyan in the 18th century and it produced silver and copper coins.

The 12 thousand troops of Agha Mohamed Shah Gadjar attacked Shamakhy and due to its resistance it occupied and ruined Salyan in 1795.

Salyan became the administrative and cultural center of Djavad gaza that was established within the Baku province in February of 1868. 3 small ginneries with the capacity of 3-4 thousand tons, a small thermal electric power station, four primary schools and a library were constructed in the early 20th century.

Thus, according to the cameral census enumeration the city accounted for 1292 houses and 10634 people in 1863.

10 small weaving plants engaged in coarse calico production, 200 shops, 5 commercial banks, 3 caravan palaces, bridges, post office, quarantine customs office and 11 medrese operated in the city at that period.

The first meteorological station of the South Russia and the Caucasus was created in Salyan in 1894.

Salyan was one of the trade centers of the Great Silk Road as well. The merchants coming from China and India, sailed from the present Turkmenbashi (former Krasnovodsk) by the sea way, passed through the place of the Kur.

**District of Siyazan****Date of creation – 02. 04. 1992****Total territory - 0,70 th sq. km****Total number of population – 40,5 th per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 58 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 32****Number of settlements - 1****Number of big and middle enterprises - 3****Number of infant schools - 5****Number of general education schools - 24****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 2****Number of culture centers - 31****Distance between Siyazan and Baku - 103 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Siyazan district</b>	37654	100,0	18512	100,0	19142	100,0
urban population	24703	65,61	12070	65,20	12633	66,00
rural population	12951	34,39	6442	34,80	6509	34,00

Siyazan district is located to the north of the capital and extends along the Caspian coast. Its climate is semidesert and dry and the landscape features fragments of sparse woods and bushes. Local fauna includes wolves, desert cats, jackals, hares etc. The coastal zone is a home to many water birds. Gilgilchai and Atachai rivers traverse the territory of the district.

Located here in the Early Middles Ages was the second line of the Caspian defense zone. It has been included in the list of historical and cultural monuments of Azerbaijan under the name of Gilgilchai Defensive Structures and is protected by the state. As a part of "Caspian Defensive Structures" it has been nominated by UNESCO for the inclusion in the list of World Legacy Monuments. Archeologists revealed that Gilgilchai Defensive Construction was built in ancient times, before our era, and that it was constantly reinforced and fortified.

The wall originates in the very sea (level of the Caspian Sea varies from year to year) and extends many kilometers, rising to mountains where it terminates with the grand watch tower of Chirag Gala (5th century). The tower is worth ascending to: aside of historical importance, it features an astounding view from the mountain top over the sea and nearby mountains.

Here, between the sea and ridges of the Caucasus Mountains there is a very convenient passage from Azerbaijan to the north, to other countries. Since ancient times the passage has been named the Caspian Passage. It was used by invaders from neighboring countries and distant lands. They would invade Azerbaijan and ransack Baku ports, sometimes reaching as far as the inland areas of the country. Therefore, the walls served to defend and alarm Absheron (Baku) and further, all borderland regions of the ancient Azerbaijan. The magnitude of the construction and defensive significance of the wall and fortresses (they also secured the approaches to the Great Silk Road) make them a rival of the famous Great Wall in China. However, this object has not been restored yet.

Not far from the tower of Chirag Gala there is a resort complex Gala Alti ("Under the Tower") with a health center named "Chirag Gala", known for its mineral springs with medicinal sulfurated water, especially beneficial for patients with urolithiasis and cholelithiasis. On the road to the health resort there is a number of shashlik houses, cafes and small camps a majority of which operate only in summer.

Fragments of another defensive line, Beshbarmak, remained near the village of Zarat. Residents call these ruins Khizirzinda Baba. Not far from another village - Sedan, there are remainders of Dindar fortress.

The region is known for carpet weaving, inlaid wood engraving and production of folk musical instruments. Siyazan town is located 103 km from Baku with the population of 34500 inhabitants.

There is no hotel in Siyazan so one can stay at a private house or the health resort. Meals are provided at restaurants "Gerush", "Zafarran" and "Chiraggala". The town's proximity to the Caspian Sea determines a broad assortment of fish meals, aside of meat and vegetable ones, in local menus.



### City of Sumgait

**Date of creation - 22. 11. 1949**

**Total territory - 0,09 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 332,9 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 3699 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of villages - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises – 114**

**Number of infant schools - 57**

**Number of general education schools - 49**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 8**

**Number of higher educational institutes - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 14**

**Number of culture centers - 45**

**Distance between Sumgait and Baku - 31 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Sumgait city</b>	309446	100,0	151769	100,0	157677	100,0
urban population	309446	100,0	151769	100,0	157677	100,0

Sumgayit was attached the status of a town by the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan on November 22, 1949.

Sumgayit - new industrial city, is situated on the North of the Absheron peninsula. Sumgayit City located at the flat area and is stretched for 32 km along the seaside. The area's soil is brackish. Its climate is dry and semi-desert. Precipitations fall at the autumn-winter period. Northern winds are frequent he Samur-Absheron channel runs at the southern part of the city and its waters flow in the Jeyranbatan reservoir. The natural vegetation cover comprises wormwood and marsh plants. Steppe animals including fox, jackal, hare, wolf and birds, such as: ducks, pigeons, starlings, bitterns and bald-coots are found in reed bushes at the hills near of the city.

The subjects of domestic utensils, coins, which have been found out during archaeological excavation, testify that in the beginning of the VII century there were settlements. During the Middle Ages the roads passed the seacoast here, travellers of those times have made the description of local landscape and two caravanserais located on the both coast of Sumgayitchay River and the bridge through this river.

A lot of legends are connected with the name of Sumgayit city. According to one of them, the following story happened in the remote past. A caravan was moving through the city. A pair of lovers was among the travellers - a youth Sum and a girl Jeyran. When all water reserves ran out, Sum could not stand more the agony of Jeyran suffering from thirst and he went looking for a spring. Feeling the oncoming trouble, Jeyran tried to stop her beloved, shouting: «Sum, gaiyt, Sum, gaiyt», which is translated as «Sum, come back». Four facilities named «Sumgayit» (settlement, river, lighthouse and railway station) have been located here before the city laid its foundation.



Sumgayit constitutes a unique combination of natural resources, interesting landscape, diverse cultural and historical heritage and up-to-date industry, which has no analogy in Azerbaijan. Today, Sumgayit is the second industrial centre of Azerbaijan. The city's economy includes the enterprises of chemical and petrochemical industry, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, heat energy, machine building and instrument making as well as enterprises for the production of construction materials and goods of light and food industries.

The wide highway running to the city has turned into a green avenue with acacias and oleanders blossoming on both its sides. Dwelling quarters of the city are located windward with respect to the industrial area. Regardless of specific natural and climatic conditions of Absheron, such as: hot summer, strong winds, brackish soils, scanty precipitations, the hard work implemented by citizens to green up the city has resulted in the achievement of their purpose to make Sumgayit a green city.

The Nasimi seaside park is laid out in the seaside part of the city. Green apparel of the park is made with coniferous and deciduous breeds of trees. Their unequal height composition and colour solution of groups has made the boulevard very picturesque. The park unusually beautiful is during blossoming of white and pink acacia, lindens. At this time it is, literally, foaming by its apparel, exciting numerous visitors with refined aroma. The stadium named after Mehdi Huseynzadeh, the largest sport facility in the city, is located in this part of Sumgayit. There is a beach opened in the park area. «Heydar Bagy» Park and Ludwigshafen Park are the favourite places for walking.

In hot summer, the swim season opens on gold beaches of the city. The sky-blue Caspian's seaside becomes the place of a nice rest and leisure time spending for thousands of citizens and guests of the city.

The structure of the city includes two settlements: Haji Zeynalabdin and Jorat. Some sources assert that the Jorat settlement's name originated from the word «Jurat», which is translated as courage and steadfastness. There was a fortress Jurat and people living here bravely defended their lands from foreign invaders.

The XVI century underground bath of around 1,5 m in height from the outside and 4 m on the inside is the most remarkable of them. Water in the bath comes from a 30 m depth; it is sulphurous and possesses medicinal properties. It remains a puzzle why heating of this bath requires much less fuel than that of present day baths. The ancient mosque is currently operating in its primeval state. An inscription preserved on the northern side of the mosque: «Constructed in 409 of Hegira» (1415 by current chronology).

Haji Zeynalabdin settlement is named in honour of the famous philanthropist and oil capitalist Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev. At the beginning of XX century, the population of Baku suffered from the lack of potable water. Tagiyev gave his full support to the project on construction of water pipe, saying: «Water from Shollar spring is as eternal as Shahdag Mountain with its snow and glaciers. And I shall not spare money and strength to supply my own city with water, even if I should have spent all my property». He was right. The Shollar pipeline is operating to the present day.

Underground bathhouse of XVI century, mosque of XV century in Jorat century, pump units' building of early XX century in Haji Zeynalabdin settlement.]

**District of Shabran (Devechi)****Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 1,09 th. sq. km****Total number of population – 56,3 th. per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 52 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 68****Number of big and middle enterprises - 15****Number of infant schools - 4****Number of general education schools - 49****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 3****Number of culture centers - 79****Distance between Shabran and Baku - 122 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Shabran district</b>	51533	100,0	25948	100,0	25585	100,0
urban population	22308	43,29	11323	43,64	10985	42,94
rural population	29225	56,71	14625	56,36	14600	57,06

Shabran (Devechi) region was founded on August 8, 1930, liquidated in 1963 and annexed to Absheron region and in 1965 re-established again. According to the decision of the Supreme Board of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1992 part of Shabran changed into new region Siyazan.

The region includes one town and 68 villages. Those villages are ruled by 11 regional representations and 36 municipalities. The centre of the region is city Shabran locating in 120 km from Baku.

96.3% of the population is Azerbaijanis. 44.5% of the people live in the town, 55.5% in villages. 98 families of IDPs (355 people) temporally settled in the region today.

Mountains occupy most part of the territory of the region. It is bordered on the Caspian Sea along 40 km from the east and on regions Guba, Khachmaz, Siyezen, Shamakhi and Khizi from other sides. 27000 hectares of forests embracing mountains and lowlands along the Caspian Sea enrich the climate and the nature of the region. Rivers Shabran and Devechi cross the region and fall into the Caspian as well as the rivers Valvalachay and Gilgilchay bordering the north and south of the region. Pre-Caspian lowland (the lowland of Samur-Devechi) is 28 m low from the ocean level. South-west of the region is surrounded with mountain Dubrar 2220 m high.

Shabran is in north-east of the Big Caucasus. Boughs of the Big Caucasus, locate in the south-east edge of the side chain. There are mud volcanoes in the territory of the region. It is also rich with chalk, Paleogene and Neogene, found in the mountains, with anthropogenic sediment in the lowlands and also with oil, gas, shingle, sand, clay and other resources. Curative mineral waters, Galaalti sanatorium, Khaltan hot water widely used in treatment of many diseases.

The climate is temperate-hot, arid-subtropical in the lowlands and mountain foot and temperate-cold in the mountains. The summer is arid; the amount of annual rain is 300-600 mm. The soil of the mountains is mountain-forest, mountain-brown, pale-brown, and that in the lowland is solonetzic, grey-brown etc. Sands spread at the

shore. The main plans are bushes and rare-forest meadows, worm woody half-deserts and those with solonchik grass. The region is also rich in animal and bird kinds.

44.08% or 44085 hectares of the territory contain soil useful for agriculture. 16.1% or 16.8 000 hectares of the land are cultivation zone. 5.6% or 5.1 000 hectares are covered with perennials. After agrarian reforms 21787 hectares of land gave to the private property of 6858 families, 35291 hectares presented to the property of the municipalities, 42977 hectares kept in the property of the state. 11559 hectares of grain, 785 hectares of vegetables, 114 hectares of potato, and 12 hectares of melon plants cultivated in the region. Samur-Absheron canal crosses the territory of Shabran. 18.4 hectares of land are irrigated by 358 open irrigation canals, 562 irrigation collectors and drainage. The animal breeding intensively developed the recent years; 2268 heads of horned cattle and 33400 heads of small cattle kept in the property of the people. The main industrial spheres of the regional economy are procession and weaving. Devechi-Mill OJSC, Devechi-Broyler poultry-farming factory, "Pirabadil" carpet factory and other private enterprises function in the region.

Baku-Rostov auto trunk road, Baku-Moscow railway and Shollar-Baku water pipeline cross the region. 49 schools of general education, 20 secondary schools, 12 primary schools, 4 pre-school, 5 out-of-school institutions and 1 technical school function in the region. Schools of general education involve 9688 children, kindergartens 305, sport school for children and youth, chess school, centre of children creativity, stations of ecological training and practise and the centre of technical creativity involve 3243 children. 935 pedagogical workers engage in their training and education. The medical system of the region embraces 3 hospitals, 9 medical ambulatories, 29 points of medical assistant and midwife, centres of hygiene and epidemiology with 50 doctors, 169 medical servants serving there. "Galaalti" medical pension planned for 260 beds may also be included into this system.

We may also mention 9 cultural houses, 17 clubs, 54 libraries, cinemas, "Heydar" park, the historical country-study museum to the 75 years anniversary of Heydar Aliyev, house-museum of Gazanfer Musabeyov in the village of Pirabadil and 7 years children musical school after Tofig Guliyev, the complex "Shahidler Khiyabani" to the memory of the 95 young died in Garabag war with their monuments. The secondary schools 2 and 3 of Shabran town gave the names of the lieutenant Roman Yusifov and private Samir Zulfugarov, died for the integrity of our State. Their busts put in those schools carried their names and established "Museums of Honour".

Sport is developing in the region during the recent years; Devechi urban stadium repaired in accordance with modern standards, applied sport equipment and halls. Geographical position of the region, the area of Liman hunting economy locating on the shore of the Caspian Sea 12 km far from the centre of the region, 7 mountain lakes in the village of Nohular, "Shehergah" located 1000 m high from sea level, 1600 year old Chiraggala monument-the symbol of Shabran, the archaeological monument "Shabran town"-the sample of town building culture in Azerbaijan, founded in the 1st century B.C. and located on Great Silk Way, natural forest near Agalig village, Zagli-Zeyva woody mountains with curative springs and the areas of "Kechi Gayasi" and "Girkh Bulag" locating in the same region, places of interest in the village of Pirabadil are enough for the development of tourism and establishment of recreation and health zones.

According to the orders of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan № 1262 from June 23, 2003 and 1343 from September 27, 2003 the historical complex "Chiraggala" and the monument of history and culture "Shabran town" declared the historical reserve and involved into the route of the international tourism.

**District of Shamkir****Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 1,66 th sq. km****Total number of population - 207,0 th per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 118 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 58****Number of settlements - 7****Number of big and middle enterprises - 58****Number of infant schools – 53****Number of general education schools - 83****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 22****Number of culture centers - 164****Distance between Shamkir and Baku - 399 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Shamkir district</b>	191428	100,0	96183	100,0	95245	100,0
urban population	66667	34,83	33368	34,69	33299	34,96
rural popylation	124761	65,17	62815	65,31	61946	65,04

There are many archeological objects of Bronze and early Iron ages in Shemkir district. They mostly were discovered in Chenlibel, Seyidler and Garajaemirly villages. There are also a number of historical-architectural monuments of middle ages: castles in Tatarly and Ashagi Seyfelly villages, bridges in Tehneli village and on the Zeyem River, Christian churches in Yukhari Chaykend, Guneshly, Dag Jeyirly villages.

There are beloved places of fishers here - Yenikend dam on Kur River is especially popular.

Shemkir City, administrative center of district, can be reached in an hour with a car from Ganja. Shemkir is 417km away from Baku.

There was a small colony called Annenfeld of German refugees here in XIX century. Like in Khanlar, residents of this colony also left here a number of streets that are ideally smooth and Lutheran church.

According to written sources and archeological information this city was built in V-VI centuries on the bank of Great Shemkir River near current Mukhtariyyat village, 20km from modern Shemkir.

There was 8-tower feudal castle in that city that was called Shamkur in Middle Ages. Wealth of Shamkur caught attention of not only merchants as well invaders. As many of ancient cities of Azerbaijan, Shamkur, too, was destroyed for many times, then restored and held the period of progress. But after one of the next attacks, survived population of city moved and built new city.

Two ancient castles belonging to XVII century remain around modern Shemkir. These are Shamkhor Castle and Koroglu Castle (name of this castle was chosen as our national symbol in honor of hero Koroglu, who bravely fought against despots). Most of scientists think that Koroglu was real historical personality. But it was not convincingly qualified whether he really lived in Chenlibel castle.



### District of Sheki

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 2,43 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 181,0 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 74 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 68**

**Number of settlements - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 35**

**Number of infant schools - 61**

**Number of general education schools - 100**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 6**

**Number of higher educational institutes - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 19**

**Number of culture centers - 74**

**Distance between Sheki and Baku - 305 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Sheki district</b>	170733	100,0	84556	100,0	86177	100,0
urban population	65285	38,24	31464	37,21	33821	39,25
rural population	105448	61,76	53092	62,79	52356	60,75

Sheki is one of the most ancient cities of Azerbaijan. It is mentioned as Shaki, Sheka, Shakki and others in a number of medieval sources.

Sheki has been called Nukha for a long time. One of the ancient authors Ptolemy cited the settlement Niga among other Albanian cities. A. Bakikhanov wrote that Nukha is the same Nakhy and Naghy city judging from its location and it was considered one of the ancient cities of Shirvan. A.Y. Krymski also agreed on the version that Niga is the ancestor of Nukha.

Yet, there were a number of opponents to the said version in the early 19th century. Academician V. Dorn considered that Niga was a city that located between Liberia and Alazan and that it can not be confused with Nukha. The connection between the word «Nukha» and the Niga settlement, famous since ancient times, is quite a disputable issue.

The word «Sheki» originates from the name of the Saxon tribes that wandered from the north side of the Black Sea through Derbend passage and to the South Caucasus and from there to the Asia Minor in the 7th century B.C. They occupied the best lands in the South Caucasus and called the area Sakasena. Sheki was one of the areas occupied by Saxons.





Sheki was one of the biggest cities of Alban states in the 1 century. The temple of ancient Albania was located there. In its administrative division the Caucasus Albania was composed 11 provinces. One of them was Sheki province that located in the northwest of Albania. Sheki had been one of the important political and economic cities before the Arabian invasion. As the result of the Arabian invasion Sheki was annexed to the third emirate arranged by Arabians on the territory of the country. An independent principality was established in Sheki in times of the weakened Arabian caliphate.

After the collapse of the Hulakis in the first half of the 14th century, Sheki gained independence immediately after the state of Shirvanshahs, and the Orlat dynasty came into power.

Shah Tahmasib put an end to the independence of Sheki in 1551 and annexed it to the Sefevi state.

Sheki khanate that established in 1743 was the strongest feudal state among the khanates of Azerbaijan.

As a result of the flood in the river Kish Sheki was in fact completely ruined, the part of the city population died, others were resettled to other places and some of them settled on the area of the present-day city.

Sheki khanate became the vassal of Russia in accordance with the Kurekchay contract of 1805. The area was fully annexed to Russia by the peace agreement of Gulistan in 1813. The khan ruling system of Sheki was abolished in 1819 and Sheki province was established instead.

Sheki gaza was established within the Caspian province in 1840. The gaza was included into the Shamakhy province in 1846 and it was called Nukha.

The Tsarist government divided the city into two quarters (Sheki and Gyshlag) for the better regulation of the city in the second half of the 19th century. At that period the area of Gyshlag was not united with the city. The tower, its surrounding, trade and industrial enterprises were considered the center of the city and divided into two parts: the upper or trade parts and the lower part. The parts around the city were Yukharybash, Gendjelibashy and Nukha-Gyshlag. The Yukharybash was established from the tower to the east in the late 18-early 19th centuries.

Due to the expansion of Sheki, the tsarist government created two more administrative quarters in the city and the city thus was divided not into two parts but into four parts in 1860-1865. The first quarter included the tower and its surroundings, the second part comprised the city suburbs and its population was mainly engaged in agriculture. The third quarter included the tannery. It comprised other art spheres, including dying. The documents do not provide any information on the fourth quarter. It is evident that the quarter comprised the head street occupied by merchants and art workers and its surroundings.

Nukha was included into Baku province in 1859 and Yelizavetpol province in 1868.

The Soviet government was established in Sheki on May 5, 1920. A number of alterations were introduced into the administrative area of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1930 and the Nukh region was created. The region was abolished on January 4, 1963. It was transferred to the Vartashen region and Nukha city was created within the country. Independent region of Nukha was restored in 1965 and it was called Sheki in 1968.

Sheki is located at a height of 500-850 meters above sea level. The height of the snowy peaks of the Major Caucasus reaches 3000-3500 meters in some places. The residuals of the Jurassic, Cretaceous period in the mountains and the Neogenic and Anthropogenic remnants are found on the foothills. The annual volume of sunny hours is 2350 hours. The summer months account for 40% of the sunny hours. Through a year the volume of solar radiation is 122 kcal per a square cm.

The climate of the city is influenced with cyclones and anticyclones and different air masses and local type winds. The arctic and temperate air masses entering the area in the winters cause the warm weather in the city. The mountain winds form in the city in summers. That is due to the difference in the pressure between the mountains and valleys. The Major Caucasus prevent the cold winds from entering the territory from the North. Therefore, the average temperature in winter totals 0.5 C in January. The average annual temperature equals 12 C in Sheki. It hesitates between 20-25 C in July and August.

The strong winds (the speed exceeding 15 M/cm) are seldom observed in the region, the annual number of windy days totals just 10-12 days. The disastrous weather with the wind blowing at least 1 meters in a second is often observed in Sheki. The annual volume of precipitation is 730 mm with May, June, September and October accounting for the most part of it. The precipitation is the lowest in August (35 mm), January (29 mm) and February (36 mm). The precipitation totals 775 mm in the village Kish and over 1000 mm in the Khan plateau. The region is characterized with the floods, storms, hail and other natural disasters.

The flood is often observed in Sheki. The basin of the Kish River originating near in the west part of the city is one of the areas with the strongest floods in the world. As the cone of the river Kish in the place called

Guruchay are covered with sand, stones and mud accumulated from the mountains, its central part is relatively higher than that of the Dodu quarter.

Storms and hails are interrelated with each other. The strong heating and evaporation in the mountains in summer are one of the major components of hails in Sheki. The biggest hailstones in the world were registered in Sheki in 1850. The event was reflected in a magazine of the Ministry of Internal Affairs issued in Tbilisi. The magazine stated that the hailstones 10 kg in weight broke the reed of 7 layers. The annual number of the hail days totals 1.4 that is 14 times in 10 years.

The mountains around the city and at a height of 500-850 meters above sea level prevent the heating of the city. The mountain forests protect the city from floods and beautify the view

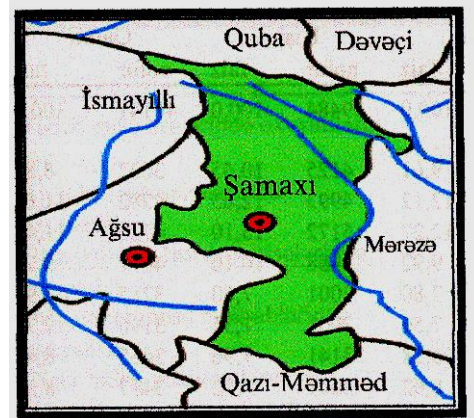
Due to the richness of recreational establishments, the city differs from other regions of Azerbaijan. The resort and service centers as well as tourist bases established near Markhal, Soyugbulag, Gellersen-Gorersen tower increase the recreation capacities of the city.

The mountain meadow, brown mountain forest, meadow-forest, gray brown soils are spread in the city. The oaks, beech-tree and hornbeam dominate the forests. The animal kingdom is characterized with its variety.

The Kish and Gurchana rivers are the major rivers of Sheki. The branch of the river Ayrinchay, the full water Kish extends to 33 kilometers and covers an area of 265 square kilometers. It originates from the south slope of the Major Caucasus at a height of 2900 meters. It is one of the rivers with the strongest floods of Transcaucasia. It is called the Damarchyn in its upper flow.

**District of Shemakha****Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 1,67 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 99,7 th per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Density of population – 1 sq. km 60 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 57****Number of settlements - 5****Number of big and middle enterprises - 21****Number of infant schools - 23****Number of general education schools - 72****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 4****Number of higher educational institutes - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 3****Number of culture centers - 97****Distance between Shemakha and Baku - 135 km**

**Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Shemakha district</b>	91605	100,0	44726	100,0	46879	100,0
urban population	43307	47,28	20821	46,55	22486	47,97
rural population	48298	52,72	23905	53,45	24393	52,03

Shamakhy that locates at the southeastern foothills of the Major Caucasus and 118 kilometers away from the capital of the country is one of the most ancient cities of Azerbaijan. A number of sources prove the said fact. Shamakhy first mentioned as Samakheya and Kemakheya in the creation of Greek geographer Ptolemy was described by ancient Arabian, Persian, Turkish, Russian and medieval European authors as well.

The territory of Shamakhy had been controlled by Arabian caliphate for a long tome. After the caliphate weakened a feudal state, the state of Shirvanshahs was created in Shemakha. The Shirvanshah state which occupied an important place in the history of the state system of Azerbaijan existed from 1531 till 1538. The prosperity of the Shirvanshah state is ascribed to the period of Shah Ibragim the first. Shamakhy experienced economic and cultural rise during this period embracing 1382-1417 and it established relations with a number of foreign countries.

Following the downfall of the Shirvanshah state the territory was ruled by beys. Yet despite that Shamakhy prospered and developed its economics and culture. Russian-Iranian war was initiated due to the murder of Russian merchants in Shemakha-the center, uniting west, east and north. Peter the Great attacked Shamakhy and turned it to ruins. Shamakhy which was turned into a khanate in the mid 18th century was annexed to Russia in the early 19th century. After that Shamakhy became the center of gaza and province.

Shamakhy has attracted the attention of the international community since ancient. Thus, the most prominent travelers and writers visited the district and described their impressions. Thus, according to the information by travelers German Adam Olear and Turkish Ovliya Xhelebi, Shemekha accounted for 77 Mosques,

44 palaces, 40 medrese, 7 bath houses, tens of squares and markets in 1643-1650. Great French writer Alexander Duma wrote during his visit to Shamakhy in 1858.

## District of Shusha

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 0,31 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 32,1 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 104 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 37**

**Number of settlements - 1**

**Number of infant schools - 7**

**Number of general education schools – 25**

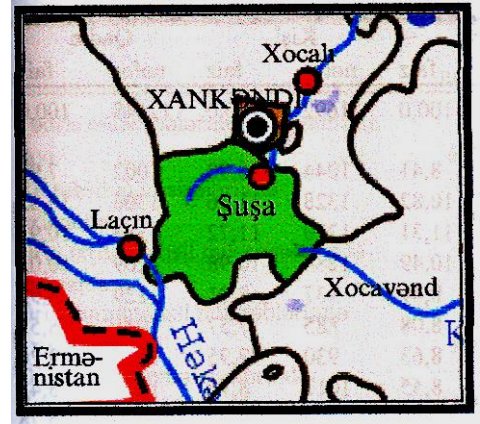
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 5**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 2**

**Number of culture centers – 70**

**Distance between Shusha and Baku - 373 km**

**The district is occupied since May 8, 1992 by the Armenian armed forces.**



**Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Shusha district</b>	28560	100,0	13934	100,0	14626	100,0
urban population	21185	74,18	10285	73,81	10900	74,52
rural population	7375	25,82	3649	26,19	3726	25,48

Rich with beautiful forests, springs and pure air Shusha is an ancient city. Shusha was founded by Garabaglı Panahali (Panahali from Garabag) khan. Panah khan was born in 1693. He is one from Sarıjali tribe of Javanshir family. In his youth Panah khan served and distinguished in the army of Iranian king Nadir. Noticing his courage Nadir king appointed Panah khan commander of one of his troops. But the envious surrounding of Nadir shah assured him as if Panah khan intended to kill the king and assume ruling of Iran. Considering this story true king Nadir murdered Panah khan's brother and Panah khan leaved the palace.

In the result of in the intrigues in the palace Nadir shah Afshar foully murdered in his tent in June 19, 1747 and the state of Iran dissolved. It was the period when Azerbaijan witnessed new khanates as Ganja, Sheki, Shirvan, Baku and others. With the help of the Javanshirs, Otuzikiz and other Turkic tribes Panah khan founded Garabag khanate in the territory of Garabag.

Panahali khan supposed the soon or late attack of Iran to Garabag and decided to built a tower. Some wise people of the khan searched the mountains and found the place which is the location of Shusha today.

In the most beautiful part of Garabag-on a high mountain appeared new tower in 1750. Panah khan called the famous masters from Tebriz, Ardebil and other cities and built new dwellings and a palace surrounded by the walls.

North and East of the tower surrounded with high walls. The tower had two gates «İravan» and «Ganja». They kept open in the morning and closed in the nights; nobody allowed entering the city in the nights. Local people called the city «Panahabad» in the honour of Panah khan. For the first time among the khanates of Azerbaijan silver coin of 15 kopeck with the same name started to be cut there.

According to the historians later the name «Panahabad» changed into «Shusha Galasi» (Shusha tower). The name of the city taken from the word «Shish», «uja» (high, top); the city is located on high rocks.

In the period when Aga Mahammad shah Gajar kept Shusha under blockade he sent a letter to Ibrahim khan that told: «You foolishly hid in Shisha when fate throws the mountain of sedition on your head». Ibrahim in his turn sent him by Vagif the following: «If my protector is who I belief (Allah), He will protect Shisha from the damage of a stone».

After Panah Ali khan died his son Ibrahim Khalil khan ruled Garabag during 1760-1806.

With the purpose to invade Shusha the king of Iran Aga Mahammad shah Gajar sent Shusha an army of 8000 soldiers under command of his relative Suleyman khan in 1795. Army of Suleyman khan lost the battle near Shusha and remained 20 people hardly saved their soles.

Little later after the event, i.e. in August 1795 Aga Mahammad shah Gajar crossed Khudafarin bridge moved to Shusha with an army of 85 000 people. The city was protected by Ibrahim khan. He gathered an army of 15 000 people in a very short time. Aga Mahammad shah Gajar surrounded Shusha like a ring. 30 days Shusha underwent fire from guns under the command of French officers. Gajar's army made several attacks on the city. Neither guns nor spears of the enemies had effect. After 33 days of the blockade Aga Mahammad shah Gajar was obliged to give up.

The second time Aga Mahammad shah Gajar tried to occupy Shusha in spring of 1797 with the troop of 100 000 soldiers. Garabag suffered difficulties at that period; 2 year long war negatively affected life of the people. The army of Ibrahim khan died of starving. Ibrahim khan had to take his family and the relatives to Umma khan-the ruler of Avar.

Remaining without supervision Aga Mahammad shah entered the city without any resistance. On same night- May 12, 1797 the king murdered by his butler Safarali bey and his servant Abbas bey and the army of Iran again left Garabag. Two months later Ibrahim khan returned to Shusha. In night of June 2, 1806 a group under command of Lisanovich came to the place of residence of Ibrahim khan and murdered him and some members of his family and relatives.

Iran and Russia signed a treaty in village Gulustan of Garabag on October 12, 1813. According to the treaty, Iran approved that several khanate and Garabag khanate as well, the centre of which was Shusha annexed to Russia.

Beginning with the 2nd part of the 19th century Shusha played great role in political, economical and cultural development of Azerbaijan. For development of trade, culture and the quantity of the population Shusha was first in Azerbaijan and 2nd in Transcaucasia after Tiflis. Thus Shusha at that time was called «Child-Paris».

Being the administrative centre, high economical development, geographical position of the city caused Shusha to be the centre of science, poetry and musical culture of Azerbaijan. First theatres, circus performances, European and Oriental concerts, musical, scientific, enlightenment and other meetings of art, a printing-house, a library, «Realni» college, «Gorodskoy» college, seminary and other institutions of enlightenment in the history of culture of Azerbaijan people appeared in Shusha. The first theatre performances staged in Shusha in 1848. They were the comedies of Mirza Fatali Akhundov.

Shusha is one of the centres of culture of Azerbaijan. Shusha was the city of curing, the land of the talented people. No other city gave as much talents Azerbaijan as Shusha. According to the information gathered by the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the 19th century there were 95 poets, 22 musicologists, 38 singers, 19 calligraphers, 16 pattern makers, 5 astronomers, 18 architects, 16 doctors, about 42 teachers and others in Shusha. The huge group of the mentioned intellectuals turned Shusha into developed centre of culture. The town is often called the "conservatoire of the East". Shusha is a hometown to many prominent Azerbaijani singers, musicians, great composers and conductors - Dzhabbar Garyagdi Oglu, Gurban Primov, Bul-Bul, Seid Shushi, Khan Shushi, Rashid Beibutov, Uzeyir Hadzhibekov, Niyazi, Fikret Amirov and Suleyman Alasgarov. It is also a hometown to writers S. Akhundov, A. Agverdiyev, N. Vezirov, poetess Khurshud Banu Natavan, poet Kasumbek Zakir, sculptors and painters T. Narimanbekov, Dzh. Garyagdi and others.

To count all ancient monuments of architecture and art in Shusha is not an easy thing to do - only the number of architectural monuments is estimated at 170, monuments of arts - 160. They include house museums: of Khurshud Banu Natavan, a poetess, museum of General Mekhmandarov, a participant of a heroic defense of Port Arthur, prominent composer Uzeyir Hadzhibekov, singer Bul-Bul, poet and painter Mir Mohsum Navab, there are the castles of Ibragim Khan and his daughter, Gara Beyukhanum, "Ganja Gates", the fortress wall etc.

The national leader of Azerbaijan people Heydar Aliyev played particular role in the development of Shusha as a resort-city in the 20th century. Orders and decrees issued by him after appointment the first secretary of CC of Azerbaijan CP played particular role in social-economic and cultural development of the region. Those are



the decision № 360 «Measures to develop of resort complex in Shusha city» by CC of Azerbaijan CP and the Council of the Ministers of Azerbaijan from November 4, 1976; the decision № 280 To declare «Icheri Sheher» of Baku and the historical parts of Shusha and Ordubad historical-architectural resorts» by the Council of the Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR from August 10, 1977; the decree №629 «To establish Picture Gallery in Shusha» by the Council of the Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR from December 19, 1981; decree № 413 «To complete works on establishment of monuments and obelisks dedicated to prominent revolutionaries, parties, statesmen and social figures and to important historical events of 1981-1985» by CC of Azerbaijan CP and the Council of the Ministers of Azerbaijan from November 01, 1978; decree of the Council of the Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR № 279 from July 31, 1978.

In May 12, 1992 joined armenian-russian groups ruined all historical, architectural, artistic and religious monuments built in Shusha during three centuries under the inspiration of Armenian nationalists, the city was completely destroyed. 197 natives of Shusha fell martyrs and 300 became invalids.

## City of Shirvan

**Date of creation – 1954**

**Total territory - 0,07 th. sq. km**

**Total number of population – 82,9 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 1184 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of settlements - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 66**

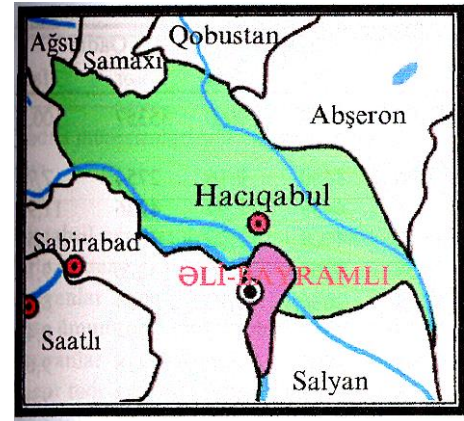
**Number of infant schools - 7**

**Number of general education schools - 16**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 3**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 9**

**Distance between Shirvan and Baku - 113 km**



**Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Shirvan city</b>	77060	100,0	37698	100,0	39362	100,0
urban population	77060	100,0	37698	100,0	39362	100,0

First of all we should state that the place where Shirvan (Ali-Bayramli) locates now has very interesting history. Beginning with the 2nd-3rd centuries till the Middle Ages the ancient caravan ways crossed today's place of location of Shirvan and related all the territories of Azerbaijan. The fact is proved by a caravanserai and ruins of tens of settlements near this place.

In different times the abovementioned territory was attached to Shirvanshahs, Shirvan beylerbeyi (territorial unit governed by beys-the nobles), Shamakhi khanate, partially to Javad khanate, to Shamakhi gaza (territorial unit) and to Javad gaza.

I Shah Ismail Khatai, who purposed to unite small states and establish strong state of Azerbaijan moved on caravan road that passed through today's Shirvan and spent winter in the town Mahmudabad in the second half of 1500.

Some archaeological investigations still held to reveal real historical facts.

Tsarist Empire purposed to occupy Azerbaijan and one can still see the traces of Russian invasions in the territory. General V. Zubov moved with Caspian fleet on Azerbaijan in April 1796 to carry out mission of invasion by II Yekaterina. He managed to occupy Baku, Salyan and Derbend and settle a camp on the left bank of the river Kur. He had already prepared plan to establish a town in the honour of II Yekaterina near today's Shirvan having great strategic importance. But II Yekaterina died and I Pavel called the troops back that destroyed the plans of Zubov.

The village Azabverdili in the territory of today's Shirvan refers to the 19th. The settlement was changed into "Zubovka" in the honour of the general Zubov.

Irrigation station-landing state over the river Kur established in 1902.

Baku-Julfa railway started to be lined in 1911 and wooden bridge constructed over the river Kur in 1917.

The bridge burnt by Armenian dashnaks in 1918 and in 1924-1927 replaced with metal arch bridge. The railway station in Zubovka called Papanino. During 1916-1925 established Cotton cleaning factory on Mugan bank of the river Kur and it caused extension of the Zubovka. The first primary school opened in 1920.

In 1930 Zubovka annexed to Salyan gaza thus its population increased and some construction work carried out.

12 villages and 2 settlement councils of the gaza Salyan united and in August 30, 1930 formed the region Ali-Bayramli (Shirvan) the centre of which was the settlement Zubovka.

In 1938 the centre of the region changed from Zubovka to Ali-Bayramli.

Ali- Bayramli- Gazmammad railway lined in 1941.

In the result of successful geological investigations started at the beginning of the second half of the 20th century the petroleum well 2 gave oil-gusher in June 18, 1955 in the area of Kurovdag of Sihrvan field. "Shirvanneft" appeared in oil map of Azerbaijan.

The first Open State Regional Electric Station in the Europe founded in Shirvan in 1959 and the first block exploited in 1962.

A bridge placed on Ali-Bayramli-Sabirabad highway through the river Kur in 1961.

In January 4, 1964 liquidated the region Ali-Bayramli and about 100 of its villages attached to Salyan, Sabirabad and Shamakhi. Shirvan got the stats of the city under the state subordination.

### District of Terter

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 0,96 th sq. km**

**Total number of population - 101,8 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 106 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 2**

**Number of villages - 74**

**Number of settlements - 1**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 20**

**Number of infant schools - 30**

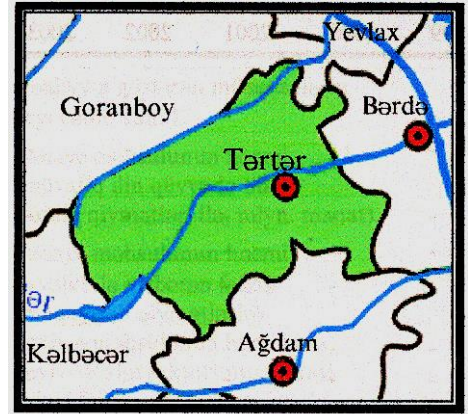
**Number of general education schools - 48**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 6**

**Number of culture centers - 96**

**Distance between Terter and Baku - 332 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Terter district</b>	97270	100,0	47689	100,0	49581	100,0
urban population	29786	30,62	14503	30,41	15283	30,82
rural population	67484	69,38	33186	69,59	34298	69,18

Fruitful land of Karabakh is one of the very ancient regions of Azerbaijan. Popular Karabakh Khanate, center of which was Shusha city, was located here in due time. There are numerous historical-architectural monuments, rich flora and fauna here. One of the colorful types of Azeri carpets - Karabakh carpet was created here, famous sort of Karabakh race horses was raised here. This land, possessing such a rich natural features, gave numerous talented writers, poets and musicians to Azerbaijan. Most popular singers - mugham singers (mugham - national musical genre of Azerbaijan) have come from Karabakh. And mugham melodies are base to national opera of Azerbaijan.

Unfortunately Karabakh is under occupation of Armenians at present time.

Terter district is situated along the lower flow of Terterchay, borders upon Injechay from north. Temperature is not lower than positive 2 degree in winter and rarely exceeds 25 degree in summer. Climate is different within the district - mild and semi-desert climates are specific to different regions. Just because of such a changeable climate sheep-breeding is widespread here. Khachinchay crosses this district.

In due time this territory was a constituent part of Albanian state, which was one of early state institutions (Manna, Mydia, Atropaten, Caucasian Albania) of Azerbaijan. Like other Azerbaijanis, Albans also believed in religion of Zoroaster in ancient times, converted to the Christianity later.

Terter city is administrative center of Terter district. City is situated on the both banks of Terterchay, 332km from Baku. Agriculture and cattle-breeding, as well ancient folk arts such as carpet-weaving, weaving and sewing are developed here. Terter city, located on the ancient caravan way, was called Chaparkhana in due time. A number of architectural monuments exist in Terter, Kengerly, Garadagly, Gaynag, Azad Garagoyunlu villages of district.

### District of Tovuz

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,94 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 168,4 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 87 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 102**

**Number of settlements - 1**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 518**

**Number of infant schools - 40**

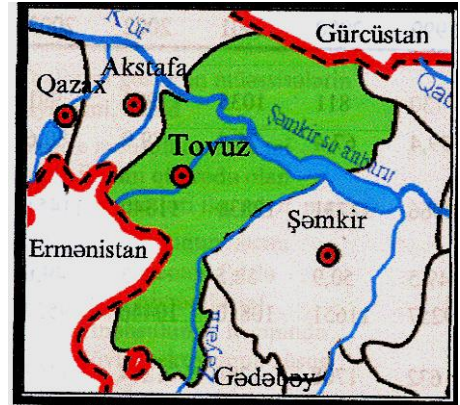
**Number of general education schools - 85**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 21**

**Number of culture centers - 136**

**Distance between Tovuz and Baku - 439 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Tovuz district</b>	157875	100,0	79078	100,0	78797	100,0
urban population	26968	17,08	13198	16,69	13770	17,48
rural population	130907	82,92	65880	83,31	65027	82,52

The Tovuz region is one of the ancient places of human settlement having rich historical monuments was historically inhabited by the representatives of the aboriginal tribes and people. The place was known as Shemshedil, Shemsaheddin and Tough. But the region of Tovuz was established on August 8th 1930 as a result of the administrative regional division applied by the former USSR. The region is located in the favourable economic and geographical position in the north-west of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The general are of the region is 1903 km<sup>2</sup>, that makes 2.2% of the whole country and 15.2% of Ganja-Gazakh economic region.

Along 69 kilometres the region is bordered on the Republic of Armenia, along 23 m on the Republic of Georgia, on Agstafa in the west, on Shemkir in the east, on Gədəbəy in the south and partially on Samukh in the north.

According to the peculiarities of the relief the region divided into 4 zones: middle mountainous, lower mountainous, mountainous foot and higher mountainous zones. Middle and higher mountainous zones are found in the southern part of the region, while lower mountainous and mountainous foot zones are found in the central part of the region and the northern part of the region covers the mountain-foot plain. Like majority of Azerbaijani cities, Tovuz also was built in place of ancient habitations belonging to Stone and Bronze ages. This city left the traces in genetic memory of people as if to remind the places where our fathers replaced each other during millenniums. According to the ancient Turkish sources, name of this city was taken from names of two relative Turkish tribes - Oguz and Toguz. This name was confirmed as toponym just because it was created here.

### District of Ujar

**Date of creation - 24. 01. 1939**

**Total territory - 0,83 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 84,1 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 101 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 29**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 10**

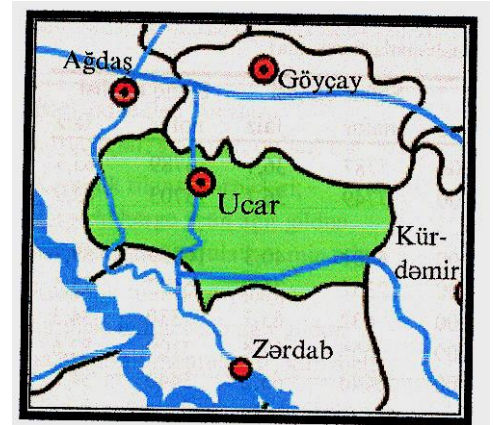
**Number of infant schools - 22**

**Number of general education schools - 45**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 13**

**Number of culture centers - 73**

**Distance between Ujar and Baku - 234 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Ujar district</b>	78135	100,0	38752	100,0	39383	100,0
urban population	16826	21,53	8155	21,15	8671	22,02
rural population	61309	78,47	30597	78,96	30712	77,98

The distance between Baku and Ujar region is 234 km. A city 14 territorial units of a village are subordinated to the region. The quantity of the villages is 29. The centre of the region is the city Ujar.

Before establishment of independent region, Ujar was subordinated to the region Goychay.

There are different opinions about the name and the history of the region.

In region, you can feel the climate of semi desert and dry steppes. Goychay and Turyan (Garasu) Rivers flow through the territory. In flora of region an important place is occupied by licorice herb.

The word «Ujar» can be found in some works of the famous Azeri poet Shirvani. It is assumed that the word was taken from the name of an ancient tribe of Uchars that lived in Shirvan. According to another version, the name comes from the word «ujgar» (outskirt), as, notwithstanding the current location of the Ujar district in the central part of the country, it was situated on the edge of territory of Shirvan.

One of the most significant pages in the history of Ujar was formation of 416 Taganrog divisions during the World War II. Memory on warriors of division is immortalized in monument built in the city. In the city, there are a stadium and a park. In Yukhari Shilyan village hand carpet weaving still exists.



## District of Yardimli

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 0,67 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 63,3 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 94 per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 87**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 17**

**Number of infant schools - 3**

**Number of general education schools - 78**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 6**

**Number of culture centers - 91**

**Distance between Yardimli and Baku - 286 km**



**Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	.	%	.	%
<b>Yardimli district</b>	58073	100,0	28991	100,0	29082	100,0
urban population	6603	11,37	3467	11,96	3136	10,78
rural population	51470	88,63	25524	88,04	25946	89,22

In the first years of independence of Azerbaijan Yardimli named as the village Vergeduz and subordinated to Lenkeran gaza (territorial unit). After Azerbaijan Democratic Republic collapsed, the flag of the national government had been lowered down here as well. Beys of Sivdash, seyids of Perimbel and the groups of Berjanli Gachag Hasan and Shahveren continued to struggle against the Red Army till 1928. With the purpose to fully neutralize the groups, the chief of the State Political Department of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan Novruz Rizayev arrived at the region with his group of special-purpose. Bloody fight carried out in summer of 1928. The heads of the gachags (brigade) escaped to Iran. At that period the Bolsheviks burnt 147 houses in the villages Berjan, Shikhlar, Gugevar, Astanli, Musalar and Honiba that gave shelter to those groups and scattered the people of the villages.

The commission founded by the Council of the National Commissars of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the purpose to study the conditions in the region Vergeduz visited region in 1928-1929. The Council of the National Commissars in October 19, 1929 discussed the decision about the region adopted by the Commission and the Council in its turn adopted the decision taking into consideration the condition in the village. They supposed the village Vergeduz to be non-useful as the centre of the region. The Commission proposed to chose the village Yardimli the centre of the region and the region called Yardimli. According to that decision the centre of the region shifted to the village Yardimli in 1930.

The etymology of the word «Yardimli» comes from fire-worshipping in this land. In the 6th-10th century book «Dada Goegud yurdu» (The land of Father Gorgud) by Ejder Ferzeli Yardimli habitation is given as «Yardam» and explained as «fire» or «sun». This fact proves the antiquity of the Land of Fire. Later «Yaram» underwent the assimilation and changed into «Yardimli».

Yardimli region is composed of 30 administrative territorial units and 91 habitations: one settlement and 90 villages. Along 40 km in the south Yardimli is bordered with Lerik, along 11 km in the east with Masalli, along 20 km in the north-east with Jalilabad and along 96 km in the north and west the Islamic Republic of Iran. The longest river of the region is 111 km long Vilash. The territory of the region is surrounded by the Talish mountains (the highest peak Shahnishin-2490 m), the mountain chains Peshtasar (the highest peak 2244 m) and Buravar

### District of Yevlakh

**Date of creation - 05. 02. 1935**

**Total territory - 1,47 th sq. km**

**Total number of population – 124,6 th per. (1 January, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 85 per. (1 January, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 46**

**Number of settlements - 3**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 47**

**Number of infant schools - 26**

**Number of general education schools - 56**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 45**

**Number of culture centers - 108**

**Distance between Yevlakh and Baku - 287 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Evlakh district</b>	117803	100,0	55535	100,0	62268	100,0
urban population	64841	55,04	29552	53,21	35289	56,67
rural population	52962	44,96	25983	46,79	26979	43,33

Yevlakh, established in the form of a station in the 1980s and long known as the railway station among the population was called Yevlakh village of Yelizavetpol province in the official documents of the 19th century and the Yevlakh village of the Djavanshir province in 1920.

Yevlakh district was created by the resolution of the executive power of the Azerbaijan SSR on February 20, 1935.

Following the establishment of the city council of Yevlakh by the resolution of the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijani SSR Yevlakh became a city on February 1, 1939.

By the resolution of the tenth session of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Council of December 26, 1962 Yevlakh district was abolished and its territory was annexed to Aghdash, Barda and Gasym-Ismaïlov regions and Yevlakh turned into a subordinate city of the Republic.

The order of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan SSR of January 6, 1965 included Yevlakh into the list of the subordinate cities of the republic and the construction of the industrial enterprises commenced.

Following the plenum of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party of July, 1969, the construction of a number of new, large industrial establishments started in the 1970s owing to the great attention paid by the National Leader of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Yevlakh gradually turned into an industrial city.

In the 1970-1980s Yevlakh accounted for the Cotton processing, Tobacco enterprises, the plants of concrete wares, tractor repair, beer and alcohol drinks, Garabagh production, wheat products, industrial combined complexes, tens of large industrial, building enterprises, interregional supply basis and others.

The railroads Yevlakh-Khankendi, Yevlakh-Balaken were established and the airport of Yevlakh, complex secondary school of Khaldan village famous out of the country

### District of Zaqatala

**Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930**

**Total territory - 1,35 th sq .km**

**Total number of population – 124,7 th per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Density of population – 1 sq. km 92 per (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 60**

**Number of settlements - 2**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 71**

**Number of infant schools - 39**

**Number of general education schools - 67**

**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 4**

**Number of higher educational institutes - 2**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 10**

**Number of culture centers - 143**

**Distance between Zaqatala and Baku - 372 km**



### Number of population (January 1, 2009)

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Zaqatala district</b>	118228	100,0	58041	100,0	60187	100,0
urban population	31038	26,25	14934	25,73	16104	26,76
rural population	87190	73,75	43107	74,27	44083	73,24

Zaqatala district is located on ridges of the Greater Caucasus, in the northwest part of the republic. The northeast border of the district forms the border between Azerbaijan and Russia. Landscape is mountainous and plain; climate is cold in mountains and warm on plains. There are many forests in the area; however they are mostly located in mountains and foothills. Flora is rich in various valuable species of trees - chestnut, walnut, filbert, oak, hornbeams, garagaches etc. Fauna - deer, mountain goats, wild boars, bears, wolves, hares, and many birds - pheasants, partridges, eagles, hawks, thrushes and nightingales.

In 1929 here, on the south slopes of the Great Caucasus Range was established a State Reserve "Zaqatala", with the present area of 23843 hectares. It is located 650-3686 m above sea level and includes a part of not only Zaqatala but also Belokani districts. Here, on the territory of the reserve there are places for tourists to rest and lodge. On the outskirts of the village of Gas there is a lot of snow in winter.

Aside of Azerbaijanis, representatives of other nations and ethnical groups: Russians, Avars, Lezghins, Tsakhurs, Tatars, Ingiloeses (a total of 20 nations) also live in the district.

Historical monuments of the regions are located in the villages remained from ancient times. Remained in the villages of Gezbarah and Galal is a mosque dated to the 18th century, in Kebeloga village - two towers (14th century), in the village of Mazih - a tower of the 12th century, in the village of Yukhary Chardakhlar - Peri-Gala fortress-grotto (5th century), in Djar village - Jingez tower (14th century), in the same village there is a museum of regional history, in Pashan village - an Albanian tower (13th century), and another Albanian tower (12th century) in the village of Ahahdere. In various villages of the district, e.g. in Aliabad and Mosul remained mosques of the 19th century.

Tourists often visit the village of Jar which is located 6 km northwest to Zagatala. It not only a beautiful nature spot; the local residents managed to preserve their original, region-specific architectural traditions and ways of life.

Zagatala town is the administrative center of the district. It is situated on the bank of Tala-Chai River, 535 m above sea level. Its population is approximately 109300 inhabitants. It is located 372 km from Baku.

This town can be considered a true resort judging by its climate and the beauty of local nature. There is a park of culture covering an area of 14 hectares, and also an interesting natural phenomenon: an 800-years old lain tree.

There is also an ancient fortress (1830). It is not only interesting as itself but also because it was the place where seamen of the rebellious battleship "Potemkin" were imprisoned. In the local park there is a monument erected in honor of one of the participants of the battleship rebellion - S. Demashko. There is also an interesting monument of Sevil Gaziyeva, an Azerbaijani, the first woman to operate a cotton-harvesting machine.

In Zagatala there is a museum of regional history with a broad collection of medieval manuscripts. In summer lodging is available in cottages of the "Lezzet" resort located in a forest near the village of Dzhar and also at the "Tala" hotel located in the village of Ashagi Tala and at the "Turgut" motel.

Zagatala district is situated in the north-west of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Ganykh Ayrichay valley of the southern slopes of the Major Caucasus. It borders on Georgia in the south, Dagestan in the north and Balaken and Gakh districts in the west and east. Zagatala city is the center of the district. The city is located at the height of 535 meters above sea level, 445 kilometers away from the capital of Azerbaijan.



**District of Zangilan****Date of creation - 08. 08. 1930****Total territory - 0,73 th sq. km****Total number of population – 42,7 th per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 58 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 79****Number of settlements - 5****Number of big and middle enterprises - 445****Number of infant schools - 46****Number of general education schools - 68****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 6****Number of culture centers - 141****Distance between Zangilan and Baku - 385 km****The district is occupied since October 29, 1993 by the Armenian armed forces.****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Zangilan district</b>	39362	100,0	19379	100,0	19983	100,0
urban population	17673	44,90	8712	44,96	8961	44,84
rural population	21689	55,10	10667	55,04	11022	55,16

Region, situated at the crossroad of east and west, was one of main coordinating centers in trade. Antiquity of history of the region is proven by castles, observation points, material-cultural monuments, examples, ancient coins and domestic appliances discovered during archeological excavations. Numerous pot graves (pot graves existed in Azerbaijan from II century B.C. till beginning of our era) discovered during household works in the 60s within district and tens of coins belonging to IV-II centuries B.C. and reflecting name of Alexander Macedonian prove that territory played important role since the ancient times in international trade.

In the earlier XIX century, after occupation of South Caucasus by Russia, new administrative-territorial division is carried out. In 1868 Yelizavetpol province is created. Within that Shusha, Yelizavetpol and Zengazur uyezds are created: according to new division, territory of Zangilan district is included in Zengazur uyezd.

In 1920, after soviet power won in Azerbaijan, Kurdustan province is organized here. 4 districts? Zangilan, Gubadli, Lachin and Kelbejer districts are included in this province.

In the map compiled at the time names of only Bartaz and Khanlig villages of Zangilan territory are shown.

In documents of 1925 Zangilan is shown within Jabrayil uyezd and Genlik, Aladdin, Dellekli villages of Zangilan are noted in this map.

Zangilan, not possessing sole natural frontier for the last two hundred years, is formed as independent district in August of 1930 and possesses exactly determined territory.

In 1967 Zangilan settlement was granted status of city.

On October 29, 1993 district was occupied by Armenian invaders.

Zangilan district is situated in the west end of Azerbaijan Republic, north of Araz River. Area of district has undergone separate administrative territorial divisions in different historical periods. During Russian

occupation till 1828 part of territory of region from Besitchay towards west is included in Nakhchivan khanate, eastern part in Karabakh khanate.

Area of district is located in south of Small Caucasus Mountains along Araz River. Area got specific beauties, rocks, poppy plains, beautiful forests and bushes.

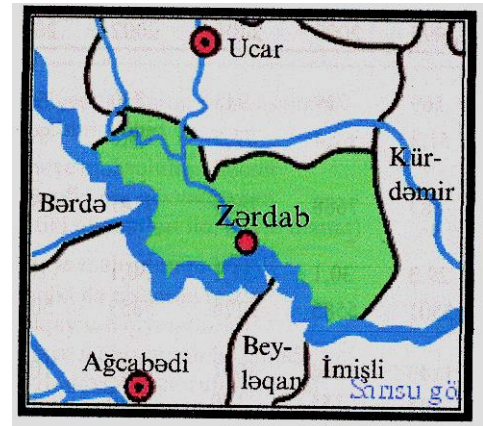
Structure of surface of district's area is complicated. Territory is separated by river gullies.

Mainly Mesozoic relief, Jurassic chalk and stones, eruptive rocks are widespread within district. Jurassic and Chalk Age rocks spread in mountainous areas belong to 150-200 thousand years ago. There are Barbar and Selefir peaks (height - 2270m) of Bazarchay range in the area and this range goes to Araz gully near Agbend, Vezhneli. There are rich gold wells (Vezhneli) here. Another range beginning from Shukurataz height descends towards Araz in direction of Sobu-Top-Dellekli villages.

Susen range between Okhchu and Bergushad rivers creates Agoyug plain by descending towards south-east. This part consists of rocks of Chalk age. There are karst caves on the both banks of Okhchu River. Karabakh range is located in north-east part of district. By descending, this range creates Geyen steppe.

Thick forests are spread in mountainous areas of district. Broad-leaved forests located in height of 1800-2000m descend towards subalpine and alpine meadows. District is rich of plants and springs of treatment importance. There is rich building stone, gill, marble and other materials in area.

Natural circumstance and complicated relief of district have created specific climate. Climate of district is semi-desert and dry steppe with dry winter in places along Araz and dry mild hot in higher areas.

**District of Zardab****Date of creation - 05. 02. 1935****Total territory - 0,86 th sq. km****Total number of population – 56,5 th per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 66 per. (January 1, 2015)****Number of towns - 1****Number of villages - 40****Number of settlements - 1****Number of big and middle enterprises - 10****Number of infant schools – 19****Number of general education schools - 41****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1****Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 6****Number of culture centers - 23****Distance between Zardab and Baku - 231 km****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
<b>Zardab district</b>	52870	100,0	26341	100,0	26529	100,0
urban population	11076	20,95	5414	20,55	5662	21,34
rural population	41794	79,05	20927	79,45	20867	78,66

Zardab region is located 231 km far from Baku and is bordered on Ujar, Kurdemir, Imishli, Agdash and Agjabedi. The region was founded in 1935. During 1962-1964 it was subordinated to Ujar region and in 1965 regained its status of an independent region. The centre of the region is Zardab city. About 38 000 people of the population live in the settlement and villages and 12 000 live in the centre of the city.

The region is generally located on the bank of the river Kur. More than 80 km of this river crosses the territory of the region. There are 42 habitations in the region; one of them is a city and 40 are the villages. The national composition of the population is the Azerbaijanis. About 100 persons of the population are the Russians, the Tatars, the Ukrainians and the representatives of other nations.

Population mainly engaged in grain-growing, cotton-growing, silk-worm breeding and animal-breeding. Melon, vegetable and potato rowing has developed in the region during the recent years.

The national leader of the Republic of Azerbaijan H. Aliyev visited Zagatala in May 29, 1978 and took operative measures attracting corresponding assistance from the centre of the region and the neighbouring regions to prevent the waste and the damages of the people of the region anxious from the overflow of the river.

During 1969-1982, when the national leader of Azerbaijani people H. Aliyev was at the head of our republic, Zardab developed from a mall settlement of the village type into the region of modern city-like appearance. The region changed its social appearance at that time, carried out large constructive works. Among them were a house of Culture for 500 sits, 3-storeyed administrative building in the centre of the city, 4-storeyed house of communication, 16 houses with 16 apartments, 7 houses with 12 apartments, 8 houses with 4 apartments and one house of 8 apartments. Totally more than 21 m<sup>2</sup> apartment area presented to the people of the region.

17 secondary, 4 main and 2 primary school-buildings, 9 kindergartens, 4-storeyed educational institution and 5-storeyed hostel for the Special Lyceum, a chess-club, 14 village culture houses, 6 buildings for libraries, 4 village hospitals, 2 medical-attendant and gynecologist stations, 4 ambulance stations, 14 automat telephone stations in the village, a 2-storeyed department store in the centre of the city, other houses of modern and different appointment in the city and in the village also constructed during the same years.

There is children art school, a Museum of History and Ethnography in the region. 36 km long Zardab-Ujar highway have been covered with asphalt, the region has been supplied with gas, immense bridge built over the river Kur to simplify the motion with Agjabedi and other regions locating in the same area of the Republic.

There are 41 municipalities in Zardab region: one urban, one settlement and 39 village municipalities.

## IV. NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC

## General information

**Capital – City of Nakhichevan****Total territory - 5,5 th. sq. km.****Total number of population – 439.8 th. per. (January 1, 2015)****Density of population – 1 sq. km 80 per. (January 1, 2015)****Districts of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic:****Babek, Julfa, Kengerli, Ordubad, Sadarak, Shahbuz, Sharur****Number of population  
(January 1, 2009)**

Territory	Total		Men		Women	
	per.	%	per.	%	per.	%
Nakhchivan AR	398323	100,0	198267	100,0	200056	100,0
urban population	115488	28,99	57515	29,01	57973	28,98
rural population	282835	71,01	140752	70,99	142083	71,02

Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (NAR) is located in the southeastern part of Azerbaijan. Nakhchivan is separated from the rest of Azerbaijan by a narrow reach of a foreign country - once it became possible due to the conflict of Russian and Persian imperial interests. NAR is located on the southern slopes of the Daralaya Mountains and southwestern slopes of the Zangezur Mountains.

This is a mountainous area - over 30% of its territory is located 600-1000 m above sea level. The tallest mountains of the region are Kapudzhuk (3904 m) and Ilandag (2385 m).

The Autonomous Republic features rich deposits of marble, rock salt, limestone, plaster stone and unique mineral waters - Sirab, Badamli, Vaikhir, Nagadzhir and Gizildzhir. There are many underground waters and the region is known for the advanced craft of kagrizs construction (kagrizs - unique underground water tunnels). Kagrizs were connected to the ground by footsteps; in some, the water was simply diverted to the surface (like in modern aqueducts). Craftsmen of kagrizs construction (kan-kans) have preserved their art to the present day.

The climate in the republic is strongly continental; temperature varies from +43C in summer to -30C in winter. Humidity is low. Flora is represented by beech, oak, walnut, willow and wild pear; there are many herbal plants. Fauna includes bears, wild boars, foxes, hares, wolves, stone martens, bezoars and Asian mouflons; birds - Caspian snowcock, alpine accentor, crag martin and rock partridge.

Along the state border with Iran and Turkey flows the Araz River. Aside of it, there are about 40 other middle-to-small rivers (Ordubadchai, Alindzhachai, Gilanchai, Nakhchivanchai, Arpachai etc.). There is also an incredibly beautiful lake called Batabat with so-called "drifting islands"; there is an artificial lake used for the drainage of the Babek and Dzhulfa districts - it is located 1500 m above sea level, near the village of Gazanchi.

There are numerous ruins of ancient towns, towers, fortresses and mausoleums remained all over the region. This land has always been attractive to invaders because of both its important strategic position and natural deposits.





In the 4th century BC, Alexander the Great sacked and burned out the whole region. After that, Nakhchivan was annexed by Persia. In the middle of the 17th century, the Nakhchivan Khanate was formed; however, at the beginning of the 19th century the khanate was incorporated into the Russian Empire.

The city of Nakhchivan is the capital of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan. It is located on the right bank of the Nakhchivanchai River, 1000 m above sea level, 560 km from Baku. Its population is estimated at 364500.

This is one of the earliest large cities of Azerbaijan and the ancient East. The history of the city dates back to the earliest ages. Archeologists have found objects of material culture dated to the 2nd-1st millennia BC.

The residents link the history of the ancient settlements in the area of Nakhchivan with the legend of the biblical patriarch Noah, who escaped the Deluge. His ark is believed to have collided three times with mountain peaks of the Lesser Caucasus before mooring at the mountain and one of the peaks even collapsed (the mountains of Agridag, Balaagri, Ilandag, Lalngez, Gapidzhik). The residents believe that after the Deluge Noah lived and died here. Not so long ago were alive the old men (agsakkals) who assured that they knew the place of his grave. The story is so popular that the renowned painter Behruz Kengerli painted a picture of the same title - "The Grave of Noah".

The earliest written source to mention Nakhchivan is the works of Ptolemy (2nd century). He mentions Nakhchivan under the name of "Nahsuan". In medieval Arabian sources, the city is called "Neshava" and in the works of such renowned authors as Muhammed Nakhchivani, Hamdullah Kazvini, Katib Chelebi and Evlija Chelebi Nakhchivan is respectfully called Nahsh-i-Dzhahan ("The Beauty of the World").

The city is located on the crossroads of ancient trade routes. Once it was a part of one of the states of ancient Azerbaijan - Athropatene (4th-3rd centuries BC). In The Early Middle Ages, the links between Nakhchivan and the countries of Asia Minor, Middle East and Transcaucasia became especially close.

The city's wealth and geopolitical position became the reason for frequent raids from neighboring countries. As a result, Nakhchivan was often destroyed. However, the city was always rebuilt to become even more beautiful. For instance, in the middle of the 1st century AD the city was sacked and destroyed by the Byzantine Emperor Iracilon the 2nd; it was frequently sacked during the Mongol raids; it became a permanent conflict of interest between Byzantine and Arab Caliphate. In all times Nakhchivan was one of the key cities of different states - the ruling dynasties of Sadjids, Salarids, the capital of the Azerbaijan State of Atabeks Eldegezid.

In the 12th century, the population of Nakhchivan was estimated at up to 2000 inhabitants. The city enjoyed high level of trade and was famous for artisans and craftsmen: weavers, jewelers and glass blowers.



However, the city was particularly famous for its architects of the famous school of Nakhchivani architecture. The volume of construction works increased substantially. According to travelers, medieval Nakhchivan housed a cathedral mosque, a large madrasah, which became a center of Muslim enlightenment, state buildings and palaces of aristocracy. Written sources mention "20 thousand houses, 70 religious buildings, 20 caravanserais, 7 baths and a few bazaars".

French travelers Pierre Chardine and Dubois de Monpierre and British traveler Porter noted that this was a splendid city with well-preserved architectural monuments of the antiquity. Turkish traveler Evlija Chelebi was enchanted by the city's baths with the water pools daily scattered with rose petals.

In the 15th-16th centuries, Nakhchivan was a part of the Azerbaijan States of Garagoyunlu, Aggoyunlu, and, later, Sefevids. In the 17th century, it was incorporated into the Chukhursaad Beglarbek ruled by chiefs of a military Turk tribe called Kengerli. The 18th century saw the foundation of the Nakhchivan Khanate. In 1828, according to the Turkmenchai Treaty, the Khanate was incorporated into Russia to become the center of a Russian uyezd of the same name later. In 1924, the city became the capital of Nakhchivan ASSR.

This ancient city features unique culture with the local cuisine being its inseparable part. For instance, this is the only place to possess the secrets of "Alana" - specially dried peaches filled with powdered nuts with sugar or "baligaynag" - special omelet with honey, and many others.

Nakhchivan is a homeland of the 12th century's great architect - Adzhemi Ibn Abubekr Nakhchivani, who built the Mausoleum of Yusuph Ibn Kuseir (Gumbez Atababa), the Mausoleum of Momine-Khatun and a portal with minarets for the Juma Mosque. It is generally believed that with the Mausoleum of Momine-Khatun Adzhemi painted a picture of its era. It is not a coincidence that the mausoleum is decorated with an inscription "We perish but the world stays; we die but the memory remains". Geometric and epigraphic patterns decorating the mausoleum are made with utter precision. They resemble a shining turquoise - the most popular gemstone in the East.

This is a homeland of the famous scientist, statesman, writer, philologist, author of the first Farsi-Azeri dictionary (about four thousand words), Hindushakh Ibn Sanjar Ibn Abdulla Nakhchivani (13th-14th centuries). His son, Muhammed Nakhchivani was a renowned finance statesman, who wrote a book on taxation (13th-14th centuries). The list of famous figures of Azerbaijan born in Nakhchivan also includes Kelbali Khan Nakhchivani and his son Gusein Khan Nakhchivani, a renowned military commander; Dzhamsid Nakhchivani - a prominent figure of the 20th century; Dzhilil Mammadguluzade, a classic, Hussein Javid, a romanticist poet and playwright who became a victim of Stalin's repression, painter Behruz Kengerli.

Nakhchivan is a homeland of the national leader Heydar Aliiev.

In present Nakhchivan, close attention is paid to the development science and education. There is a university, a branch of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, the Academtown. Schools are not set aside, too - old schools are being restored along with building of new ones - e.g. a large, finely equipped school n.a. Heydar Aliiev. The city houses the Palace of Culture, Dramatic Theatre, Puppet Theater etc. The finely equipped Olympic Sport Complex has been built recently.

Museums - Carpets Museum, Historical Museum

The city also houses the memorial museum and mausoleum of Husein Javid, a writer and playwright. There are also a number of historical monuments in the city - "Imamzade", an architectural complex, the Juma mosque, "Zaviyya" mosque, "Pirgamish" mosque, "Khan Evi" bath, "Ismailkhana" bath, the Mausoleum of Yusuf Ibn Kuseyir and the Mausoleum of Momine-Khatun.

## V. CITIES AND DISTRICTS OF NAKHICHEVAN

### City of Nakhichevan

**Total territory [sq. km] - 191,57**  
**Total number of population – 90,3 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Number of villages - 5**  
**Number of settlements - 1**  
**Number of big and middle enterprises - 35**  
**Number of infant schools - 13**  
**Number of general education schools - 14**  
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 2**  
**Number of higher educational institutes - 3**  
**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 18**  
**Number of culture centers - 17**

Nakhichevan is the capital of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and one of the most ancient cities of Azerbaijan. The conducted archeological researches of Nakhichevan revealed the patterns of material culture dating back to the 2-1st millenniums B.C. The culture of Nakhichevan close to the leading cultural centers of the Near East had a great impact on the life of the tribes settling there and the properties of city culture and class society appeared early in this area.

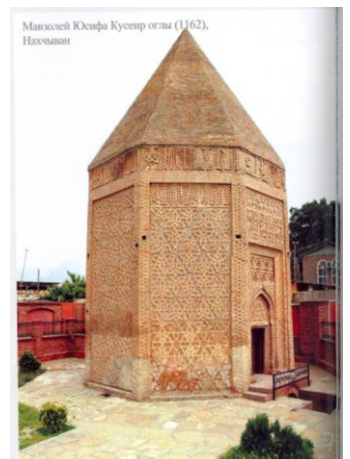


The first information about the Nakhichevan city is provided by the written works of historian Yosef Flavy (the 1st century B.C.) and Greek geographer Claudi Ptolemy in his work «Geography». The said work mentioned the name of Nakhichevan as «Naksuana». It should be noted that Naksuana is not the phonetic variant of Nakhichevan. As the Greek and roman languages did not have the hushing sounds ch, dj, s, zh Nakhichevan was called Naksuana.

The Medieval Arabian and Persian sources about the city (Bin Khordadbeh, Al-Biruni, Bakuvi and others) mentioned Nakhichevan as Nashave and Nagchuvan. Other sources (by Mohamed Nakhichevani, Hamdullah Gazvini, Ovliya Chelebi and others) used the name Nakhichevan which is proposed to be connected with the name of the Prophet Nuh and means the land of Nuh.

Nakhichevan was part of Manna later of Midia states in the 9th-6th centuries B.C, and was subdued to the Ahameni Empire after the downfall of Midia in 550 B.C. After the collapse of the Ahameni empire Nakhichevan locating at the junction of the trade roads of Near and Middle East was part of Atropatena from the late 4th century B.C, till the early 1 century B.C. Nakhichevan that turned into an important art, trade and cultural centers of the Near and Middle east maintained trade relations with the countries of Asia Minor, Iran, with the cities of Georgia and the Black Sea ports.

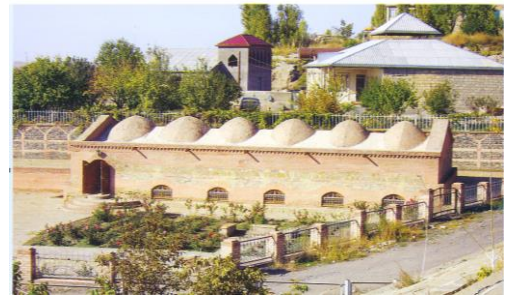
During the war between Iran and Byzantium the Byzantium emperor Irakly occupied the city and ruined it in 625. Later Nakhichevan was restored and passed to the Arabians in 654. After the downfall of Arabian caliphate Nakhcivan was first annexed to the state of Sadjids and then to Salari state. It had been part of Ravvadi state from the late 10th till the mid 11th centuries. The city was annexed to the state of Saldjugs with the appearance of Saldjugs in Azerbaijan in 1054 and the downfall of the Ravvadi state. Following the split of Seldjugi state, Nakhichevan was annexed to the newly established state of Atabeys. Nakhichevan had been the capital of the said state from the late 1130s till 1175. Nakhichevan accounted for nearly 150-200 thousand people in the 12th century. It developed such spheres as



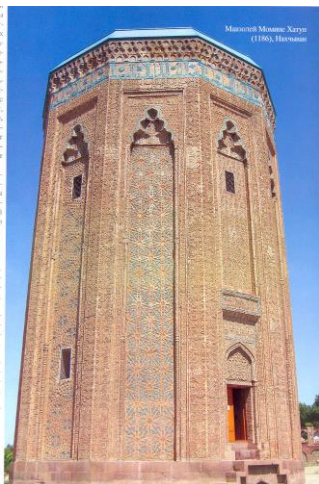
weaving, jeweler's art, pottery, carpentry and other types of art. During the first attack of Mongolians to Azerbaijan in 1221 Nakhichevan was subject to great destruction. Making use of the weakening of Atabey's state Djelaleddin Kharezmshah occupied Nakhichevan in 1225. Nakhichevan was annexed to the Elkhanids state in 1257. After the weakening of the state Nakhichevan was first annexed to the state of Chobanids and then to the state of Djelalis.

In 1386 Nakhichevan was first occupied by the khan of Gyzyk Orda Tokhatamysh and then by Amir Teymur. Nakhichevan was part of Garagoyunlu state in 1412 and Aghgoyunlu in 1468. During the war between Aggoyunlus and Sefevis Sefevis won the battle in Sharur plain in 1501 and occupied the city. Later Nakhichevan turned into a military ground for the wars between Sefevis and Osmanlys. Sha Abbas 1 subdued Nakhichevan in 1603 and turned the city into the military camp. The reforms conducted by Sefevis resulted in the inclusion of Nakhichevan into Tebriz in the 16th century and into the Chukhursedd lands in the 17th century. In the 16th-17th centuries the leaders were appointed from the Kengerli tribe.

After the overthrow of Sefevis, Nakhichevan was occupied by Nadir shah in the early 18th century. Following Nadir shah's death the leader of Kengerli tribe Heydaroghlu was declared himself khan in 1747 and turned Nakhichevan into the capital of the khanate. Nakhichevan was occupied by the troops of Tsarist Russia on June 26, 1827. As the result of Russian-Iranian war Nakhichevan was annexed to Russia in accordance with the Turkenchay contract of 1828. Nakhichevan settlement was established within Georgian-Imeretian province in 1841. The reforms conducted by Tsarist regime in 1870 led to the progress in the trade, industrial, health and cultural spheres of Nakhichevan. As the result of genocide conducted by Armenians against Azerbaijanis in 1905- 1907, mass bloodshed was committed in Nakhichevan as well. Later the event was repeated in 1918. The Araz Turkic Republic was established in Nakhichevan in 1918. The republic overthrew with the England's occupation of Nakhichevan in the early 1919. The Soviet government was declared in Nakhichevan on July 28, 1920. At a referendum conducted in January of 1921 90% of the population voted for the status of Autonomy under the Republic of Azerbaijan. The status of the Autonomous republic of Nakhichevan was founded by the Moscow contract of March 16, 1921 and Gars contract of October 13, 1921. The Nakhichevan Autonomous SSR was established on February 9, 1924 and Nakhichevan became the capital of it. At present Nakhichevan is the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.



The administrative settlement Aliabad was included into the Nakhichevan city in accordance with the Law adopted by the President of the republic of Azerbaijan of December 4, 2001 «On amendments to the administrative division of a number of regions of the republic of Azerbaijan». The city accounted for one settlement (Aliabad) and covered an area of 35.5 km<sup>2</sup>. It has the population of 70 thousand people. Its climate is continental and the average temperature equals 3.8 C in January and 26.9 C in July with the average precipitation of 236 mm.



The development of Nakhichevan started in the times of Heydar Aliyev's ruling over the country in the 1970s. Nakhichevan fell into a blockade as the result of Armenians' intervention policy against Azerbaijan conducted in the late 1980s. Its gas line was cut in 1991 and the railway line was shutdown in 1992.

After gaining independence, the city was equipped with the Chess school, the Olympic Sport Complex, the swimming pool, the new five-storied building of the State University of Nakhichevan, Electronic Library, corpse for the faculty of Law and Social administration, the new building for the Customs Committee, the National Bank, the Rehabilitation Center for Invalids, the school after Heydar Aliyev and a number of other schools and new residential building for invalids. The tomb of Huseyn Djavid was erected in Nakhichevan, tens of administrative buildings underwent a profound repair, the park of Heydar Aliyev, the picnic places of Adjemi, dede Gordug were established and Heydar Aliyev's bust and the monument of Heydar Aliyev in the yard of the school after Heydar Aliyev, the monuments of Babek, Koroghlu, Djalil Mamedguluzade, Adjami, Nakhichevani, the industrial and production complexes were created and the modern Grand hotel and other guest houses and restaurants were commissioned and a number of reconstruction

works were carried out. All these works are closely connected with the name and political activity of the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev.

### District of Babek

**Total territory [sq. km] - 828.42**  
**Total number of population – 72.3 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Number of villages - 34**  
**Number of settlements - 1**  
**Number of big and middle enterprises - 7**  
**Number of infant schools - 2**  
**Number of general education schools - 38**  
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**  
**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 6**  
**Number of culture centers - 90**

The Babek region was founded under the initiative of the national leader of Azerbaijan people Heydar Aliyev in 1978. Tezekend, located 6 km south-east from Nakhichevan, was determined as the centre of the region and named the settlement Babek. Babek is a settlement of urban type.

The region of Babek is bordered with the regions Kengerli in the west, Shahbuz in north-east and Julfa in the east, The Islamic Republic of Iran in the South and Armenia in the north-east. the area of the region is 0.92 000 km<sup>2</sup>, the population is 65040 men. There is a settlement of urban type and 39 villages in the region.

The south mountain foot of the chain Daralayaz in the north, the hills and highlands the tail of mountain Zangazur in the south-east, Nakhivan slanting plain in the south and Gulustan plain in the south east make the relief of the region. The highest peak is the in mountain Buzgov (2475). The territory of the region Babek is rich in minerals, such as stone, salt and building materials. The mineral springs Sirab, Vaykhir, Jahri, Gahab and others are also found in this region.

The main rivers of the region are Nakhchivanchay which divides the territory of the administrative region and its flow Jehrichay. They play important role in irrigation. One can also find in the region reservoir of Araz water station, also reservoirs Uzunoba, Nehram, Sirab, Jahri and Gahab and irrigation canals.

The region is also rich for its fauna and flora. There are varieties of fish in the reservoir of Araz water station.

The territory of region Babek is also rich with historical archaeological monuments. Natural-geographical position of the region created condition for settlement and long residence of ancient tribes engaged in cultivation and animal breeding. The world importance monuments I Kultepe and II Keltepe are in the area of the region Babek.





## District of Julfa

**Total territory [sq. km] - 926.3**

**Total number of population – 45.1 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

### Number of towns - 1

**Number of villages - 24**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 13**

**Number of infant schools - 13**

**Number of general education schools - 27****Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**

### Number of hospitals and medical enterprises – 5

**Number of culture centers - 82**

The district of Julfa is located to the east of Nakhchivan city. It is dry, hot in summer and freezing in winter. Total amount of precipitations is about 220-600 mm. There are rivers of Alindzha, Gardara and Araz (along the border with Iran). Very beautiful and unique are mountains along the road to Julfa: the geological factor (the composition of layers, age etc.) has influenced their appearance - the mountains resemble huge, do

The mountains of Julfa are forested, with beech, hornbeam, oak; fauna includes wolves, foxes and hares.

On the bank of the Araz River, there are remainders of ancient structures. These are a caravanserai (13th century) - one of the largest on the territory of Azerbaijan, and the remainders of a bridge dated to the beginning of the 14th century, built by decree of Nakchivan Khan Khakim Ziya Ad-Din. There is the small Gulistan mausoleum (13th century) near the village of Dzhuga and more mausoleums near the village of Der (particularly well preserved is the Tower Mausoleum (15th century). There is also the fortress of Alindzha (12th-13th centuries) and a number of other monuments and ancient ruins.

There are many springs in the area (about 40). One of them, located on the slopes of the Daridag Mountain, produces about 500000 liters of strongly mineralized water annually.

The town of Julfa is located on the bank of the Araz River, on the border with Iran. Located on the opposite bank of the Araz River, almost symmetrical to the Azerbaijani Julfa, is its Iranian namesake. In the past, there was an ancient caravan route connecting Persia with Shirvan, Georgia and Dagestan. Now here is located a border checkpoint.

Lodging is available at the "Araz" hotel near the railway station. There is also a restaurant. Meals are available also at the "Gulistan" restaurant and "Eldar" Cafe. ulfa is one of the ancient cities of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. Its establishment dates back to the 6th century according to some historical sources.





### District of Kengerli

**Total territory [sq.km] - 704.89**

**Total number of population – 31,0 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of villages - 10**

**Number of settlements - 1**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 24**

**Number of infant schools - 6**

**Number of general education schools - 13**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 3**

**Number of culture centers - 28**

The district of Kengerli is located between the districts of Babek and Sharur. The southern part of the district is bordered by Iran, the northern - by Armenia. The landscape of the district is predominantly mountainous; it is located on the Daralaya Plateau.

The climate, like in the rest of the autonomous republic, is strongly continental; it is very hot in summer and chilling in winter. On the territory of the district runs the Araz River that flows along the border between Azerbaijan and Iran.

Mountainous landscape, climatic conditions and lack of small rivers underlay the features of the indigenous fauna, which is represented largely by semidesert and mountainous species (bushes, herbage and scarce trees).

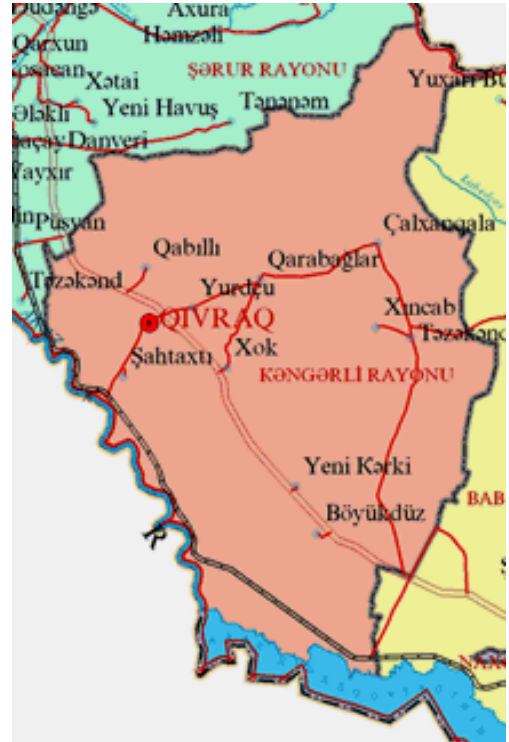
This is an agricultural district with advanced tobacco, cine, grain, vegetable and melon growing.

Like the rest of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, there are many ancient monuments, evidencing that the land was inhabited in earliest times: the Chilkhangala mounds, the Gazma Cave and the ancient settlements of Galadzhig, Govurgala, Damlama, Gulamtepe and Balatepe.

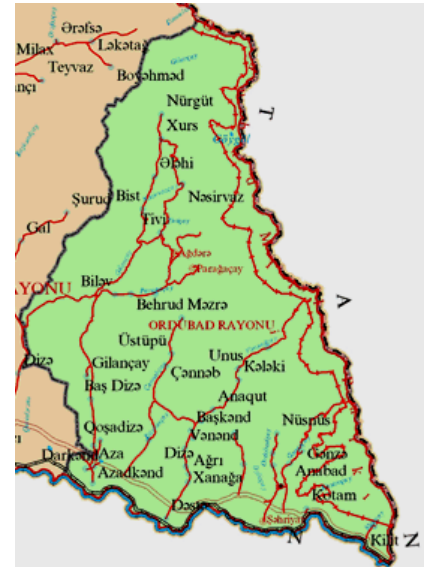
There are also newer monuments - the Jami Mosque (18th century) in the village of Khok, a mosque of the 18th century and a bath of the 19th century in the village of Shahtakhty.

The village of Givrag is the administrative center of the district. It was founded only in 2004. Givrag is located on the Nakhchivan-Sharur highway, 30 km from the capital (Nakhchivan) and 6 km from the Araz River.

As the administrative center status has been gained not too long ago, Givrag has not yet developed the infrastructure for tourists' accommodation. However, lodging can be provided by local residents that can rent out an apartment or a house for reasonable price.



**Total territory, [sq.km] - 978.99**  
**Total number of population – 48.8 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Number of towns - 1**  
**Number of villages - 43**  
**Number of settlements - 3**  
**Number of big and middle enterprises - 21**  
**Number of infant schools - 8**  
**Number of general education schools - 41**  
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**  
**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 16**  
**Number of culture centers - 48**



It borders on Iran in the south, Armenia in the north and west and Julfa region in the east and covers an area of 972 km<sup>2</sup>.

In the early 18th century Ordubad was part of the Sefevi Empire. In 1724 Ordubad was annexed to the Osmanly Empire and later placed under Nadir shah.

**District of Sadarak**

**Total territory, [sq.km] - 163.74**

**Total number of population - 15.4 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of villages - 3**

**Number of settlements - 1**

**Number of big and middle enterprises - 10**

**Number of infant schools - 2**

**Number of general education schools - 3**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 1**

**Number of culture centers - 1**



Sadarak separated from Sherur in August 28, 1990 and got the status of the region.

Its population is 12613 people, its territory is 0.15 000 km<sup>2</sup>.

In south-east Sadarak region is bordered on the Republic of Turkey (here Azerbaijan is bordered on Turkey with 11 km), with Armenian Republic along 24 km in north-west and with Sherur along 27 km in south-east.

The territory of the region is mainly composed of lowlands and surrounded by the chains of Ujubiz, Ajdakan, Velidag and Tejgar. Turkey and Sadarak are separated with the river Araz.

### District of Shahbuz

**Total territory, [sq.km] - 836.58**

**Total number of population – 24.6 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**

**Number of towns - 1**

**Number of villages - 23**

**Number of settlements - 2**

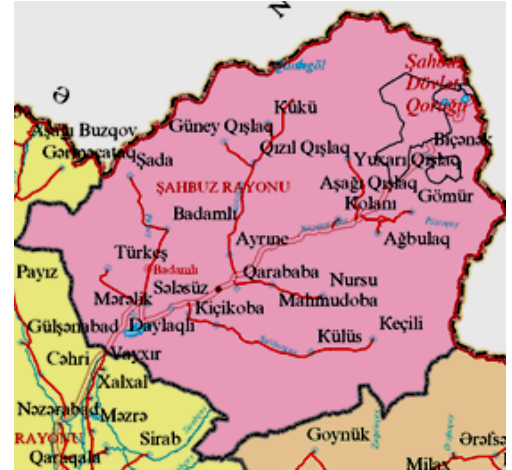
**Number of big and middle enterprises - 21**

**Number of infant schools - 13**

**Number of general education schools - 24**

**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 5**

**Number of culture centers - 74**



Shahbuz region, included into the administrative territorial unit of Nakhchivan Autonomus Republic, was established in 1930, liquidated in 1963, added into the region of Nakhivan and in 1978 into the region Babek, regained its independence in 1965.

Shahbuz is bordered on Armenia on the east and the north. The region covers the area of 815 km<sup>2</sup>, the population of he region is 21079 (for January 01, 2004). There are 25 habitations in the region united in 21 administrative regional units. The centre of the region is Shahbuz settlement.

Shahbuz region is located on the south foot of the Daralayaz chain of the Small Caucasus and the western foots of the Zangazur chain. The relief of the region is mainly composed of the mountains. The highest peaks are the mountain Salvarti (3160m) and Kecheldag (3115m) in Zangazur mountains and the mountains Kuku (3120m) and Bichenek mountain pass (2346 m) in Daralayaz chain.

The river Nakhchivan and its flows (Kuku, Shahbuz and Salvarti) cross the territories of the region. The region is rich with the medicinal herbs and the mineral waters (Badamlı, Batabat, Bichenek and Karvansara). The climate is the cold with arid summer. The lakes Ganligol and Batabat are used as the water reservoirs.

### District of Sharur

**Total territory, [sq.km] - 872.26**  
**Total number of population – 112.3 th. per. (January 1, 2015)**  
**Number of - 1**  
**Number of villages - 65**  
**Number of big and middle enterprises - 61**  
**Number of infant schools - 21**  
**Number of general education schools - 62**  
**Number of vocational and secondary schools - 1**  
**Number of hospitals and medical enterprises - 12**  
**Number of culture centers - 26**

Sharur is one of the most ancient and the largest settlements of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan. The favorable geographical position of Sharur created conditions for the settlement of people in the ancient times. The researches showed that the people settled in the area in the late glacial period. The territory of Sharur with its full water rivers, fertile soils were favorable for the development of plant-growing.

The historical researches defined the settlement of the people in Sharur before Christ. The archeological excavations on the territory of Sharur which is mentioned as Sharik in the epos of dede Gorgud dating back to the period 1300 ago revealed the settlement and burial places of the Neolithic, Bronze Age as well as Antique period. The settlement Oghlangaya covering an area of 40 hectares of the Garatepe Mountain of the region dates back to the 2-1st millenniums B.C.

The region accounts for a number of archeological monuments and settlements rich in the patterns of material culture reflecting the activity and lifestyle of ancient people. These are the ancient, settlement, towers, cemeteries, Kurgans and architectural monuments. The researches of 1980-1990 revealed the cultural remnants of the dug cave of the Stone Age including a great many of instruments made of stone and wine-tree. The monuments of the mid Bronze age was revealed in the Araz river, Arpachay and its branches (Shortepe, Kheledj mountain, Kultepe, Djennettepe and others).



## VI. SOURCES

«Azerbaijan in figures», Baku, 2007.

«Azərbaycanın regionları», Bakı, 2007.

«Azerbaijan.Information Digest». Baku, 2007.

Guidebook Azerbaijan. Baku, 2007

«Statistical yearbook of Azerbaijan 2012». State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Baku, 2012.

Azərbaycan Milli ensiklopediyası. 25 cildə. “Azərbaycan” cildi, Bakı, 2007.

Naxçıvan Ensiklopediyası, I - II cildlər, Naxçıvan, 2005.

İdrak Qarayev. Azərbaycanın inzibati-ərazi quruluşu. 1828-2010. Bakı, 2010.

## INTERNET SOURCES

[www.preslib.az](http://www.preslib.az)

[www.azerbaijan.tourism.az](http://www.azerbaijan.tourism.az)

[www.azerbaijan.az](http://www.azerbaijan.az)

<http://ganca.aznet.org/ganca/historyen.html>

[www.window2baku.com](http://www.window2baku.com)

[www.musicmuseum.az](http://www.musicmuseum.az)