

Case #2: The capital of Kyrgyzstan

Marsha Bronson has to write a paper on Central Asian environmental issues for her Political Science class. She has been assigned to write on the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. As she starts her paper, she realizes that she doesn't know the name of the capital city of Kyrgyzstan, so she looks it up on Wikipedia, finds out that the capital is Bishkek, and she starts her essay like this:

Situated on a high plateau in the far north of Kyrgyzstan, the capital city of Bishkek sits just five miles from the Kazakh border. With the next closest bordering country being China, over 1,000 miles away, it seems natural that Bishkek would be affected by Kazakh environmental issues. . .

Marsha knows she forgot to cite Wikipedia, but she also knows that professors usually frown on using Wikipedia in the first place. She decides to hand in the paper without citing Wikipedia. Should Marsha be worried about plagiarism?

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Bishkek

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Coordinates: 42°52′29″N 74°36′44″E﻿ / ﻿42.87472°N 74.61222°E﻿ / 42.87472; 74.61222

"Frunze" redirects here. For other meanings, see [Frunze \(disambiguation\)](#).

Bishkek (in *Kyrgyz* and Russian: Бишкек), formerly **Pishpek** and **Frunze**, is the capital and the largest city of *Kyrgyzstan*. Bishkek is also the administrative centre of *Chuy Province* which surrounds the city, even though the city itself is not part of the province but rather a province-level unit of *Kyrgyzstan*.

The name is thought to derive from a *Kyrgyz* word for a churn used to make fermented mare's milk (*kumis*), the *Kyrgyz* national drink. Founded in 1825 as a Khokand fortress of "Pishpek", on 4 September 1860 the fortress was seized by Russian forces led by colonel Zimmermann. In 1926 the city was given name *Frunze*, after the *Bolshevik* military leader *Mikhail Frunze*. In 1991, the *Kyrgyz* parliament again changed the capital's name to Bishkek.

Bishkek is situated at about 800 metres (2,600 ft) altitude just off the northern fringe of the *Kyrgyz Ala-Too* range, an extension of the *Tian Shan* mountain range, which rises up to 4,855 metres (15,928 ft) and provides a spectacular backdrop to the city. North of the city, a fertile and gently undulating steppe extends far north into neighbouring *Kazakhstan*. The *Chui River* drains most of the area. Bishkek is connected to the *Turkestan-Siberia Railway* by a *spur line*.

Bishkek is a city of wide boulevards and marble-faced public buildings combined with numerous *Soviet-style* apartment blocks surrounding interior courtyards and, especially outside the city centre, thousands of smaller privately built houses. It is laid out on a grid pattern, with most streets flanked on both sides by narrow irrigation channels that water the innumerable trees which provide shade in the hot summers.

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Bishkek
Бишкек (Kyrgyz)


City

Kyrgyz transcription(s)


- **ISO 9** biškeek
- **BGN/PCGN** bishkek
- **ALA-LC** bishkek




Ala-Too Square



Flag



Coat of arms



Location in Kyrgyzstan

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Country Kyrgyzstan