

## The Republic of Bashkortostan - the story of freedom and independence

*"History does not exist for us until and unless we dig it up, interpret it, and put it together. Then the past comes alive, or, more accurately, it is revealed for what it has always been - a part of the present."Frederick W. Turner III, 1971*

Dear reader,

*I am native from the Republic of Bashkortostan. It is an honor for me to deliver to you the message about friendly nation you might not have heard before. The land that is continuing to give the world gifted surgeons, physicians, talented biathlonists, theatre artists, ice hockey players, dancers, singers etc. Bashkortostan - the pearl and always is open to build partnership on a shared vision, promote cultural heritage and participation in international scientific and educational programmes. Enjoy the reading!*

Best regards,

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### History

The Republic of Bashkortostan, also known as Bashkiria is a federal subject of Russia. It is located between the Volga River and the Ural Mountains. The Republic has high mountains and expansive steppes, evergreen forests, more than 13 000 rivers and 800 lakes. The population is nearly 4,1 million. The Bashkir language is distinct from Russian – it has Turkic roots. Nearly everyone is at least bilingual in Russian. Most students understand English and German. The modern alphabet used by Bashkir is based on the Cyrillic script, with the addition of the following letters: Ә ә [æ], Ө ө [ø], Ү ү [y], Ғ ғ [ɣ], Ҡ ҡ [q], Ң ң [ŋ], Ҙ ҙ [ð], Ҹ Ҹ [θ], Һ һ [h].



Bashkortostan is named after its native people - Bashkirs. The first settlements in the territory of modern Bashkortostan were set up in the Bronze Age. When people started settling, they possessed high skills in manufacturing bronze tools, weapons, and decorations. They were the first to establish permanent settlements in the Southern Urals. Starting from the second half of the 16th century, Bashkiria's territory took shape as a part of the Russian state. During the Soviet period, Bashkiria was granted broad autonomous rights—the first among other Russian regions.

## Politics

Parliament of the Republic is the highest representative body of Bashkortostan, which is a two-chamber parliament. The President of the Republic of Bashkortostan is Rustem Khamitov. He heads the Government and presents the Republic of Bashkortostan in the relations with the President of Russian Federation, the Federation Council or government bodies of Russian Federation's subjects, including execution of international and external economic relations. The Republic of Bashkortostan resolves all issues of administrative-territorial structure on its own. The state has strong economic and cultural ties with its western neighbor the Republic of Tatarstan.



## Cities



Night View in UFA city

**Ufa** is the biggest city with over 1,1 million residents and the capital of the Republic of Bashkortostan. It is the industrial, economic, scientific and cultural center of the republic.

**Sterlitamak** is second largest city and a major centre of chemicals production; famous for Shihani ski resort and limestone mountains. It is located 121 km from Ufa and just 50 km to the east from the Ural Mountains. Population is about 275 thousand people.



Ice Hockey Palace Salavat Yulaev in UFA city

## Economics

Bashkortostan well known for its huge oil & chemical refinery. In addition to oil, the main natural resources are gas, copper, iron, chromium and peat – and the region's mineral wealth is not



limited to fossil fuels. Bashkortostan produces more oil than any other region of Russia, about 26 million tons annually, and provides 17% of the country's gasoline and 15% of its diesel fuel. Bashkortostan has 7.1 million hectares of agricultural land and is one of the top regions for agriculture in the Russian Federation.

Bashkortostan also possesses extensive timber resources. Forests cover more than one-third of the Republic's territory, amounting to 62,000 sq km with key varieties including lime, oak, maple, birch and conifers. The industrial potential is highest in the Ural economic region. Bashkortostan is among the leaders in real estate development, has a developed electric power industry and tourism. Various kinds of tourism and sport are very popular here, especially rafting and alpine skiing.



### **The Usage of Wind Energy in Bashkortostan**

The wind farm in Tyupkildy, Bashkortostan. Wind-driven power station has been installed in 2000, its power 2.2 MW. Joint Stock Company "Bashkortostan Energo" carries out research of the further development in wind-power engineering on all territory of Bashkiria. The company is planning to increase the installed capacity of the wind farm. Models of wind turbines manufactured by the Hanseatische AG, Hamburg.



### **Value of Bashkirian Honey**

Republic of Bashkortostan ranks No 1 in honey production and bee-families. Beekeeping in Bashkortostan is an ancient occupation of native inhabitants with deep historical roots, thousand-year experience and traditions. Bee and honey have been symbols of Bashkortostan for a long time. Today, forest honey is the most expensive honey in the world. Wild-hive honey has unique composition of trace elements with delicate aroma and taste. The Republic of Bashkortostan is the only place on earth where wild honey harvesting has survived as a distinct profession.



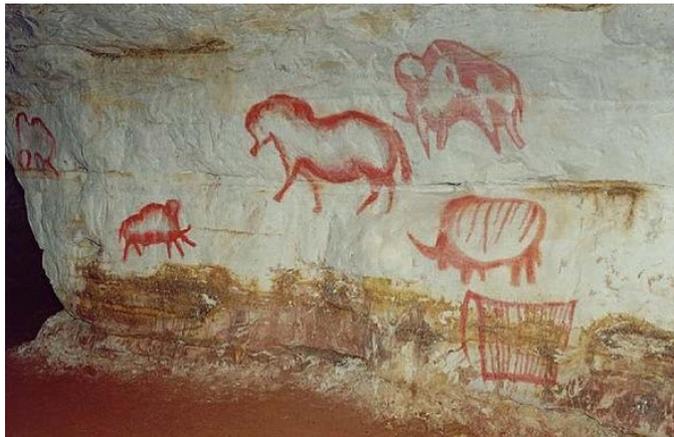
**Forest beekeeper gets wild-hive honey**



A real forest beekeeper has a very broad knowledge and diverse skills. Beekeeping knowledge is going from family to family. So he knows whether the current year is a good "beekeeping year". Forest honey can be stored for very long, and the farther the distance is from its source, the higher the price is. The price per kilo for this honey is currently around 50 euros at the nature reserve Shulgan-Tash. In Moscow, prices are already higher around 200 euros per kilo. Bashkirian honey is famous thanks to linden, which is the main bee plant of the Republic. Honey

resources in the republic are about 525.000 tons of marketable honey. Last century Bashkirian honey was triply awarded gold medals at big international exhibition fairs in Paris (France), Erfurt (Germany) and in Moscow (Russia). The state agency “Bashkir scientific and Research Center of bee-keeping and apitherapy” supplies Bashkir honey to USA (GM Natural Products Inc.), France, Germany, Japan, China. Bashkir honey is harvested in the area of outstanding universal value of Bashkir Ural which is recognized as a world heritage by UNESCO. If you are ever in the nature reserve of Bashkortostan don't miss chance to enjoy “Honey Tours”. For tourists that is a great opportunity to see a real traditional beekeeping process and how a forest beekeeper works.

### Exploring Kapova cave in Shulgan-Tash Nature Reserve



Paleolithic cave is situated in Shulgan-Tash, very popular among caving enthusiasts. In the late 1950's the Russian archaeologist A.V. Ryumin discovered a gallery of 1.6 km long of rock paintings in the cave. There were mammoths, rhinos, bison and horses, combined human and animal drawings and trapezoids all over the walls. It is the most large and antique collection of rock

Paleolithic art. around 12.500 Before Current Era

drawings within the territory of Central and East Europe. Cave art of Shulgan-Tash represents a masterpiece of human genius. Currently, cave is protected area. Shulgan-Tash is prohibited from being developed and is intended to remain an untamed region in this vast country of contrasts with unique nature and historical monuments. The primary concern of the reserve is to

protect the gene pool of bees from cross-breeding with White river rafting outside bees. Importation of bees is banned. Shulgan-Tash has a wide variety of flora and fauna, among which are a large population of brown bears, elks, foxes, and martens. Scientists have recorded 60 species of mammals. The Shulgan-Tash Nature Reserve is visited by more than thousands of tourists from across the country at the weekend. Tourists are interested in Bashkir cuisine and souvenirs, White river rafting, Honey Tours and Kapova Cave tours.



### Transportation

Public transportation in Ufa includes trams, trolleybuses, and buses. The city is beginning the preparation of construction work for building a subway system. International flights arrive at Ufa International Airport from Frankfurt, Tel Aviv, Sharm el-Sheikh, Istanbul etc. Domestic flights from Moscow, Saint Petersburg.



**Ski Resort Abzakovo**



**Equestrian Statue of Salavat Yulaev in Ufa**



**Atysh waterfall**



**Petroleum Technological University in Oktyabrsk**

**Come to visit Bashkortostan! And you will want to come back here to dive into this wonderful and welcoming world again!**