

## TATARSTAN. KAZAN

Tatarstan is my homeland. The Republic of Tatarstan is situated in the Middle Volga region. The territory of Tatarstan is 68 thousand square kilometres. Its population is about 4 million.

There are many rivers, lakes and forests in our republic. The most important rivers are the Volga and the Kama.

Tatarstan is a republic of prodigious potentials. It is rich in natural resources, such as oil and gas.

Tatarstan has a powerful industry, a developed agriculture. We grow wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, sugar beet and other crops in our republic.

There are many cities and towns in Tatarstan: Kazan, Almetyevsk, Bugulma, Chistopol, Naberezhnye Chelny and etc. The most important city is Kazan. It is the capital of our republic.

Kazan is my native city. It is situated on the beautiful Volga river. Kazan is a very old city with many traditions. Kazan is a political, cultural, historic and economic centre. The population of Kazan is over 1 500 000.

There are 8 Institutes, 4 Academies and 12 Universities, where thousands of students master the professions of doctors, teachers, engineers, economists, lawyers and many others. Kazan University named after V.I.Lenin is a very old one. It was founded in 1804.

There are many historical places in Kazan. The most interesting places are: the Kremlin with its beautiful ancient towers, the History Museum, the National Library, ancient churches, mosques and others.

Kazan is a big industrial and economic centre. Hundreds of plants and factories produce medical equipment, chemical products, planes, helicopters, clothes and food. The products of our plants and factories are delivered to different parts of our republic and abroad.

Kazan is a large transport centre: there is a river port, a railway station and 2 airports. Many businessmen and tourists visit our republic and its capital.

Kazan is a cultural centre. There are a lot of museums, libraries, many cinemas, clubs and theatres in it.

There are many parks and gardens in Kazan. In the parks, gardens and squares there are monuments to famous people. Among them are the monuments to the Tatar poet Musa Jalil and to the heroes of the World War II.

We are proud of many famous people who lived and worked in Kazan. The names of Lobachevsky, Butlerov, Tukai, Saidashev are known all over the world.

Kazan is a growing city. Old constructions stand side by side with modern buildings. Kazan becomes more and more beautiful from year to year.