

## OZYORSK CITY DISTRICT

*In a moment of luck,  
In the hours of celebration  
What about are our thoughts and our words?  
About the motherland, only about the motherland.  
by Rasul Gamzatov*

### Geography

Ozyorsk city district is a closed administrative territory. The town of Ozyorsk is its centre, located in a picturesque place surrounded by the lakes: the Bolshaya Nanoga, the Irtyash, the Kysyltash and the Malaya Nanoga. The district has had different names: until 1994 it was known as Chelyabinsk-65, and even earlier as Chelyabinsk-40 (the digits are the last digits of the postal code, and the name is that of the nearest big city, which was a common practice of giving names to closed towns). In 1994, it was granted town status and renamed Ozyorsk.



The district includes the villages of Bizhelyak, Metlino, Novogorniy, Novaya Tetcha, and Selezni.

The population of Ozyorsk city district is about 100,000 people.

Ozyorsk region is situated in the north of Chelyabinsk oblast, on the eastern side of the Ural mountain range, approximately 20 kilometres from the border line which separates Europe from Asia. In fact, a stone's throw from Europe, which begins right behind the Potaniny Mountains rising in the north-west, in Kasli region. In the east Ozyorsk region borders on Kunashak, in the south – on Argayash and in the west – on Kyshtym. Ozyorsk covers the territory of about 68,000 square kilometers.



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The biggest part of the territory is included in the so called “Kaslinskiy Ural”. The well-known Ural writer D. N. Mamin-Sibiryak admired the place, calling it “Ural Switzerland”: “... One can only be fascinated by the fact that a comparatively small territory comprises such an abundance ...” Indeed, the mountain ranges with their minerals and rocks, forests and lakes

present the most beautiful landscapes. There are about 20 lakes and reservoirs on the Ozyorsk territory. The biggest lakes are the Irtyash, the Kyzyltash, the Ulagatch. The Tetcha is the most important river which is 40 kilometres long.

The relief of the region is that of an elevated plain (200-400 metres). The highest point (287 metres) is located in the south of Lake Tatysh, the lowest point (203 metres) is the level of water in the river Tetcha on the border with Argayash region.

### **Climate**

The climate of the territory is continental. The absolute maximum temperature in summer is + 37° C (August); the absolute minimum temperature in winter – 47° C (January). In November the ground is usually covered with snow, which remains for about 184 days. Snowdrifts reach 40 cm (February). Lakes and rivers get frozen in the first half of November, while drifting starts in the first half of April.

The prevailing winds are western and south-western.

The average amount of precipitations is 393 mm. The most of it falls in the period from April till October.

### **Flora**

#### **Mountains and Lakes**

As it has already been mentioned, the town of Ozyorsk is located in a picturesque place where one can also admire many beautiful mountains. Among them is Sugomak (600 m). This remarkable mountain is situated near the town of Kyshtym, Chelyabinsk region. Here you can also enjoy the beauty of the Sugomak lake and the Sugomak



cave. Not very far from the cave there is a “Marieny slezy” stream. The walking trail, stretching from the cave to the top of Sugomak is 3 kilometres long. In fact, Sugomak is formed by 3 tops. When climbing any of the mountains, tourists are carried away by the emerald panoramic view of forests and azure lakes. The northern side of the mountain is steep; the rocks are covered with birch and mountain ash. All the three tops are well-known for their relic mountainous forests and steppes. Scientists highlight the “Sugomak mountainous forest-steppe” as a rare nature reserve.

The lake Sugomak is remarkable for its crystal clean water. It is situated at the foot of the mountain. The lake has also got the status of the nature reserve. Its area is 2.93 square kilometres; depth – 2-3 metres. The lake is rich in different kinds of fish such as pike, perch, ruff

and crawfish. Among trees we can name the pine, alder and willow. One can enjoy the singing of a variety of birds: titmouse, oriole, blackbird, cuckoo and woodpecker.

The Sugomak cave is situated on the eastern slope of the Sugomak mountain. It is the only cave in the Urals which was formed by the water in the marble rocks. Such caves are unique. The cave consists of three grottos. The first grotto is covered with ice. In the winter and early spring ice crystals appear on its vaults, and ice stalagmites grow from its floor. It is rather warm in the second grotto, but there is water constantly trickling from its walls. The third grotto is partially filled with water.



Another mountain worth mentioning is the Egoza mountain (593 m). Scientists distinguish two peaks – Bolshaya Egoza and Malaya Egoza, rising high above the undulating land, covered with thick mixed forests and a variety of rare plants.

There are many legends connected with the mountains of Sugomak and Egoza.

The territory of Ozyorsk city district is rich in water resources, which meet the demands of the population and industry of the region. There are 12 lakes and 4 swamps. The total area of lakes is 9063.6 ha; the total water volume – 680.0 million square metres.

The Irtyash Lake, one of the largest in the Urals, surrounds Ozyorsk on several sides. It is the centre of a unique water system, which starts from mountain lakes and is also fed by numerous underground springs.



There are more than ten big and small islands in the lake which flash out with red berries of rowan in the autumn.

Actually, it is the only source of drinking water for the population of Ozyorsk. The square of the surface of the lake is 61,8 square kilometers; max depth is 18,6 metres. The water in the lake is fresh (mineralization 238,1 mg/l). The bottom of the Irtyash is that of sludge, sand, and pebble.

## Fauna

The town is surrounded by coniferous and mixed forests. Present flora of the region was formed in the fifth century AD. More than 9393 species of plants, 20 species trees and bushes grow on the territory of our forests. The most wide spread types of grass are sedge, compositae, umbeliferous and gramineous plants. We can also encounter 7 kinds of moss. The forests contain 40% of birch and 60% of pine.

The wildlife of the area includes 267 species, belonging to 5 out 6 classes spread all over the world. Amphibians – 4 species; reptiles – 4 species; fish – 15 species; birds – 191 and mammals – 43 species.



Birds comprise the main core of vertebrate, among them are finch, woodpecker, white-grouse, wood-grouse, hawk, field-lark, nightingale, bullfinch, seagull, goose, duck, raven, sparrow, magpie, heron, owl, and others.

Among mammals leading a settled way of life we can name gopher, bat, chipmunk, badger, raccoon dog, lynx, hare, hamster, wolf, fox, elk, squirrel, roe, marten, musk-rat, beaver and others.

In conclusion, the total area of Ozyorsk district under the protection of the forest ranger unit is 420.9 ha. They are nature reserves, for example, “Perviy Mys”, “Vtoroy Mys” and “Karlovy Mys”.

### Lead-in

1. In pairs, think of as many words as possible related to the topic “Ozyorsk”.
2. Look at the pictures which show some of the most popular places of Ozyorsk city district.
  - Can you name these places?
  - Have you ever been there?
  - Why are these places popular with people?
  - What do tourists come here for? How do people spend their free time there in different seasons?



**Read the text and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false). Then correct the false sentences.**

1. The district has always had one name.
2. Ozyorsk city district is situated in the south of Chelyabinsk oblast.
3. The biggest lake is Lake Tatysh.
4. The region has few mountains.
5. The Sugomak cave is a unique one.
6. The town is surrounded by fields and meadows.

**Read and complete the sentences.**

1. Ozyorsk city district is a ...
2. ...is that of an elevated plain.
3. Scientists highlight ...
4. ... by the water in the marble rocks.
5. The town is surrounded by ...

**Read the texts and write down:**

- the biggest lakes
- the most widespread birds and animals of the region
- the most picturesque sites of Ozyorsk city district

**Answer the questions:**

1. Where is Ozyorsk city district situated?
2. What does Ozyorsk city district border on?
3. Is the climate of the region continental? Explain.
4. Are there any well-known mountains and lakes in Ozyorsk region?
5. Are flora and fauna of the region various and rich?
6. Why is the area of the region so attractive for tourists all year round?

**Active Vocabulary:**

1. CATF – closed administrative territorial formation – ЗАТО, закрытое административное территориальное образование
2. Ozyorsk city district – Озерский городской округ
3. abundance – изобилие
4. a stone's throw – рукой подать ...
5. precipitations – осадки
6. nature reserve – природный заповедник
7. underground springs – подземные родники
8. finch – зяблик
9. woodpecker – дятел
10. white-grouse – белая куропатка
11. wood-grouse – глухарь
15. hawk – ястреб
16. field-lark – полевой жаворонок
17. nightingale – соловей
18. bullfinch – снегирь
19. heron - цапля
20. gopher – суслик
21. bat – летучая мышь
22. chipmunk – бурундук
23. badger – барсук
24. raccoon dog – енотовидная собака
25. lynx – рысь
26. elk – лось
27. roe – косуля
28. marten – куница
29. musk-rat – ондатра
30. beaver – бобр
31. forest ranger unit – лесное хозяйство (*сокр.* лесхоз)
32. bottom – дно
33. fresh – свежий, (*зд.* – пресный)
34. coniferous – хвойный
35. vertebrate - позвоночный
36. compositae - сложноцветный
37. umbeliferous – зонтичный
38. gramineous plants - злаки

### **Used Resources:**

1. Озерский городской округ/авт.-сост. М. С. Гитис, С. О. Кирочкина, А. М. Наумов, Е. Г. Рыжков. – Челябинск: АБРИС, 2009. – 32 с.
2. История края, в котором живем/авт.-сост. Ю. Б. Заславский. – Озерск: 1987. – 36 с.
3. [www.libozersk.ru](http://www.libozersk.ru)/Очерки физической географии территории города Озерска/Т. В. Федорина