

MAKHACHKALA

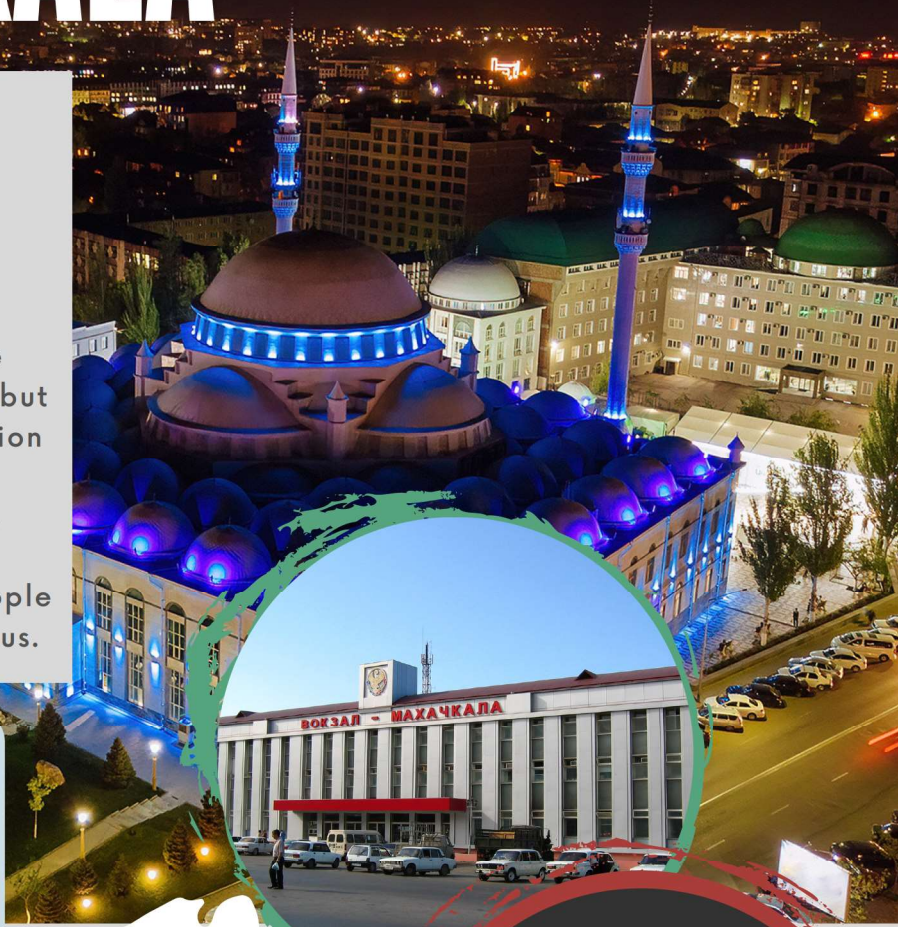
Quick Facts

- Population: 604,000 (officially)
- Ethnic Diversity: Avar (27%), Kumyk (19%), Dargin (15%), Lezgi (13%), Lak (12%), Russian (5%) Azeri (1%)
- Language: many languages among the people groups in the North Caucasus, but Russian is the lingua franca of the region
- Progress: Small numbers of believers among the Avar, Kumyk, Dargin, Lezgi, Lak, Tabasaran, Rutul and Azeri
- Scripture: at varied stages for the people groups of Dagestan and North Caucasus.



Makhachkala is the capital city of the Republic of Dagestan, and the largest city in this part of the North Caucasus with around 604,000 people calling the city home, according to official statistics. The true number of inhabitants is closer to 1 million due to the constant influx of people leaving their mountain villages and settling on the margins of this long and narrow city, in search of economic opportunity.

Makhachkala is nestled between the Caspian shore on the east and foothills and plateau on its western boundary. New private homes being constructed on its expansive southern flank will soon merge into the neighboring satellite city of Caspisk. The former Jewish quarter near the shore is now inhabited by a mix of Dagestani nationalities.



For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Hebrews 13:14



The city has its contrasts. Opulent homes with guard posts stand next to humble adobe hovels. The city's former charm and spaciousness is missed by the city's older residents, but many love the city anyway as it grows and develops, and its streets become more choked with traffic. Its citizens periodically suffer from contamination of the water supply and have only recently recovered from a collapse of city-wide garbage collection services due to corrupt mismanagement.

Makhachkala is a predominantly Muslim city, known for the captivating beauty of its mountain landscapes, diverse population, a recent past of violent Islamic insurgency and for its wrestlers.

Makhachkala is a strategic, gateway city to reach the 35 unreached people groups found in Dagestan.

Representatives from among these people groups can be found in this ethnically diverse city. Compared to neighboring Chechnya which has a high degree of homogeneity it makes for a far more diverse urban population than most would expect.

(Profile Information from Joshua Project & North Caucasus Regional Partnership)

Engagement Opportunities

- Geopolitical antagonism between the West and Russia has resulted in the expulsion of workers from western countries, while people from countries historically in the sphere of influence of the former Soviet Union are still welcome.
- Workers from Ibero-America and Asia with creative business and other access strategies may be more successful at securing long-term visas.
- The University language study program (Russian) remains the most effective way for foreigners to get visas and become immersed in the culture.

Pray

- Pray that the Lord will break down the walls of tradition that keep the North Caucasus Muslim peoples from considering the gospel.
- Ask God to raise up laborers who can effectively take the gospel to the people groups of the North Caucasus.
- Pray for God to call out and anoint His elect among Dagestani MBBs so that they witness to and love family and friends into the Kingdom.
- Pray for responsive hearts among seekers who have responded to social media campaigns initiated by a field team.

**Is God calling you to serve in the Caucasus?
Let us help you respond. Contact us.**

