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Pearls of Dagestan

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Аннотация

В статье приводится обзор объектов туристского интереса, расположенных в Республике Дагестан.

Ключевые слова: туризм, культурно-познавательный туризм, народные художественные промыслы

Abstract

The article provides an overview of the objects of tourist interest located in the Republic of Dagestan.

Keywords: tourism, cultural and educational tourism, folk arts and crafts

Dagestan. Gamsutl is a fortress city, a ghost village!

Gamsutl is a picturesque village with a centuries-old history and traditional mountain architecture located in the Gunib district of Dagestan. It is called the Dagestani Machu Picchu and the ghost village.

Translated from Avar, the word "gamsutl" means "at the foot of the Khan's fortress". However, there is another translation — "the fortress of the king"

The fact is that people left the village about 30 years ago, and the last resident died in 2015. Since then, interest in the abandoned colorful village, as if stuck on the mountainside, is only growing. Every day it is visited by hundreds of tourists who walk along the medieval streets, admire the views of the mountains, gorges and surrounding villages: Gunib, Choh, Sogratl.

Gunib steeped in the past.

The village was founded in 1862 in connection with the construction of a Russian military fortification. The fortification was named after the former village of Gunib (from the Avar Guni-meer-a pile of stones), which was located on the top of the plateau and was destroyed in 1859.

Gunib district is one of the tourist centers of Dagestan. The Upper Gunib Nature Park, the DNC RAS Mountain Botanical Garden, the Republican Children's Somatic Sanatorium, and the Radde boarding house are located in Gunib.

Vyacheslav Yanovsky in his guide "From Adygea to the North Caucasus" writes:

"Gunib is not even located — it is literally molded on the eaves of a huge rocky mountain, called in the old days Guni-Meer, that is," a mountain like a haystack." The difference between the lowest and highest buildings of Gunib is about 700 meters in height. From the bottom of the gorge you can see a high rock, built up to the top with houses. This view is already impressive. But what is the surprise of the traveler when he, having climbed the asphalt serpentine to the top of the rock, finds himself in the center of the village on the big market square. And above it rises another equally impressive rock with the same "stuck" to it houses".

The history of the Caucasian War is connected with the village of Gunib. It was here in 1859 that Imam Shamil surrendered to General Baryatinsky, which ended the Great Caucasian War. This event, and with it the beautiful countryside, attracted artists to Gunib. The surroundings of the fatal aul were painted by Franz Roubeau, Vasily Aivazovsky and

Yevgeny Lancere, and photographed by Sergei Prokudin-Gorsky. The fortress walls are preserved here, the length of which is 3 km. The wall ends at the sheer slope of the precipice.

The Khunzakh plateau is the widest of all the mountain plateaus in Dagestan. It is about 29 km long and 8-10 km wide. The plateau rises 1700-2000 m above sea level and offers impressive views of the surrounding mountain ranges and peaks. On the plateau, flat as the Russian steppe, there are ancient villages, and local residents are engaged in agriculture and cattle breeding. There are meadows, forests, hills and ravines. Streams and rivers flow down from the steep edges of the plateau.

The main river is the Tobot. The water in it is cold and delicious. The river slowly flows through the picturesque Hunzakh plateau for 20 kilometers, as if on a plain, and then a powerful waterfall falls from a height of 70 meters. This is the Khunzakh waterfall – one of the most famous natural attractions of Dagestan.

The ancient Juma mosque in the village of Kumukh was built in the administrative center of the district. It was built in 778-779 after the capture of mountainous Dagestan by the Arabs, led by the military commander Marvan. The mosque was built of stone in the architectural style typical of the ancient Lax-Arab buildings. On the western side of the Juma Mosque there is an inscription indicating the date of its construction and the repairs carried out. The Kumukh Juma Mosque is considered one of the oldest not only in Dagestan, but also on the territory of the entire Russian Federation. It has survived to this day in its original form.

In 1949, this mosque was examined by the L. I. Lavrov. He writes: "On the outside it is lined with hewn tiles of the same size. In the oldest part of it (the south-eastern part), low pointed arches have been preserved. The window above the mihrab is a complex lattice carved from solid stone. Inside, there are two rows of stone columns supporting the ceiling. Between them are vaults. The north side of the mosque was reserved for women. It is separated from the rest by a row of columns. The walls inside are plastered and in many places painted with bright colors. The painting is a floral ornament, and on the western wall there is an Arabic inscription that tells that the mosque was built in 778/79 and was renovated several times. Legend has it that its repair in 1788/89 was carried out on the initiative of not only Muhammad Khan, as stated in the inscription, but also his mother Haji-Aishat, who went to worship in Mecca seven times. During the renovation, she personally checked the strength of the walls, for which she stood on each stone laid in the masonry. She is credited with singling out the female half of the mosque. According to her orders, gold was allegedly laid under the foundation for the production of subsequent repairs»

According to legend, the fortress owes its appearance to the Quraysh-an Arab tribe, from which the Prophet Muhammad himself came. Protected by a high fortress wall, the settlement is located in a strategically convenient location — on the top of an inaccessible mountain, surrounded on three sides by the channels of five mountain rivers, as well as steep cliffs.

Legend of the Kala-Koreish Fortress

A beautiful and sad legend is associated with the Kala-Koreish fortress. It is said that the enemies decided to make their way to the village when all the local men were praying in the mosque. But they met a young girl on a horse and with a dog, going down to the spring. On a narrow path, a brave warrior held back the enemy. The dog raised a loud bark, which attracted the locals. They chased away the intruders, but the girl was already dead by that time — at the cost of her life, she saved the tribesmen. And now at the entrance to the fortress you can see a small mound (it is believed that the girl was buried here) and a tree planted in memory of the brave defender. According to tradition, each guest should tie a handkerchief or a piece of cloth on it as a sign of reverence. There is a version that this story is an echo of the legends about the Caucasian Amazons. In particular, in ancient Dargin songs (the Dargins are the second largest Dagestani ethnic group after the Avars), it is mentioned that their horses were buried together with the women.

Dagestan, which is just developing its tourist opportunities, is rich in natural finds that will surprise even the most spoiled travelers. One of them is the Saltinsky Waterfall. Its feature is that the flow of water can only be seen by going down into a mountain cave. No wonder the Saltinsky waterfall is considered one of the most bizarre in Russia.

The Saltinsky Waterfall is the only underground waterfall in Dagestan. Since 1983, it has been a natural monument of regional significance. The cave and the waterfall itself are located in the canyon of the Saltinka River (Saltinskaya Gorge) near the village of Salta, in the Gunibsky district of the republic. The height of the waterfall is 20 meters.

Sulak Canyon is one of the deepest canyons in the world and the deepest in Europe, its depth reaches up to 1920 meters, and its length is 53 kilometers.

It is one of the most famous and visited natural attractions of Dagestan, annually visited by thousands of tourists from all over the world.

Sulak Canyon is often compared to the famous Grand Canyon in Colorado (North America) and the Charyn Canyon.

The Sulak Canyon in Dagestan was once one of the central places in the Caucasian War. Such outstanding people as Leo Tolstoy and Yuri Lermontov came here.

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