




10 Reasons to Visit Azerbaijan



9 out of 11 climatic zones of the world are here

1

A unique case when one may find most of the existing in the world climate types within the borderlines of one country: from dry and humid subtropical (in Lankaran) up to mountain tundra (the Big Caucasus highlands).

At the same time the most part of the territory of Azerbaijan is situated in the subtropical zone. This allows planting oranges, tangerines, lemons, feijoa, kiwi and other exotic fruits. In south regions Lankaran and Masally one may often see growing banana trees with green fruit ovaries.

No wonder that a favorable climate – early spring, mild winter and plenty of sunny days, makes Azerbaijan the centre of beach tourism. Beach season opens at the Absheron seaside in May and lasts till the end of September.

Caspian Sea ~ the largest salty lake in the world

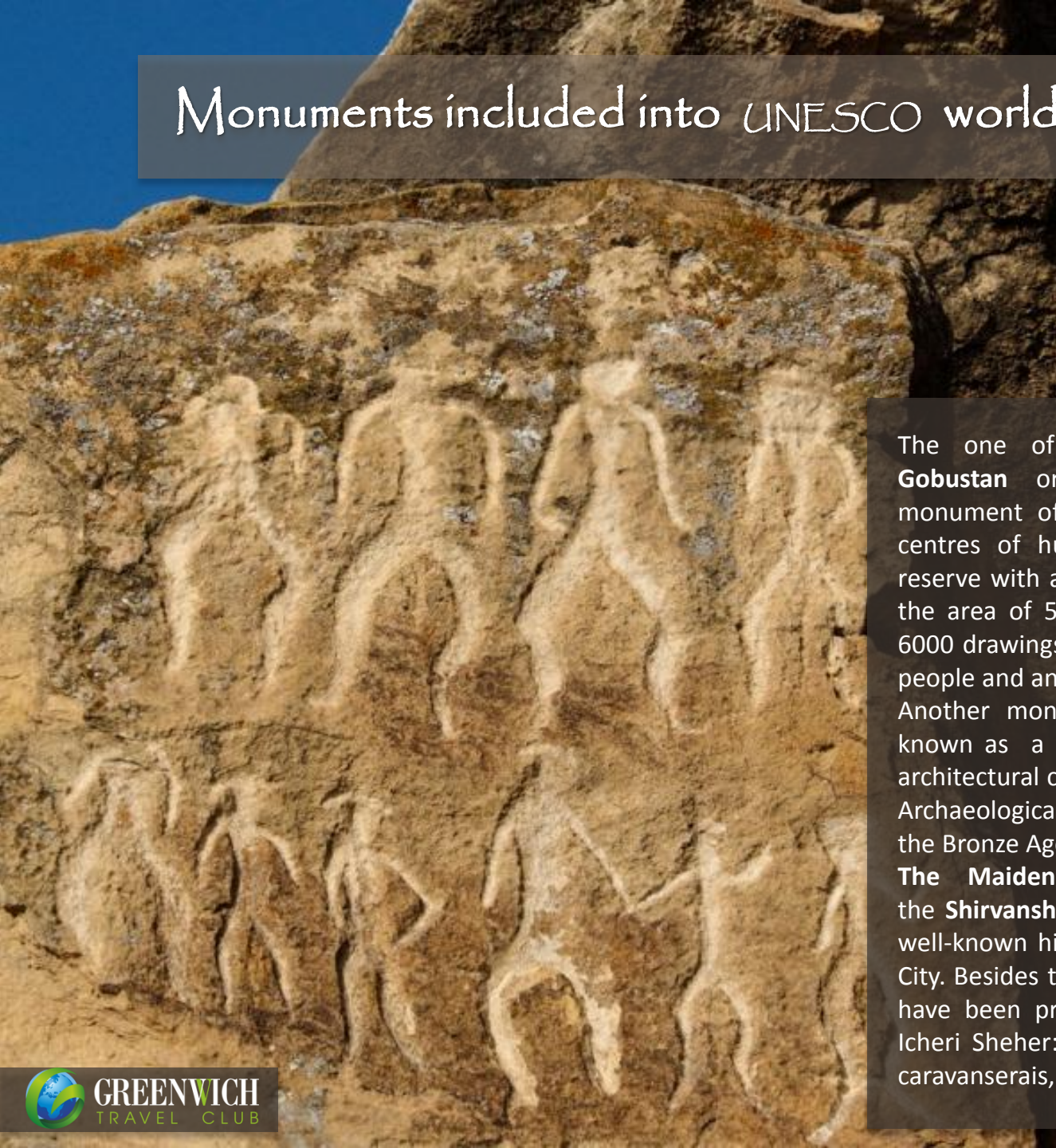
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The Caspian Sea is the largest lake in the World. It occupies huge area as well as the fact that its bed is composed of ocean type Earth crust allows to call this lake “the sea”. At the same time the water of the Caspian Sea is not as salty as the water of the other seas hence more favorable for swimming, less irritates eyes and does not dry skin. If we additionally mention about excellently developed infrastructure on Absheron seaside - a lot of hotels and resort centers, boat trips, yacht clubs, fishing, diving - it is evident why Azerbaijan is well-deserved to be considered the center of coastal tourism in all the Coastal Caspian region.

Monuments included into UNESCO world heritage list

3



The one of them is historical-artistic reserve **Gobustan** or simply Gobustan – the rarest monument of the world culture, one of the first centres of human civilization. This archaeological reserve with a cultural view of drawings on rocks at the area of 537 hectares. There are approximately 6000 drawings in Gobustan – petroglyphs describing people and animals.

Another monument is **Icheri Sheher (Old City)**, known as a “fortress” – is a unique historical and architectural conservation area in the centre of Baku. Archaeological excavations revealed burial vaults of the Bronze Age.

The Maiden Tower (the 12th century) and the **Shirvanshah palace** (the 13th-16th century) the well-known historical monuments also locate in Old City. Besides them a lot of other unique monuments have been preserved behind the massive walls of Icheri Sheher: mosques, minarets, the remnants of caravanserais, bathes.

Mud Volcanoes

4

Azerbaijan is the first in the world by the number of mud volcanoes. 350 out of 800 mud volcanoes in the world are located here! Gases come out of the deep layers of the Earth during eruption and immediately inflame. The flame above the volcanoes may reach up to 1000 metres (Garasu volcano).

The first mud volcano is believed to erupt in Azerbaijan 25 million years ago. 200 big eruptions were registered in Azerbaijan during the last 200 years. The mud volcanoes of Azerbaijan occupied the 5th place in the international contest of "Seven natural Wonders" held by a non-commercial Swiss organisation. The largest mud volcano of the World located in Azerbaijan was registered in the Guinness Book of Records.



Cuisine

5

An Azerbaijani cuisine is one of the most interesting ones in the East. It is remarkable by plenty of different meat, fish and vegetable dishes supplemented by flavored herbs and spices.


The most experienced gourmets who visit Azerbaijan have turned into loyal adherents of the national cuisine. Products and dishes of Azerbaijani cuisine are original and unique.

The most of Azerbaijani dishes are made of mutton, beef and poultry, also starred sturgeon are widely spread. Different spices are also used here. Azerbaijanis like other Moslems do not eat pork. Among bakery goods the Azerbaijanis prefer long bread and lavash (flat bread) – the bread baked in tandoor.



Unique Naftalan Oil

6



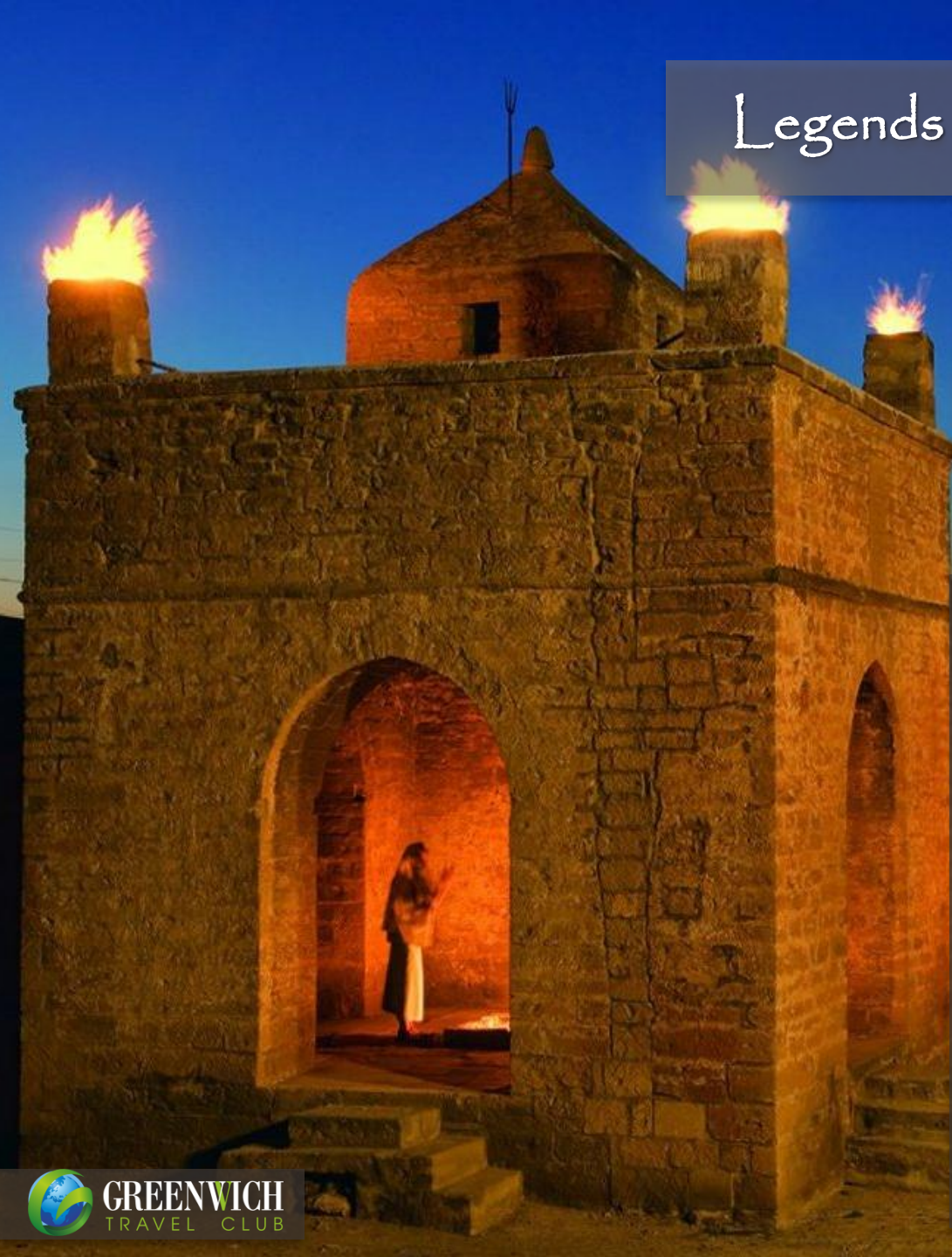
Naftalan resort has gained world fame thanks to healing Naftalan oil having no analogue at the planet due to its unique biological composition. The resort is located 20 km far from the second big city of Azerbaijan- Ganja, in the zone of Naftalan oil fields - in Naftalan town.

Naftalan oil has unique healing qualities having no analogue in the world. It provides with various healing effects, such as anti-inflammatory, pain relieving, vasodilating and stimulating.

Today Naftalan resorts provide with treatment for over than 70 diseases thanks to healing naftalan baths.

Legends of the Land of Fire

7



Since the old times Azerbaijan is known as the Land of Fire. And this is not by chance - Absheron peninsula is rich with oil and gas. Burning gas outlets at the surface were considered a divine secret and attracted here people from all corners of the World: fire worshipers gathered in Baku in ancient times and built their temples on sacred flames. One of those temples is an ancient **Zoroastrian temple of flame – Ateshgah**. It is located 30 km from the center of the capital in Surakhany settlement. The temple ages back to the 17-18th centuries and was built by Indian fire-worshippers' community in Baku. Burning flame outlets at the surface is on Absheron peninsula near Baku, where Yanardag (literary "burning mountain") is located. The hill side has been covered with flame for many years.

Baku Boulevard

8



Baku Seaside Park, Boulevard, is the most attractive place for all who visit the capital of Azerbaijan. The guests are attracted here by a wonderful landscape design, shadowy alleys, comfortable cafes, which offer the most delicious ice-cream, deserts and appetizers of any kind, tea.

Park Boulevard, the well-known trade and entertainment center, International Mugham Centre executed in modern style and the new building of Carpet Museum of Azerbaijan, which attracts visitors by its originality, are located in Boulevard.

The boulevard is currently 5.5 km long and is constantly stretching, the total length of the Boulevard should reach approximately 15 km.

A World-Class Ski Resort

9



The north-east corner of Azerbaijan has served as the gateway between Europe and the Middle East. Here, in the shadow of the majestic Caucasus Mountains, hides untold natural beauty. Pristine glaciers and deep ravines, stunning mountain lakes and canyons, and an ecological treasure trove of plants and animals. This is **Shahdag** in all its splendour.

Set in the spectacular scenery and surrounded by stunning mountain views the **Shahdag Mountain Resort** offers a wide range of contemporary accommodation that can be enjoyed by everyone.



Golf

10

The National Azerbaijan Golf Club has been created to the most exacting standards and represents an ambitious foray into the sport for the emerging golfing nation.

Positioned within 75 hectares of idyllic Azerbaijani topography, the undulating fairways and deep bunkers are stand-out features and create a lasting impression on the eye. Imaginatively, and despite its championship credentials, landing zones, approaches and greens remain accessible, leading to a 'look hard, play easy' feel which maximizes the enjoyment .



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