

Ganja

Goygol

Located some 4 hours way from the capital of Baku, Goygol is the adornment of Ganja region. A large mountain lake surrounded by the mountains of the Lesser Caucasus was formed as a result of a devastating earthquake that destroyed the Kapaz Mountain in the 12th century. The color and clarity of the waters of Goygol Lake, located 1,600 above sea level is striking. The banks of the lake are covered with forests and rich of flora and fauna. This area is ideal for swimming, walking, travelling, and family picnics. Recreation on the shore of the fresh lake is the best decision on hot days.



Maralgol

Maralgol is an oasis for the thousands of birds, surrounded by wetlands, typical steppe and semi-desert landscapes. The lake is located close to another wonders of nature such as Goygol, Garagol, Zeligol and Shamligol. Maralgol is in fact up some 250 steps from the car park. At the top is a small lip of earthen bank beyond which lies the lake, a poetic vista of crystalline blue-greens. A small “beach” dips its toes into water so pure it seems transparent over a garden of weed where oversized tadpoles are turning into wriggling little frogs.

Nizami Ganjavi Mausoleum



The first mausoleum at the tomb of Nizami was built in the 13th-14th centuries. In 1947 a new mausoleum was built. The current building dates back to the year of 1991. Near the mausoleum there is a sculptural complex depicting the great poet surrounded by the characters of his works. An artificial lake and five fountains were made to symbolize the five major poems of Nizami, known as "Hamsa". Nizami Ganjavi is a worldwide famous Azerbaijani poet, thinker and mastermind, who lived and created in XII-XIII centuries. Nizami Ganjavi was very educated man. He had good knowledge not only in literature, but also in medicine, theology, Christianity, Islamic law, Judaism, Iranian mythology, philosophy, esotericism, music, arts, astronomy and etc. Nizami is best known for his main work - five long narrative poems, combined under the single name “Khamsa”. All of these five poems are written in the “masnavi” (double-rhymed) style, with overall 30 000 double rhymes used. Nizami’s poems

contain unique information, which has survived to this day only thanks to his works.

Imam-zade Mausoleum (14th century)

One of the main landmarks of the city survived from time immemorial is the mausoleum of Sheikh Ibragim erected on the burial ground of the son of Imam Mohammed Bagir who died in the 6th century. The mausoleum is also known under the names of: "Gei-imam", meaning the blue color of its dome, and "Imam-zade" - the traditional name of the mausoleums where descendants of prophet Ali (literally "sons of the prophet") were buried. Imam-zade Mausoleum is a Muslim relic and annually receives crowds of pilgrims. The Mausoleum complex hosts a cemetery, small mosques, a caravanserai and other structures. All these were then surrounded by a brick wall. The ancient cemetery is a unique place in Azerbaijan where you can see the great number of monuments with portrait images.

Khan Garden

This historical monument related to the Ziyadkhanli family a park frequently visited by Ganja residents and guests coming to Ganja. It regarded as one of the largest parks in the Caucasus. Its construction began in 1700. It also has rare kinds of plants brought from various parts of the world. Under Javad Khan, the park renovated and trees were planted here. After that, the park was called the Khan Garden in his honour. After the Russian invasion, it rena-med the governor's garden. The Khan Garden also laid out on an area of 51 ha belonging to the khan's family and also known as the Sardar Garden.



Old Ganja Fortress

When approaching the city one can see the remnants of once majestic Ganja Fortress. Now only shapeless boulders mark this site. The fortification ran along entire Ganja-chai riverbank. The water safeguarding approaches to the fortress undercut it already destroyed walls. The building quickly started to decay. Long time ago two powerful towers standing 600 meters from each other had functioned there. Famous Ganja Gate was used as gate to the fortress.