

HISTORICAL AND TOURISTIC VALUES OF THE MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF KAKHETI

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Introduction:

In Georgia, for centuries, the relationship between mountain and valleys was a peculiar economic relationship. As it is known, the main branch of mountain farming was and still is cattle breeding. The mountain is good for cattle breeding in the summer, but in the winter, the mountaineer cannot feed his flock of sheep and cattle if he does not bring them to a bar. In addition, the population of the valleys buy products of cattle and mountaineer purchases all the necessary goods in the valleys that he cannot get in the mountains. The relationship between the mountain and the valley attracts attention in another way. The mountain accommodates a certain amount of population. Today, unfortunately, a significant part of the mountain population will have to go to valley, because due to the bad climatic conditions and the lack of appropriate infrastructure, it is literally impossible to live in the mountains in winter. Therefore, the mountain is empty in winter, and as soon as it warms up, the population goes back to their native mountain. Because there is freedom in the mountain.

Key words: Georgian historiography, Tush shepherds, fortress-towers, nature reserve, natural monument, protected area, Tush villages, buildings, architectural-historical monuments, Tush shrines, planned protected areas, historical-cultural tourism.

Discussion: The paper presents a brief historical overview of the mountainous region of Kakheti, which we find in Georgian historiography only from the second half of the 15th

century. We have very little information about Tusheti of the XV-XVI centuries. Along with the historical review, we will discuss the issues of historical and cultural tourism of this region. The kings of Kartli-Kakheti appreciated and respected Tusheti's special loyalty, which was reflected in the royal court's attitude towards Tusheti. Tushes guarded Kakheti from the north, protecting it from the attacks of nomadic tribes. The political importance of Tusheti for the kingdoms of Kartli-Kakheti increased especially from the XVI-XVII centuries. Due to its geographical location, Tusheti was fenced in front of Dido-Leki on the east side and on the north side during the invasion of Kakheti. Here, the Tushes were real Mitsikhov residents, and Georgia could not find better guards than them at that time.

Apart from the political value, Tusheti also had an economic value for Georgia. The Georgian kings tried to create conditions for economic progress for Tusheti, and with official deeds, they confirmed the fields of Kakheti as pastures for the Tusheti, thus showing their respect for the Tusheti.

The winter pastures, such as the Aloni (Alvan) Valley in Kakheti, were extremely vital for the shepherd Tush, and therefore the Tush were forced to be on good terms with the Kakheti authorities. On the other hand, the kings of Kakhta also tried to strengthen the Guladi Tushes in order to receive the raiders and beggars. It is noteworthy that the Tushes still remember this historical fact.

As we mentioned above, Tushes guarded Kakheti from the north, protecting it from the attacks of nomadic tribes. The political value of Tusheti for the kingdoms of Kakheti and Kartli-Kakheti increased especially in the 16th-17th centuries, but in addition to the political value, Tusheti also had an economic value for Georgia.

The issue of relations with Pshav is also important for this period. Geographically, Pshavi is located on the border of Kartli-Kakheti and represents the mountainous area of these two corners, but territorially-administratively, Pshavi used to be included in the province of Kakheti.

The Pshav region guarded the eastern-northern border of the Kingdom of Kakheti and represented a kind of cover for Kakheti. The northern paths passed through the Caucasus of Pshavi, from where the Kist-Chechens entered, therefore the Pshavi gorge was of serious importance for the defense of the Kingdom of Kakheti. In addition, the Pshavlis were good hunters. And as for the fortification of Khevsureti, this area guarded the northern border of Kakheti, from where Kakheti was always threatened by northern tribes.

The mountainous region of Kakheti has always been distinguished by representatives of nature of unique and endemic species. Reserves, protected areas and natural monuments are gathered here. The number of tourists in the country increases every year, which significantly contributes to the development of the country. Tourists are people who are interested in studying and getting to know the historical and cultural values of our country. These are scientists, researchers, organizers of educational tours. Also, people who want to learn about

the natural and cultural environment and history of this or that country, travel to protected areas, etc. To attract tourists, the mountainous region of Kakheti has certain advantages, such as the abundance of historical monuments, extraordinary natural conditions. This region is known for numerous historical-cultural monuments, extraordinary landscape, nature reserves and protected areas.

Tusheti is distinguished by landscapes with high aesthetic values - alpine meadows and preserved primeval pine forests, peaks covered with permanent snow. All this is gathered in the protected landscape of Tusheti, which is also called the visiting card of Georgia.

The road to Tusheti is quite difficult and it is possible to travel only by high-speed vehicles, but instead, the guests are presented with beautiful views. Going through this difficult and quite impressive road, we will get to the fabulous world called Tusheti.

In Tusheti, those antiquities and traditions are quite well preserved, which we can hardly meet anymore in the bars of Georgia. That is why Tusheti is a kind of archive of the history and culture of our country.

Here you will meet historical villages and villages; items of existing culture and handicraft samples. Tusheti is distinguished by landscapes with high aesthetic values, Tusheti villages and buildings are very interesting from an architectural-historical point of view. There are several castles in each village; Some of them have the purpose of a shrine, others - military. Religious and public holidays are connected with shrines. The local population prepares specially for the holidays. Tusheti is one of the most beautiful and ethnographically interesting and diverse corners in the regions of Georgia.

Every village of Tusheti is a historical monument by itself. There are monuments of cultural and economic value: shepherds' summer apartments and their surrounding areas. There are old villages and villages in Tusheti, most of which have well-preserved ancient castles.

Pshav-Khevsureti is distinguished by the abundance of unique natural and cultural monuments, and this area is currently protected by planning, the basis of which is the conservation, protection and restoration of natural monuments. The goal of creating new protected areas is to improve the socio-economic conditions of this region, develop ecotourism and promote the unique biodiversity of Georgia at the world level.

Pshav-Khevsureti planning protected areas are located on the northern and southern slopes of the main watershed of the Caucasus. and includes the main part of two historical-geographical provinces of Dusheti municipality, namely Khevsureti and Pshavi. The total area of the planning protected area is 117 446 ha.

The protected area of Pshav-Khevsureti will connect the two already established protected areas of Tusheti and Kazbegi. The establishment of Khevsureti protected areas allows for the creation of a unified network of protected areas, which will contribute to maintaining the sustainability of the eastern borders of unique ecosystems of Georgia.

Due to the complex terrain, diversity of soils and climate, the planned protected areas are distinguished by their conservation value. A significant number of species of flora and fauna is due to the great landscape diversity.

Conclusion:

Each village of the mountainous region of Kakheti is a historical monument in itself. Tourists who come here will be met by monuments of cultural and economic value, summer apartments of shepherds and their surrounding areas. In most of the old villages and ex-villages, the castle-towers of the late Middle Ages are well preserved. The nomadic lifestyle of the locals and the summer holidays always attract a lot of visitors. The hospitality of the mountain population has always been a guarantee of the safety of tourists and visitors.

From the point of view of tourism, botanical, photo and ecological tours are successfully developed, wild birds and animals are observed. The place has quite a good potential for the development of eco-tourism. Currently, there are already well-equipped family guest houses and it is also possible to set up tourist tents.

Therefore, the Kakheti Mountains are an interesting corner in many ways. Once you have seen it, it will definitely be deeply imprinted in your memory and you will want to visit it all the time and discover and get to know more and more new and interesting things on each visit. That is the place that everyone must see.

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