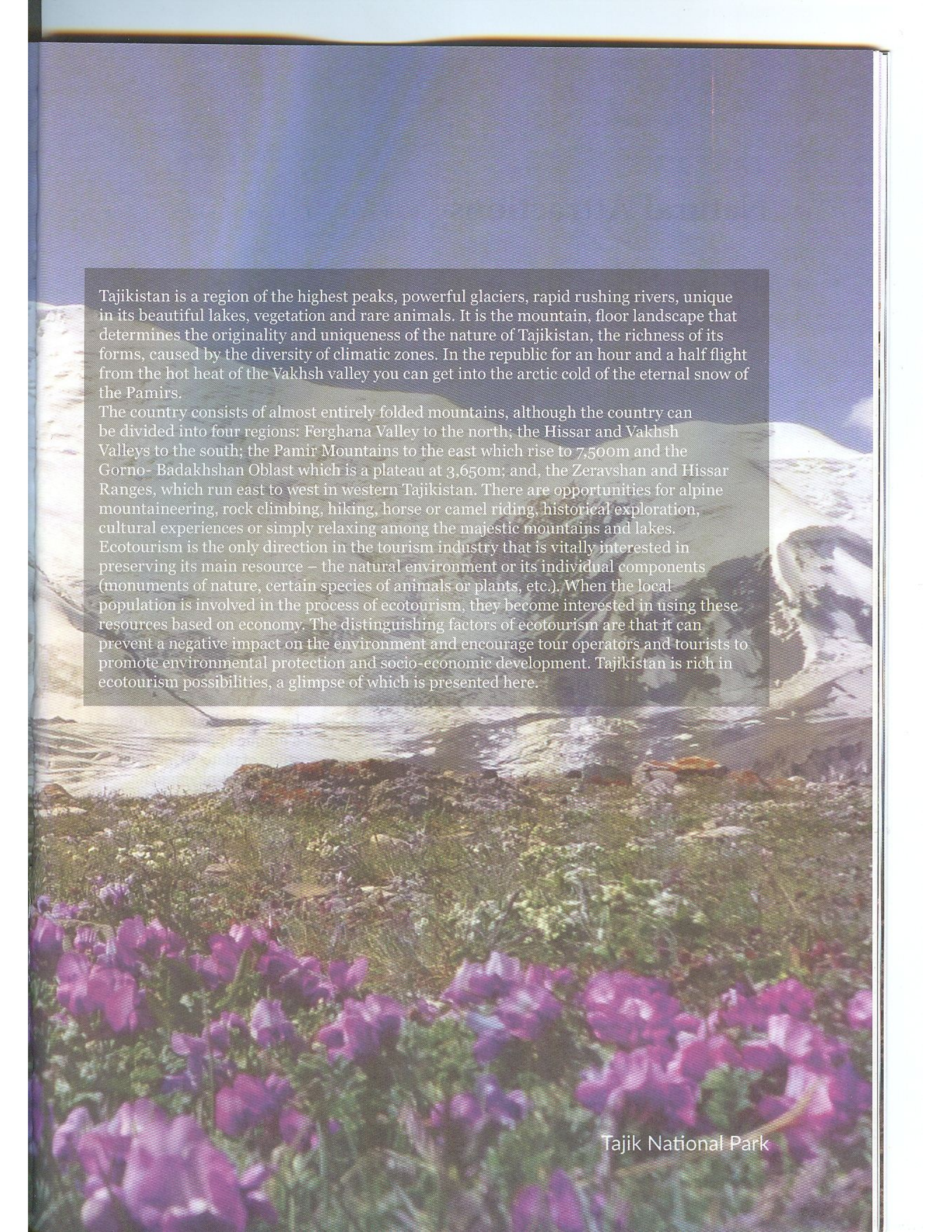


A scenic landscape of the Republic of Tajikistan. The background shows majestic, snow-capped mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The middle ground is a valley with green grass and some rocky patches. The foreground is dominated by a field of vibrant purple flowers, likely irises, in full bloom.

Republic of
Tajikistan

A scenic landscape of Tajik National Park. In the foreground, there are numerous purple flowers, possibly orchids, growing in a field. The middle ground shows a river flowing through a valley, with mountains in the background. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is a beautiful representation of the natural environment of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan is a region of the highest peaks, powerful glaciers, rapid rushing rivers, unique in its beautiful lakes, vegetation and rare animals. It is the mountain, floor landscape that determines the originality and uniqueness of the nature of Tajikistan, the richness of its forms, caused by the diversity of climatic zones. In the republic for an hour and a half flight from the hot heat of the Vakhsh valley you can get into the arctic cold of the eternal snow of the Pamirs.

The country consists of almost entirely folded mountains, although the country can be divided into four regions: Ferghana Valley to the north; the Hissar and Vakhsh Valleys to the south; the Pamir Mountains to the east which rise to 7,500m and the Gorno- Badakhshan Oblast which is a plateau at 3,650m; and, the Zeravshan and Hissar Ranges, which run east to west in western Tajikistan. There are opportunities for alpine mountaineering, rock climbing, hiking, horse or camel riding, historical exploration, cultural experiences or simply relaxing among the majestic mountains and lakes. Ecotourism is the only direction in the tourism industry that is vitally interested in preserving its main resource – the natural environment or its individual components (monuments of nature, certain species of animals or plants, etc.). When the local population is involved in the process of ecotourism, they become interested in using these resources based on economy. The distinguishing factors of ecotourism are that it can prevent a negative impact on the environment and encourage tour operators and tourists to promote environmental protection and socio-economic development. Tajikistan is rich in ecotourism possibilities, a glimpse of which is presented here.

Tajik National Park

Natural Attractions

Tajik National Park

As Tajikistan's first natural site to be included in UNESCO's World Heritage List, Tajik National Park covers more than 2.5 million hectares in the east of the country, at the centre of the so-called "Pamir Knot", a meeting point of the highest mountain ranges on the Eurasian continent.

The Park encompasses almost the entire Pamir Mountains, the third highest mountain ecosystem in the world after the Himalaya and Karakorum Mountains, and consists of high plateau in the east and, to the west, rugged peaks, some of them over 7,000 meters high, and features extreme seasonal variations of temperature.

The longest valley glacier



outside the Polar region is located among the 1,085 glaciers inventoried in the site, which also numbers 170 rivers and more than 400 lakes. Rich flora species of both the south-western and central Asian floristic regions grow in the Park which shelters nationally rare and threatened birds and mammals (Marco Polo Argali

sheep, Snow Leopards and Siberian Ibex and more). Subject to frequent strong earthquakes, the Park is sparsely inhabited, and virtually unaffected by agriculture and permanent human settlements. It offers a unique opportunity for the study of plate tectonics and subduction phenomena.

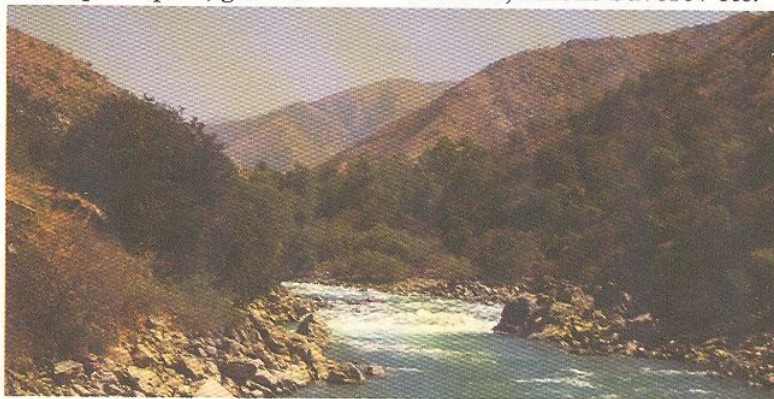
Romit State Nature Reserve

State nature reserve "Romit" is located on the southern slope of the Hissar range near Kafirnigan river. The southeastern boundary of the reserve is adjacent to Karategin range. The total area of the reserve is 16100 hectares. "Romit" Reserve is a mountain-landscape forest reserve.

The purpose of the reserve is to study and conserve species of fauna and flora listed in the Red Data Book of Tajikistan,

in particular, the Tien Shan brown bear, snow leopard, otter, porcupine, golden

eagles and many species of plants such as onions Anzur, holmon, onions Suvorov etc.

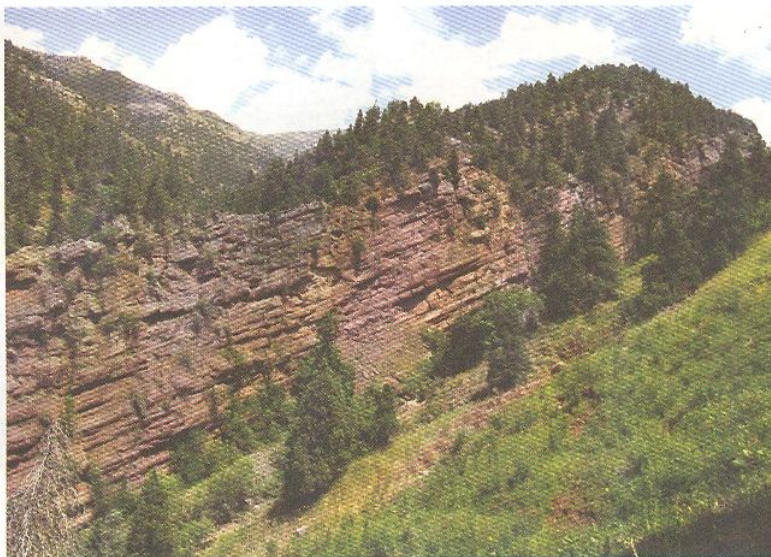


Shirkent Natural & Historical Park

Not far from the city of Tursun-Zade, the valley of the Shirkent River begins, where in the basin of Tursunzade River, on the southern slopes of the Hissar mountains the historical park of the same name is located.

The Shirkent National Park was established by the decree No. 462 of the Republic of Tajikistan in September, 12 1993. The main purpose of the Natural and Historical Park is to preserve the gene pool of the unique flora and fauna, natural ecosystems and cultural values, to study the nature of the south-western Hissar region and also to organize ecotourism.

The fauna of the area is diverse. Snow leopards (irbis), bears, martens, ermines, Siberian ibex are found here. Some of the birds and insects that live in these places are listed in the Red Book of rare and endangered species of Tajikistan (the snowcock, griffon vulture, Turkestan



Saker Falcon, red-haired peregrine falcon, Parnassius butterflies, etc.). The gorge is of great interest for lovers of mountain tourism and mountaineering.

The Park's most significant geological objects are the three different-age locations of dinosaur footprints, with more than 400 footprints of extinct lizards. The archaeological sites of the gorge include monuments of

the Stone Age and the Middle Ages (sites of primitive people, ancient workings for the extraction of copper and copper-tin ores, necropolis and irrigation facilities).

Shirkent Natural & Historical Park has mostly natural boundaries: Mechetli (Koldyrğa) ridge in the north and Obizarang Karatag rivers in the west and east. The southern boundary of the park is near Shirkent village.

Almosi State Natural Reserve

The reserve was established in 1984 in an area of 6000 hectares. The purpose of the organization of the reserve was to preserve the gene pool and restore the habitats of valuable species of flora of Tajikistan – Ungern Victor,

included in the Red Data Book of Tajikistan. Reserve "Almosi" is located on the southern spur of the Hissar range, between the rivers and Karatag and Honaka, at relatively low altitudes – up to 2100 m

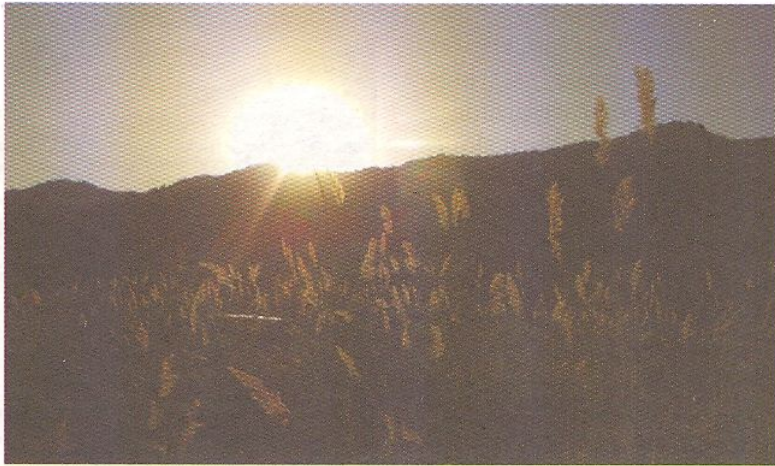
above sea level. You can get to Almosi Reserve on passing vehicles as well as from Dushanbe and from the international control post Sari Osie (Uzbekistan-Tajikistan).

Sari Khosor Nature Park

Organized by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on October 2003, 25 in the territory of the Balzhuvan region, the Park's area covers 3805 hectares. Sari Khosor valley is located in the Vakhsh mountain range alongside the Surhob River at the altitude of 1600-1200 meters above the sea level.

This place is one of the most beautiful sites in Tajikistan. There are unique historical and cultural monuments left at the place helping to draw the whole picture about the lifestyle, traditions and culture of the people at that region.

The site has unique natural

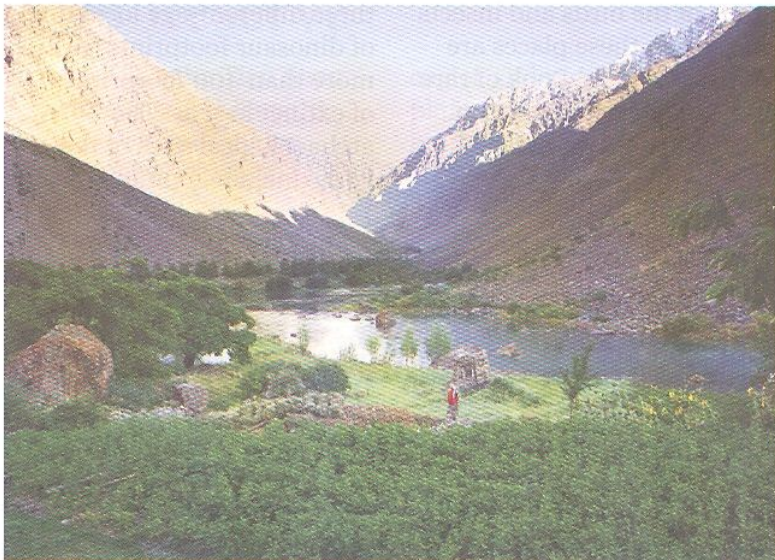


resources and mountain mesophilic broad-leaved forests preserved in Tajikistan. It also features truly unique, mountain forests consisting of walnut, a number of species of wild

fruit trees and shrubs are of particular wealth. Variety of fauna and flora of the reserve located in the mountainous terrain allows using it for organizing and developing various types of tourism.

Pamir Mountains

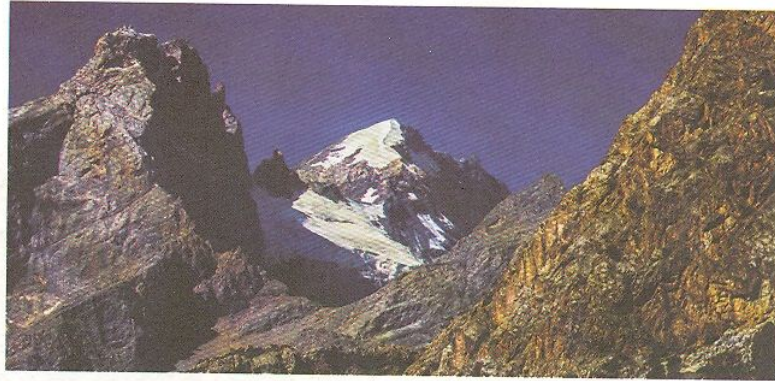
Meaning 'The roof of the world', Pamir is a huge mountain range almost in the center of the Asian continent, with the greatest mountain systems converge: Tian Shan, Hindu Kush, Kunlin, Karakorum. It was here that in the center of high-altitude mountaineering two Pamirian seven thousand meters rushed majestically into the sky: the peak of Ismoili Somoni (former Communism, 7495 meters) and the peak of Evgenia Korzhenevskaya (7105 meters).



Fann Mountains

The fabulous Fann Mountains are famous for the pristine beauty of their nature and the diversity of flora and fauna presented there. Hundreds of startling peaks located on the spurs of Turkestan and Hissor mountain ridges (southwest of Pamir-Alay) make the phenomenal beauty of Fan Mountains.

More than ten peaks reach the height of 5000 meters having their walls fluctuating at the height for up to 1800 meters. These peaks incorporate the Peak of Bodhona (5138 m.), Peak of Energiya (5105 m.), Peak of Zamok (5070 m.) and Chapdara (5050 m.). The highest peak in the region is the Peak of Chimtarga



(5487 m.). Originated from the snowy fields of these miraculous peaks, 30 different azure lakes are located in Fan Mountains area.

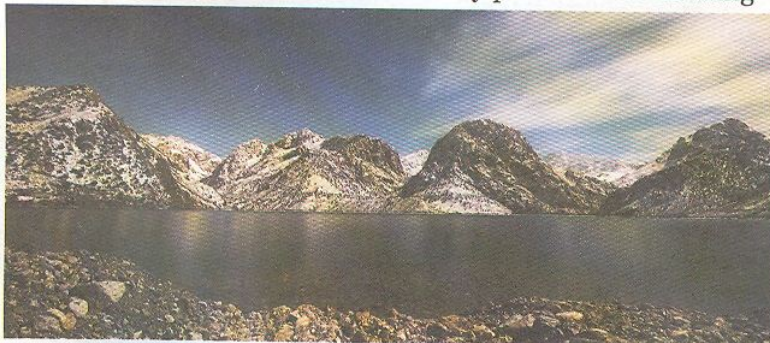
Amazing lakes are located and surrounded by the legendary Fan Mountains, attracting travelers not only by the

captivating beauty of nature, but also by the diversity of natural conditions, the richness of flora and fauna. The Fann Mountains have 30 different lakes of varying nature and size with cold, clear water, born on the snowy fields of fabulous peaks.

Iskandar-Qul

The heart of Fann Mountains, the treasure of Tyan-Shan, ascenic Isqandar-Qul lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in Tajikistan. Having emerald green and blue color,

the water of Isqandar-Qul Lake is cold, however, it is warm enough for swimming in some parts that are close to the shore or covered bays, especially in summertime. The lake is surrounded by snowy peaks. A fast-flouring



Iskander-darya river flows from the lake, forming a marvelous and gorgeous waterfall, so-called the «Fan Niagara» that falls from the height of 38 meters. A number of legends are linked to this lake. According to one of the legends, while passing through the Fan Mountains with his army Alexander the Great lost his horse Bucefal, which supposedly sank in the lake. The lake was then named after Alexander, whose name is spelled in Persian as «Iskander».

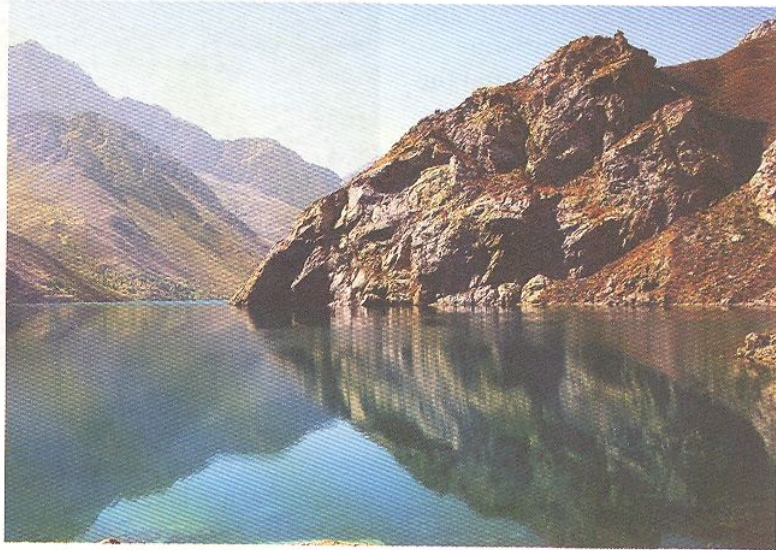
Marguzor Lake (Haftkul)

Marguzor Lake (haftkul) is a cascade of several mountain lakes in Haftkul Valley, in Panjakent. These lakes have different colors and mineral substances dissolved in water, giving them extraordinarily beautiful shades.

The first is Lake Mizhgon is dark blue for the most part the surface, with transparent greenish coastal stripes.

The second is Lake Hushyar (watchfull), so named because of the presence of poisonous snakes in the coastal zone.

The third is Lake Soya that is dark turquoise. The fourth one is Lake Nofin with turquoise water. The fifth, Lake Khurdak, is tiny in the form of a flood on the Holonichiston river (where all these lakes are located). The sixth is Lake Marguzor, the



largest and the most reddish in color, and in some places completely red. According to locals, it blushes on Thursdays. The seventh and last - Lake Hazorchashma, is located at the highest point of the Shing valley and has

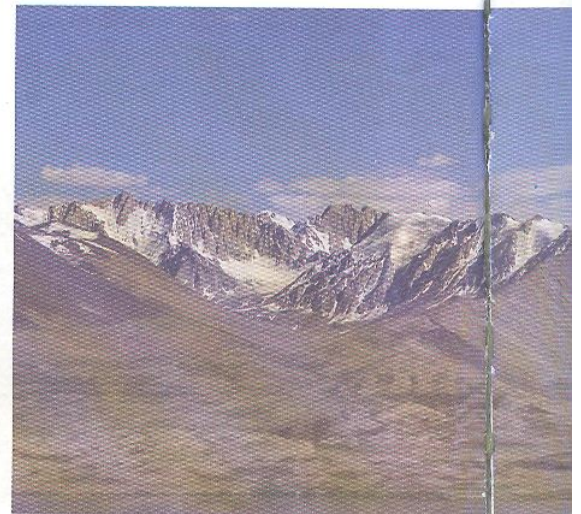
been formed by springs and small streams and Gissar and Darakhti Surkh also flow into it. It is the seventh lake that is considered the source of these lakes, thus the name "Hazorchashma", meaning a thousand sources.

Zorqul Natural Reserve

Established in 2002, «Zorqul» is the only reservation area in Pamir region. Taking into account its geographical location, «Zorqul» reservation area pertains to the Central Asian region encompassing the vicinity of Zorqul lake located in Pamir.

The lake serves as the border with Afghanistan,

the area known as Afghan Badakhshan, located to the south. Within the boundaries of the reservation area there are three relatively small lakes named as Chakankuli that are stretched along the gorges of the Wakhan mountain range. Uphill area (till the Peak of Soglasiya, 6000 km) of the gorge also belong to the reservation vicinity



Sarez Lake

There are around 1450 lakes concentrated across Tajikistan some of which are located at the altitude of more than 4000 meters above the sea level. Sarez lake is one of the most beautiful and mysterious lakes of Tajikistan. This pearl of Pamir mountains is also called the « Sleeping Dragon». A massive earthquake occurred in this region in winter of 1911 shutting Bartang (Murghab) river's stream. The logjam formed due to earthquake's aftermath was named Usoi. The Usoi village was buried under the huge piles of fallen rocks.



This landslide gave the base for forming a new lake that had later flooded the Sarezskiy village in October 1911 giving the lake its

familiar name. Sarez Lake is stretched for almost 60 kilometers while the deepness of its waters is approximately equal to 500 meters.

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