

Monuments of nature and monuments of archaeological history.



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Elbrus is the highest mountain of Russia.



« Blue mountains of the Caucasus,
greeting to you!...»

M. Y. Lermontov.

On the territory of the Caucasus on the border of the Republic of Karachaevo – Cherkessia and Kabardino – Balkaria there is the highest point of Russia the twin – peaked volcano Elbrus. Since the border between Europe and Asia is not accurate, it is often ranked first among the European mountain peaks, including in the list of « Seven peaks.» It is located in the northern part of the mountain system of the Great Caucasus. Two peaks are separated by a saddle whose height is 5300 metres. The tops of Elbrus are two volcanoes. The highest point of Elbrus is 5642 metres.



Kabardian name of Elbrus Oshhamaho is translated as a « Mountain of happiness.» Elbrus is 15 million years old, but from growing old it grows 2-3 cm a year.



There is a very beautiful sad Legend about mount Elbrus in the Caucasus. Once upon a time there lived two heroes Kazbek and Elbrus, father and son. They fell in love with a gentle beauty named Mashuk. None of them wanted to concede and the girl also did not dare to make her choice. Everything ended in a fatal duel in which Elbrus killed his father. When Elbrus saw the lifeless body of his father he became gray. He turned away from the beautiful Mashuk, he did not want love obtained at this price.

Elbrus stabbed himself with a dagger. The beauty Mashuk cried over the killed knights for a long time. « How to live me without you in this world?» - she screamed. God heard Mashuk's sobbing and turned Mounts Elbrus and Kazbek into high mountains, which became the highest and the most beautiful in the Caucasus. And he also turned an excellent Mashuk who looks day after day, from century to century on the giant peaks of gray haired Elbrus and his father Kazbek.



Scientists consider Elbrus a sleeping volcano, but in its depths there are still hot masses that heat local « Hot Narzans» whose temperature reaches 52-60 degrees Celsius.



In the depths of volcanoes the life of many famous sources of medical resorts of Kislovodsk, Pyatigorsk and the whole area of the Caucasian Mineral Waters begins.

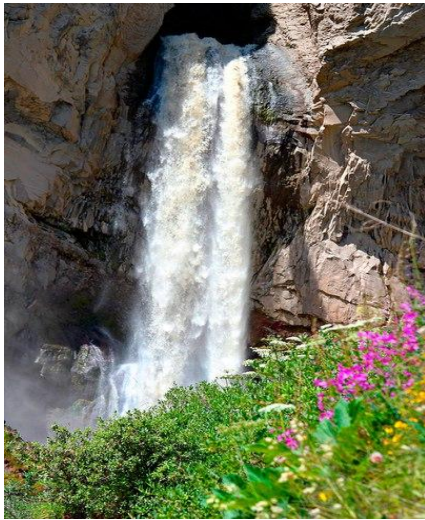


Climate on Mount Elbrus is severe. The average temperature in the Warmest month of the year is not higher than minus 1,4 degrees Celsius. Precipitation is mush, but mostly in the form of snow.

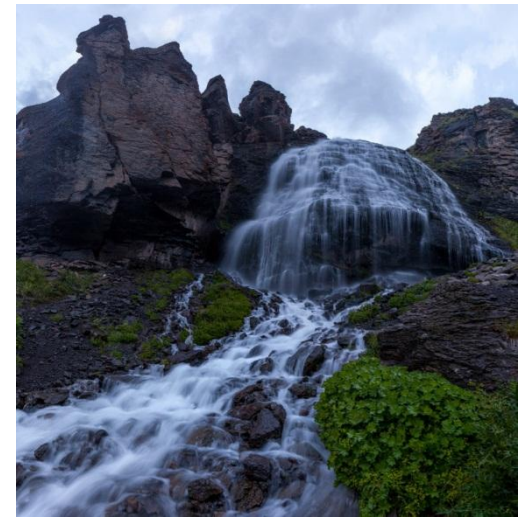




Elbrus has a unique nature, very clean air, picturesque landscapes, snowy peaks, gorges of extraordinary beauty, beautiful waterfalls.



The National park of the Elbrus region is located in the part of the main Caucasian ridge and the Lateral. The nature of the park is rich in waterfalls, the most famous of which is « The Sultan» and « The Maiden spit».



There are many beautiful and unusual lakes such as the blue lake « Syltrankem».





For the first time the lower peak of the volcano was conquered by the Kabardian Kilar Khashirov on July 22, 1829.

The highest peak of Elbrus was conquered by a team of climbers led by Florence Grove in 1874.



And the first who reached both peaks was Balkarian hunter Ahiya Sottaev. For his long life he conquered Elbrus 9 times. Last he climbed in 1909 at the age of 121!

Today there is the highest – lying geophysical laboratory and astronomical observatory at the top of Elbrus.





The territory of Elbrus region is a major center for tourism and skiing. The bulk of tourists are fans of winter sports. Two sets of cable cars were built here, which are located on the slopes of Elbrus and Cheget. On each slope there are three lines.

Galina Bachurina climbed the Elbrus. She was so impressed by its beauty that she wrote the following lines:

« Elbrus two – headed, majestic,
Middle of the Caucasus – Ispolin,
From time immemorial fanned by glory
And many thoughts he is the lord».



For lovers of extreme entertainment, they organized an ascent to the top of Elbrus by helicopter, and a descent from the mountain on skis.



Conservative athletes are served by cable cars, up to 2400 people per hour.



The magnificent highest peak of the Caucasus,
the majesty of Elbrus sang in their poems
M. Y. Lermontov, A. S. Pushkin and many
Caucasian poets.

« Magnificent pictures.
The thrones of eternal snows.
Their peaks seemed to eyes
A motionless chain of clouds,
And in their circle a two – headed colossus
In a crown glistening with ice
Elbrus the great majestic mountain.
Shone brightly in the sky».

A. S. Pushkin.

