

VASHLOVANI NATURE RESERVE

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Our motherland-Georgia is distinguished with its unique nature and landscapes. One of its prominent places is Vashlovani Nature Reserve. I would like to introduce information about this wonderful reserve. My article will be printed in the journal "Georgian Nature". I would like to start with the fact that very often Vashlovani reserve is resembled to African Savannah.

Savannah are distinguished with their unique flora and fauna. Here we can see diverse nature and various kinds of animals and birds. Vashlovani reserve isn't behind African savannah with diverse landscapes and natural monuments.

- The goal of the reserve is to protect and keep rare species of flora and fauna of the forest which are becoming extinct now.
- Entering the Vashlovani reserve spectacular view can be seen and you will guess that you have appeared in completely new world. It is unique protected territory as in scientific as well as in touristic viewpoint.
- Vashlovani comprising numerous hidden mysteries and independence is a real paradise in the world and it's impossible to completely talk about its beauty with the words. Because of this each of you should visit this place. Completely breathtaking, magic world and unforgettable adventures are awaiting you in Vashlovani protected territory.

Because of various natural factors, arid landscape has been created on a small territory which are different from each other. They are: desert, half desert, steppe, arid, rare forest and leafy forest zones. Nearly 700 plant species are presented in Vashlovani Flora. Among them we could distinguish orchids, Georgian iris, Eikhler tulips, Maiko peony, wild vine and other rare plants. In Vashlovani protected territory 13 species of coniferous trees of Georgian "red list" are presented. Among them the following are worth noting : Georgian maple, turanula, walnut, log stemmed oak, pistacia mutica, willow-leaved pear of sakhokhia, black juniper, etc. Fauna is quite diverse.

Here numerous mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibian live. You can see a lot of jackals, foxes, rabbits, wolves, lynxes, porcupines, bears, etc. In Vashlovani there are a lot of photo-traps and from them we find out that in Vashlovani territory front Asian leopard appeared. People called Noah to it.

It is known that two male leopards struggle and the winner occupies vast territories and there exist viewpoint that Noah is the "winner" leopard which came to Georgia. Unfortunately people touch the natural monuments and this problem is actual in Vashlovani resort too. People always have influence on unique nature, change its face and use it maliciously. A big problem is over-grazing,

fishing and hunting. Nature is destroyed and forest is cut down and burnt. I wish these problems no longer exist in the future and people manage to maintain this marvelous nature.

Now I will share my impressions

- I dreamed of going to Vashlovani for a long time and this dream came true. One summer day I visited this resort with my family members. We stayed there for 3 days and visited all the places we could manage during this days, we saw many beautiful plants and animals. We visited Takhti-Tepha Mud Volcanoes and received detailed information from the guide.
- We couldn't manage to see everything because of the lack of time and I would like to go there for the second time, but I am still very content, we should all value our motherland. There is no need to go to African savannah as there is much more beautiful nature in our country- Georgia.

References:

1. Article-Vashlovani-Georgian Savannah
2. www.wikipedia.org