

Come, see and fall in love with Sheki

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In the north of Azerbaijan among high mountains lies the city of Sheki. It is so deeply hidden in the valley that only red roofs and spiky tops of minarets adorned with crescents look out of the dense greenery of gardens. And if the center is enlivened by groups of tourists speaking different languages, the streets of the suburbs are quiet and deserted most of the day.

Sheki is cozy, charming and provincial in a good way. Here time has its own leisurely rhythm, and once in the neighborhoods, which have not changed their appearance since the early Middle Ages, it seems that it has totally halted its relentless pace. Life in Sheki flows so quietly and slowly that residents seem to have never experienced any worries of the big world. And even the bristling battlements of the walls of the Sheki fort look just like an innocent decoration of the idyllic landscape.

Sheki is a city that stood on the Silk Road, an ancient transcontinental trade route laid from Asia to Europe in the 2nd century BC, although apparently it had commercial ties with China and India and maybe even Japan even before that. This is evidenced by cowry shells, previously used in these countries as money, found in the burials of Kudurlu barrows (17th century BC). And huge bazaars once bustled on Sheki squares while merchants shouted to buyers in dozens of languages and dialects to come into their tents, enticing them with the wonderful aroma of spices, the rainbow of luxurious fabrics, the glitter of jewels and the sharpness of foreign swords. Here Chinese silk was exchanged for Russian furs, gold bracelets from Greece for Baltic amber and Bukhara carpets for leather from Scandinavia...

Today Sheki is beautiful and unique, and a stroll through it is fascinating like a trip in the tales of "One Thousand and One Nights". It is friendly and welcoming, its streets are filled with aromas of incomparable Sheki cuisine, and literally every minute of your stay in this city brings new discoveries.

The pride of Sheki - the Khan's Palace - adorns the city. It became a symbol of the talent of Sheki residents and the crown of the work of many generations of Azerbaijani artists. More and more people come here to admire the paintings of rooms and delicate patterns of the windows of the palace and, of course, walk through the streets of ancient Sheki, climb to the Sheki fortress, explore the caravanserais, mosques and, of course, ancient Albanian Christian churches. After all, time has an exceptional gift of persuasion. From the host of all the things people have created, it meticulously selects the best so that these creations of architects, artists and writers serves as reference points on the infinite path that humanity is taking.