



Nature of Azerbaijan

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**HEYDAR ALIYEV
FOUNDATION**

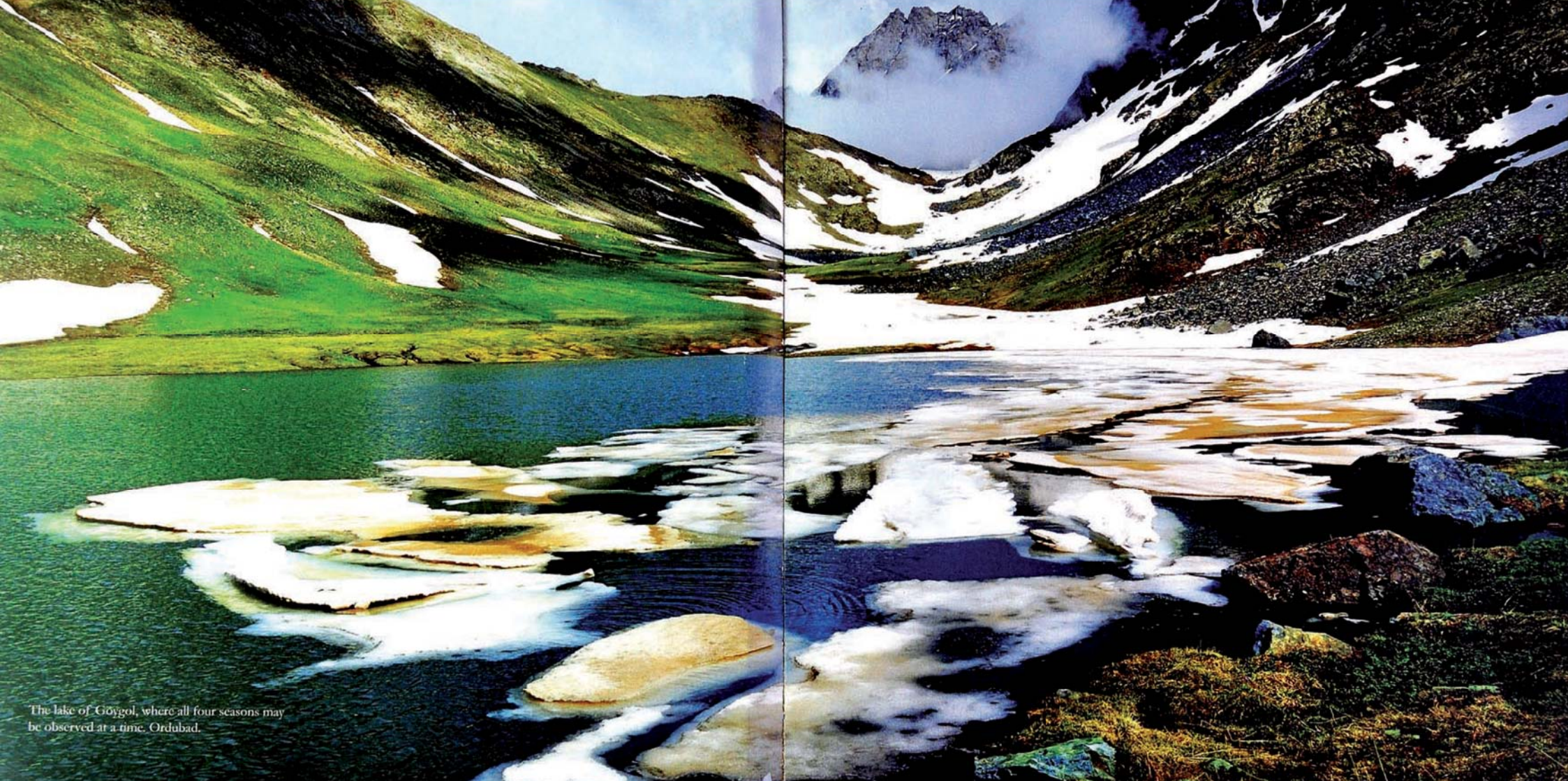
M.F. Axundov adına
Azərbaycan Milli

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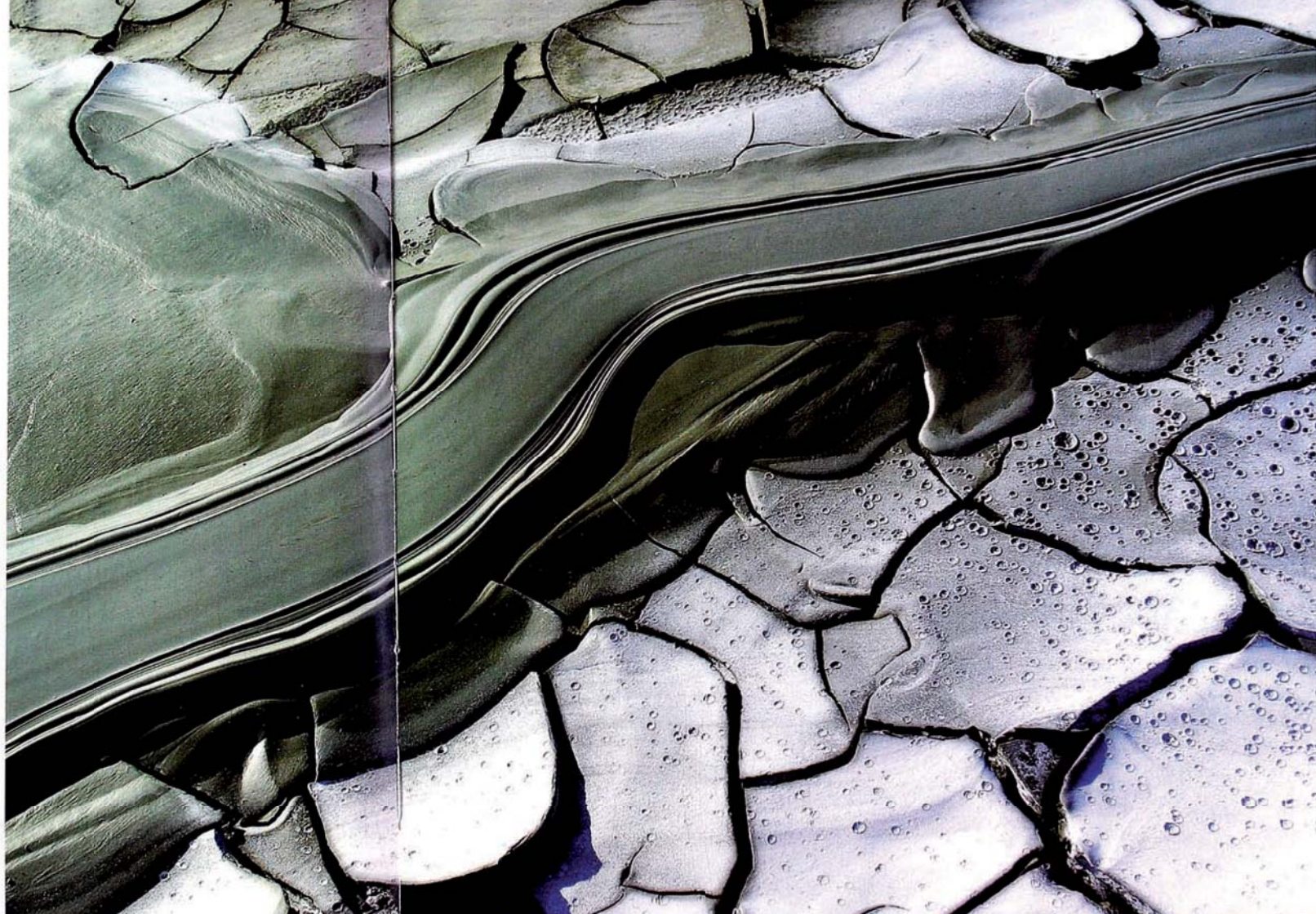
The Republic of Azerbaijan is located in the eastern part of the South Caucasus, at the western coast of the Caspian Sea, at latitude 38 degrees 25 minutes to 41 degrees 55 minutes north and longitude 44 degrees 50 minutes to 50 degrees 51 minutes east. The country's overall area is 86,6 thousand square kilometers. Azerbaijan shares land border with the following countries: the Russian Federation in the north, the Republic of Georgia in the north-west, the Republic of Armenia in the west and south-west, and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the south. Marine borders, besides Russia and Iran, are also shared with the Republics of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. The city of Baku is the capital of Azerbaijan.

The country features a very complex and diverse lay of land comprising mountain ranges (the Greater Caucasus in the north, the Lesser Caucasus in the west and south-west, and the Talysh Mountain Range in the south-east), the Kura-Araz Lowland in-between them. The true altitude varies from 27 meters below sea level to 4446 meters above sea level (Mount Bazarduzu).



The lake of Göygöl, where all four seasons may be observed at a time. Ordubad.

Azerbaijan is second to none in the world by the number and diversity of mud volcanoes.



Boyük Kanizdagh mud volcano, Gobustan.



Peculiarities of the country's geographic location, complex lay of land, large coastal area at the Caspian Sea, high indices of annual solar energy at the surface together with the impact of various air flows and other factors resulted in the formation of multiple varieties of climate within subtropical climatic zone.

The Gyzylaghaj State Natural Reserve, Lankaran.

Karstic saucers in the Lesser Caucasus.





Rich flora of Azerbaijan is also known for its tremendous diversity featuring 4500 specimens. The country features some truly relic plants like argan tree (*parrotia persica* DC), silk tree acacia (*albizzia yulibrissin durazz*), chestnut oak (*quetcus castaneifolia* C.A.Mey), Oriental persimmon (*dyospiros lotus* L.), Hircanian holly (*ilex hyrcana* pojark), mondell pine, etc. Riparian woodlands along the rivers of Kura, Araz, Ganykh and Gabryr are rich in poplar, willow, oleaster, elm, mulberry, tamarisk and pomegranate. At the moment, there is a pressing need to protect almost 400 floral specimens, so 140 species of rare and extinct plants were included in the Red Book.



Sweet pea (*Lathyrus*).

↑ Forest primrose (*Cyclamen elegans*).



↑ Elecampane (*Inula*).





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Due to an enormous natural and climatic diversity, the country's fauna is also rich and versatile. More than 25000 species of animals are registered in Azerbaijan. Majority of them are mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, crustaceans, amphibians, etc. The Red Book of the Republic of Azerbaijan encompasses 108 endangered species, out of them 14 mammals, 36 birds, 13 reptiles and amphibians fish and 40 insects. A set of reserves, preserves (environmentally sensitive areas) and national parks was arranged in Azerbaijan with a view to protecting the country's unique wildlife.

The Caspian seal is the only marine mammal endemic for the Caspian Sea, included into the Guinness Records Book as the smallest seal of the World Ocean. The Absberon National Park was established in 2005 with a view to protecting the Caspian seal as the only surviving representative of the Pteropoda family.

Gazelles (*Gazella subgutturoza* Gldenstaedt).

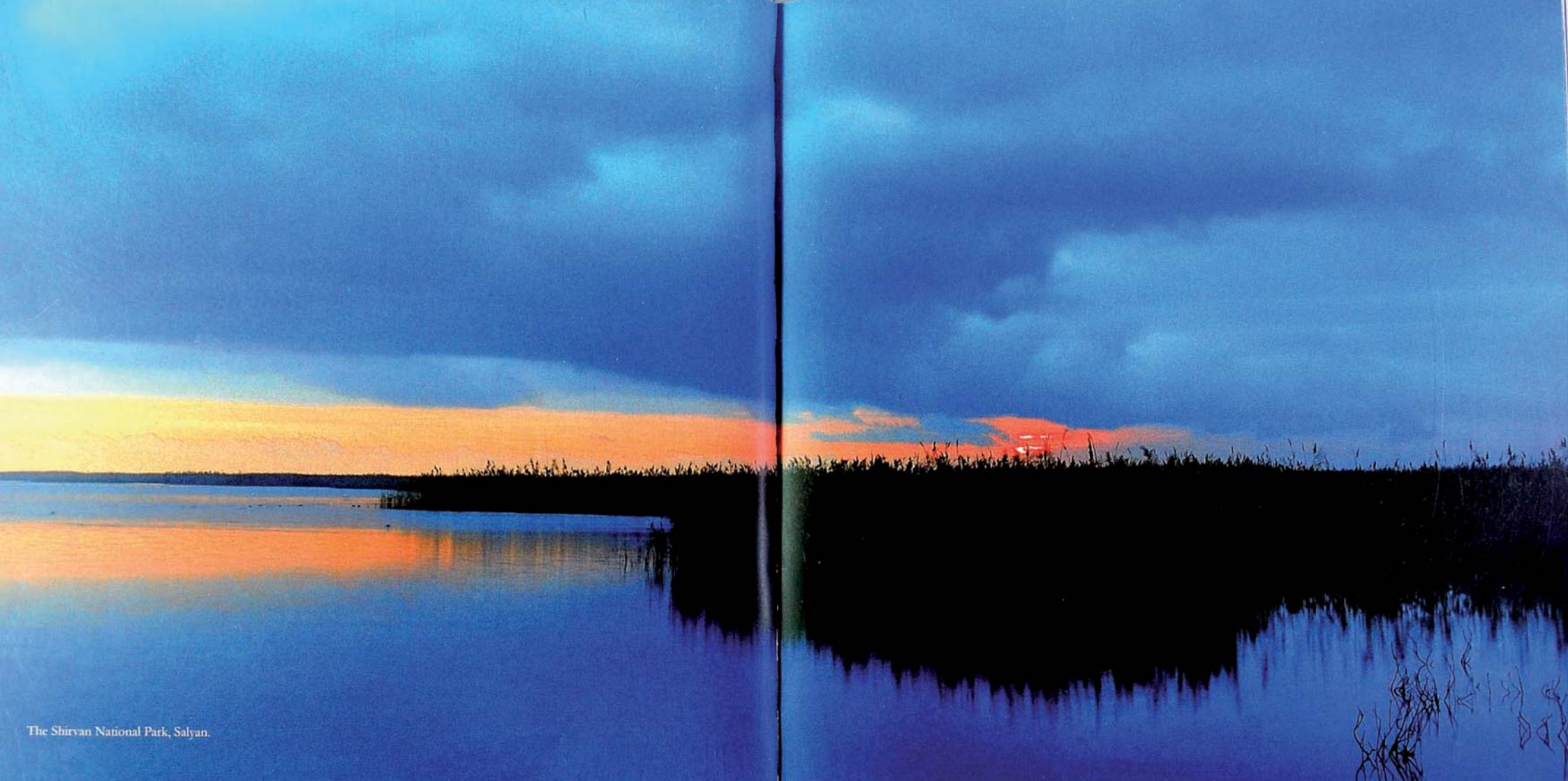


Spoonbill (*Platalea leucordia*).



Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*). The Shirvan National Park.





The Shirvan National Park, Salyan.

The Mondell Pine State Natural Reserve. Relic forest of mondell pine (*Pinus eldarica*) naturally growing on Elleroyughu mountain ridge is the first mondell pine forest in the Caucasus to be declared a reserve area.

Brown teddy bear.



Azerbaijan's territory is rich in natural resources. Rich deposits of oil and gas in the Peninsula of Absheron were known good 5 thousand years ago.

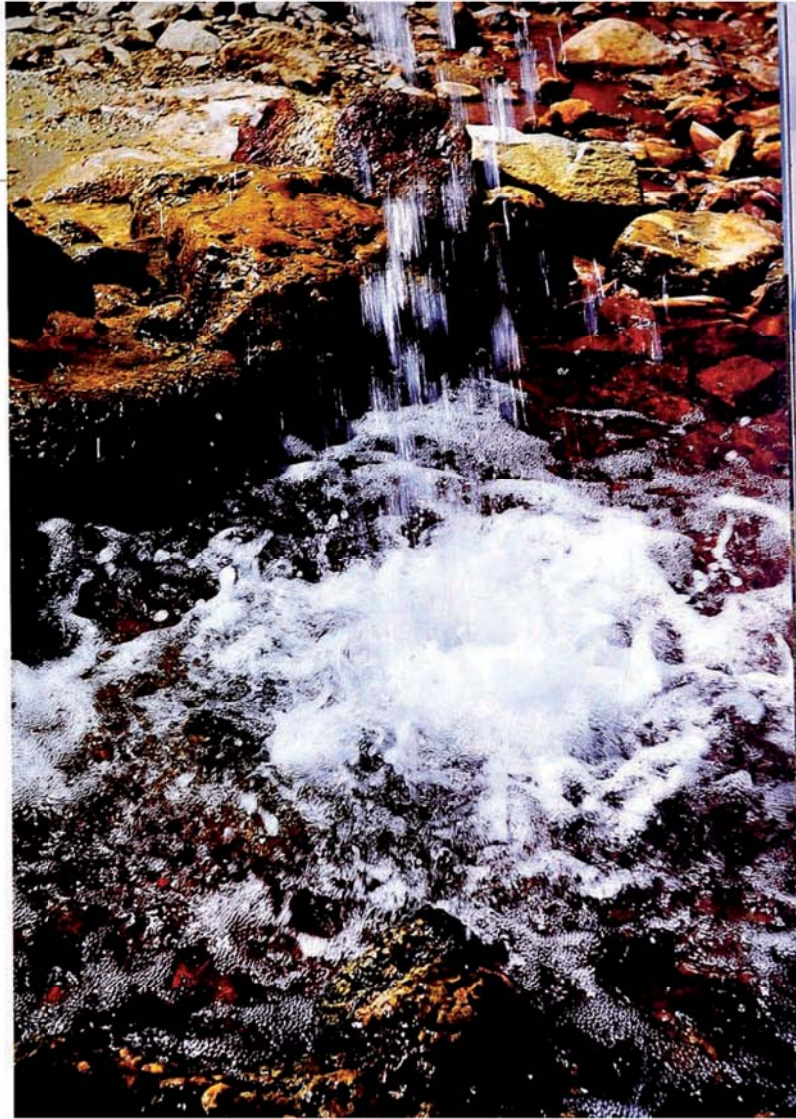
Sources of eternal fire in the territory of Azerbaijan were enthusiastically reported since times immemorial. The flame running from underneath the bowels of earth in Yanar Dagh ('the Flaming Hill') is considered one of the nature's miracles. This is the reason why Azerbaijan is also known as 'the Land of Fire'.

A 35-meter-deep borehole dug in 1594 is considered the first production well in Absheron. In 1847, the world's first mechanically drilled oil well was put into operation in Baku's industrial suburb of Bibi-Heybat, whereas, in 1949, the world's first offshore oil production was launched in the famous Oil Rocks oilfield amidst the Caspian Sea. As the hotbed of the oil industry, Azerbaijan provided more than half of the world's hydrocarbon production by the beginning of XX century.

Non-conventional combustible resources produced in Azerbaijan include natural bitumen, extracted in the peninsula of Absheron, Gobustan and the downstream Kura, shales in the Districts of Ismayilly, Guba, Shamakhy, Gobustan and Absheron, coal and brown coal in Terter and Gabala Districts and Gynyxh-Ayrichay Zone.

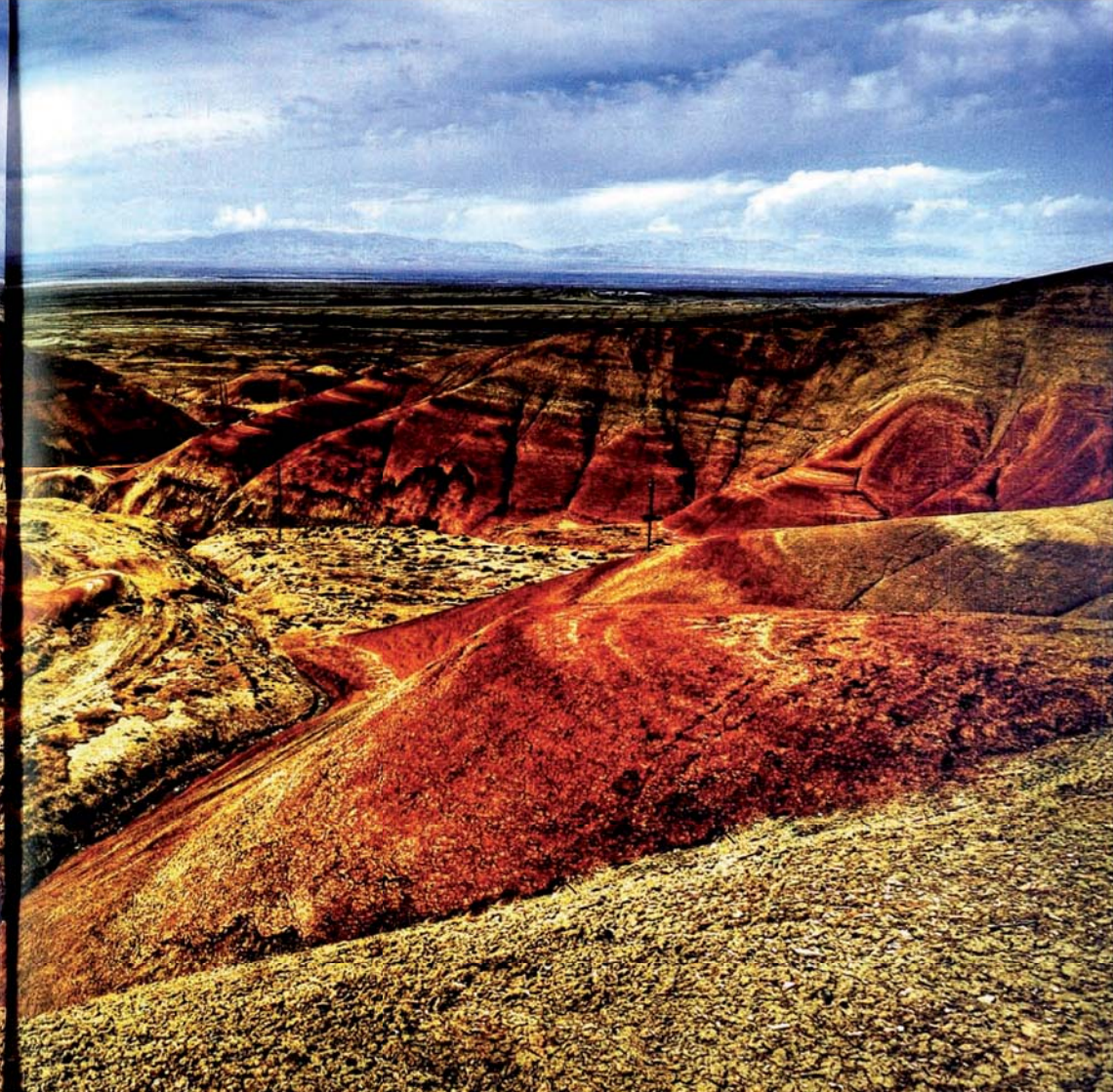


Badamly, natural mineral water source. Shabbuz.



Salt-mine in Duzdagh, considered a natural miracle. Babak.

View of the Duzdagh vicinities, Babak.



Mount Händagh, Juba.





Mount Tufandagh. The Greater Caucasus Mountain Range.



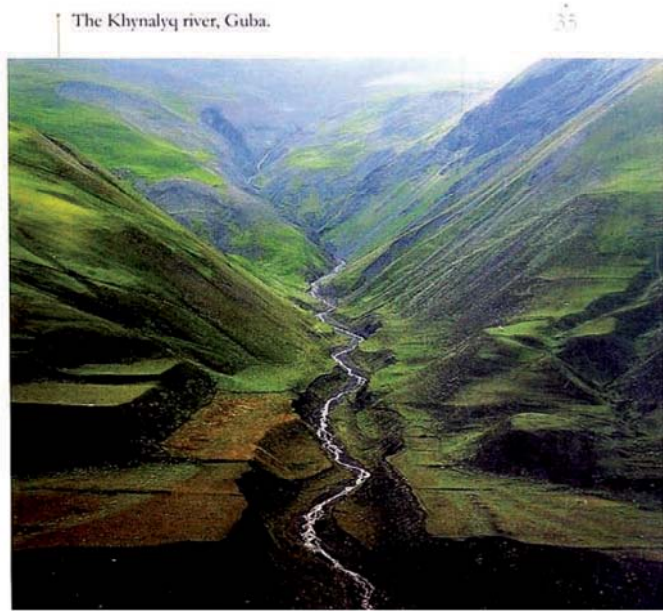
View on the Shahdagh peak from Bazarduzu.



Frozen waterfalls near Laza village, Gusar.



Khynalyq village located at the height of 2500 meters over sea level, with ethnic and cultural traditions preserved intact to this day. Guba.



The Khynalyq river, Guba.

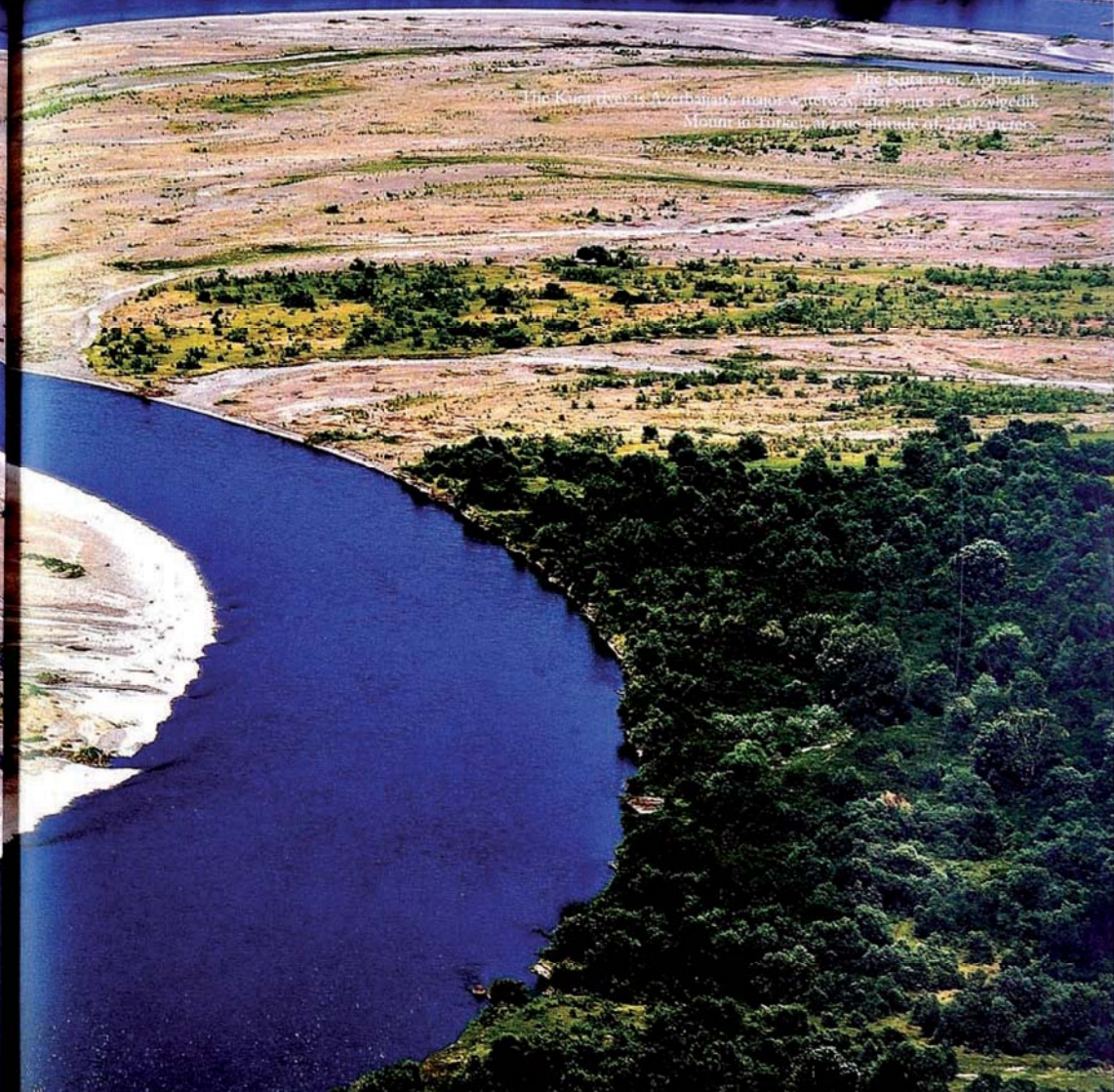
Ore minerals like iron, aluminum, mercury, gold, copper, lead, zinc, cobalt and molybdenum are found in Azerbaijan. Deposits of iron ore in the District of Dashkesan and alunite fields in Zaylik area are of a high commercial significance.

Azerbaijan boasts of 8300 rivers and almost 250 lakes. The largest rivers are Kura, Araz, Ganykh, Gabyrry, Samur, Arpa, Terter, Hakari, Turyan, Gusar, Gudyal, Vilash and others.

The Katekh Waterfall, Balakan.

The lake of Barabat famous for its floating islands. Shahbuz.





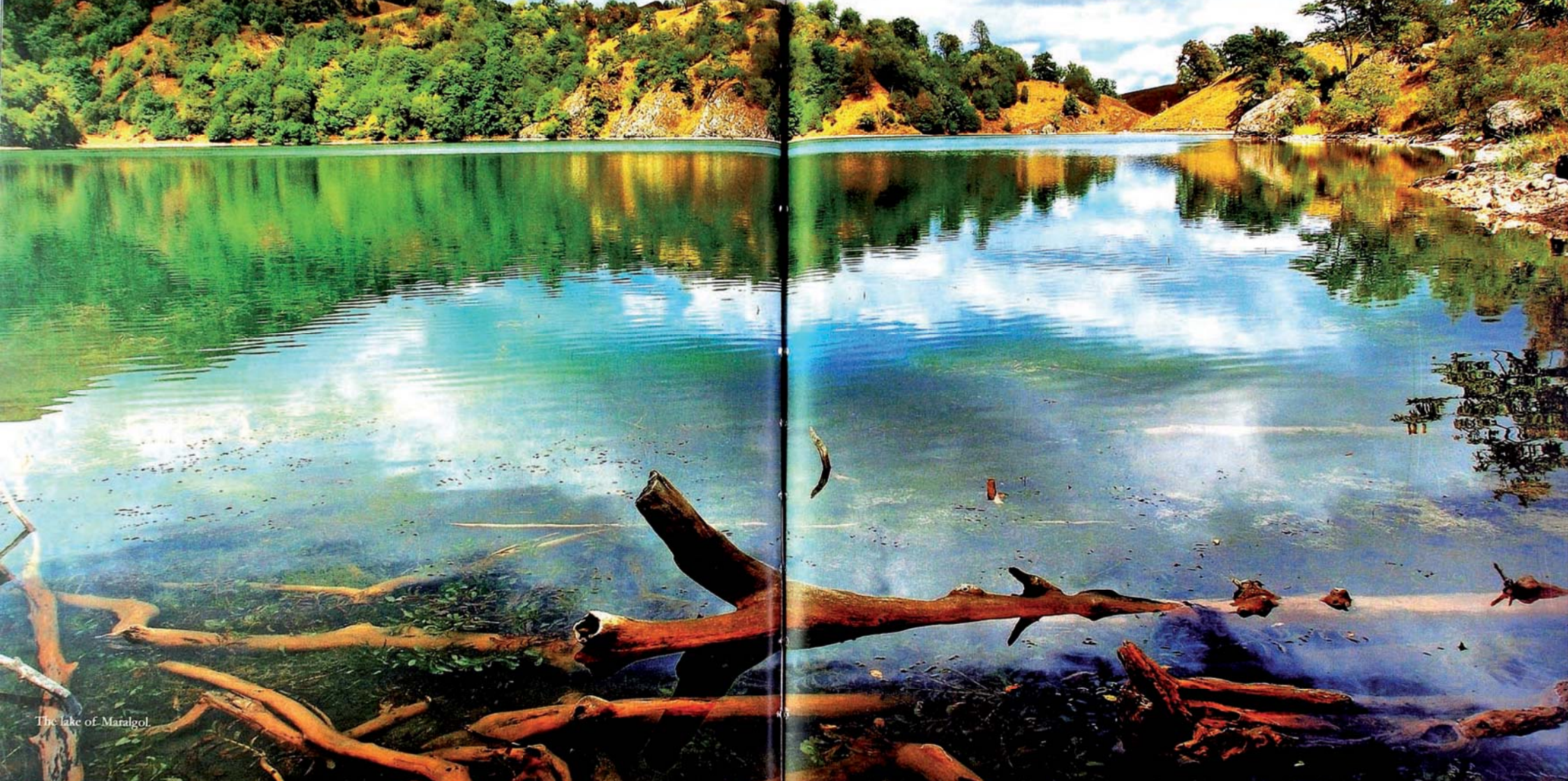
The Kur river, Australia
The Kur river is a major waterway that starts at Crozledik
Mount in Tasmania and flows through the heart of the
continent.



Mount Kapaz, the Lesser Caucasus.

The lake of Goygol.

The Lake of Goygol created as a result of the earthquake in 1139 is a true miracle of the nature. The lakes limpidity provides visibility for good 13 meters. A noteworthy detail is that the lake's three distinct water layers comprise fresh water; interim level, and the poisonous lowest sulphurous level in the very bottom. The three layers never mix with each other.



The lake of Maralgol.



Valley of the Terterchay river, Garabagh.

Panoramic view of Khankendi.

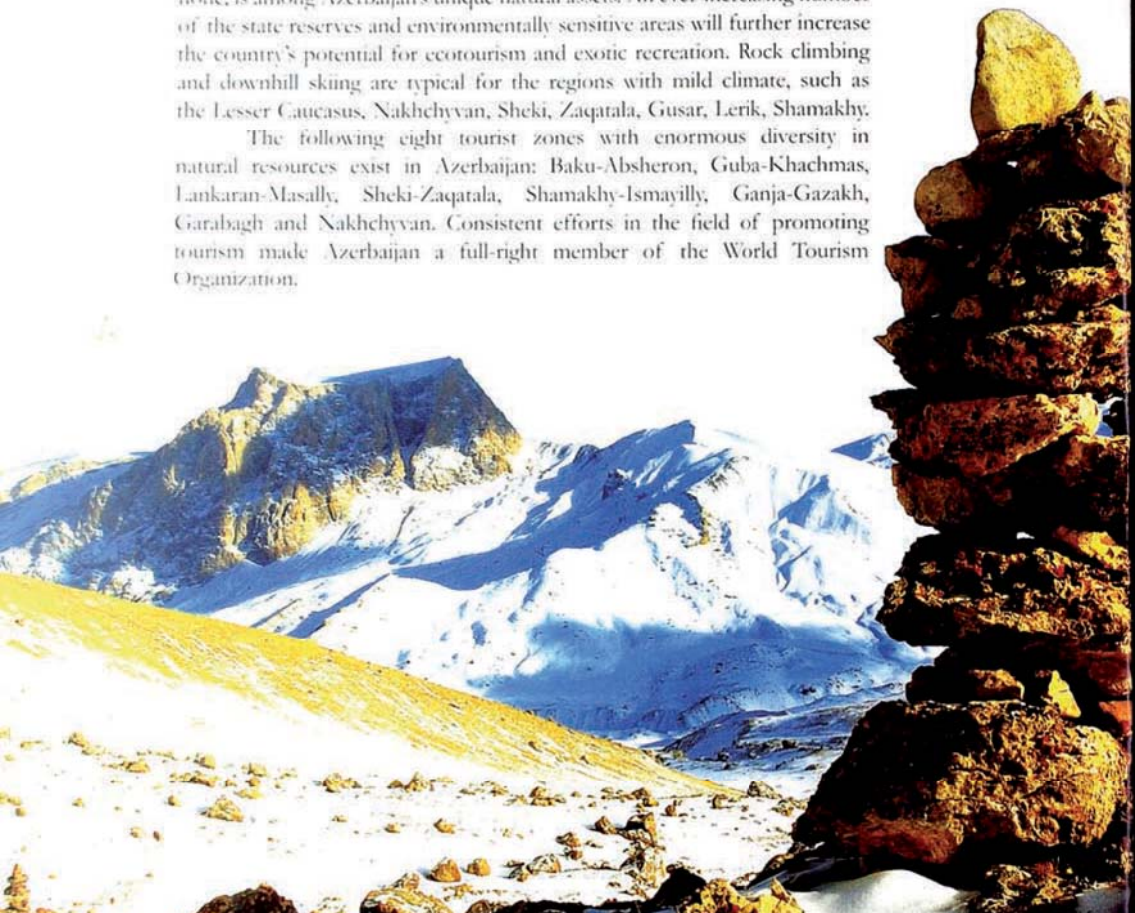


Jydyr Duzu, Shusha.



Numerous cultural and historic sites, favorable climate, abundant nature, therapeutic water sources make Azerbaijan a wonderful tourist hub. All the 8 types of therapeutic mineral waters recognized worldwide are found in Azerbaijan. The oil of Naphthalan, with medicinal qualities second to none, is among Azerbaijan's unique natural assets. An ever-increasing number of the state reserves and environmentally sensitive areas will further increase the country's potential for ecotourism and exotic recreation. Rock climbing and downhill skiing are typical for the regions with mild climate, such as the Lesser Caucasus, Nakhchivan, Sheki, Zaqatala, Gusar, Lerik, Shamakhy.

The following eight tourist zones with enormous diversity in natural resources exist in Azerbaijan: Baku-Absheron, Guba-Khachmas, Lankaran-Masally, Sheki-Zaqatala, Shamakhy-Ismayilly, Ganja-Gazakh, Garabagh and Nakhchivan. Consistent efforts in the field of promoting tourism made Azerbaijan a full-right member of the World Tourism Organization.



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