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UNESCO

The Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands
World Heritage since 2021



Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands

UNESCO World Heritage Site in Georgia

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Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands of Georgia are inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List.

Component areas are parts of the following Protected Areas in Georgia: Mtirala National Park, Kintrishi Proteced Areas, Kobuleti Protected Areas, and Kolkheti National Park. All four protected areas of UNESCO World Heritage Status are an important part of the Caucasus Ecoregion and the Black Sea Basin, with unique ecosystems and highly diverse flora and fauna.

The Protected Areas have been declared UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites in accordance with the IX and X criteria. These criteria comprise outstanding example representing significant on-going ecological and biolocal processes and the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation. Kolkheti and Mtirala National-Parks and Kintrishi and Kobuleti Protected Areas are totally compliant with the mentioned criteria.


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Kolkheti National Park

Kolkheti National Park is one of the most special and outstanding places in Georgia. The Kolkheti Wetland first came into the international limelight in 1996 when Georgia joined the Ramsar Convention. In 1999 Kolkheti National Park was designated. In Kolkheti, the sphagnum left over from the Ice Age 10,000 years ago never stops growing and the peat formation process continues to this day.

The completely different climate of Kolkheti creates favorable conditions for the existence of special habitats and unique species. Rare plants have been preserved in the park, which today are only characteristic of the tundra and taiga wetlands ecosystems of the Far North.

Visit Kolkheti National Park and discover amazing landscapes, take a boat or pontoon ride on Paliastom Lake and Fichori River and enjoy the beautiful scenery.


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Mtirala National Park

Located 15 km from the Georgian seaside resort of Batumi, Mtirala National Park has always attracted the attention of visitors and nature environmentalists. The unique Colchic forest and the rarest nature led to Mtirala National Park being granted UNESCO World Natural Heritage status.

The territory of Mtirala National Park is fully covered by impenetrable rainforest, Colchic rainforest is mainly spread over the territory. It is considered the wettest area in the Caucasus due to frequent high humidity.

Mtirala National Park is distinguished by its diversity of endemic, relict, and globally endangered species, which represents a value of global importance. The territory is characterized by rich vegetation and contains all the characteristic elements of Colchic forests.

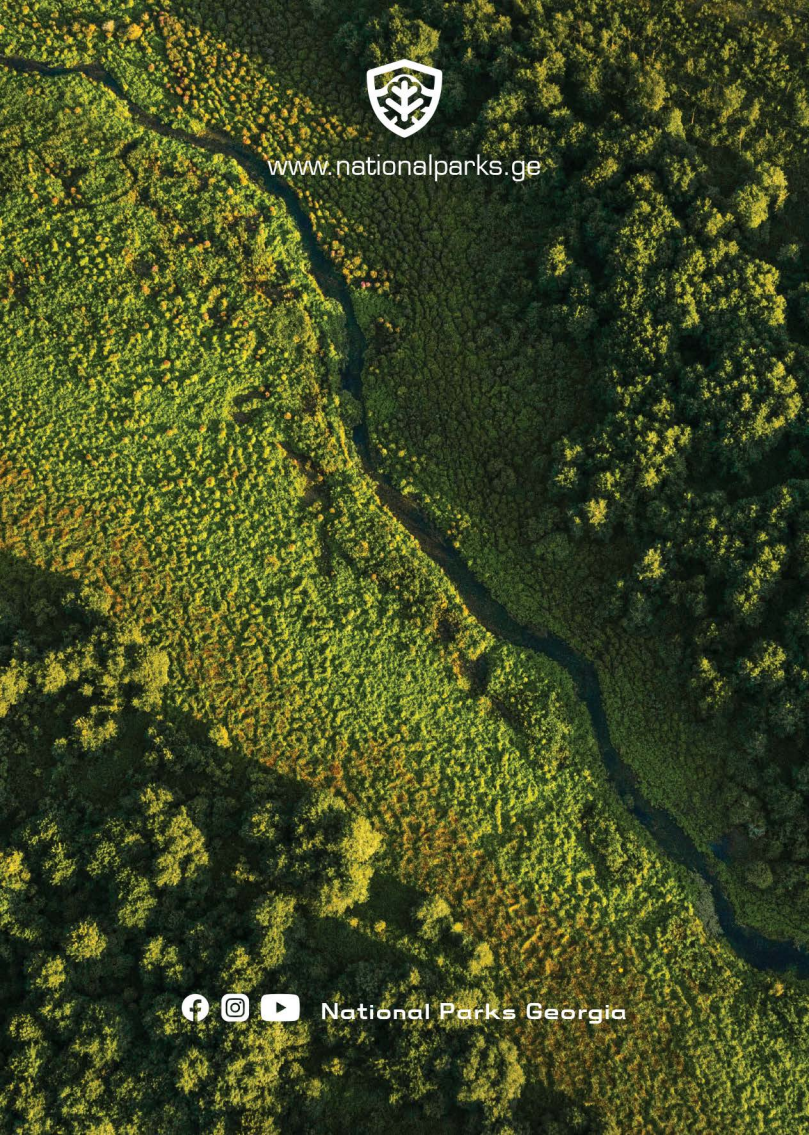
To make the trip even more unforgettable and varied, you can explore the rope park and the extreme attraction of the zip line. If you love the wilderness, hiking, horseback riding, and camping, Mtirala National Park should be on your bucket list!


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Kintrishi National Park

Kintrishi Protected Areas are located just 24 km off the coast of the Georgian seaside resort of Kobuleti. The area with the unique Colchic forest is among those that have been granted UNESCO World Natural Heritage status. About 92% of Kintrishi protected areas are forested and it is one of the largest forested areas among the protected areas of Georgia. Here you will discover a large number of ancient and globally endangered species.

The oldest forest species from the Tertiary Ice Age, known as "Colchic Flora", are fully preserved here. Kintrshi National Park offers visitors an interesting and varied natural and cultural attraction. In the villages surrounding the park, you will get acquainted with the traditions and lifestyle of the hospitable locals. As you travel through the mountains, you will find yourself above the clouds and enjoy the beautiful scenery of forests, rivers, and lakes hidden in the clouds against the backdrop of birds chirping.


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Kobuleti National Park

The unique Kobuleti protected areas are located just 2 km from the sea coast of Kobuleti. Ancient living ecosytems, wild and pristine nature, long evolutionary process of flora and fauna, bird migration, outstanding geology. taking all of this into account, Kobuleti protected areas are a unique and important place not only in Georgia but all over the world.

Kobuleti Protected areas are the only studied peatlands in the subtropical zone of the Northern Hemisphere, which show similarities with tundra and taiga-type wetland ecosystems in their floristic composition.

Peatlands stabilize climatic conditions, stop erosion, preserve the unique local biodiversity, ensure the accumulation and storage of freshwater, regulate surface and groundwater flow, influence water quality, and regulate the nutrient balance.

The wetlands presented here are considered to be the simplest and “ideal” type of wetlands, and at the same time cannot be found anywhere else in the world.



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