



Interdisciplinary Conference of Young Scholars in Social Sciences

THE ROAD FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

Natela Tamoevi

Senior Teacher of Geography at LEPL Telavi N9 public school

Daduna Gogilashvili

Telavi N9 public school

Today I'd like to discuss the Vardzia monastery complex, which is one of Georgia's most popular tourist attractions. The presence of this cultural relic is difficult to accept at first glance, because such fantastic sites can only be heard in stories and legends. Vardzia is located on the left side of the Mtkvari River in old Javakheti. It is situated about 1300 meters above sea level on the Erusheti Mountain's side. You could sense the amazing history linked with this city-cave as soon as you walked in.

Vardzia's caves all seemed to tell a different story. Vardzia's construction began in 1156 and lasted 47 years. Over the years, up to 300 rooms have survived, including monasteries, cellars, and irrigation lines that are still operational today. Vardzia's design is broken into three parts:

Between the south wall of the Church of the Assumption and the bell tower, there is a tiny group of caverns built close together in the first central section.

The second section is the so-called Rock town of Ananuri, which has a two-story rock house, a garden and grape terraces, as well as a small church from the 10th century.

Time has done a good job of preserving the last and third segments. Tamar's room, the entryway, the Salkhino, and the "Palace of Medicine" are all accessible via 150-meter-wide caves and a tunnel. I took a look around.

The guide responded that the creation of Vardzia was intimately associated with George III and Queen Tamar, which piqued my attention. The Church of the Assumption still has the frescoes of Tamar and George III. Do you know why this temple holds such significance for me? The temple's walls are covered in frescoes depicting biblical scenes, and it is because of these paintings that the temple feels so holy.

I'd also like to tell you about a mythology related with Vardzia's name, which all Georgian youngsters have been taught since childhood. I frequently followed her grandma; the stories were usually brief and straightforward, but she made an indelible impression on my memory.

Tamar used to play in a cave in an incomplete monastery complex with her uncle when she was a child. When the uncle lost sight of the baby, he proceeded into the cave's labyrinths and began searching for him. "Here I am, uncle!" Tamar exclaimed to her uncle. The facility was called after this reaction by King George III's edict.

Archaeologists discovered an ancient monument on the west slope of a previously undiscovered tier complex in 2015. I asked the guide what role this side of the complex served because it was structurally distinct from the center and eastern sides. He presented his theory with scientists that the freshly discovered vast halls served as a residential-agricultural complex. Ithaca as a whole had an additional structure where products were stored. Analyze the number of products in each room and how the servants moved from one to the next.

The smashed porcelain crockery piqued my interest, but I could sense how much this rushed story revealed about medieval existence.



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Vardzia is Georgia's most visited cultural landmark, with thousands of visitors each year. I consider myself fortunate to have visited her prior to the pandemic. This global catastrophe has paused time and history, but I hope that travelers will be able to visit this location again soon and be as enthralled as I am.

Materials are From:

1. <http://www.ambioni.ge/varzia>
2. <https://1tv.ge/news/forbsma-vardzia-yvelaze-shtambechdav-mosanakhulebel-mimartulebad-daasakhela/>
3. <http://www.orthodoxy.ge/eklesiebi/vardzia/vardzia.htm>
4. <https://ka.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E1%83%95%E1%83%90%E1%83%A0%E1%83%AB%E1%83%98%E1%83%90>