

VISIT AJARA, COME!



# BATUMI-AJARA GUIDEBOOK





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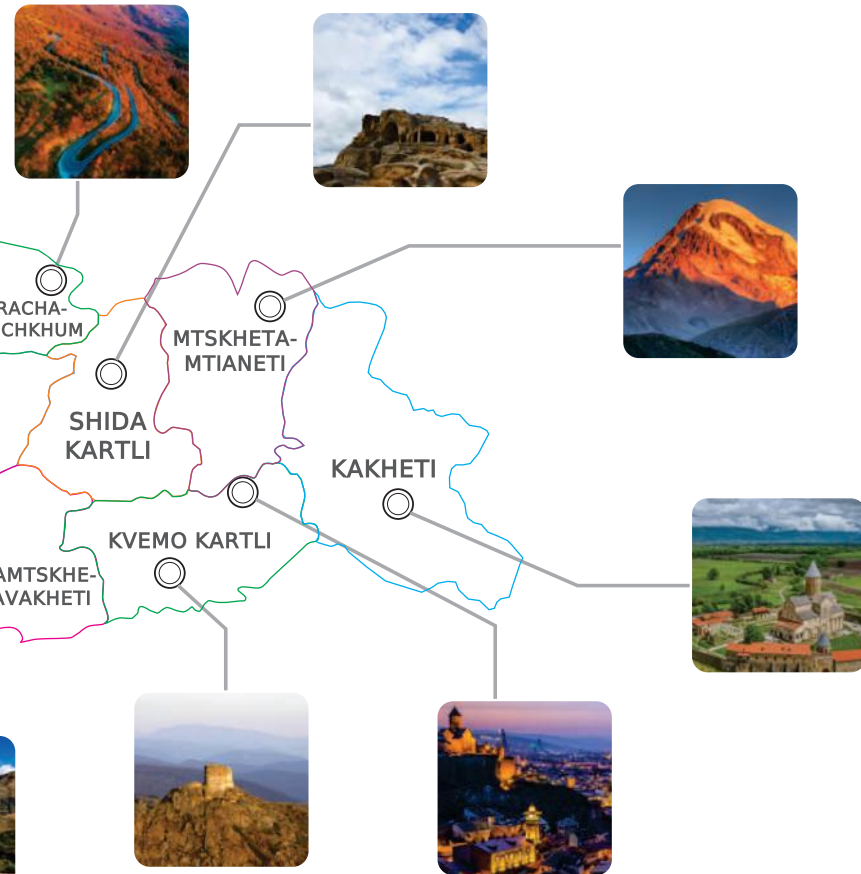
# THERE IS A COUNTRY CALLED



Area: 69 700 km<sup>2</sup>  
Population : 3,718.200  
Capital : Tbilisi  
State language : Georgian  
National currency : Georgian Lari = 100 Tetri



# GEORGIA



Time zone: GET (UTC+4)

Internet TLD: .ge

Calling code: +995

Climate: from subtropical to moderate

Temperature: in summer from +17 to +29, in winter from +5 to -10

International Airports: Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi

International borders: Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia

# DO YOU KNOW THAT... ①



*After doctors from Batumi visited Italy, the Colonnades appeared in the Boulevard.*

# HELLO BATUMI

The main city of the Black sea coast and Ajara – Batumi, located at the crossroads of two continents has a population of 155 000 and numerous visitors every year.

Those who visit Batumi are immediately mesmerized by the contrast of the city, sea, and mountains. Greenery brings comfort. One can easily find a way to calm and relax, and walking along the 12-kilometre boulevard becomes his or her favourite pastime. The beach tracks have one feature. They tend to become very native and you eventually start to greet people on your way - those sitting in the sun, walking, or just enjoying life. Newcomers start their visit to Batumi from the narrow streets of the old city. They are interested in historical buildings, cathedrals that prove the co-existence of different religions, and sightseeing. At the same time, they are pleasantly surprised by the modern spaces built in recent years, “Ali and Nino” and other similar sculptures and skyscrapers.

The local cuisine is incredible. Who wouldn't love to spend time in little cozy cafes, sip Turkish sand coffee with a sweet dessert stolen from a recipe book of Ajarian grannie? Of course, this will be the first time you try Ajarian khachapuri (the symbol of the boat with the setting sun) and much other delicious food here.

Just like locals, the city guests like wandering in the rain with coloured raincoats and umbrellas, passing by the sea station, cheering fishermen and gazing at seagulls and raising waves, enjoying the changed smell and the mood of the city, and taking shelter in a quiet café or shop, or strolling around the markets. Not even the fish market is an exception. Going there is a true adventure, and if you are good at haggling, you are guaranteed the most delicious seafood supper in the evening.

Hello Batumi!

# BATUMI



BLACK SEA

SEA PORT

- ← 13km GONIO FORTRESS
- ← AIRPORT
- ← 20km SARPİ
- ← HORSE RIDING
- ← 25km KEMAL TERMANIDZE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

- 9km BOTANICAL GARDEN
- 3.2km THE WOODS OF MOUNTAIN
- 3.1km GOGITI

# EVERY TOURIST KNOWS THE SIGHTS



## SEASIDE PARK OR BATUMI BOULEVARD

The main attraction and the most visited recreational area of Batumi. This site has been founded in 1881 by a French gardener Michael D'Alfons; recently it was expanded and lengthened to 7 km. There are cafes, restaurants, disco, amusement rides and playgrounds, tennis courts, table tennis, coffee lounges, sculptures, singing fountains, as well as bike and other vehicles rentals in the Seaside Park. [boulevard.ge](http://boulevard.ge)



## COLONNADES

Colonnades have to be mentioned among the most remarkable structures in the Batumi Seaside Park. The project was brought from Italy in the 30s of the 20th century by Ivane Mchedlishvili. Colonnades served as the gate to the waterfront. The same colonnade is installed at the main entrance to the Batumi Central Park



## SUMMER THEATRE

Located in the center of Batumi Boulevard. The theatre was built in 1947 and renovated in 2013. The building can hold 1,200 spectators.



## DO YOU KNOW THAT... ②



*Colchis is the ancient Georgian kingdom where Argonauts came to retrieve the Golden Fleece.*

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



## EUROPE SQUARE

The square is situated in the center of the Old Batumi. In 2007, the statue of Medea was placed here as a symbol of close ties between Georgia and the European world. This square regularly hosts concerts and other entertainment events. It's also the center of the New Year festivities.



## SCULPTURE "MEDEA WITH THE GOLDEN FLEECE"

Located in the center of the Europe Square. Medea was the daughter of the mythical king of Colchis and one of the main characters of Greek mythology. Medea helped the Argonauts to steal the legendary Golden Fleece.



## MIRACLE PARK

Amazing square for walking and recreation adjacent to Batumi Boulevard on one side and to the yacht club on the other. Alphabetic Tower, the old Batumi lighthouse, the Panoramic wheel and You, I & Batumi sculpture can be found in the park. Benches are designed in the form of large stones. Here you can ride roller skates, skateboards or bicycles.

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



⑦

## ILIA CHAVCHAVADZE BATUMI STATE DRAMA THEATRE

One of the main cultural attractions of Batumi. It was opened in 1952. The building was designed by the Moscow architect Teplitsky. The site is situated on Rustaveli St. 1.

[batumitheatre.ge](http://batumitheatre.ge)



⑧

## CINEMA "APOLLO"

Cinema "Apollo" was constructed in the early 20th century. The newly renovated building features an Art Nouveau façade. Cinema is located in Old Batumi and is easily accessible by foot from the center of the city. Screenings are conducted mainly in the Georgian and Russian languages.

Address: №17, M. Abashidze St.

[kinoafisha.ge](http://kinoafisha.ge)



⑨

## ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church was built during the Ottoman period in 1865. Located next to Piazza Square, it is one of the most beautiful architectural and historical monuments of the city. The church is visited by hundreds of parishioners daily.

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



## SYNAGOGUE

The synagogue was built in 1904 by Leo Volkovich. It did not function in the Soviet period and was renovated and reopened as a synagogue in 1998. Located at 33, Vazha Pshavela St.



## ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

It was built in 1885 under the supervision of the Austrian architect Manfred. The church did not function during the Soviet period. In 1992 it was re-opened. Address: 25, K.Gamsakhurdia St.



## BATUMI CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HOLY SPIRIT

The church was built in the late 90's and consecrated in 2000 by Giuseppe Pasotto, the Ordinary of Apostolic administration of Caucasus. Batumi Catholic Church is located at the entrance to the city from Makhindjauri (not far from the port). Address: 54, Gogebashvili St.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... ③



*At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the founder of the Caspian – Black Sea Oil Industry and Trade company Alphonse Rothschild built a house in Batumi but did not have a chance to live there.*

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



## BATUMI SEA STATION

The building of the Sea Station is one of the architectural symbols of the Old Batumi. The site was built in 1962. It's situated on Gogebashvili st. 3.



## "ARGO" CABLE CAR

That's a complex situated on Anuria Mountain, at an altitude of 250 meters above sea level. It offers a gorgeous panorama of Batumi and its surroundings, the Caucasus Mountains and the Black Sea. The main element of the complex is the cable car connecting the center of Batumi with Anuria Mountain. The trip will take 15 minutes.



## CAFÉ "FANTASY" ("OCTOPUS")

Cafe "Fantasy" ("Octopus") was built on Batumi Boulevard in 1975 and soon became the hallmark of the city. The mosaic building was designed by architect Giorgi Chakhava and artist Zurab Kapanadze. The cafe building was renovated in 2019. The restoration artist Ilya Pesvianidze worked on the restoration.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... ④



*Famous poet Sergey Esenin had lived in Batumi for several months near the central park. Some of his well-known poems written during this period are “Anna Snegina” and “Persian Motifs”.*

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



## BATUMI CENTRAL PARK

That's one of the most pleasant places to rest along with Batumi Boulevard. The park is located in the city center and features the dolphinarium, the zoo, a fountain and amusement rides. The park is laid around the lake, where you can go boating.

[parkbatumi.ge](http://parkbatumi.ge)



## DOLPHINARIUM

Located in the Batumi Central Park. Established in 1974, the Batumi Dolphinarium is one of the calling cards of Batumi and is highly popular among tourists and locals. The dolphin shows are offered in three languages, making the show appealing to visitors from all over the world. Ticket: 15 GEL.

[parkbatumi.ge](http://parkbatumi.ge)



## PIAZZA SQUARE

It is one of the most beautiful and visited tourist attractions in Batumi. Live music is played here daily and the square usually hosts concerts of world famous musicians visiting Batumi. The architecture of Batumi Piazza is distinguished by mosaic and stained glass art. The square covers about 5700 square meters and is surrounded by the Piazza complex, which includes 3 hotels, restaurants, cafes and bars. Address: 25, Parnavaz Mepe St. [piazza.ge](http://piazza.ge)



# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



## THE VIRGIN NATIVITY CATHEDRAL

This is the main cathedral of the Batumi and Lazeti Dioceses. The Virgin Nativity Cathedral was built in 1897. Architectural style - Gothic Revival. Located at 51, Demetre Tavidadzebuli St. / 25, Chavchavadze St.



## SAINT BARBARA'S CHURCH

Construction of the church began in 1888 by order of Emperor Alexander III and was completed in 1906. The church is located at the intersection of Rustaveli Street and Vazha Pshavela Street.



## ORTAJAME (MOSQUE)

Built in the late 19th century. The mosque was closed during the Soviet era. The service was resumed in 1990s. Located at 6, Chkalov St. / 19, Kutaisi St.

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



## "SAMEBA" CHURCH

Church of the Holy Trinity. It was built in the second half of the XIX century and is located at an altitude of 250 meters above sea level. The church has not functioned from 1920 to 1940. It has recently been completely restored.

### **How to get there:**

Bus Sameba-Salibauri leaves from Tbilisi Square

Schedule: 09:00, 12:00, 15:00, 17:30, 19:30 (the trip will take about half an hour)

Fare: 60 tetri

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... ⑤



*Prominent Belgian writer Georges Simenon had been visiting Batumi in the 30s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In one part of his novel "The People Opposite", the action takes place in Batumi.*

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



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## ALI&NINO, THE STATUE OF LOVE

The 8-meter moving Ali and Nino sculpture is a symbol of eternal love and understanding among peoples of different nationalities. It was installed in 2010. The site is located near the Batumi Yacht Club. The statue is created by known Georgian sculptor and painter Tamar Kvesitadze.



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## ALPHABETIC TOWER

The unique Georgian alphabet consists of 33 letters. Georgian Alphabetic Tower was built in Batumi in 2012. This 135-meter-high structure resembles a DNA molecule. The tower is engirded by all the letters of the Georgian alphabet. This site can be found in Miracle Park on the old Batumi Boulevard.  
[alphabetictower.com](http://alphabetictower.com)



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## ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

Located in the Old Batumi, at the intersection of M. Abashidze Street and Gamsakhurdia Street. This clock provides astronomical data such as position of the sun, moon phases, the meridian and the horizon, etc.



# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



## BATUMI LIGHTHOUSE

It is situated in the Miracle Park, not far from the Panoramic Wheel. In the late 19th century, the lighthouse was built by the French company. The lighthouse is built of octagonal stones and resembles a house.



## WEDDING HOUSE

The building is located at the main entrance of Batumi Boulevard. This miniature dolphin-shaped pavilion was designed by a young architect. The Wedding House is open 24 hours a day. The cost of a wedding ceremony is about 150 GEL.



## DANCING FOUNTAINS

The fountains are located near the House of Justice and are one of the main attractions of the New Boulevard. Every evening (20:30 - 00:30) the fountain turns into a theatrical curtain reflecting a beautiful laser show.

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



## HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Located in the new part of Batumi Boulevard, next to Ardahan Lake. It was opened in 2011. Designed by the architect Michele De Lucchi. The service here is based on one-contact principle. All the necessary documents are made in this building without any red tape.



## BATUMI ART CENTER

(also called Opera and Ballet Theatre)  
It's based on the old culture center. The building of the Art Center is decorated with elements of Art Nouveau. The site is situated in Tamaris Dasakhleba, 4.5 km from the center of Batumi. Designed for 1100 spectators.  
[muscenter.ge](http://muscenter.ge)

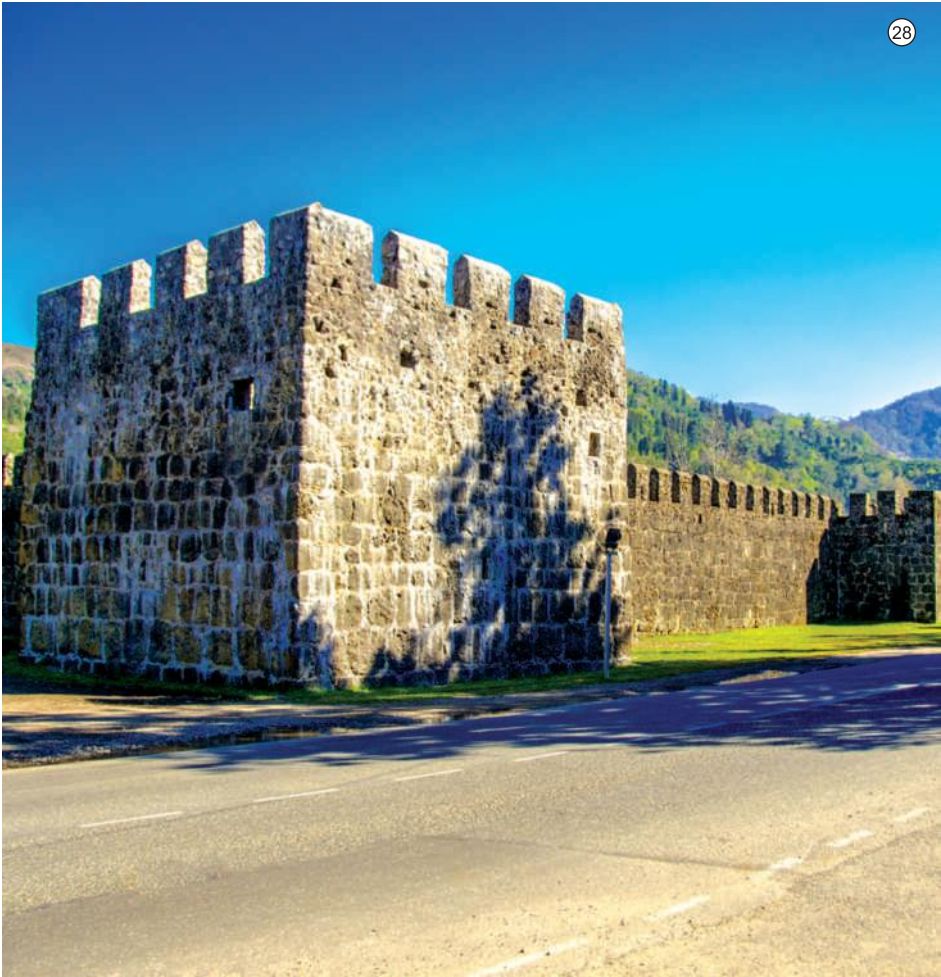


## FOUNTAIN "NEPTUNE"

Established in 2010 in front of the Batumi State Drama Theater. Is a copy of Giambologna's fountain in Bologna, Italy.

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS

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## GONIO-APSAROS FORTRESS

The main historical monument of Ajara. The site is located 12 km from Batumi towards the Georgian-Turkish border. The fortress has been built by the Romans in the 1st century, later it was one of the strongholds of the Byzantine (6-7 AD) and Ottomans (16 AD). The fortress has the symbolic tomb of St. Matthias.

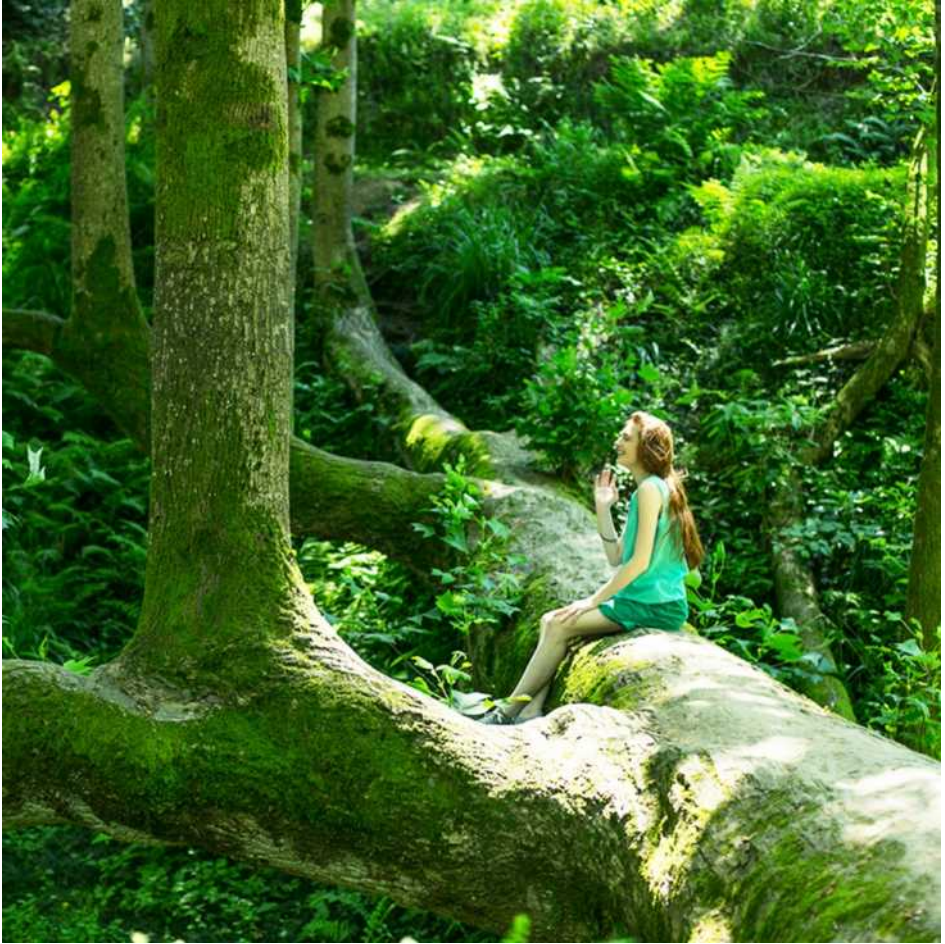
### **How to get to Gonio Fortress:**

You can use public transport:

1. The bus number №16 or minibus №88. Entering a bus, be sure to get a ticket from driver and validate it.
2. Any minibus going towards Sarpi or Gonio (you should take a minibus at Ilia Chavchavadze or Tbel Abuseridze St.). Fare is about 1 GEL, payable to the driver when you get off.
3. In group or individual tours (please check with local tourist agencies).
4. By taxi



## MAIN ATTRACTIONS



### **BATUMI BOTANICAL GARDEN**

The Batumi Botanical Garden is one of the main attractions of the city, distinguished by its location and unique floristic layout, a collection of subtropical plants, century-old trees and beautiful panoramic views of the Black Sea. The garden is located 9 km from Batumi, on the territory of Green Cape. The Botanical Garden has 9 floristic departments, three parks and a Colchis reserve. Here you will find about 1,800 woody and 5,000 herbaceous plants. Botanical Garden is an ideal place for lovers of outdoor recreation. Fans of active recreation will enjoy the zipline.

[www.bbg.ge](http://www.bbg.ge)

# MAIN ATTRACTIONS



## PETRA FORTRESS

Historical - archaeological complex Petra-Tsikhisdziri was built in the VI century by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian. The fortress held an important strategic position at the crossroads of the route linking Georgia with Iran and Armenia. The fortress is one of the most significant monuments on the entire eastern coast of the Black Sea.

Petra fortress is located in the village of Tsikhisdziri, 17 km of Batumi, near the central highway. Paid admission.

### How to get there:

1. At any minibus or bus, going towards Kobuleti (ticket cost about 2 GEL)
2. In group or individual tours (please check with local tourist agencies).
3. By taxi

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... ⑥



*The famous Noble brothers lived and worked in Batumi. They had a house and a piece of land at the entrance to the city, where, nowadays, their house museum is located.*

# MUSEUMS



## **NOBEL BROTHERS BATUMI TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM**

The museum was founded in 2007, in the building where the old “Batumi Office” of the Nobel brothers' Branobel oil company was housed in a century ago. The museum's collection features interesting materials about the activities of Nobels in Batumi, the cultural and economic development of Ajara in that period, the tea industry, tobacco production, winemaking, etc.

Address: Batumi, 3, Leselidze st., Tamari Settlement  
Tel: +995 577 29 99 49

# MUSEUMS



## BATUMI ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The collection of the museum is diverse. It is represented by exhibits of the Stone, Copper, Iron, early and late Bronze Ages. The collection also includes antique ceramics, terracotta figures, colored glass, rich gold stock, etc.

Address: Batumi, 77, I. Chavchavadze st.  
Tel: +995 558 98 13 52



## GONIO-APSAROS ARCHAEOLOGICAL-ARCHITECTURAL MUSEUM RESERVE

Address: Gonio  
Tel: +995 595 35 21 20



## DAVID KOMAKHIDZE RELIGIOUS MUSEUM

Address: Queen Tamar village  
Tel: +995 555 97 12 14

# MUSEUMS



## AJARA ART MUSEUM

This is one of the main exhibition sites of Batumi, featuring permanent and temporary expositions. The ground floor of the building represents Georgian and foreign cultural as well as educational projects. On the second floor you can see works of famous Georgian artists: Niko Pirosmanishvili, LadoGudiashvili, David Kakabadze, Elena Akhvediani, etc. The museum also has a special gallery for the exhibitions of young authors.

Address: Batumi, 8, Z. Gorgiladze st.

Tel: +995 422 27 38 94



## THE LAZ ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

Address: Sarpi village

Tel: +995 568 77 18 31



## CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE

Address: 1/5 Z. Gamsakhurdia st.

Tel: +995 595 90 14 74

# MUSEUMS



## **KHARITON AKHVLEDIANI AJARA STATE MUSEUM**

This is a place where you can get acquainted closely with the flora and fauna of Ajara, learn a lot of facts from its history, ethnography, see rare artifacts, etc. The museum holds a unique (dating from the 5th century. BC) Greek wine crater, with mythological scenes depicted on it. The collection of the museum is very rich and will acquaint the visitor with the history of the region from antiquity to our time.

Address: Batumi, 4, Kh.Akhvlediani st.

Tel: (+995 0422) 27 11 75 / 27 09 42

# MUSEUMS



## KEMAL TURMANIDZE'S ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

Ethnographic museum "Bordzhgalo" is the first private museum in Georgia created by one person, Kemal Turmanidze. The museum, with the appropriate infrastructure, landscaping and pedestrian paths is located on an area of 3000 sq.m. The museum has an open and closed space, which makes it convenient to visit it in any weather.

62 museum dummies represent the way of life and traditions of the local people. The museum also presents models of Georgian houses, cradles and gallery of carvings with a corresponding folklore design. Tourists also have chance to see an artificial 9-meter waterfall located right in the courtyard of the museum.

Address: 14, M. Sharashidze St. (Kakhaberi Village)

Tel: +995 599 27 34 70 / +995 599 27 72 31



## DO YOU KNOW THAT... ⑦



*Tea culture entered Georgia after Chinese manufacturer Lao Jin Jao had started to cultivate tea in the surroundings of Batumi.*

# KOBULETI



Kobuleti is a significant town on the Black sea coast of Adjara. It is situated in a subtropical zone, 20 kilometres away from Batumi. Kobuleti stands out from Georgian seaside localities for its outward appearance; beaches, streets surrounded by subtropical plants, and neat houses. In summers, many tourists come to Kobuleti and turn it into the busiest and noisiest town on the Black sea coast.

Kobuleti, situated on the border of the two most important parts of Georgia – Adjara, and Guria, is famous for its eco beaches, healing-thermal waters, and unique microclimate - especially useful for the treatment of heart and blood vessel diseases.

Kobuleti is interesting for tourists with different preferences, especially Eco-tourists. Clean, clear sea and eco beach in front of pine forest - for quiet holidays; nearby Kintrishi and Mtirala protected areas, Ispani Mire, green Tsikhisdziri – for new adventure lovers; concert hall - “Black Sea Arena”, amusement park - “Tsitsinatela”, seaside park in the centre, coastal café-restaurants and clubs for the active leisure lovers.

Kobuleti is also famous for its 12,5 kilometre-long street, one of the longest in Europe.

# BIT OF FUN WOULD BE GREAT



## RIDING CLUB

We offer a broad range of riding lessons for adults and children with our qualified instructors.  
Price per hour – 50 GEL  
With Batumi discount card - 30 GEL  
Working hours 10:00 – 20:00  
Address: 253, Airport Highway  
Tel: +995 555 19 73 33



## GOLF

If you want to play golf, you should go to Kobuleti, which is located 27 kilometers from Batumi. (Minibuses to Kobuleti depart from the square near the Catholic Church (Gogebashvili st.) every half hour. Fare - 2 GEL).  
Working hours: daily from 09:00 - 18:00  
Cost: 50 GEL per hour  
Address: Kobuleti, 275, Agmashenebeli st.  
Tel: +995 322 24 24 00



## ZIP-LINE & ROPE PARK

You can spend a lot of time in the Mtirala National Park, to hike or swim in the river. And if you are a fan of extreme entertainment, you can enjoy zipline. Cost - 15 GEL.  
In addition, an entertaining "rope park" with two routes was made in "Mtirala" park: a route for teenagers: 20 GEL, a route for a family: 30 GEL.  
Address: Daba Chakvi, 13, Chavchavadze st., the administration of "Mtirala" park  
Tel: +995 577 10 18 89

# BIT OF FUN WOULD BE GREAT



## UCHKHO CANYONING

Uchkho is the first canyoning tourist route in Adjara. The canyon in Uchkho village of the upper Adjara is 1750 meters high. Its total length is 1200 m., and the height difference is 550 m.

The Uchkho canyon stands out for its cascade waterfalls of varying complexity. The travellers meet, in total, 12 different-size waterfalls, the highest of which is 40 m.



## YACHT CLUB

Make your holiday even more special. Batumi Yacht Club offers boat trips, fishing, diving, parasailing and boat rides. Located not far from the sea port and Miracle Park.

Address: 5, Gogebashvili st.

Tel: +995 599 14 91 77 (Viber, WhatsApp)

E-mail: batumiyachtclub@gmail.com



## RAFTING

Rafting in Batumi can be done on several rivers. The routes are worked out by experienced rafters. A raft can fit up to 15 people.

Tel: +995 555 70 19 99

web: [www.getur.ru](http://www.getur.ru)

# BIT OF FUN WOULD BE GREAT



## DOLPHINARIUM

Located in 6 May Park, Dolphinarium is one of the most-visited tourist attractions in Batumi. The dolphin show is performed in three languages (Georgian, English and Russian).

Working hours: 14:00 and 17:00

Entrance fee: daytime show - 20 GEL, evening show - 20 GEL

You can swim with dolphins

Address: 51, Rustaveli st.

Tel: +995 422 22 17 30

E-mail: [office@parkbatumi.ge](mailto:office@parkbatumi.ge)



## DIVING

Change your life for the better! If you need new experiences, then it's time to go diving and visit places where you have not been. Get new experience and new impressions!

Tel: +995 574 09 61 15

E-mail: [tmitbragimov@mail.ru](mailto:tmitbragimov@mail.ru)



## AQUARIUM

Batumi aquarium takes care of about 100 Black Sea and Georgian fresh water inhabitants, as well as many decorative fish. The majority of the aquarium's creatures breed and reproduce at the aquarium.

Working hours: 11:00-17:30

Entrance fee: 2 GEL

Address: 51, Rustaveli st.

Tel: +995 422 22 17 30

E-mail: [office@parkbatumi.ge](mailto:office@parkbatumi.ge)

# BIT OF FUN WOULD BE GREAT



## AQUAPARK

Visit Batumi Aqua Park and enjoy various water attractions! Offering several waterpark slides, pools, and lounging areas, the park is a great place to relax, unwind, and spend some quality and fun family time!

Working hours: 09: 00-21: 00 (Seasonally)

Address: intersection of Kobaladze st. and S. Khimshi-ashvili st. (the New Boulevard)

Tel: +995 597 92 33 88



## "TSITSINATELA"

Located on the outskirts of Kobuleti (30km from Batumi). Tickets are purchased at the entrance.

Working hours: 19:00 - 00:00

Ticket: 2-20 GEL

Works seasonally

Tel: +995 514 990101



## PUPPET AND YOUTH THEATRE

Address: 49, Memed Abashidze Ave.

Tel: +995 422 27 62 34

Website: [www.puppetyouth.ge](http://www.puppetyouth.ge)

# ACTIVITIES

HORSE RIDING



RAFTING



HIKING



CANYONING



BIKE TOURISM



PICNIC



TOURIST SHELTER



# VILLAGE HOMESTAYS





## WHEN IT RAINS IN BATUMI...



Rain is not a rare thing in Batumi. That is why, if you are going to visit this city you have to take this factor into account, and plan, how to spend time in case of rain, in advance.

There are many nice and interesting cafes where, on rainy days, you would feel yourself at home, enjoying hot Batumian coffee and your favourite food, and talking to your friends all evening long. To be sure, in any weather, you can see a dolphin show, visit museums, go to the theatre or cinema to see the recent movie premiers. You will also be able to watch the city's panoramic views from the Alphabet Tower and Argo Cable Car.

Besides, there are

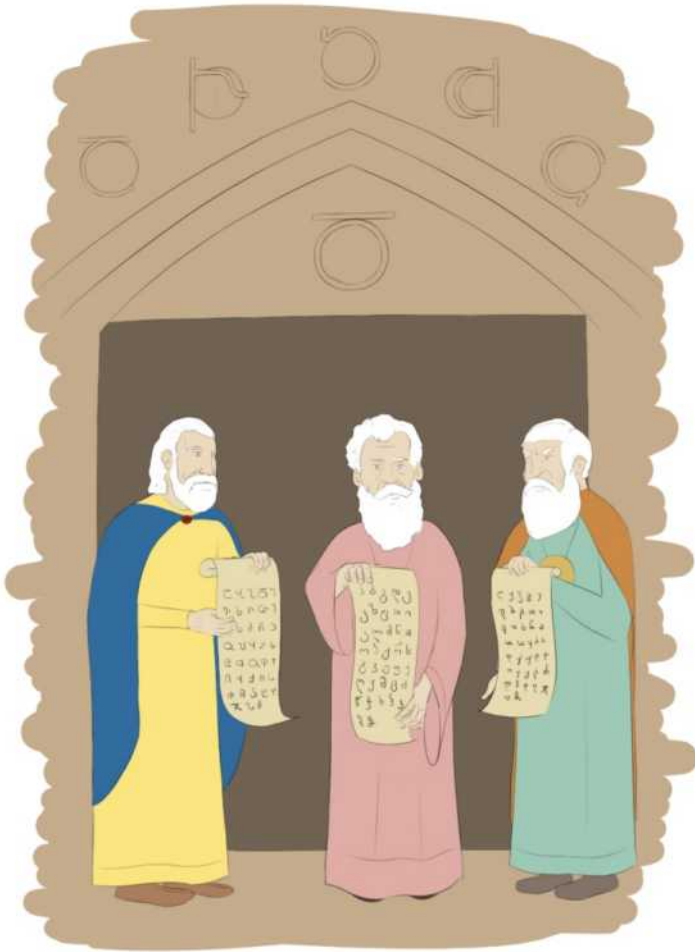
# 10 TIPS, ON WHAT TO DO IN BATUMI WHEN IT RAINS

1. First of all, buy raincoats at the nearest souvenir shop or market.
2. Visit Batumi Fish Market, where, in any weather, you can buy fresh fish to your taste, and get it cooked right before your eyes.
3. Go to the Botanical Garden. Yes, indeed, comfortable electro mobiles will make your excursion in the garden more enjoyable. Here you can even have a picnic in special roofed shelters.
4. Go shopping! There are many fashion boutiques in old Batumi. You can also visit shopping centres “Batumi Mall” and “Metro City Forum” where many brand shops are available. But, if you are more into authentic markets, crowded and fussing atmosphere, if you like haggling and noisy talks you should go to “Hopa” market in the suburb of Batumi. As for the local natural products and sweets, you can get them at the “Parekhi” market that is already so famous among tourists.
5. Great shelters from the rain are Batumi book shops that are delighted to host you in any weather. Stay here until the weather improves, and read your favourite book with a cup of Batumian coffee.
6. Visit the rehearsal of the famous Georgian folk ensemble and inspire yourself with Georgian culture once more.
- 7 Go swimming! If rain prevents you from going to the beach, you should go to the indoor swimming pool at Batumi's large hotels. There is also an Olympic-size swimming pool located at the shopping mall “Batumi Plaza”.
8. Walk at the Boulevard! Do not miss a chance to walk in your favourite places because of the rain. That is why electro mobiles and covered bicycles exist! Get on and ride along the seaside park.
9. Take part in pottery and culinary masterclasses. You can get detailed information on it at our information centers and hotline – 577 90 91 30
10. Go to see waterfalls out of town, in Makhuntseti and Merisi!

If you like waterfalls and taking pictures with them in the background, rainy days promise to be unforgettable!

Don't be afraid of Batumi rain, just enjoy it!

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... ⑧



*There are three types of Georgian alphabet in our country: Asomtavruli, Nuskhuri and Mkhedruli. All three writing systems are approved by the UNESCO Cultural Heritage organization.*

# YOU MIGHT NEED IT!

## WEATHER

Adjara is a very warm region! And the reason for this is not only the hospitality of the locals. Winter is moderately cold, and summer is long and warm. The climate is divided into two predominant climate regions - humid subtropical and dry mountain. The average January temperature in the coastal zone is +6.5 °C, in August +24.5°C. The average temperature in the high-mountainous Adjara in January is + 1°C, and in July + 19°C. The winter in Batumi is snowless, in the mountains the winter can last 5 months.

## LANGUAGE

The state language is Georgian. More than 5 million people speak Georgian. The Georgian language has its own alphabet, and it is one of 13 unique world scripts. The Georgian language belongs to the Kartvelian language group of the Iberian-Caucasian languages.  
Georgian alphabet:

აბგდეზთიკლმნოპჟრსტუფქღყშჩცძწჭხჯჰ

## OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS

January 1, 2 – New Year's Day

January 7 - Christmas

January 19 - Epiphany

March 3 - Mother's Day

March 8 - International Women's Day

April 9 is the Day of the adoption of the Act on the Restoration of State Independence of Georgia, the Day of Remembrance of the National Unity of Georgia, Day of Civil Accord, and also the Day of Remembrance of those killed for the Motherland.

Easter Days - Good Friday, Big Saturday, Easter, Memorial Day for the Dead

May 9 - Victory Day over fascism

May 12 - St. Andrew's Day

May 26 - Independence Day of Georgia

August 28 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

October 14 - Svetitskhovloba

November 23 - St. George's Day

## COMMUNICATION

You can get a SIM-card for free in Tourist Information Centers or purchase it in the offices of mobile operators. To obtain a card, you will need an ID card or passport. The cost of a SIM card varies from 1 to 10 GEL. Calling from a mobile to a fixed line phone, dial 0, then the city code (422), then the 6 last digits.

The cost of 1 minute is about 24 tetri.

Balance can be replenished by Pay Boxes.

# YOU MIGHT NEED IT!

## AREA CODES OF GEORGIA

Georgia - +995  
Batumi - 422; Kobuleti - 426;  
Tbilisi - 322;  
Kutaisi - 431.  
Help Center: 118 08

## GEORGIAN POST

6010-4, Melashvilist.  
6004 –90, Chavchavadzest.  
Working hours: Monday-Friday 09: 00-17: 00, Saturday 09: 00-14: 00  
Contacts:  
Web: gpost.ge  
Tel: (+995)422 27 22 89 / 322 24 09 09

## ELECTRICITY

Voltage and frequency standards: European 220-240 volts, 50 hertz, socket type - C – M

## VISA REGIME

### For foreign citizens:

Citizens of the European Union and Eastern Europe as well as USA, Canada, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan and other countries are now able to enter and stay in Georgia for a year visa-free. To enter Georgia it is necessary that one has a passport, valid for at least 6 month from the date of entering the country.  
Additional information about the visa regime:  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Hotline: (+995 322) 94 50 50 / (+995 322) 94 50 00  
E-mail: [consulinfo@mfa.gov.ge](mailto:consulinfo@mfa.gov.ge)

## NATIONAL CURRENCY – GEORGIAN LARI (GEL)

National currency – Georgian Lari (GEL)

All payments are made in GEL. Cash is the most frequently used method of payment in Georgia (especially in municipalities and villages). Credit card can be used in urban areas. You can also exchange currency at banks and currency exchange points. Approximate rate for 2019: 1 euro - 3.06 GEL / 1 USD - 2.75 GEL. To find out the exchange rate, visit the website of the National Bank of Georgia: [www.nbg.ge](http://www.nbg.ge)



# USEFUL INFORMATION

## 112 - EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER

You can reach 112 free of charge during 24 hours from all fixed line and mobile networks, even if the number is disconnected from both sides or there is no SIM-card in the mobile phone. Calling policy is the same for the foreign citizens using roaming and any international calling operator. Calling an ambulance is not free of charge for foreigners, the cost is 50 GEL.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

There are few clinics in Adjara that cooperate with foreign insurance companies. Therefore, foreign visitors in most cases will have to pay for services on the site and prepare a document for their insurance agencies after the treatment. The preferred option is to determine the specific insurance company with which the medical institution cooperates before arrival. Medical services in Georgia are financed only for persons with Georgian citizenship under certain state programs.

## CROSSING THE BORDER BY CAR

When crossing the border, you must have:

- Driving license of the vehicle
- A document confirming the registration of the car
- Vehicle certificate

## DISTANCE FROM BATUMI TO OTHER CITIES IN GEORGIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES:

Batumi – Tbilisi – 380 km

Batumi – Kutaisi – 142 km

Batumi – Telavi – 459 km

Batumi – Mestia – 265 km

Batumi – Poti – 70 km

Batumi – Trabson (Turkey) – 200 km

Batumi – Vladikavkaz (Russia) – 515 km

Batumi - Erevan (Armenia) - 650 km

Батуми – Ереван (Армения) – 640 км

Batumi - Baku (Azerbaijan) - 950 km

# YOU MIGHT NEED IT!



## **CAR REGISTERED ABROAD**

When a motor vehicle registered in a foreign country enters the territory of Georgia, an owner/driver of the motor vehicle registered in a foreign country is obliged to insure his/her civil liability for the motor vehicle in his/her ownership, during the full period of his/her stay in Georgia, which shall be not less than 15 calendar days.

Compulsory insurance can be purchased at the Compulsory Insurance Center by the insurer through an insurance agent with the help of an insurance broker, or using electronic equipment.

## **COMPULSORY INSURANCE CENTER**

Contact Information

Tel: (+995) 322 30 11 11

Website: [www.tpl.ge](http://www.tpl.ge)

## **CAR REGISTERED IN GEORGIA**

In the case of crossing the Sarpi customs, if your car is registered in your name (otherwise, the attested POA in Turkish language is required), you will need 3-month insurance on the Turkish side. It will be issued on the spot. The cost is 220-250 TRY.

Sarpi Checkpoint

Tel: (+995) 422 29 92 99

Tourist Information Center in Sarpi

Tel: (+995) 577 90 90 72

## **FOREIGN CONSULATES**

**Azerbaijan** - 62, Parnavaz Mepe st.

Tel: +995 422 27 67 00

**Estonia** - 60, V. Gorgasali st.

Tel: +995 422 27 09 10

**Turkey** - 9, Ninoshvilist.

Tel: +995 422 25 58 00

**Iran** - 83, Parnavaz Mepe st.

Tel: +995 422 22 86 01

**Armenia** - 31, D. Tavdadebuli st.

Tel: +995 422 27 99 90

# USEFUL INFORMATION



## **BUS/MINIBUS**

The bus and minibus (minibus) are the main means of transportation around the city. The cost of the bus is 30 tetri (passenger card can be replenished using pay-box). A trip around the city in a minibus costs 50-60 tetri, in a city 1-5 GEL and above. Mountainous Adjara and villages can be reached by minibuses, which run every hour and half an hour from the old bus station in Batumi.

To travel by bus you will need a special passenger card, which you can buy at the bus stop (you will need an identity card or passport) in "Metro-service plus" office located at 55, Vakhtang Gorgasalist.

You can also purchase a passenger card at the Batumi airport and in the Tourist Information Centers.

The cost of a bus transport card is 2 GEL. You can deposit money on the card at any time with the help of Express Pay machines, which can be found in almost any part of the city.

When traveling by minibus ("minibus") money is paid directly to the driver, in cash.

### **Batumi motor transport**

Tel: (+995) 422 24 76 76, Website: [batauto.ge](http://batauto.ge)

### **New Batumi bus station**

Address: 1, Gogol St.

Tel: (+995) 422 24 22 44

### **Old Batumi bus station**

Address: 1, Mayakovsky St.

Tel: (+995) 422 27 85 47

## **BATUMI CARD (BUS CARD)**

To travel by bus you will need a special passenger card, which you can buy at the bus stops by Express Pay devices (you will need an identity card or passport) or in "Metro-service plus" office located at 55, Vakhtang Gorgasalist. You can also purchase a passenger card at the Batumi airport and in the Tourist Information Centers.

The cost of the card is 2 GEL. The cost of the bus is 30 tetri (passenger card can be replenished using pay-box).

Website: [www.batauto.ge](http://www.batauto.ge)



# USEFUL INFORMATION



## **BATUMVELO (BIKE RENTAL)**

To get a BatumVelo card visit the Tourist Information Center at the main entrance to the Boulevard, near the fountains (2, Ninoshvili st.). You should have an identity card or passport with you.

The card is valid for one year. It costs 20 GEL, from which 10 GEL is the rental limit (1 hour - 2 GEL). The card can be replenished in the service center (2, Ninoshvili st.) or via the Express Pay terminal.

To use the "Batumvelo" service, you should download the application by clicking the link <https://www.batumvelo.ge>

To install a mobile application, click the "GO TO APP" button, then register on a social network and attach a payment card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex).

Rates:

1 minute - 8 tetri

1 hour – 4.80 GEL

### **Starting your trip**

How to activate the bike?

Enter your 3-digit bike number or scan the QR code

Press the "Start Trip" button and after opening the lock, you can drive.

### **Completing your trip**

Where can you end your trip?

At any "Batumvelo" bike station indicated on the map.

When you have completed your trip, you need to close the lock on the wheel and make sure it is locked.

### **Contact Information:**

Address: 2, Ninoshvili st., (Central entrance to Batumi Boulevard, Tourist Information Center)

Website: <https://batumvelo.ge/main>; <https://www.batauto.ge/>

Hotline: +995 577 37 76 76

# USEFUL INFORMATION



## **PENALTIES**

- Penalty for not paying bus fare - 5 GEL
- Driving while intoxicated - deprivation of driving license for 6 months.
- Smoking in public places - 50 GEL, for a repeated violation - 100 GEL
- Smoking in public transport - 100 GEL
- Smoking in the sea, railway and air transport - 50 GEL, for a repeated violation - 100 GEL
- Smoking is prohibited in public places, public institutions, restaurants and cafes - 100 GEL
- Environmental pollution - 100-120 GEL

## **PARKING**

Parking in Batumi is on a fee-paid basis. Pay for parking and leave the car in Batumi, on any parking for 24 hours. You can pay parking fee at any bank, online, by Pay Boxes, at parking meters. For payment you must specify vehicle's number and serial number.

### **Parking rates:**

- 1 day - 10 GEL
- 7 days - 20 GEL
- 30 days - 30 GEL
- 182 days - 45 GEL
- 365 days - 60 GEL



# CABLE CAR ARGO



## **CABLE CAR ARGO**

cable car „argo” is one of the essential part of Batumi, that has become a favorite sights of tourists and locals. During a 15 minuts ride the guests are given a unique opportunity to overlook the city from birdview and enjoy the spectacular news of Batumi from the open terrace. Visitors can taste the most delicious food at Café Argo. Argo cable car includis entertainment and cultural center, were the best recreation and entertainment attractions are held. During summer, visitors can enjoy free folklore show and children activities. The cable car is distinguished by the modern desing and high level of safety.

# BATUMI CARD



## GET DISCOUNT AND TRAVEL EASY!

### HOW TO USE BATUMI CARD?

- TO ACTIVATE THE DISCOUNT YOU SIMPLY NEED TO PRESENT THE CARD WHICH HAS YOUR UNIQUE CODE ON IT;
- ONLY IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT, YOU SIMPLY PRESS THE CARD TO THE CARD READER;
- CARD IS VALID FOR 10 DAYS AND AT EACH ATTRACTION ONE OCCASION ONLY (EXCEPT FOR BUS CARD);
- DEPENDING ON THE ATTRACTION, DISCOUNT WORKS FOR ONE PERSON;



# BATUMI CARD



- FREE TRAVEL ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT (10 RIDES)

- FREE SIM-CARD (1 GB INTERNET)

- **FOOD** 10-20%

- **ACCOMODATION** 15-20%

- **ATTRACTIONS:**

Gonio fortress - 40%

Petra fortress - 40%

Museums - 35%

Botanical Garden - 20%

Cable car - 10%

Panoramic wheel -10%

- **ACTIVITIES:**

Horse riding - 20%

Rafting - 20%

Cinema - 15%

Shopping - 20%



# SEA AND MOUNTAINS, SUNNY LAND



**AREA: 2900 KM<sup>2</sup>**

**POPULATION OF AJARA: 340 000 PEOPLE**

**THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER: THE CITY-MUNICIPALITY OF BATUMI**

**POPULATION OF BATUMI: 155 000 PEOPLE**

**LANDSCAPE: MOSTLY MOUNTAINOUS**

**COASTAL CLIMATE: HUMID SUBTROPICAL**

Ajara is one of the most beautiful regions of Georgia! While staying here, you will get several pleasures at once - relaxing on the sunny beach and enjoying mountain activities such as climbing to a height of 2000 m above sea level, swimming in crystal clear mountain lakes and getting acquainted with the culture and traditions of mountain dwellers. Ajara will surprise you with a variety of landscapes and vegetation, a neighborhood of sea and mountains, subtropical forests and alpine meadows, hot seaside and cool mountain canyons, unique cuisine and folklore, and of course a true Georgian hospitality!

The ancient history of Ajara is a culture of the Colchis (8-6 century BC). The cities of Pichvnari, Apsaros and Batumi played a key role in the political and economic life of the Colchian kingdom. The toponymy of the region still retains some traces of antiquity. The presence of the Romans and Byzantines, as well as the Ottoman conquests and the period of the Russian empire, also had a great influence on the history of Ajara. And the main city and port of Ajara - Batumi, became the center of major international commerce and a key transit choke point for the transit of Caspian oil to Europe from the end of the 19th century!

Due to its landscape, climate and many other factors, Ajara combines diverse tourism types: sea and mountain, rural and wine, business and gaming, culinary and cultural-historical tourism! Over 1 000 000 foreign tourists visit the region annually. You can visit Ajara using air traffic, motor transport, by rail and by sea.

# AJARA



## LOCATION

Ajara is a mountainous region located on the Ajara-Imeretian, Arsiani and Shavsheti mountain ranges which cover most of the territory and have an average height of 2-2.5 thousand meters above sea level. In the south it borders with Turkey, from the west and north-west it is washed by the Black Sea. The territory of Ajara is divided into two parts - seaside and upland according to the environmental conditions. The climate is also divided into dry mountain and humid subtropical. In the coastal part, the average January temperature is +6.5 degrees Celsius, August +24.5 degrees Celsius. The average temperatures in the mountainous Ajara are +1 degrees Celsius in January and +19 degrees Celsius in July. Batumi is characterized by a snowless winter and a moderately hot summer, while in mountainous Ajara, winter lasts about 5 months.

## NATURE

Flora and fauna of Ajara are very rich. Ajara is covered with Colchian forests that preserve relict endemic tree species and flowers, as well as rare species of fauna (more than 40 of them are listed in the Red Book of Georgia). A part of the territory of the region (13%) includes National parks and protected areas, each of which has its own ecological diversity. These are the Mtirala National Park (about 16 thousand hectares) and the Machakhela National Park (about 8 thousand hectares), as well as the Kintrishi protected areas, the Ispani peatlands, Alpine Botanical Garden and the Batumi Botanical Garden, which is more than 100 years old!

There are many rivers (Chorokhi, Adjaritskali, Chakvistskali, Machakhela, Kintrishi, etc.), which belong to the Black Sea basin) and mineral wells (Kokotauri, Gundauri, Kemisi, Khikhani etc.) in Ajara. The region also has non-ferrous metal deposits.

Waterfalls scattered around Ajara are also of great interest to the tourists. They can be seen in the villages of Makhunceti, Merisi, Gobroneti, Kveda Chkhutuneti, Mirveti, Bako, Chvana gorge, etc.

Mountains of Ajara are breathtakingly beautiful. They cover a large part of the region. The villages of Ajara spread out over the entire mountainous area from small hills to high mountain ranges over 2000 above sea level. Higher in the alpine zone, the Goderdzi ski resort and the unique Alpine Botanical Garden are located. There are various walking routes and roads for jeep tours and horse riding all over the highlands of Ajara.

[ajara.travel/visitajara.com](http://ajara.travel/visitajara.com)



# BEAUTY THAT IS REALLY NATURAL



One of the main and most popular tourist activities for foreigners in Ajara is eco-tourism. There are 4 protected areas in Ajara: National Park, Mtirala National Park, Machakhela National Park and Kobuleti Protected Areas.

If you decide to go to the following parks and protected areas, it is advisable to ask for further details in tourist information centers.

## **MTIRALA NATIONAL PARK (THE WEEPING MOUNTAIN)**

25 km away from Batumi (about 5km of rural dirt-road). The reserve occupies 16,000 hectares. That's the wettest place in Georgia. Mtirala Park saves rare species of animals and plants of Colchis, many of which are listed in the Red Book of Georgia. There is no entrance fee in the park. There are 2 hiking trails 7 and 16 km long. Trails are marked.

If you do decide to go by yourself, be sure to visit the park administration, or the Visitor Center to obtain the necessary information about the rules of hiking and security.

**Addresses:** Administration of the park is situated in Chaqvi village (13, Megineishvili St.)

The Visitor center is situated right at the entrance to the park.

### **How to get to the park:**

There is no public transport from Batumi to Mtirala. So, we recommend:

1. Individual or group tours (please check with local tourist agencies).
2. Taxi

**Activities:** hiking, canyoning, zipline (cost of zipline is 15 GEL), camping (tents can be rented at the Visitor Center), horseback riding.

# NATIONAL PARKS, RESERVES, RESORTS



## MACHAKHELA NATIONAL PARK

The reserve is located in the gorge of Machakhela River in the border zone with Turkey, 30 km from Batumi. The park covers about 9,000 hectares. Rare animal and plant species on the verge of extinction are preserved there. Those include Caucasian bee, bear, Chorokhi oak, yew, etc. Machakhela is also notable due to traditions of its gunmakers.

Trails are partially marked.

### How to get there:

1. By minibus to Chkhutuneti or Chikuneti villages (fare: 2-3 GEL). Departure from the Old bus station in Batumi.

2. Taxi (about 60-80 GEL for two-way trip).

3. During individual or group tour (please check with local tourist agencies).

**Landmarks:** Machakhela Gorge features the historic bridge dating back to the 12th century, ruins of fortresses, a waterfall, as well as the ethnographic museum in Chkhutuneti (where you can see “topi”-machakhela guns made by local gunmakers).

**Catering:** There is a riverside restaurant in Tskhemlara village, as well as dining options in rural houses.

Tel: +995 595 08 60 75

[www.apa.gov.ge](http://www.apa.gov.ge)



KINTRISHI NATIONAL PARK

# BEAUTY THAT IS REALLY NATURAL

## **KINTRISHI NATIONAL PARK**

The gorge of Kintrishi River covers about 14,000 hectares. The area is located 55 km from Batumi. The territory of the reserve is almost completely covered with forest. Kintrishi National Park is rich in Colchic flora and fauna. The trail isn't marked.

How to get there:

1. First, go to Kobuleti and then take a minibus to village Chakhati. Fare is 1.5 GEL. A bus departs from bus station in Kobuleti 4 times a day.
2. Taxi.
3. During guided tour (please check with local tourist agencies).

Activities: exploring local villages, seeing cultural and historical monuments, churches, monasteries, 12-century bridge, etc.

Catering: in rural guest houses (about 15 GEL)

Tel: + 995 577 59 21 12

## **KOBULETI PROTECTED AREAS**

Unique peatland of Ispani. That's the only filtering sphagnum bog in the world. In 1997, Ispani II was included in the list of RAMSAR Convention that enlists wetlands having international importance. Peatlands store significant archaeological sites. In 1964, during the drainage works, remains of settlements, which, as it turned out, date back to 4th and 3rd centuries BC, were discovered under the sphagnum peat.

How to get there:

1. A minibus from Batumi to Kobuleti. Then you have to change for a local Kobuletian minibus, and you'll be there in 10 minutes.
2. Taxi from Batumi.
3. During guided tour (please check with local tourist agencies).

Accommodation: There are no hotels on site, so you can stay overnight at the guesthouses or in Kobuleti. There are no restaurants on site, you'd better bring your own food with you.

Activities: hiking along the bog, birdwatching, ecological masterclass.

Contacts: +995 595 46 31 43 / 577 10 18 97



BESHUMI

# RESORTS

Ajara is famous for its diverse nature and contrasting landscapes where, during the day, you can rest by the sea, and later hide from the sun in the mountains.

Various resorts in the alpine zone await you in different seasons of the year:

## BESHUMI

Beshumi – 120 kilometers away from Batumi, 1850-2000 meters above sea level, is a summer-family resort located among “Yailas” (summer pastures).

The resort provides specific curative conditions – air transmissivity and mild humidity, the abundance of ultra-violet rays, healing muds, a prolific natural atmosphere, good drinking, and mineral waters. The coniferous forest surrounding the resort contributes to air ion balance, providing good conditions for the cardiovascular system and bronchial disorder treatment.

The first weekend of August is the celebration of “Shuamtoba” in the mountains - the period especially interesting for the visitors. Many people get together and attend different performances, exhibitions of local food, and rural livelihood. Horse racing and other contests in various sports are also popular there.



## GOMARDULI

Ajara is not only attractive for summer trips. Here you can have a good time in winter, too. Gomarduli Resort is 1120 meters above sea level. It is 8 km away from the center of Shuakhevi and 65 km far from Batumi. There are mainly small wooden cottages and family hotels in the village, where you can stay for a night and taste local food.



## GODERDZI

The Goderdzi Resort is 2350 m above sea level, 105 km away from Batumi in the alpine Ajara. It has the longest skiing track in the region, measuring 8 km. There are two types of cableway – an 8-person gondola and a 6-person bubble.



MIRVETI

# TRAVEL TO AJARA

## KHELVACHAURI

**DISTANCE FROM BATUMI: 10 KM**

**AREA: 356 SQ / KM**

**THE POPULATION: 62 000 PEOPLE**

Khelvachauri is a place that keeps the history of Ajara. One of the local gorges, Machakhela, is a place where in the 18th century local gunsmiths made flint rifles. Here you can see the descendants of the old masters, visit their families and learn about the manufacture of the Machakhela gun and daggers. Khelvachauri also has a rich cuisine. The traditional mchadi is especially tasty here. In addition to all the above benefits, Khelvachauri is great for hiking. Hiking fans can explore Machakhela National Park, while history and ethnography lovers can visit the local thematic museum. Old wine presses, wineries, ruins of fortresses, etc. - all this can be seen in Machakhela. If you come to Khelvachauri on an off-road vehicle, then you can go to the Mtiralamountain and enjoy the panoramic views of Batumi from here.

### **WHAT TO SEE:**

Stone arch bridges in Mirveti (13th century) and Tskhemlara (12th century) villages, Chkheri Bridge (9-10th centuries), Kokoleti Bridge, Maho Bridge, Gvara Fortress (6th century), Chikuneti Fortress, historical and ethnographic museum in ZedaChhutuneti, a Sarfilazian Ethnographic Museum, as well as a monastery and church of the Holy Trinity, the church of Panteleimon in Ortabatumi and medieval Saint Andrew the First Called Orthodox Church.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Beach recreation (Sarpi, Kvariati), bird watching

## **TO MAKE YOUR TRIP TO KHELVACHAURI SPECIAL, YOU NEED:**

Visit Mirveti village

Enjoy the views of the three gorges from the Gvara Fortress

See the ancient stone wine presses

Hike in Machakhela National Park

Go on an off-road vehicle to the Mtirala mountain

Shoot a Machakhela gun

Additional Information: +995 577 90 90 93/91

Tourist Information Centers

Web: [visitajara.com](http://visitajara.com)





KOBULETI, SPANI

# WHERE TO START FROM?

## KOBULETI

**DISTANCE FROM BATUMI: 25 KM**

**AREA: 711.8 SQ / KM**

**POPULATION: 73 399 PEOPLE**

About 13% of the territory of Ajara are protected areas, reserves and national parks. Most of them are located in the Kobuleti municipality, since it is distinguished by the diversity of flora and fauna. Kobuleti municipality is also unique in that it combines the rare beauty of parks with excellent conditions for beach holidays. The beach is located near the center and occupies the entire coastal strip of the city of Kobuleti. Parks and protected areas provide an excellent opportunity for hiking and exploring the surrounding area. An excellent example of this are the unique peat bogs of Ispani, as well as bird watching locations, which are visited by dozens of scientists and hundreds of tourists from different countries.

### **WHAT TO SEE:**

Arched bridges of Tsemvana and Vardzhanauli (17-18th century), Petra's fortress (6th century), Pichvnari (ancient settlement), Hinotsminda monastery complex (Middle Ages), ruins of churches of different period of construction, Mtirala and Kintrishi National Parks, "Ispani" peatlands, heart-shaped lake Tbikeli, Tsabnari waterfall.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Beach recreation, bird watching (Sakhalvasho village, Chaisubani-Shuamta, Ispani peatlands), ecotourism, hiking (National Parks), zipline (Mtiralla park), recreation in the village, collecting citrus (late autumn), camping ( Pichvnari, Mtirala, Kintrishi, Sakhalvasho, Chaisubani-Shuamta, Tsikhisdziri)

### **TO MAKE YOUR TRIP TO KOBULETI SPECIAL, YOU NEED:**

Visit arch bridges in Kintrishi gorge

Try yakhni, achma, baklava and borano

Go through the peatlands and, of course, swim in the sea

Make a panoramic photo from the Petra fortress

Have a picnic by the river in Mtirala National Park

Watch migratory birds through binoculars



**MERISI**

# TRAVEL TO AJARA

## KEDA

**DISTANCE FROM BATUMI: 40 KM**

**AREA: 452 SQ / KM**

**POPULATION - 21200 PEOPLE**

Wine-making is one of the oldest occupation of Georgians! It is not for nothing that almost everyone associates Georgia with wine. Keda municipality is the center of Adjarian winemaking. There are several dozens of grape varieties here, most famous of which are Tsolikauri and Chkhaveri. Chkhaveri is a pinkish-colored, late harvest grape variety, and Tsolikauri is the white grape variety used to make dry white wine. In the villages of the Keda district, where residents are professionally involved in winemaking, you can taste these wines directly in the wineries. Besides the delicious wine, Keda is also known for its waterfalls (villages of Makhunceti, Merisi, Gobroneti), creeks, rivers, and historical sights (ancient bridges, remains of fortresses and churches, mosques), museums and just beautiful villages. The presence of guest houses and a variety of catering facilities make holidays in Keda very enjoyable and memorable.

### **WHAT TO SEE:**

Stone arch bridge in Makhuntseti (12th c.), Stone arch bridge in Dandalo (10th c.), Sagoreti bridge (11–12th c.), Tsivasula fortress (12–13 c.), Sagoreti fortress (11–12 c.) ,Gulebi fortress (12-13 centuries), Zendidi fortress (17-19 centuries).

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Wine tourism (family wineries, marani), ecotourism, camping, recreation in the village, cooking, fishing, beekeeping, camping (Merisi, Latevra)

### **TO MAKE YOUR TRIP TO KEDA SPECIAL, YOU NEED:**

Try local wine varieties in family wine cellars (marani)  
Learn at least one verse of the Adjarian song (Merisi village)  
Take photo of Dandalo and Queen Tamara's bridges in the villages of Makhuntseti and Dandalo  
Say a toast, tasting the wine in one of the local wineries  
Swim under the Makhuntseti waterfall and in the backwaters of «Gvakha» in Merisi  
Taste river trout and Kokotauri mineral water  
Take part in the grape harvest if you visit Georgia in October

Additional Information:

+995 577 90 90 93/91

Tourist Information Centers

Web: [visitajara.com](http://visitajara.com)



WOODEN ARCH BRIDGE KHABELASHVILI VILLAGE

# TRAVEL TO AJARA

## SHUAKHEVI

**DISTANCE FROM BATUMI: 65 KM**

**AREA: 588 SQ / KM**

**POPULATION: 22600 PEOPLE**

In the very center of Ajara, on the Meskheta and Shavsheti mountain ranges, there is a typical Ajarian region - Shuakhevi. Local residents are mainly engaged in farming, animal husbandry and tobacco growing. So, if you like healthy and organic food, then Shuakhevi is the best place to visit. The most interesting places to visit in Shuakhevi are the Chvana and Mareti gorges, as well as the villages of Nigazeuli, Gomarduli, Khabelashvilebi and Neniya. Here you can enjoy the beauty of nature, stay in guesthouses and get acquainted with the life of locals, as well as take long mountain hikes in alpine meadows. In the forests you can find chamois, wild boar, jackals, etc., as well as the typical flora of the Caucasus: beech, oak, various types of coniferous vegetation. While in Shuakhevi, do not miss the chance to try the traditional local cuisine, consisting mainly of dairy products, and ask the owners of the guesthouse to cook you something special.

### **WHAT TO SEE :**

Fortresses: Nigazeuli (18th century), Kaviani (12-13th centuries), Okropilauri (11-12th centuries), Darchidzebi (12-13th centuries), Otolta (11-13th centuries), Changchalo (12-13th centuries), Tsinareti (11-12 centuries).  
Khabelashvili Bridge (19th century), Furtio arch bridges (12th century) Vardzhanauli arch bridge (12th century), the church in Oladauri, Selim Khimshiashvili Museum

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Staying in the village, (Paposhvilebi, Khabelashvili,

### **TO MAKE YOUR TRIP TO SHUAKHEVI SPECIAL, YOU NEED:**

Visit the shepherds' settlements "Jvari Mindori" and "Chirukhi"

Visit rural homes and participate in cooking classes

Visit Furtio arch bridge and Otolta fortress

Try honey from Chvana gorge, chacha and mchadi

Ride a horse in the woods

Additional Information:

+995 577 90 90 93/91

Tourist Information Centers

Web: [adjara.travel](http://adjara.travel)



**KHULO, KHIKHANI**

# TRAVEL TO AJARA

## KHULO

**DISTANCE FROM BATUMI: 85 KM**

**AREA: 710 SQ / KM**

**POPULATION: 36 000 PEOPLE**

One of the most beautiful and most mountainous region of Ajara! If you like adventures, long hikes, skiing on unbeaten snow, jeep tours and other extreme activities, then you should definitely go here! In Khulo, you can enjoy the indescribable beauty of Green Lake (MtsvaneTba), a unique feature of which is that it does not freeze in winter. Khulo has many cultural and historical monuments, among which the most notable are the Skhalta Monastery and Khikhani fortress, which is located at a dizzying, but attainable height. Alpine meadows, beech groves, coniferous forests and the subalpine zone form a particular landscape and climate of this corner. When you get here, be sure to taste such dishes as kaymagi, borano, sinori, nagbibora.

There are several resorts in Khulo: climatic resort Beshumi and ski resort Goderdzi.

### **WHAT TO SEE:**

Alpine Botanical Garden, Khikhani Fortress (12th century), Tsikhiskeli-Vardtsikhe complex (11th century), Skhalta Monastery (12th century), Uchkho Bridge (11-13th centuries), SherifKhimshiashvili Museum in Skhalta Gorge, ruins of religious buildings, Green Lake.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Staying in the village, mountain-ski tourism, ecotourism, camping, cooking masterclasses and folklore.

### **TO MAKE THE TRIP TO KHULO SPECIAL, YOU MUST:**

Taste Ajarian cheese

Ask the locals what is "Bermukha"

Visit the Khikhani fortress and swim in the Green Lake in summer

See the Shalta Monastery

Run through the alpine meadows

Eat local potatoes

Additional Information:

+995 577 90 90 93/91

Tourist Information Centers

Web: [visitajara.com](http://visitajara.com)



## DO YOU KNOW THAT... 9



*The traditional Georgian method of making “qvevri” wine was approved by UNESCO to be included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Georgia counts about 8000 years of winemaking history.*

# WINE, MUSIC AND VERY DELICIOUS FOOD



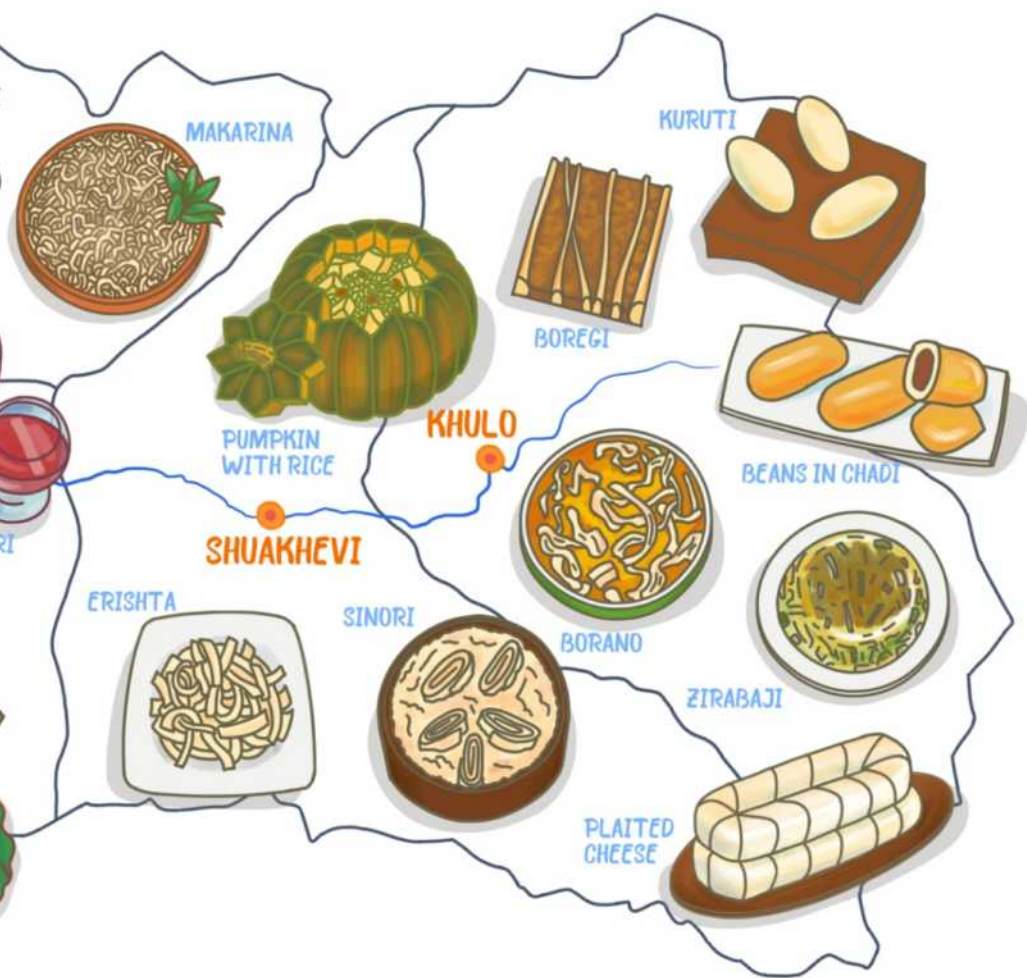
## GEORGIAN WINE

Georgian is an ancient wine-producing country as evidenced by the discovery of the 8 000-year wine vessels and pips. Ajara, mainly its western part, is one of the oldest wine-growing areas in Georgia. Here, even at 1200 meters above sea level, you can find endemic grape varieties.

Keda municipality is known to be the home of winemaking in Ajara. Chkhaveri and Tsolikauri stand out among other widespread types.



# Culinary *Trip to* AJARA



DO YOU KNOW THAT... ⑩



*The most popular dish in Georgia - Khinkali, is even more delicious if you eat it with your hands.*

# GEORGIAN CUISINE



Georgian Cuisine and the distinctive traditions of the Georgian feast are two of the many factors that attract tourists to our country. Apart from typical local food, Ajara has its unique culinary masterpieces that include dishes peculiar to both coastal and mountainous parts of Ajara. Some are available at famous restaurants, prepared traditionally or with a modern twist. Though, you can savour some relatively forgotten dishes only in the families of mountainous Ajara if Ajarian grannies host you and use the old recipe book left behind by their ancestors. The major part of Georgian cuisine consists of dairy products and plant food cooked with spices and walnut.

Here we introduce the top ten must-try dishes in Ajara:

## **AJARIAN KHACHAPURI**

If you are a gourmand and a good meal is in all your schedules, Ajarian khachapuri will be the number one course for you. It is a boat-shaped open-faced khachapuri stuffed with cheese, butter, and raw egg in the middle. You can certainly eat khachapuri with a fork and knife, but using your hands would taste better. Just don't eat fingers along the way!

# GEORGIAN CUISINE



## MAJUNI

"If you do not try spicy food, you cannot interpret sweet flavours ", said a wise Georgian. Local cuisine is rich in both hot and sweet food. However, these two flavors at a time can only be found in Ajara, mostly in Kobuleti. Here the traditional attribute of weddings – Majuni – represents a sweet-hot dessert served to newlyweds as a symbol of the sweet and bitter road of life they are starting. They say, there is no single wedding in Ajara without Majuni!



## BORANO

If you allow yourself to eat nutritious food and calories mean not much to you, you can confidently have Borano. It is Adjarian cheese melted with "erbo" – clarified butter. Although Borano has a large concentration of fat, it is very delicious and is served with hot " Mchadi" (cornbread), or with home-grown cucumber and tomato salad. White wine suits it the best.



## SINORI

If you are looking for some innovations in culinary, you have to try the true finding of Adjarian cuisine – Sinori, nutritious and at the same time soft and tender. These are thin, baked layers of dough prepared with "Nadughi" (somewhat like cottage cheese), garlic, and butter.

# GEORGIAN CUISINE



## IAKHNI

If you happen to visit an Ajarian wedding or a celebration feast, you should certainly try a traditional, Ajarian course – Iakhni which is regarded to be a Kobuletian dish. It is boiled beef with chopped walnut and other spices that bring a special flavor to the dish. Iakhni is rather spicy and it perfectly goes with red wine and hot “Shoti” bread.



## MALAKHTO

If you prefer soft food, we suggest having a universal dish – Malakhto. It can be tried by vegetarians, as well. It is prepared of green beans with chopped walnut, greens, and spices.



## PKHALLOBIO

If you are into delicious, village food eaten by hand, we would offer you one more old vegetarian dish called “Pkhallobio” which is mainly cooked in mountainous Ajara, Khulo, and Keda villages. It's boiled Pkhali (Georgian spinach) and Lobio (beans) with chopped walnut, bay leaf, greens, and different traditional spices. It perfectly goes with “Mchadi”.



# GEORGIAN CUISINE



## **KAPSHIA (ANCHOVY)**

If you visit Ajara in the late autumn or the wintertime, you must try the local fish – kapshia or anchovy. These small fishes are very delicious and easy to prepare. It is rolled in salt and flour and then fried. The dish is served with lemon. As for traditional Georgian, sweet-and-sour dressing, it would be an ideal combination for the course.

# GEORGIAN CUISINE

## PKHALI RECIPES:

Nowadays more and more people say no to meat and convert to a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle all over the world. Ajarian cuisine is quite rich in healthy and useful meals. The majority of ingredients are found in the forests of mountainous Ajara.



## DVAKURAS SHORVA

Gathering Dvalura, storing it for winter, and preparing tasty soups and stews while being at Yailas (summer pastures with wooden cottages) is one the most efficient pastime for a female shepherd. Collecting Mkhali is a necessary part of the oldest holiday called “Shuamtoba”. The process is a kind of ritual. That’s why the holiday is also known as

## MOTRIELA / TSURVILI

Since old times, in early spring, Ajarian women have been gathering various wildy-grown types of Mkhali. Dvalura, Ajorika, Dondolo, Kokomzhava, Mariamkhala, and many other kinds of plants are used to prepare “Motriela”. It is healthy food for the whole family. This dish is quite easy to prepare. You have to boil “Mkhaleuli”, squeeze, cut, and mix with chopped walnut, coriander, garlic, pepper, and spices moistened with jam-like sauce cooked out of plum “tkemali”.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... 11



*In Georgia, you can happen to be a guest at a 500-man wedding feast. Each Georgian toast ends with the loud word " Gaumarjos"!*

# GEORGIAN CUISINE



## **BAKLAVA**

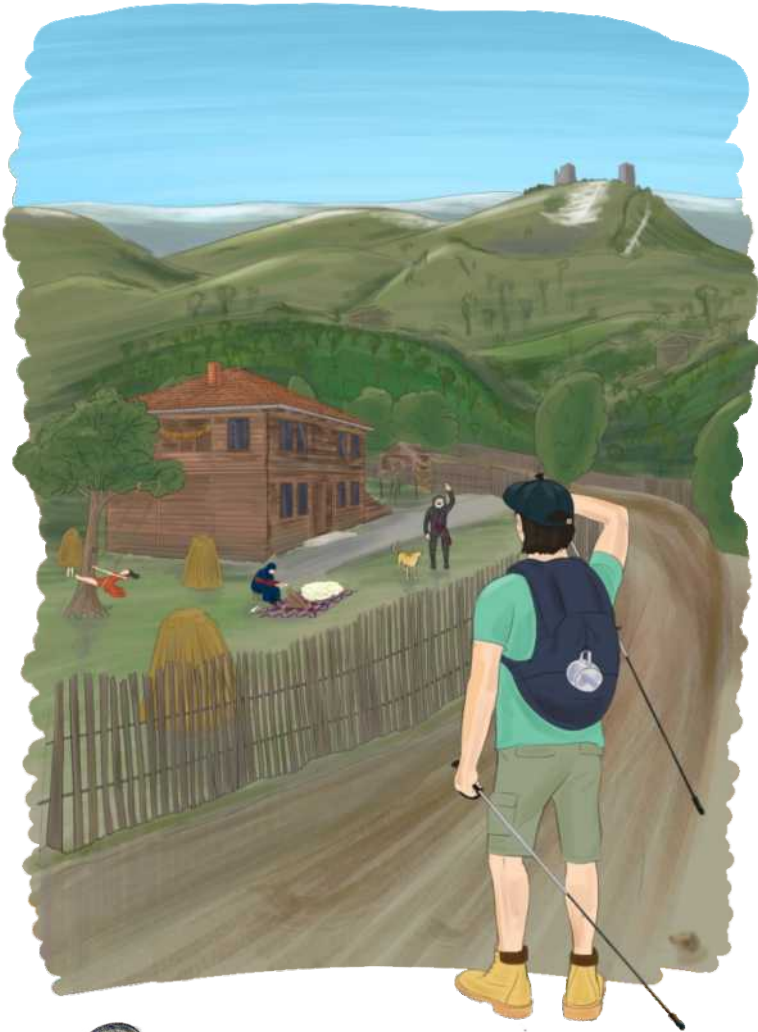
If you are really into sweet stuff, the ideal dessert to choose is “Baklava”. It is the most popular sweet dessert in Batumi. A similar dainty is met in different countries under the same name. Ajarian Baklava is sweet, crispy, and moistened with syrup. It is prepared with very thin layers of pastry, chopped walnut or hazelnut, clarified butter between the layers, and syrup over the top. To explain all the dishes in words is very contingent. Visit Ajara and discover the flavors yourself!



## **KABAK PILAVI**

If you like easy but unusual desserts, you can try not very famous but delicious, Laz dessert – Kabak pilavi. It is cooked with rice, butter, and pumpkin. Most importantly, you can prepare this dish by yourself.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... ⑫



*In Georgia, locals believe that a guest is a gift from God. Since old times, in Ajara, the best room in a house, bedding, and tableware were intended for a guest.*

# GEORGIAN CUISINE



## CHEESE

Guess where you can find the most delicious and wholesome dairy products? Of course, at yailas. There are summer alpine pastures in the mountainous Ajara. Here in small wooden cottages, surrounded by coniferous forests, women take care of the herd, settling it, milking, and preparing dairy products for the whole year for their families.

At yailas, milk is processed in the rooms with openings on their walls for the draught of air to constantly blow to keep the place cool and prevent dairy from souring.

Cow, the breadwinner and the symbol of wealth, is cherished in Ajara. While milking a cow, women sing and modestly ask her for milk, not spilling a drop. No wonder, as we get the array of products from milk, including cheese, yogurt, butter, pudding, clarified butter (erbo), buttermilk, Chorotani, and Khuruti (dried curds).

Mountain pastoralists have specific technology for preparing cheese: they skim the cream from milk and then extract cheese that is of high quality, very delicious, low-calorie, and healthy. They also prepare lagi or Ajarian butter out of the higher-fat layer skimmed from the top of milk.

There is a variety of cheese made in Ajara: Lavashi cheese, Chlechila or plaited cheese, Gorjolo, Punchkha or Pshnilai, Moshushvili, dry, ripe, buttery, Chvelikvera, and kneaded cheese.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... 13



*Georgian polyphonic singing was recognized by UNESCO as a masterpiece of the world's musical culture.*

# AJARIAN SINGING AND FOLKLORE



Throughout history, there has always been widespread a labour, roundelay, wedding, feast, travel, historic-heroic, two-voice, and two-group songs in Ajara. They sang while cleaning corn, hoeing, or scotching wool. Singing increased motivation and made the job easier for peasants. During collective work, a singer had a privilege. As long as he sang, he was allowed not to work.

Ajara outstands by its dance songs: Vosa, Evrida maspindzels, Chaguna, and many others. These songs start slowly and turn into fast tunes. There are group competitions. People sing with smiles and joy on their faces. Whenever the singing gets fast, a grandfather enters the circle and starts to dance. Through this, the elderly man encourages his grandchildren to dance and sing, never forgetting their traditions. Then they blow into the bagpipes, and the whole village gets enchanted by its beautiful sound.

The world-famous Ajarian dance “Gandagana” is absolutely impressive in the performance of the elderly ensemble “Bermukha”- the name, based on their age, as all the performers are over 80 years.



## DO YOU KNOW THAT... ⑭



*In a hospitable Ajarian village, there were separate houses – “Meidan Odas” for those who needed a night shelter while crossing caravan routes of the region.*

# LET'S HAVE A PICNIC OUTSIDE THE CITY!

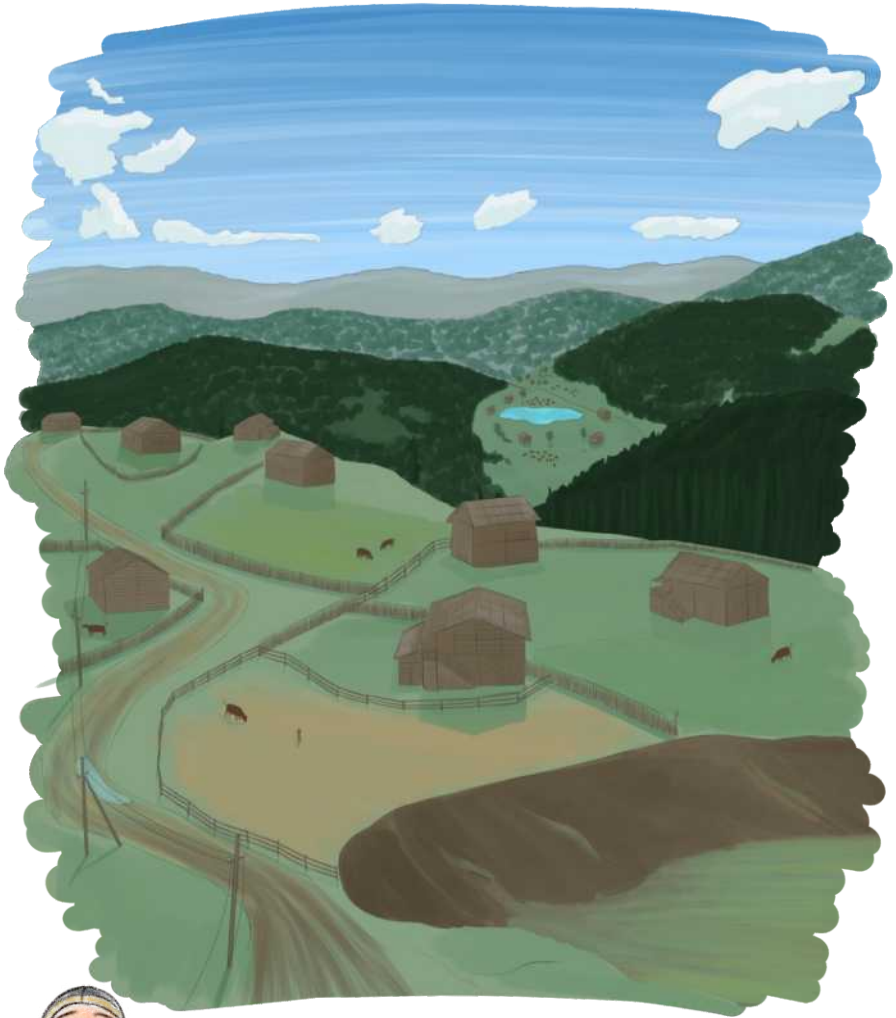


## CHIRUKHI

There are many places in Ajara where you can hide from the everyday routine and relax in the mountains, the forest, the lake or the waterfall. Especially since the number of picnic places is gradually increasing.

If you are into long-distant hiking Chikhuri – Khokhani – Goderdzi alpine adventure route is an ideal destination for you. Having a picnic in Chikhuri, at a height of 2148 meters, brings special emotions to the long-distance travellers. Here you light a bonfire, make barbeque, and relax in hammocks and swings. You can stay until late and put up a tent if you wish.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... 15



*“Yailas” are summer pastures in the alpine zone where herdsmen keep their cattle from May to October and spend this time with their families in small wooden cottages.*

# PICNICS, CAMPING



## JVARIMINDORI

One more place with picnic infrastructure and shelter in the alpine zone is Jvarimindori. Here at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level are “yailas” (summer pastures with wooden cottages) of the locals. Jvarimindori involves the longest chain route – Kintrishi-Gomismta-Tskhemlisi-Khabelashvilebi and is the crossroad where Kintrishi protected area, Shuakhevi, and the Guria region intersect.

## PICNICS, CAMPING



### KAPNISTAVI

Kapnistavi village in Khelvachauri is another place to relax and have picnics. It attracts visitors with its nature, tranquillity, an abundance of waterfalls, hiking trails, artificial pools, old mills, wine cellars, and an open-air museum. After arranging the canyoning infrastructure, the village has become a place of interest for extreme-tourism lovers. Here are about ten waterfalls of different heights. The highest is 35 meters long.

# PICNICS, CAMPING



## SHUAMTA

Village Shuamta in Chakvi is known as the birdwatchers' paradise. It is the place millions of migrant birds fly over on their way to warmer climates. Shuamta is 10-15 minutes away from Batumi, and even if you are not into birdwatching, it is impossible not to become attracted by the magnificent panoramic views and nature. Kapnistavi village in Khelvachauri is another place to relax and have picnics. It attracts visitors with its nature, tranquillity, an abundance of waterfalls, hiking trails, artificial pools, old mills, wine cellars, and an open-air museum. After arranging the canyoning infrastructure, the village has become a place of interest for extreme-tourism lovers. Here are about ten waterfalls of different heights. The highest is 35 meters long.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT... 16



*They say Georgian warriors could fly in old times. Our ancestors knew how to fly from mountain to mountain operating their cloaks and could even descend a man down from the tower or fortress, which actually represents the archetype of today's skydiving. In Guria and Ajara, this activity was called "Marchikholi", and in the mountains, it was known as "Aprinovi". The costumes of the Ajarian folk dance somehow remind us of "Marchikholi."*

# BIRDWATCHING



## **BATUMI N1 BIRD MIGRATION CORRIDOR IN EUROPE**

If you have ever wondered what it looks like to observe 10 000 birds of prey in the sky, Ajara is the right place to choose. The east coast of the Black Sea, mostly Batumi, is considered to be Eurasia's widest corridor for migrating raptors in the Autumn period. During about 60 days, over a million predators will fly over this place. On peak activity days, the number of raptors could comprise over 100 000, and in September, about 20 000. It is not only honey buzzards, serpent eagles, and common buzzards but also 35 different types of birds registered in the Batumi Migration Bottleneck. [www.batimiraptorcount.org](http://www.batimiraptorcount.org)



# BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

## Lake Ardaghan-Seagulls Lake

You have probably all been to Lake Ardaghan, which is located one of the most beautiful places in Batumi, near the sea, between the old and new boulevard-with dancing fountains, bridges and island. Have you ever noticed how many seagulls are flying around? How they sit in groups on the water? This beautiful lake probably remembers a lot of history and story. It deserves a little „legend“ from us. A long time ago, one beautiful couple often visited the lake. They always sat on the same stone, radiating love and warmth, they shared their hearts to the familiar and the unknown people. After a while, the boy graduated from the naval school and went on a long voyage. The lovers met for the last time at Ardagan lake and swore to each other eternal love. The sailor boy never returned to his hometown. No one knew what happened to the ship and the crew. The girl thought that her love left, changed her for another and forgot her. Every day she went to the lake, sat in their favorite place and cried. Once a girl noticed when she was going to the lake that a seagull was flying nearby, so she brought bread and grain to feed it. Time passed, another boy asked the girl for her hand. The family members also agreed. The girl still walked on the lake, still looked at the sea expectantly. She still fed the seagull every day. On the day of the wedding, the girl put on a long white dress as snow, and before going to the church, she went to the lake to say goodbye her love for the last time. The faithful seagull was also wandering around, it was excited and circling the lake. The girl sat down, remembering the moments she spent with her loved one for the last time. The girl fed the seagull again, threw grain. The seagull put the bracelet at her feet, which the girl brought to the sailor as a souvenir. The girl realized that the seagull brought her good news, that it was a message from her sailor. She pulled the part of the wedding dress and threw it into the lake. The bird bit its beak and took it into the sky. The girl did not marry another boy. The seagull assured her that the one she loved was not waiting for her in vain. Soon the sailor's ship arrived at the shore, having overcome many obstacles and at least the boy returned safely to his hometown. The couple soon got married and lived happily ever after. The seagulls do not leave this lake to this day, they circle to encourage the people waiting for the sailors in the distant sailing, and tell good news everyone who looks at the endless horizon with hope. You also go out to the lake, throw food to the seagulls and think that whoever you expect to return to you, it is well done!



## DO YOU KNOW THAT...

1



*After doctors from Batumi visited Italy, the Colonnades appeared in the Boulevard.*

2



*Colchis is the ancient Georgian kingdom where Argonauts came to retrieve the Golden Fleece.*

3



*At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the founder of the Caspian – Black Sea Oil Industry and Trade company Alphonse Rothschild built a house in Batumi but did not have a chance to live there.*

4



*Famous poet Sergey Esenin had lived in Batumi for several months near the central park. Some of his well-known poems written during this period are “Anna Snegina” and “Persian Motifs”.*

5



*Prominent Belgian writer Georges Simenon had been visiting Batumi in the 30s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In one part of his novel “The People Opposite”, the action takes place in Batumi.*

## DO YOU KNOW THAT...

*The famous Noble brothers lived and worked in Batumi. They had a house and a piece of land at the entrance to the city, where, nowadays, their house museum is located.*



6

*Tea culture entered Georgia after Chinese manufacturer Lao Jin Jao had started to cultivate tea in the surroundings of Batumi.*



7

*There are three types of Georgian alphabet in our country: Asomtavruli, Nuskhuri and Mkhedruli. All three writing systems are approved by the UNESCO Cultural Heritage organization.*



8

*The traditional Georgian method of making “qvevri” wine was approved by UNESCO to be included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Georgia counts about 8000 years of winemaking history.*



9

*The most popular dish in Georgia - Khinkali, is even more delicious if you eat it with your hands.*



10

## DO YOU KNOW THAT...

11



*In Georgia, you can happen to be a guest at a 500-man wedding feast. Each Georgian toast ends with the loud word “ Gaumarjos”!*

12



*In Georgia, locals believe that a guest is a gift from God. Since old times, in Ajara, the best room in a house, bedding, and tableware were intended for a guest.*

13



*Georgian polyphonic singing was recognized by UNESCO as a masterpiece of the world's musical culture*

14



*In a hospitable Ajarian village, there were separate houses – “Meidan Odas” for those who needed a night shelter while crossing caravan routes of the region.*

15



*“Yailas” are summer pastures in the alpine zone where herdsmen keep their cattle from May to October and spend this time with their families in small wooden cottages.*

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*They say Georgian warriors could fly in old times. Our ancestors knew how to fly from mountain to mountain operating their cloaks and could even descend a man down from the tower or fortress, which actually represents the archetype of today's skydiving. In Guria and Ajara, this activity was called “Marchikholi”, and in the mountains, it was known as “Aprinovi”. The costumes of the Ajarian folk dance somehow remind us of “Marchikholi.*

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