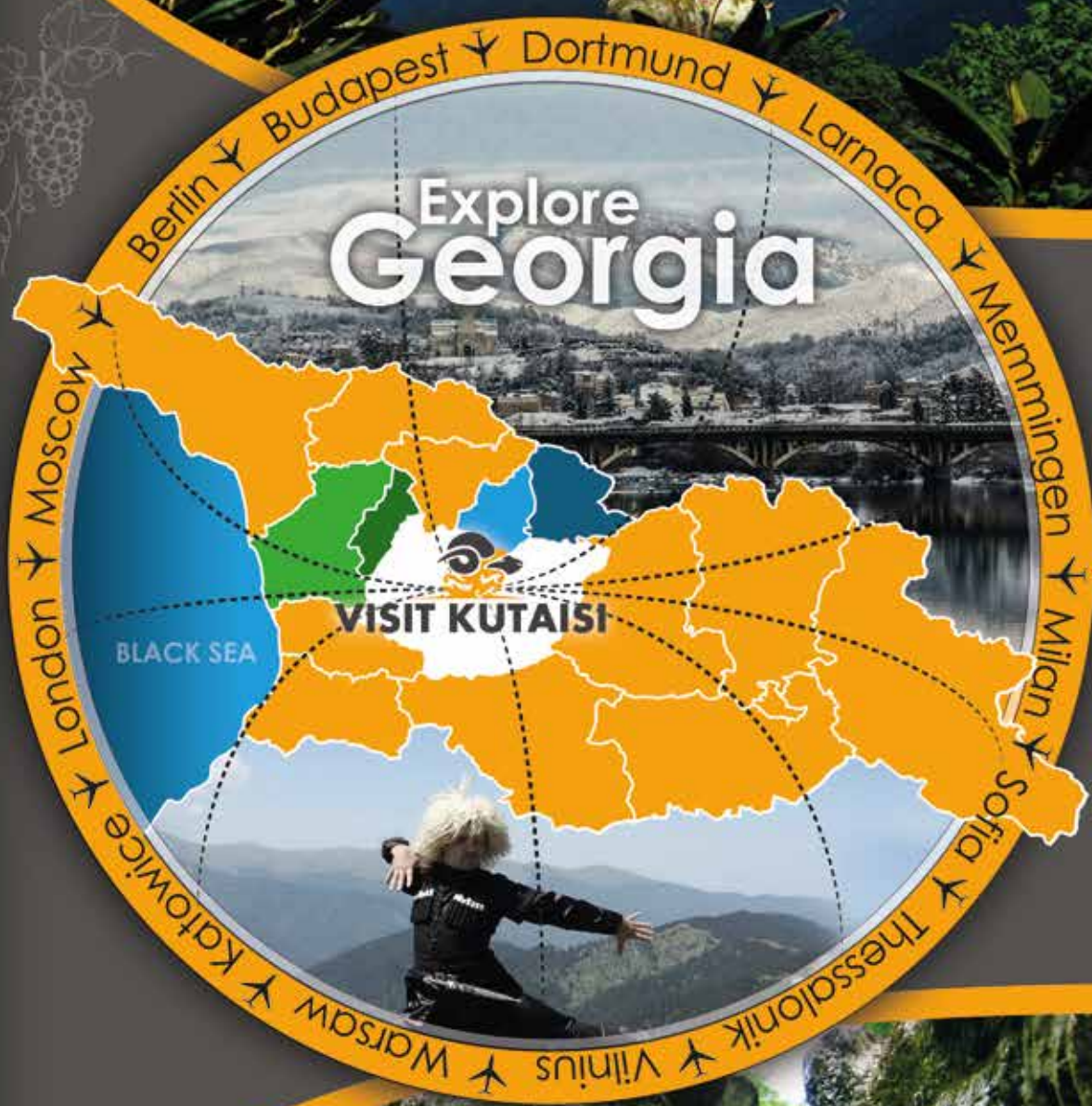


Visit **Oni**

Explore
Georgia

VISIT KUTAISI

BLACK SEA



Visit **Martvili**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**POLISH AID, PRO MOTION GEORGIA, ICAD FOUNDATION, KUTAISI CITY HALL,
ONI ADMINISTRATION, MARTVILI ADMINISTRATION**



FOR COOPERATION IN THE PROJECT

“Support to the local administration of Megrelia and Racha regions towards realization of regional tourism promotion. Exchange of experience with Imeretia Region”

WE THANK:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and Administrations of the cities Kutaisi, Martvili and Oni

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Polish aid
www.poblika.pomoc.gov.pl



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VISIT KUTAISI

VISIT ONI

VISIT MARTVILI

Georgia is a small country on the east coast of the Black Sea, where stunning landscapes, delicious food and unchanged traditions will make your heart skip a beat. The 3 neighbouring regions Imereti, Samegrelo and Racha offer many one of a kind experiences, each having their own unique character and natural attractions.

-  Municipality of Martvili
-  Municipality of Oni
-  Kutaisi center of Imeretii



HOW TO EXPLORE SOUTH-WEST GEORGIA?

Visit Kutaisi, the centre of Imereti and the largest city in the region, home of the ancient Colchian kings and UNESCO sites. Explore Martvili in Samegrelo region which is worth checking for its exotic tastes, ancient fortresses and the most breathtaking canyons with the emerald Samegrelo waterfalls. Come to Oni in Racha for breathtaking views of the Caucasus, crystal clear air and to experience the living tradition of Georgian singing.

(The exchange of knowledge and experiences between these 3 vibrant and nascent regions, the further development and the promotion of tourism infrastructure, is the objective of a development project led by ICAD Foundation in partnership with ProMotion Georgia.)

GEOGRAPHY

Imereti is one of the historical-geographic regions of Western Georgia. It is bordered on the east by the Likhi Range, on the west by the Tskhenistskali River, on the north by the Caucasus Range, and on the south by the Meskhети Range. Imereti is divided into two geographical regions – Upper Imereti and Lower Imereti with 11 administrative municipalities: **Bagdadi, Vani, Zestaponi, Terjola, Samtredia, Sachkhere, Tkibuli, Kharagauli, Khoni, Tskaltubo and Chiatura.**

The capital of Imereti is **Kutaisi** – the third largest city in Georgia and one of the oldest cities in the world.

FACT: THE KINGDOM OF COLCHIS EXISTED ON THE COAST OF THE BLACK SEA, IN PRESENT-DAY WESTERN GEORGIA AND INCLUDED THE TERRITORY THAT CURRENTLY COMPRISES IMERETI

CULTURE

The region's history dates back to ancient times - 3500 years ago the powerful and well-known **Colchis Kingdom** was established in western Georgia. It had a unique culture as well as educational, political and military systems. Colchis is known for its role in Greek mythology, most notably as the destination of the **Argonauts**, as well as the home to Medea (the daughter of King Aeëtes of Colchis, creator of the basic medicine) and the Golden fleece (symbol of the riches of Colchis).

It was described as a land rich with gold, iron, timber and honey that would export its resources mostly to ancient Greece. Archaeological excavations have exposed many valuable objects including stunning gold jewelry, agricultural tools and weapons from this period which can be seen at the archaeological museum in **Vani**.

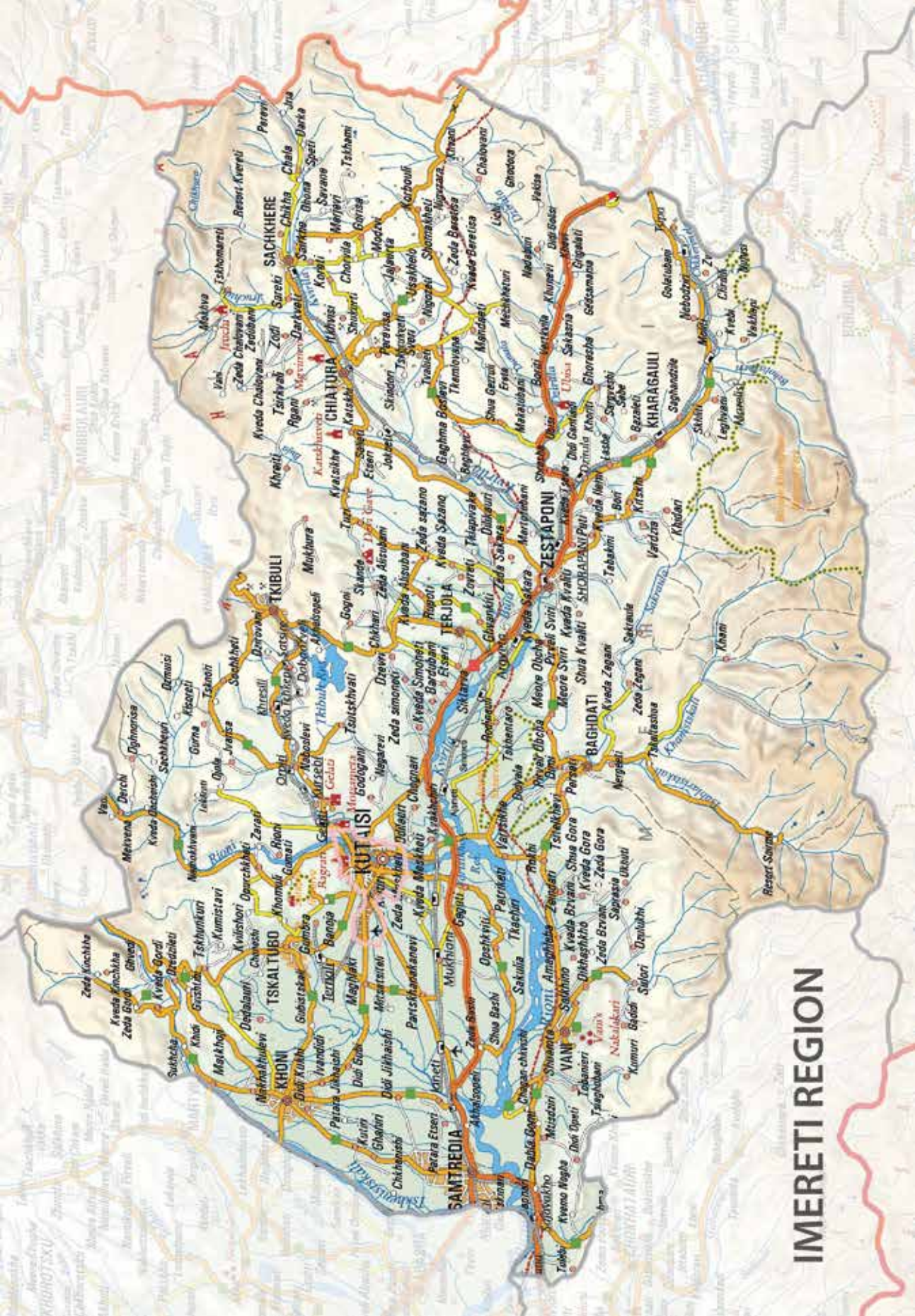
HISTORY

In the Middle Ages the Kingdom of Egrisi., existed on the territory of present day Imereti. From the 10th century it was part of the United Kingdom of Georgia which was united by **king Bagrat III**. He declared Kutaisi capital and in 1003 he built a cathedral, which was named after him and which became a symbol of unified Georgia.

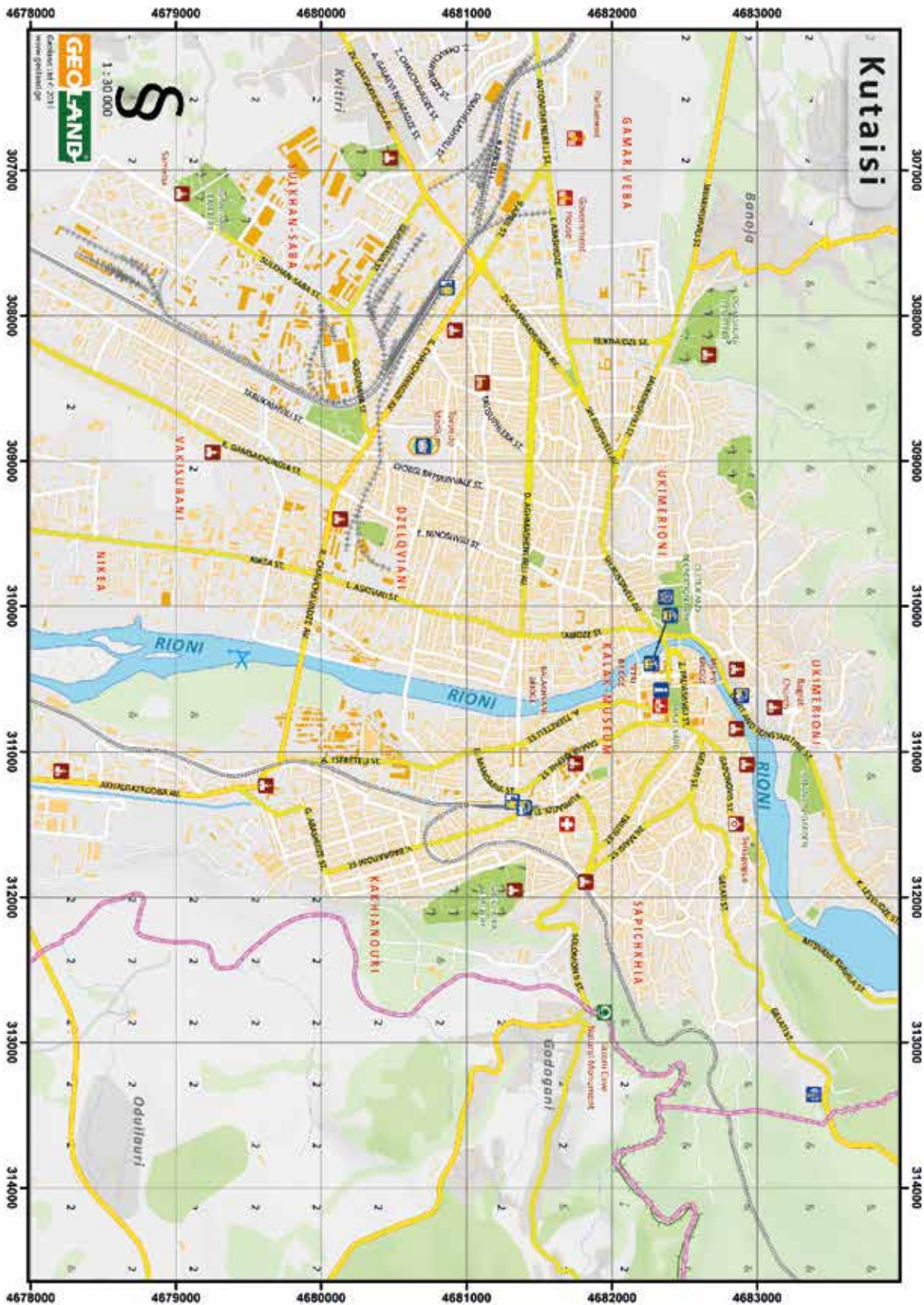
Another great king who is considered to be the greatest and most successful Georgian ruler in history and architect of the Georgian Golden Age was **David IV** named The Builder. He succeeded in driving the Seljuk Turks out of the country, and his reforms of the army and administration enabled him to reunite the country. He was also the founder of the first academy of the Georgian Kingdom in Gelati, which was the most important educational centre of Transcaucasia.

In the 15th century the Area became the independent Kingdom of Imereti. Later in the 19th and 20th centuries, these lands were incorporated into the Russian Empire, Democratic Republic of Georgia and Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, respectively. When Georgia regained its independence in 1991, Imereti became one of the regions in the Republic of Georgia.





IMERETI REGION



Kutaisi – the capital of the region Imereti is one of the oldest cities in the world and the second largest city in Georgia. Kutaisi is located along both banks of the Rioni River to the east and northeast, Kutaisi is bounded by the Northern Imereti. Foothills, to the north by the Samguruli Range, and to the west and the south by the Colchis Plain. Its history is remarkable.

In the 7th century it was the capital of the Kingdom of Abkhazia-Egrisi, in the 10th century – of the United Kingdom of Georgia and in the 15th century – of the Imeretian Kingdom. Kutaisi was mentioned in a famous Greek epic poem "Argonautica", written 3300 years ago.



With its culture, history and economy Kutaisi is an important educational, political and cultural centre of Georgia.

Many famous artists, scientists, public figures and sports champions have lived in this city: a writer Akaki Tsereteli, a theatre actor and director

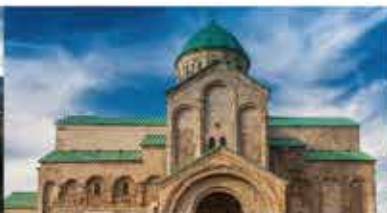
Lado Meskhishvili, a world chess champion Maia Chiburdanidze, a poet Titsian Tabidze, a singer Katie Melua, a composer Zakaria Paliashvili and many others.

There are many interesting places to see in Kutaisi and its surroundings, such as: **Bagrati Cathedral**, **Gelati Monastery (UNESCO World Heritage)**, **the Prometheus Cave and the Sataplia Reservoir**, where one can observe footprints of dinosaurs. The locals are distinguished for their hospitality, politeness, sharp-mind and delicious Imeretian cuisine which is known all over Georgia.

FACT: THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING IN KUTAISI WAS INAGURATED IN 2012, REPLACING THE OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDING IN TBILISI



Rioni Riverside



Bagrati Cathedral



Opera



Central Square Fountain



Theatre



City Centre



Parliament



Bazaar



White Bridge

GETTING THERE

By minibus (marshrutka) – minibuses to Kutaisi from Tbilisi leave every 30 minutes and every hour from Batumi. The city is also connected by bus services which operate regularly on a daily basis with other main Georgian cities, small local towns and villages.

Bus stations:

Bus Station Okriba – Chavchavadze Avenue 67, Kutaisi

Chain Bride Station – Chain Bridge, Kutaisi (behind the Kutaisi bazaar)

Bus Station - Tamar Mepe Street (near the Akaki Tseretli State University)

By train – trains to Kutaisi leave from Tbilisi, Batumi (Makhinjauri), Zugdidi, Tkibuli, Sachkhere, Samtredia and Tskaltubo. It is always be to check the official Georgian Railway website if trains are running – www.railway.ge

Railway stations:

Railway Station I – Tamar Mepe Street (near the Akaki Tseretli State University)

Railways Station II – Chavchavadze Avenue, Kutaisi

By air – direct flights to David the Builder Kutaisi International Airport operate from Budapest, Istanbul, Katowice, Kiev, Minsk, Moscow, Tbilisi, Vilnius and Warsaw.

From the airport - David the Builder Kutaisi International Airport is located 14 km west of Kutaisi. It takes around 20-30 minutes to get to Kutaisi city centre.

Airport transfer – The transfer is operated by Georgian Bus

Company. Transfers are arranged according to the flights from the airport and they leave maximum one hour after the plane lands. Please find more information below.

By marshrutka – It is possible to get to the city centre by local minibus called marshrutka. You can catch one at the main road in front of the airport building. During the day there are many marshrutkas coming from different cities to Kutaisi.

By taxi – It's better to agree on the price with a driver before getting into a taxi. The usual price for a transfer to Kutaisi city centre is 20 GEL - 30 GL.

GETTING AROUND THE CITY

In Kutaisi there are many city minibuses called marshrutkas which frequently circulate around the city. It is an inexpensive and a popular way to travel around. Marshrutkas stop literally everywhere so if you want to catch it you just have to wave your hand and hop in. Another popular mean of transportation is taxi. They are cheap and are waiting on almost every corner. Taxis are a good way to travel not only around the city but also to the nearby tourist attractions e.g. Prometheus Cave or Gelati Monastery. They can offer reasonable prices to take you to your destination, wait for you and after drive you back to the city. There are several taxi companies in the city, the most popular are: Taxi 300- 0431 2300 and Taxi 600 – 0431 2600 which provide comfortable cars, reliable service and fixed price - one of the best way to drive through the city.

Our e-mail: info@visitkutaisi.com, phone: (+995) 593 548 507



GEORGIAN BUS is the company that provides all customers the opportunity to purchase tickets online and a flexible system of long-distance transfers in Georgia. Transfers from Kopitnari International Airport are organized to 5 major cities: Kutaisi, Tbilisi, Batumi, Mestia and Kazbegi. In addition to these places, Georgia Bus crew offer you the opportunity, as a tourist, to plan your own trip in Georgia, with the assistance of a guide or without. For more information please visit website: www.georgianbus.com



Samtredia სამტრედია

GEOGRAPHY:

Samtredia district is located partly on the Colchis Lowland and partly on Sajavakho Tableland. The territory is divided in the middle by the Rioni River. Its main town, also called Samtredia, was first mentioned in written sources in 18th century as the main village of the region.

FACT: SAMTREDIA WAS HOME TO THE BIGGEST GEORGIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

HISTORY:

One of the most historically important places of Samtredia district is Kulashi, small town located at Colchis lowland. It was first mentioned in historical sources in the 16th century. For many years it was home to one of the largest Georgian Jewish communities, however it's size has significantly decreased due to several waves of Jewish expatriation to Israel. Nowadays, a complex of three synagogues and an old Jewish cemetery remain as testament to this heritage.

CULTURE:

Museum of Georgian-Jewish friendship in Kulashi is a place which perfectly represents the age-old relationship between Jewish and Georgian people of Samtredia. The Museum has a rich collection of photos and memorabilia depicting everyday life of Kulashi Jewish Diaspora - the menorah, photos of rabbis, books and manuscripts in Hebrew exhibited side by side elements of Georgian culture, such as typical Georgian drinking horns for wine and inscriptions in the Georgian language.

FAMOUS PEOPLE:

Guram Batiashvili - a Georgian writer and playwright; vice president of the World Jewish Congress and member of the General Council of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress (EAJC), author of 15 books, including 4 novels.



Niko Nikoladze, born on 27th September 1843 in the small village Didi Jikhaishi, was a notable Georgian writer, pro-Western enlightener, and public figure.

While travelling in Samtredia you can find a museum dedicated to Nino Nikoladze and his family with family memorabilia, household goods and works of Nikoladze written in various languages.

Working hours: 10:00-16:00, everyday. Address: 109 Niko Nikoladze Street, Didi Jikhaishi village.

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutka – every 30 minutes from 07:30 until 18:00, Bus Station Okriba (see p. 7)

By train – Railway Station I (more info www.railway.ge)



Tskaltubo წყალტუბო

GEOGRAPHY:

Tskaltubo – the city of Tskaltubo is the capital of the district by the same name and is located on the bank of Tskaltubostskali river at 120m a.s.l. in 7 km from Imereti centre, Kutaisi. The main river in Tskaltubo is the Rioni River, with 2 well-known lakes: lake of Tavshava and an artificial lake called "Cold Lake".

HISTORY:

Tskaltubo used to be an important spa-resort during the Soviet times (1922-1991) however the first information about its healing waters was published in "The Berlin Society of Natural Science Papers" in 1778. In 80s Tskaltubo became a top tourist destination of the whole Soviet Union. There were 5800 beds available for guests and a daily train riding directly from Moscow to Tskaltubo.

WATER SPRINGS:

Mineral waters of the resort are used to cure a wide range of ailments of the body including limbs, the peripheral nervous system, heart and blood vessels, skin and metabolic disorders, endocrine system, gynecological diseases, rheumatism, poliomyelitis and cerebral palsy. Karst caves located in the district create a microclimate which is used to treat asthma, stenocardia, hypertension, neurosis and chronic pneumonia. The

natural temperature of the water is 33–35 °C, which enables everyone to use it without heating.

Treatment duration in Tskaltubo is 20 – 24 days. Nowadays, the resort becomes again more and more popular among Georgian and foreign tourists with a rapidly developing infrastructure, unique water and wide range of spa procedures available.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS:

Tskaltubo is not only a hydrothermal resort, it also has a rich history which dates back to the Stone Age. The most famous settlements of that era discovered in Tskaltubo are: **Khomuli Cave, Qvilishori Cave, Shavgora and Saqajaia Caves and White Cave. In the White Cave, was found the earliest weapon discovered in the Caucasus – a copper arrow from 4th – 5th century B.C** The District has many historical monuments of the Middle Ages: the 12th century fortresses in Geguti Village and Zarati Village; the 12th century wooden churches in the villages - Partskhanayanevi, Zeda Meskheti and Qveda Meskheti and so on. The two most famous landmarks of the region are the Prometheus Cave and Sataplia Natural Reserve.

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutka – N30, every hour from the bus stop next to Red Bridge

To get to the Prometheus Cave, please take marshrutka N42 from Tskaltubo, departs every hour, price – 2 GEL

By train – Railway Station II (more info on www.railway.ge)

Winner of the project photo contest „Beautiful Georgia“

phot. ALEKSANDRA KLOS



PROMETHEUS CAVE:

The landmark of the region, the biggest cave in Georgia boasts breathtaking examples of stalactites, stalagmites, petrified waterfalls, underground rivers and lakes. visitors can enjoy a 1060m long walking route inside the cave or a 280m boat tour on an underground river.

SATAPLIA NATIONAL RESERVE:

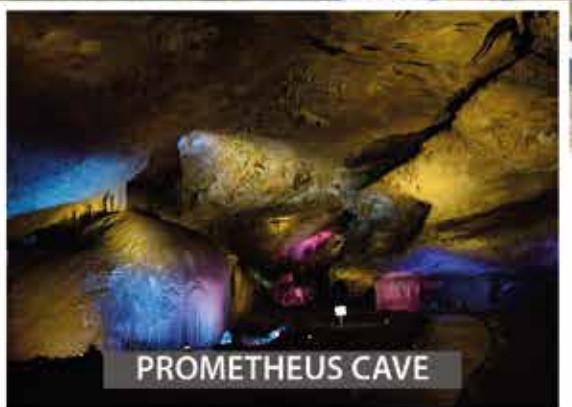
The place where dinosaur footprints were found. The cave is 900m long and 10m high and contains lit stalactites and stalagmites. Visitors can enjoy a stunning view of the nature reserve from the glass-bottomed viewing platform.



SATAPLIA CAVE



TSKALTUBO



PROMETHEUS CAVE

PLACES TO SEE:

Derchi Church – 14th century;
Giorgi Akhvledini Local Lore Museum in Tskaltubo;

Poet Niko Lortkipanidze House museum – Chunesi (village)
Giorgi Akhvlediani house museum in village Derchi; .
Khomeuli, Tower and church Gogli (middle ages).



Vani ვანო

GEOGRAPHY:

The district is perfect for lovers of nature and archeological routes. Its main town, also called Vani, is located in the Imereti lowland, on the bank of the Sulori River, a tributary of the Rioni River.

CULTURE:

In old Georgian the word "Vani" meant "house", "station", "small town" or "dwelling". During excavations conducted in the area in the 19th and 20th centuries archaeologists discovered remains of luxurious residential buildings and tombs which date back to the 6th – 4th centuries BC, confirming the importance of the place. The items found during the diggings include gold, silver jewelry, bronze and clay dishes. Researchers also found a lion-headed sculpture, a depiction of a female deity on a relief of a column, small bronze sculptures, masks, Greek and local ceramics.

HISTORY:

In ancient times Vani was one of the most important towns in the region. It developed in two stages. The first stage dated to the 6th – 4th centuries BC when it was one of the most important political centres in the Kingdom of Colchis. Greek writers of ancient times mention Vani as a Skeptukhi – a

kingdom ruled by a royal governor in Colchis.

In the 3rd century BC a new chapter in the history of Vani begun. It developed and became a huge religious centre. It turned into a temple city similar to Karnak in Egypt or Olympia and Delphi in Greece. The sanctity of the place is confirmed by an inscription in Greek with a fragment of sacred law which refers to the deities: the Sun, the Moon and the Earth. The Geographical name Suriumi, which some theories suggest was an ancient name for Vani, was used in papers written by the Roman writer Pliny the Elder, the author of "Naturalis Historia", the Greco-Egyptian geographer Claudius Ptolemy and others.

Vani was burned twice and mercilessly destroyed. The Destruction of Vani (Suriumi) is related to the King of Pontus Mithridates VI Eupator. In the 1st century BC he tried to unite Black Sea region into one state to eliminate Romans from the Asia. He concluded alliance with Greek colonies, conquered The Kingdom of Bosphorus and The Kingdom of Colchis. Soon after that The Kingdom of Colchis fell and so did Vani respectively.

FACT: ON THE 24TH OCTOBER 2007 UNESCO INCLUDED VANI ON THE WORLD HERITAGE TENTATIVE LIST

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutkas - 9:20, 12:30, 16:30 from the Bus Station Okriba (see p. 7)

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Vani Naqalaqari (an ancient settlement) - was one of the largest cities of Colchis, which reached its maximum development during the 3d-1st centuries BC This urban settlement was built on the basis of ancient settlements, ruins which are now preserved in Vani and its surroundings, as well as east of the region (Fersati, Zekari, Baghdadi). The oldest archaeological material dates from the VIII century, it includes gold and silver jewelry. These, as well as ceramic fragments, are presented at the local archaeological museum.



Vani Archeological Museum - The museum was founded in 1985. During archaeological excavations carried out in the area of Vani, unique gold products were found, this discovery triggered the opening of the Golden Fond at the local museum. The museum's collection encompasses the period between the 8th and 1st centuries BC. One of the exhibitions includes the city of temples which is considered the most representative element of Vani culture. Architecture, gold-works, bronze sculptures and their fragments are displayed at the permanent exhibition. Colchethian jewelry (diadems, temple rings, necklaces, bracelets etc.) dating to the 5th-4th centuries BC were found on the territory of the ancient kingdom of Colchheti, known as Colchis or the Land of the Golden Fleece to Greek explorers. Burial mounds of ancient nobles on the sites of Vani and Saikhe explain why

Colchheti was referred to as the Golden Fleece land, along with Mikena, Sardi, and Babylon in Greco-Roman sources. Works by Colchethian goldsmiths date back to the 8th-6th centuries BC, when gold and silver jewelry reappeared after briefly disappearing from the known record of region's material culture. One of the most recognizable and important exhibits for the Georgian culture is the statue of "Tamada", found during archaeological excavations in the area of Vani. The figure depicts a sitting man with a horn in his hand, dating back to the 7th century BC. The find proves the existence of a wine and toasting culture in ancient Georgia. Replicas of Tamada can be found at Chardin's str. in Tbilisi as well as at the well-known Colchis fountain in the central square of Kutaisi, while the original is displayed in the National Museum of Georgia.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF GEORGIA, TBILISI

Galaktion and Titian Tabidze home museum - a museum of famous Georgian poets located in the village of Chkvishi, Vani.

- **Galaktion Tabidze** – born on 17th of November 1892 was a leading Georgian poet of the twentieth century whose writings profoundly influenced all subsequent generations of Georgian poets. Tabidze was one of the greatest Georgian symbolist poets of all time, he authored thousands of poems and had an immense impact on modern Georgian literature, his archive of about 100,000 items in the Literary Museum in Tbilisi still awaits full investigation.



- **Titian Tabidze** - born on 21st March 1895, was a Georgian poet and one of the leaders of Georgian symbolist movement. He fell victim to Joseph Stalin's Great Purge, was arrested and executed on trumped-up charges of treason. The museum has two exhibition buildings and historic houses of Galaktion and Titian. In the museum are presented commemorative items, vintage book library poet's father, 19-century pottery, embroidery and sculpture works.

Close to village Bzvani there are hot sulphur spring pools which possess healing qualities. Some of them are open to the public. They are accessible free of charge and are popular with the locals. One of the pools is located in a particularly beautiful spot in a field in the middle of nowhere. The setting among rolling meadows creates a tranquil atmosphere which makes you feel like you are the only person in the world. When you look to the south you will see amazing views of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains.



Tkibuli ტყიბული

GEOGRAPHY:

Tkibuli district is located in Okiri structural basin, at 600-800 meters a.s.l., on both sides of the river Tkibula, in forested mountainous areas. It is bordered by Ambrolauri district of Racha region to the north, Chiatura district in the south-east, Terjola district in the south, south-west city of Kutaisi and Tskaltubo in the west.

A place to stay in Tkibuli: Tkibuli Guest House, situated right in the centre of the town.

Address: Gamsakhurdia str. 53, for more information, please don't hesitate and contact us, you can find us on Facebook



Supported by Pro Motion Georgia

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutka: Bus/Railway Station I (see p. 7)

By train – Railway station I

CULTURE:

The region is rich in, historical treasures and natural monuments. There are many castles and churches from Medieval Ages. The most important historical sites of the region are the Gelati Monastery Complex, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage list, and Motsameta Monastery.

NATURE:

You can find many explored and unexplored caves in Tkibuli district, such as the 13-floor Tsutskhvati cave, Tskhrajvari, Chakhati, Sakazhia, and Mukhura caves.

The highest mountain in the region is Tskhrajvari (1570 meters) from which you can enjoy a panoramic view of Tkibuli and two surrounding lakes – Tkibuli and Shaori Reservoirs. The region is rich in rivers, waterfalls and mineral water springs.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS:



Gelati Monastery Complex - was founded in 1106 by King David IV and is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.



Motsameta Monastery - the monastery is built in honor of the two martyrs David and Konstantine Mkhedize in 11th century.



Ckhrajvari (Nine Crosses) chapel – chapel of St. George on an altitude of 1570 meters



Terjola თერჯოლა

GEOGRAPHY:

Tkibuli district is located in Okiri structural basin, at 600-800 The main town of the district also called Terjola is located on the Imereti lowland, on the right bank of the Chkhari River.

HISTORY:

Terjola was first mentioned in 17th century sources but acquired the status of a town in 1983. Terjola is famous for its historical monuments: the ruins of Skande Castle, Gogni Chapel and Chkhari Complex from the Middle Ages.

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutka – 08:20, 13:20, 17:00 from Bus Station Okriba and Chain Bridge Station (see p. 7)

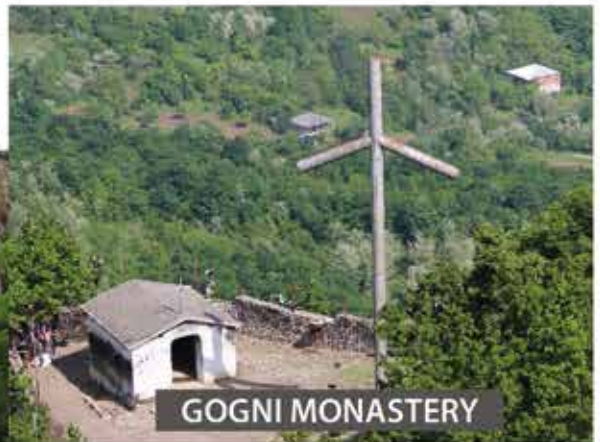
FACT: TERJOLA IS A PERFECT PLACE FOR SPELEOLOGISTS, AS THERE ARE MANY KNOWN AND UNEXPLORED CAVES

CULTURE:

Gogni Chapel - the most important chapel of St. George located in Terjola, on a hill close to Gogni Village, dates back to 1778. Every year on the 6th of May and the 23rd of November (St. George's days in Georgia) thousands of pilgrims travel barefoot for 4 km to pray to the saint. There's no door in the chapel because according to local legend, each time when people install them, the revelation of Saint George showed up and the door fell off. That's why the chapel was called Karugdebeli ("the one that doesn't want door"). Right now, above the Karugdebeli chapel, the biggest church of Saint George is being built.

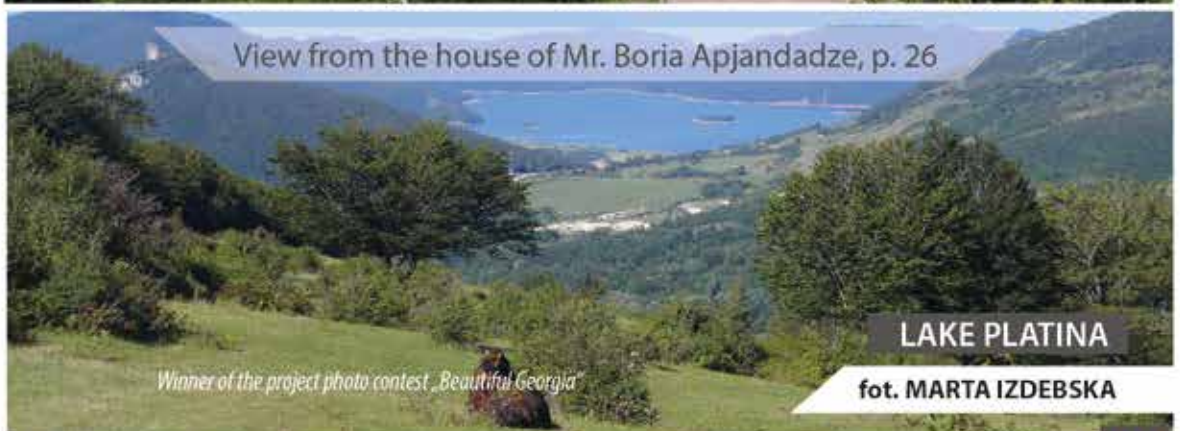


DZEVRI



GOGNI MONASTERY

View from the house of Mr. Boria Apjandadze, p. 26



LAKE PLATINA

Winner of the project photo contest „Beautiful Georgia“
 fot. MARTA IZDEBSKA

Chiatura ქიათურა

GEOGRAPHY:

Chiatura is located in the mountainous part of Imereti. It lies in the gorge of the Kvirila River and is surrounded by cliffs.

HISTORY:

Chiatura was founded in 1879 after manganese ore mines were opened there. From 1917 it was under the administration of Kutaisi and it became an independent district in 1930.

FACT: THE OLDEST MAN-MADE THREAD WAS DISCOVERED IN MGVIME, CHIATURA AND IS OVER 34,000 YEARS OLD

INDUSTRY:

Chiatura is the industrial centre of Georgia. Locals mainly work in manganese mines which supply the ferroalloy factory in town of Zestafoni. It is divided into an upper and a lower central part which are connected via cable cars.

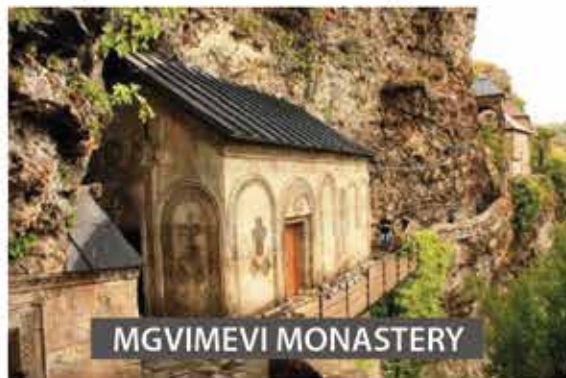
During the existence of the Soviet Union, manganese was sent to all the republics and also abroad: to the United Kingdom, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Poland and many other countries. Chiatura is connected to the Transcaucasus main line by the Zestaponi-Sachkhere railway.

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutka: every hour from 8:00 until 17:00, from Bus Station Okriba (see p. 7)

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS:

Mghvimevi Monastery - historical monument of 13th century, located near the Mghvimevi village (Chiatura district). The Temple consists of two parts: the older one is a chapel in a big natural cave, the second one is small church where you can find some original frescoes from the 13th century.



MGVIMEVI MONASTERY

The Katskhi Pillar is a natural limestone monolith located at the village of Katskhi, near the town of Chiatura. It is approximately 40 meters high.

The rock with a visible church ruins on the top was venerated by locals as the Pillar of Life and a symbol of the True Cross. It remained unclimbed by researchers and unstudied until 1944. Studies determined the ruins of church were of the 9th-10 century.



KATSKHI PILLAR



Sachkhere საჩხერე

GEOGRAPHY:

Sachkhere is located on the banks of the Kvirila River in the northwestern part of Imereti region. The relief of the region is middle and low mountainous but some of the peaks reach up to 2400 meters above sea level. Its north part is located on the southern slope of the Racha Range and west part on Imereti Highland.

HISTORY:

Sachkhere district is famous for its historical fortresses, churches and archeological excavations. One of the first explorations in the district was conducted by the Georgian writer and public figure Giorgi Tsereteli between 1878 and 1880. During his research in Modinakhe fortress he discovered remains of burials, featuring pottery and metalwares. Found

Items included bronze equipment, jewelry, gold and silver items, Colchis and Roman coins. There are many other architectural and archeological monuments in the area and the most important are Savane, Speti, Koreti and Jruchi Monastery. The famous Georgian poet, thinker and ideological leader of the National Liberation movement of Georgia – Akaki Tsereteli, was



Zestafoni ზესტაფონი

GEOGRAPHY:

The town Zestafoni, which is in the heart of Zestafoni district, is built on both banks of the Kvirila River. Zestafoni was granted a town charter in 1926. The name “Zestafoni” derives from “zeda foni” which means “upper passage”.

FACT: ZESTAFONI IS FAMOUS ESPECIALLY FOR ITS HANDCRAFTED CLAY POTTERY

INDUSTRY:

Zestafoni was the place where Georgia’s largest silicomanganese processing plant was founded in 1933. The factory takes coal from Tkibuli, manganese from Chiatura (both Imeretian districts) and uses power from the nearby Rioni Hydro Electric Station.

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutka: every 30 minutes from Bus Station Okriba (see p. 7)

CULTURE:

There are many historical churches in the municipality of Zestafoni: Zeda Saqara (from the 11th century), Tabakini (6th century), Tseva (11th century), Sanakhshire and castles from the Middle Ages in the village of Shrosha and Shorapani. Zestafoni is famous for handcrafted clay pots and wicker baskets. You can buy them anywhere along the main road of the district.

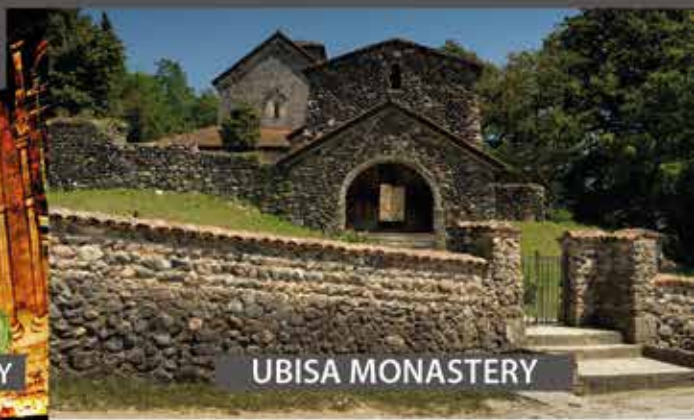


TABAKINI MONASTERY

Kharagauli ხარაგაული



UNIQUE FRESCOS OF UBISA MONASTERY



UBISA MONASTERY

GEOGRAPHY:

Kharagauli District has two mountain ranges - Meskheti and Likhi. The highest mountain peak in the district is Gedsamania. The territory is covered with crystal slate stones, tuff, sandstones, cretaceous limestone and dolomites.

HISTORY:

The main city of the district called Kharagauli was established in the 19th century. The region was under the administration of Kutaisi until 1930 when it became a separate district. In 1949, it was renamed Orjonikidze. However, in 1989 the original name was restored.

NATURE:

The District is rich in mineral water springs, on the base of these waters in Nunisi and Zvare villages health resorts were established. Kharagauli is a place for speleology lovers, you can enjoy Goresha-Bazaleti Plateau with a lot of unexplored cave and sinkholes. One of the most interesting caves in the region is called the "Devis Khvrel" cave ("The Giant's Hole" cave). It is located in the gorge of the Chkerimela River, where archaeologists found remains of the Upper Paleolithic culture.

There are also several small karst caves in the gorge of the Dzirula River, in Ubisa, Goresha, and Kharagauli Katskhi.

The district is rich in plants, animals and different varieties of fish. The population lives off bee keeping, viticulture, cattle breeding and crop cultivation. There are also wine and mineral water factories in the district.

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutka: 06:20, 12:20, 14:20, 16:50 from Bus Station Okriba (see p. 7)

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS:

The monastic complex of Saint George located in Ubisa village dates back to 9th century. It was founded by St. Gregory Khandzteli, Georgian priest and religious writer (759-861). The monastery houses a unique cycle of murals from the late 14th century. The monastery is also known for its honey made by the monks.

Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park - one of the largest national parks in Georgia. The total area is 851 square kilometers. The park has a rapidly developing tourist infrastructure, trekking and horse riding is possible.

BORJOMI-KHARAGALI NATIONAL PARK



DEVI





Khoni ხონი

GEOGRAPHY:

Khoni is located in the Imereti lowland on the bank of the Tskhenistskali River, at the altitude of 114 meters.

HISTORY:

The first permanent establishments discovered in Khoni dated back to the Middle Ages and consist of a 13th century three nave basilica with no dome with residential houses around it. In 1529, Khoni became the Episcopal centre of the Georgian Orthodox Church which contributed to the territorial and economic growth of the district. In the 18th century, Khoni was an important trading centre. Khoni was particularly well developed in 20s–30s of the 19th century. It was a quite densely populated area by that time.

FACT: IN THE 50S A TOBACCO MARKET WAS OPENED IN KHONI WHICH WAS THE FIRST IN THE WHOLE OF GEORGIA

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutka: 08:00, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00 from Bus Station Okriba (see p. 7).

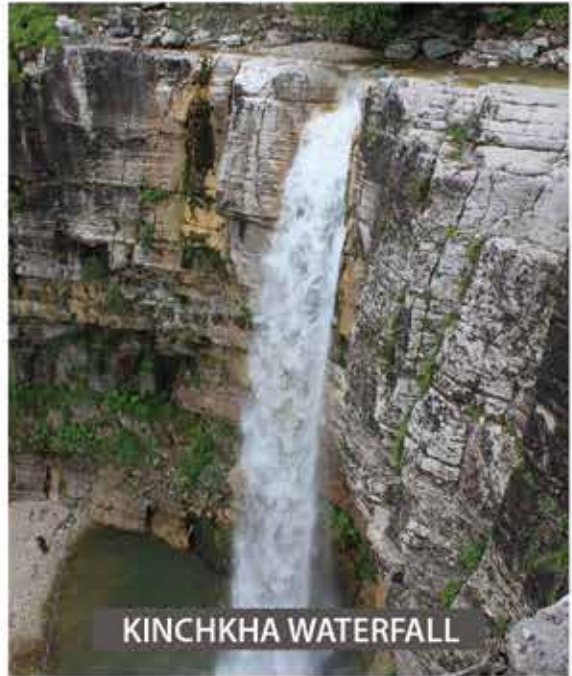
For Okatse Canyon marshrutka from Kutaisi to Gordi

FAMOUS PEOPLE:

Irakli Abashidze – an academic, philologist and poet who discovered the only existing portrait of Shota Rustaveli (a famous Georgian poet of 12th century) on the wall of Georgian Monastery of the Cross in Jerusalem.

Nana Mchedlidze – A Georgian film producer, a screenwriter and an actress;

Korneli Sanadze – A Georgian painter and a graphic artist.



KINCHKHA WATERFALL

CULTURE:

During excavations conducted on the territory of Khoni district, archaeologists found 1270 coins of "Colchis Tetri" – coins used in the kingdom of Colchis in VI-III centuries BC, as well as Byzantine and Turkish coins.

The research also revealed settlements dated to the Late Bronze Age.

NATURE:

The Kinchkha Waterfall and Okatse Canyon – natural monument located in the Satsiskvilos Valley. The waterfall is 88m high. It is a beautiful spot for a picnic or camping. A 30 minute trek to the waterfall goes through the meadows and small canyons by the Okatse River.

Baghdati ბაღდათი

GEOGRAPHY:

Baghdati is the capital of Baghdati municipality and is located at the edge of the Ajameti forest on the left bank of the Khanistskali River, about 25 kilometers south-southeast of Kutaisi.

HISTORY:

It is one of the oldest inhabited places in Imereti region. Its name derives from Old Persian and can be translated as “the gift of God”. It is not a coincidence that the name is similar to the name of Iraq’s capital Baghdad. Baghdati is one of the cities which were situated on the Silk Route where in the past merchants used to transport countless goods from the Middle East. The goods which could be found on the Silk Route included hand embroidered headscarves from Baghdad called “baghdati”. Gradually Georgian women started to use them to cover their heads and soon the scarves became part of the traditional feminine outfit. The name of the region and the city – Baghdati – derives from these headscarves.

NATURE:



Sairme is a hydrothermal resort located in Baghdati district, at an 915m, in a gorge cut by the Tsalbaristskali River. It is especially famous for naturally carbonated mineral water springs. The use of Sairme water began in 1893.

Sairme boasts a developed tourist infrastructure with hotels and a balneological treatment centre (p.30).

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS:

Church of the Ascension - village of Tsitelkhevi (10th century)
Devadze Church - village of Tsitelkhevi (10th–11th century),
Saviour Church - village of Roksho (the Middle Ages)
Vartsikhe (the Early Middle Ages).
Dimi Tower (17th–18th centuries).

GETTING THERE:

By marshrutka: every hour from Bus Station Okriba (see p. 7)
Kutaisi-Sairme – 10:50, 17:50 from Bus Station Okriba

ZEKARI PASS - This high mountain pass is at an elevation of 2226 meters a.s.l level. It is located on the border between two regions Imereti and Samtskhe-Javakheti. On the way there, if driving from Imereti, you will pass Bagdati city and Sairme health resort. After Sairme a dirty road leads through a forest and later you can admire stunning views of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains, clearings, hills and small shepherds huts. From the Pass the road continues to Abastumani (a small spa with hot springs and astronomical observatory) and later to Akhaltsikhe and Vardzia. The route is as interesting as the main road which goes to Samtskhe-Javakheti region through Khashuri. Our tip: on a hot day go to the Pass, have a picnic there and chill out in the beautiful nature.



Vladimir Mayakovsky – famous Soviet poet, playwright, artist, stage and film actor was born in Baghdati in 1893. In 1940, the town was even renamed Mayakovsky after the Russian poet but after 50 years the city’s name was changed back to Baghdati. Nowadays you can find the Vladimir Mayakovsky Museum here.



Gelatoeba 8th of February - celebrating the day of king David IV The Builder in Gelati Monastery.

Kutaisoba 2nd of May - big celebration of the city when people dress in traditional costumes, join parades and perform music and dances.

Motsametoba 15th of October - religious event in Motsameta church when ceremonial prayers which are especially important are held.

The Day of National Garment 18th of May – the best way to see a variety of traditional Georgian clothing and folk garments as well as music.

Terjoloeba 23rd of October - wine festival in nearby town of Terjola with tastings, folk and Georgian cuisine.

Giorgoba in Gogni (Terjola) 6th of May- is a religious holiday of St. Giorgi when an ancient tradition of barefoot pilgrimage and animal sacrifice is practiced in the field of Gogni Monastery.



GELATOBA
FEBRUARY

8



KUTAISOBA
MAY

2



GIORGOBA
MAY

6



**NATIONAL
GARMENT**

MAY
18



MOTSAMETOBA
OCTOBER

15



TERJOLOBA
OCTOBER

23

It is beyond question that one of Georgia's biggest attractions is its cuisine. Colourful Georgian dishes prepared with rich, aromatic spices and herbs attract food lovers from all over the world. Georgian Cuisine is very well differentiated and offers a large variety of meat and fish dishes together as well as various vegetarian meals.

As the country is located at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, merchants who travelled from one continent to another traded their goods in Georgia for thousands of years. As a consequence, in Georgian cuisine you can find influences from Turkey, Iran, Russia, China, India, Armenia and many other countries.



Imeretian cuisine is considered to be one of the best in the country. Kutaisi belonged to the cities on the historical Silk Route. As a result, the region developed its own culinary tradition.

Most of the dishes are similar to the ones from other parts of Georgia however the way they are prepared and the spices added to the meals make their flavour unique and unforgettable.



Khachapuri – Georgia's national dish. It is a type of bread filled with cheese, sometimes eggs. Depending on a region there are different types of Khachapuri. There is also Imeretian kind of Khachapuri made with special Imeretian cheese.



Khinkali – Georgian dumplings filled with spiced meat, herbs and onion. Instead of meat mushrooms, potatoes or cheese can be used as a filling. It is another meal which is considered to be one of Georgia's national dishes.



Pkhali – one of the most popular dishes in Imeretian cuisine. Pkhali is a combination of ground walnuts, mixed spices and vegetables. It can be made with cabbage, aubergine, spinach, beans or beetroot.



Chicken Satsivi – a meal prepared from boiled pieces of chicken meat in a walnut sauce.



Chakhokhbili – It is a spicy meal prepared from tarragon-infused beef soup and stewed chicken with herbs.



Pickled vegetab – on local bazaars one can find pickled cabbage, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, flowers, onions, garlic simply everything.



Lobio – "lobio" in Georgian means beans. The bean is either cooked or stewed and it is prepared with coriander, walnuts, garlic. Lobiani – is similar to Khachapuri however instead of cheese it is filled with beans.



Tomato and cucumber salad in a walnut sauce – it is a very simple but delicious meal. The vegetables are garnished with parsley, purple basil, scallions or shallots and served with a walnut dressing.



Aubergine and Pepper with walnuts – this is combination of vegetable and nuts. The filling is made with ground walnuts, garlic, vinegar, herbs and spices. It is later used to either stuff sweet pepper or to make aubergine rolls.



Churchkhela – a traditional Georgian sausage-shaped sweet. Different types of nuts are threaded onto a string, dipped in a grape or fruit juices cooked with flour and then dried.



Temali – the most popular Georgian sour plum sauce made of wild cherry plums. It also contains garlic, pennyroyal, coriander, dill, chili pepper and salt.



Ostri – a soup made with beef meat, tomatoes, onion, garlic, coriander and paprika. Ostri is a delicious combination of meat and Georgian spices.



Mtsvadi – is a Georgian type of shish kebab prepared mostly from pork meat and served with onions.



Mchadi – it is fired or baked bread prepared with corn maize flour. It is very often served with lobio.



Kharcho – it is a type of soup with beef, rice, cherry plum purée and chopped walnuts.

Have you ever heard about Tsitska, Tsolikouri or Otskhanuri Sapere?.. These are wines you should definitely try and Western Georgia is the best place to do it. There are over 500 sorts of local grapes in Georgia but here you will find the most delicate and rare kind of grapes. Just visit Imeretian wineries once and your perception of wine will change forever. Imeretians produce wine from regional vine stocks in a traditional way. Grapevines grow on chemical-free soil and wine matures in earthenware vessels (kvevri) where it undergoes natural filtration. The bouquet of that wine is so intense that, when opening a bottle, the aroma spreads throughout the entire room. We suggest going on a one-day wine trip, and we promise you that the delicate Imeretian wine, together with local cuisine and hospitality, will leave you totally charmed.



All regions of viticulture in Georgia are known for local, traditional methods of winemaking, Imereti has its own specific way, too. It varies from the methods used in other Georgian regions and Europe. Wine is prepared in a traditional way according to the following steps: grapes are pressed in Satsnakheli – a stumping wine press. The grape juice is poured in well-washed Kvevri (earthenware vessel) with addition of destemmed Chacha (husks of grapes). For each 18 decilitres load of wine there has to be 16 – 20 kg of it. Then it is covered, tightly filled with clay and left to ferment. The practice of adding Chacha, not only helps with the normal fermentation process, but also accelerates the cleaning of wine, gives it a clear colour and more aroma. Imeretian wine is full-bodied, has a beautiful transparent yellowish colour and deep, rich bouquet. Below you can read about the most popular types of grapes which grow in the Imereti region.





Krakhuna is one of the most distinctive white wine grapes which is widely spread in Imereti. It grows mostly in the middle part of the region. Krakhuna comes from the village of Sviri which is located in a special micro zone. A few decades ago Krakhuna was

on the verge of extinction, however the situation has changed and in recent years it became more popular. The main differences between Krakhuna and other grapes are that the first one is ripening earlier and its fruit has an oval shape. Krakhuna grapes are used to produce typically Imeretian and European wines. To create good, high quality wine, winemakers combine three Imeretian types of grapes – Krakhuna, Tsitska and Tsolikauri. They were also used by Georgian vintners to make Madeira wine and Portwine. Wine from Krakhuna made in the Middle Imereti has high quality, full body and a high percentage of alcohol. In Upper Imereti however, winemakers obtain a gentler, more European kind of wine. Wine types also depend on the time of vintage. The September vintage results classic European type of wine. To get a traditional Imeretian Kvevri wine the best period of Krakhuna vintage is the middle of October. If the winemakers want to get a sweet wine, they plan the vintage for the end of October and beginning of November. When comparing Krakhuna grapes' wine to other Imeretian types, wine amateurs always emphasize that the first one stands out for its golden colour and "energy". One-year-old Krakhuna wine is distinguished by its harshness, long-term storage (around 3–3,5 years), its strong bouquet, delicate flavour and more harmonious taste.



Tsitska is a local, standard variety of grape widespread in Western Georgia. It gives a high quality, soft, white table wine which is mainly used to produce fizzy wines. White table wines of exceptionally high quality are produced in the villages of Middle Imereti at the

right side of the Kvirila River. Vineyards are located in the areas of villages: Sviri, Kvaliti, Puti and Ilemi. Wine produced in these micro zones is transparent with strong straw colour. It is characterized by a full body, energy and cheerfulness. When it ages it becomes gentler, more harmonious and develops a rich fruity bouquet.

Another kind of Tsitska wine comes from Upper Imereti region, from the gorges of the Chkherimela and Dzirula Rivers where

grapes grow on the humus-carbonate soil. The wine is transparent, light straw-coloured, soft and full bodied with well-expressed fruity aroma. As a result of the high-quality features of its wine, Tsitska gained the first place in the production of fizzy wines in Georgia.



Tsolikouri is a local, standard type of grape, widespread in the areas of Western Georgia.

It gives a high quality white table wine and also a naturally semi-sweet white dessert wine. In the highlands of Upper Imereti, (in Chiatura and Sachkhere Districts) grapes accumulate less sugar therefore they are not that sweet but are good

enough for table wines. In Middle and Lower parts of Imereti Region, grapes accumulate more sweetness and wine from these districts is more absolute and energetic. Tsolikouri grapes keep the sour taste characteristic of table wines along with their high sugar content. This gives the opportunity to produce a, full-bodied, energetic and cheerful wine high in alcohol.



Otskhanuri Saphere is a widespread type of Imeretian grape common especially in the Sachkhere, Zestafoni, Terjola, Chiatura and Baghdati districts. The grapes give a high quality red table wine. Otskhanuri Saphere grapes have very intensive dark-red colour and

they are very often used for blending with other red and white grapes. Otskhanuri is a late variety of grape, harvested by the end of October until the beginning of November. It manages to develop well and produces extremely intensive red, absolute, fresh wine.



Aladasturi was a widespread grape in Lower Imereti, used to produce local red table wine, but for now it has largely only survived in the districts of Middle and Lower Imereti. In the first one Aladasturi is used mainly to shade "marani" (cellars used for storing wine in

special pitchers in the ground) or as pavilions (lines) to decorate the yards. Aladasturi with its agricultural purposes belongs to the group of local grape varieties for wine and table use, which along to its high rate of productivity characterized by strong growth and ability of easily adapting to different conditions and

Jora and Temuri Barbakadze – the family has been growing grapes, and making wine for generations. They plant typical sorts of grapes however they also create new varieties of the fruit. Their vineyard is quite big so everyone who wants is more than welcome to join them for the grape harvest. Their wine which matures in both bottles and qvevi (earthenware vessels) is sold all over the country. The Barbakadzes are amazing people with traditions, they love having guests at home and they always host them with typical Imeretian hospitality. It is a place where wine never ends and even wine drinking horns are never smaller than 1 liter. The family lives in a picturesque village in a big, comfortable house where they can host up to 8 people.



They have a huge garden perfect for children or a quiet afternoon on the grass. While staying with them, you will notice that everything that they do, they do with passion and love for wine and people.

Prices: 30 GEL – food and wine tasting, 20 GEL – accommodation .



Rupoti Village, Terjola

Be sure to contact us in advance if you are planning to visit Jora and Temuri Barbakadze

info@visitkutaisi.com, (+995) 593 548 507

Shukri Nakashidze is an educated wine technician who produces delicious homemade wine, cognac and liqueur. Mr Nakashidze is a connoisseur of good Georgian alcohol. He has an enoteca (special type of local or regional wine shop that originated in Italy) with a collection of all varieties of bottled wine and cognac produced in Georgia in the 80's. In addition, in his house you may find an impressive weaponry museum. Many museums around the world can only dream about the items which belong to Mr. Nakashidze's collection. In his place you can admire Roman Gladius (which was found in Baghdati district), first Georgian weapon – "machakhela", guns which were used during the II World War and many other exhibits.



While visiting the beautiful museum you can savour some amazing cognac and liqueur. Then Mr. Nakashidze will take you to the place where his wine matures and you'll be able to taste it directly from qvevi.

Prices: Visit to the museum with alcohol tasting – 20 GEL.



Skukri Nakashidze

17 Javahishvili Street, Baghdati 1000, Georgia

If you are planning to visit Mr. Nakashidze, be sure to contact us in advance on info@visitkutaisi.com, (+995) 593 548 507



Gaioz Sopromadze is a real Georgian man, with a big Imeretian heart, who loves his country's culture and way of life. This is reflected in the manner in which he makes his wine – with passion and in a traditional Georgian way. A visit to his house and winery will be unforgettable. His wine is known all over the globe and every book in the world which describes Georgian wine mentions Mr. Sopromadze. He won many European and International wine competitions and he exports his product to Italy, France, the United Kingdom and Japan. Mr. Sopromadze's white wine, Tsolikauri, will change your attitude towards this beverage. It has a rich and deep bouquet. The grapes used to produce wine is grown without any chemicals.. After

wine tasting Mr. Sopromadze's guests gather around a small table, in a same cellar it's produced, to taste his incredible Tsolikauri and Otskhanuri Sapere. Additionally, during your visit you can try some delicious, homemade food, like for example khachapuri, mtsvadi (shashlik) and salads prepared by his 80-year-old mother. If you want to have a real Georgian experience, wine and food is all you need. Later, after the wine and food tasting, you can swim in a nearby river, enjoy the beautiful countryside views and, if you want, you can stay overnight at Mr. Sopromadze's house. The house can host up to 6 people.

Prices: Wine and food – 30 GEL, accommodation – 20 GEL

Gaioz Sopromadze - Rustaveli Street, 3rd Lane, 8, Baghdati 1000, Georgia

If you are planning to visit Mr. Sopromadze, be sure to contact us in advance on info@visitkutaisi.com or (+995) 593 548 507



Boria Apjandadze – a forester and a hunter who lives in a small hut close to Chkhari Village on the top of the hill called by locals Khekepili. A visit in his place is like a dream come true for all travelers. He has 17 hectares of meadows and forests and he keeps horses, cows, goats and sheep on his farm. He makes his own bread, cheese, flays animals, prepares delicious food and if you want, he can teach you all of it. From the Khekepili Hill, you can admire wonderful views on the surrounding mountains and Platina Lake (Tkibuli). No one else knows the area as good as Boria and his grandson. They can take you on trekking or horse riding trip to show you incredible places unknown even for Georgians themselves. You will see a wild nature of Colchis forest, marshlands, caves and many other beautiful sites. Boria can accommodate up to 6 people in his shepherd house or if you want you can camp in his garden. We guarantee that you will remember the stay in his place until the end of your life.

Prices:

Horse renting per day - 40 GEL, guide per group/per day - 50 GEL, wine, food and place to sleep - 30 GEL



Khekepili Hill, Chkhari Village

Be sure to contact us in advance if you are planning to visit Mr. Boria Apjandadze (+995) 593 548 507

Tourist Information Center



Address: 9 a Rustaveli Avenue,
Kutaisi 4600,
Tel: +995 595 80 71 41



Kutaisi Tourist Information Center is located in the city center, at Rustaveli street 1. It is the largest similar center in Georgia, the building is also the seat of municipal tourism administration. The center is equipped with maps of the city and region of Imereti, where highly-skilled staff will be happy to advise you how to spend the days of your life in Kutaisi. Important thing about it that it is not only a tourist information center, it is a multifunctional building, which, in addition to basic services, also offers a conference room, a museum of Colchid's history with wax figures and a soon-to-be-opened currency exchange counter, a restaurant with Georgian cuisine and even a virtual reality room, where you will be able to travel to the region without even going out of your room thanks to 3D technologies. All this is planned in the nearest future, and for the time being it is the perfect place to relax, leave luggage and learn about the attractions of the city and surrounding area.



Address: Nino Cmindia 11 St.,
Kutaisi 4600
Tel: +995 574 27 09 09



Coffee Bean

If you are looking for a nice cup of coffee, just do not hesitate and head straight to Azzato, a small coffee place at Tsinda Nino str., Right in the center of Kutaisi. Here you can find delicious pastries and cakes and probably the best coffee in the city. Enjoy!

Satsnakheli

Address: Pushkin str. 8,
Tel: +995 593 548 507
satsnakheli16@gmail.com



Georgia is a country where you can find over 500 species of grapes, and one of the best places to try Georgian wine is a vineyard in the historical part of the Kutaisi town called Satsnakheli. The place has opened relatively recently but is already one of the most popular wine bars in Kutaisi. In Satsnakheli you can find over 120 different types of wine, all wines are only of Georgian origin. There are wines produced by vineyards all over the country, including local, made according to old Georgian tradition using kvevri (clay amphora), which means that wines made in domestic conditions are characterized by the highest quality called eco product. It is also possible to organize sightseeing and wine tasting combined with Georgian cuisine at local vineyards. In Satsnakheli you can get full information on wine production in the region, there is a place that primarily works in favor of local wine producers and the development of regional wine tourism.

Cafeshka

Cafeshka - cozy restaurant in the very center of the city with a very interesting interior. Here you can find the best pastries, lunches and cakes, all combined with good music.

Address: 13, Tsminda Nino St.,
Kutaisi 4600
Tel: +995 555 68 38 61



BW Hotel

If you are looking for a nice place to have a break during your city tour, we highly recommend you a lounge bar situated on the top of one of the best hotels in Western Georgia – Best Western Hotel. The hotel is located in the heart of Kutaisi, the White Bridge is only a couple steps away from the hotel, which will lead you directly into the historic center of the city. So don't hesitate, go and enjoy a cup of coffee while looking over the whole city and Caucasus mountains.

Address: 11 Joseb Grishashvili Street,
Tel: +0322 19 71 00



Trekking in Kutaisi

For all trekking enthusiasts or simply long walks lovers we've got a great offer and an idea for a pleasant time spending. The trekking route which starts in Kutaisi, from Gaponov str. and goes along the Rioni River. The trail is about 18 km long and it will take about 4-5 hours to walk. Gaponov's Street is known as the Jewish street of Kutaisi, this is a place where the Jewish community has been living for many years, here there is also a Synagogue of Kutaisi. The road continues until Mtsvanekvavila str, which offers us great views of river and the city. Going further, we practically walk out of Kutaisi and reach the power station where we cross the river and return to the city along the other shore of Rioni. As a final point but also a tourist attraction, we offer you a Botanical Garden of Kutaisi, that is definitely worth to visit. We also inform you that the route is unmarked and you will not find it on any map, but what could be better than discovering new unknown places by your own?.



Khani waterfalls

Khani village, which is located in Bagdati district, will surprise you with a number of interesting places to visit. One of the unique places is a large, round carved hole in the rock, where people used to squeeze the grape juice, and there is also a vessel near where the wine is being fermented. These places are another proof that the culture of wine making in Georgia has existed since ancient times.

A little higher up from the village of Khani is one more wonder of nature, – the waterfalls. The first waterfall is called "Sakukhara", which means "Noisy", in spite of the low height, the waterfall stuns everything around. The second waterfall is called "Golden Waterfall" and is about 25-30 m high, it is surrounded by rocks on all sides, which makes you feel cut off from the world being here. The waterfall looks most beautiful in sunny weather, when the sun rays in contact with water form a rainbow.

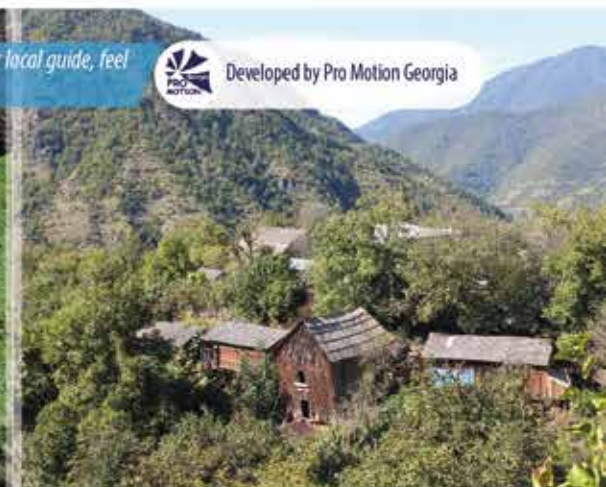
Khani is also known for its warm water sources, you can even find abandoned baths here. The charming building in which these baths are situated was built in Times of Romanovs, as is known, the tsar's family came often to Georgian spas. In one of the rooms you can even fill the bath and bathe yourself. We invite you to Khani, an undiscovered treasure of the Imereti region.



If you would like to try out our new trail, need help, advice or local guide, feel free to contact us; tel: +995 558 548 507



Developed by Pro Motion Georgia



Sairme

The health resort Sairme is located in the south of Kutaisi, 950 meters above the sea level and administratively belongs to the Bagdati municipality. This place has

the unique location, healing springs, ecologically clean environment and beautiful nature. It is located in the mountainous area of subtropical zone. During several decades it has been seen as a major resort zone, but to reach an acceptable level of infrastructure for tourists in Sairme is available just from 2011.



Rehabilitation Center

Thermal baths (Spa center) is equipped by German company "Craft's" contemporary aggregates, the center has all types of massage cabinets, fitness center, swimming pool, mini-bar, procedure cabinets (Hydro massage, Charcot's showers, Peaceful/calm baths, hydro colon therapy, and other irrigations). The center is unique due to its equipment as well as the chemical composition of thermal waters, through utilization of which are conducted procedures. The water does not contain Rhodons. In general, the center is the first in Georgia with its unique capabilities and comes in within the top 5 of the analogous centers worldwide.



AIA Arena Kutaisi

New rugby stadium was officially opened in Kutaisi by Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Tariel Khechikashvili. Brand new rugby-base named "Aia-Arena" occupies 9 hectares of which is the largest in Georgia and is based on European standards. The base consists of 4 pitch - 3 matches to be held to, and another one for trainings. The

central stadium is designed for 4 860 viewers, the second one comprises 1 330 viewers, and the third stadium is 751 seats. The complex is equipped with conference rooms, gymnastics and recreational rooms, special places for honorable guests, press and match hooks, medical and doping- control cabinets. AIA-Arena was one of the stadiums which hosted World Rugby U-20 Championship.



Rafting in Kutaisi

Toma Pruidze, owner of a RAFTING CLUB of Kutaisi, organizes rafting tours for the last few years. He's a sportsman and professional in arranging whitewater rafting not only on the Rioni River but also in other regions of Georgia. He provides all participants with safety training, teaches how to behave while you are on a boat and he professionally looks after everyone during the whole trip. Toma invites you all to take part in rafting and we encourage you to experience a unique adventure while you are in Kutaisi!



EST. 2012
**Rafting In
 Kutaisi**

Tel: 595 41 15 47, 558 558 850 || raftinginkutaisi@gmail.com, www.raftinginkutaisi.ge, www.fb.com/raftinginkutaisi

Bike Rental

For all bike lovers - the best place to rent a bike is a corner located at ul. Agmashenebli 105, where Mr. Zuriko Lomidze, the owner of the place, and his friends will help you to pick a perfect bike for whole your family. We recommend to take a bike for a whole day, one-day service's price is 30 GEL. Soon Mr. Zuriko plans to provide bicycles rental service also to Kopitnari Airport The place is open from 10 AM til 8 PM.



Address: str. Agmashenebli 105
Tel: +995 568 76 71 51



David the Builder Kutaisi International Airport

In 2018 year, a new railway line will be available for all passengers to David the Builder Kutaisi International Airport. Trains that will run from all major Georgian cities across the country, from east to west or vice versa and it will bring passengers right to terminal itself. Passengers who arrive to Kutaisi by air will have the opportunity to go anywhere in a few hours, as well as to mountain resorts and sea resorts. Destinations where you can get from David the Builder Kutaisi International Airport: Berlin (DE), Budapest (HU), Dortmund (DE), Larnaca (CY), Memmingen (DE), Milan (IT), Sofia (BG),

Thessaloniki (GR), Vilnius (LT), Warsaw (PL), Katowice (PL), Moscow (RU), Kiev (UA), London (UK).



KUTAISI
AIRPORT



VISIT ONI

RACHA

რაჭა



Called the Georgian Switzerland, Racha is a land of majestic mountains, unspoiled nature, ancient monasteries and prevailing traditions. Located in the north-west part of Georgia between the borders of Russia, Ossetia and Svanetia, its people, called Rachveli are known for their loyalty and

pace of life - they never hurry! Its vast highlands with rapid rivers and charming villages scattered on the hills attract hikers, anglers, alpinists and nature lovers. Called a giant outdoor playground, it is perfect for those looking for a true countryside break.

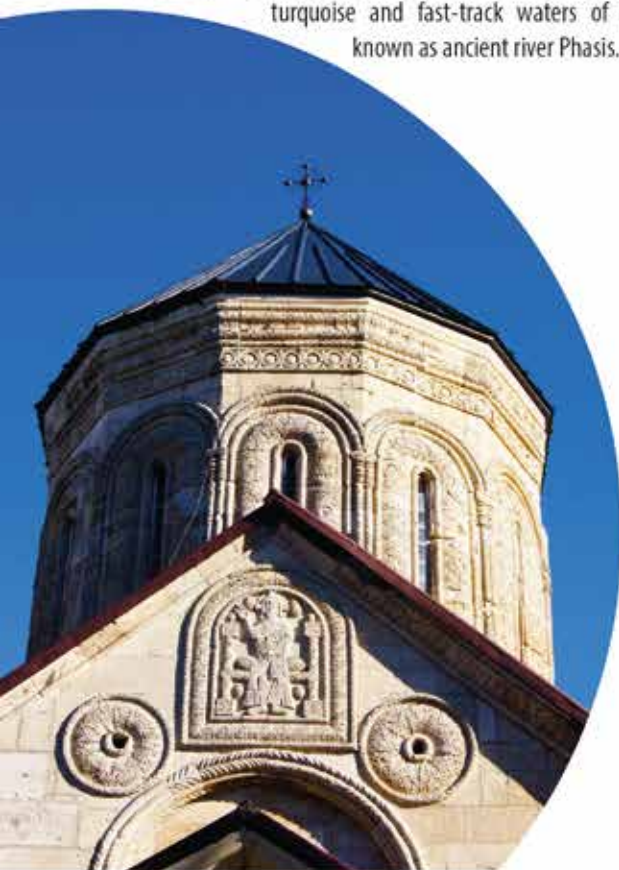
Various routes lead from Kutaisi to Oni, (the municipality centre of Racha) and offer an array of travel experiences. Taking the main road through the town of Tkibuli and Ambrolauri lets you follow the path of the impressive sacral sites of Nikortsminda, Barakoni, Khotevi and Mravaldzali. The high passes with breath-taking panoramas and serene atmosphere of Shaori Lake amaze in every season. The town of Ambrolauri is home to Khvanchkara wine believed to be Stalin's favourite. Art lovers should visit the Ambrolauri Museum, which holds a collection of 550 Georgian paintings. Leaving Kutaisi, one can choose to either go through Terjola or Gelati. For adventure seekers, the road leading through the most picturesque part of the Rioni valley is the one. The not fully developed infrastructure makes the journey slower, but simultaneously full of the potential for spontaneous exploration. Enjoy the unfolding limestone and sandstone canyons, abundant nature and sunny vineyards in small villages (Alpana, Chrebalo, Khvanchra, Tvishi). Drink pomegranate juice or light semi-sweet wines by the turquoise and fast-track waters of Rioni known as ancient river Phasis.



Nikortsminda cathedral is a 11th century temple listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site for its one of the kind frescos and carvings. This important religious site from the times of King Bagrat III is just 16 km from Ambrolauri.



Ambrolauri is the administrative centre of the region known for producing Khvanchkara wine. Visit the factory, Fine Art Museum and the spectacular rock gate to Caucasus with the ancient tower ruins.

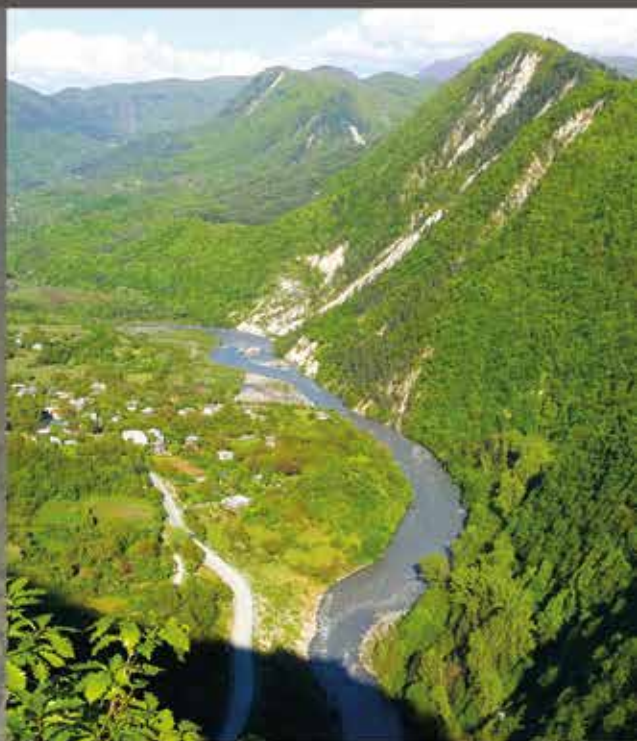


Shaori is the biggest lake of the region. Rich in carp these waters are popular with fishermen. Surrounded by deep forests with waterfalls, caves and water springs the lake area has a moderate microclimate great for a relaxing time off and water sports.



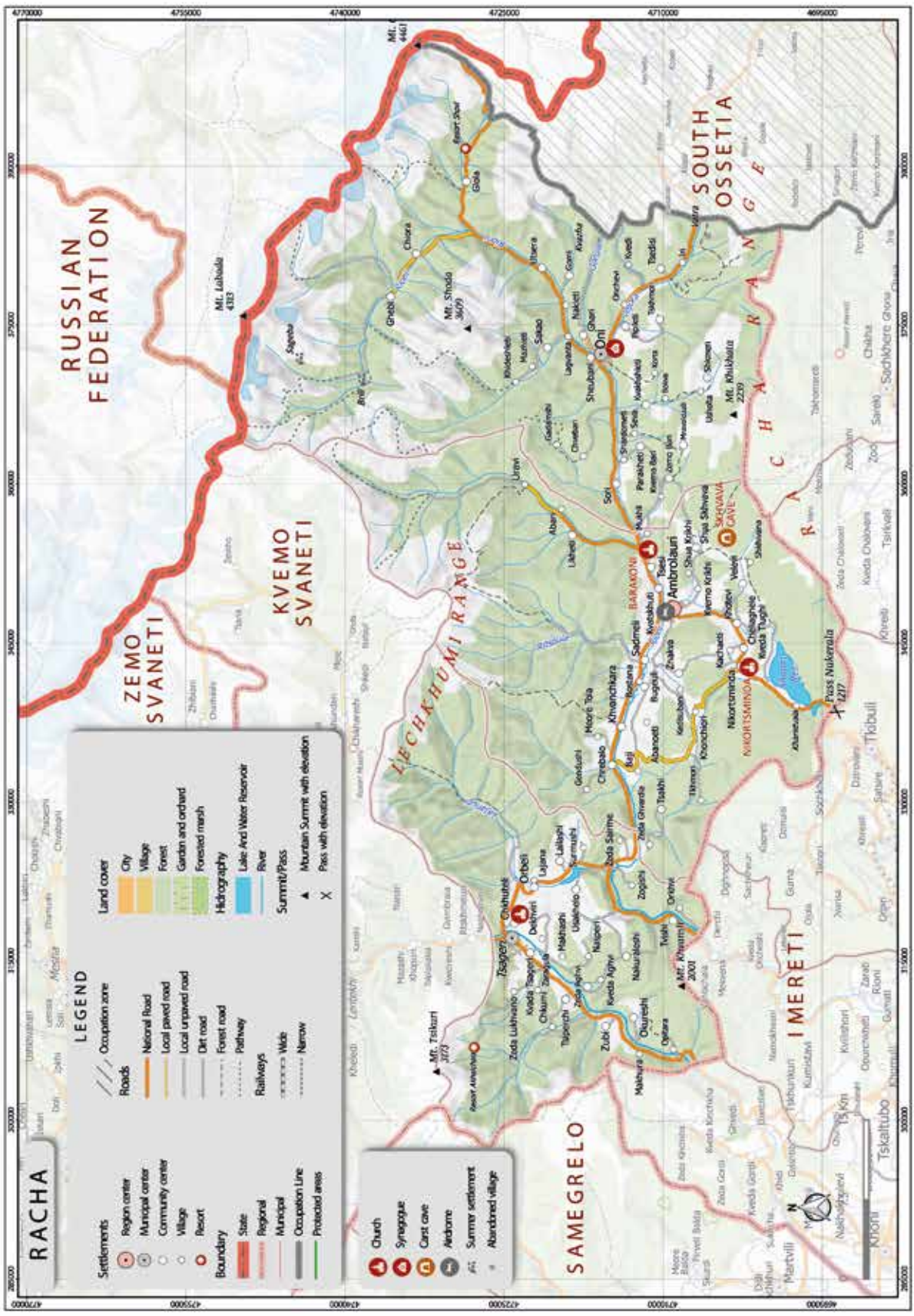
VISIT ONI

RACHA MY LOVE IN EVERY SEASON!



Thanks to diverse landscapes and often changing elevation, in Racha one can experience very different climates. From humid sub-tropical valleys in lower Racha to the areas of never melting snow the surroundings are never boring. The region is especially interesting for birdwatchers. Experience the unforgettable spectacle of wilderness across unfolding terrains, in the crisp air and brisk waters.





RUSSIAN
FEDERATION

ZEMO
SVANETI

KVEMO
SVANETI

LECHHUMI RANGE

SOUTH
OSSETIA

ABKHAZETI

SAMEGRELO

IMERETI

LEGEND

Settlements

- Region center
- Municipal center
- Community center
- Village
- Resort

Boundary

- State
- Regional
- Municipal
- Occupation Line
- Protected areas

Roads

- National Road
- Local paved road
- Local unpaved road
- DKT road
- Forest road
- Pathway

Railways

- Wide
- Narrow

Land cover

- City
- Village
- Forest
- Garden and arland
- Forested marsh

Hydrography

- Lake And Water Reservoir
- River

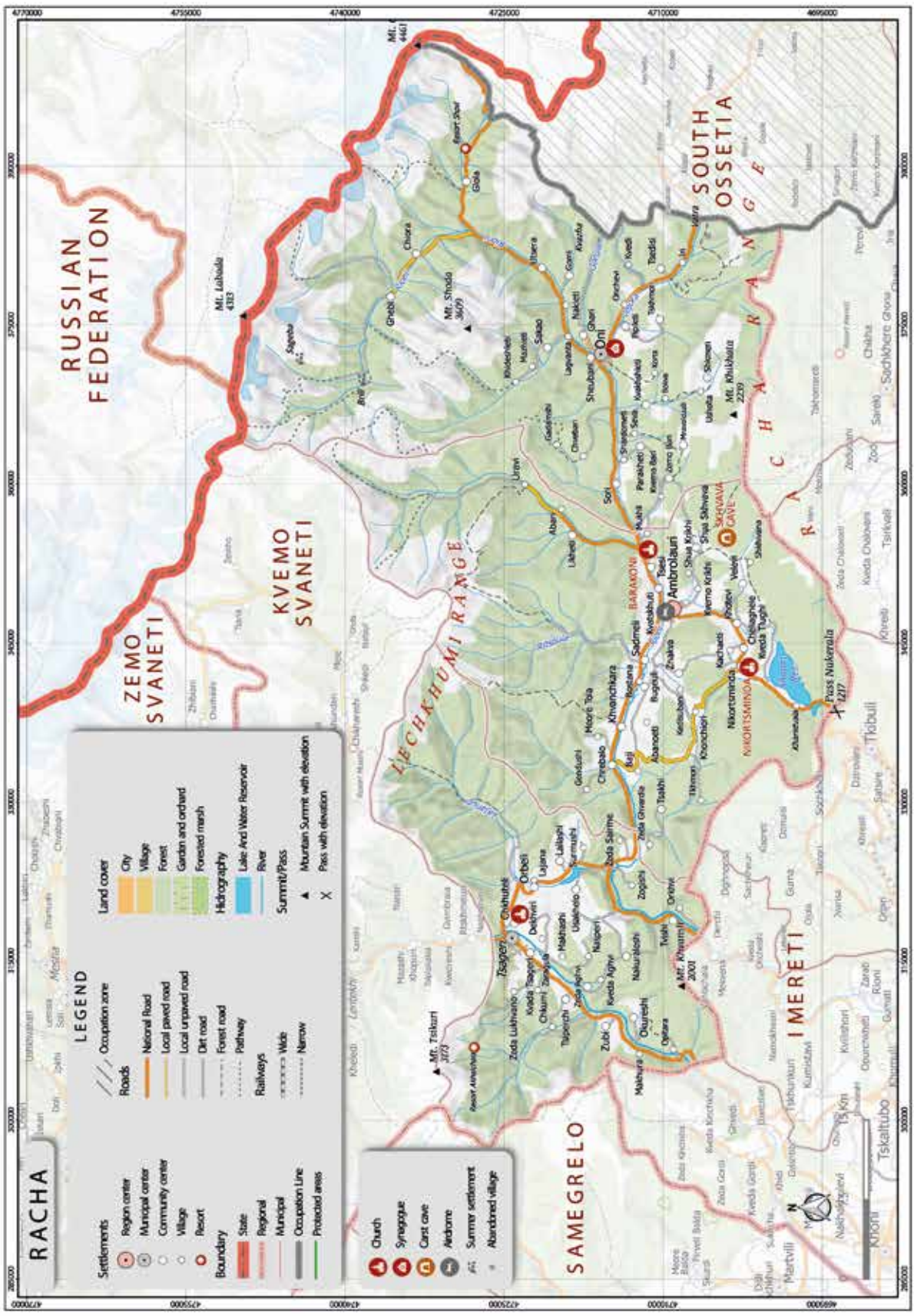
Summit/Pass

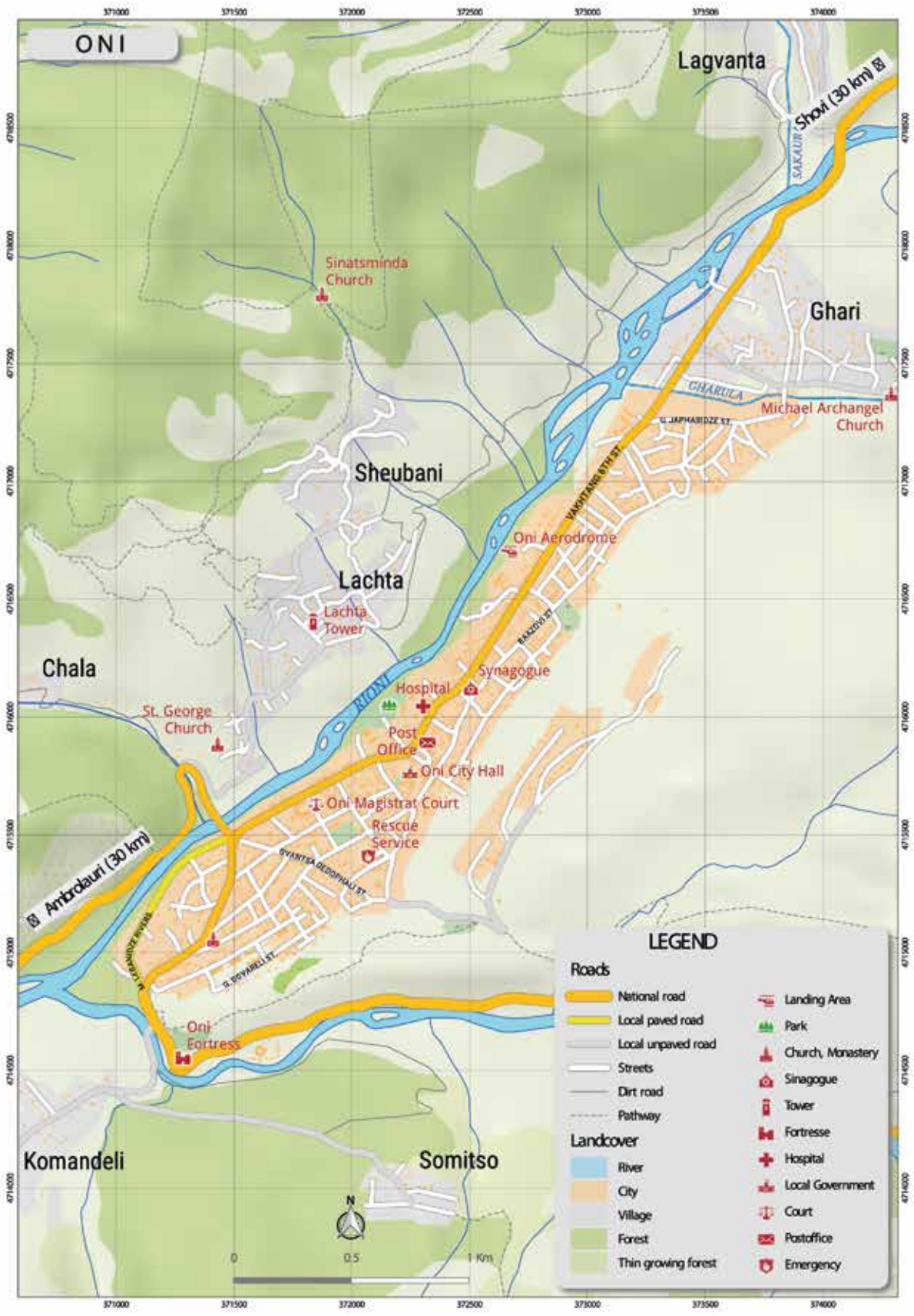
- ▲ Mountain Summit with elevation
- X Pass with elevation

- Church
- Synagogue
- Carst cave
- Monkno
- Summer settlement
- Abandoned village



0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100





ONI

Lagvanta

Shovi (30 km) Ⓜ

Sinatasminda Church

Ghari

Michael Archangel Church

Sheubani

Oni Aerodrome

Lachta

Lachta Tower

Synagogue

Chala

St. George Church

Hospital

Post Office

Oni City Hall

Oni Magistrat Court

Rescue Service

Amtrakauri (30 km) Ⓜ

Oni Fortress

LEGEND

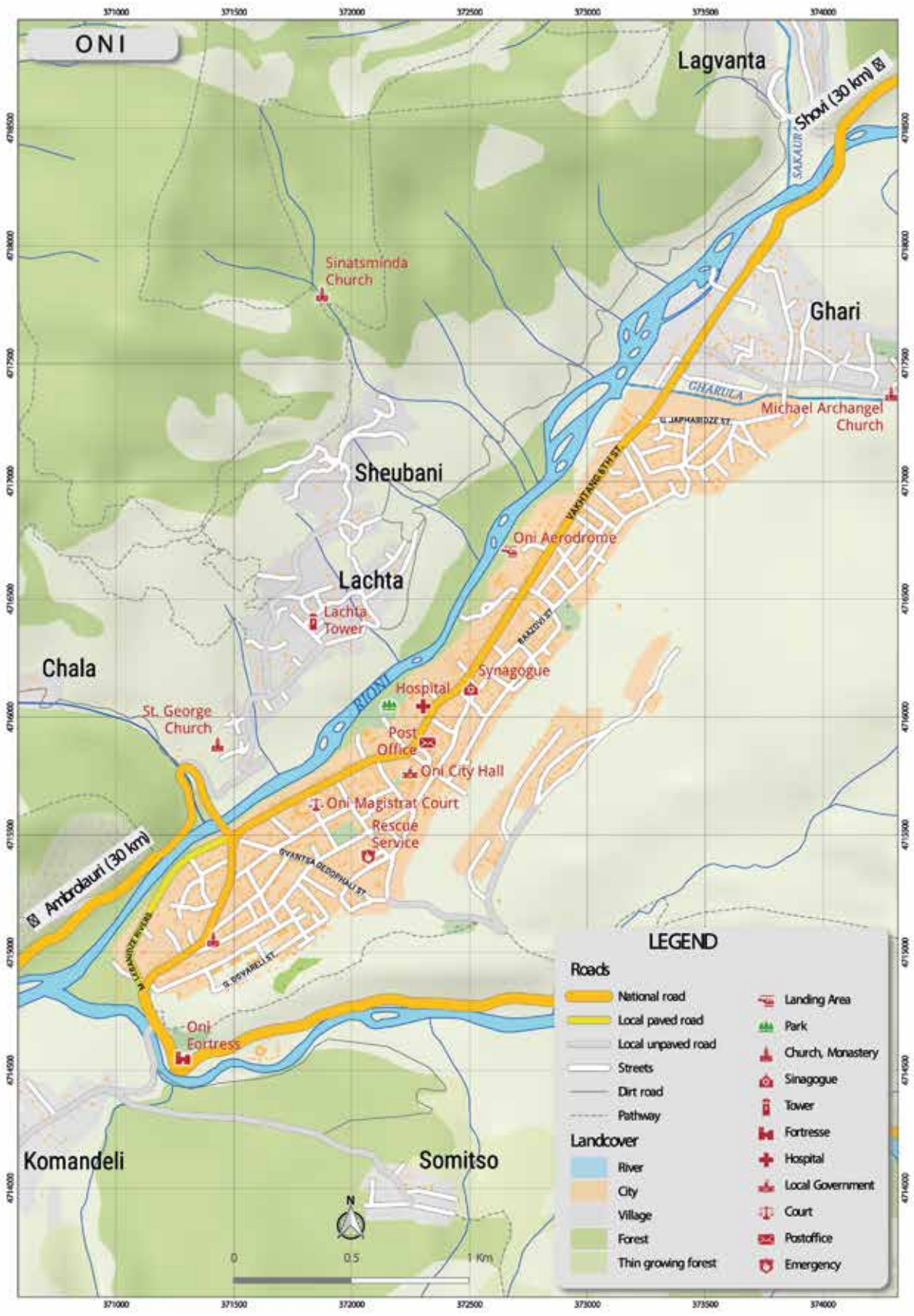
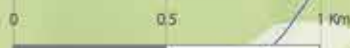
Roads

- National road
- Local paved road
- Local unpaved road
- Streets
- Dirt road
- Pathway

Landcover

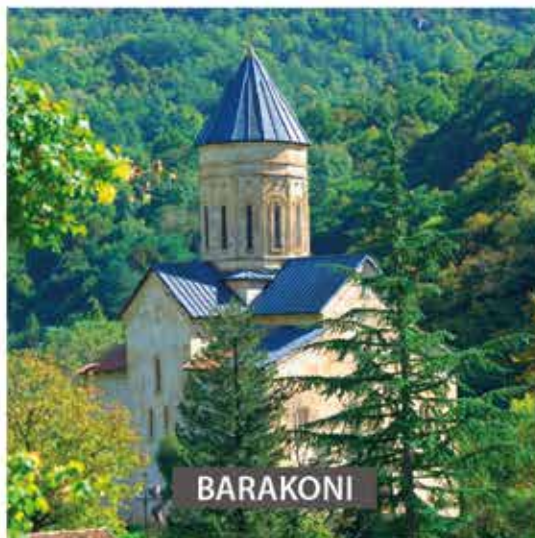
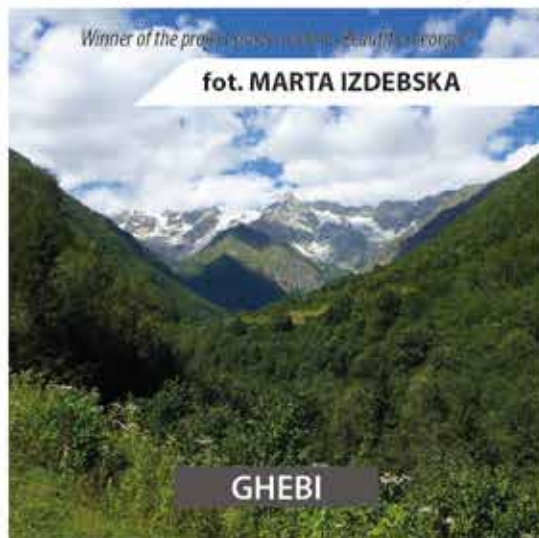
- River
- City
- Village
- Forest
- Thin growing forest

- Landing Area
- Park
- Church, Monastery
- Synagogue
- Tower
- Fortresse
- Hospital
- Local Government
- Court
- Postoffice
- Emergency



Mravaldzali - a 11th century St. George's church. It's especially famous for its stunning bas-reliefs. For centuries here was stored some interesting historical exhibits, such as a sword of the famous Persian Shah Abbas.

Barakoni Church of the Mother of God – a 8th century church near the town of Ambrolauri. This is a domed cruciform church and one of the last important monuments of medieval Georgian architecture.



Utsera – located in Upper Racha, 15 km from Oni, at 1042 m a.s.l. is famous for its beautiful panoramas and unique healing mineral waters. There are over 28 springs in the spa area. Beside the waters, the natural healing factor is the mountainous air and of course fantastic views.

Shovi - located in Upper Racha, at 1650 m a.s.l. is one of the most important hydrotherapy resorts of Georgia. It is famous for its mountain climate and carbonic acid hydrocarbonate sodium-calcium mineral springs. The holiday season lasts between June and October.

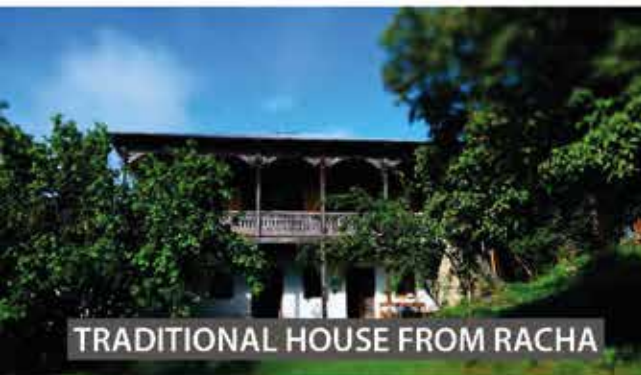
Ghebi - is an old village in the region of Racha, The history of the village Ghebi is very rich, It includes more than 3500 years of cultural life. Today Ghebi is well-known for its unique climate, mineral springs and stunning views.

ONI მბო



CENTER OF ONI

Oni is a town located on the bank of river Rioni in the eastern part of Racha. It is the centre of the Oni municipality and the entrance to the austere mountains. The town is believed to have been founded by the king of Iberia in II BC though evidence of much older inhabitancy has been found. Artefacts from Palaeolithic period or ingots traded with Egyptians in the Bronze age can be seen in the local museum along with examples of extinct crafts and arts. Rachveli carpentry is believed to be best in Georgia - see the "Sakvartskhuli" chair, which is used by the head of the family. It had three legs and a semi-circular back. The back of the chair is decorated with symbolic engravings. To learn about cattle-breeding and traditional singing, healthy mineral waters visit nearby villages of Chiora and Ghebi, Utsera.



TRADITIONAL HOUSE FROM RACHA



MINERAL WATER IN ONI



Oni had the third biggest Georgian Jewish community and is home to a Synagogue built in 1880. Based on the Warsaw synagogue and raised from ornate limestone it is a great example of classical architecture. It is not in use, so please contact Tourism Department of Administration of Oni to book a visit prior to your arrival. (see p. 72)



Oni Local Museum holds a vast collection of prehistoric, ancient and ethnographic artefacts thanks to its mixed group of founders: an artist, ethnographer, an archaeologist, geologists and a philologist. Don't miss the discoveries from Brili: bronze items and glass jewellery from II BC or a unique sun-shaped astral buckle and UNESCO listed fragments of reliefs from the 10th century.



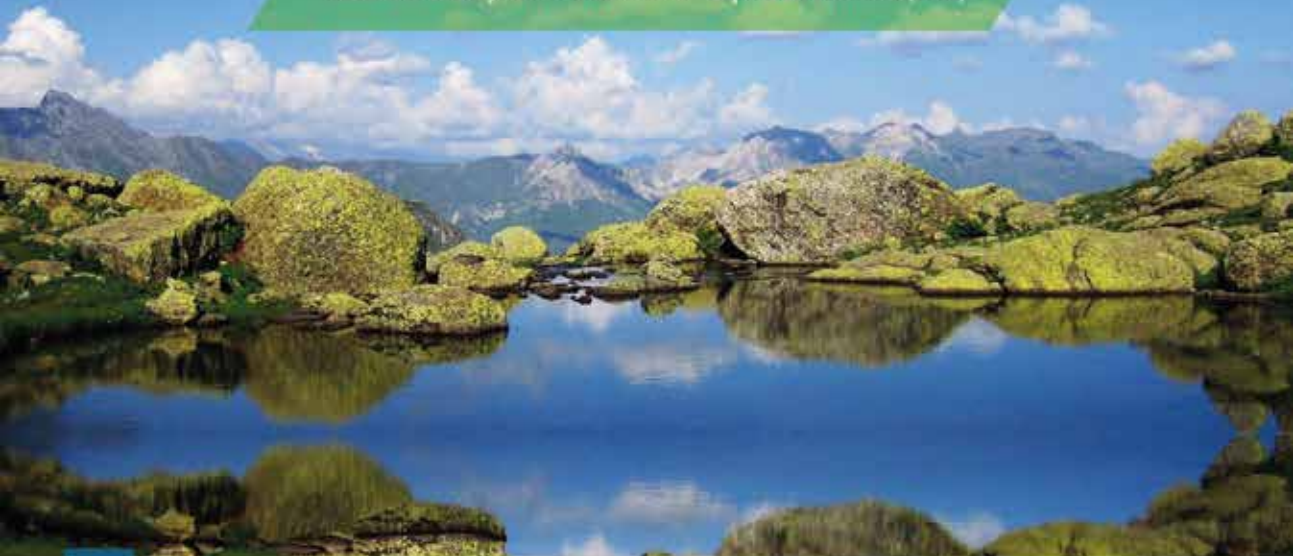
VISIT ONI

AND BEYOND ONI...



Abundant in mineral water springs, Oni municipality is known for hydrotherapy resorts such as Utsera and Shovi. Located at 1,050 meters above sea level, Utsera, with picturesque hiking paths, is a great holiday destination. Located further in the mountains, Glola village and Shovi health resort are known for their crisp air and 16 types of mineral water. Located at the base of Mamison Pass, Udziro Lake and Mt. Buba this is a popular hikers destination and a paradise for alpine exploration and photography lovers.

Udziro Lake is a tiny lake on 2800 m on the slope of Mt. Katitsvera (3300).



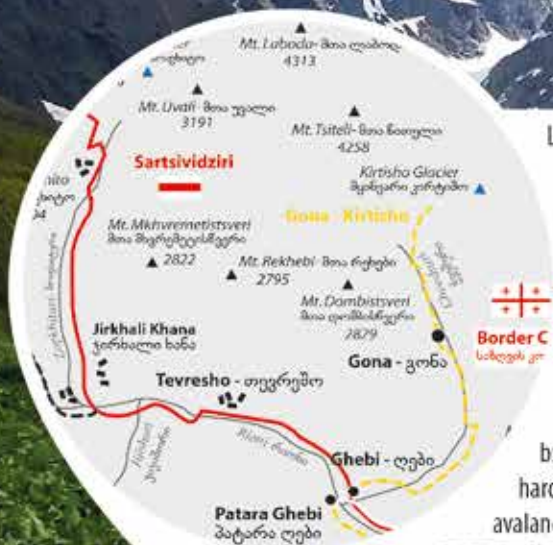


Hidden deep in the mountains villages of Chiora, Gona and Ghebi are some of the most popular destinations in Georgia. These are special places with absolutely stunning nature. This is a real heaven for all mountain and trekking lovers. Upper Racha is the place where every Georgian wants to travel at least once in their lifetime. It is a home to people attached deeply to their land, living close to nature and old traditions. Chiora is located beautifully on the south slope of the Caucasus and was an important medieval settlement. Ghebi is the largest village in the area with a rich history that traces back to 16-10th centuries BC. Surrounded by mountain ranges with the most important being Mt. Shoda and Mohamesh, it has a specific tranquil atmosphere. Many hiking and off-road routes are found here, one leading to Gona village at by the Kirtisho Glacier. Gona-Kirtisho is a short but moderate trail leading through the valley of Chveshuri to the Kirtisho glacier belonging to the Georgian and Russian borderland.



SARTSIVIDZIRI

სარჭივისძირი



Leading through the picturesque valley of Rioni and Zopkhituri with the villages Chiora, Ghebi and Tevresho, this easy route takes you to the far end of Racha. Camping in the almost untouched natural surroundings by Mt. Uvali is an unforgettable experience. "Uvali" means unconquered, as no one yet managed to set a foot on it. From nearby Goribolo Pass view on Caucasus with peaks of Edena, Tsiteli and Geze can be seen. The Sartsividziri valley has a characteristic microclimate - the unique process of fog and cloud formation can be clearly seen. To discover local culture of cattle breeding and traditional agriculture stop in the villages and meet its hardworking and heart-warming people. Seasonal difficulties of avalanches, high waters must be considered as well as the presence of wild

TRAIL INFO

Length 17km (from Ghebi). Easy route for hiking, horse and off-road trips. Possible seasonal difficulties (mostly in spring): avalanches, high water, damaged bridges. Permission required form Oni Border Agency.

If you would like to try out our new trail, need help, advice or local guide, feel free to contact us; tel: +995 558 548 507



NOTSARA ნოჭსარა



Notsara is an easy trail leading through village Chiora and two passes to a charming camp by Mt. Burjula. With a good weather one can enjoy fantastic panoramic views on main Caucasus: Sasvanogori (with highest peaks of Svanetia), mounts around Sartsividziri, Chanchaki, Tbilisa, peaks of Ossetia and the valley of Rioni. Unique alpine flora and fauna includes occurrences of Caucasian tur, bears and wolfs. For those interested in longer trips, a further unmarked path leads to Glo! through Modrekila. Best to be enjoyed in spring and autumn for its characteristic Caucasian flora and fauna. This route is an opportunity for truly spectacular views and undisturbed time in nature.

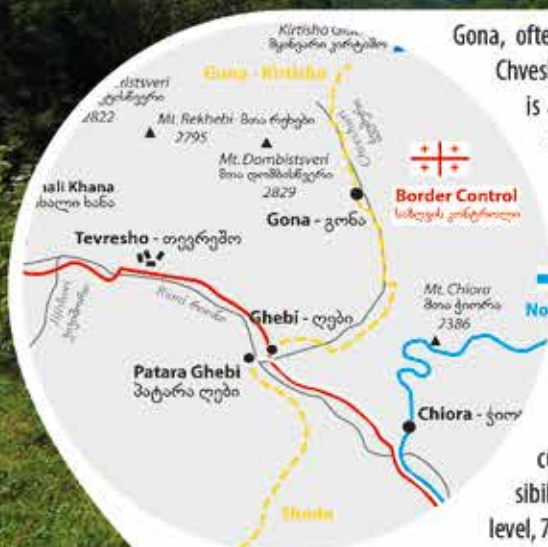
TRAIL INFO

Length 19km (from Chiora).
Moderate route for hiking and horse trips of a few days. Permission required form Oni Border Agency

If you would like to try out our new trail, need help, advice or local guide, feel free to contact us; tel: +995 558 548 507

GONA

გონა



Gona, often called Georgian Switzerland, is a beautiful village located in Chvishura river gorge, accessible from Ghebi village by jeep or hike. Gona is a must see during any jeep tour in Racha region. The impressive summit which stands in front of you inspires many photographers and anyone who admires mountain villages, alpine valleys, rivers and mighty glaciers. The village itself and the people who live there are simple. There are no towers, no special sightseeing attractions, this area is not touristic, there is no guesthouse except the one in Ghebi, so if you plan to visit, make sure the weather is sunny. If you are not staying there with locals, or you are not camping, plan to visit in the morning or in the evening when visibility is better. The views to the summits are quite spectacular especially in June/July/October in the days of good weather/visibility. Locked in winter by snow, Gona is located 1700m from the sea level, 7-8km from Village Ghebi which is base for many remarkable hikes in Racha region. Only 4wd car can reach Gona from Ghebi and the road is quite challenging. It's preferable to take a hired car as the road is stony and not in the best condition.

TRAIL INFO

Length 19km (from Chiora).
Moderate route for few day hiking and horse trips.
Permission required from Oni Border Agency

If you would like to try out our new trail, need help, advice or local guide, feel free to contact us; tel: +995 558 548 507

Winner of the project photo contest „Beautiful Georgia“

phot. MARTA IZDEBSKA



VISIT ONI

Every stay is different, every host is unique, every experience is part of a journey.

Seeing Racha without getting to know its people is not complete. Let them welcome you with a smile and the best what they can offer. As we support hosts with potential, their experience, language skills and house standards can vary. Staying with locals is a true eye-opener and opportunity for a joyful friendship!

Reserve via www.visitoni.com.

Price range 15-40 Lari.

Hostel #Onigram

Hostel #Onigram is a perfect place to stay, try delicious Rachian cuisine and meet wonderful hospitality of the people from Racha. Ana and Gio Kobakhidze's hostel has a garden full of home grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and grapes. The Kobakhidze family have their own wine Saperavi or Khvanchkara, which is basically the most typical for the region. The family has rich culinary traditions, as you can try the best Rachian ham (geo. lori), the place is also a true heaven for veggie lovers. If you are into tea – this is the place for you: Gio who works at the border control, picks some rare Caucasian tea herbs, which you will not find anywhere else. Hostel Oni is the best place to have a rest and experience the cheerful bustle of a local household.



Ana and Gio Kobakhidze / Hostel Onigram

Shorena Guesthouse

Shorena Guesthouse is a big and beautiful place, run by a cordial lady with fantastic cooking skills. In this beautiful house with a neat garden, a summer kitchen and a sunny veranda, homemade Rachan delicacies taste unforgettable. Relaxing and family atmosphere fits perfectly to peaceful mineral water resort in between the mountain peaks.



Shorena Metreveli / @shorequesthouse



Hostel Utsera



Makhuta Metreveli / Hostel Utsera

Hostel Utsera located close to the mineral water spring "Black water" has a garden with great views. The host, a forest warden is young, friendly and very communicative. He knows his neighbourhood, so he can be your local tour guide. He can organize trekking and horseback riding tours (for 3-4 people) and you can rent tents and backpacks. It is a good place for a cheap yet very comfortable stay. Many Georgian tourists come here for health reasons.



Glola Guesthouse

If you plan to visit Shovi, stay overnight in Glola Guesthouse. The beautiful and very well equipped house of Kakha Baghuashvili is built to a very high standard. Inspired by traditional architecture with wood and stone interiors, the smell of pine mixed with spices creates a wonderful atmosphere. With amenities like a washing machine and internet, delicious homemade food and still improving offer of transport services or horse trips stay at Glola Guesthouse is a very comfortable and carefree experience. The host will organize local trips (e.g. Mamisoni Pass). Breath-taking views of overwhelming nature and a family feel complete the experience. There is a possibility of organizing a supra, a traditional Georgian feast, for up to 20 people.



Hostel Ghebi

For those interested in the other end of Racha, Ghebi, Hostel Ghebi by Marika has its doors always open. Incredible hospitality, the best view on mount Shoda and mouth-watering delicacies compensate for modest conditions. Marika is a single mother of 4 and does not have the possibility to have a separate room for guests, however there is always a spare bed and place for a sleeping mat or a tent for those wanting to share their time with the family. Marika is one of the best cooks, who can make a feast out of nothing. Her sons know their neighbourhood, mountains, animals and nature very well. By the house with a stunning view balcony, there is a big garden with fruits and vegetables. Families with kids are very welcome! They speak Russian and a little bit of Polish.





Home grown vegetables, traditionally prepared dairy products and mountain grown animals are at heart of Rachevli cuisine. Simple, local and pure food is a way of celebrating life close to nature and respecting what it gives.

There are few special dishes like: Lori (ham from a salted and smoked pig), creamy chicken Shkmeruli with garlic or freshly baked lobiani (version of khachapuri with bean paste).



Try fresh milk, cheese or matsoni - sour milk often served with buckwheat.

The climate and soil of the high Racha is perfect for growing beans and potatoes, while the forests and meadows are full of mushrooms and herbs.

Picked high in the mountains white rhododendron leaves are served as tea and called "Deka".

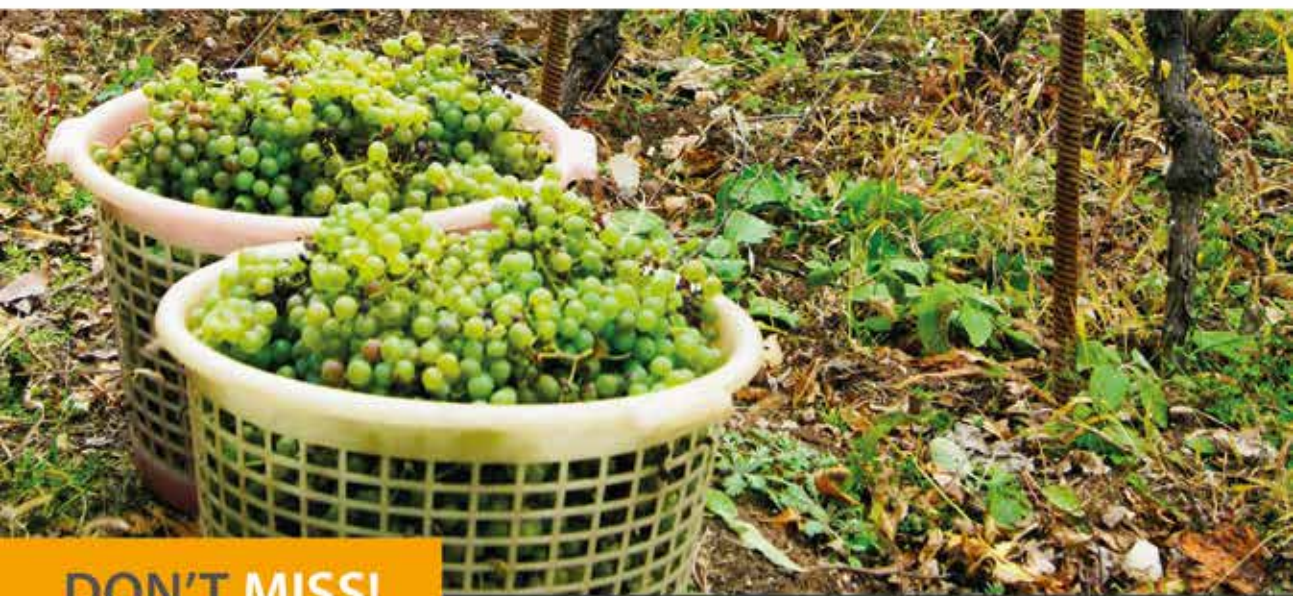




KHVANCHKHARA - RACHA'S LIQUID GOLD

VISIT ONI

Racha-Lechkhumi is one of Georgia's smallest wine regions, wedged between Imereti to the south and the Greater Caucasus mountains to the north, distinguished by the scarcity of vineyards and rare grape varieties (Tvishi, Tsolikouri, Aleksandrouli and Orbeluri) Almost all wines from these vineyards are sweeter than their western European counterparts, as a result of the extremely high sugar levels created by the sunny climate. With its unique "sense of place" Racha-Lechkhumi is a region where wine grapes have an amazing ability to draw flavours from the soil, climate, and location. Racha-Lechkhumi is inseparable from the semi-sweet "Khvanchkara" wine produced from 1932. Khvanchkara wine was favourite one of Josef Stalin, he even knew every family in Racha who used to produce Khvanchkara who supplied him the best wine.



DON'T MISS!

Oneloba (autumn) - changing date when the town becomes a big feast with local food, dance and music, possible horse races and delicious wine.

AUGUST

აგვისტო

1

Nikortsmindoba 1st of August - happy celebrations of the family roots and summer time. This is a great moment to visit the Nikortsminda medieval church, listen to folk poetry and music and see a local dance as well as books and crafts.



AUGUST

აგვისტო

28

Virgin Mary at Mravardzali 28th of August - national religious day especially celebrated in this important sanctuary with horse races and a feast.

Oni Baazar: Thursdays until 16:00 on Kahaberi str



TRANSPORT

MARSHRUTKAS (MINIBUSES):

Kutaisi (Chain Bridge station) - Oni - daily 9:00 except Mondays approx (9GEL)

Kutaisi (Chain Bridge station) - Ambrolauri -- daily 10:00 and 14:00 approx (7 GEL)

Kutaisi – Oni (station Okriba) – daily 16:00 approx (12GEL)

Kutaisi (station Okriba) - Ambrolauri -- daily 11:00, 15:30 approx (10GEL)

Oni - Ghebi - Thursdays and Sundays, 8:00, 16:30/ Ghebi-Oni -- 9:00, 18:00 (4GEL)

Oni - Shovi - Thursday 7:00, 16:00/Shovi-Oni -- 9:00, 18:00

Tbilisi Didube Station-Ghebi – Thursday, Saturday, 8:00

Ghebi-Tbilisi Didube Station – Friday, Sunday, 8:30

TOURIST INFORMATION

Ambrolauri Tourist Information Centre:

Vazha Phshavela Street 17 (+995) 514 700055

Museum: Rustaveli str. 26, (+995) 599 376 863

OTHER

Police Station:

Davit Aghmashenebeli str. 15a, (+995) 577 526649

Hospital:

Vahktang VI 10, (+995) 577 251169

Border Police:

Baazovi str. 169 (+995) 591 915692

WEATHER TIPS:

High season: May - October

Summers are warm and pleasant but very short, spring and autumn can be rainy but are the most beautiful in the mountains, winter lasts from December till April with lots of snow (approx. -10 deg)



VISIT MARTVILI

SAMEGRELO სამეგრელო



Samegrelo (Megrelia) is one of the richest and most beautiful regions of Georgia. The diversity of landscapes creates a perfect natural surrounding for caving, canyoning, kayaking, trekking, biking, hiking, bird watching and other activities. Samegrelo is known in the whole of Georgia for the richest and oldest horse riding culture and sports. Stunning views of

subtropical forests, limestone canyons carved by emerald streams and charming architecture makes it hard to leave this western land of Megreli people. This distinctive sub-group of Georgians has their own language and ancient culinary and wine-making traditions.

The vast land of Samegrelo is located between Svanetia, Imeretia, Guria and the Black Sea and has a lot to offer. From the seaside towns like Poti and Analkia through towns and villages with many strategic historical fortresses to wild forests full of caves and waterfalls - Samegrelo has it all. The wild nature of Samegrelo will amaze you with its stunning green colours and beauty of waterfalls.

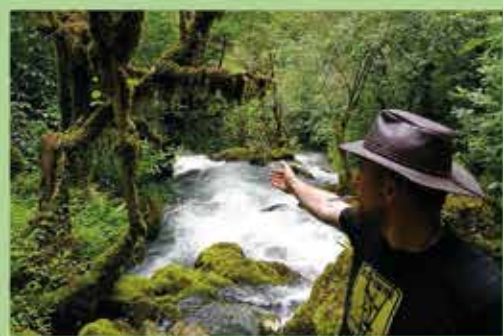
Breath-taking views on mountain landscapes can be enjoyed from the trek to one of the six Silver Lakes Tobavarchkhili or lakes in Dvira valley. Before coming to Martvili do not miss the attractions of Samegrelo: Kolkheti National Park - a paradise for observing nature and trekking, Zugdidi architecture with Dadiani Palace Museum, forests of Tsalenjikha, for hiking and horseback riding. For those interested in historical sites, Samegrelo has many archaeological sites and old fortresses (Abedati Nokalakevi, Nogha, Rukhi fortress, Tsalenjikha, Salkhino, Senaki). Northern part of the region is covered with mountains continuing in the Racha-Lechkhumi and Svaneti regions. In the south-west part of Samegrelo you can visit the largest power station in the Caucasus and the second highest dam in the world- Enguri Dam on the Jvari reservoir.



The Enguri Hydroelectric Dam is currently the world's second highest concrete arch dam with a height of 271.5 m. The facility's arched dam, located at the town of Jvari, was inscribed in the list of cultural heritage of Georgia in 2015. Apart from its importance for the economy of country, it's one of the most popular stops while travelling between Samegrelo and Upper Svaneti region for its beautiful view over the Caucasus mountains.



Nokalakevi is the biggest archaeological site of Samegrelo. Visit a fortress from the 3rd century BC and the museum with a display of objects from the 8th century BC including wine vessels and gold as well as glass adornments.



SHURUMBUMU CAVE

Shurumbumu cave is an unexplored beautiful cave in Chkhorotsku Municipality, which borders with Martvili district. A small river flows from Shumbumu Cave for 2 months a year, then it disappears and the whole canyon of the river is covered with bright green moss for the rest of the year.



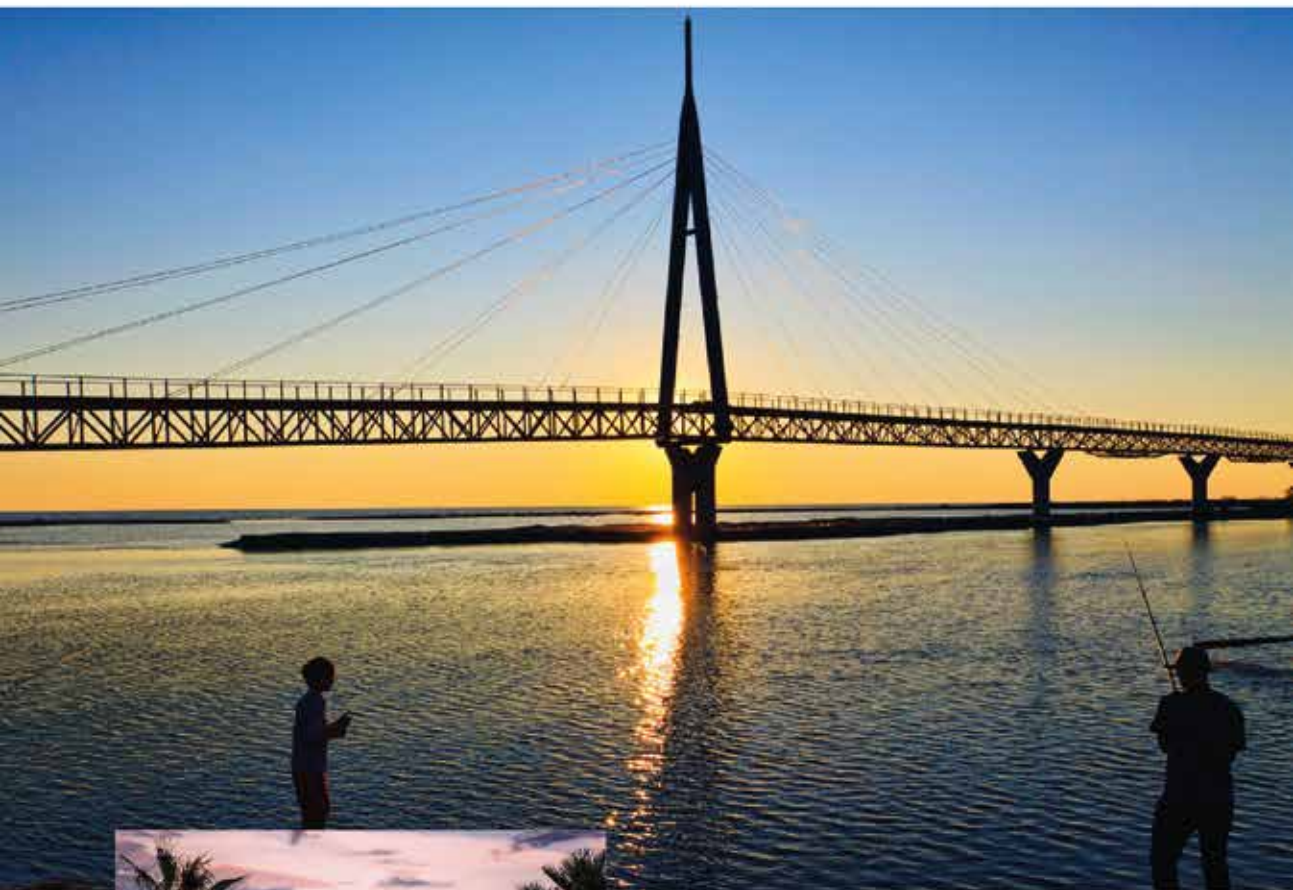
Dadiani Palace is a Georgian national museum located in Zugdidi, Samegrelo. The Dadiani Palace is considered to be one of the most eminent palaces in the Caucasus. The museum houses some exhibits of natural cultural heritage of Georgia – manuscripts from the 13th and 14th centuries, miniatures, memorial relics of Dadiani dynasty, and objects connected to the emperor of France Napoleon Bonaparte brought to the palace by the husband of David Dadiani's daughter, prince Achille Murat, grandson of Napoleon's sister, Carolina.



ACTION FLOWS IN SAMEGRELO

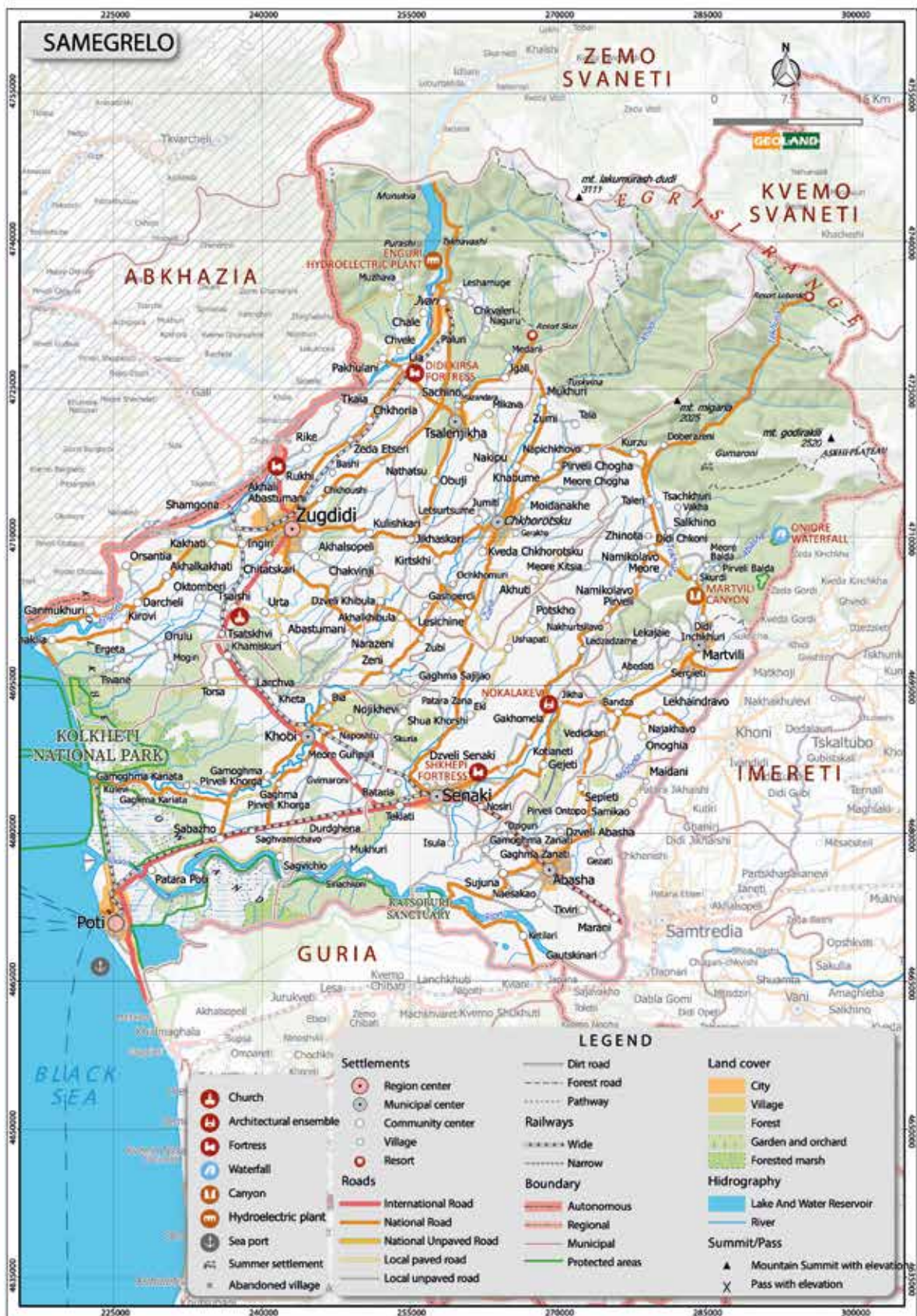
VISIT MARTVILI

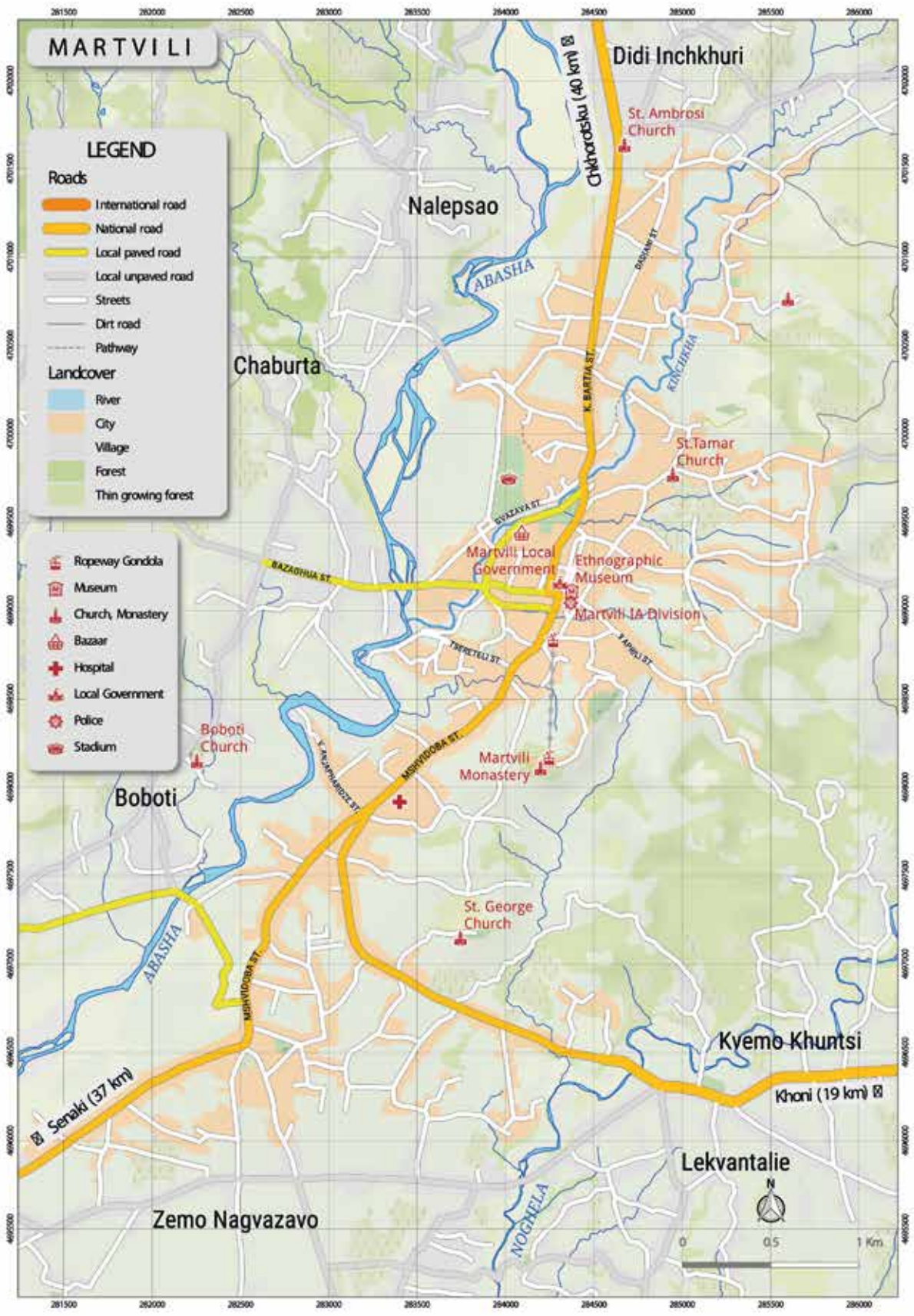
Brisk streams and glistening rivers, vast lakes and reserves and the Black Sea coast makes the region abundant in water. Anglers enjoy the rivers abundant in fish, marine lovers head to the harbour, while those looking for a thrill go into the canyons. No matter if you are into wild and extreme rafting or just relaxing paddling, everyone can find just what they need.



The new Georgian seaside resort town located at the southeast coast of the Black Sea, in Samegrelo region. Just a few years ago, on the place of Anaklia there were only two villages with a population of 2500 and today this quickly developing resort has comfortable hotels, restaurants and entertainment establishments. The secret of success of Anaklia is a dry climate, a pure sea and a sandy beach.

The resort was built in 2011 by Italian architect Alberto Domingo who changed the geometry of the beachside terrain, constructed a new seafront, laid out a large park with attractions and at the entry of the mountain river Inguri built a pedestrian bridge which is the longest (540 meters) in Europe. At present different categories of hotels entertain guests; there is a yacht-club, restaurants, a nightclub, the largest water park on the Black Sea as well as a casino and an amphitheatre. Anaklia is the place where GEM FEST - the biggest international festival of electronic music is held.





MARTVILI

მარტვილი



Traditional Megrelian cross in the Martvili city centre and the cable car to the Martvili Monastery complex.

Martvili is a town in western Georgia, in the region of Samegrelo. Situated on the Colchis Plain on the banks of the Abasha river. Martvili has about 5700 residents. The town of Martvili had several names depending on the political regime. Formerly called Chkondidi, under the Soviet rule the town was called Gegechkori in honour of the old Bolsheviks born in Martvili. There is an old monastery consisting of the main temple of the 7th to 10th centuries, the church of Mcire Chikvani (10th century), the pillar (11th century) and the defensive wall with secondary buildings. There is also an ethnographic museum in the centre of the town.



TRADITIONAL MEGRELIAN HOUSE „ODA“



OLD TRADITIONAL GEORGIAN SPORT „CKHENBURTI“ which is considered the first horse polo allike sport



VISIT MARTVILI



The Martvili Monastery complex dates back to the 7th century and is a place of great beauty. Its strategic location provides fantastic views, a long history and its scholastic tradition is connected with the most important Georgian figures such as Giorgi Chkondideli who mentored king Davit IV known as "the Builder". Prior to the building of the monastery, a giant oak tree (symbol of fertility in pagan cult) stood here. The tree was cut and replaced with a cross by Andrew the Apostle who was the first preacher of Christianity in the territory of Georgia. According to the legend, the name of the town- Martvili, originates from the pagan ritual words 'ma rvili' (I killed) that were said by a mother offering her infant to the oak tree idol Kapunia.



The Ethnographic Museum founded by Givi Eliava in 1957 is a fantastic example of the genre. Its profuse collection, including early Stone Age items, archeological excavations, important Georgian art and great display of numismatic and ethnographic artefacts is staged in an exemplary manner. The open-air yard represents a typical Megrelian settlement and upon appointment a unique Megrelian wine tasting is available.





Salkhino is a village in Martvili district. It is 15 km from Martvili at about 250 m a.s.l. It is situated on the north-east slopes of Kvibia Mountains from the left bank of the Tekhura River. The summer residence of the royal family Dadiani in the village Salkhino is truly distinguished. The palace was constructed on a site originally occupied by a modest royal residence in the village of Salkhino near the Martvili Church during the reign of David Dadiani's father Levan V Dadiani (1804-1840).

Near the palace you can see Kari Church (Kari-Door). The bell tower of the church was built by Levan Dadiani. In the beginning of the Communism era early in the 20th century it was destroyed.

The palace is situated near the home of the Ojaleshi (variety of wine grape) on the bank of the river Tsachkhura which is famed for its fine trout. Ojaleshi is one of the rarest and most delicious Georgian wines. In Salkhino Ojaleshi wine is produced and bottled by monks living in the monastery. There is also a wine cellar where thousands of the best Ojaleshi bottles are preserved. Ojaleshi wine is under the protection of the Georgian Patriarchate. Here you can visit a brand new wine tasting centre which also provides accommodation.



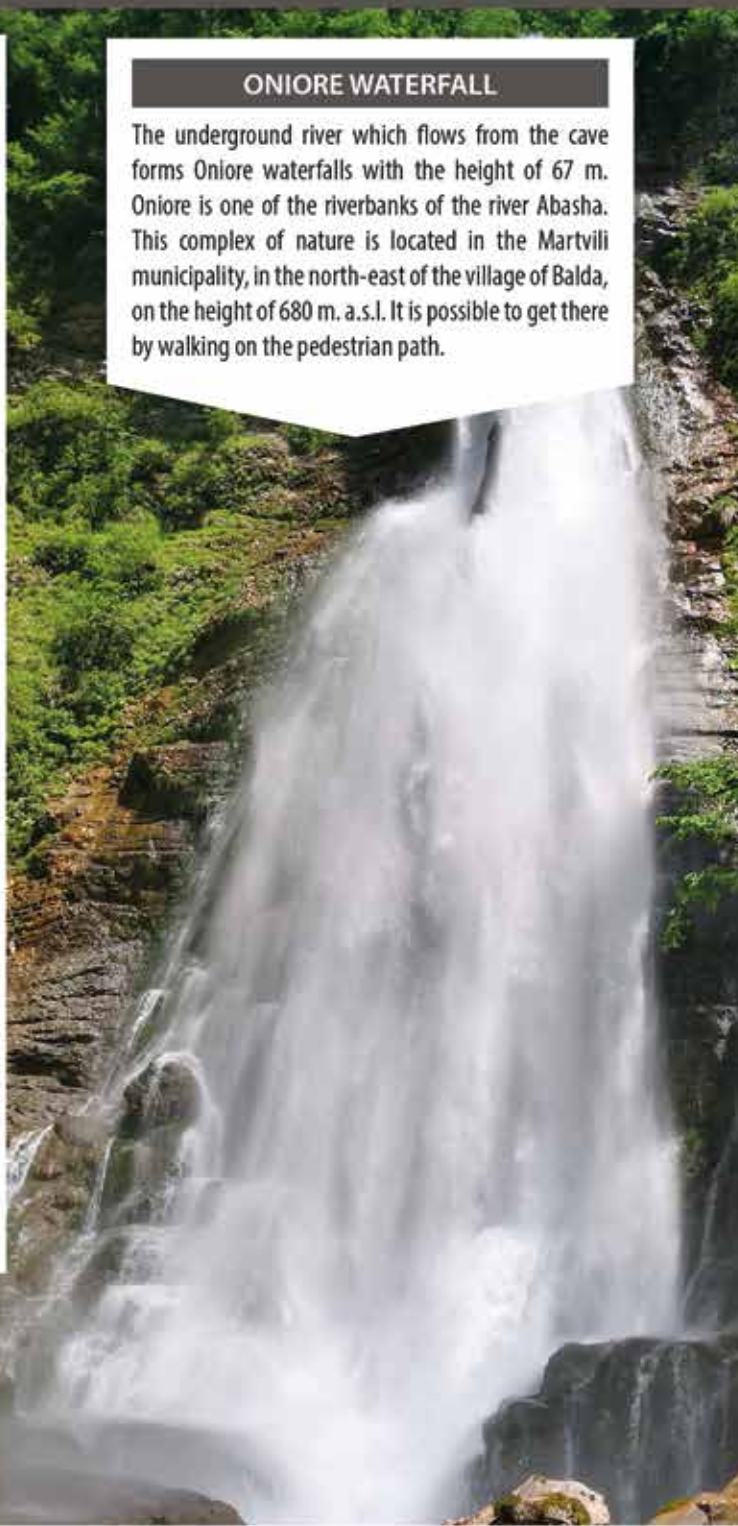


TOBA WATERFALL

The karst river flowing from the Okrojanashvili cave creates one of the highest cascade waterfalls in Georgia at 234m. Apart from the open air waterfalls there is a 21m high waterfall inside a cave as well as lakes. A route leads from Martvili to the village Meore Balda. It is a 14 km long motorway. After that there is 4 km walking trail to the Toba riverhead and the bottom of the hill. The flora of Toba waterfalls is included in the Red Book List of Georgia (list of rare or endangered plant and animal species of Georgia, established in 2006) It is difficult to reach the cave. While going there it is recommended to take special equipment and it is necessary to have an inflatable boat during the trip.

ONIORE WATERFALL

The underground river which flows from the cave forms Oniore waterfalls with the height of 67 m. Oniore is one of the riverbanks of the river Abasha. This complex of nature is located in the Martvili municipality, in the north-east of the village of Balda, on the height of 680 m. a.s.l. It is possible to get there by walking on the pedestrian path.



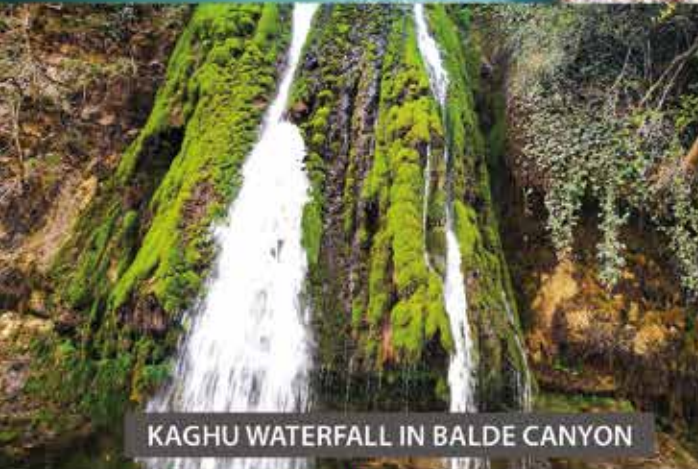


ADMINISTRATION

Gachedili Canyon is one of the most amazing places you could ever see and you shouldn't miss it while traveling in Georgia. Gachedili is situated on the right side of the river Abasha at an altitude of 240 meters. It's about 8 kilometres from Martvili. The Canyon is known for fossilized bones of animals which lived 75 million years ago. The canyon is the third place in which the remains of prehistoric animals were discovered. Martvili Canyon is a major attraction in the Samegrelo Region. Tourists come here to do rafting, to swim, and to get some rest from the heat: it is always cool in the canyons, and the water is cold. It is possible to rent a rubber boat in the Upper Canyon and the Lower Canyon is a place to swim and relax. There are some cafes in the area.



GACHEDILI CANYON



KAGHU WATERFALL IN BALDE CANYON

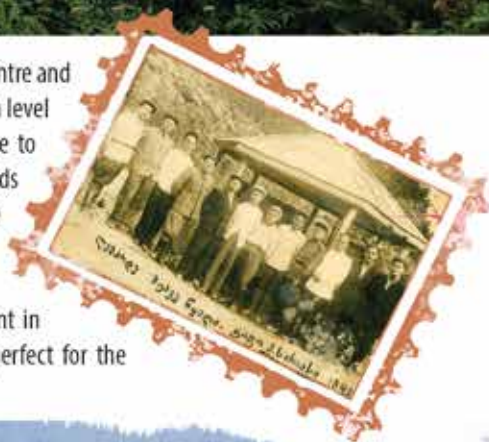
The Balde Canyon is located in Samegrelo, Martvili municipality, between villages of Pirveli Balde and Meore Balde. This canyon generated by the river Abasha makes a great impression on visitors due to the transparent water and green slopes. There is also a beautiful waterfall called Kaghu which is definitely worth seeing. The canyon's length is 1.5 km, while its height is 30 meters.



LEBARDE RESORT

ლებარდეს კურორტი

Lebarde is a fantastic hydrotherapy resort located 30 km from Martvili city centre and 30 km past Taleri, looking over the Martvili landscape from 1600m above sea level on the Egrisi Mountain Range. The best time to visit Lebarde is from June to October. The trail is accessible for hiking, off-road and horse trips and leads through the interesting and varying flora of Tekhuri valley, subalpine meadows and charming Megrelian settlements. One must try the traditional Sulguni cheese on the way! Enjoy the route with the fantastic views, wild alpine fauna, crystal clean waters and fresh air. The place is abundant in sulphur mineral water springs known for their unique health qualities, perfect for the digestive tract. It became known in 1910.



Winner of the project photo contest „Beautiful Georgia“

phot. MARTYNA MIROSZEWSKA

www.visitmartvili.com

THE MEGRELIAN SULGUNI TRAIL



VISIT MARTVILI



The Megrelian Sulguni Trail is situated in Martvili Municipality. The trail's length is 14 km and it begins from the resort of Lebarde at 1600 m a.s.l. and ends up at two beautiful lakes – Small and Big Tobavarchkhili, situated between the ridges of Dvira and Askhi at 2200 m a.s.l. The path stands out with its amazing nature – valleys, forests, lakes and fantastic views of Caucasian mountains. Once you will have seen the picturesque views you will never forget them. The route is not a hard one; you won't need any special equipment for it. Here, on this trail you can taste the best sulguni in the whole of Georgia, made by local shepherds. Here you can also try fresh sourcream, kefir and matsoni, a kind of buttermilk typical of Georgia. The trails have been developed



The trails have been developed by organization Pro Motion Georgia





THE MEGRELIAN SULGUNI TRAIL

VISIT MARTVILI



The trail to Lebarde requires the use of an off-road vehicle. Another way is to take „public transport”, but it’s not the one you thought of. Every 10th, 20th and 30th day of the month, some trucks leave from the town of Taleri to go up to Lebarde to take a new shift of shepherds and return with the best sulguni made in the mountains. From the resort of Lebarde you will start your delicious cheese trekking route. The best part of it – apart from wonderful views of Caucasian peaks – is meeting with local shepherds who will show you how real sulguni is made. Cheese made by locals in nature, with the freshest milk from the Lebarde alpine zone, straight on the bonfire in the middle of the mountains is probably the best thing you can taste in Samegrelo.

In case you are interested in the Sulguni Trail please contact: promotiongeorgia@gmail.com, +995 593 54 85 07





Every stay is different, every host is unique, every experience is part of a journey. The beauty of Samegrelo lies in the heart of its people. Let them welcome you with a smile and the best they can offer. The families we recommend are beneficiaries of our project, who worked hard to achieve high level of service. We support hosts with potential, their experience, language skills and house standards can vary. Staying with locals is a true eye-opener and an opportunity for a joyful friendship! Reserve via www.visitmartvili.com. Price range 15-40

Guest House Martvilla



Ethnographic House of Danelia's family

„Guesthouse Martvilla” located in the centre of Martvili is run by Lado Danelia who is a director of the Martvili Tourist Information Centre. He speaks fluent English so can share his knowledge about the region with a broad audience. Everyone who visits the house of the Danelia family is always looked after with genuine hospitality and professional service. Their home is clean, neat and has a high standard. Besides accommodation they also offer breakfast and dinner as well as cooking workshops for those interested in learning the art of Georgian and Megrelian cuisine.

+995 577 50 80 90, ladodanelia@gmail.com

Ethnohouse Martvili



Danelia / Ethnohouse Martvili

When visiting Martvili it is worth to get to know family Danelia and pay a visit to their private ethnography museum to see how people from Megrelia lived in the past. The museum was created by Lasha Danelia and his father. All furniture and decorations have been hand carved. After Lasha's death his parents named the museum after him to honour his memory.

If you want you can not only visit the museum but also stay with Danelia Family who will host you in a typical Megrelian style.



VISIT MARTVILI

6X6 Hostel Balda

Hostel Balda run by the Bartia family has a lot to offer. Apart from the friendly and family atmosphere (a gazebo, where the family rests and eats after work) there is a stream of fresh mountain water for drinking. Hostel Balda is perfect spot to continue your journey up to Balde canyon and Kaghu waterfall. If you want to get an adrenaline rush, go with Bartua on an off road ride in a Zil-131 6x6. Breaking through the Megrelian wilderness they will take you on a mountain trail which leads to other breathtaking waterfalls Toba and Oniore. The whole family is so kind and helpful that even the fact that they speak only Georgian and Russian isn't a problem.



Hostel Taleri by Gogi

A typical nice and hospitable family with great traditions. The house has a good standard and a garden by the river. Nachqebia brothers can show local attractions. The Nachqebia Family is well known in Taleri, the nearby village Doberazeni and in the surrounding areas. They have their own church close to the village and every year on the 28th August they celebrate Nachqebioba. On that day the whole family comes to Taleri from all over Georgia. A big bull is killed on that occasion and every person who bears the name Nachqebia receives at least 50 grams of its meat. Hostel Taleri is perfect spot to begin your Sulguni Trail.





Georgia is one of the oldest wine regions in the world. There are more than 500 grape varieties in Georgia and 60 of them are grown in the Samegrelo region. The Ojaleshi wine is the most famous among them. Ojaleshi in Megrelian language means 'grown up the tree', as the grapes were cultured to grow up the tree branches. Ojaleshi grape produces dry, red wine of dark colour, high acidity and distinctive flavour. The revival of Megrelian wine happened in the 19th century thanks to Achille Murat, a French son-in-law of the Dadiani family, the husband of Salome Dadiani. He was the first who established European style winemaking enterprises in Georgia. He planted new vineyards and purchased modern equipment, which was necessary for development of viticulture. The best Ojaleshi wines are produced in the villages of Martvili region such as Salkhino, Tamakoni, Targameuli, Nakhunao, Abedati etc. Ojaleshi is the winner of several wine festivals all over the world. Ojaleshi wine perfectly goes with the Megrelian cuisine.



EXOTIC TASTES OF SAMEGRELO

VISIT MARTVILI

Traditional Megrelian cuisine is known for its exotic and spicy notes. In the past, the mild, subtropical climate was a perfect for malaria. To prevent and defeat the dangerous disease the people of Samegrelo learned to use many bitter and hot spices including a lot of chillies. Consequently, the bitter spices became the traditional feature of the Megrelian cuisine. The signature dishes of this region are: Megrelian Khachapuri, Elarji (boiled maize corns with cheese), Smoked Suluguni cheese, Kuchmachi - (Georgian gizzard and liver filling), fried meat in a spicy sauce (such as adjika – a very bitter sauce), Kharcho (chicken/beef and walnut soup, a classic Megrelian dish) and Gebzhalia (kneaded Suluguni cheese in mint, which is placed in Matsoni – sour milk), Satsivi – a thick sauce made from walnuts and served cold. Fragrant sauces and sun grown fruits are very popular. In autumn houses in Samegrelo are decorated with red garlands- drying kaki fruits.

Sulguni is a brined Georgian cheese from the Samegrelo region. It has a sour, moderately salty flavour, a dimpled texture, and an elastic consistency; these attributes are the result of the process, as is the source of its moniker "pickle cheese". Its color ranges from white to pale yellow. Sulguni may be produced from normalized milk of cow, buffalo, or a

mix of these milks. It is a "quick cheese" maturing in just one or two days.

The Megrelian sulguni is considered one of the best cheeses of Georgia, it is more fat and greasy. The secret of delicious taste of Megrelian sulguni is the flora which is extremely rich in minerals and which causes the fact that cow milk from this part of the region is especially tasty. There are also different types of sulguni cheese, the fresh one called "chkinti", it's soft, saltless and it's very similar to mozzarella cheese, chkinti is basically the first step to make real Megrelian sulguni. Then chkinti is cutted into thin pieces and put into boiling water or milk for about 5 minutes, after boiling sulguni can be formed in any shape, Later it can be marinated in salty water when it changes it's consistency and becomes harder and salty, this kind of sulguni called "tsatkhe". You can try also smoked sulguni which has one of the best tastes of Georgia.

Don't forget that sulguni is an important part of Megrelian cuisine, you can find it in "ghomi" - cornmeal, where sulguni is usually added while serving, "elarji" - cornmeal made with sulguni itself, megrelian "khachapuri", where you can find sulguni inside and on the top of it and many more.





SEPTEMBER

სექტემბერი

25

Chkondidloba - is a public holiday of St. Giorgi Chkhondideli, who brought up king David IV The Builder. He is a key national figure, who make the Samegrelo very proud.

AUTUMN

International Chamber Music Festival (autumn) - is held in the Dadiani Summer Residence in Salkhino. International artists perform this particular type of classical music in the picturesque garden. It took place twice but its annual continuation is still being worked upon.

THURSDAY

AFTER

EASTER

Tsachkhuroba (Thursday after Easter) - day of worship for childless families when a special mass and feast is held in Tsachkhuru archangel's church (near Salkhino). Witness the interesting tradition of bringing cradles.

JULY
14
START



gem
fest
georgian
electronic
music
festival
Georgia /Anaklia

AUGUST
15
FINISH



GEM Fest is an international electronic music festival, held annually in Anaklia, Georgia. The abbreviation GEM stands for Georgian Electronic Music Festival and plays with the real meaning of the word gem. The first GEM Fest was held from July 30 to August 7, 2015. During 9 days and nights 125 international and Georgian artists performed for 10.000 guests. The line-up listed David August, M.A.N.D.Y., Booka Shade, Dubfire, Armin van Buuren, Tale Of Us. The second GEM Fest was held on the August 10–14, 2016, in Anaklia. The number of stages has increased up to five. The list of headliners of the festival included Paul Van Dyk, Petre Inspirescu, Mano Le Tough, Fedde Le Grand, Paul Kalkbrenner, dOP, Dub FX, GusGus. According to statistics in 2016 the festival was attended by around 30.000 people.

To book tickets and get more information please visit: www.gemfestival.com

This year GEM FEST will be held from 14 July to 15 August on Anaklia beach, you can enjoy more that 100 musicians from all over the world in the 4 main stages. For more information, please visit: www.gemfest.com



TRANSPORT

MARSHRUTKAS (MINIBUSES)

Kutaisi (Central Bus Station) - Martvili - daily, every full hour from 7:00-18:00, (4GEL)

Kutaisi (Central Bus Station)- Zugdidi – daily, 11:00, 12:00, 13:45 (8GEL)

Martvili - Zugdidi – daily, 8:00 (3GEL)

Zugdidi - Martvili - around 11:00/12:00 (3GEL)

Kutaisi (Central Bus Station)- Salkhino – daily, 10:00, 15:30 (4GEL)

Kutaisi (Central Bus Station) - Balda – daily, 16:10, 18:20 – (5GEL)

Chkhorotsku - Martvili - around 10:30

Martvili- Tbilisi - daily 7:20- 11:00 and 16:30

Taxi services-available in city centre

6x6 Trips-Hostel Balda (see page 67)

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centre:

Tavisufleba str. 7, (+995) 577 78 77 78

Opening hours in season: 10:00-18:00

Museum: Tavisufleba str. 7 (+995) 599 194 905

Entrance fee: 5GEL, wine tasting for extra charge.

**Not in season the tourist attractions (like museum) might not be open every day. It is best to call in advance.*

OTHER:

Martvili Police Station:

Chavchavadze str. 1a (+995) 577 526 693

Hospital:

Mshvidova str. 11, (+995 0 32) 2 55 05 05

WEATHER TIPS:

High season: May - October

Summers are very hot up to 40deg, autumn is rainy and still warm, winter is not long, temp drop to max. -7 degrees.

LANGUAGES

People in Samegrelo speak Georgian and indigenous Megreli dialect. Russian is widespread, German and English rather scarce.

TRIP PLANNER



Organization Pro Motion Georgia is there to help with planning your trip. If you are looking for information about tourist attractions, transport, hotels (due to lack of Internet and problem with communication in foreign languages, our organization is assisting with reservations at local hostels and guesthouses mentioned in this brochure), local guides and so on, feel free to contact us.
(+995) 593 54 85 07, (+995) 558 20 60 38, promotiongeorgia@gmail.com

INFO

Kutaisi Tourism Information Center

the biggest center with tourist information in Georgia, includes tourist department of Kutaisi City Hall and Tourism Administration.

*Address: Rustaveli Avenue 9a, Kutaisi
(+995)595 80 71 41, tickutaisi@gmail.com
Working hours: every day, 09:00 - 19:00*

Martvili Tourism Information Center

situated in Ethnographic Museum of Martvili. Here you can get information about Martvili Municipality tourist attractions and find local guide.

*Address: Tavisupleba str. 7, Martvili
(+995 577)787773; (+995 568)160808,
tictimartvili@gmail.com
Working hours: Monday-Saturday, 10:00-18:00*

Administration of Oni

tourism department of administration will help you to you can find information about tourist activities in municipality of Oni. The nearest Tourist Information Center is in town Ambrolauri.

*Address: David The Builder Square 1, Oni
(+995) 577998582, onisgamgeoba@gmail.com*

Ambrolauri Tourist Information Center

*Address: Vazha - Phshavela str. 1, Ambrolauri
(+995 439)221618, ticambrolauri@gmail.com
Working Hours: every day, 10:00 - 18:00*

Two agencies voluntary assist **ICAD Foundation** and **Organization Pro Motion Georgia** to develop activities supporting tourism in the regions. They offer free on charge trips to promote them. Please find their contact details below.

Contact details to the other agencies in the regions you can find on our pages:

www.visitkuaisi.com, www.visitoni.com, www.visitmartvili.com.

Pages will be implemented by September 2017.



MarTravel took active part in tourism development in region of Samegrelo by promoting trips and visits to the beneficiaries of our projects (wine makers, guesthouses) and hiring tourist guides trained within our courses.

MarTravel can offer you various tours based on attractions and tourist trails mentioned in our tourist brochure including hiking, horse riding, biking, kayaking, canoeing, trekking, bird watching, jeep and 6X6 tours and so on. Trips length can vary depending on places you want to visit –mountain trekking with overnight in tents, sleeping at our local hosts or one-day sightseeing and adventure tours. MarTravel is planning a weekly non-commercial study tours in August.

For more information, please contact: Mar Travel (+995) 577 50 80 90, martravel@gmail.com









Tourist agency „Kutaisi4you“ took part in the tourism development project in region of Imereti. After the project agency made special tours which included important and interesting tourist spots in the region. With Kutaisi4you you can experience many different tours: sightseeing, adventures, rafting, trekking, hiking, wine trips with wine tasting provided by project beneficiaries - local winemakers, tasting Imeretian cuisine at our recommended

home stays in Imereti. This year Kutaisi4You enriched its offer with brand new tourist attractions in Imereti and tours based on new mountain trails in Racha. Tours include wild, unknown places which are incredibly beautiful. Kutaisi4You is also planning a weekly non-commercial study tours in Imereti and Racha, tours will be held in August and September.

For more information, please contact: Tourist agency „Kutaisi4you“ kutaisi4you@gmail.com (+995) 593 548 507



**6X6
OFF
ROAD**

Alphabet		ა	ბ	გ	დ	ე	ვ	ზ	თ	ი	კ	ლ
		Aa	Bb	Gg	Dd	Ee	Vv	Zz	Tt	Ii	K'k'	Ll
		მ	ნ	ო	პ	ჟ	რ	ს	ტ	უ	ფ	ქ
		Mm	Nn	Oo	P'p'	Zhzh	Rr	Ss	T't'	Uu	Pp	Kk
		ყ	შ	ჩ	ც	ძ	წ	ჭ	ხ	ჯ	ჰ	ჱ
		Gh gh	Q'q'	Sh sh	Ch ch	Ts ts	Dz dz	Ts'ts'	Ch'ch'	Kh kh	Jj	Hh

Numbers

Hello	გამარჯობათ (<i>gamarjobat</i>)	2	ორი (<i>ori</i>)	1	ერთი (<i>erti</i>)
Goodbye	ნახვამდის (<i>nakhvamdís</i>)	3	სამი (<i>sami</i>)	4	ოთხი (<i>otkhi</i>)
Yes	დიახ (<i>diah</i>), კი (<i>ki</i>) ჰო (<i>ho</i>)	5	ხუთი (<i>khuti</i>)	6	ექვსი (<i>ekvsi</i>)
No	არა (<i>ara</i>)	7	შვიდი (<i>svidi</i>)	8	რვა (<i>rva</i>)
OK	კარგი (<i>kargi</i>)	9	ცხრა (<i>tskhra</i>)	10	ათი (<i>ati</i>)
Thank you	გმადლობთ (<i>gmadlobt</i>)	20	ოცი (<i>otsi</i>)	30	ოცდაათი (<i>otsdaati</i>)
How are you?	როგორ ხართ? (<i>rogar khart?</i>)	40	ორმოცი (<i>ormotsi</i>)	50	ორმოცდაათი (<i>ormotsdaati</i>)
Fine, thank you	კარგად, გმადლობთ (<i>kargad, gmadlobt</i>)	60	სამოცი (<i>samotsi</i>)	70	სამოცდაათი (<i>samotsdaati</i>)
What's your name?	რა გქვიათ? (<i>ra gk'viat?</i>)	80	ოთხმოცი (<i>otkhmotsi</i>)	90	ოთხმოცდაათი (<i>otkhmotsdaati</i>)
My name is ...	ჩემი სახელია... (<i>chemi sakhelia...</i>)	100	ასი (<i>asi</i>)		
Nice to meet you	სასიამოვნოა (<i>sasiamovnoa</i>)				
I don't understand	ვერ გავიგე (<i>ver gavige</i>)				
I can't speak Georgian	ქართული ენა არ ვიცი (<i>kartuli ena ar vitsi</i>)				
I'm sorry, Excuse me (begging pardon)	ბოდიში (<i>bodishi</i>)				
Excuse me (getting attention)	უკაცრავად (<i>ukatsrovad</i>)				
How much is it?	რა ღირს? (<i>ra ghirs?</i>)				
Where's the city centre?	ქალაქის ცენტრი სად არის? (<i>qalaqis tsentri sad aris?</i>)				
Where's the airport?	აეროპორტი სად არის? (<i>aeroporti sad aris?</i>)				
Where's the bus station?	ავტობუსების გაჩერება სად არის? (<i>avtobusebis gachereba sad aris?</i>)				
Where's the train station?	სადგური სად არის? (<i>sadguri sad aris?</i>)				
Where are taxis?	ტაქსი სად არის? (<i>taqsi sad aris?</i>)				
Where's the toilet?	ტუალეტი სად არის? (<i>t'ualet'i sad aris?</i>)				
Go straight	იარეთ პირდაპირ (<i>iaret p'irdop'ir</i>)				
Turn left	მოუხვიეთ მარცხნივ (<i>moukhviet martskhniv</i>)				
Turn right	მოუხვიეთ მარჯვნივ (<i>moukhviet marjyniv</i>)				
Cheers!	გაგიმარჯოს! (<i>gagimarjos!</i>)				
Water	წყალი (<i>tsqali</i>)				
Tea	ჩაი (<i>ch'ai</i>)				
Coffee	ყავა (<i>qava</i>)				
Beer	ლუდი (<i>ludi</i>)				
Wine	ღვინო (<i>ghvino</i>)				



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