

AJARIAN WINE ROUTE

ROUTE STARTING POINT: AJARISTSKALI VILLAGE

ROUTE LENGTH FROM BATUMI TO

AJARISTSKALI – 18 KM

ROUTE TYPE: CAR

ROUTE DIFFICULTY: EASY

ROAD TYPE: ASPHALT AND DIRT ROAD

CELLULAR NETWORK COVERAGE: FULL

Keda municipality is considered to be a hotbed of Ajarian wine-making. The most famous local wines in Ajara are Tsolikauri and Chkhaveri. Pink dry wine Chkhaveri is distinguished with its tenderness and exceptional taste, while dry white table wine Tsolikauri is made from the Tsolikauri grape variety. There are numerous rural wine cellars in Keda producing delicious wines with a distinct delicacy and aroma.



SIGHTS ON THE ROUTE

ZVARE CHURCH 8

Zvare St. Giorgi Chapel is one of a few churches in Keda district. The church was built in modern times and is beautifully located on the edge of a cliff right above the Ajaristskali River.



Ajarian wine route offers the possibility to travel through a beautiful landscape of mountainous Keda region sampling locally produced wines.

The route begins in village Ajaristskali, from where it can be continued in 7 directions as described below. No matter which direction you choose, the initial part of the route will go through the same area and on the road you can see the arched stone bridge of Queen Tamar 10 and Makhuntseti waterfall 13, both located in the village Makhuntseti. Near the bridge and next to the waterfall visitors can taste and buy local honey.

THE ARCHED STONE BRIDGE OF DANDALO (12TH CENTURY) 9



Dandalo Bridge is located in the village of Dandalo, near the Batumi-Akhaltsikhe highway. It is built on volcanic lime mortar rock. The piers are erected on a rock, on which scaffold holes have been preserved. The Dandalo arched bridge is one of the best examples of arched bridges in Georgia.



MUSEUMS 11 12

Makhuntseti Ethnographic Museum
Keda Municipality, Makhuntseti
Tel: +995 591 71 42 53

Opening hours: daily (except Monday), from 10:00 a.m to 19:00 p.m.

Keda Historical Museum
Keda Municipality, 10, TbelAbuseridze St.
Tel: +995 425 25 00 19

Opening hours: daily (except Monday), from 10:00 a.m to 18:00 p.m.

The museums display various aspects of the ethnography and history of Ajara: tools of the trade, the decorative arts collection, old household items and other ethnographical material.

MAKHUNTSETI WATERFALL 13

Falling from a height of 36 meters, Makhuntseti waterfall is one of the most beautiful and most visited tourist attractions in Ajara. Near the waterfall several picnic sites are available for visitors. While visiting the waterfall it is also possible to visit nearby tourist attractions, including the arched stone bridge of Queen Tamar 10.



ACTIVITIES



While traveling the wine route you can not only explore the world of wine, but find a wide array of alternative options: hiking through vineyards and surrounding area, cookery workshops - making the authentic Ajarian dishes, including pelamushi (dessert made of condensed grape juice and corn flour) and churchkhela (nuts strung on a thread dipped in thickened grape juice), participating in the grape picking (seasonally), acquaintance with unique Ajarian traditions and villagers' life.

MEALS

Ajara has colorful and flavorful cuisine based on unique centuries-old local recipes. Traveling along the Wine Route you will have the opportunity to taste Georgian cuisine in one of the wine cellars or rural restaurants and to prepare one of the authentic Ajarian dishes under the guidance of hostess of a guest house.

RESTAURANTS ALONG THE ROUTE OPEN SEASONALLY (JUNE-OCTOBER)

RESTAURANT CHADREBI
Keda, village Zundaga
Tel: +995 577 26 04 05/ +995 571 26 00 00

RESTAURANT «CHALA»
Keda, village Pirveli Maisi
Tel: +995 557 52 76 85 / 995 558 24 74 74

RESTAURANT "TAMARIS KHIDI"
Keda, village Makhuntseti
Tel: +995 558 33 66 95 / 995 558 45 92 39

RESTAURANT "GVIRABI"
Keda, village Pirveli Maisi
Tel: +995 593 63 39 75

RESTAURANT "MARIA"
Keda, village Zvare
Tel: +995 593 99 30 62 / +995 555 79 65 84

**OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND
AJARIAN WINE HOUSE**
Khelvachauri, village Ajaristskali
Tel: +995 577 21 40 02



ROUTE 2: SHERVASHIDZEEBI'S FAMILY WINE CELLAR 2

Location: Keda municipality, village Pirveli Maisi
Tel: +995 593 07 00 88

How to get there: The route starts from Ajaristskali and goes along the Batumi-Akhaltzikhe main road. In approximately 18 km, you will get the village "Pirveli Maisi" sign, and in 300m the "Wine Route" sign. At "Wine Route" sign turn left and drive another 2 km to the village Pirveli Maisi (another name Saghoreti), where the Shervashidzebi's family wine cellar (3) is located.



Activities: Guest have chance to taste local wines made in oak barrels. It is also possible to participate in the grape picking and wine making (seasonally). The host has his own farm and can offer the guests bio products and accommodation as well. The wines can also be purchased (a liter of quality wine will cost approximately 15-25 GEL).

Wine types: Ojaleshi, Chkhaveri and Tsolikauri



ROUTE 3: NEW WINERY IN KEDA (KTW) 3

Location: Keda
Tel: +995 591 10 09 45 / +995 595 36 77 37



How to get there: The route starts from Ajaristskali and goes along the Batumi-Akhaltzikhe main road. In approximately 23 km you will reach Keda district center, where the winery is located.

Description: The history of origin of the company "Kakhetian Traditional Winemaking" linked with the name of the winemaker Antimoz Chkaidze, who founded one of the best wine cellars of the time in the 80-ies of the XIX century in the Gurian village Askana. In 2001 the company "Kakhetian Traditional

Winemaking" was founded. It continues the family winemaking traditions - production of high quality wine from unique grape varieties of Eastern and Western Georgia. In 2001 the new winery was built in Keda district center.

Activities: Guests have chance to take small excursion through the winery with sommelier and buy locally produced wines.

Wine types: Chkhaveri, Tsolikauri, Tsitska, Chinuri, Rqatsiteli, Saperavi, Tsinandali, Manavi, Gurjaani, Alazani Veli, etc.

ROUTE 4: MAKHO'S WINE CELLAR (MAKHOS MARANI) 4

Location: Keda Municipality, village Vaio
Tel: +995 595 91 61 07 / +995 591 98 06 58

How to get there: The route starts from Ajaristskali and goes along the Batumi-Akhaltzikhe main road. In 32 km you will get the Zvare Church (8), located on the edge of a cliff right above the river. Near the church you will see the "Wine Route" sign. Turn right at the sign, pass the bridge over the river Ajaristskali and continue to drive about 2 km to the village of Vaio, where the Makho's wine cellar is located.



Activities: Guest have chance to taste wines produced from local vine species, get acquainted with Ajarian cuisine and Georgian feast traditions. It is also possible to taste home grown tobacco. It is also possible to participate in the grape picking and wine making (seasonally). The wines can also be purchased (a liter of quality wine will cost approximately 15-25 GEL).

Wine types: Adalasturi, Chkhaveri and Tsolikauri



ROUTE 5: LADO SHAVISHVILI'S FAMILY WINE CELLAR 5

Location: Keda municipality, village Vaio
Tel: + 995 599 78 36 59

How to get there: The route to the wine cellar goes along the same way as the route number 4. Lado Shavishvili's family cellar is located in the Vaio village, just 150 meters from the Makho's wine cellar.

Description: Rural house with a wine cellar and a large vineyard.

Activities: Guest have chance to taste local wines, learn about the life of locals, their cuisine and folklore. You can have walk around vineyards and participate in the grape picking and wine making (seasonally). Also, while visiting Lado Shavishvili's family cellar, you will have the opportunity to try one of the most popular alcoholic beverage of Georgia - chacha. Chacha is a strong spirit, clear fruit homebrew, which is sometimes called "grape vodka". The wines can also be purchased (a liter of quality wine will cost approximately 15-25 GEL).

Wine types: Chkhaveri, Tsolikauri and Ojaleshi

ROUTE 6: NURI SIRABIDZE'S WINE CELLAR 6

Location: Keda Municipality, vlg. Gegelidzeebi
Tel: +995 591 98 82 55



How to get there: The route starts from Ajaristskali and goes along the Batumi-Akhaltzikhe main road. In approximately 37 km you should turn left and drive another 3.5 km to the Gegelidzeebi village, where the Nuri Sirabidze's wine cellar is located.

Description: Rural house with a wine cellar and a vineyard. The wine cellar is known for its clay pot wine production - qvevri cluster. It is Georgia's traditional wine fermentation method, according to which the wine is traditionally fermented in clay amphorae, called Qvevris. The Qvevri pots are one of the oldest wine producing methods, and UNESCO has declared Georgian Qvevri wine to be a cultural heritage.

Activities: Guest have chance to taste local wines, learn about the life of locals, their cuisine and folklore. You can have walk around vineyards and participate in the grape picking and wine making (seasonally). The wines can also be purchased (a liter of quality wine will cost approximately 15-25 GEL).

Wine types: Tsolikauri, Ojaleshi and Aladasturi



ROUTE 7: THE AVALIANI BROTHERS' WINE CELLAR 7

Location: Keda municipality, village Dandalo
Tel: + 995 599 27 70 92

How to get there: The route starts from Ajaristskali and goes along the Batumi-Akhaltzikhe main road. In 38 km you should turn right and drive another 1,2 km to the Dandalo village, where the Zurab Avaliani's wine cellar is located.

Description: The Avaliani Brothers' wine cellar offers different types of local stored in 19 qvevries. The wine cellar is decorated in a traditional style and contains lots of interesting items.

Activities: Guest have chance to taste local wines, learn about the life of locals, their cuisine and folklore. You can have walk around vineyards and participate in the grape picking and wine making (seasonally). Also, while visiting where the Zurab Avaliani's wine cellar, you will have the opportunity to try one of the most popular alcoholic beverage of Georgia - chacha. Chacha is a strong spirit, clear fruit homebrew, which is sometimes called "grape vodka". The wines can also be purchased (a liter of quality wine will cost approximately 15-25 GEL).

Wine types: Chkhaveri, Tsolikauri, Saperavi and Rkatsiteli



ACCOMODATION



An overnight stay is possible in all the above-mentioned wineries or wine cellars as well as in one of the local guesthouses. Here you can get acquainted with the daily life and traditions of the locals. Overnight rates depend on location and start at around 30-35 GEL per person per night including breakfast.

TRANSPORT

You can get to the rural wine cellars by:

- 1) Minibuses traveling to Keda. Minibuses depart from Old Bus Station.
- 2) Minibuses traveling towards Shuakhevi and Khulo. Cost is about 2 GEL.
- 3) Taxi. Cost is about 50-70 GEL
- 4) Your own transport

For getting additional information one can call Tourist Information Centers:

+995 577 90 90 93 / +995 577 90 90 91 / +995 577 90 90 86

or travel agencies, contacts of which can be found at the official website of the Department of Tourism and Resorts of Ajara - www.gobatumi.com

WINE ROUTES

ROUTE 1: AJARIAN WINE HOUSE 1

Location: Ajaristskali village
Tel: +995 577 21 40 02



How to get there: Wine house is located just 2 km (a few minutes' drive) from the center of Ajaristskali in Khelvachauri municipality. You should drive straight along the Batumi-Akhaltzikhe highway. Wine house is located on the left side of the highway.

Description: Wine House was built on the ruins of an 18th century historical winery in Ajara. The overall mission of AWH is to restore the historical winemaking traditions of Ajara and re-introduce some old, unique wines such as "Chkhaveri", which are typical for this region.

Activities: Guests have chance to walk around "Chkhaveri" vineyards, learn about the wine making process, talk to the local wine makers and have lunch with lots of wine tasting and delicious Georgian food. The wines can also be purchased (a bottle of quality wine will cost approximately 15-50 GEL).

Wine types: Chkhaveri, Tsolikauri, blend of Rkatsiteli and Tsolikauri.

