

# MACHAKHELA GUN ROAD

**LOCATION:**  
MUNICIPALITY OF KHELVACHAURI

**START/END OF THE ROUTE:**  
BATUMI / ZEDA CHKHUTUNETI VILLAGE

**DISTANCE FROM BATUMI:** 47 KM

**DURATION:** ONE DAY/SEVERAL DAYS

**ROUTE TYPE:** CAR

**ROUTE DIFFICULTY:** EASY

**ROAD TYPE:** ASPHALT AND  
DIRT ROAD (17 KM)

**Description:**

Machakhela Gorge is located to the south from Batumi close to the confluence of Machakhela and Chorokhi rivers. The gorge is primarily known for its gunmaking traditions - manufacturing of Machakhela guns and heirloom daggers. There are also lots of cultural and historical monuments, as well as national parks in Machakhela Gorge.

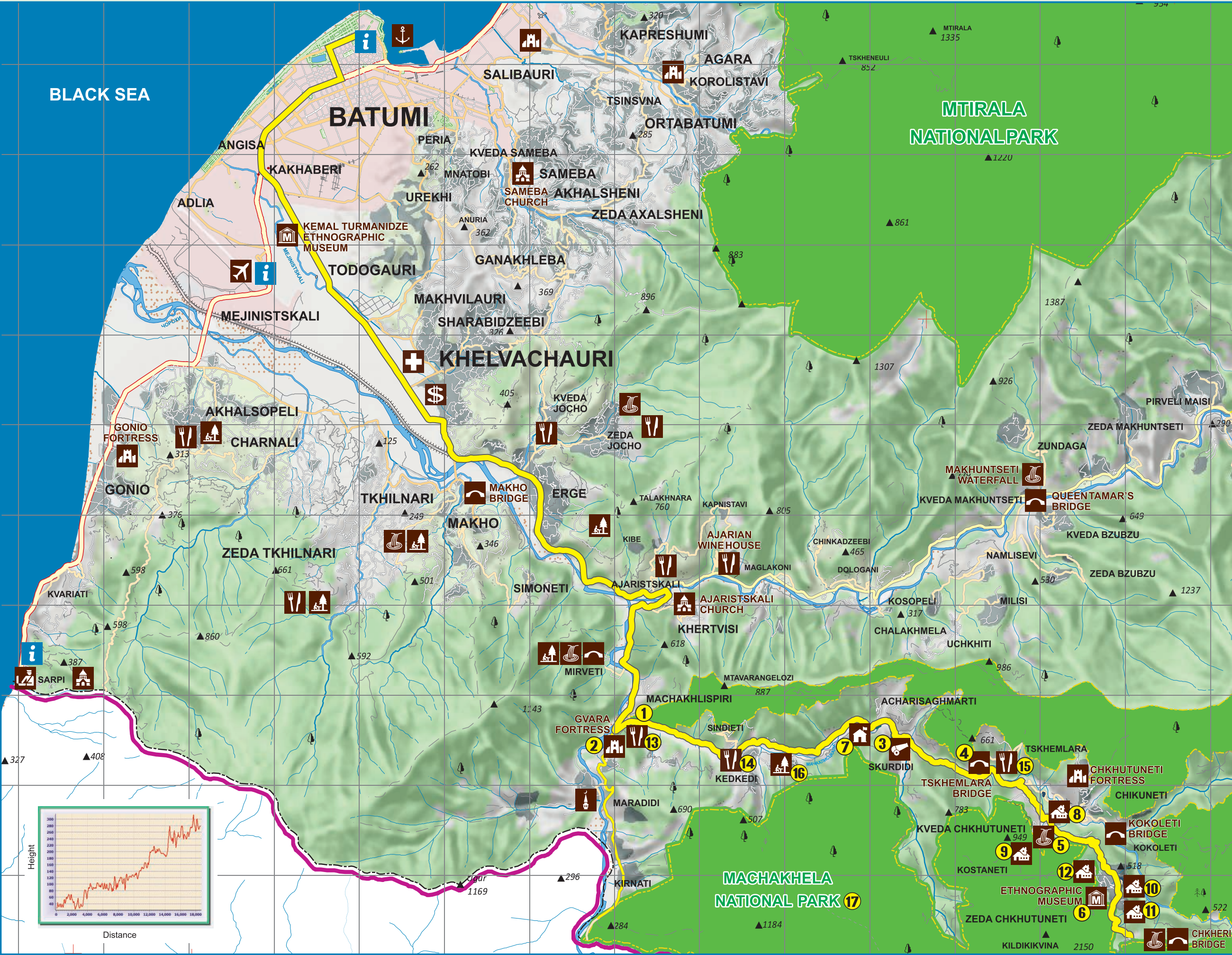
While traveling this route you can see Ma-chakhela Gun Monument ❶, medieval Gvara Fortress ❷, World War II gun slit ❸, the arch stone bridge in the village of Tskhemlara ❹, Chkhutuneti waterfall ❺, and Ethnographic Museum of Machakhela Valley ❻.

The route starts from Batumi, passes through Batumi-Akhaltstikhe highway to the village of Ajaristskali, where it turns right towards the confluence of the Chorokhi and Machakhela rivers. The Gvara Fortress is situated 300 meters away. The route moves through the gorges of the Machakhela River to Skurdidi village, where a gun slit dating back to World War II has been preserved. Moving further along the route, we come to the arch stone bridge of the 12th century ❹ in Tskhemlara village and move on to the village of Zeda Chkhutuneti. A picturesque waterfall can be seen next to it. The center of Zeda Chkhutuneti is the ending point of the route. There you can visit the Ethnographic Museum ❻, enjoy views of the mountains and see the Georgian-Turkish border.

In the gorge you can stroll through the Macha-khela National Park located at an altitude of 300-350 meters above sea level. 95% of the park is covered with chestnut, beech, horn-beam, and alder. There are 2 trails intended for both hiking and driving.

Administrative and visitor center ❼ of the park is located in the center of Acharisagmarti village (Khelvachauri municipality).

There is an opportunity to stay for the night, taste the national dishes, to get acquainted with commercial and household activities of local people, walk around the village neighborhood and see the sights in Kveda Chkhutuneti, Zeda Chkhutuneti and Kostaneti villages ❸ ❹ ❺ ❻ ❼ ❽.



## SYMBOLS

- Main route
- Visitor center
- Arch bridge

- Information centre
- Hospital
- Guesthouse
- Museum

- Church
- Fortress
- Police
- Camping

- Customs
- Picnic area
- Restaurant
- Bank

- Airport
- Port
- Waterfall



## SIGHTS

### MACHAKHELA GUN MONUMENT ①

The monument was built in Machakhela Gorge in 2007. Machakhela Gun Monument is a symbol of the tradition of making guns and pistols, which made Machakhela masters famous in the 18th century.



### GVARA FORTRESS ②

It was built in the 6th century. Located on a hill next to confluence of Chorokhi and Machakhela rivers. The fortress was used to control Machakhela and other gorges. Only several walls have managed to survive, but standing on them you can see the picturesque panorama of mountains, rivers and villages. It's fairly easy to get down to the fortress, as a stairway of 300 steps leads directly to the site.

### WORLD WAR II GUN IN SKURDIDI VILLAGE ③

Gun was fixed in Machakhela Gorge at the border of NATO and the Soviet Union during World War II. There is a slit of concrete and steel equipped with small rooms for soldiers. The gun was used to control roads leading deep into the gorge. Until the late 1950s, a platoon of soldiers located in



barracks nearby was responsible for slit functioning.

### TSKHEMLARA ARCH STONE BRIDGE ④

The Tskhemlara arch stone bridge is located over the Machakhela River in Tskhemlara village. The construction was built in the Middle Ages. Locals used the bridge until the 60s of the 20th century, when the more modern road bridge was built.



### CHKHUTUNETI WATERFALL ⑤

Chkhutuneti Waterfall is located on the Chkhutunetistskali River, in the village of Kveda Chkhutuneti (Khelvachauri region). The waterfall falls down with small rapids, its height is about 20 meters. The site is easy to access. It is located near the main road of the village.



### HISTORICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM IN ZEDA CHKHUTUNETI ⑥

The museum was founded in 1985. It is located in a three-storeyed building of a former mosque. The museum exposition includes unique materials and details telling about the history and way of life of the gorge inhabitants. Particular attention of tourists is attracted to the color pattern on the wood dating back to the 18th century, which has kept its luster to this day. Entrance fee: 3 GEL

The guide fare: 15 GEL

Tel: +995 595 95 86 62 Malkhaz Nagervadze



## RURAL HOUSES



### GUESTHOUSE "MACHAKHELA" ⑧

Location: Qveda Chkhutuneti Village

Tel: +995 577 20 38 38

Tel: +995 558 25 79 26

Accommodation: up to 8 people

Bed and breakfast: 40 GEL

There is an old water mill next to the house, where you can observe the process of grinding the corn flour. You can also bake mchadi with a hostess and, of course, buy some corn flour. Here you can taste and buy 4 year old honey chacha, as well as wine made of Chkhaveri and Tsolikauri grapes. There is also an opportunity to taste unique local dry cheese cooked following a special recipe.

### GUESTHOUSE "NOE" ⑨

Location: Zeda Chkhutuneti Village

Tel: +995 593 11 38 51

Accommodation: up to 9 people

Bed and breakfast: 25-30 GEL, bed only - 10-15 GEL

Tasting traditional Ajarian dishes (Elardji, green lobio, mchadi and cheese) is possible.

As a souvenir guests can buy a wooden miniature model of Machakhela Gun, which is hand made by one of the descendants of the gunsmiths, the homeowner Noe Nagervadze. Price of a souvenir is 15-20 GEL.

### GUESTHOUSE "TSISKARI" ⑨

Location: Kostaneti Village

Tel: +995 555 60 09 08

Accommodation: up to 8 people

Bed and breakfast: 35 GEL

Tasting traditional Ajarian dishes (Borano, Sinori, Chirbuli) is possible.

There is a place for picnics not far from the house. The family offers a guided walk through the Machakhela park and tours to Mount Kildekikvina (2151.2 m)



### GUESTHOUSE "DEME" ⑪

Location: Zeda Chkhutuneti Village

Tel: +995 555 67 13 67

Accommodation: up to 12 people

Bed and breakfast: 40 GEL

Tasting traditional Ajarian dishes (Gvezeli - pastry with nuts, Sinori, Achma) is possible.

### GUESTHOUSE "MANCHO" ⑩

Location: Zeda Chkhutuneti Village

Tel: +995 595 99 36 72

Accommodation: up to 6 people

Bed and breakfast: 35 GEL

Tasting traditional Ajarian dishes (salad with matsoni and Borano) is possible.

## FOOD

### CHVENE BURI RESTAURANT & HOTEL ⑭

This countryside restaurant is the best place for country visits. Here you can taste Georgian and European cuisine.

Location: Machakhela Gorge, Kedkedi village

Tel: +995 593 422525 / +995 577 447272

Accommodation: hall - 220 persons, veranda - 10 tables (40 persons)

Hotel: 13 rooms, standard double - 80 GEL, suite - 150 GEL; price includes breakfast.



### MACHAKHELA RESTAURANT ⑮

The open-air restaurant at the Arch stone bridge. Here you can taste dishes made of organic products: homemade Chkhaveri wine with cranberries, trout, potatoe "ojakhurad" (roasted meat and potatoes).

The restaurant is located on the banks of the river. Visitors can play volleyball and swim.

Location: Khelvachauri, Tskhemlara village (30 km from Batumi)

Tel: +995 599 52 12 25 / +995 574 30 27 27



### MACHAKHELA RESTAURANT ⑬

Located in Machakhela Gorge by the Machakhela River, 21 km from Batumi. Here you can taste traditional Georgian cuisine and wine from local grapes.

Location: Kirnati village

Tel: +995 593 20 97 23

## PICNIC AREAS:



⑮ There are 2 picnic areas - "Alibaba" and "Kompozitoris patskhebi", both located in Sindieti village near the Machakhela River.

There you can cook barbecue meat and fish and swim in the river or go fishing.

Contact Information:

"Alibaba"

Tel: +995 557 60 86 29

"Kompozitoris patskhebi"

Tel: +995 555 20 68 76

## ACTIVITIES:



- Watching local folklore performed by children.

Contact information:

+995 595 95 86 62 Malkhaz Nagervadze

+995 595 95 86 57 Emzar Malakmadze

- Visiting cultural and historical monuments, getting acquainted with tradition of Machakhela guns manufacturing.

- Seasonal (August, September): collecting mushrooms and berries

- Fishing in the Machakhela River, swimming, picnic.

### MACHAKHLOBA

Machakhloba is the traditional festival, which takes place annually in the first half of September in the Machakhela Gorge. During the festival, you can taste traditional cuisine, listen to folklore ensembles, take part in various cultural and sports activities, and buy souvenirs. During the event, guests are awarded with the Machakhela belt.

## MACHAKHELA NATIONAL PARK

⑰ Machakhela National Park was founded in 2012. Park area is 8733 hectares. 95% of the park is covered by forests. The park is divided into 3 zones:

1. Protected area - 1178.2 ha
2. Regulated protected area - 350.9 ha
3. Traditional use area - 7203.9 ha

Park landmarks are unique relict species of plants listed in the Red Book of Georgia. Those are Colchis boxwood, chestnut, Colchis walnut, Georgian walnut, rhododendron, yew, and elm.

The fauna of the national park is very rich. It includes deer, martens, wolves, jackals, badgers, squirrels, wild boars, as well as protected species from the Red List: the brown bear, chamois, lynx.



There are 2 tourist routes in the park:

1. The Path of the Archangel. The 8.3-kilometer trail starts in the village of Sindieti, goes through forests, mountain streams and springs to the Archangel's mountain.

2. The Qoqoleti Path. Its length is 6 kilometers. Along the way, mixed deciduous and coniferous forests are situated. There is a place for camping and a viewpoint in 1.6 km from it. Latest features a panoramic view of the mountains, views of the Turkish territory and five old Machakhela villages.

Administration of Machakhela National Park:

Tel: +995 595 08 60 75

E-mail: [info@apa.gov.ge](mailto:info@apa.gov.ge)



## TRANSPORT

### How to get to Machakhela Gorge

1. By municipal transport (buses). Price - 2 GEL

Schedule:

Kveda Chkhutuneti - Batumi 7:00 a.m.;

Batumi - Kveda Chkhutuneti 4:00 p.m.

Zeda Chkhutuneti - Batumi 9:00 a.m.;

Batumi - Zeda Chkhutuneti 12:30 a.m.

2. As part of an organized or individual tours

3. By car or taxi. Price - about 80 GEL

For more information on transport and guides please call Tourist Information Centres (Tel: +995 577 90 90 91 / +995 577 90 90 93), 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](http://www.gobatumi.com)