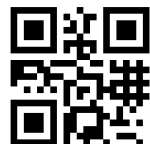


Ajara Batumi



GET IN TOUCH

Department of Tourism and Resorts of Ajara A. R.
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www.gobatumi.com



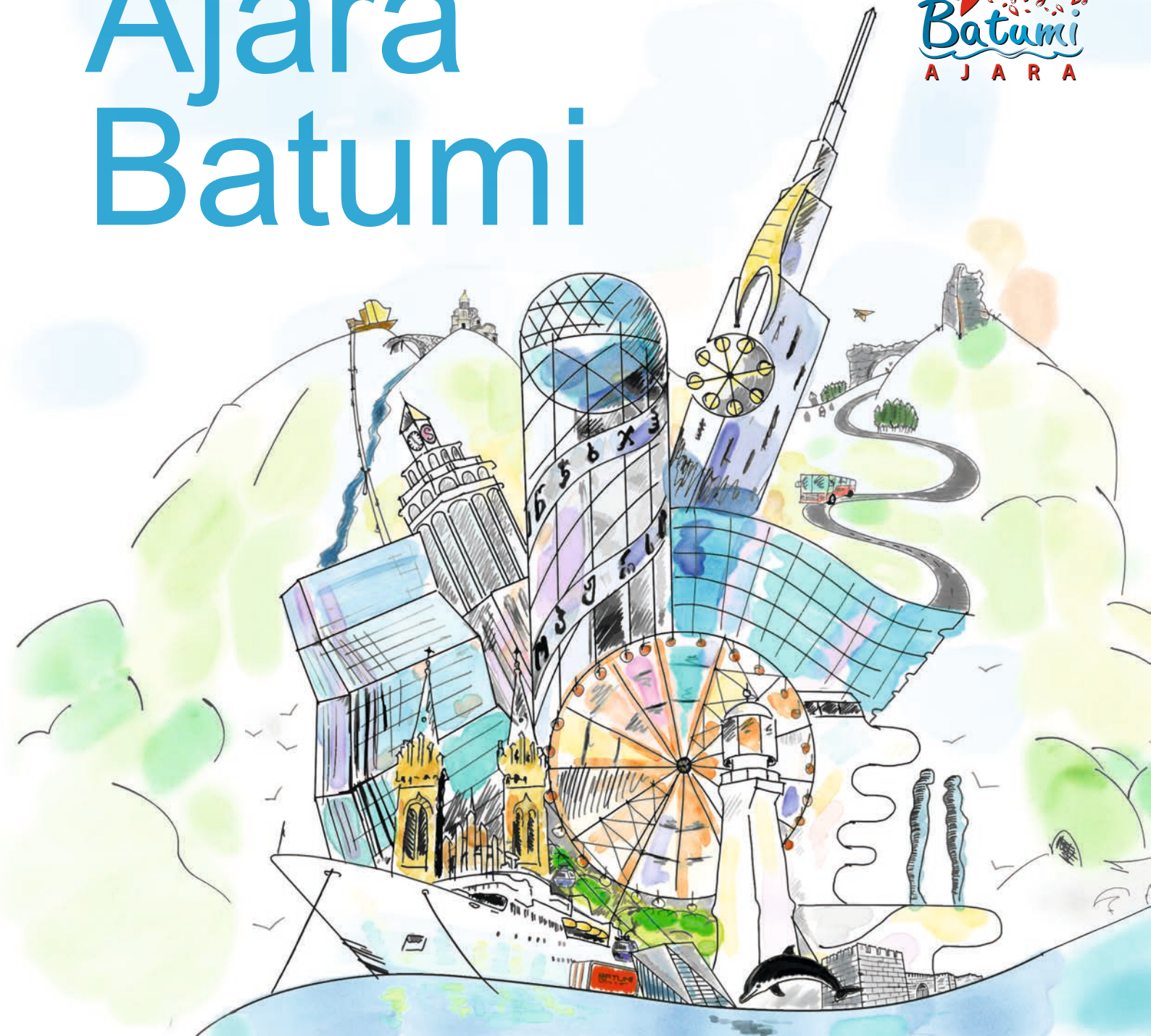
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BATUMI



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Department of Tourism and Resorts of Ajara A.R. - 2015

NOT FOR SALE







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BATUMI COVE



Attend Unforgettable Dolphin Show



Find traces of the ancient Romans at Gonio Fortress



Experience peace and harmony
in the serene landscapes of Ajara



See Batumi's impressive mixture of old and new architecture



Try UNESCO LISTED Georgian WINE



Taste irresistible Ajarian Khachapuri



Feel the gentle waves of the soft Black sea on your skin



Walk in the footsteps of the Nobel Brothers



Acquaint yourself with UNESCO-listed Georgian folklore



Enjoy the extensive walkways of Batumi Seaside Boulevard



Find plants from 9 floristic sectors at the
Batumi Botanical Garden

Georgia

Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Georgia is a country ripe with diverse natural beauty, maritime and mountainous climates. Georgia has a rich history, and the

country's folklore, traditions, dances and songs are unparalleled in their intrigue and beauty. Georgia is also renowned for its exquisite cuisine and wine culture. In fact, Georgia's winemaking traditions stretch back thousands of years.

The 8000-year-old Georgian winemaking method uses a traditional clay vessel, called a "kvevri" and Georgian polyphonic singing are both part of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Additionally, UNESCO recognizes the city of Mtskheta, Gelati Monastery, Bagrati Cathedral and Upper Svaneti as World Heritage Sites.

Georgia is an up-and-coming tourist destination due to its vast tourism potential. The Rough Guide, a popular UK travel guide, listed Georgia as one of the most attractive tourist destinations for 2014.



Flag



Coat of Arms

Area: 69,700 km²

Population: 4,630,841

Capital city: Tbilisi

Official language: Georgian

Climate: Subtropical towards moderate

Temperature: In summer from +17 °C – +29 °C, in winter from +5 °C -10 °C

International dialing code: +995

Time zone: UTC +4

Ajara

One of the most beautiful regions in Georgia, Ajara is situated in southwest Georgia on the Black Sea coastline. Ajara operates as an autonomous republic in Georgia and has its own flag and coat of arms. Turkey borders

Ajara to the south. Christianity started to spread throughout Georgia in the 1st cent. AD from Ajara, and it became the state religion in the 4th cent. AD. The apostles Andrew and Simon preached in Georgia. According to some sources, Matthew the Apostle was buried in Ajara in Gonio.

Today, Ajara is home to a variety of religions. In the same day, you can visit Christian orthodox churches, mosques, synagogues, and Catholic and Armenian churches. In addition to religious monuments, Ajara has a myriad of unique arch stone bridges, which date back to the Middle Ages.

Batumi—the “Pearl of the Black Sea” as it is often called—is located in Ajara. European architects undertook numerous projects in Batumi at the beginning of the 20th cent. Today, Batumi is still a place of numerous architectural innovations.

Ajara is home to the picturesque beaches of Batumi, Kvartati, Sarpi, Gonio, Tsikhisdziri, Mtsvane Kontskhi (the Green Cape) and Kobuleti. During the summertime, the beaches are often crowded with tourists enjoying their holidays.

Ajara's visitors especially admire the region's pristine and unaltered nature. The region is particularly intriguing for eco tourists.



Flag



Coat of Arms

Area: 2,9 00 km² (4,2% of the country's total area)

Population: Approx. 400,000 (82% Georgians)

Urban population: 48%

Administrative center: Batumi

Official language: Georgian

Administrative units: Kobuleti, Khelvachauri, Keda, Shuakhevi and Khulo

Total length of the border: 270 km, coastal border-57 km

Batumi

One of the most beautiful cities along the Black Sea, Batumi is located in Ajara. According to historical sources, Batumi was founded before the Common Era. The initial settlement, Batus, is mentioned in texts that date back to the 4th cent. BC. Due to its interesting historical past Batumi was turned into a port and tourist city in the soviet and post-soviet period. Part of Batumi's intrigue is its rich architectural variety. When Batumi became a porto franco (free port), European architects flocked to Batumi and designed numerous unique architectural designs.

Batumi's juxtaposition of ancient and modern architecture, its historical port, serene botanical garden, seaside boulevard, European squares and streets - not to mention its world-class hotels, restaurants, cafés and bars - make up the face of modern Georgia.





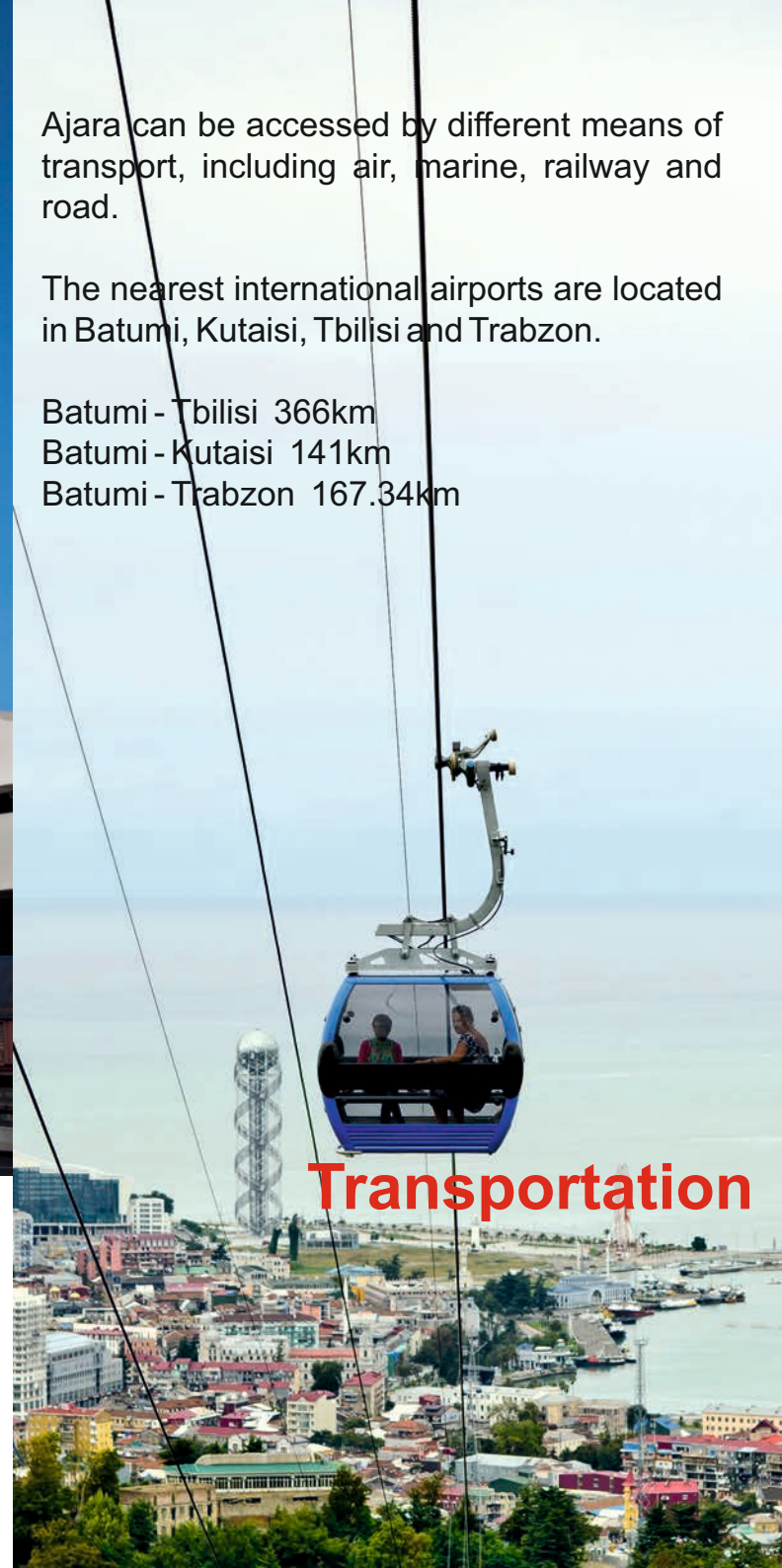
Visa Regime

The citizens of Georgia's neighboring countries, Eastern Europe and the European Union, as well as the USA, Canada and many other countries do not require a visa to enter Georgia. For more detailed information, please refer to the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: www.mfa.gov.ge

Ajara can be accessed by different means of transport, including air, marine, railway and road.

The nearest international airports are located in Batumi, Kutaisi, Tbilisi and Trabzon.

Batumi - Tbilisi 366km
Batumi - Kutaisi 141km
Batumi - Trabzon 167.34km



Transportation

Georgia's national currency is the lari. In cities, most businesses accept credit cards as well as cash. However, when travelling outside of a city, visitors are recommended to carry cash.



Currency And Methods Of Payment

Due to Georgia's track record with security reforms, Georgia has become one of the safest countries in the world. Several international surveys validate this claim. An article published by Lifestyle9 that used data provided by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation placed Georgia within the top ten safest countries in the world.



SECURITY



The famous Prussian gardener and landscape architect Ressler initially began the construction of Batumi Boulevard in 1881. Two years after the project began, Ressler passed away and Michael D'alfons, a French architect, completed the boulevard. Recently, a Spanish architect designed and constructed a new, modern addition for the boulevard. As a result, the boulevard's area has increased to a 7 km stretch. The coastal line of the boulevard has been beatified with bungalows, café-lounges, restaurants, children's attractions, benches, sculptures and dancing fountains-making it one of the city's most attractive tourist destinations. Colonnades were constructed along the boulevard in 1934 and have since become iconic architectural elements of Batumi.

BATUMI BOULEVARD



Piazza Batumi is one of the most beautiful squares in Georgia. Built around a 5700 sq/m area, Piazza Batumi is distinguished by its one-of-a-kind mosaic and stained-glass art. Completed in 2010, the piazza's chief architect was Vazha Orbeladze. The Estonian artist Dolores Hoffman designed and created Piazza Batumi's unique stained-glass windows. There are several hotels and café restaurants located on Piazza Batumi. In just a few short years, the square has become a popular international entertainment venue. In recent years, it has hosted the concerts of famous Georgian and foreign performers, including Placido Domingo, Chris Botti, Sting, Macy Grey, Michel Legrand and Tamar Gverdtsiteli.

PIAZZA



Boasting one of the widest varieties of flora in the world, Batumi Botanical Garden was established in 1912 by the prominent botanist and geographer Andrey Krasnov. The garden is 111 hectares and contains flora from nine phyto-geographic areas: East Asia, North America, New Zealand, South America, the Himalayas, Mexico, Australia, the Mediterranean, and the Caucasian humid subtropics. Visitors can go through the botanical garden by foot or by carts, which can be rented from the garden's administration.

BOTANICAL GARDEN



Located within 6 May Park, the Batumi Dolphinarium is one of the most-visited tourist attractions in Batumi. The dolphin show is offered in three languages. With its construction beginning in 1881, 6 May Park is one of Georgia's oldest public parks. In addition to the Dolphinarium, 6 May Park has an aquarium, zoo and amusement rides for children. The park also sells tickets for a relaxing boat tour on Nurigeli Lake.

DOLPHINARIUM

Gonio-Apsaros Fortress is located 12 km south to Batumi, on the left bank of the River Chorokhi. One of the Georgia's most ancient settlements was located around this fortress. Due to its strategic location, Gonio Fortress became a supporting citadel first for the Romans and later to the Byzantians and Ottomans along the eastern Black Sea coastline. Respectively, the fortress has several layers: the Roman layer (3rd-4th cc BCE), the Byzantine layer (6th-7th cc CE) and the Ottoman layer (16th c CE). The history of Gonio-Apsaros fortress has ties to the myth of Jason and the Argonauts. According to the legend, King Aeetes buried his son Apsaros, who was killed by Jason as he fled, in the territory of Gonio. In addition, according to some sources, Mathias, one of 12 disciples of Jesus Christ, is believed to be buried there. There is also a museum inside the fortress.



GONIO FORTRESS

Skhalta Monastery is located in Khulo Municipality, the highest mountainous part of Ajara. The main building of the complex is Skhalta Virgin Church. It is a single-nave hall-like church. Judging from its artistic and stylistic peculiarities, it is speculated that Skhalta Monastery was built during the mid-13th cent. The churches distinguished frescoes were painted during the 14th and 15th centuries.

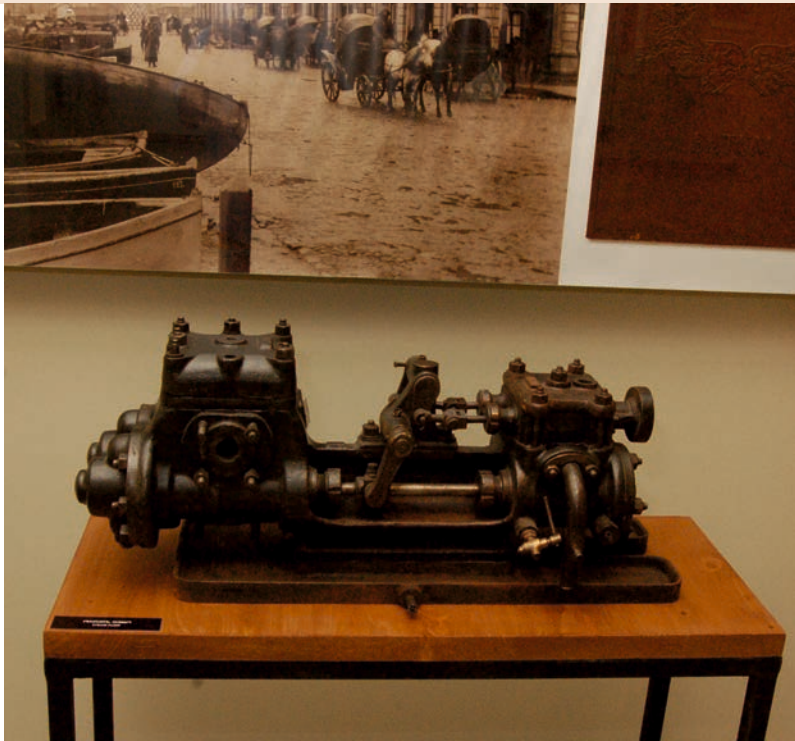


SKHALTA MONASTERY

The collection of Ajara Khariton Akhvlediani State Museum includes an ancient Greek black-glazed crater; craters were bowls used for mixing wine and water. These craters date back to the antique period. They are quite rare; the crater's only analogue sits in the Louvre in Paris. Visitors can also follow in the footsteps of the world-famous Nobel brothers. In the late 19th century, the Nobel brothers invested in an oil business in Batumi. The building in which they worked has since become the Nobel Brothers' Batumi Technological Museum. The Batumi Archeological Museum has exhibits of several artifacts found during excavations, which include the treasure of Gonio, unique bronze, glass and ceramic samples. Those with a taste for the fine arts can visit the Batumi Art Museum, which contains works by Pirosmani and Gudiashvili. Additionally, the Rusudan Petviashvili Gallery in Old Batumi features several of her original works. A new exhibition area called "41/41" features the works of street art as well as modern, experimental art performed by Georgian as well as foreign artists.



MUSEUMS



Batumi is home to several interesting modern open-air sculptures. Visitors will be impressed by the samples of one of the most popular directions in art Fluxus: the monument "WHERE" designed by the well-known French artist Jean Dupuy, as well as a sculpture by the popular French artist Ben Vautier called "Liberte". The sculpture "Nino and Ali,"-a reference to the famous novel-designed by the Georgian artist and sculptor Nino Kvesitadze, has become the symbol of Batumi. The sculpture features rotating figures of a man and a woman and is a symbol of love.



MODERN OPEN-AIR SCULPTURES

Sea tourism is one of the most popular types of tourism in Ajara. The region's subtropical climate, warm sea air, seaside resort infrastructure and unique geography are the ideal conditions for vacationers. The total length of the swimming area is 21 km. The average sea temperature is 16.7 degrees Celsius.



SEA TOURISM



Eco tourism is one of the leading types of tourism in Ajara. The region's diverse flora and fauna, as well as abundance of historical and cultural monuments create favorable conditions for eco tourism development. There are 4 protected areas in the territory of Ajara: Mtirala National Park, Kobuleti Protected Areas, Kintrishi Protected Area and Machakhela National Park. In addition, there are other natural monuments in Ajara.

ECO TOURISM



The Black Sea Coast, and the surroundings of Batumi in particular, are known as "Eastern Black Sea Migration Corridor." More than 1,000,000 raptors migrate through the corridor annually and the area has one of the highest volumes of raptor migration in the world. The unique topography and climate of the region attract myriad migrating birds. Needless to say, Batumi is a must-visit location for birdwatchers.

BIRDWATCHING

The picturesque nature, diverse flora and fauna, and hospitable culture make Ajara an excellent region for rural tourism and rural tourism development. Tourist farms in the villages of Ajara offer visitors the chance to involve themselves in many aspects of farm life, including cattle breeding, poultry farming, horticulture, viticulture and bee keeping. Guests can learn about popular national handicrafts, try delicious local dishes made using pure ingredients fresh from the farm, go horseback riding, hunting, fishing, camping and sightseeing.



RURAL TOURISM

Winemaking in Georgia dates all the way back to 8000 BC. The traditional Georgian winemaking technique, which uses a traditional clay vessel called a “kvevri”, is a part of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists. In western Georgia, Ajara has one of the longest lasting traditions of winemaking; Keda Municipality boasts the most well-developed wine culture. “Kedis Tsolikauri” and “Chkhaveri” are two wines produced in Georgia that are unique to Ajara.



WINE TOURISM

Ajarian cuisine is an insperable part of Georgian cuisine; however, Ajarian cuisine has significant Asian influences. Dairy is a highly prevalent component of the foods typically eaten in the mountains of Ajara. Ajarian Khachapuri is the hallmark of Ajarian cuisine. There are also some must-try traditional sweets.



CULINARY TOURISM

Apart from sea resorts, the region of Ajara has great potential for ski and mountain tourism. In highlands the climate is humid. Winters are relatively cold and long, while summers are short and cool. The average height of Ajara's mountains ranges between 2000-2500 meters. There are on-going ski resort infrastructure projects in the mountains, and there are resorts in the area that are open year-round for recreation, relaxation and entertainment.



MOUNTAINOUS SKI TOURISM

The well-developed tourist infrastructure, recently constructed middle and up-scale hotels, and other upcoming projects have made Ajara an attractive and promising MICE tourism destination on both the local and international market. Several international trade fairs and different events are hosted in Ajara year-round, making the region one of the most important MICE tourism centers in Georgia.



MICE TOURISM



As demonstrated by the remnants of ancient monuments, as well as authentic cultural heritage, the region of Ajara is rich in both its culture and history. Ajarian dances “Khorumi” and “Ajaruli” originate from ancient times. In addition, they occupy an important place in Georgian folklore and perfectly express the Georgian identity. Ajara is also an archeological goldmine. In the 19th cent., Batumi was converted into seaport and European architects started to build the city. Numerous buildings in Batumi were constructed using different architectural styles, all of which contribute to the city's distinctive and interesting aesthetic. Additionally, Ajara-Batumi often hosts major cultural, sports and scientific events, public festivals, international musical and film festivals and so on.

CULTURAL TOURISM



- Black Sea International Jazz Festival – July
- Batumi International Art-house Film Festival, “biaff” – September
- International Festival Of Animated Films, “tofuzi” – October
- Batumi International Classical Music Festival, “night Serenades” (artistic Director: Liana Isakadze – August)
- Batumi International Classical Music Festival, “batumi Music Fest”(artistic Director: Eliso Bolkvadze) – July
- Batumi Backyard Stories
- Batumi Street Art Festival
- Festival “Batumoba”- September

Public Festivals:

- Shuamtoba (august)
- Machakhloba (september)
- Kedeloba (october)
- Chakvistaoba (september)
- Selimoba (june)
- Kolkhoba (august)
- Autumn In Keda (october)

EVENTS

Batumi, a logistics center in Caucasus region, started to become a popular cruise destination in the second half of the 20th century. Consequently, interest in Batumi as a Black Sea cruise destination is steadily increasing, resulting in a growing number of cruise ships entering our region. At present Batumi Sea port hosts several big cruise ships, such as: Riviera, Amadeus, Island Sky, Albatros, Silver Wind, Minerva, Spirit of Adventure Prinsendam, Regatta, Princess Daphne.



CRUISE TOURISM

Gambling has become a popular tourism offering in Batumi. The city has a wide array of casinos available to local as well as foreign gamblers. At present, the majority of casinos in Batumi are located within Batumi's upscale hotels. The recent constructions of upscale hotels in Batumi point to the further development of the casino industry in Ajara.



GAMBLING

LIFESTYLE9.COM

GEORGIA AMONG TOP 10 SAFEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

“The crime rate in Georgia is reported to be very low and is exactly why it has made it to eighth place in the safest countries in the world list.

Based on the recent investigations, 98% Georgians, who took part in the survey, said that they feel 100% safe being at Georgia territory. Thus, the country goes one among the world leaders in the safety level. “

Top 10 Safest Countries In The World To Settle In 2014.



BEST VALUE DESTINATIONS FOR 2013

Georgia is, like its Caucasian neighbours, little known to most travellers. Those who do go come back raving about a beautiful, friendly country that offers excellent, inexpensive (though potentially waist-expanding) cuisine, typified by the near-universal khachapuri (cheese pie). In recent years the country has been speeding up its tourism development, resulting in a growing number of good-value hostels and homestays, which are great ways to meet locals as well as keep costs down. Look out for August if you're hitting Batumi or elsewhere on the Black Sea coast, but otherwise anytime is a good time to visit this up-and-coming destination where even a bus, train or marshrustka minibus ride will give jaw-dropping views worth far more than the meagre fare you're likely to be charged.

Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2013.

The Washington Post

BATUMI 'MIRACLE'

This city is one of the oldest on earth, as humans lived here at least as early as the 12th century B.C. Now, it is rapidly becoming one of the most modern cities on the planet.

Batumi is the major city in the Ajara region of Georgia. Along a few-miles-long stretch of the Black Sea coast from the airport to the old city center, a string of architecturally distinctive luxury international hotels, office buildings and residences have been completed recently, and others are still under construction. Batumi is still too much of a summer tourist center. The secret of Georgia and Batumi's success is simple - less regulation, lower taxes and more freedom. That is a formula that can work everywhere.

Richard W. Rahn

The Washington Times 2012.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY SCIENCES

2012



BATUMI
BEST NEW DESTINATION

The American Academy of Hospitality Sciences unanimously agree
that this destination consistently maintains the overall standards of
high quality and superb performance necessary to designate it as One of the
Finest in its Category and Classification

Joseph D. Cinque
President

Donald J. Trump
Ambasador Extraordinaire

Bill Fisher
Luxury Travel Expert