

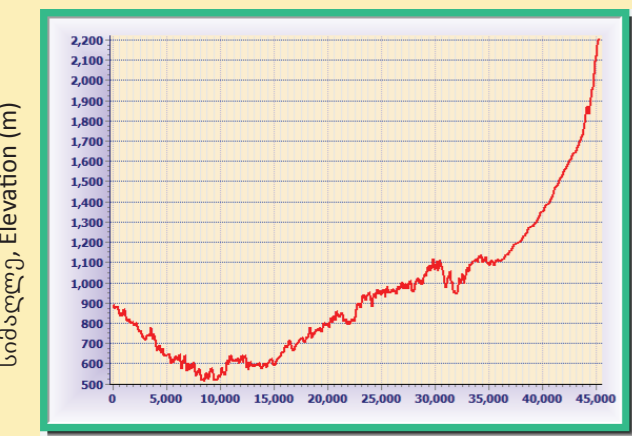
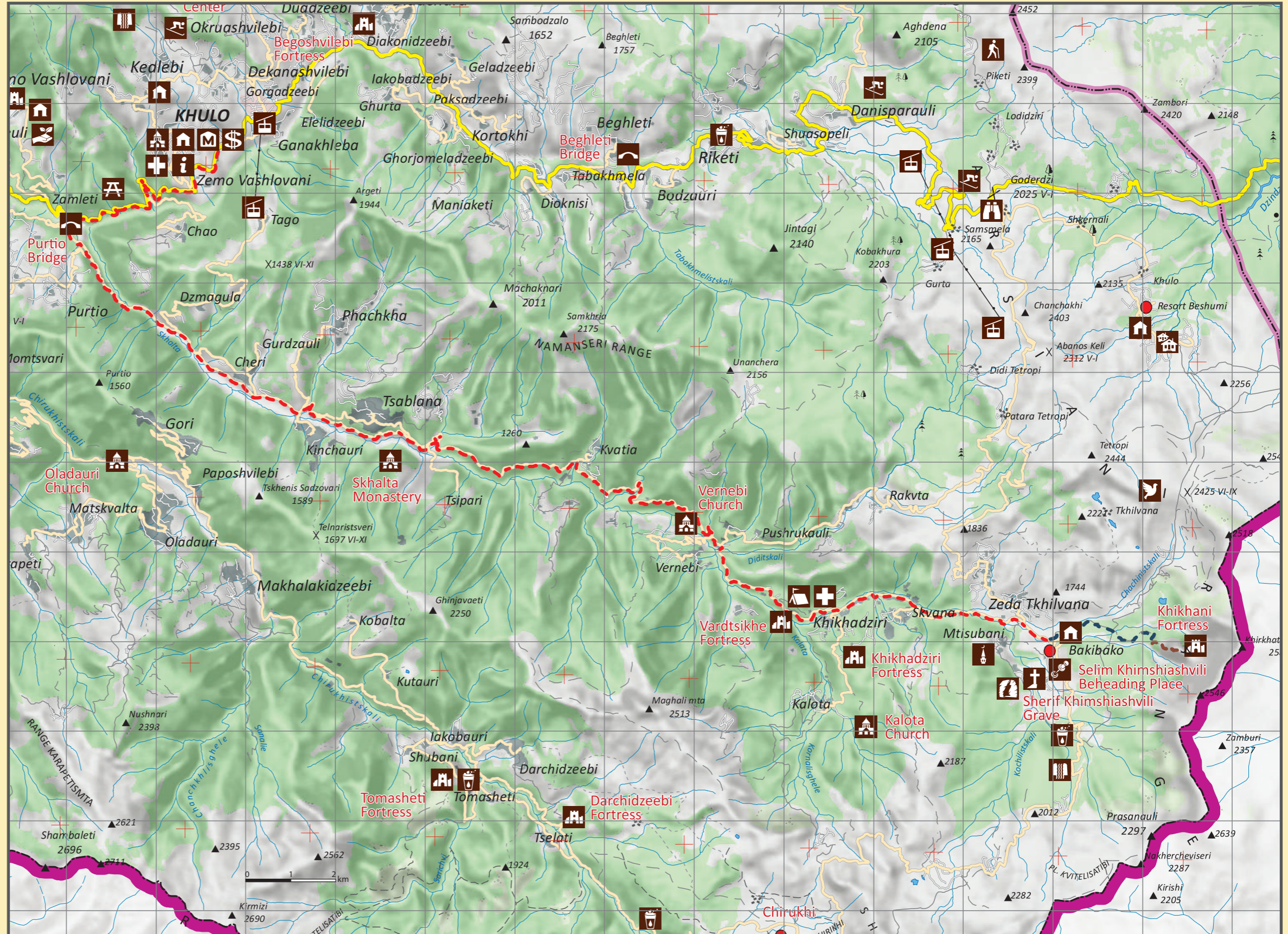
ROUTE: SMALL TOWN KHULO-SKHALTA-MTISUBANI-BAKIBAKO-KHIKHANI

Route Start/Finish: Small Town Khulo/Khikhani Fortress
Route Length: 52,5 km
Route Duration: 2 Day
Route Type: 4X4/Walking
Route Difficulty: Difficult
Route Seasonal Prevalance: not recommended in deep snow conditions
Min/Max m. above sea-level: 512/2220
Distance to Batumi: 87km
Cellular network coverage: Completely

The route begins in small town Khulo, from where it goes in the direction of Batumi by Batumi-Akhaltzikhe highway till Furtio arch bridge for 8.3 km. From there the road furthers up by the automobile bridge, turns to the south and enters into the Skhaltistskali Valley. In 10 km we come to Skhalta Monastery located at the terrace of mountain slope and represents the only specimen of medieval spiritual architecture and wall painting in Khulo Municipality. After Skhalta Monastery the route follows Skhaltistskali Valley for 17.3 km till Vardtsikhe turn; Bakibako Village is in 4.6 km from here. From Bakibako we can choose several directions:

1) to Khikhiani Fortress located at the cradle of Skhaltistskali River, at 2220 m above the sea level. For 2.2 km you can take the off-road vehicle, while the last 900 m you'll have to walk. There is a well cut path on the steep, forest-covered slope and requires good physical shape. The Fortress was built in XII-XIII AD; it covers are of 1 ha and is adorned by the four towers.

2) Bakibako-Mtisubani ring; it starts in Bakibako Village and the very first sight we come to is the place where SelimKhimshiashvili was decapitated; after this we follow the road to the south till Chirukhi turn (2.5 km). From there we can get to Chirukhi Village either by horse or by off-road vehicle (16 km). From Chirukhi Turn we cross the river (to the north-west) and follow the road to Mtisubani Village. In the surroundings of Mtisubani Village we you can visit the grave of Selim Khimshiashvili and natural ice-box.



| SYMBOLS | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------------------|--|--------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Church/Monastery | | Information centre | | Automatic teller machine | | Seaport | | Restaurant |
| | Fortress | | Hotel | | Bank | | View point | | Rural tourism |
| | Museum | | Guesthouse | | Gas station | | Arch bridge | | Wine tourism |
| | Synagogue | | Medical centre | | Visitor centre | | Camping | | Birdwatching |
| | Mosque | | Police | | Customs | | Picnic area | | Natural monument |
| | Spring | | Resort | | Skiing | | Ropeway station | | Cave |
| | Skiing | | Ropeway station | | Cave | | Grave | | Landmark |
| | Canyon | | Waterfall | | Airport | | Car, Bus | | 4X4, Bike, Horse, Walking |
| | Waterfall | | Airport | | Car, Bus | | 4X4, Bike, Horse, Walking | | Walking |

