

Tourist Guide

Batumi - Tsikhisdziri Route



Common borders. Common solutions.



Content

About Batumi
History
About Tsikhisdziri
History
Weather / Best time to visit
Getting around
Things to see
Things to do
Port of Batumi
Types of Tourism
Events
Plan Your Trip
Useful telephone numbers and addresses

Common borders. Common solutions.



Introducing ADJARA

Seaside resorts of Adjara situated in southwest Georgia on the Black Sea coastline are famous not only for their impressive beauty and distinctive nature, but also for their great curative effect and historical noteworthiness. 21-kilometer mountainous coastal stretch is characterised by a subtropical climate with the warm sea of 21-29 Celsius on average, which creates comfortable conditions for developing diversified tourism activities. The protected territories are all netted with hiking trails, bicycle paths, picnic spots and camping sites, resident or migratory bird watching, observing terraces of humid subtropical forests, walking on sand dunes, swimming on a motorboat, visiting sphagnum swamps, hiking to breathtakingly beautiful lakes, sightseeing of cultural monuments, monasteries and arch bridges. The local landscape is suitable for hiking tours, horse riding, scientific and ecotourism. Its well-kept and pristine nature, lush green environment, waterfalls, lakes, rivers and protected territories - endemic and relict specimens, mountains close to the sky and the sea with its unique ecosystem is heaven for tourists with the specific preference of any of the above.

This travel guide is dedicated to the promotion of the travel route Batumi-Tsikhisdziri, of the main seaside destination places of Adjara region.

About Batumi



Batumi, the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara and the second-largest city of Georgia, is located on the coast of the Black Sea in the country's southwest. Batumi was declared the best tourist destination by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences in 2012. In recent Forbes rankings, the city was given a place amongst top five 'velvet season' recreational resorts.

However, this doesn't mean that Batumi is suitable for only 'velvet season' leisure activities. The city can be visited all year round for business or recreation. Batumi can be a perfect destination whether for high-profile international meetings or family weekends. Furthermore, Batumi city is desirable in any weather. The rainy Batumi is romantic - Colorful umbrellas, cheerful people-pebbled streets and hot steam of coffee on the sand, seeping through cozy local cafes. Colorful doors lead you to these cafes. There's a lot of them in Batumi and taking photos against their background has become a tradition for the city guests.

Common borders. Common solutions.

In old Batumi, next to Piazza, in the alcove of a historical house on Gorgasali street, you can find the statue of a boy with a flute. This statue is considered to be a symbol of Batumi and has acquired such popularity that its modern, modification versions can be found by the entrance of the city boulevard. Check out Ali and Nino sculpture - their extraordinary date expressed in metal awakes wonderful emotions. Start from there and be confident that there is much to see. With its old and new architecture, old port, European style squares, high-class hotels and other attractions Batumi is Georgia's one of the best parts and cultural centers.

You can get to the city easily, through terrestrial, aerial and maritime transport be it from European or Asian countries. In addition to conference halls where international level conferences take place, Batumi offers various means of entertainment: aqua park, horse riding club, Ferris Wheel, maritime cruises, fly boarding, diving-center, paragliding, cycling, cinemas, casinos. You can also attend annual classical and jazz music festivals where a number of global stars have featured already.

If you find yourself in Batumi in autumn, you will be able to participate in two large-scale events - "Batumoba" and rural tourism festival - "Gandagana". On these events markets, concerts, theatrical performances and exhibitions take place. "Gandagana" festival features special decorations on Era square. They represent Adjarian villages and display a wide variety of fruits, local food, wine and sweet delicacies that fill the air with a pleasant smell.

Besides leisure, Batumi resort has solar therapy and sea-salt baths to offer. The city is permeated with the scent of the sea, acacia, and magnolias. Even in the coldest month of the year - January, the temperature doesn't go lower than +7-10 degrees, which is why you may visit Batumi at any time of the year.

History

Batumi is located on the site of the ancient Greek colony in Colchis called "Bathus" or "Bathys" - derived from (Greek: βαθύς λιμεν, bathus limen; or βαθύς λιμήν, bathys limin; lit. the "deep harbor"). Under Hadrian (c. 117-138 AD), it was converted into a fortified Roman port and later deserted for the fortress of Petra founded in the time of Justinian I (c. 527-565). Garrisoned by the Roman-Byzantine forces, it was formally a possession of the kingdom of Lazica until being occupied briefly by the Arabs, who did not hold it; In 780 Lazica fell to

kingdom of Abkhazia via a dynastic union, the later led the unification of Georgian monarchy in the 11th century.

From 1010, it was governed by the eristavi (viceroy) of the king of Georgia. In the late 15th century, after the disintegration of the Georgian kingdom, Batumi passed to the princes (mtavari) of Guria, a western Georgian principality under the sovereignty of the kings of Imereti.



In the 15th century in the reign of the prince Kakhaber Gurieli, the Ottoman Turks conquered the town and its district but did not hold them. They returned to it in force a century later and inflicted a decisive defeat on the Georgian armies at Sokhoista. Batumi was recaptured by the Georgians several times, first in 1564 by prince Rostom Gurieli, who lost it soon afterwards, and again in 1609 by Mamia II Gurieli. In 1614, Batumi again became part of the Ottoman Empire. After the Turkish conquest Islamisation of the hitherto Christian region began but this was terminated and to a great degree reversed, after the area was re-annexed to Russian Imperial Georgia after the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78.

It was the last Black Sea port annexed by Russia during the Russian conquest of that area of the Caucasus. In 1878, Batumi was annexed by the Russian Empire in accordance with the Treaty of San Stefano between Russia and the Ottoman Empire (ratified on March 23) . Occupied by the Russians on August 28, 1878, the town was declared a free port until 1886. It functioned as the center of a

special military district until being incorporated in the Government of Kutaisi on June 12, 1883. Finally, on June 1, 1903, with the Okrug of Artvin, it was established as the region (oblast) of Batumi and placed under the direct control of the General Government of Georgia. The expansion of Batumi began in 1883 with the construction of the Batumi-Tiflis-Baku railway (completed in 1900) and the finishing of the Baku-Batumi pipeline. Henceforth, Batumi became the chief Russian oil port in the Black Sea. The town population increased rapidly doubling within 20 years: from 8,671 inhabitants in 1882 to 12,000 in 1889. By 1902 the population had reached 16,000, with 1,000 working in the refinery for Baron Rothschild's Caspian and Black Sea oil company.

During 1901, sixteen years prior to the October Revolution, Joseph Stalin, the future leader of the Soviet Union, lived in the city organizing strikes. On March 3, 1918, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk gave the city back to the Ottoman Empire; unrest during the closing weeks of World War I led to the re-entry of Turkish forces in April 1918, followed in December by British forces, who stayed until July 1920. Kemal Atatürk ceded the area to the Bolsheviks.

Batumi today is one of the main port cities of Georgia. It has the capacity for 80,000-ton tankers to take materials such as oil that are shipped through Georgia from Central Asia. Additionally, the city exports regional agricultural products. Since 1995 the freight conversion of the port has constantly risen, with an approximate 8 million tons in 2001. The annual revenue from the port is estimated at between \$200 million and \$300 million.

Since the change of power in Adjara, Batumi has attracted international investors, and the prices of real estate in the city have trebled since 2001. In July 2007, the seat of the Constitutional Court of Georgia was moved from Tbilisi to Batumi to stimulate regional development. Several new hotels opened after 2009, first the Sheraton in 2010 and the Radisson Blu in 2011. The city features several casinos that attract tourists from Turkey, where gambling is illegal.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



Description of the port of Batumi and its infrastructure



Port Location:	Batumi
Port Name:	Port of Batumi
Port Authority:	Batumi Sea Trading Port
Address:	No 1, Kutaisi str. Batumi 6003 Georgia
Phone:	+995 222 7-62-61
Fax:	+995 222 7-69-58
800 Number:	
Email:	bsport@batumiport.com
Web Site:	www.batumiport.com
Latitude:	41° 38' 56" N
Longitude:	41° 39' 3" E
UN/LOCODE:	GEBUS
Port Type:	Seaport
Port Size:	Medium

Common borders. Common solutions.



The Port of Batumi is just 15 kilometers north of the border with Turkey on the southeast coast of the Black Sea. Its main industry is an oil refinery that processes petroleum from Baku. It also contains a shipyard and industries that manufacture machines and furniture.

The Port of Batumi has welcomed ships from all over the known world throughout its history. It has seen Phoeniciansailing ships, Greek and Roman boats, galleys from Genoa and Venice, Portuguese and Spanish caravels, Russian corvettes, and feluccas from Turkey.

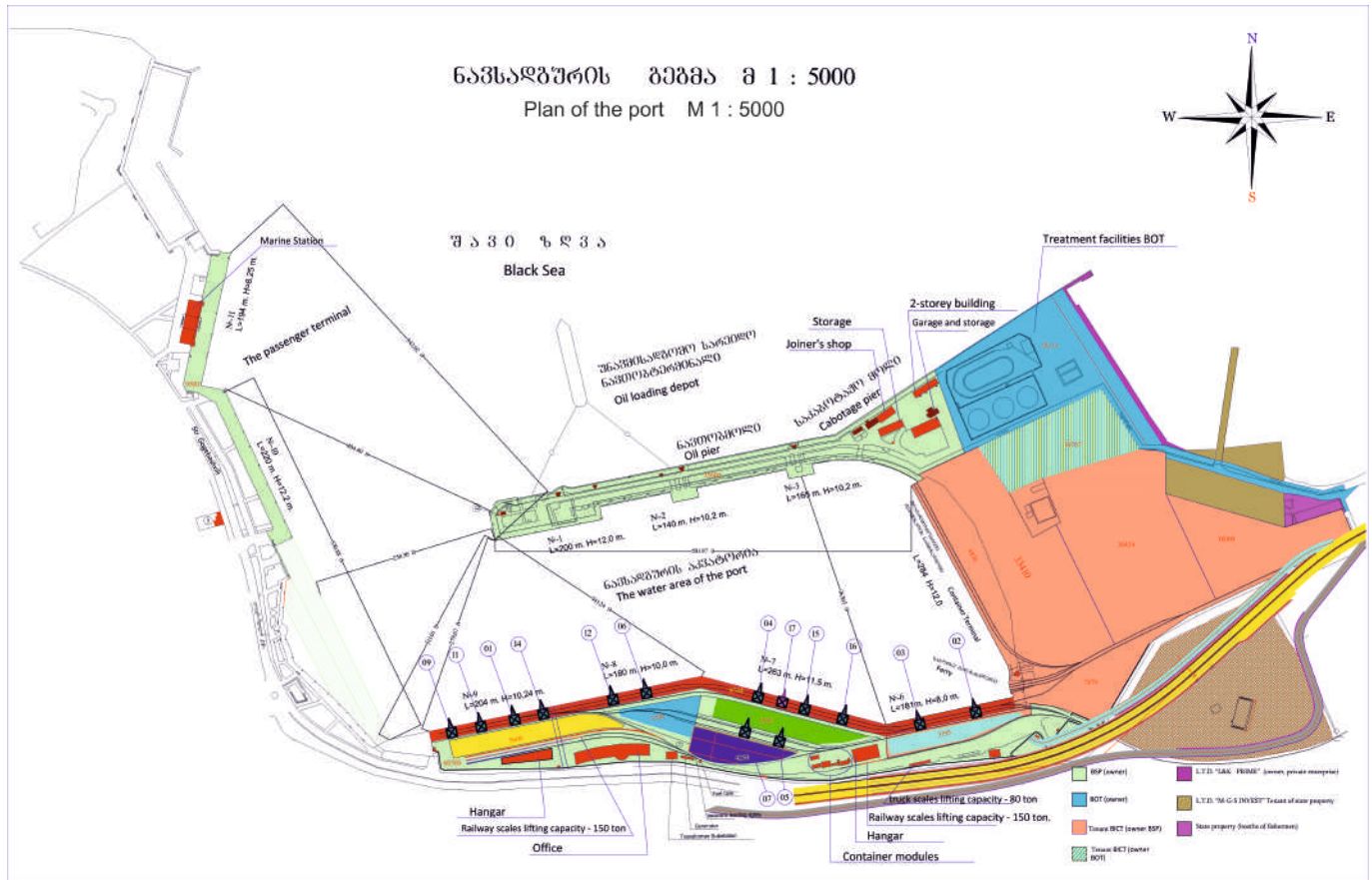
The Port of Batumi is Georgia's most important seaport and gateway. The Port of Batumi was born during the Roman Empire under the rule of Emperor Adrian III. Greek and Roman merchants made it a major world trade center.

Batumi was first mentioned by Aristotle in the 4th Century AD. At the time, it was the bastion of Colchis power where the River Korolistskali's meets the sea. The Port of Batumi was well-known to the ancient world. The story of Jason and the Argonauts tells of the Colchis tribes as the inventors of iron and steel and the producers of renowned jewelry, pottery, and steel.

The Port of Batumi has suffered many wars and conquest over its long history. It was conquered by Turkey in the 17th Century and then rejoined Georgia in 1878.

By the end of the 19th Century, trade and industry made the Port of Batumi a prosperous town. It was connected to other cities in Georgia in 1883, when it had free port status. In 1885, the Port of Batumi was reconstructed, and many new factories had appeared.

By the end of the 19th Century, its central geographic location and natural deep-water harbor made the Port of Batumi a world-class port, particularly for export of petroleum, and trade center. In 1888, it received city status.



The Port of Batumi is located on a natural deep-water harbor, well-protected from the open sea. The modern port is largely based on oil, which has also supported the industrial development of the town.

The Port of Batumi is connected by road and rail with Turkey, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. It handles a variety of cargoes, vessels, and passengers. It contains five specialized terminals for oil, containers, rail ferry, dry cargo, and passengers.

The oil terminal operates four berths, one of which can accept four tankers at one time. Three berths total 505 meters long with alongside depths from 10.2 to 12 meters. The Conventional Buoy Mooring (CBM) can accommodate vessels from 185 to 250 meters long with alongside depth of 13.6 meters. The terminal specializes in processing crude oil, diesel oil, petrol, and black oil.

The multi-purpose Batumi International Container Terminal has three berths with capacity for handling 300 thousand TEUs of containerized cargo per year. The terminal covers 13.6 hectares and includes the ferry and dry bulk general



cargo terminal. The container terminal berth is 284 meters long with alongside depth of 11 meters.

The Port of Batumi's Ferry Terminal has a berth for a rail ferry moving freight between Batumi, Varna in Bulgaria, Ilichevsk in Ukraine, and Poti in Georgia. The three-decked ferry has capacity for 12.6 thousand DWT and can accept 108 eight-wheel rail cars. The ferry system is completely automated and handles about 700 thousand tons of cargo per year.

The dry cargo terminal offers four berths with total length of 834 meters with alongside depths from 8 to 11 meters. The dry cargo terminal handles grains, ore, bags and pallets, general cargo, and wood.

Located within the city center, the Port of Batumi's Passenger Terminal has two berths. Berth 10 is 200 meters long with alongside depth of 11.6 meters, and berth 11 is 194 meters long with alongside depth of 8.25 meters.

Travelers who want to visit the Port of Batumi by sea can find a list of scheduled cruises on the Cruise Compete website.

Currently in Port there are 5 terminals and 11 berths + CBM (point without berthing loading). The total throughput of the Port is 18 million tons per year. The number of ships of the port fleet totals 13 units.

Batumi port takes part in many transport projects and corridors, being a participant of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route TITR, the Eurasian transport corridor TRACECA and the Association of ports of the Black and Azov Seas BASPA.

Marine Passenger Terminal



Berth	№ 10	№ 11
Length(m)	225.7	188.5
Depth(m)	9.1	6.4
Ships' DWT	3 080	2 716

The marine passenger terminal is situated in the center of the city, in the seaside boulevard. The throughput efficiency is about 180 000 passengers annually. The passenger berths No.10 and No.11 ensure handling passenger ships as well as small-capacity cargo and passenger ferries (Ro-Ro).

Port of Call

Here are the harbor characteristics, water depths, entrance restrictions, tug and pilotage requirements, lift and crane availability, supplies and services to assist you in planning your next port of call at Port of Batumi

Common borders. Common solutions.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



SaBS
Sailing across the Black Sea



General Information			
Latitude:	41° 38' 56" N	Publication:	BA24
Longitude:	41° 39' 3" E	Chart:	55139
First Port of Entry:	Yes	USA	No
ETA Message Required:	Yes	Representative:	
		Medical Facilities:	Yes

Harbor Characteristics			
Harbor Size:	Small	Harbor Type:	Coastal Breakwater
Shelter:	Good	Turning Area:	
Maximum Vessel Size:	Over 500 feet in length	Good Holding Ground:	Yes

Entrance Restrictions			
Tide:	No	Swell:	Yes
Ice:	No	Other:	Yes
Overhead Limit:			

Water Depth			
Channel:	31 - 35 feet 9.4 - 10 meters	Anchorage:	26 - 30 feet 7.1 - 9.1 meters
Cargo Pier:	21 - 25 feet 6.4 - 7.6 meters	Oil Terminal:	26 - 30 feet 7.1 - 9.1 meters
Mean Tide:	1 foot		

Pilotage			
Compulsory:	Yes	Advisable:	Yes
Available:	Yes	Local Assist:	

Tugs			
Assist:	Yes	Salvage:	

Quarantine			
Pratique:	Yes	Deratt Cert:	Yes
Other:			

Communications			
Telephone:	Yes	Telegraph:	
Radio:	Yes	Radio Tel:	Yes
Air:	Yes	Rail:	Yes

Loading & Unloading			
---------------------	--	--	--

Common borders. Common solutions.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



Wharves:	Yes
Med Moor:	Yes
Ice:	

Anchor:	
Beach:	

Lifts & Cranes			
100+ Ton Lifts:		Fixed Cranes:	
50-100 Ton Lifts:		Mobile Cranes:	Yes
25-49 Ton Lifts:	Yes	Floating Cranes:	Yes
0-24 Ton Lifts:	Yes		

Port Services			
Longshore:		Electrical:	
Electrical Repair:		Navigation Equipment:	
Steam:			

Supplies			
Provisions:	Yes	Water:	Yes
Fuel Oil:	Yes	Diesel Oil:	Yes
Deck:		Engine:	

Repairs, Drydock, Railway & Other Services			
Ship Repairs:	Limited	Drydock Size:	
Marine Railroad Size:		Garbage Disposal:	Yes
Degauss:		Dirty Ballast:	Yes

Port of call information is provided
by the [National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency](#)
in its [World Port Index](#)

Weather / Best time to visit

Batumi has a humid subtropical climate (Cfa) according to Köppen's classification. The city's climate is heavily influenced by the onshore flow from the Black Sea and is subject to the orographic effect of the nearby hills and mountains, resulting in significant rainfall throughout most of the year, making Batumi the wettest city in both Georgia and the entire Caucasus Region. The average annual temperature in Batumi is approximately 14 °C (57 °F). January is the coldest month with an average temperature of 7 °C (45 °F). August is the hottest month, with an average temperature of 22 °C (72 °F). The absolute

Common borders. Common solutions.



minimum recorded temperature is -6°C (21°F), and the absolute maximum is 40°C (104°F). The number of days with daily temperatures above 10°C (50°F) is 239. The city receives 1958 hours of sunshine per year. Batumi's average annual precipitation is 2,435 mm (95.9 in). December is the wettest month with an average of 303 mm (11.9 in) of precipitation, while May is the driest, averaging 84 mm (3.3 in). Batumi generally does not receive significant amounts of snow (accumulating snowfall of more than 30 cm (11.8 in)), and the number of days with snow cover for the year is 12. The average level of relative humidity ranges from 70-80%.

Batumi can be enjoyed in every season, so even when you can not swim in the sea or sunbath on the beach Batumi will not let you get bored. You can see snowed Batumi which is impressive - the paradise for photographers or view Caucasus summits and visit beautiful flower gardens in springtime. Early Spring is very beautiful in Batumi even if you cannot swim in the sea. In the days of good visibility you can observe Caucasus mountain range from the boulevard, even Elbrus summit might appear at times. Near Radisson hotel Sakura trees were planted so in a few years we will have a nice Sakura garden worth visiting in the season of bloom. Ilia Chavchavadze's (Georgia's one of the founding fathers) monument stands nearby. Nice place to take photos. Batumi is also quite beautiful in winter after fresh snow. The most beautiful spot anytime of the year is Botanical Garden of Batumi.

Getting around Batumi

Transportation

AIRPORT

Batumi International Airport is located 7 km from the center of Batumi on the road from Batumi to the Turkish border. There is a tourism information center on the territory of the airport, where you can get free brochures, maps and information to help you make the most of your trip to Adjara. There are also several ATMs, currency exchange, a gift shop, a bistro, VIP and CIP zones.

Address: Airport highway 220

Tel: +995 422 23 51 00

batumiairport.com

Common borders. Common solutions.

Getting from airport to town (or from Batumi to the airport):

1. By public transport. Take the bus #10. On Batumi public buses you need to purchase two tickets, printed on one piece of paper. Tickets cost 0.80 GEL. You can buy tickets from the driver. As soon as you get the ticket validate it by running it through the ticket validation machine on the bus.
2. By Taxi. Most taxi cars are private and don't carry meters with fixed rates. Agree the price before you get in. A taxi from the airport to the city center will cost about 10-15 GEL.
3. A taxi from Batumi airport to Kobuleti (25 km from Batumi) will cost about 40 GEL. You may also order a taxi (with taxi-meter) by contacting one of the local taxi companies.

RAILWAY AND BUS STATION "BATUMI CENTRAL"

New railway station is 4 km from the center of Batumi, in the village of "Tamaris Dasakhleba" (Benze), near the Batumi State Musical Center. There are ATMs, currency exchange and bank branches on the territory of the railway station.

Address: Queen Tamar Highway

Tel: +995 422 22 22 22 / +995 595 22 02 49

batumicentral.ge

Getting from "Batumi Central" to town (or from Batumi to "Batumi Central"):

1. By public transport. Take the bus #10. On Batumi public buses you need to purchase two tickets, printed on one piece of paper. Tickets cost 0.80 GEL. You can buy tickets from the driver. As soon as you get the ticket validate it by running it through the ticket validation machine on the bus.
2. By Taxi. Most taxi cars are private and don't carry meters with fixed rates. Agree the price before you get in. A taxi from the railway station to the city center will cost about 7-9 GEL.
3. You may also order a taxi (with taxi-meter) by contacting one of the local taxi companies.

BATUMI SEA PORT

Batumi Sea Port is located in the center. There are several regular passenger lines that connect Batumi with Illichivsk port in Ukraine and Sochi in Russia.

Batumi Express: connect Batumi and Sochi. Run two times a week. Ticket price is about 250 GEL. Approximate duration of the trip is about 6 hours.

Tel: +995 593 33 39 66

UKRFERRY: passenger and transport ferries run between Illichevs'k and Batumi. Approximate duration of the trip is about 2 days. Ticket price is about 400 GEL.

Address: Gogebashvili St. 1

Tel: +995 422 27 41 19; batumiport.com

Common borders. Common solutions.

BATUMI BUS STATION

There are two bus stations in Batumi, local in the city center. There are about 200 bus services daily to various parts of Georgia, Adjara and the neighboring countries.

New bus station:

Address: Gogol st. 1

Tel: +995 422 24 26 12

Old Bus Station:

Address: Maiakovski st. 1

Tel: +995 422 27 85 47

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The main types of public transport: buses, minibuses, taxis.

Bus: for using the municipal transportation means, one must purchase one of the contactless plastic cards for free:

A. Standard Card - BATUMI CARD – Available for international travelers as well.



It can be purchased in the service center of “Metro Service +” located at #55 Gorgasali Str. Batumi.

It is also available at the Express Pay machines (the ones who have the function of issuing the transport card) of the Bank of Georgia. In the menu of the Express Pay machine one must find the option “Order the Transport card” and follow the instructions.

The price of transportation with BATUMI CARD is 0.30 GEL.

Minibuses (marshrutkas): The fare for a ride within city is usually 0.50GEL, payable to the driver when you get off. The fare for a ride outside Batumi ranges from 1 to 8 GEL.

Taxi: Some taxis carry meters with fixed rates (1 km is about 0.50-0.60 GEL), but not all. There are also private taxis in the city that don't use taximeter. Agree the price before you get in.

Common borders. Common solutions.



Car rent: The average rate for a one-day rental starts from 120-150 GEL per day. For more detailed information, please contact Batumi Tourist Information Centers.

batumi.ge

batauto.ge

BATUMVELO

To get a BatumVelo card visit the Tourist information center at the main entrance to the Boulevard, near the fountains. You should have an identity card or passport.

“BatumVelo” offers 2 types of packages:

The annual package - 20 GEL (10 GEL - price of BatumVelo card+ 10 GEL to your balance for cycling)

To replenish the balance on your card please visit the Tourist Information Centre where you purchased the package.

Tel: +995 577 37 76 76

Things to see

Visitors to this modern city can enjoy many attractions, international hotels, a great dining scene and busy nightlife. Even though Batumi has more modern buildings these days, it has still managed to keep its charm, elegance and relaxed atmosphere. Here are the best things for you to see and do in this Black Sea resort

Common borders. Common solutions.

Alphabetic Tower



Batumi is full of skyscrapers, and the Alphabetic Tower is one such example. It expresses the uniqueness of the Georgian alphabet and people. Situated near the Ali and Nino statue, the tower is another main landmark of the city. The 130-meter-tall (426.5 feet) building combines the design of a DNA strand holding 33 letters of the Georgian alphabet, with each aluminum letter being four meters (13.1 feet) tall. The elevator shaft leads to the very top of the structure, which provides panoramic views.

Statue of Ali and Nino



Located at Batumi Bay, this statue of eternal love is an iconic landmark in Batumi. The figures move towards each other, merge into one piece and then move away from each other every 10 minutes. The idea to create this magnificent statue came from the book of the same name by Kurban Said. The book is about a romantic relationship between Azerbaijani Muslim Ali and a Georgian Christian daughter of a nobleman in Baku in 1918.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION

Chacha Tower



In the vicinity of Alphabetic Tower and Ali and Nino, there's an impressive landmark called the Chacha Tower, originally built to have a chacha fountain, the Georgian national spirit, instead of a water one. Supposedly, the chacha still flows for 15 minutes once a week.

Argo Cable Car



Built in 2012, the Argo Cable Car has become a must-do activity once in Batumi. It will take you on a 2.5-kilometer (1.5-mile) ride at a maximum elevation of 252 meters (826.7 feet). At the end of the journey, there's a viewing platform for sweeping views over the city. Additionally, there is a small church next to the viewpoint and a café in the upper station if you'd like to grab something and enjoy the splendid views.

Common borders. Common solutions.

Piazza Square



Piazza Square, which features boutique hotels, cafés, and unique architecture, is a go-to destination for many locals to grab a drink or something to eat. Designed by Georgian architect Vazha Orbeladze, the Piazza perfectly mixes different styles and trends.

Europe Square



Besides its new buildings, Batumi reserved the best buildings from the 19th century; the time when it used to be a free port on the Caspian oil route to Europe. During Batumi's restoration period, these old buildings were also renovated, while new ones constructed in the old style were built next to them. Head to Europe Square and check out the astronomical clock and Medea monument in the middle of it. Medea is a Georgian woman from the Argonauts myth, who helped Jason steal the Golden Fleece from the Georgian state of Colchis to take to ancient Greece.

Stroll down the Boulevard



The Boulevard was originally laid out in 1884, but it has changed over time, with new attractions emerging each year. A seven-kilometer (4.3-mile) boulevard starts at Batumi Bay, which offers many exciting attractions to visitors. Besides the landmarks mentioned above, there are plenty of viewpoints, spots to take pictures, the old Boulevard featuring various fountains, and plenty of cafés, to name but a few.

Try Adjarauli Khachapuri



Unique to this region of Georgia, this type of khachapuri (a pizza-like meal made from cheese and dough) is in the shape of a boat and is baked in a brick oven. Once the chef removes the dish from the oven, he or she adds a raw egg and a knob of butter before serving. To eat it, you need to mix everything together, take a piece of the dough and dip it into the cheese-egg-butter mixture. It comes in different sizes and is quite filling. Most locals can't even eat a whole one, so some cafés now offer "tsom gamotslili," which means that the extra dough on the sides of the "boat" is taken out. However, this doesn't mean you'll get less cheese in the middle of the dish.

Visit the Batumi Botanical Garden



The Batumi Botanical Garden, founded by a Russian botanist and opened in 1912, lies in Mtsvane Kontskhi, a small town 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) away from the city. It's one of the largest botanical gardens in the former Soviet Union, a time when it was further expanded and developed. The garden offers some great views over the coastline along with beautiful flora and fauna.

Play with dolphins



Visiting the Dolphinarium is an excellent way to end your trip to Batumi. One of the most popular attractions in Georgia, the venue offers an exciting show—in Georgian, Russian and English—where the cute species sing, dance, kiss, and hug. And for an additional cost, you can play with the dolphins after the performance.



Things To Do

Batumi is the city nice walking area, long boulevard, new glass and fashionable and old 19th century buildings and elegant squares which will make you feel in Europe, green parks - nice relaxation areas with lakes, fountains, availability of all range of services if you have some money to spend, starting from restaurants and hotels ending with numerous casinos and nightclubs, aqua park, diving club and yacht club.

Enjoy a walk/bike ride or just relax in the Batumi Boulevard

On the way see some of the most notable sights of Batumi, such as Ali and Nino Monument. Then you will find large Ferris Wheel and the 145m-high Alphabet Tower - monument to Georgian old and unique script. Passing past many cafes and attractions you can watch many new towers on your left, new Radisson and Sheraton hotels and Georgia's tallest building, the 200m-high Batumi Tower. Also you will find nice viewpoints to the sea, spots to take photos, old boulevard with many fountains, etc. Most importantly, its the place for relaxation, to watch people, take a walk, run in the morning, bring your dog, watch the sunset of black sea, watch the mountains, rent a bike, play with kids,etc.

Visit the Old City

Batumi has not only new buildings, its best buildings are 19th century buildings, from the period when the city was free port on the Caspian oil route to Europe and was flourishing thanks to investments from the likes of Nobels and Rothschilds. Renovated old buildings and new ones in old style surround the square where you can find castle with astronomical clock and medea monument in the middle. Medea is a first world-known Georgian woman from Argonauts myth who took Golden fleece to antique Greece from oil-rich Georgian state of Colchis.



Visit Batumi Port for walks, restaurants, motor boat trips, cable cars and more

You can take a walk, or motor boat trip, visit Machakhela or some other restaurant with a sea view, gudvili supermarket to buy some drinks, also you can

visit Batumi Technological museum of Nobel brothers to learn about the city's development in the 19th century and oil pipeline.

Wander in the streets and bars of Old Batumi

Don't Limit yourself with the boulevard. Batumi is not very big city. There are many areas with 19th century styled houses and nice restaurants. One of those is Kutaisi Street - where you may feel yourself in Turkish Black sea (karadeniz) part. There is an old Mosque, Turkish restaurants (lokantasi), bars, stores, night clubs, casinos as well as Munich and HB bars for German beer and Georgian restaurant Shemoikhede Genatsvale.

Enjoy Panoramas to Batumi

Argo cable car leads you to some nice panoramas, it costs 10 gel currently. You can also take taxi to Sameba Monastery on the top of the hill overlooking the city, but to my mind, Batumi skyline is better seen from Makhinjauri seaside than from the top, but it can be still nice experience. You could also visit some other sites near Batumi such as Mtirala National Park.

Try Adjarian Cousine

You can taste Adjarian Khachapuri and some other Adjarian dishes. The most popular local dishes are: borano (cheese melted in butter), chirbuli (breakfast with eggs and walnut) and sinori (a dish with cottage curds and dough plates - my favorite). Varieties of local sweet pastry are also famous, especially baklava and shakarlama (sugar pastry).

Recreational beach services of the area of Tsikhisdziri and Batumi



Sea tourism is one of the most popular types of leisure activities in Adjara. The subtropical climate, warm sea, well-tended shorelines, the combination of the sea and mountains - all taken together create perfect conditions for quality leisure in Batumi and Tsikhisdziri. Both destinations will leave the indelible impression on visitors. The natural shade source - Pine tree hedgerow which stretches along the coastline, and pebbles on the shore formed throughout millennia, highly developed boulevard infrastructure or a wide choice of entertainment - enable a desirable leisure time for all. Hotels, rest houses, restaurants and cafes are located throughout the green slopes and beautiful parks and gardens of Batumi and Tsikhisdziri. The beaches are comfortable and boat rentals are available. Restaurants offer delicious menu with affordable prices.



Useful telephone numbers and addresses

COMMUNICATION

Georgian SIM-card can be purchased at the offices of the local mobile operators as well as in local supermarkets. The SIM cards cost from 1 to 2 GEL. You will need to show your passport. Calling from mobile to a fixed line phone, dial 0 then the city code then the 6 last digits. Calling to other mobiles, dial the last 9

digits of the number. If that doesn't work, just dial the full number starting +995. Calling from one mobile to another costs 0.20 GEL (20 tetri) per minute.

Directory Inquiry Service. Tel: 11808

24-hour Tourist Information Center - Tel: +995 577 90 90 93

INTERNET

There is a free public Wi-Fi available in the territory of Batumi Boulevard. Also most of the cafe/restaurants/bars have free WiFi. There are also a number of internet cafes around Batumi. Internet café: Addresses: 10, Rustaveli st. 23, P.Melikishvili st.

GEORGIAN POST

№6010 Batumi service center Postal Code

Address: Batumi, Akh.Melashvili str.№4

Tel: +995 422 27 22 89 / +995 322 24 09 09

Restaurants and cafes

Sidewalk cafes and restaurants that have an outdoor area. "Divan Suites Batumi" offers the restaurant and toilet adapted for disabled people located on the ground floor of the hotel.

VISA REGIME

Citizens of the European Union and Eastern Europe as well as USA, Canada, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, Poland, the Baltic States, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Iran, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and many other countries are now able to enter and stay in Georgia for a year visa-free. To enter Georgia, it is necessary that one has a passport, valid for at least

Common borders. Common solutions.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



SaBS
Sailing across the Black Sea



6 months from the date of entering the country. Citizens of other states need to arrange visa before travelling to Georgia. Georgia's electronic e-visa portal went online in 2015. This system enables foreigners coming to Georgia as tourists or for business to obtain an e-Visa without having to apply to Georgia's consular offices abroad. For additional information about visa please visit evisa.gov.ge

FOREIGN CONSULATES IN BATUMI

Azerbaijan - 62 Parnavaz Mepe / 24 Demetre Tavaddebuli St. Tel: +995 422 27 67 00

Estonia - 58 Gorgasali St. Tel: +995 422 27 09 10 Turkey - 9 Ninoshvili St. Tel: +995 422 25 58 00

Iran - 83 Parnavaz Mepe St. Tel: +995 422 22 86 01

Armenia - 31 Tavaddebuli St. Tel: +995 422 27 99 90

PARKING

Parking in Batumi is on a free paid basis. You can pay Parking fee at any bank, online, by Pay Boxes, at parking meters. For payment you must specify vehicle's number and serial number. Parking rates are: 1 day - 1 GEL; 7 days - 5GEL; 30 days - 10 GEL; 182 days - 25 GEL; 1 year -40 GEL

Common borders. Common solutions.

About TSIKHISDZIRI



Tsikhisdziri resort stretches to the north of Batumi and 17 km away from the city, at an altitude of 60-90 above sea level. The fusion of mountain and sea air in Tsikhisdziri has healing properties for respiratory tract and nervous system functional diseases. Winter is warmer and summer is cooler here compared to Batumi and Makhindjauri. Green slopes of the resort are covered with citrus orchards, tea plantations, and bamboo hedgerows. Today on lush green slopes of Tsikhisdziri, in its beautiful gardens and parks, holiday cottages, restaurants and cafes are nestled. The beach here is well-kept and micro-tour vehicles run

Common borders. Common solutions.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



SaBS
Sailing across the Black Sea



regularly at one's convenience. The resort's beaches are divided into two parts: a southern and a northern section. In the south the large-pebble beach differs in deep waters, which makes this part attractive to scuba-divers. The beaches in the north are more popular, as they are less steep and perfect for swimming.

Many rest houses, restaurants and cafes are located throughout the green slopes and beautiful parks and gardens of Tsikhisdziri. The beach is comfortable and boat rentals are available.



Location of Tsikhisdziri

Coordinates:  $41^{\circ}45'43''\text{N } 41^{\circ}45'14''\text{E}$

History

The Tsikhisdziri site is located on a rocky coastline of the Black Sea, at the modern-day village. Systematic archaeological study of the site began in 1962 and yielded several layers of human settlement and various artifacts, the earliest of which date to the Late Bronze Age, when the area fell within the Colchian culture area. North of Tsikhisdziri, at Bobokvati, some 200 m from the coastline, dune-settlements, dating to the 8th century BC, were

Common borders. Common solutions.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



SaBS
Sailing across the Black Sea



uncovered. In the following centuries, a series of ancient Greek colonies were established along the eastern Black Sea littoral. There is no literary evidence that a Greek colony existed at Tsikhisdziri, but archaeological excavations revealed the 5th-century BC burials of adults and of children in amphorae, set down into levels of earlier dune-settlement. Artifacts unearthed there include an Attic skyphos of Corinthian type and lekythos of the Haimon painter, dated to c. 470.

A collection of the 3rd-century AD items—gold jewelry, silver and bronze vessels, beads, and coins—and now known as the Tsikhisdziri treasure was found there in 1907 and then acquired by the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Part of this collection is a rock crystal intaglio depicting a bearded man identified as the Roman emperor Lucius Verus: the design was gilded and the stone was polished to allow the image to be seen through the transparent material. The Roman presence in this area is also evidenced by a large brick found in the ruins of Tsikhisdziri with an inscription that has been interpreted as VEX[illatio]FA[siana], suggesting that the brick—now in possession of the Janashia Museum of Georgia in Tbilisi—was made in a Roman military workshop in Phasis and shipped south.

The Tsikhisdziri site is identified by the mainstream scholarly opinion with the Roman city-fortress of Petra, founded at the behest of the emperor Justinian I in 535 and, after a series of battles for the possession of that city during the Lazic War with Sasanid Iran, demolished by the Romans themselves to prevent it again becoming the enemy's target in 551.[9] Later, the locale continued to be home to a stronghold of some importance, namely, the Devils' Fortress, ts'ikhe k'ajet'isa, mentioned by the Georgian scholar Prince Vakhushti in his 1745 geography as situated near the small town of Kobuleti, on "the edge of the sea,...strong, built on a high cliff, possessing a rocky tunnel, curved as a road". By Vakhushti's time, the village had been under the Ottoman sway. During the Russo-Turkish War (1828-29), Tsikhisdziri, then one of the frontier settlements between the Ottoman-dominated Adjara and the Russian-controlled Guria, saw fighting between the two empires.

Common borders. Common solutions.



Things to do

The resort beaches are divided into two parts - Southern and Northern. Southern large-pebble beaches differ from the northern ones for their deep waters, which makes them attractive for scuba divers. Northern beaches are not so steep which is good for swimming and consequently are more popular. The resort is also known as a health-improving centre. The maritime air and saline baths are perfect for curing respiratory, cardiovascular diseases and nervous system problems.

In the rock Tsikhisdziri there is a grotto. But you can't get there from the shore. When there are no waves, it is necessary to swim along the cliff 10-15 meters. On sunny days, in the grotto and near the coast you can catch mussels and mullet. Large stones 20 meters from the shore broke off a cliff thousands of years ago. The depth of the bottom there is about 3 meters. Daredevils climb and dive from them, but this is not safe. From the gazebo on the ledge, from a height of 17 meters, you can see and hear how the waves break on a rock, stones and a grotto.

Tsikhisdziri beach stretches for 2 km to the village of Buknari. Due to the small pebbles, the sea water is always clean. 30 years ago there worked several pensions and rest homes, a campground. Now this beach is one of the cleanest and free. In August, in Batumi or Kobuleti by the sea, there is no place for an apple, but here you can choose a place and admire the silhouette of Batumi. A sloping elevator descends onto the beach. The 89m track is unparalleled, and there is a bar at the bottom station. The coastline of Tsikhisdziri faces the West, and the summer sun sets on the center of the horizon. Due to this coincidence, there are incredibly beautiful sunsets, where the sun colors the sky and merges with the sea.

Common borders. Common solutions.

Things to see

Petra



Tsikhisdziri is home to an archaeological site and ruins of a late antique fortified town, which is identified by mainstream scholarship with the Roman built city fortress of Petra. The territory has been settled since ancient times. In the 6th century, the Byzantine emperor Justinian built the city of Petra.

Archaeological excavations in and around the Tsikhisdziri fortress revealed cultural layers that date back to the first millennium BC. However, the settlement acquired particular importance from 530s. Petra was situated on a

Common borders. Common solutions.



very important military and trade route, which connected the Byzantine Empire with Western Georgia (Lazica), Armenia, and Iran. It had an essential role in

controlling sea and coastal navigation from Byzantium to the eastern shore of the Black sea. It was its location and fortification that made Petra one of the most significant strategic points for the Byzantine political and military domination in Lazica. The city became one of the main battlefields during the Lazic War between the Byzantine Empire and Sassanid Persia that lasted for twenty years, from 541 to 562, with varying success. The story of sieges of Petra first by Persians and then by Byzantines is told by Procopius of Caesarea. He describes Petra as hard-to-reach stronghold, protected by sea, rocky hills and fortification. Nowadays, Tsikhisdziri preserves the remains of the city acropolis. However, archeological excavations testify that territory of Petra was even larger and was extended to the lowland, to the north of the acropolis. Presumably, the significant part of the city is covered by the sea. As witnessed by Byzantine chronicles, architectural monuments, and archeological materials, the sixth century was the prosperity time of the city. It retained its defensive importance in the Middle Ages. In fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the fortress belonged to the semi-independent Guria Principality. In 1570s, it was captured by Ottomans and remained under their rule until 1878. Ottomans repaired the fortress and kept a small garrison there. Activity of Ottomans in the fortress is confirmed by archeological materials found during excavations. In 1878, together with other parts of Adjara, Tsikhisdziri was annexed by the Russian Empire in accordance with the Treaty of San Stefano between Russia and the Ottoman Empire. The archeological investigations of the territory of Petra started in the 1930s and continue until now. Discoveries on acropolis and adjacent areas cover discoveries cover a broad range of time from pre-antiquity up to late medieval and early modern periods. At present, the site functions as a museum-reserve.



Types of alternative Tourism

There are numerous alternative types of tourism visitors can enjoy while visiting Batumi and Tsikhisdziri.

Ecotourism

Resident or migratory bird watching, observing terraces of humid subtropical forests, walking on sand dunes, swimming on a motorboat, visiting sphagnum swamps, ziplining, hiking to breathtakingly beautiful lakes, sightseeing of cultural monuments, monasteries and arch bridges, hiking or riding a horse to the extraordinary villages of Adjara - This is only a small list of ecotourism activities that Adjara protected territories offer.

Its four protected territories are all netted with hiking trails, bicycle paths, picnic spots and camping sites. The local landscape is suitable for hiking tours, horse riding, scientific and ecotourism. Its well-kept and pristine nature, lush green environment, waterfalls, lakes, rivers and protected territories - endemic and relict specimens, mountains close to the sky and the sea with its unique ecosystem is heaven for tourists with the specific preference of any of the above. Kobuleti, Kintrishi, Mtirala, and Machakhela protected territories, Batumi Botanical Garden, Green Lake, Goderdzi forest, sand dunes and a few other breathtaking places will be a new discovery for you.

SkiTourism

A range of options is available for skiing enthusiasts in Adjara. At an altitude of 2000 - 2500, the climate is humid here, winter relatively cold and long while summer is short and cool. In the highlands of Adjara construction of ski resorts are undergoing intensively. They are not only suitable for winter sports aficionados but offer healthcare and recreational conditions on all seasons of the year. Ski resort 'Goderdzi', located 2350m above sea level, has already been opened, receiving over 20 000 guests per year.

Winter stands out by heavy snowfalls here, which stay on the ground until the end of March. January is the coldest month and August-the warmest on the resort. Goderdzi is one of the 'youngest' ski resorts in Georgia which was officially opened by the 'Mountain Resorts Development Company' on December 5, 2015. Because Goderdzi is abundant in the snow, the skiing season opens

Common borders. Common solutions.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



SaBS
Sailing across the Black Sea



relatively early and ends late, compared to other ski resorts. Beautiful views, clean air, well-groomed skiing trails attract many skiers. Amongst those, who are keen on crossing unmarked snow, the untouched, snowy slopes of the resort

evoke excitement. The ski season starts on Goderdzi in early December. Its ski-trail length is 8 km, with two types of cable roads-one with a cab that accommodates 8 people and another a bubble which takes in 6 people. You can rent a ski, a sled or a snowboard here, as well as an instructor's service.

Soon the resort will accommodate 7000 skiers, allowing services at comfortable winter cottages, and hotels. Visitors will be able to enjoy good infrastructure, and cable cars there. The season on the resort continues even after the snow melts. Summers are for hiking, horse riding, and cycling here. In case of pre-order one can enjoy paragliding as well. Close by the resort, there is a favourite place of hikers - Green Lake. Apart from Goderdzi other mountain resorts such as Gomarduli, Qedlebi, and Beshumi will provide cordial hospitality to their guests as well.

Mice Tourism

Numerous international, quality events that are regularly held in Adjara, has earned the region a leading place on the transnational market of MICE. Modern and well-equipped infrastructure, delicious local and Asian cuisine, world-class services, the charming environment is all that determine the development of this specific type of tourism in Adjara.

In addition to international brand hotels such as 'Radisson', 'Hilton', 'Sheraton', 'Wyndham', local hotels offer essential infrastructure and services for high-level meetings, conferences, and exhibitions.

TOURISM TRADE SHOWS and Events:

- Expo Batumi📍 - Batumi International Trade Fair for the Tourism and Hospitality Industry
- AgExBatumi📍 - Batumi International Agri-Products and Technology Fair
- Batumi Build📍 - Batumi International Construction and Design Fair
- Ruralconf.com📍 - International Conference on Rural Tourism

Gastronomy 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.

Common borders. Common solutions.



Wine Tourism

Wine making 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.

Rural Tourism

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.

Birdwatching

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 volume 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.

Villages Sakhalvasho and Chaisubani are located in Kobuleti municipality. Both of them are the best places for those, who share information about ecology and migration of raptors. The marked routes lead visitors directly to equipped platforms for bird watching). Despite these villages, bird watching is also possible in Mtirala National Park, Ispani Bog (Kobuleti protected areas) and Chorokhi delta (Khelvachauri municipality).

Since 2012 year, "Batumi Bird Festival" Annually held in Ajara Region. It is important event for bird watchers and many foreigners visit Ajara region in September for the Festival. The idea of festival belongs to the international environment protection organization BRC (Batumi Raptor Count) and it is supported by the Department of Tourism and Resorts of Ajara.

Common borders. Common solutions.

Events/Festivals

With its diverse historic-cultural monuments, festivals and cultural events, Batumi is a real discovery for cultural tourism lovers. Batumi represents the cultural epicenter of the region. It hosts various cultural, sport and scientific events, folk holidays, international music and film festivals.

Events:

- Black Sea 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
- Bird Watching Festival (September)
- Batumi Street Art Festival
- Rural Tourism Festival "Gandagana" (October)
- Summer Festival (June)
- International Festival of Advertising "Ad Black Sea"
- Black Sea Folklore International Festival (August-September)
- From Easter to Ascension (May-June)
- Mono performances Festival
- International Theatre Festival "Debut"
- Orthodox Film International Festival "Saint Andrew's Cross"
- Batumi City Festival "Batumboba" - September

Folk Holidays:

- Shuamtoba (August)
- Machakhloba (September)
- Kedeloba (October)
- Chakvistaoba (September)
- Selimoba (June)
- Kolkhoba (August)
- Autumn in Keda (October)



Plan Your Trip

Batumi has a wide variety of accommodation options, ranging from 1-star guesthouses to luxury hotels with panoramic views of the Black Sea. You can find more accommodation at <http://gobatumi.com/en> and www.booking.com

Luxury



Sheraton Batumi- HIGH CLASS HOTELS



28 Rustaveli street



995597818838



reservation.batumi@sheraton.com



Piazza boutique-HIGH CLASS HOTELS



25 Parnavaz mepe street



591 00 56 15



info@piazza.ge

Common borders. Common solutions.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



SaBS
Sailing across the Black Sea



Hilton Batumi-HIGH CLASS HOTELS



35 Ninoshvili Street



0422222299



batumi.info@hilton.com

Middle budget

Black Sea Star-MIDDLE BUDGET HOTELS



17 Zubalashvili Street



+995 593 80 17 17



info@blackseastar.ge



Hotel Old Town-MIDDLE BUDGET HOTELS



V. Gorgasali



577 45 84 71



old.town2014@mail.ru



Common borders. Common solutions.



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION

Low Budget



Orbi Plaza Batumi-APARTHOTELS



Kobaladze str. #4



555 51 19 06



info@holidaylux.ge

Hotels in Tsikhisdziri



Castello Mare Hotel & Wellness Resort-HIGH CLASS
HOTELS



Tsikhisdziri



591 12 28 28



info@castellomare.com



El-Lizi Guesthouse



Tsikhisdziri district stalin 2 # 15,kobuleti District
Stalin 2-15,



591 00 52 92



Common borders. Common solutions.



**Sailing Across the Black Sea-SaBS
ICSRPA**

Date of publishing; August, 2019

Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020 is co-financed by the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Instrument and by the participating countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.

„This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of ICSRPA and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union”.

Common borders. Common solutions.