

You really must see...



...the hillside village of Bakhmaro...



...the Ozurgeti municipality...



...and Nabeghlavi, set in rolling hills

# Guria

## WELCOME TO GURIA

With such diverse natural surroundings, there's something for everyone in Guria. From the beautiful subtropical landscapes, to the Black Sea coastline, from the sweeping lowlands to the majestic snowy mountains, it's truly a unique and magical destination.

There's plenty to keep you busy in Guria, whether you're into hiking, kayaking, fishing, or just relaxing on the beach. Your local hosts will give you a warm and jovial welcome; and will no doubt encourage you to try local dishes.

## RURAL TOURISM

You'll be charmed by the picturesque local villages, characterised by their charming green yards with wooden houses, "kitchen-houses" and high barns for corn, displaying corn kernels spread out like beads and pumpkins drying in the sun.

The region is abounding with citrus plantations and fruit gardens, plus a wide range of local production like tea, nuts, grapes and corn. In fact, Guria is the birthplace of Georgian Tea.

Guria is a region rich in ancient traditions. In particular, music and singing have always played an important role and the world famous Georgian polyphonic music was developed there – enchanting songs with beautiful harmonies intertwining different melodies.

Today, music still plays a large part in local traditions and events, like "Kalanda", a fun and colorful local Christmas event, or "Aguna" a charming celebration of the region's grape-harvesting and winemaking. Involving the whole community these events provide great entertainment for locals and visitors alike.

Gurians enjoy their sport too. For instance, "Lelo", a rugby-like game dating back to ancient times, is still played at Easter in some remote villages. In Shukhuti, two teams of men from neighboring villages have a mad scrum as they attempt to carry a 16kg ball



over the river to the opposing side. Of course formalities are swiftly set aside as the whole village erupts into a massive free-for-all.

## ADVENTURE

The wonderful, high, snowy mountains of Guria provide lots of hiking and walking opportunities, offering spectacular views for miles. Join a hike through the mountain forests for glimpses of the local wildlife, including bears, wolves, deer, martens, and bobcats. Fishermen flock to Guria for the amazing number and variety of fish in the rivers, with the likes of lamprey, sheatfish, perch, trout, and gudgeon. And if it's adventure you're after, these same rivers also offer great opportunities for rafting and kayaking.

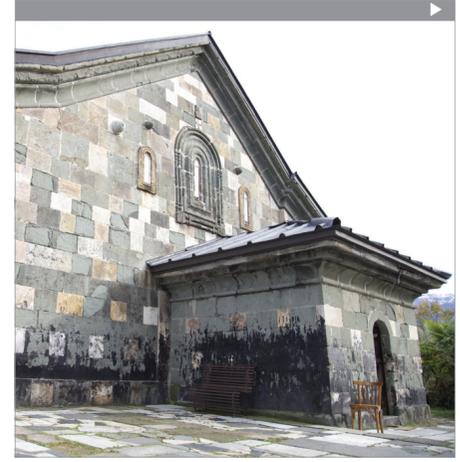
Horse riding has long been popular with the Gurian people and during the 1880s in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show Gurian riders received worldwide recognition. Newspapers and magazines of the time depict them as brave, fearless, mighty riders who were able to perform amazing stunts while riding a horse. Riders were from all levels of the society – farmers as well as aristocrats and were so impressive even Queen Victoria of Great Britain sent them a letter of gratitude.

## CULTURE

**Ozurgeti Historical Museum**  
This is a fascinating museum packed with archaeological collections of weapons, sculptures and currency from the Stone and Bronze Age right up to the 19th century. It even houses the sword of Napoleon.

**Niko Berdzenishvili Chokhatauri Local Museum**  
With over 150,000 items, this is an extensive collection of local archaeological discoveries from Georgian, Roman, Byzantine and Oriental history. With a vast range of weapons, including swords daggers and rifles, and an amazing collection of jewelry, utensils, currency and handwritten manuscripts and poems, it provides an in-depth view of the local history and culture.

**The Church of Archangels of Jumati**  
The Church of Archangels of Jumati Monastery, near Chokhatauri, was once the residence of the Archbishop of Guria. Of particular note is a medieval temple painted in the 16-18th centuries.



## Askana Temple

Askana Temple has had many alterations over the years; the first addition dates back to the early feudal period, while the newest changes occurred in the 19th century. The nearby Likhauri Church and its belfry were constructed in 1422.

## Monuments

Other historic places of interest include the Gurieli Church and Palace, the artificial caves of Khoreti and Gaguri, Bukistsikhe Castle, Goraberejuli Castle and Church (from the 17th century), Upper Erketi Church, and the Udabno Monastery Complex.

## Shemokmedi Monastery Complex

The village of Shemokmedi, near Ozurgeti has a fascinating history and is home to the Shemokmedi Monastery. During the Middle Ages, it was one of the biggest cultural-educational centers in the region. Its temple housed a very rich library with lots of manuscripts and golden engravings and served as the residence for archbishops as well as the burial site for local nobility. The second temple of the complex is a church dating back to the 16th century.

## RESORTS

**Ureki**  
Ureki is a health resort on the Black Sea shore, world-renowned for its amazing magnetic sand beaches. The healing benefits of this magnetic energy were used by Egyptians, Greeks and Indian Yogis for treatment of different diseases including anti-inflammatory and painkilling properties.



## Bakhmaro

Known for its healthy and invigorating fresh mountain air, the village of Bakhmaro is located in the district of Chokhatauri, on the Meskheti Mountain range. It sits on top of the gorge of the Bakhvistskali River, 1,926 - 2,050 metres above sea level, and the mixture of the sea and mountain air results in a unique local climate – a great benefit for those who have health problems and can benefit from humid, clean air and healthy food.



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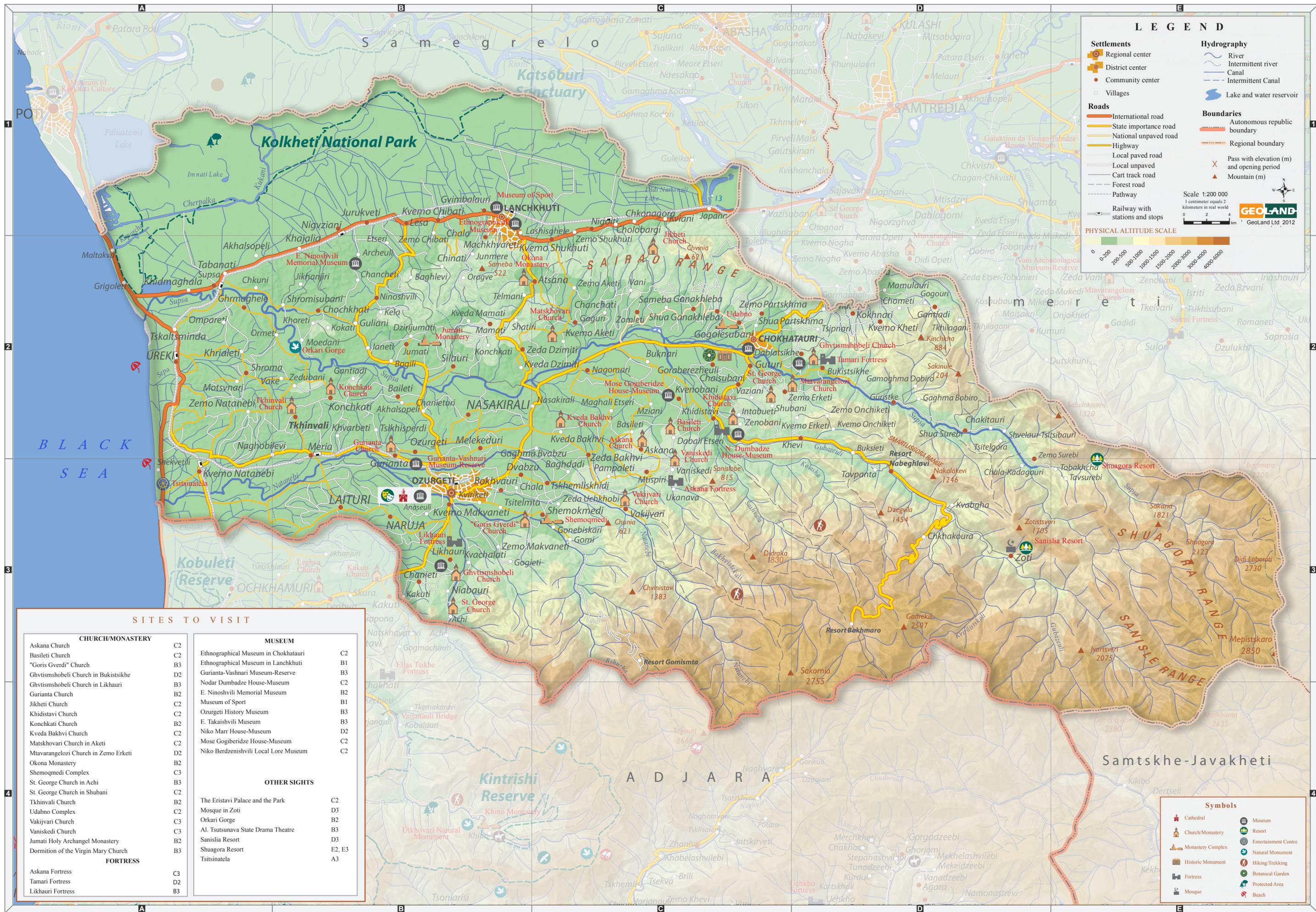
**GETTING AROUND**  
Guria is located in western Georgia. Part of the northern edge of the region is located on the Colchis lowland, while to the south-east Guria extends as far as the Meskheti Mountain range. Guria shares a border with Samegrelo to the north, Imreli to the east, Samtskhe-Javakheti in the south-east, Adjara to the south and the Black Sea on the west.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**  
Minibuses run regularly to Guria from Tbilisi, "Sadguri Square", Bus Station (4, Karabeli St.).  
Taxis can be hired from the city.  
Trains travel daily from Tbilisi Central Railway Station (2, Station Square).



Country of life

ENGLISH



### LEGEND

**Settlements**

- Regional center
- District center
- Community center
- Villages

**Roads**

- International road
- State importance road
- National unpaved road
- Highway
- Local paved road
- Local unpaved
- Cart track road
- Forest road
- Pathway
- Railway with stations and stops

**Hydrography**

- River
- Intermittent river
- Canal
- Intermittent Canal
- Lake and water reservoir

**Boundaries**

- Autonomous republic boundary
- Regional boundary
- Pass with elevation (m) and opening period
- Mountain (m)

Scale 1:200 000  
1 centimeter equals 2 kilometers in real world

**PHYSICAL ALTITUDE SCALE**

0 200 500 1000 1500 2000 3000 4000 5000

Geoland Ltd, 2012

### SITES TO VISIT

CHURCH/MONASTERY		MUSEUM	
Askana Church	C2	Ethnographical Museum in Chokhatauri	C2
Basileti Church	C2	Ethnographical Museum in Lanchkhuti	B1
"Goris Gverdi" Church	B3	Gurianta-Vashnari Museum-Reserve	B3
Ghvtismshobeli Church in Bukistsikhe	D2	Nodar Dumbadze House-Museum	C2
Ghvtismshobeli Church in Likhauri	B3	E. Ninoshvili Memorial Museum	B2
Gurianta Church	B2	Museum of Sport	B1
Jikheti Church	C2	Ozurgeti History Museum	B3
Khidistavi Church	C2	E. Takaisvili Museum	B3
Konchkati Church	B2	Niko Marr House-Museum	D2
Kveda Bakhvi Church	C2	Mose Gogiberidze House-Museum	C2
Matskhovari Church in Aketi	C2	Niko Berdenishvili Local Lore Museum	C2
Mtavangelozhi Church in Zemo Erketi	D2		
Okona Monastery	B2		
Shemoqmedi Complex	C3		
St. George Church in Achi	B3		
St. George Church in Shubani	C2		
Tkhinvali Church	B2		
Udabno Complex	C2		
Vakijvari Church	C3		
Vaniskedi Church	C3		
Jumati Holy Archangel Monastery	B2		
Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church	B3		
FORTRESS		OTHER SIGHTS	
Askana Fortress	C3	The Eristavi Palace and the Park	C2
Tamari Fortress	D2	Mosque in Zoti	D3
Likhauri Fortress	B3	Orkari Gorge	B2
		Al. Tsutsunava State Drama Theatre	B3
		Sanislia Resort	D3
		Shuagora Resort	E2, E3
		Tsitsinatela	A3

### Symbols

- Cathedral
- Church/Monastery
- Monastery Complex
- Historic Monument
- Fortress
- Mosque
- Museum
- Resort
- Entertainment Centre
- Natural Monument
- Hiking/Trekking
- Botanical Garden
- Protected Area
- Beach