

[Destinations in Georgia](#) › Abkhazia

Region 7 h by car from Tbilisi 3 h 30 min by car from Kutaisi 3 h 45 min by car from Batumi Population

Abkhazia is a region — a region of Georgia, about 7 h by car from Tbilisi, 3 h 30 min from Kutaisi and about 102,000 people.

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Abkhazia

By [Nino Gelashvili](#), GTour desk · Reviewed against Georgian law and current foreign-ministry advice · [Editorial policy](#)

Overview

Abkhazia is the north-western region of Georgia, between the Black Sea and the main Caucasus ridge, with S law and in the view of the United Nations and almost all governments, it is part of Georgia. Since the 1992–9 the Georgian government and is today occupied: Russian forces are stationed there and Russia recognised a s Georgia and the international community reject.

For a visitor this has one practical consequence above all others: **Abkhazia cannot be visited as part of a tr** boundary line on the Enguri river is closed to foreign travellers, and entering the region from the Russian side law. GTour does not offer tours there and does not advise attempting to go.

What the law says

Georgia's [Law on Occupied Territories](#) (2008) defines Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region (South Ossetia) as to them. Foreign citizens may lawfully enter only from the Georgian-controlled side and only with a special p humanitarian and official purposes, not tourism. Entry from the Russian Federation — by road from Sochi/A and a person who has done so can be refused entry to Georgia, fined or prosecuted when they later arrive at a airport. Border records and passport stamps from the Russian side are checked.

The same law treats economic activity in the region — buying property, running a business, organising tours authorisation.

What foreign governments advise

The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office advises against all travel to Abkhazia: [risks page for Georgia](#). Other governments publish equivalent advice. Travel insurance policies normally exclude visitors who entered would also be uninsured.

Seeing the region from the Georgian side

What a visitor can legitimately do is understand the situation from Samegrelo, the Georgian region that borders near the boundary; the Dadiani palace and park are open, and the town hosts many people displaced from Abkhazia. The Rioni hydroelectric dam, one of the tallest arch dams in the world, sits on the boundary and can be seen from the Georgian side before the line. Tbilisi's [Georgian National Museum](#) covers the modern history of the conflict in its Soviet Occupation

Questions travellers ask

Can I visit Abkhazia on a trip to Georgia?

No. The boundary is closed to foreign visitors and Georgia does not issue tourist permits. GTour does not org

What happens if I enter from Russia and then come to Georgia?

Entry from the Russian side is a criminal offence under the Law on Occupied Territories. You can be denied entry, fined, or face prosecution. The risk is real and GTour's advice is simply not to do it.

Is it safe?

Foreign ministries advise against all travel. There is no consular protection, insurance does not apply, and the same as above.

Why does Georgia consider Abkhazia occupied?

Because Russian troops control it without Georgia's consent and Russia's 2008 recognition of a separate state as South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Georgia's position is set out in its national law and supported by UN General Assembly resolutions. It is for the benefit of the people.

Where can I learn about the conflict respectfully?

Zugdidi, the Enguri dam viewpoint, and the Georgian National Museum in Tbilisi. GTour's private drivers can also offer a Svaneti itinerary.

Sources

- [Law of Georgia on Occupied Territories — Legislative Herald of Georgia](#)
- [UK FCDO — Georgia travel advice, regional risks](#)
- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia](#)

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Interested in Samegrelo and the Black Sea lowlands? A GTour travel expert designs the route and calls you to plan the trip.

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Abkhazia is a region of Georgia on the north-eastern Black Sea coast, historically celebrated for its natural beauty, including the Ritsa and the medieval churches of Pitsunda and Mokvi. Since the early 1990s it has been outside Georgian government and is not accessible to visitors from the Georgian side. GTour does not organise travel to Abkhazia for completeness of Georgia's regions.

Travellers interested in the Black Sea will find the accessible coast in Ajara, Guria and Samegrelo.

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Facts and travel times: Georgian National Tourism Administration. Text and selection: GTour.

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GTour — Gateway to Georgia

Castle in Old Town, 3 Betlemi Rise, Tbilisi

+995 577 416 314 · info@castle.ge

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