

[Destinations in Georgia](#) › Kakheti

Region    1 h 50 min by car from Tbilisi    5 h 10 min by car from Kutaisi    7 h 15 min by car from Batumi    Pop

**Kakheti** is a region — a region of Georgia, about 1 h 50 min by car from Tbilisi, 5 h 10 min from Kutaisi. Home to about 310,051 people.

G Tour — [gtour.ge](https://gtour.ge) · Printable guide · generated 2026-10-25 · <https://gtour.ge/georgia/kakheti/>

---

# Kakheti

*Guide last checked by the GTour desk on 16 October 2026. Latest news for this region is listed below automatically.*

## Why go

Kakheti is Georgia's principal wine region, a broad valley of vineyards, oak forests, and fortified hilltop towns. Qvevri winemaking, a UNESCO-listed method of fermenting wine in buried clay vessels, is still practised in the region. The area also holds some of the country's oldest churches and monasteries, a walled town with views to the Caucasus, and the Azerbaijan border.

Visitors come for wine tastings, harvest season, and a slower pace than Tbilisi offers, combined with easy day

## When to go

- **September–October:** harvest time, the grape harvest, with open-air pressing and new wine tastings at family wineries.
- **Late spring:** green vineyards, mild weather, fewer visitors.
- **Winter:** quiet, some guesthouses close, but cellars and churches remain open; mountain passes can be affected by snow before travelling.

## Getting there

Kakheti is reached from Tbilisi by road in roughly 1.5–2 hours, depending on the destination. Telavi and Signaki both have paved, well-maintained highway connections. Public marshrutkas (minibuses) run from Tbilisi, but

allows stops at wineries and churches along the way. GTour operates a [Kakheti wine day tour and a two-day \]](#) without the logistics of self-driving.

## What to see

### Telavi and around

- [Telavi](#), the regional capital, with the Batonis Tsikhe royal fortress and old town.
- [Tsinandali estate](#), the Chavchavadze family house and park, and one of the region's best-known wine bran
- [Ikalto academy](#), a ruined monastic school linked to medieval Georgian learning.

### Churches and monasteries

- [Alaverdi cathedral](#), an 11th-century church still tended by monks who produce their own wine.
- [Gremi citadel](#), a former royal capital with a hilltop church and museum.
- [Nekresi monastery](#), set on a forested hillside above the plain.
- [Bodbe convent](#), burial place of St Nino, near Signaghi.
- [Davit Gareji](#), a cave monastery complex in semi-desert on the Azerbaijan border, about 1.5 hours from Sig

### Towns and wine country

- [Signaghi](#), a walled hilltop town with cobbled streets and views across the valley to the Caucasus.
- [Kvareli](#), source of Kindzmarauli wine, with the Khareba tunnel cellar and Ilia lake nearby.
- Family wineries across the region, where qvevri wine and chacha can be tasted directly with producers.

### Nature and border areas

- [Lagodekhi national park](#), with forest trails and waterfalls on the Caucasus slopes.
- [Vashlovani reserve](#), a remote semi-arid landscape in the far east of the region.
- [Pankisi valley](#), a Kist (Chechen-Georgian) community area with its own food traditions and guesthouses.

## A three-day plan

**Day 1 – Telavi and the academies.** Drive from Tbilisi to Telavi (about 1.5–2 hours). Visit Batonis Tsikhe, th Alaverdi cathedral. Overnight in Telavi or at a nearby winery guesthouse.

**Day 2 – Gremi, Nekresi, Kvareli.** Short drives link Gremi citadel, Nekresi monastery, and Kvareli town, wh arranged, with time by Ilia lake. Overnight in Kvareli or Telavi.

**Day 3 – Signaghi and Bodbe.** Drive south to Signaghi (around 1–1.5 hours from Kvareli). Walk the town early start, add a half-day extension to Davit Gareji (about 1.5 hours each way from Signaghi) before return

This plan can be shortened to a single long day for the wine-focused route, or extended with Lagodekhi or Va the [regional guides](#) for variations.

## Where to stay

- **Sighnaghi:** small hotels and guesthouses within the walled town, good for walking and views.
- **Telavi:** a practical base with a wider range of hotels, closer to Alaverdi, Ikalto, and Gremi.
- **Winery guesthouses:** rooms attached to family or estate wineries, often including meals and tastings, found in the Tsinandali area.

GTour's verified register lists hotels and guesthouses for the region below, checked for standards and location.

## Eat and drink

- **Qvevri wine:** amber and red wines fermented in buried clay vessels; look for small producers as well as large ones in the Kakheti region, such as Khareba.
- **Kindzmarauli:** a semi-sweet red associated with Kvareli.
- **Chacha:** grape pomace spirit, often offered at the end of a meal or tasting.
- **Khinkali and khachapuri:** found regionally, alongside Kakhetian specialities such as kuchmachi (offal stew) and khachapuri.
- **Churchkhela:** strings of nuts dipped in grape-juice paste, sold widely, especially around harvest.

## Practical notes

- **Money:** the Georgian lari is used everywhere; cards are accepted in towns and larger wineries, but cash is preferred in guesthouses.
- **Connectivity:** mobile coverage is reliable in towns; it can be patchy in Vashlovani, parts of Lagodekhi, and other remote areas.
- **Roads:** main routes to Telavi and Sighnaghi are paved and in good condition; side roads to monasteries are often unpaved and have a **status** in winter or after heavy rain.
- **Safety:** Davit Gareji and Vashlovani sit near the Azerbaijan border; keep to marked paths and posted areas, and avoid border zones.
- **Wine tastings:** pace visits across a day, since tastings at multiple cellars add up; a guided tour removes the need to drive.

## Quick answers

**How far is Kakheti from Tbilisi?** About 1.5 to 2 hours by road, depending on the specific town or site.

**What is the best time to visit for wine?** September and October, during the rtveli grape harvest.

**Should I base myself in Telavi or Sighnaghi?** Telavi suits a wine-and-monastery itinerary in the north; Sighnaghi is a more scenic town, Bodbe, and Davit Gareji.

**Is Davit Gareji easy to combine with Kakheti?** Yes, it is roughly 1.5 hours from Signaghi and is often add

**Do I need a car to visit wineries?** Not necessarily; a guided tour or private transfer is practical given tasting

**Is Kakheti suitable for a day trip from Tbilisi?** Yes, for the main wine towns and monasteries, though a tw

## Latest news for Kakheti



NEW OPENINGS

### Tbilisi's Telegraph Hotel Opens in Converted Brutalist Building

26 October 2026 · David Kiknadze



TRAVEL GUIDES

### Georgia visa and entry 365-day stay, e-visa and

26 October 2026 · Nino Gelashvil



BEST OF GEORGIA



NEW OPENINGS

## Best day trips from Tbilisi

25 October 2026 · Mariam Lomidze



FESTIVALS & EVENTS

### Above Tbilisi: Hot Air Ballooning Over the Kvemo Kartli Steppe

25 October 2026 · David Kiknadze

## Planet Hollywood Hote

25 October 2026 · David Kiknadz



SAFARI NEWS

### Kenya's Elephants: Fro Recovery

25 October 2026 · Safari News —

#### PLAN YOUR GEORGIA

Tell us your dates and what you love. A GTour travel expert designs a private itinerary and calls you back

START PLANNING

WHATSAPP US

Sources and updates: <https://gtour.ge/georgia/kakheti/> · G Tour is a brand of Sheni LLC, Tbilisi · [info@castle.ge](mailto:info@castle.ge) · WhatsApp +9

on the page; photos CC-licensed from Wikimedia Commons where stated.

#### SHARE

WHATSAPP

TELEGRAM

FACEBOOK

X

LINKEDIN

COPY LINK

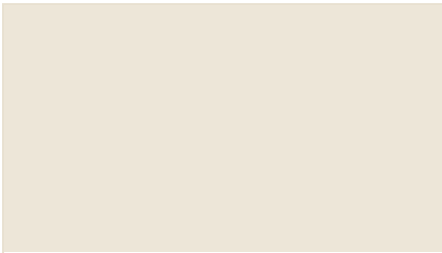
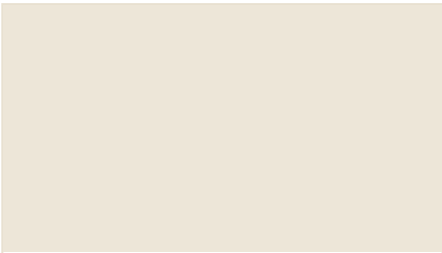
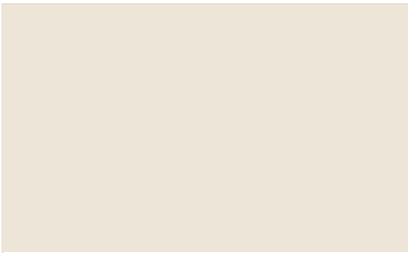
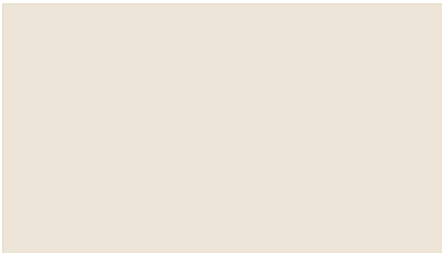
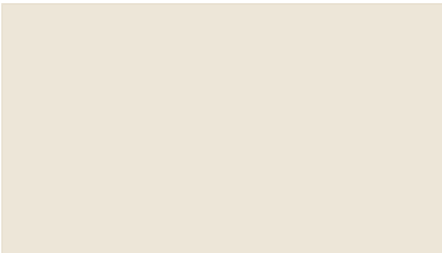
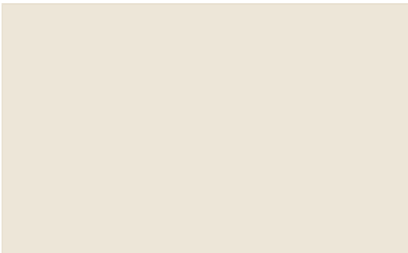
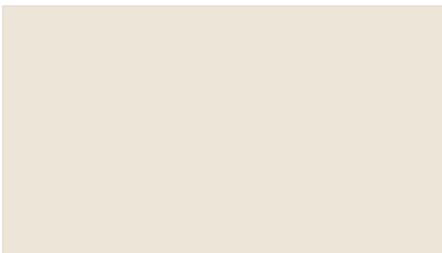
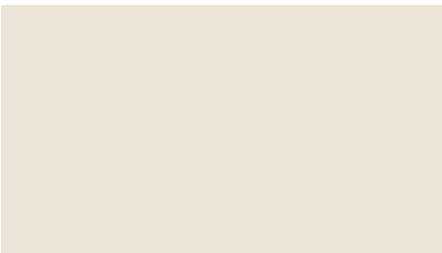
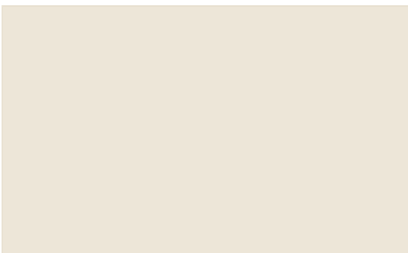
PLAN A PRIVATE TOUR TO KAKHETI

Kakheti is where Georgia keeps its wine, its light and its slowest afternoons. East of Tbilisi the road goes into a wide valley of vineyards, walnut trees and red-roofed villages, with the Caucasus standing in the background. This is the birthplace of qvevri winemaking — grapes fermented in clay vessels buried in the earth — a tradition old and still practised in nearly every family cellar.

Telavi is the working capital; Signaghi, on its hilltop above the Alazani valley, is the pretty one. There's a cathedral, the academy at Ikalto, the painted monastery of Nekresi and hundreds of wineries, from which you can pour amber wine from a jug. The food matches the wine: walnut sauces, roast lamb, fresh chur

Kakheti works as a day trip from Tbilisi, but it is at its best over two or three days, with a night in a village and an unhurried supra table. Late September and October, during the rtveli harvest, are the finest weeks

#### PLACES TO VISIT IN KAKHETI · 17

|                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <div><small>TOWN</small><br/><b>Akhmeta</b></div>    |  <div><small>RESORT</small><br/><b>Arkhiloskalo</b></div> |  <div><small>VILLAGE</small><br/><b>Bodbe</b></div>              |
|  <div><small>TOWN</small><br/><b>Gurjaani</b></div>  |  <div><small>VILLAGE</small><br/><b>Ikalto</b></div>     |  <div><small>VILLAGE</small><br/><b>Kalauri</b></div>           |
|  <div><small>TOWN</small><br/><b>Lagodekhi</b></div> |  <div><small>VILLAGE</small><br/><b>Manavi</b></div>     |  <div><small>ATTRACTION</small><br/><b>Nadikvari Park</b></div> |

VILLAGE

**Shalauri**

TOWN

**Sighnaghi**

TOWN

**Telavi**

TOWN

**Tsnori**

GTour TOURS THAT VISIT KAKHETI

PRIVATE TOUR

**Rtveli — Wine Harvest in  
Kakheti (3 Days, September–  
October)**

PRIVATE TOUR

**Georgia in Winter —  
Gudauri Skiing, Tbilisi &  
Kakheti (6 Days)**

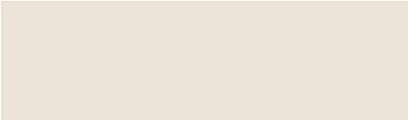
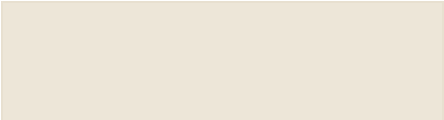
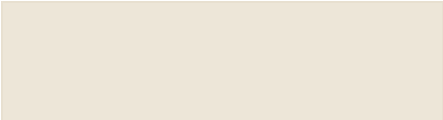
PRIVATE TOUR

**Kakheti Wine Country —  
Day Trip**

PRIVATE TOUR

**Kakheti Grand Wine &  
Heritage — 3 Days**

VERIFIED PLACES IN KAKHETI



WINE

**iasés marani**

WINE

**TEMI COMMUNITY WINE  
CELLAR**

GASTRONOMY

**Prince Alexander restaurant**

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

**Sighnaghi Tourist  
Information Center**

WINE

**Marani Velistsikhuri**

WINE

**VINERIA KAKHETI**

[Browse all verified places →](#)

SHARE

WHATSAPP

TELEGRAM

FACEBOOK

X

LINKEDIN

COPY LINK

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

ქართულად: [შენი დასვენება](#)

## GTour — Gateway to Georgia

Castle in Old Town, 3 Betlemi Rise, Tbilisi

+995 577 416 314 · [info@castle.ge](mailto:info@castle.ge)

[WhatsApp us](#)

## Explore

[Tours](#)

[Destinations](#)

[Verified places](#)

[All places A–Z](#)

[Travel news](#)

[Events calendar](#)

[Map of Georgia](#)

[Travel services](#)

[PDF guides](#)

## GTour

[Verified by GTour](#)

[About](#)

[Privacy & Cookies](#)

[Terms](#)

[Contact](#)

[Legal notice](#)

[Policies & terms](#)

[Booking conditions](#)

[Team](#)

[Staff login](#)

---

© 2026 GTour · Castle in Old Town · Tbilisi, Georgia · G Tour is a brand of Sheni LLC (შპს „შენი“), ID 406548222 · part of the Sheni Network · [Legal notice](#)

This page in other languages: [Русский](#)