

Batumi Travel Guide

Batumi: Georgia's Coastal Gem
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Things to do in Batumi

Landmarks & Monuments

Batumi's iconic landmarks reflect centuries of cultural confluence, from modern architectural statements to carefully preserved historical structures that define the city's skyline.

Ali Pasha Mosque Must See

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

An architectural masterpiece built in 1999, this stunning mosque features distinctive blue tilework and commanding presence on Batumi Boulevard. The minaret offers panoramic views of the Black Sea and surrounding mountains. Open to visitors outside prayer times with respectful dress required.

Batumi Boulevard (Sarpi Avenue) Must See

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A picturesque seaside promenade stretching 6 km along the Black Sea with landscaped gardens, sculpture installations, cafes, and shops. Ideal for evening strolls with breathtaking sunset views and access to pebble beaches below.

Piazza Square Top Pick

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

A charming public square in the Old Town featuring colored Victorian buildings, outdoor cafes, and street performers. The centerpiece fountain and surrounding architecture create an authentic Mediterranean atmosphere perfect for people-watching.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit Batumi Boulevard early morning for peaceful walks and soft light photography
- The Ali Pasha Mosque is especially beautiful at sunset
- Piazza Square is vibrant in evenings with local crowds and street vendors



Museums & Galleries

Explore Batumi's diverse cultural heritage through museums showcasing archaeology, ethnography, and contemporary art in both grand and intimate settings.



Batumi Archaeological Museum Must See
1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Located in a beautiful mansion, this museum houses exceptional artifacts from Greek, Roman, and Georgian periods including sculptures, coins, and pottery. The collection provides insight into Batumi's role as an ancient trading port city throughout millennia.

Samtavisi Church Museum Top Pick
1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

A lesser-known gem featuring religious artifacts, ecclesiastical robes, manuscripts, and sacred objects spanning Georgian Orthodox history. The intimate setting offers a personal connection to Georgian spiritual traditions.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Arrive early to avoid crowds at the Archaeological Museum
- Photography may be restricted in some areas—ask staff first
- Guided tours available in multiple languages for better context



Religious Sites

Sacred spaces and spiritual landmarks reflecting the city's position at the crossroads of faiths, showcasing Georgian Orthodox heritage alongside Ottoman-era structures.



Metekhi Church Must See
30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

An ancient church with roots dating back centuries, featuring beautiful stone masonry and Orthodox iconography. Located near the old fortress area, it represents continuous Georgian Christian presence and serves an active congregation.

Xaneti Church (Church of St. Nicholas) Top Pick
45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A beautiful Orthodox church with distinctive architecture situated on a promontory overlooking the sea. The peaceful interior features religious art and offers serene moments of reflection with maritime vistas through windows.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Dress modestly when visiting active churches
- Services often occur in evenings—visit outside service times as a tourist
- Early morning visits provide peaceful atmospheres and golden light



Parks & Gardens

Batumi's renowned botanical gardens and urban green spaces showcase subtropical flora and create tranquil retreats from the bustling city center.



Batumi Botanical Garden Must See
2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A 113-hectare paradise featuring plants from around the world organized in distinct zones: Japanese, Bamboo, Rose gardens and subtropical groves. Established in 1912, it's one of the world's finest botanical collections with scenic pathways, viewpoints overlooking the sea, and diverse ecosystems creating microclimates.



Sarpi Park (Central Park) Top Pick
1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An urban green space featuring manicured lawns, walking paths, sculptures, and seating areas overlooking the Black Sea. Perfect for relaxation, picnicking, and observing local life. The park connects directly to the beach and boulevard promenade.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Visit the Botanical Garden early to avoid afternoon heat and crowds
- Wear comfortable shoes—the garden involves significant walking
- Spring and early summer offer the best floral displays
- Bring water and sunscreen for the exposed botanical sections



Beaches & Coastal Areas

Batumi's famous pebble beaches offer refreshing Black Sea swimming, water sports, and relaxation in a subtropical climate with mountain backdrops.

Central Batumi Beach

Must See

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The main urban beach with well-maintained pebble shores, beach bars, water sport rentals, and lifeguard service. Bustling with both tourists and locals, offering easy access to accommodations, restaurants, and the boulevard promenade. Ideal for families and convenient beach days.

Sarpi Beach & Confluence Point

Must See

Half day No Booking Needed



Map

Located 15 km north where the Rioni River meets the Black Sea, this unique beach features calm river waters meeting sea waves. Less crowded alternative with beach bars, restaurants, and opportunities for river swimming alongside sea exploration. Scenic walk leads to nearby nature reserve.

Water Sports & Activities

Top Pick

Book Ahead

1-2 hours Book Ahead



Map

Jet skiing, parasailing, paddleboarding, and beach volleyball available at various beach clubs. Professional instructors available for beginners. Rental shops along the boulevard offer competitive rates and quality equipment for water enthusiasts.

Tips for Beaches & Coastal Areas

- Black Sea water is warm May through October; swimming seasons peak in June-September
- Beaches are pebbly—water shoes recommended
- Beach bars are perfect for sunset viewing with refreshing beverages
- Early morning swimming provides calmest conditions and fewer crowds



Neighborhoods & Districts

Each district offers distinct character, from historic quarters with colonial charm to modern entertainment zones, each with unique dining, shopping, and cultural experiences.

Old Town (Sarashvilebi District)

Must See

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Batumi's historic heart features 19th-century Victorian buildings, narrow winding streets, boutique shops, galleries, and authentic restaurants. The architectural heritage reflects Ottoman and European influences with colorful facades and hidden courtyards. Perfect for photography and cultural immersion.

Casino & Entertainment District

Top Pick

Book Ahead

Evening experience Book Ahead



Map

Modern hotels, casinos, nightclubs, and restaurants concentrated around Chavchavadze Avenue creating Batumi's contemporary tourist hub. Bright lights, international dining options, and evening entertainment make it vibrant after dark.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Explore the Old Town during daytime for atmosphere and shopping
- Wander side streets to discover hidden cafes and local shops
- Evening entertainment district is safest on main thoroughfares
- Street food vendors in Old Town offer delicious local snacks



Tours & Activities

Guided experiences exploring Batumi's natural beauty, history, and culture with professional guides offering specialized knowledge and local insights.

City Walking Tours

Must See

Book Ahead

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Professional guides lead groups through historic quarters, architectural landmarks, and cultural sites while sharing stories of Batumi's trading history and multicultural heritage. Tours available in multiple languages with flexible timing and specialized themes.

Black Sea Boat Excursions

Must See

Book Ahead

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Coastal cruises departing from Batumi harbor offering unique perspectives of cliffs, beaches, and the Sarpi confluence point. Some trips include fishing opportunities, swimming stops, and sunset viewing. Professional crews ensure safety with life jacket provision.

Mountain & Nature Excursions

Top Pick

Book Ahead

4-6 hours Book Ahead

Guided hikes to nearby mountains offering panoramic views, forest trails, and waterfall exploration. Activities range from leisurely nature walks to challenging summit climbs. Professional guides provide safety equipment and expertise for varying fitness levels.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book tours through established operators for safety and reliability
- Bring adequate water and sun protection for outdoor activities
- Early morning boat tours offer calmest seas and best wildlife viewing
- Guides provide invaluable context—well worth the modest booking fees



Day Trips & Excursions

Explore Georgia's diverse attractions within easy reach of Batumi, from mountain villages to historic sites and natural wonders accessible via day excursions.

Sarpi & Rioni River Confluence Must See

Half day from Batumi No Booking Needed

Just 15 km north, this natural phenomenon where the river meets the sea creates striking visual contrasts. Beach villages offer fresh fish restaurants and accommodations. The Sarpi Nature Reserve provides hiking trails through undisturbed ecosystems.



Gonio Fortress Top Pick

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A historic fortress 12 km from Batumi overlooking the Rioni River with origins dating back to the Hellenistic period. Stone walls and towers showcase military architecture while exhibits detail fortification history. Strategic location provides riverside views and insight into regional conflicts.

Sarashvilebi Waterfall (Motiotskhevi Falls) Top Pick

Half day No Booking Needed

A scenic 30-meter waterfall in the Sarashvilebi canyon, 20 km inland. Forest trails lead to swimming pools and picnic areas. Perfect for nature photography and swimming in cool mountain waters. Local guides help navigate canyon paths safely.

Sarpi Village & Beach Top Pick

Half to full day No Booking Needed

A quaint coastal village north of Batumi featuring the river confluence, fish restaurants, small hotels, and a less-crowded alternative beach. Local charm and authentic atmosphere attract photographers and nature enthusiasts seeking quieter experiences.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Rent a car or book organized tours for comfortable day trips
- Gonio Fortress is worth combining with Sarpi beach visit
- Bring proper hiking gear for waterfall hikes and nature trails
- Morning departures ensure maximum daylight for exploration

Practical Information

Summer (June-September): Peak season with warm weather (25-28°C), perfect for beach activities and water sports. Long daylight hours but expect large crowds and higher prices.

Spring (April-May): Mild temperatures (15-22°C), garden blooms, fewer tourists. Excellent for botanical garden exploration and outdoor activities.

Autumn (September-October): Pleasant weather (18-24°C), calmer seas, cultural events. Golden light ideal for photography and comfortable walking tours.

Winter (November-March): Cool temperatures (8-15°C), occasional rain, significantly fewer tourists. Cultural events and New Year celebrations provide unique experiences despite weather.



Getting to Batumi: Batumi International Airport (BUS) has flights from Istanbul, UAE, and European cities. Direct buses from Tbilisi (5-6 hours) via marshrutka (shared minibus) or private shuttles. Train connections available from Tbilisi with scenic mountain passages.

Local Transportation: minibuses (marshrutka) are cheap and frequent, covering city and surrounding areas. Taxis readily available—use official yellow cabs or ride-sharing apps. Beach resort shuttle services often included in hotel packages. Walking is ideal for Old Town and boulevard exploration. Rental cars available for day trips to nearby sites.

Getting to Day Trip Destinations: Organized tours handle Gonio, Sarpi, waterfalls. Alternatively, hire a driver or rent a car. Public minibuses available to Sarpi and Gonio from main station.

➔ Airport Transfer

Batumi International Airport (BUS) to city center:

- **Public Bus:** Bus number 10 runs to Batumi city center in about 20 minutes for roughly 1 GEL
- **Taxi or Bolt/Yandex app:** Ride to central Batumi takes 10 to 15 minutes and costs around 15 to 25 GEL
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked car service to hotels in Batumi or Kobuleti takes 15 to 40 minutes and costs about 40 to 80 GEL
- **Rental Car Pickup:** Counters at the terminal offer cars from about 70 GEL per day for those continuing along the Adjara coast

What to Buy: Georgian wine and brandy (world-class products at excellent prices), traditional khachapuri bread, local nuts and dried fruits, Georgian honey and tea, handcrafted textiles and carpets, lace tablecloths, carved wooden items, and Russian matryoshka dolls.

Where to Shop: Old Town features independent boutiques, craft shops, and galleries. Boulevard promenade has tourist-oriented shops. Batumi Market (near port) offers authentic local goods and bargaining opportunities. Shopping malls along Chavchavadze Avenue provide modern retail experiences with international brands.

Bargaining: Customary in markets and smaller shops—expect 10-20% reductions through friendly negotiation. Fixed prices in restaurants and established shops. Street vendors often willing to negotiate for multiple items.

Best Buys: Wine is exceptional value (premium bottles under \$20). Local honey in decorative jars makes excellent gifts. Handmade souvenirs carry authentic Georgian character at reasonable prices.

Batumi Music Festival (July-August): International classical music performances featuring world-renowned orchestras and soloists in outdoor venues.

Batumi Jazz Festival (June): Multi-day jazz celebrations with performances from Georgian and international artists across multiple stages.

New Year Celebrations (December 31-January 1): Extended festivities with decorations, street parties, fireworks, and special restaurant menus throughout the city.

Georgian National Days: Independence Day (May 26) and Tbilisi Day (October 29) bring parades, cultural performances, and street celebrations.

Orthodox Christian Holidays: Easter celebrations include religious processions and special services. Christmas on January 7 features festive gatherings and traditional foods.

Religious Observances: Ramadan brings evening festive atmospheres in Muslim communities. Islamic holidays celebrated with special meals and community gatherings.

Day 1: Iconic Landmarks & Beaches

Morning: Start with breakfast at a boulevard cafe. Walk Batumi Boulevard admiring architecture and sculptures. Visit Ali Pasha Mosque (45 min). Explore Piazza Square in Old Town discovering colonial buildings and street vendors.



Afternoon: Beach time at Central Batumi Beach. Lunch at beachfront restaurant enjoying local seafood. Swimming and relaxation with afternoon drinks at beach bars.

Evening: Sunset stroll along the boulevard. Dinner in Old Town at traditional restaurant. Evening walk through illuminated streets experiencing Batumi's vibrant nightlife.

Day 2: Nature & Culture

Morning: Full-day visit to Batumi Botanical Garden. Guided tour covering Japanese gardens, bamboo groves, and rose sections. Peaceful lunch at garden cafe.

Afternoon: Rest and shopping in Old Town discovering galleries, craft shops, and boutiques. Tea time at a traditional Georgian tearoom.

Evening: Archaeological Museum visit understanding Batumi's ancient history. Dinner at rooftop restaurant overlooking the sea.

Day 3: Northern Exploration

Morning: Day trip to Sarpi Village. Explore the river-sea confluence point. Swimming in calm river waters. Fresh fish lunch at waterfront restaurant.

Afternoon: Visit Sarpi Nature Reserve hiking trails through forest ecosystems. Photography of natural landscapes and wildlife.

Evening: Return to Batumi. Casual dinner at casual eatery. Evening at casino or nightclub for entertainment.

Day 4: History & Adventure

Morning: Organized boat tour along the Black Sea coast. Swimming stops, wildlife viewing, scenic photo opportunities.

Afternoon: Gonio Fortress exploration learning about historical significance and strategic importance. Walk fortress walls with panoramic views.

Evening: Wine tasting session sampling Georgian varieties. Traditional dinner featuring khachapuri and wine pairing.

Day 5: Mountains & Local Culture

Morning: Guided mountain excursion to nearby peaks with panoramic views. Moderate hiking through forest trails and meadows.

Afternoon: Visit local village experiencing traditional Georgian hospitality. Homestay lunch featuring homemade khachapuri and khinkali. Meet local artisans and learn about crafts.

Evening: Return to Batumi. Relaxation and spa treatments. Farewell dinner at special restaurant reflecting on travel experiences.

Ali Pasha Mosque at Sunset: Golden hour (6-7 PM) provides stunning light on blue tilework. Position on the boulevard opposite for wide-angle architectural shots. Afternoon light creates dramatic shadows highlighting architectural details.

Batumi Boulevard Promenade: Early morning (6-8 AM) captures empty streets with soft golden light. Sculptures and landscaping stand out without crowds. Evening offers warm tungsten light ideal for romantic atmospheric shots.

Old Town Architecture: Midday (11 AM-1 PM) harsh light emphasizes textures and colors of Victorian buildings. Overcast days work well for uniform lighting of facade details. Narrow alleys create interesting shadow patterns and compositional depth.

Sarpi River Confluence: Golden hour captures dramatic contrast between river and sea. Sunset (6-7 PM) illuminates clouds and water in spectacular colors. Sunrise creates silhouettes of trees against brightening sky.

Black Sea Coastline from Heights: Early morning mist creates atmospheric seascapes. Mid-afternoon provides clear blue water and sky. Sunset offers warm colors reflecting off water surfaces.



Beach & Marine Life: Water activities provide dynamic action shots. Early morning calm waters best for reflections. Sunset swimmers create silhouettes against golden water.

Voltage & Frequency: Georgia uses 220V AC electricity at 50Hz frequency.

Plug Types: Standard European two-round-pin plugs (Type C) are universal. Some older buildings may have older Soviet-style outlets. Type F (Schuko) two-round-pin grounded plugs common in modern installations.

Adapters & Converters: Travelers from North America (110V) require voltage converters as well as plug adapters for device safety. UK and Australia plugs require adapters. Most hotels provide adapter loans at reception. Modern electronics (phones, tablets, laptops) often have 100-240V universal chargers requiring only plug adapters.

Power Considerations: Power outages are rare in Batumi but occasional in remote areas. Carry portable chargers for extended travel. Hotels and cafes offer charging facilities. Electricity is reliable in established tourist areas.

Must-Try Dishes:

- **Khachapuri:** Cheese-filled bread, most iconic Georgian dish. Adjarian version features butter and egg on top. Soft yet crispy exterior, melted cheese interior—irresistible.
- **Khinkali:** Meat dumplings with broth inside, eaten by hand lifting from top knot. Each contains perfect balance of spiced meat and savory juice.
- **Pkhali:** Vegetable pâté with ground walnut sauce. Spinach, beet, or eggplant versions offer rich, earthy flavors.
- **Georgian Wine:** Local varieties like Saperavi and Mtsvane represent world-class quality at exceptional prices. Wine drinking is cultural experience.
- **Fresh Black Sea Fish:** Grilled sturgeon, anchovy, and mullet prepared simply to highlight fresh flavors. Seaside restaurants excel at seafood preparation.
- **Lula Kebab:** Ground meat kebab with herbs and spices. Cooked on skewers, served with lavash bread and vegetables.

Dining Tips: Georgian restaurants are family-oriented and welcoming to tourists. Lunch (1-3 PM) offers best prices and crowds. Dinner (7-10 PM) is social occasion with slower service. Tipping 10% is appreciated but not mandatory. Fresh produce markets offer incredible variety at low prices for self-catering.

Dietary Considerations: Georgian cuisine features abundant vegetables, legumes, and meats. Vegetarian options available but less prominent. Seafood readily available coastal Batumi. Restaurants accommodate dietary requests with advance notice.

Tourist Passes

Georgian Visa (E-visa)

Citizens of most countries receive **30-day visa-free entry** to Georgia. E-visa available online for nations requiring visa (processing ~2-3 days). Tourist visa covers all attractions without additional permits. Complete application at www.evisa.gov.ge.



www.evisa.gov.ge

Batumi City Card

Optional tourist discount card offering reduced admission to museums and attractions. Discounts of 10-25% at participating venues. Available from tourist information center and major hotels. Useful for multiple attraction visits but less essential for casual tourists.



www.batumicity.com



Museum Passes

Some museums offer combination tickets for savings on multiple venues. Archaeological Museum and Samtavisi Church Museum may offer bundled rates. Inquire at first museum for pass availability. Photography permits sometimes additional to entrance fees.



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