Machakhela Protected Areas take visitors on a journey through the history of Adjara. In the surrounding areas of the park, medieval Tamar arched bridges have been preserved. Visitors can also see fortress ruins, stone-built wine presses, and traditional wine cellars, which, due to their antiquity, belong to different periods of historical development.

Located just 25 km from Batumi, the Machakhela Protected Areas are covered with pristine beech forests and diverse Colchic woodlands, offering visitors an unforgettable travel experience. Beautiful waterfalls, breathtaking panoramic views, rich local traditions, historical and cultural monuments, and landscapes covered with lush forests promise an exciting adventure.

Each month, the Machakhela Protected Areas absorb thousands of tons of greenhouse gases, contributing to the mitigation of the negative effects of climate change. Moreover, the existence of these protected areas is vital for the villages of the Machakhela Valley and their local communities. The territory is also part of the Emerald Network.

Machakhela National Park was established in 2012, and Machakhela Protected Landscape in 2023. These areas represent not only a treasure of Georgia but of global significance as well. Together with Kintrishi and Mtirala National Parks and Turkey's Camili Biosphere Reserve, they form a chain of protected areas created to preserve Colchic forests, serving the protection and conservation of unique biodiversity.



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Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia

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MACHAKHELA
NATIONAL PARK



ECOTOURISM

Machakhela Protected Areas is one of the most interesting places in the region of Adjara. Here you have the opportunity to discover one of the oldest and most diverse temperate tropical forests in the world – the Colchic forest, which has survived many climatic changes, including the Ice Age. The main wealth of the protected areas is its unique nature, created by a combination of pure mountain streams, winding forest paths, and amazing views. Follow the trails of Kokoleti, Mtavarangelozi, Dunga Waterfall, and the Machakhela Wine History Trail to discover the magical nature of the protected areas. Travel is possible both by bicycle and on foot. Nature lovers will find a special atmosphere for picnicking in the wild, and designated camping areas are available for overnight stays.

Four tourist routes operate within the Machakhela Protected Areas, offering visitors:

- Hiking tours
- Eco-educational tours
- Photo tours
- Historical and cultural tours

Beyond its unique nature, the Machakhela Protected Areas stand out for their rich history, unique ethnography, and diverse monuments of material culture. Here, you can discover:

- Traditional customs of the Machakhela Valley
- The traditions of crafting the "Machakhela rifle"
- Folk handicrafts such as weaving, embroidery, and basket-making
- Viticulture and winemaking traditions.

The famous Machakhela Gun Monument is dedicated to the unique local tradition of gun-making located in the entrance of Machakhela gorge. Other attractions include a World War II cannon located in the village of Skurdidi, medieval arched bridges, ancient wine cellars and presses, beautiful waterfalls, the ruins of the historical Gvara and Chkhutuneti fortresses, and the Historical-Ethnographic Museum located in a beautiful 200-year-old mosque.

Note: Before visiting the trails along the border between Georgia and Turkey, please contact the Machakhela National Park administration in advance for information on obtaining a permit. Take your ID card with you.



BIODIVERSITY

In the Machakhela Protected Areas, you will find yourself in dense forests spread across the slopes of the Machakhela River Valley. Almost the entire area is covered with Colchic forest, primarily consisting of chestnut, beech, hornbeam, and alder trees. Here, you can also discover rare species listed in the "Red List," such as Colchic boxwood, chestnut, Colchic hazel, Rhododendron Ungernii, Medwediew's birch, common yew, and others.

The territory's unique character is further enhanced by the evergreen Rhododendron Ungernii, a species found only in Adjara and neighboring areas of Turkey.

The fauna of the protected areas is typical of the Caucasian forests. Among other species, chamois, brown bear, lynx, Caucasian squirrel, Caucasian salamander, common otter and others also inhabit this territory.





HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SITES OF MACHAKHELA PROTECTED AREAS

Machakhela Historical and Ethnographic Museum | Located in a 200-year-old building (mosque) in the village of Zeda Chkhutuneti.

"Machakhela" Gun Monument | Situated in the village of Sindieti. In Adjara, flint shotguns and pistols were produced in several locations, but the Machakhela Valley was especially famous for its guns.

Medieval Arched Bridges (Tamari Bridges) | Outstanding examples of medieval architecture, located in the villages of Tskhemlara, Zeda Chkhutuneti, and Kveda Kokoleti.

"Gvara" Fortress (6th–7th centuries) | A pre-feudal fortress primarily intended to control the routes along the Chorokhi and Machakhela Rivers, located 9 km from the Machakhela National Park administration.

"Ilia's Winery" (X–XII centuries) | A historic building granted the status of an immovable cultural heritage monument in 2018, located 8 km from the Machakhela National Park administration, in the village of Chikuneti.

Cannon, known as "Embrasura" | A World War II-era cannon intended to defend the Machakhela Valley from enemy attacks, located in the village of Skurdidi.