

Gonio Fortress and Machakhela Gorge Tour

Tour Includes: Tour to Gonio Fortress and Machakhela Gorge



Experience a guided tour in the most visually stunning places of the region – Gonio Fortress and Machakhela Gorge, the birthplace of Ajarian gun making. Both novice and experienced hikers will find this to be a unique adventure. During your trip you'll have a chance to see the pride of the local gunsmiths, gun "Machakhela", taste Ajarian chacha and watch a performance by the local folklore ensemble.

1) **Gonio Fortress Tour (Duration 1.30 hours):** (includes visits to Gonio Fortress and Gonio Fortress Museum)



Gonio Fortress : Ancient Greek legends told of a fabulously wealthy land where Jason and the Argonauts stole the Golden Fleece from King Aetes with the help of his daughter Medea. It was a distant land that was reached by the Black Sea and down the River Phasis. The actual site of this legendary kingdom has never been found but the archaeologists believe that in Ajara existed the ancient civilization of Colchis. The main attraction, which is closely linked with the myth of Argonauts, is ancient Gonio Fortress. The fortress has been built by the Romans in the 1st century. We invite you to join us in a journey back in time and experience the beautiful and interesting past of Ajara.

2) **Machakhela Gorge Tour** (includes visits to Machakhela Gun Monument, Gvara Fortress, Mirveti Waterfall, Tskhemlara arch stone bridge, gun slit dating back to the Second World War, Ethnographic Museum of Machakhela Valley)



Machakhela Gorge: Machakhela Gorge, the most stunning place of the region, is located in 30 km from Batumi. Machakhela gorge is characterized by a unique variety of relict and endemic plants. Among woody plants there are 13 species enlisted in the Red Book of Georgia. Machakhela national park is also rich in fauna. The territory represents the part of the ecological corridor connecting Western Georgian protected areas and North Turkish protected areas (Jamil Biosphere Reserve) with

each other.

Fortress Gvara: The medieval fortress Gvara (6th century) is located close to the confluence of the rivers Chorokhi and Machakela. Due to its strategic location, the fortress was used to control roads leading to Klardjeti and Artanudzhy (provinces of ancient and medieval Georgia). Most of the fortress is destroyed, the height of the remaining walls is 5-6 meters.



Machakhela Gun Monument: Machakhela Gorge is also the birthplace of Ajarian gun making. Famous “Machakhela gun” was produced by local craftsmen in the XVIII century. The gun was distinguished by the soft sound and long-distance shooting (30-40 meters). The gun was known in the entire Caucasus.



Tskhemlara arch stone bridge: Tskhemlara Bridge is built over the River Machakhela in the village of Tskhemlara, 7-8 km from the village of Acharistrkali, which is situated along the Batumi-Khulo highway. Its half-oval design and quite narrow and is used as a footbridge.



Gun slit: The gun slit dating back to the Second World War. It was installed in the Machakhela valley, near the border of the former Georgian SSR (1922-1991) with NATO in 1940. It is a heavy-duty construction with small rooms for military personnel and ammunition storage. A fixed gun provided control over the border roads leading deep into the region. Her daily functioning until the end of the 1950s was supported by a platoon of soldiers,

located in a small military barrack.



Chkhutuneti (Matchakhela) historical-ethnographic museum: The museum was built in 1984. It is located in a 3-storey building of a former mosque counting 2 centuries.

3) Lunch in a restaurant near the Tskhemlara Bridge.



The tour ends in one of the typical local restaurants where you will enjoy some culinary delights and popular local wines and Georgia's traditional national drink "chacha".

Tour total per person: 50 \$

Tour Price Includes:

- Guide service
- Lunch
- Transportation during excursion
- Admission fees at museums and sights
- VAT 18%

Additional Information:

- ✚ Please note, prices given above are preliminary and they can be changed upon the changes in the request
- ✚ If the group is big (more than 40 people), they will be split into small groups, they will all have the same program but the agenda will be different.

YOU ARE WARMLY WELCOME!

Batumi
A J A R A