Traveling To Kakheti

Georgian Society of Nature friends

























Goal of the project is assessment of the tourism development capabilities of the Alazani riparian forests (and communities nearby) and promote to improve awareness of the local population about tourism.

- 1. Assessment of ecotourism development potential at the community level the following topics will be studied to reveal tourism potential of the Alazani riparian forests: Historical and cultural heritage / Houses with old architecture; Architectural monuments; Epitaphs of old cemeteries; Local celebrations and folk festivals; Local folklore and folk singers, legends. Natural or cultural environment/ More or less preserved forest in rural areas (churches, surroundings of cemeteries, ritual, nature monuments); Biodiversity (including birds, rare flowering plants, nests of birds of prey); Spectacular semi-cultural environment (part of the forest + vineyard). Agriculture/Developed cattle-breeding/live-stock farming/sheep-breeding; Tourists participation in the process of cattle care (milking the cow, sheep shearing, etc.) Developed beekeeping and giving an opportunity for tourists to participate in the process of beekeeping; Vineyard care and vintage. Cuisine and wine / Wine tasting opportunity in the traditional environment; Wine cellars, old winemaking and family attributes; Different things to make other traditional products (Tatara, Churchkhela, cheese, etc.). Georgian bakery and opportunity to take part in bread baking. To watch "zavodoba"; Have an opportunity to get to know Georgian "Supra".
- 2. Educational tourism for the students of high schools and Universities of relevant faculties in Georgia, identification of picnic spots and camp-sites.
- 3. Prepare seminars for the target group about the main directions of tourism. The goal is to provide information about the importance of ecotourism development in the Alazani riparian forests, as well as promote different kinds of ecotourism, which is directed primarily toward the preservation of local culture.
 - 4. Presentation of gained results and prepare the document
 - $5.\ Deliver\ courses\ of\ seminars\ for\ those\ interested\ in\ tourism\ in\ the\ target\ region.$
- 6. Prepare, publish and distribute in the region 2016 year calendar. This calendar will be decorated with the pictures of plants and animals of the river Alazani riparian forests, as well as information about local secular and religious holidays will be included.
- 8. Prepare the summery document of the project "Assessment of tourism potential of the river Alazani riparian forests" and submit the document to the National Tourism Agency and integrate the document to the project of the river Alazani riparian forests management plan.
- 9. At the end of the project we will organize a final presentation, where local and national media will be invited to disseminate information about the project results. The report will be prepared also after completing the project, which will be sent to all interested parties.
- 10. We will purchase environmental and tourist library for the community centers to strengthen their development.

About Project

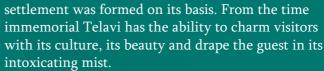


Kakheti includes the historical provinces of Kakheti, Hereti (some part of it) and Tusheti. The area is 11 310 square kilometers, population amounts 407,000 people, the population density is 36 men per square kilometer. The administrative center of the region is Telavi. There are 285 settlements in the region, including 9 cities: Akhmeta, Gurjaani, Dedoplistskaro, Telavi, Lagodekhi, Sagarejo, Sighnaghi, Kvareli, Tsnori and 276 villages. Kakheti has a diverse climate; The average winter temperature is + 1.4°C and + 23_ + 25 °C - in summer. We witness subtropical as well as steppe landscapes here: there are semi-deserts, evergreen forests and sub-alpine flora here. The lowest is the Eldar plain with 90-150 m. above sea level; the highest is Tebulo Mountain with 4493 m above sea level.





Telavi is a city in East Georgia, located on Alazani Valley at the foot of North-East slope of Gombori Range. Telavi is an administrative center of Kakheti; it is the final station of Tbilisi-Telavi railway line. It is 500–800 meters above the sea level, 158 km away from Tbilisi. It turned into a city in 1801. The winter is cold, whilst the summer is hot here. It has 770 mm precipitation annually. The first settlement on the territory of present Telavi originated in the Late Bronze Age. Later, in Hellenistic period, it developed into a bigger settlement; in the late antiquity times a town-type



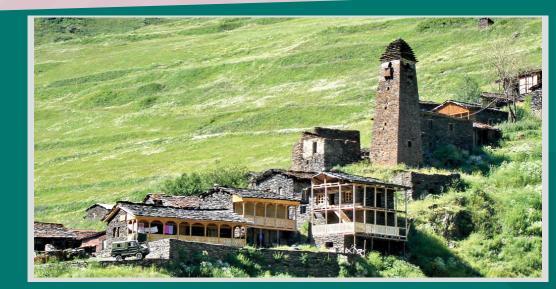
The winter is cold, whilst the summer is hot here. It has 770 mm precipitation annually. The first settlement on the territory of present Telavi originated in the Late Bronze Age. It developed in the Hellenistic period; in the late antiquity times a town-type settlement was formed on its basis. From the time immemorial Telavi has the ability to charm visitors with its culture, its beauty and drape the guest in its intoxicating mist.

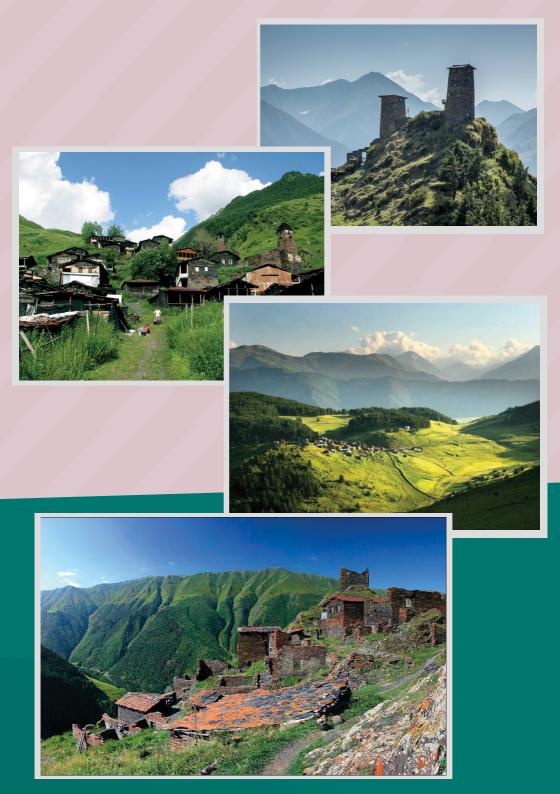


Tusheti Protected areas



Tusheti, with its snowy peaks, open mountains and grasslands, the unique pine forests, clear streams and affluent rivers, with ancient villages and the ruins of villages, has always attracted visitors. Even now a lot of tourists visit it both from Georgia and from foreign countries. What I like the most is that following types of tours can be organized in Tusheti Protected Areas: wildlife watching, adventure trekking, historical and cultural tours, photography tours, amateur fishing, riding tours, mountain biking tours. The Thushis are very kind and hospitable people. They welcome their guests with great joy and treat them with traditional cuisine, such as: Tushetian Khinkali made of chopped meat; traditional sheep cheese also known as Guda cheese, Khachapuri made of traditional cheese and a surprisingly wide variety of dairy products.





Erboiankhvai

Qumeli is knead with a little water and warmed up boiled butter with a hint of salt and it is eaten separately. Sometimes it is eaten with Sakhvreta since it is too fat, sometimes it is mixed with crushed cheese or cottage cheese..



Boiled butter is placed in a saucepan in abundance, then some fresh (2-3 days old), slightly warmed and well drained cow Kelt is added. After adding some salt, it is boiled while being constantly stirred. Once the Kelt is fully melted, Khavitsi is ready. Khavitsi is regarded to be delicatessen and guests are frequently treated with it.

Girci

Unleavened dough baked in the shape of a half circle scone with mincemeat. It is baked on ketsi, earthenware frying-pan to bake dough; the meat is minced into tiny pieces with a huge knife, then it is seasoned with salt and put in the mid of the flattened dough. After it is baked, it is greased with either fat or boiled butter.



Khinkali

Khinkali can be of meat, of boiled butter and Kalti, of potatoes mixed with boiled butter, of boiled nettle or of nettle mixed with fried onion as well as of mushrooms. Unleavened, knead in water dough is cut in circles with a glass, then it is flattened and the stuff is placed in the mid. After being wrapped, it is placed in boiling water. Khinkali is ready in 8-10 minutes.

Tushetian Food



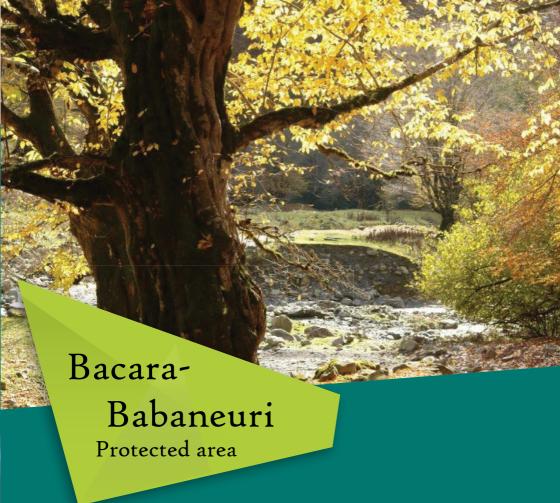
Nekresi is a historical city in Kakheti, in the current Kvareli municipality, in the vicinity of the village Shilda, on the mountain slope. It was founded by King Pharnajom (II-I B.C). In IV century king of Iberia Thrdat built a church here and in VI century the Assyrian Father – Shio found a settlement here. During his time Nekresi Episcopal was founded here (it lasted till XIX century).

Nekresi was immediately given great importance. The political and cultural influence of Kartli was spread over the East Caucasus Mountainous area. Nekresi Episcopal diocese comprised both eastern part of Caucasus and part of Dagestan (Didoeti) as well. Cultural and educational activities were flourished at Nekresi.

Gremi

Gremi is a village in Kvareli Municipality. In feudal era it used to be one of the trade-economic and cultural centers of Kakheti. In 1466 it became the capital of the Kingdom of Kakheti. It is distinguished by its architectural monument a cross-domed cathedral of Archangel erected on the highest hill in the east of Grami village, which was built in 1565 by King Levan of Kakheti.





Batsara-Babaneuri protected areas are in Akhmeta municipality, the region of Kakheti. It was founded in 2003 and includes Batsara, Babaneuri and Ilto Reserves. Batsara Reserve is famous for its unique yew groves, while Babaneuri Reserve is known for its extensive groves of Zelkova. Batsarasa-Babaneuri ecosystems are important conservation areas; they are of natural origin and encompass a large area, which is a rare example in the world's ecosystems.



Lagodekhi

One of the best preserved in the world, with a big variety of primitive, wild natural landscapes Lagodekhi Protected Areas are located in Lagodekhi, in the extreme north-eastern part of Georgia on the southern slopes of Caucasus and extend to an altitude of 590-3500 m from sea level.

Lagodekhi Protected Areas are one of the most important areas in Georgia and in the whole Caucasus with its biodiversity. Lagodekhi protected areas should be visited for seeing the waterfalls and birds. On top of alpine pastures the mountain eagles, eagles float in the air, the grouse and snowcock are the birds, which you can only can in Caucasus. Lagodekhi is a very rich municipality. Texture of the soil is moderately moist here. The Lagodekhi Protected areas are abounded in water. Ninoskhevi, Shromiskhevi, Lagodekhistskali and Matsimistskali are the main rivers here, which originate in the high mountains; they create lot of waterfalls on their way down the lowlands and flow quietly in the lower zone of the forest. There are a few very impressive lakes in the alpine zone of Lagodekhi of glacial origin, including the Black Cliff Lake being the largest of them all with the depth of fourteen meters. It is on the Russian-Georgian border.

Waste collection and processing is a big problem at Lagodekhi Protected Areas Visitors' house. Although the garbage boxes are placed at the entrances of the protected areas, other than the administrative

building there is no collection system here, which makes it difficult for the administration to manage the waste. There is a waste problem also along the trails, which have to be cleaned often. It is necessary to educate the visitors through raising their awareness, so they do not leave their own waste within the protected areas.





Sighnaghi is one of the most signified cities in Georgia where the ancient monuments have survived till these days. Sighnaghi is situated 117 km east of Tbilisi, capital of Georgia; it has always been in the center of events. Very expressive is the monumental fortress of Sighnaghi built by the famous king Erekle II. Twenty-three towers and seven gates make up the city wall, which stretches for 4.5 kilometers and includes other similar medieval structures in the city. Uniquely designed terrace architecture perfectly fits Sighnaghi raised landscape. Georgia is the birthplace of wine; the ancient traditions of wine-making have been refined and processed in Sighnaghi and its environs. Sighnaghi with its many hotels and guesthouses is an ideal place to discover the lush vineyards of Kakheti. Georgia boasts with more than 500 species of grapes more than anywhere else in the world. In Kakheti almost every village has its own unique species of grapes, but the most common varieties are: Rkatsiteli, Kahetian Mtsvane, Khikhvi, Kitsi, Saperavi. Recent renovations have attracted tourists' attentions towards Sighnaghi - towards numerous educational tours, modern leisure facilities, delicious cuisine and fine wines.

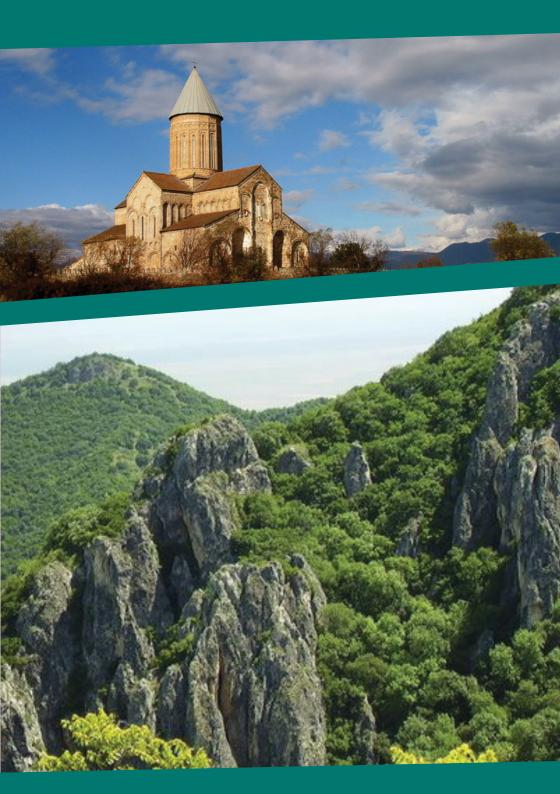
Sighnaghi

Alaverdi

Alaverdi Monastery was founded in the mid VI century by Joseph Alaverdeli. In XI century Kvirike King of Kakhis built a cathedral on the place of small church of St. George, which is mostly known as Alaverdi.

The Eagle

Eagle Canyon natural Monument represents a unique complex consisting of two sites. One part is a limestone rock canyon, the other in the adjacent forest area, where the Khornabuji fortress is located. The route begins at the entrance of Eagle Canyon – at the information center. From here onwards a hiking trail runs down along the limestone cliffs and goes to rock roots, where it is possible to witness the rare endemic plant Kakheti bellflower. Afterwards the trail turns to the western slope of the valley, from where one can enjoy seeing the eagles floating on the background of hanging cliffs. Another 9 species of prey birds can be found in the valley. Other than them you can see other birds of exquisite beauty here, including the Kholkhuri Pheasant and Black Stork. There is a 1 km length of the pedestrian route in Eagle Canyon, which can be covered in an hour. The pedestrian route of the KHornabuji fortress is 0,5 km length which one can cover in half an hour.





Tsinandali, the historic mansion of Alexander Chavchavadze and his family, is one of the most important cultural attractions of Georgia. As a museum and cultural center, it offers stunning materials to tourists, educational sector representatives, students and researchers. There is no other place in Georgia where you can learn more about this powerful family, who left a lasting track in the history of Georgia; both traditional and modern Georgian art and values are exhibited here encouraging both local and foreign visitors to think about the future of their own countries and, in general, the whole world.

About the wine

The history of Georgian wine is one of the oldest in Europe. The earliest signs of viticulture and wine production found up to these days indicate the wine culture was flourishing in Georgia approx. 7000 years ago, which gives the country status of birthplace of wine. "Cradle of wine culture", "birthplace of wine" – so is Georgia referred to. Discovering an 8000-year-old jug with Rkatsiteli grape stones clearly point to the highly developed wine industry in Georgia by then. Wine is milk for the elderly, balm for adults, and a guide for gourmets. It is scientifically proved that Georgia is a country where a man cultivated and domesticated "wild vine".

A good wines just as a human being has its birthplace. It imbibes the aroma of homeland forever. Georgian wines and alcoholic drinks are unique; they have very original and aromatic features. "There is no country where so much and so good wine is drank" - the famous French traveler Jean Chardin certifies in XVII century. About 500 varieties of grapes are grown in Georgia (more than 3000 sorts were there previously according to historical data), which comprises 2.5% of the world grape assortments. 65-70% of the vineyards are cultivated in Kakheti, the ancient and unique viticulture and winemaking region of Georgia. There are identified more than 25 appellations here from which the following well-known wines are produced, such as: Tsinandali, Napareuli, Akhasheni, Mukuzani, Kindzmarauli, Gurjaani, Kardenakhuli, Tibaani, Manavi Mtsvane, Khashmis Saperavi and etc.



Georgian grape varieties

4000 vine varieties are known in the world. Georgia has 500 local grape varieties, out of which 62 varieties are included in the standard range, including 29 wine species and 9 table varieties. The Georgian wine grape varieties are distinctive in quality, which include: Rkatsiteli, Saperavi, Mtsvane, Khikhvi, Kisi, Chinuri, Tsolikauri, Tsitska, Krakhuna, Alegsandrouli, Ojaleshi, Chkhaveri, Aladasturi and etc. In addition to indigenous grape varieties, in almost every corner of Georgia the introduced vine varieties are also spread: Aligote, Pinot, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, shasla, Khalil. They have found a second home on the ancient Georgian land. European type white high-quality, best tasting wines are produced from local, unique grape varieties like Rkatsiteli, Kakhuri Mtsvane, Khikhvi, Kisi grapes from Napereuli, Gurjaani, Manavi and other appellations. Red dry, high-quality, pleasant flavored wines are made of Georgian original red grape variety Saperavi from Kindzmarauli, Teliani, Akhasheni, Mukuzani, Khashma and other regional appellations. Naturally sweet red wines are made only of grapes from Akasheni, Kindzmarauli and Mukuzani appellations in Kakheti. Local microclimate, soil and high sugar and acid accumulation ability of Georgian grape variety - Saperavi defines the harmonious soft, velvety, cheerful tones and specific qualities of these wines.

Natural honey is high-calorie product made by bee of flower nectar, which bees use as energetic food for growing small bees. With weather getting cold, fresh honey, which is transparent, gradually changes into crystallized and fixed product. This is due to the amount of glucose in it, and the color depends on the flower pigments. Honey consists of a great amount of chemicals, ferments, organic acids and antibiotics. Honey preserves its unique qualities for a long time. It is used for diseases related to heart, circulatory, nervous system, tuberculosis, stomach ulcers, liver, skin, eye, wounds, and



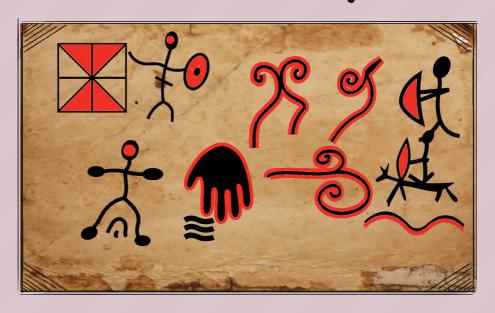
much more. There are lot many folk medicines, mostly herbal, but one of the components in them is usually honey. According to the origin honey may be mono or poli-floral. The first is honey made of acacia, lime, chestnut, sunflower or any other plant, while the other is honey made of a variety of flowers in the meadow or forest. Due to the high concentration of glucose or fructose, natural honey is characterized by crystallization. This process happens fast under 13-14 ° C temperature. Bee honey can be squeezed or with honeycomb. Both are characterized with high nutritional value and healing features.

Honey



From time immemorial beekeeping has been one of the most profitable sectors in Georgia. Based on historical evidence, in the 4th century BC Kolchis, the Georgian tribes used to enjoy domestic beekeeping products; since beekeeping products are very salable and less damageable, it is therefore very useful to be engaged in beekeeping. If a farmer takes good care of bee, it can produce 5 to 80 kg honey. Beekeeping in Georgia has breeding, dusting and productive directions. Breeding farms are in western Georgia (Samegrelo, Guria, Apkhazeti, Imereti), productive farms – mainly in Kakheti and Meskhet-Javakheti and dusting farms – in Qartli.

the list of local holidays



- 1 Easter, Sagarejo Municipality, the last week of Lent.
- 2 The Palm Sunday, Sagarejo Municipality, the previous week of the Easter
- 3 "Garejoba" St. David Garejeli Commemoration Day, Sagarejo Municipality, village Udabno – May
- 4 "Teletoba" Ascension of Christ, Sagarejo municipality, village Badiauri, 40th day from Easter.
- 5 "Kavtoba" St. George Commemoration Day, Sagarejo Municipality, village Kakabeti, 8th week from Easter.
- 6 "Sameboba" Sagarejo Municipality, village Kakabeti, 3rd day from Easter.
- 7 "Kopaloba" St. George Commemoration Day, Sagarejo Municipality, village Chailuri, 2nd day from Easter.
- 8 "Berikaoba" public, reproduction celebration, Sagarejo Municipality, village Chailuri, previous week of the Shrovetide.
- 9 "Teletoba" Ascension of Christ, Sagarejo municipality, village Manavi, 40th day from Easter.
- 10 "Kalobnoba" Related to the harvest period, Sagarejo municipality, village Manavi. 5th week of the Easter.
- 11 "Shiooba" public-religious, Shio Mghvimeli Commemoration Day, Sagarejo Municipality, village Patardzeuli, the last Thursday of the Lent.
- 12 "Atengenoba" public-religious, Atengeni Sebastianeli's day of torture, Sagarejo Municipality, village Gombori, 99th day after the Easter.
- 13 "Kalobnoba" public-religious, related to harvesting, Sagarejo Municipality, village Tokhliauri, 5th week after the Easter.
- 14 "Novruz Bairam" public-religious, celebrating the beginning of Spring, Sagarejo Municipality, Iormunghalo. 3rd week of March.
- 15 "Kviratskhovloba" Telavi Municipality, village Kurdghelauri, the following Sunday after Easter.
- 16 "Kavtoba" Telavi Municipality, village Kurdghelauri, 5th week after the Easter



- 17 "Shotaoba" "Asention Day" "Makharobloba", Telavi Municipality, village Ikalot, 40th day after the Easter.
- 18 "Asention Day" Telavi Municipality, village Akhateli, 40th day after the Easter.
- " Mountain Peoples Festival" Akhmeta Municipality, celebrated since 2013, aims: preserving traditions, fusion of mountain and valley cultures, preserving minority identity in Akhmeta Municipality
- 20 "Tushetoba" Akhmeta Municipality, celebrated since 70-es of the previous century, it is related to Tushetian people oldest profession sheep-breeding. It aims to introducing and promotion the oldest cultural activity to the society. Held in late July, early August.
- 21 "Alaverdoba" Akhmeta Municipality, people overnight, different rituals are conducted, especially many people visit Alaverdi Monastery that day, it is held the last week of September.
- 22 "Kheenoba" celebrated since Pagan era; till 20th century Kheenoba was celebrated throughout Georgia, nowadays this event is celebrated in the village Matani, it is held at the start of Lent.
- 23 "Sameboba" next day of Sultmopenoba, Dedoplistskaro Municipality, village Gamarjveba, local folklore, concert.
- 24 "'Asention Day''' Dedoplistskaro Municipality, 40th day after the Easter, solemn liturgy is conducted.
- 25 "Kviratskhovloba" the week after the Easter, Dedoplistskaro Municipality, village Mirzaani.
- 26 "Lomisoba" Kochbani village, Sagarejo Municipality.
- 27 "Artanoba" Telavi Municipality, village Artana, labor celebration.
- 28 "Aleqsandreoba" Telavi Municipality, village Tsinandali, end of September
- 29 "Vanooba" song festival in Sighnaghi, the last weekend of the May.
- 30 "Wine festival" Sighnaghi, held in October



- 1 January 27 Jan. "Ninooba", Telavi Municipality, village Kisiskhevi (cultural event)
 - 15 Jan "Odishoba", village Manavi, Sagarejo Municipality,
 - 27 Jan. "Ninooba", Sighnaghi
 - 4 April 14 Apr. "Akhmeteloba", Sighnaghi Municipality, Village Anaga
 - 19 Apr. "Kviratskhovloba", Telavi Municipality, Village Gulgula
 - 5 May 27 May "Goglaoba" Gogla Leonidze's birthday, village Patardzeuli, Sagarejo Municipality.
 - 26 May. Dedoplistskaro, "Bread and wine festival"
 - 10 May "Sameboba", village Khashmi, Sagarejo Municipality
 - 9 May, "Victory over Nazi", Telavi Municipality, village Saniore
 - 20 May "Marineoba", Sagarejo Municipality, village Khashmi
 - 20 May "Jvarpatiosnoba" St. Razhden Commemoration Day, Sagarejo Municipality, village Ujarma.
 - 6 May "Giorgoba", Dedoplistskaro Municipality, village Machkhaani.
 - 2 May "Giorgoba", Telavi Municipality, village Pshaveli
 - 6 May "Giorgoba", Telavi Municipality village Shalauri, Kondoli, Nasamkhrali
 - 14 May "Giorgoba", "Tamaroba" Telavi Municipality, village Laliskuri
 - 28 May "father Davitoba",

 Telavi Municipality, village Akura
 - 6 June 28 June, "Davitoba, Telavi Municipality, village Ruispiri
 - 1 June "Ninooba" Sighnaghi

- 7 July 28 Jul. "Vazhaoba", village Kochbani, Sagarejo Municipality
- 14 Jul. "Qaqucoba" Akhmeta Municipality
- 25 Jul ''Vazhaoba'' Telavi Municipality, village Lapankuri .
- 12 Jul. "Peter-Paul Day" Sagarejo
- 7 Jul "Natlismcemloba" village Khashmi, Sagarejo Municipality.
- 28 Jul, "Kvirikoba" Dedoplistskaro Municipality, village Arboshiki
- 28 Jul. "Kvirikoba" Telavi Municiality, village Vardisubani
- 7 Jul "Natlismcemloba" village Vaqiri
- 8 August 2 Aug. "Dedoplistskarooba" identifying the honorary Citizens accompanied by gala- concert.
- 20 Aug. "Marimoba" Sagarejo Municipality
 - 2 Aug. "Eliaoba" Dedoplistskaro Municipality, Dedoplistskaro, solemn liturgy is held.
 - 1 Aug. "Serapimoba" Dedoplistskaro Municipality, village Samreklo.
 - 9 September 21 Sep. "Gvtismshoblba" Sagarejo Municipality, village Shibliani.
 - 10 October 14 Oct, "Davitoba" Telavi Municipality, village Vanta.
 - 14 October "Svetitskhovloba" Telavi Municipality, village Busheti.
 - 11 November 20 Nov. "Giorgoba" Sagarejo Municipality
 - 21 November "Mtavarangelozoba" Sighnaghi Municipality, village Anaga.
 - 23 November "Giorgoba" village Sakobo
 - 12 December 19 Dc. "Nikolozoba", Sagarejo Municipality.

Buxus colchica

Plants



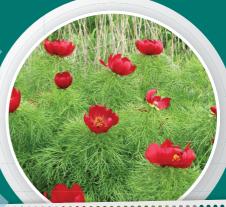
Galanthus Lagodechiana



Globularia trichosantha



Gymnospermium smirnowii



Paeonia teniufolia



Rododendron caucasica



Taxus baccata

Georgian Alphabet

11/1/						安慰						9%		
				Th	e Ge	eorgi	an A	Ipha	bets					
Letter Name	an	ban	gan	don	en	vin	zen	e- merve	tan	in	k'an	las	man	nar
Asomtavruli	C	ч	Ⴂ	δ	٦	Դ	ъ	۲	G.	٦	þ	ъ	ъ	Fi
Nuskhuri	τ	3	3	7	η	Ψ	Ъ	fi	m	7	þ	מר	J	fi
Mkhedruli	3	8	8	œ	0	3	8	8	တ	0	3	ლ	9	6
Numerical Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	30	40	50
Letter Name	ie	on	p'ar	zhan	rae	san	t'ar	vie	un	par	kan	ghan	q'ar	shir
Asomtavruli	.5	٥	υ	Ч	Jı	b	В	ч	Q4 Q	φ	+	n	ч	у
Nuskhuri	o	ш	u	7	th	ь	е	4	und und	ф	ф	п	4	9
Mkhedruli	Ω	m	3	ð	6	b	0	3	ຫ	93	3	Q	У	9
Numerical Value	60	70	80	90	100	200	300	400	(400)	500	600	700	800	900
Letter Name	chin	tsan	dzil	ts'il	ch'ar	xan	qar	jan	hae	hoe		6	shva	elif
Asomtavruli	h	G	ታ	P	S	F	Y	X	J	8			4 4 2	
Nuskhuri	þ	В	ф	[m	5	F.	щ	×	ти	Å				
Mkhedruli	ĥ	в	d	6	3	ь	3	×	3	9		ф	S	K
Womencal	1,000	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000	9,000	10,000		Sales L	//	



Sponsor

