



Georgia

Country of Life



GEORGIA

KAYAKER'S GUIDE BOOK

Rivers ♦ Maps ♦ Photos ♦ Coordinates

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WHY HAVE CREATED THIS GUIDEBOOK; THE PERIOD AND METHODS OF RESEARCH; TEAM.

In recent years, Georgia quickly occupies its place in the European and world tourist market. Georgia's geographic location and natural conditions attract tourists from around the world.

Georgia is one of the best tourist center for eco and extreme tourism. In recent years, tourism has developed in a variety of extreme sports, including rafting, and as a result, rafting is followed by one of the world 's most popular extreme tourism - kayaking. There are many mountain rivers in Georgia, which are not marked on the map of the world kayaking. This product should be clearly delivered to the right segment. And after this it is possible to create a new stream of tourists, which will show the new opportunities and aspects of touristic Georgia to the world.

Thus, considering the above-mentioned National Tourism Administration of Georgia has decided to conduct a study of rivers particularly with kayaking specifics. There were chosen 9 rivers, which are located close to the tourist routes and easy accessible regions for extreme tourism followers.

The Research period was determined from April - October 2013.

Rivers study was divided into three parts - from May - till June, from July - till August , from September - till October.

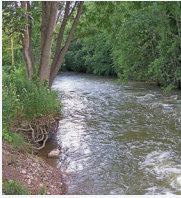





The study was carried out on principle: 1. View of the river from land. 2. Preparation of the route and make kayak run. 3. Taking of GPS points. 4. Maps and materials handling.

The special group was created with following members:

1. David Katsarava - Head of the group;
2. Levan Tapladze - Chief Coordinator (Security)
3. Jemal Khujadze - Cartographer
4. Besik Kavelashvili - Professional Kayaker (Former member of the USSR Canoe Slalom Team)
5. George Naskidashvili -Professional Kayaker , The champion in Canoe Slalom (Holland)
6. Pavel Lichtag - Consultant, Professional Kayaker (Czech Republic)

After conducting this study, we obtained an interesting result, which expressed a new kayaker's manual/guidebook containing all the rivers on the map and a GPS points, photos, a detailed textual description of the rivers. It will help tourists find the best possible route, choose the access period and safely down the river.

DIFFICULTY LEVELS

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Class 1: Easy</p> | <p>Waves small; passages clear, no serious obstacles</p> |  |
| <p>Class 2: Medium</p> | <p>Rapids of moderate difficulty with passages clear. Requires experience plus suitable outfit and boat.</p> |  |
| <p>Class 3: Difficult</p> | <p>Waves numerous, high, irregular; rocks; eddies; rapids with passages clear though narrow, requiring expertise in maneuvering; scouting usually needed. Requires good operator and boat</p> |  |
| <p>Class 4: Very Difficult</p> | <p>Long rapids; waves high, irregular; dangerous rocks; boiling eddies; best passages difficult to scout; scouting mandatory first time; powerful and precise maneuvering required. Demands expert boatman and excellent boat and good quality equipment.</p> |  |
| <p>Class 5: Extremely Difficult</p> | <p>Exceedingly difficult, long and violent rapids, following each other almost without interruption; riverbed extremely obstructed; big drops; violent current; very steep gradient; close study essential but often difficult. Requires best person, boat, and outfit suited to the situation. All possible precautions must be taken.</p> |  |
| <p>Class 6: Class U</p> | <p>Formerly classified as unrunnable by any craft. This classification has now been redefined as "unraftable" due to people having recently kayaked multiple Class VI around the world. (Some consider kayaking on a class VI river suicidal, and only extreme luck or skill will allow you through)</p> |  |

THE SCALE

International Scale of River Difficulty (see Section VI of the Safety Code of American Whitewater for complete descriptions)

This is the American version of a rating system used to compare river difficulty throughout the world. This system is not exact; rivers do not always fit easily into one category, and regional or individual interpretations may cause misunderstandings. It is no substitute for a guidebook or accurate first-hand descriptions of a run.

Paddlers attempting difficult runs in an unfamiliar area should act cautiously until they get a feel for the way the scale is interpreted locally. River difficulty may change each year due to fluctuations in water level, downed trees, recent floods, geological disturbances, or bad weather.

An overall river rating should take into account many factors including the difficulty of individual rapids, remoteness, hazards, etc. Each rapid is rated at a specific range of levels. Note that under some circumstances a paddler may find that similarly rated rapids seem to differ an extraordinary amount due to unusual factors that may include boat type, weather, fatigue, and limited experience on certain types of whitewater.

UNIVERSAL RIVER SIGNALS

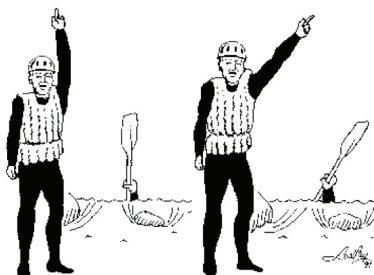
These signals may be substituted with an alternate set of signals agreed upon by the group.



Stop: Potential Hazard Ahead. Wait for “all clear” signal before proceeding, or scout ahead. Form a horizontal bar with your outstretched arms. Those seeing the signal should pass it back to others in the party.



Help/Emergency: Assist the signaler as quickly as possible. Give three long blasts on a rescue whistle while waving a paddle or throw rope over your head. If a whistle is not available, use the visual signal alone. A whistle is best carried on a lanyard attached to your life vest.



All Clear - Come ahead: (in the absence of other directions proceed down the center). Form a vertical bar with your paddle or one arm held high above your head. Paddle blade should be turned flat for maximum visibility. To signal direction or a preferred course through a rapid around obstruction, lower the previously vertical “all clear” by 45 degrees toward the side of the river with the preferred route. Never point toward the obstacle you wish to avoid.



I'm okay: I'm okay and not hurt. While holding the elbow outward toward the side, repeatedly pat the top of your head.

BOAT AND EQUIPMENT PREPAREDNESS

Test new and different equipment under familiar conditions before relying on it for difficult runs. This is especially true when adopting a new boat design or outfitting system. Low-volume craft may present additional hazards to inexperienced or poorly conditioned paddlers.

Be sure your boat and gear are in good repair before starting a trip. The more isolated and difficult the run, the more rigorous this inspection should be.

Install flotation bags in non-inflatable craft, securely fixed in each end, designed to displace as much water as possible. Inflatable boats should have multiple air chambers and be test-inflated before launching.

Have strong, properly sized paddles or oars for controlling your craft. Carry sufficient spares for the length and difficulty of the trip.

Outfit your boat safely. The ability to exit your boat quickly is an essential component of safety in rapids. It is your responsibility to see that there is absolutely nothing to cause entrapment when coming free of an upset craft. This includes:

- **Spray covers** which won't release reliably or which release prematurely.
- **Boat outfitting too tight to allow a fast exit,** especially in low volume kayaks or decked canoes. This includes low-hung thwarts in canoes lacking adequate clearance for your feet and kayak footbraces which fail or allow your feet to become wedged under them.
- **Inadequately supported decks** which collapse on a paddler's legs when a decked boat is pinned by water pressure. Inadequate clearance with the deck because of your size or build.
- **Loose ropes which cause entanglement.** Beware of any length of loose line attached to a whitewater boat. All items must be tied tightly and excess line eliminated; painters, throw lines, and safety rope systems must be completely and effectively stored. Do not knot the end of a rope, as it can get caught in cracks between rocks.

Provide ropes which permit you to hold on to your craft so that it may be rescued. The following methods are recommended:

Know your craft's carrying capacity, and how added loads affect boat handling in whitewater. Most rafts have a minimum crew size which can be added to on day trips or in easy rapids. Carrying more than two paddlers in an open canoe when running rapids is not recommended.

Car-top racks must be strong and attach positively to the vehicle. Lash your boat to each crossbar, then tie the ends of the boats directly to the bumpers for added security. This arrangement should survive all but the most violent vehicle accident.

PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Be a competent swimmer, with the ability to handle yourself underwater.

Wear a life jacket. a snugly-fitting vest-type life preserver offers back and shoulder protection as well as the flotation needed to swim safely in whitewater.

Wear a solid, correctly-fitted helmet when upsets are likely. This is essential in kayaks or covered canoes, and recommended for open canoeists using thigh straps and rafters running steep drops.

Do not boat out of control. Your skills should be sufficient to stop or reach shore before reaching danger. Do not enter a rapid unless you are reasonably sure that you can run it safely or swim it without injury.

Whitewater rivers contain many hazards which are not always easily recognized:

- **High Water.** The river's speed and power increase tremendously as the flow increases, raising the difficulty of most rapids. Rescue becomes progressively harder as the water rises, adding to the danger. Floating debris and strainers make even an easy rapid quite hazardous. It is often misleading to judge the river level at the put in. Since a small rise in a wide, shallow place will be multiplied many times where the river narrows. Use reliable gauge information whenever possible, and be aware that sun on snowpack, hard rain, and upstream dam releases may greatly increase the flow.
- **Cold.** Cold drains your strength and robs you of the ability to make sound decisions on matters affecting your survival. Cold-water immersion, because of the initial shock and the rapid heat loss which follows, is especially dangerous. Dress appropriately for bad weather or sudden immersion in the water. When the water temperature is less than 50 degrees F., a wetsuit or drysuit is essential for protection if you swim. Next best is wool or pile clothing under a waterproof shell. In this case, you should also carry waterproof matches and a change of clothing in a waterproof bag. If, after prolonged exposure, a person experiences uncontrollable shaking, loss of coordination, or difficulty speaking, he or she is hypothermic, and needs your assistance.
- **Strainers.** Brush, fallen trees, bridge pilings, undercut rocks or anything else which allows river current to sweep through can pin boats and boaters against the obstacle. Water pressure on anything trapped this way can be overwhelming. rescue is often extremely difficult. Pinning may occur in fast current, with little or not whitewater to warn of the danger.
- **Dams, weirs, ledges, reversals, holes, and hydraulics.** When water drops over an obstacle, it curls back on itself, forming a strong upstream current which may be capable of holding a boat or swimmer. Some holes make for excellent sport. Others are proven killers. Paddlers who cannot recognize the difference should avoid all but the smallest holes. Hydraulics around man-made dams must be treated with utmost respect regardless of their height or the level of the river. Despite their seemingly benign appearance, they can create an almost escape-proof trap. The swimmer's only exit from the "drowning machine" is to dive below the surface when the downstream current is flowing beneath the reversal.

Boating alone is discouraged. The minimum party is three people or two craft.

Have a frank knowledge of your boating ability, and don't attempt rivers or rapids which lie beyond that ability.

Be in Good physical and mental condition, consistent with the difficulties which may be expected. Make adjustments for loss of skills due to age, health, fitness. Any health limitations must be explained to your fellow paddlers prior to starting the trip.

Be practiced in self-rescue, including escape from an overturned craft. The eskimo roll is strongly recommended for decked boaters who run rapids Class IV or greater, or who paddle in cold environmental conditions.

Be trained in rescue skills, CPR, and first aid with special emphasis on the recognizing and treating hypothermia. It may save your friend's life.

Carry equipment needed for unexpected emergencies, including foot wear which will protect your feet when walking out, a throw rope, knife, whistle, and waterproof matches. If you wear eyeglasses, tie them on and carry a spare pair on long trips. Bring cloth repair tape on short runs, and a full repair kit on isolated rivers. Do not wear bulky jackets, ponchos, heavy boots, or anything else which could reduce your ability to survive a swim.

Despite the mutually supportive group structure described in this code, individual paddlers are ultimately responsible for their own safety, and must assume sole responsibility for the following decisions:

- **The decision to participate on any trip.** This includes an evaluation of the expected difficulty of the rapids under the conditions existing at the time of the put-in.
- **The selection of appropriate equipment,** including a boat design suited to their skills and the appropriate rescue and survival gear.
- **The decision to scout any rapid,** and to run or portage according to their best judgment. Other members of the group may offer advice, but paddlers should resist pressure from anyone to paddle beyond their skills. It is also their responsibility to decide whether to pass up any walk-out or take-out opportunity.
- **All trip participants should consistently evaluate their own and their group's safety,** voicing their concerns when appropriate and following what they believe to be the best course of action. Paddlers are encouraged to speak with anyone whose actions on the water are dangerous, whether they are a part of your group or not.

GUIDELINES FOR RIVER RESCUE

Recover from an upset with an eskimo roll whenever possible. Evacuate your boat immediately if there is imminent danger of being trapped against rocks, brush, or any other kind of strainer.

If you swim, hold on to your boat. It has much flotation and is easy for rescuers to spot. Get to the upstream end so that you cannot be crushed between a rock and your boat by the force of the current. Persons with good balance may be able to climb on top of a swamped kayak or flipped raft and paddle to shore.

Release your craft if this will improve your chances, especially if the water is cold or dangerous rapids lie ahead. Actively attempt self-rescue whenever possible by swimming for safety. Be prepared to assist others who may come to your aid.

When swimming in shallow or obstructed rapids, lie on your back with feet held high and pointed downstream. Do not attempt to stand in fast moving water; if your foot wedges on the bottom, fast water will push you under and keep you there. Get to slow or very shallow water before attempting to stand or walk. Look ahead! Avoid possible pinning situations including undercut rocks, strainers, downed trees, holes, and other dangers by swimming away from them.

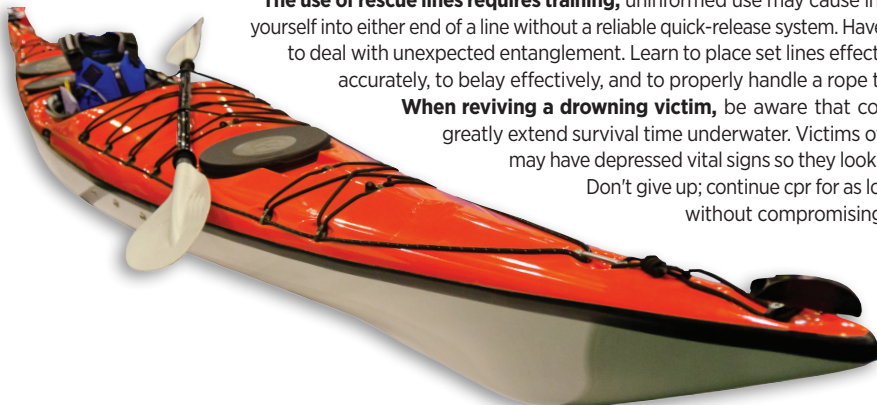
If the rapids are deep and powerful, roll over onto your stomach and swim aggressively for shore. Watch for eddies and slackwater and use them to get out of the current. Strong swimmers can effect a powerful upstream ferry and get to shore fast. If the shores are obstructed with strainers or under cut rocks, however, it is safer to "ride the rapid out" until a safer escape can be found.

If others spill and swim, go after the boaters first. Rescue boats and equipment only if this can be done safely. While participants are encouraged (but not obligated) to assist one another to the best of their ability, they should do so only if they can, in their judgment, do so safely. The first duty of a rescuer is not to compound the problem by becoming another victim.

The use of rescue lines requires training; uninformed use may cause injury. Never tie yourself into either end of a line without a reliable quick-release system. Have a knife handy to deal with unexpected entanglement. Learn to place set lines effectively, to throw accurately, to belay effectively, and to properly handle a rope thrown to you.

When reviving a drowning victim, be aware that cold water may greatly extend survival time underwater. Victims of hypothermia may have depressed vital signs so they look and feel dead.

Don't give up; continue cpr for as long as possible without compromising safety.





Alazani is a river that flows through the Caucasus. It is the main tributary of the Kura in eastern Georgia, (Kakheti Region) and flows for 351 km. Part of its path forms the border between Georgia and Azerbaijan, before it meets the Kura (Mtkvari) at the Mingechaur Reservoir. The Alazani originates in the Greater Caucasus, south of the main ridge, in the northwestern part of the Akhmeta District. It flows initially to the south towards the town Akhmeta, then through the fruitful Alazani Valley of Kakheti towards the southeast. The Alazani is a river that flows through the Caucasus. River attached to Mingechauri reservoir. (Azerbaijan) Before the reservoir build up Alazani was the main tributary of the Kura in eastern Georgia.

The Alazani dries up during the winter, but in the late spring, snow melt from the mountains swells the river enormously; this regularly causes flooding.

| Region | River | Section | Difficulty Level | | | Recom. Period | Duration of the run (Min) | Start Place |
|---------|---------|---------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | | | Apr. Jun. | Jul. Aug. | Sep. Oct. | | | |
| Akhmeta | Alazani | M1 | 3.5 - 4 | 2.5 - 3 | 2 - 2.5 | Apr.-Oct. | 110 - 140 | Vill Duisi |
| | | M2 | 2 - 2.5 | 2 - 2.5 | 2 | | 80 - 110 | |

SECTION OF THE KHADORI WATERPOWER- DUISI

During the survey there was inspected only the mountain section of the river.

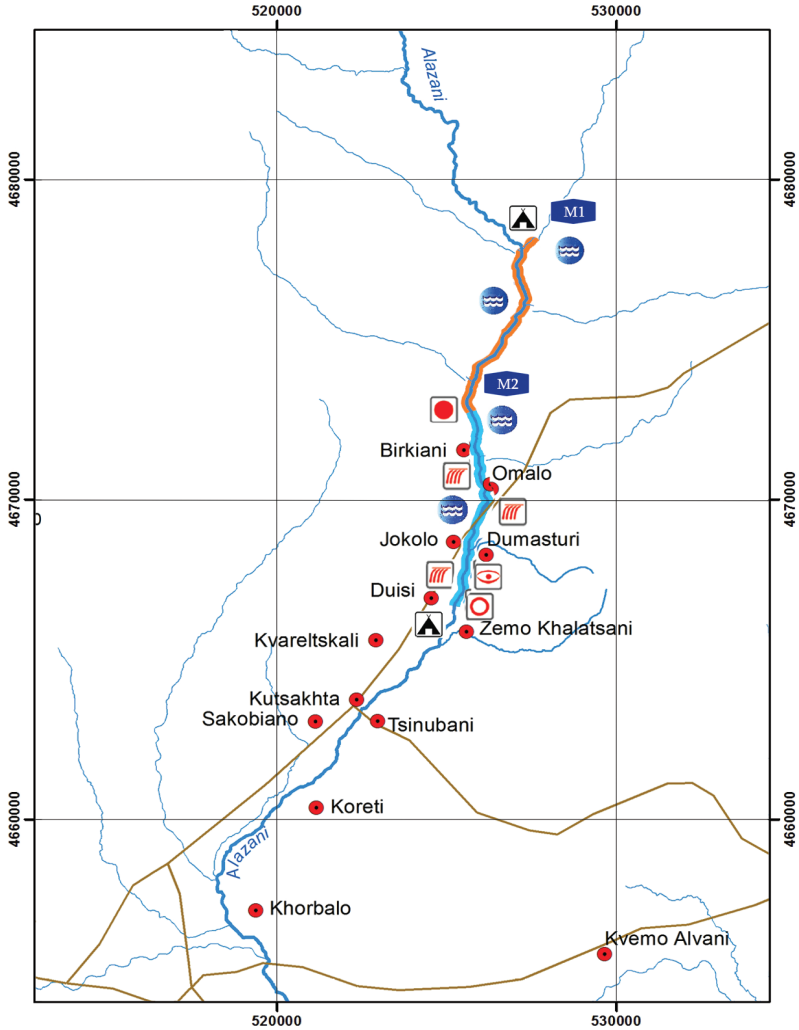
The first section (M1) is difficult and ranges between 3,5- 4 category.

The track starts by the beginning of the river Alazani, one kilometer above from the beginning of the second waterpower of Khadori. Altogether the river is not full-flow, but it is very fast and stony, technically difficult to pass. There are many huge stones, little waterfalls and stoppers. To view the river completely is possible except some places. From the start itself there is a woody place with many stones and comparatively less water, there are climbing places, approximately in one kilometer there is a waterpower, which blocks the river. Here is important to take the boat manually. The second river joins the waterpower and this river is also more full-flow. The second river of the waterpower flows in a comparatively large valley, which is not woody anymore. The river has a narrow riverbed and the water is fast. There are some huge stones, little waterfalls and stoppers. There were trees in the river, but this time it didn't obstruct us. First section ends on top of the village Dzibakhevi.

The second section (M2) begins right there, which is easy and ranges between 2-2,5 category. The water is fast, but there are no big stones and waterfalls anymore, but there are big waves and a pleasant getaway. By the end of the track the riverbed gets larger and the river flows slower. The finish is by the village Duisi. To the start and finish there is a road. The road runs from start to the end of the river, in some places it is possible to go near to the riverbed by the car.





















RIVER ALAZANI



Scale 1: 150 000

LEGEND

| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  Settlements |  Fall |  M1 Section |
|  Roads |  Fall, Normally not run or not runnable |  Camp site |
|  Rivers |  Put-In, Normally preferred |  Bridge |
|  Difficulty Level 2 |  Take-Out, Normally preferred |  Drop |
|  Difficulty Level 3 |  Mandatory Portage | |
|  Difficulty Level 4 |  Total blockage, always/certain water levels | |
|  Difficulty Level 5 |  Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary | |



Aragvi- located in eastern Georgia , Kazbegi , Dusheti and Mtskheta municipalities. Its length is 112 km , the catchment area is 2724 km 2. Aragvi system of rivers made by – Mtiuleti (White) Aragvi , Gudamakari (Black) Aragvi , Khevsureti Aragvi and Pshavi Aragvi. The Main Aragvi starts in north - eastern part of volcanic mountains. Aragvi at upper and middle reaches is the mountain river, the lower section which flows at Mukhrani and Mtskheta plains apart. After it crosses the mountain range Skhaltba and Saguramo. Attached to the left side of the Mtkvari in Mtskheta .

Aragvi fed by groundwater, rain and snow , as well as Glacier and eternal snow water.

| Region | River | Section | Difficulty Level | | | Recom. Period | Duration of the run (Min) | Start Place |
|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | Apr.- Jun. | Jul.- Aug. | Sep.- Oct. | | | |
| Dusheti | Aragvi (Pshavi) | M1 | 4 -4.5 | 3-3.5 | 3 | Apr.- Oct. | 30 - 40 | valley of Barisakho |
| | | M2 | 2.5 - 3 | 2-2.5 | 2 | | 50-60 | Magharo's Kari |
| | | M3 | 3.5 - 4.5 | 3 | 2.5 | | 80-110 | |
| | | M4 | 2.5 - 3 | 2.5 | 2 | | 60-80 | |
| | Aragvi (white) | M5 | 2 - 2.5 | 2 | 2 | | 40-70 | Mleta |
| | | M6 | 2 - 3 | 2 | 2 | | 40-80 | Pasanauri |

SECTION OF PSHAVI

Start begins in the valley of Barisakho, in the edge of the bridge. The river is divided into several sections.

The first section (M1) is the most difficult one and is classified between 4-4.5 categories. As beginning this section is a waterfall to be seen, which height is 3 meters. The difficult part continues 5km along. It's impossible to explore the river before descending, which increases the category of difficulty to the 5th category. There is some risk of being blocked by trees. This section ends as the valley ends, where is located a bridge. The next 5 kilometers the river flows in broad valley. **(M2) The category of difficulty** ranges between 2-2.5. In this section the river runs alongside the highway. After this section the valley is narrowed and the difficulty of the river increases to 3- 4.5. **(M3) The inclination angle increases** to, flow speed increases to 15-17 km/hour. There are huge stones and appropriately this section is characterized as high-technical. This place can be evaluated from the side, what decreases the risk of descending. The distance of the valley is defined as 4 km, after that before the finish there are no narrow valleys to be expected. The river flows relatively quietly, **(M4) there are no huge stones on the way**, the category of difficulty is qualified as 2-3, what enables starter and average level kayakers to descend in this section. Best place for camping is the territory near the finish place.

SECTION OF MLETA (M5)

Start place of descending – Mleta, from the lower side of the first turn of the highway.

Allowed distance of the track is 12 km. Along the start to the finish runs the highway. This section of the river runs alongside the highway, which gives possibility to kayaker before starting to have a detailed look on the itinerary. The difficulty category of the river ranges between 2-2.5 categories. There are no especially difficult parts to pass. We have two bridges on the river, where boats should be moved manually during the itinerary. The river here is not full-flowing, along the track are many stones, the river is characterized as technical. To pass the river is possible for average level kayaker.

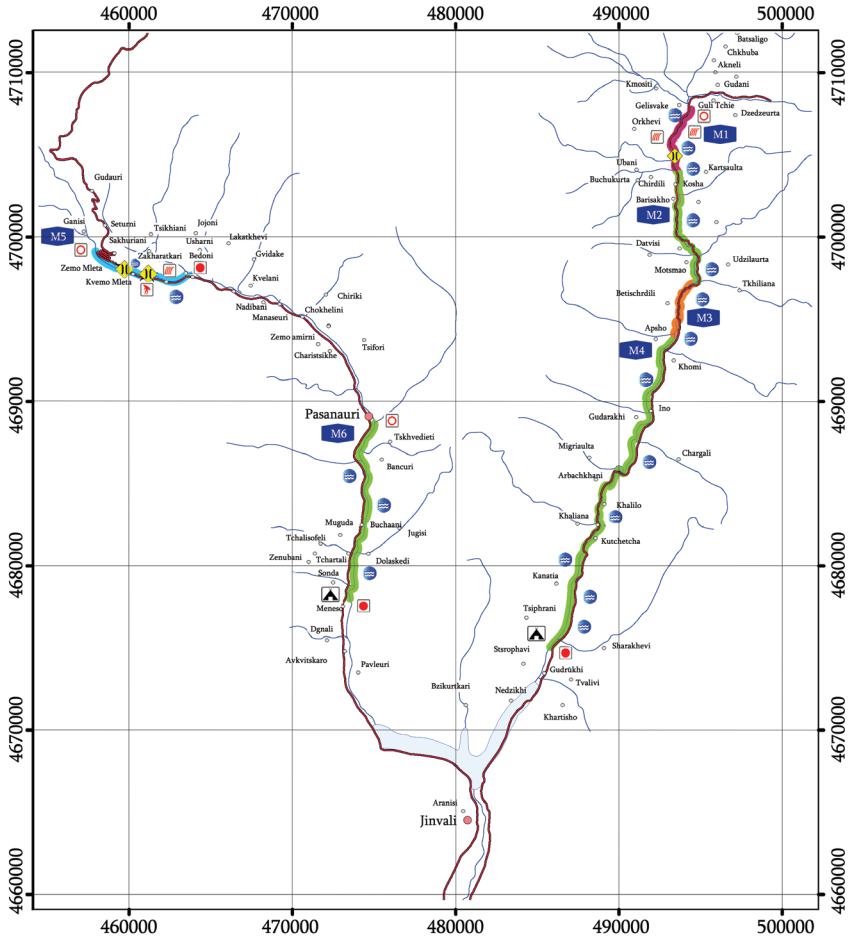
SECTION OF PASANAURI – MENESO (M6)

The start begins in Pasanauri, the length of the track is 15 km. to pass allowed distance is needed 1 hour and 15 minutes. The river is accompanied by the highway, which facilitates controlling the track.

There are some extra highways, with them it is possible to go to the shore of the river. There are no big stones in the river, which facilitates passing the track. The difficulty of the river ranges between 2- 3 categories. To pass the river is possible for average level kayaker.

Finish is in the village Meneso, where is possible to camp.

RIVER ARAGVI



Scale 1: 120 000

LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|---|--|-----------|
| | Settlements | | Fall | | Section |
| | Roads | | Fall, Normally not run or not runnable | | Camp site |
| | Rivers | | Put-In, Normally preferred | | Bridge |
| | Difficulty Level 2 | | Take-Out, Normally preferred | | Drop |
| | Difficulty Level 3 | | Mandatory Portage | | |
| | Difficulty Level 4 | | Total blockage, always/certain water levels | | |
| | Difficulty Level 5 | | Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary | | |



Mtkvari, is a river in the Caucasus Mountains. Starting in northeastern Turkey, it flows through Turkey to Georgia, then to Azerbaijan, where it receives the Aras River as a right tributary, and enters the Caspian Sea. The total length of the river is 1,515 kilometres.

| Region | River | Section | Difficulty Level | | | Recom. Period | Duration of the run (Min) | Start Place |
|--------------------|---------|---------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | | | Apr.-Jun. | Jul.-Aug. | Sep.-Oct. | | | |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | Mtkvari | M1 | 3 | 2.5 - 3 | 2 - 2.5 | Apr.-Oct. | 30 - 40 | Vardzia |
| | | M2 | 3.5 - 4 | 3 | 3 | | | |
| | | M3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | | 40-60 | valley of Tmogvi |
| | | M4 | 2.5 - 3 | 2.5 | 2 | | | |
| | | M5 | 3 - 3.5 | 2.5 | 2 | | | |

SECTION OF VARDZIA-KHERTVISI

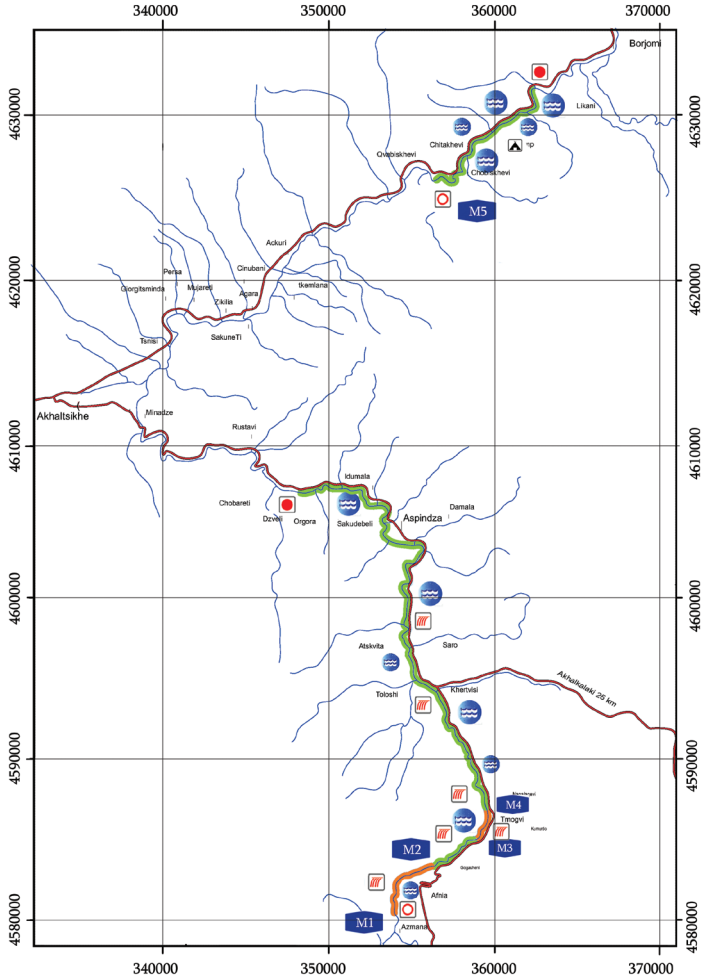
The start begins a few kilometers upwards Vardzia. From the start runs a highway. The whole river is divided into a few sections. **First section (M1)** extends about 4-5 kilometers. The highway runs along this section and is easily viewed. In the river, there are big stones, but they are easy to pass, there are waves and the category ranges between two and a half and three. **Second section (M2)** begins from farms; here the river flows in a narrow and high valley, which makes it difficult to explore the trace from the outside. Highway skips this section. This valley is the lower part of the castle of Tmogvi. In This part the speed of the river increases, **there are many big stones, stoppers, huge waves, (M3)** there is a possibility to stopping and over viewing previous sections. There are many technical sections. The category in the valley of Tmogvi ranges between three and a half and four categories. Third section begins as soon as one passes the valley and extends to 4-5 kilometers, where the river runs in relatively broad place, here are no big stones to be expected, but the flow is fast and wavy. The category ranges between three and three and a half. **The third section (M4)** is accompanied by the highway, which facilitates exploring the line. The finish is in the village Khertvisi.

SECTION OF KVABISKHEVI-LIKANI

The start begins from the village Qvabixevi-Likani. (M5) From start to finish runs a highway. The length of the path is 14-15 kilometers. One hour and a half is required to pass the road. Along the river runs the highway, which makes easier to survey the trace. In 2 kilometers from the start, in village of Chitaxevi flows a river from the water power station and the river becomes abounding in water. There are no stones, but there are lots of waves. The category ranges between three and three and a half. The camp is located in the village of Chitakhevi alongside the river, where the highway runs.



RIVER MTKVARI



Scale 1: 120 000

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|---|--|-----------|
| | Settlements | | Fall | | Section |
| | Roads | | Fall, Normally not run or not runnable | | Camp site |
| | Rivers | | Put-In, Normally preferred | | Bridge |
| | Difficulty Level 2 | | Take-Out, Normally preferred | | Drop |
| | Difficulty Level 3 | | Mandatory Portage | | |
| | Difficulty Level 4 | | Total blockage, always/certain water levels | | |
| | Difficulty Level 5 | | Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary | | |



The Abasha also known as the Abashistskali is a river in north-western Georgia, running for 66 km in the municipalities of Martvili and Abasha, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region. Its catchment area is 370 km².

The Abasha river takes its origin through the confluence of the mountain streams Rachkhitskali and Toba, located near the village of Baldi, at 325 m above sea level, and meets the Tekhuri as its left tributary.

| Region | River | Section | Difficulty Level | | | Recom. Period | Duration of the run (Min) | Start Place |
|----------|--------|---------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | | | Apr.-Jun. | Jul.-Aug. | Sep.-Oct. | | | |
| Martvili | Abasha | M1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | Apr.-Oct. | 80-90 | Vill Lebache |

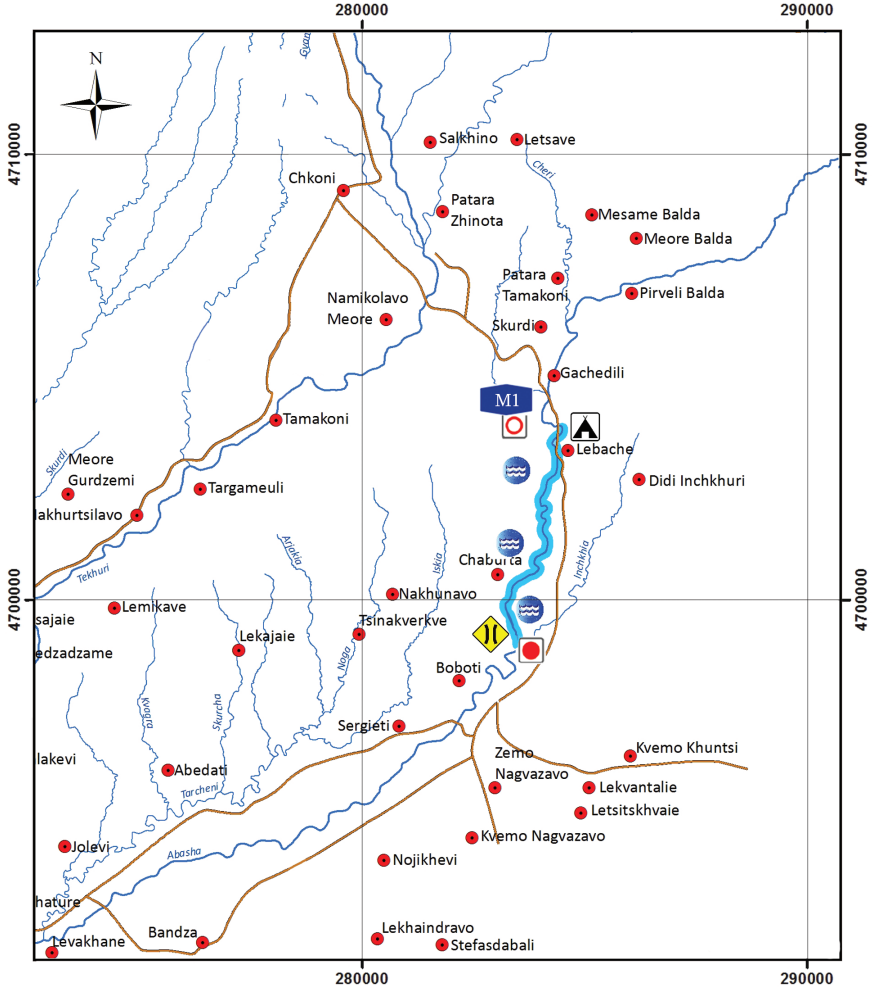
SECTION OF LEBACHE – BOBOTI (M1)

Start point of kayaking track is located near Oputskhole Canyon near Village Lebache. Road goes on the canyon, boat can be brought manually, using the path. It is not difficult to go to the water.

At first, the river flows in very beautiful and narrow canyon, we can find big boulders, but it's easy to pass, river is very slow, in five hundred meters we can find a dam, which does not obstruct the pass, then we go out from canyon and river flows in a very wide riverbed, where it is necessary to bring boats manually, in the river the water is little. The finish is near the bridge of Village Boboti. The length of the track is not more than 5-6 kilometres, it is necessary more than an hour to pass the kayak section. The category of difficulty is 2.





















RIVER ABASHA



Scale 1: 120 000

LEGEND

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  Settlements |  Roads |  Rivers |  M1 Section |
|  Difficulty Level 2 |  Difficulty Level 3 |  Difficulty Level 4 |  Camp site |
|  Difficulty Level 5 |  Fall |  Fall, Normally not run or not runnable |  Bridge |
| |  Put-In, Normally preferred |  Take-Out, Normally preferred |  Drop |
| |  Mandatory Portage |  Total blockage, always/certain water levels | |
| |  Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary | | |

RIVER TEKHURI



Tekhuri is a river in western Georgia (Martvili Senaki district and municipality). Starts in south slope of the ridge Egrisi at Tekhurishdud peak of 2400 meter from sea level. Attached to the right-hand side of the river Rioni. Length of Tekhuri is 108 km, the catchment area is 1040 km². A major tributary is river Abasha. Nourished by rain, snow and underground water. Flooding at the spring. The average annual consumption at Nokalakevi is 30.2 m³ / s. The resort Lebarde is located in the upper part of the valley.

| Region | River | Section | Difficulty Level | | | Recom. Period | Duration of the run (Min) | Start Place |
|-----------------|---------|---------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | Apr.-Jun. | Jul.-Aug. | Sep.-Oct. | | | |
| Martvili Senaki | Tekhuri | M1 | 3.5 - 4 | 3 | 2.5 - 3 | Apr.-Oct. | 95 | Vill Doberazeni |
| | | M2 | 2 - 2.5 | 2 | 2 | | 60 | |

SECTION OF SALKHINO - DOBERAZENI (M1)

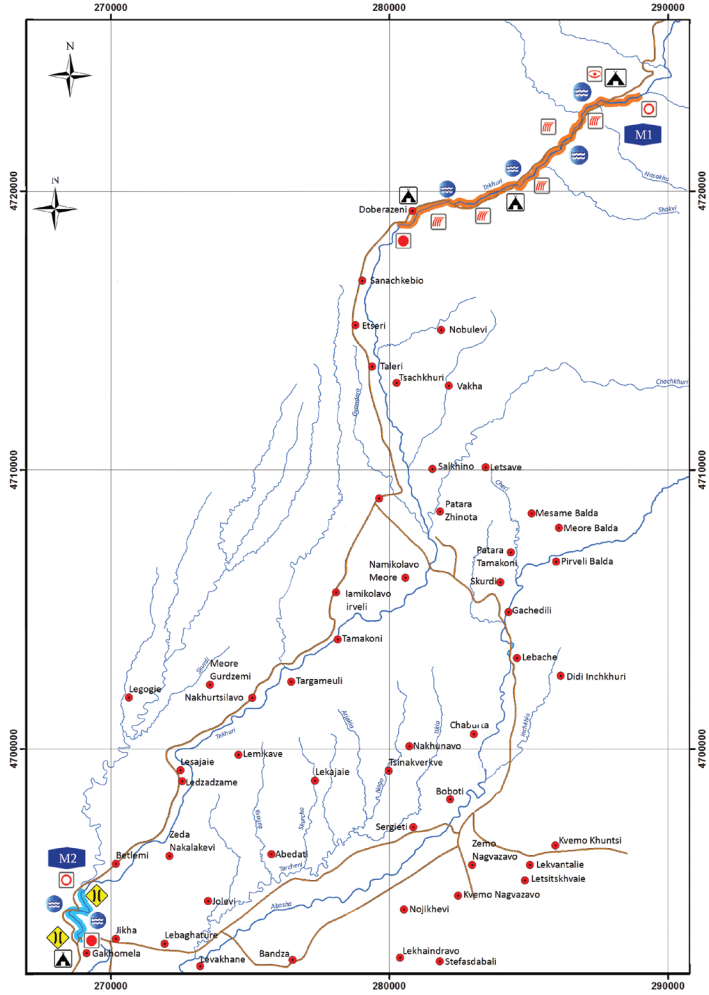
The start point located in the territory near of Lebarde road, there is an entrance in the forest which leads directly to the river, where it is possible to camp. The river is compound, there are many stones, rapids, stoppers, and little waterfalls, there are also some trees, but this time it didn't obstruct, there is a narrow valley, there is a very fast water flow, but the river gives us a possibility to stop and view previous sections. Across the whole track runs road, but the great part of the river is impossible to view, because of the complexity of the valley. The river is very technical and category ranges between 3-4. In May the water will be higher and the difficulty will automatically increase too. The length of the track is about 8-10 kilometers and there is more than an hour and a half to pass with stop and explorations of the sections included. To pass the river is recommended only for experienced and professional kayakers.

SECTION OF BETLEMI - NOKALAKEVI - JIKHA (M2)

The start point located by the bridge in village Betlemi and the whole length of the track is about 5 kilometers long, it ends by the castle of Jikha. Whole section is beautiful valley, from the road it is impossible to view. The river is covered by trees and flows between high cliffs. Great part of the river flows in narrow riverbed, but it is not difficult to pass, category ranges between 2-2.5, there are waterfalls, but there are no big stones, stoppers and trees. From the start in about one kilometer and a half from the earth comes hot water of Sulfur. To pass the river is possible for beginner kayakers. It is necessary to have a guide, it is possible to plan a touristic route.



RIVER TEKHURI



Scale 1: 120 000

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|---|--|-----------|
| | Settlements | | Fall | | Section |
| | Roads | | Fall, Normally not run or not runnable | | Camp site |
| | Rivers | | Put-In, Normally preferred | | Bridge |
| | Difficulty Level 2 | | Take-Out, Normally preferred | | Drop |
| | Difficulty Level 3 | | Mandatory Portage | | |
| | Difficulty Level 4 | | Total blockage, always/certain water levels | | |
| | Difficulty Level 5 | | Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary | | |



Acharistsqali is located in southwestern Georgia. in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Chorokhi right tributary, which flows into the Black Sea. It takes start at Arsiani ridge, flows through a narrow, deep gorge, widening at the estuary. Adjaristskali lengthis 90 km, with a catchment area - 1540 km². The river is fed by different sources, mainly from the rain waters. It is characterized by flooding throughout the year.

| Region | River | Section | Difficulty Level | | | Recom. Period | Duration of the run (Min) | Start Place |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | | | Apr.-Jun. | Jul.-Aug. | Sep.-Oct. | | | |
| Sh-uakhevi-Keda | Adjaris Tskhali | M1 | 2 - 3 | 3 | 3 | Apr.-Oct. | 80-90 | Vill Purtio |
| | | M2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | 30 | |
| | | M3 | 2 - 3 | 3 | 3 | | 60 | |

SECTION OF KHULO - SHUAKHEVI

The track starts from the bridge of Purtio. The river divides into few sections;

The first section (M1) is until Shuakhevi, 6-7 kilometers long, the road runs near the river but because of difficulties of the valley to view it is completely impossible. It took us 30-40 minutes to pass the first section. The category ranges between 2-3. The river is gradient and narrow, there are some stoppers, many big stones, and because of what there is much to climb and technically difficult parts.

In the second section (M2) the river flows in a wide valley.

In some parts of the river there are parted streams and the water becomes sparse, the length is approximately 8 kilometers, it needs almost one hour to pass.

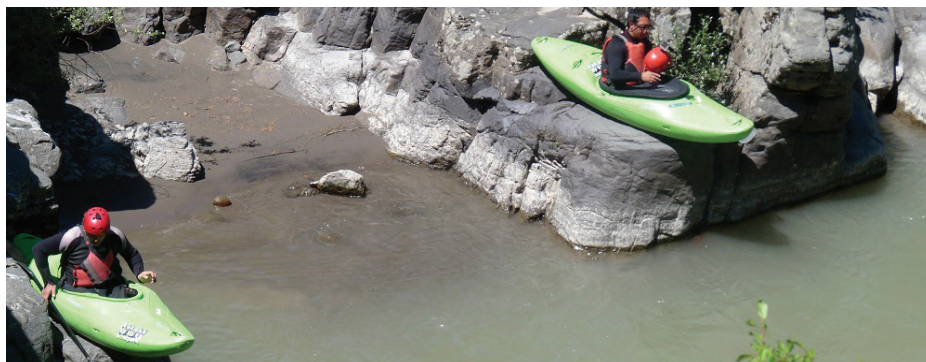
The road runs along the river and it is possible to view it. The category is not more than two.

In the third section (M3) there is a little canyon where the speed of the water gets faster, the water is technical, there are some huge stones, but the category ranges between 2-3.

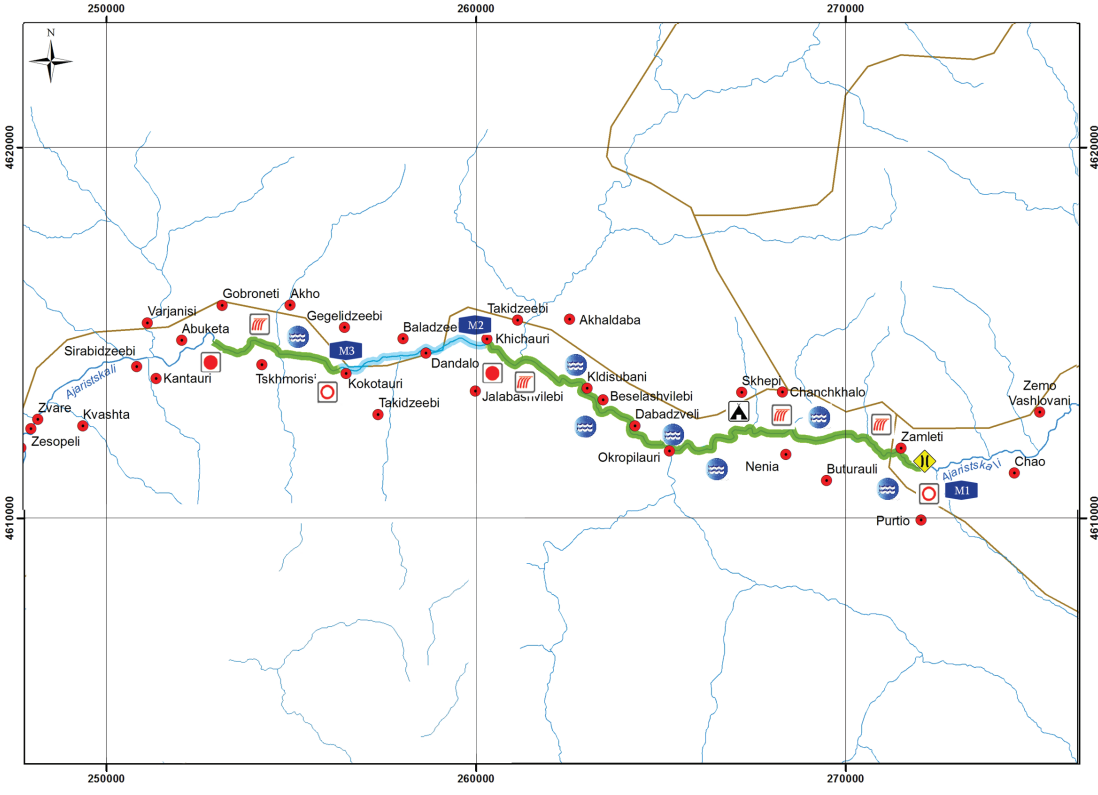
The length of the sections are 4-5 kilometres and we needed half of an hour to pass it. It is difficult to view this place. Along the whole track there are many spare ways which go directly to the river.

This year winter in Ajara District was short, the sediment was little and there was practically no snow at all. This reduced the river full-flow very much. In normal occasion after winter there is completely different condition. The start of the track can be placed more above by the Berleti bridge (bridge of Tamar).

Every riverbed will get higher minimum 1-1,5 of a difficulty category, in that case it will be necessary to explore the whole river and to be armed with rescuers and rescue ropes on the shore.



RIVER ADJARISTSKHALI



Scale 1: 100 000

| LEGEND | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|--|---|--|-----------|
| | Settlements | | Fall | | Section |
| | Roads | | Fall, Normally not run or not runnable | | Camp site |
| | Rivers | | Put-In, Normally preferred | | Bridge |
| | Difficulty Level 2 | | Take-Out, Normally preferred | | Drop |
| | Difficulty Level 3 | | Mandatory Portage | | |
| | Difficulty Level 4 | | Total blockage, always/certain water levels | | |
| | Difficulty Level 5 | | Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary | | |



The river is located in Turkey and Georgia. Has led at Okus - Badadaghis mountains. The river length is 438 km , including 26 km on AAR (Adjara). Basin area is 22 thousand square kilometers, Chorokhi flowing tectonic ridges between the river valley and lazistan attached to the south of the city of Batumi on the Black Sea. Characterized by the spring - summer floods, is used for irrigation. The main tributaries : Adjaristskhali and Machakhelistskali .

| Region | River | Section | Difficulty Level | | | Recom. Period | Duration of the run (Min) | Start Place |
|--------------|----------|---------|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | | | Apr.- Jun. | Jul.- Aug. | Sep.- Oct. | | | |
| Khelvachauri | Chorokhi | M1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | Apr.-Oct. | 30-40 | Vill Maradidi |

SECTION OF MARADIDI (M1)

The track starts by the village Maradidi by the Georgian-Turkish border. From start runs the road until the end of the track. The whole track is 5-6 kilometers long. The road runs alongside the river and it is easy to view the river.

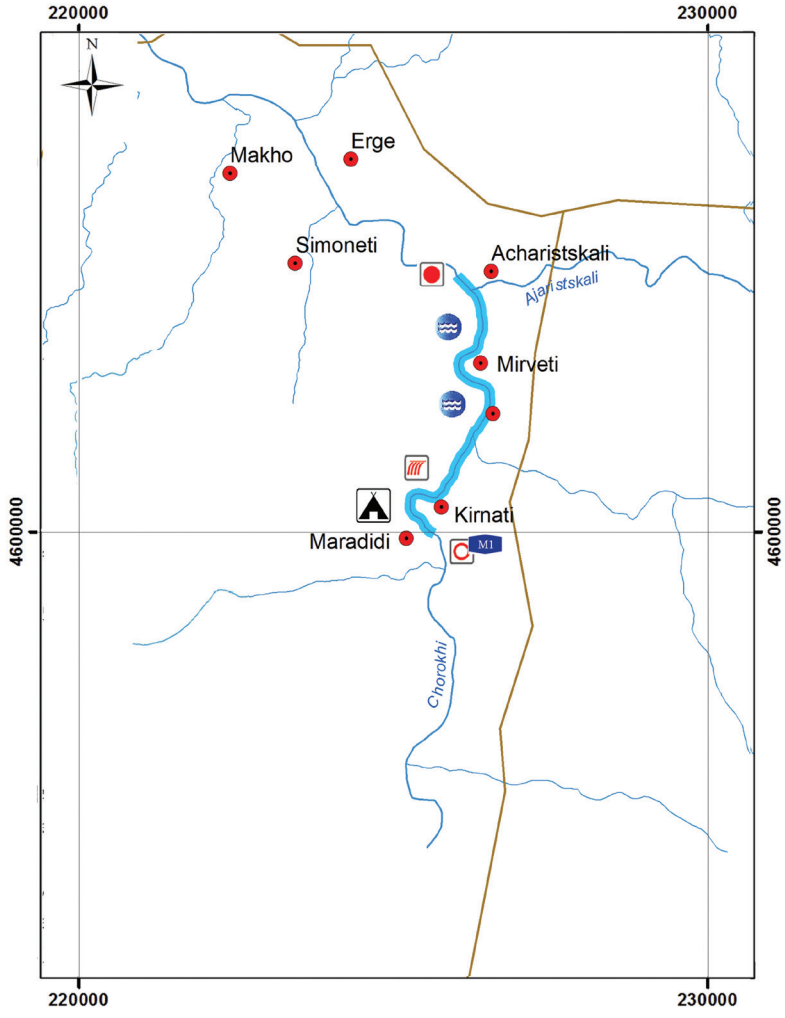
The water is high and flows slowly, the category is - 2. It takes 30-40 minutes to pass the whole track.

In this section of the river there is a construction work of two big water power plants, in the future it is planned to flood the whole section. There is one more big problem, by the Turkish side there is a water power plant which voluntarily locks the gateway of the water, that's why it is impossible to know in advance if the water will get higher or lower, That is real dangerous for the kayaker, because of sudden flooding or sudden lowering of the water.

By talking with natives it was cleared that except of lowering and flooding there was water power plant cleaning work and the river took the trees, a lot of garbage, this is automatically dangerous. One positive side of this water power plant is that the river is clean and perfectly suited with valley beauty.



RIVER TCHOROKHI



Scale 1: 100 000

| LEGEND | | | |
|--------|--------------------|--|---|
| | Settlements | | Fall |
| | Roads | | Fall, Normally not run or not runnable |
| | Rivers | | Put-In, Normally preferred |
| | Difficulty Level 2 | | Take-Out, Normally preferred |
| | Difficulty Level 3 | | Mandatory Portage |
| | Difficulty Level 4 | | Total blockage, always/certain water levels |
| | Difficulty Level 5 | | Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary |
| | | | Section |
| | | | Camp site |
| | | | Bridge |
| | | | Drop |



Tskhenistsqali is a river in western Georgia. Its source is in the main range of the Caucasus Mountains, in the easternmost part of the Lentekhi District, lower Svaneti. A tributary of the river Rioni, its length is 184 km.[1] It flows through the small townsLentekhi and Tsageri and joins the Rioni near the town Samtredia. Length of the river is 176 km. Fed by snow, rain, glacier and ground water. Spring - summer is characterized by a flood (annual runoff flows 70%), the winter - low-flow (10%), fall - floods (20%).

| Region | River | Section | Difficulty Level | | | Recom. Period | Duration of the run (Min) | Start Place |
|----------|------------------|---------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | | | Apr.-Jun. | Jul.-Aug. | Sep.-Oct. | | | |
| Lentekhi | Tskhenis-Tskhali | M1 | 3 - 4 | 3 | 3 | Apr.-Oct. | 30 - 40 | Panaga |
| | | M2 | 4.5-5.5 | 4 - 4.5 | 4 | | 70 - 80 | Lentekhi |
| | | M3 | 3 - 4 | 3 | 3 | | 60 - 90 | Tsageri |

SECTION OF FANAGA-TSAGERI (M1)

The track starts from the village Fanaga. There is a road to the start place.

First section (M1) continues along 8 -10km. The road runs along the river, but there are some places, where is difficult to view the river from above. The river is full-flow, runs in wider places, there are also a few narrow valleys and the riverbed gets narrower, but it doesn't complicate the passing. The river is fast, there are huge stones, but it's easy to pass, there are waves and stoppers. The category ranges between 3-4. There were trees in the river, but in this section it didn't matter. The river gave a possibility to go through. To pass this section we needed 30-40 minutes.

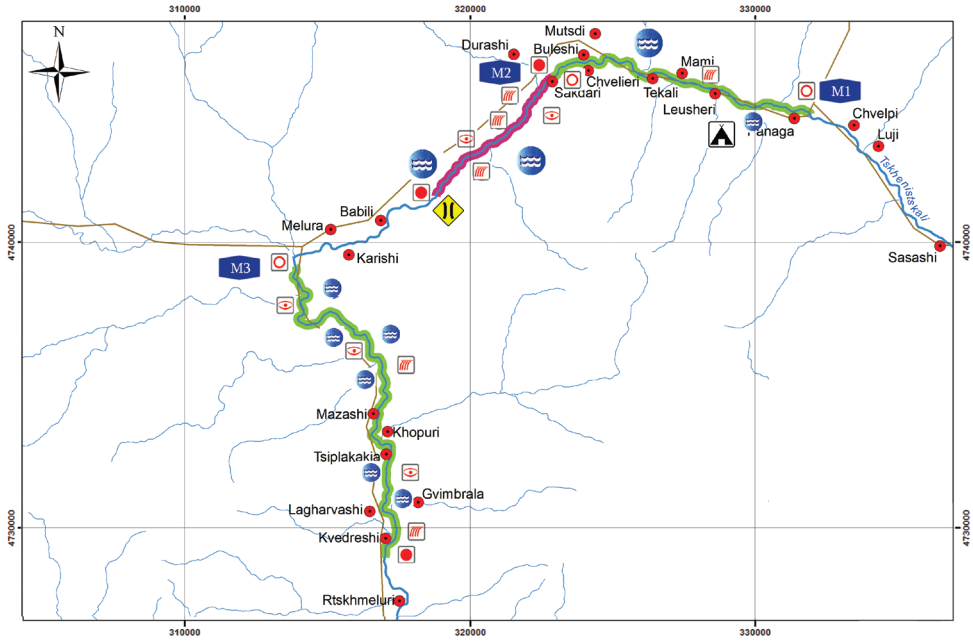
The second section (M2) is very difficult and begins with a narrow valley and continues 5-6 km, the road runs alongside and gives a chance to explore the track, which is essential before passing. The category ranges between 4 - 5. Tilt angel is big, there are many huge stones and many little waterfalls, many stoppers, many big waves and everything what should be in the 5th category river. By falling there is essential to have helpers with rescue ropes on the river shore. Where this difficult section finishes there is the river blocked up, there is impossible to pass along, the kayak must be taken out manually.

Third section (M3) starts from Lentekhi, where two rivers are joining and Tskhenistskhali becomes full-flow, the length of the track is about 15-20 km , runs along the road and the whole track is easy to view.

The track finishes in Tsageri. Here is the river wider, but fast. There are no big stones, but there are big waves and stoppers. The category ranges between 3-4. It needs one and a half hour to pass this section.



RIVER TSKHENISTSKHALI



Scale 1: 115 000

| LEGEND | | | |
|--------|---|--|---|
| | Settlements | | Section |
| | Roads | | Camp site |
| | Rivers | | Bridge |
| | Difficulty Level 2 | | Drop |
| | Difficulty Level 3 | | Fall |
| | Difficulty Level 4 | | Fall, Normally not run or not runnable |
| | Difficulty Level 5 | | Put-In, Normally preferred |
| | Take-Out, Normally preferred | | Mandatory Portage |
| | Total blockage, always/certain water levels | | Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary |



Rioni - Most of the rivers, which flows through the territory of Georgia. Length of 327 km, basin area of 13400 km². Starts at the south slope of the Pasi mountain, at an altitude of 2960 m. Attached to the Black Sea in the city of Poti. Rioni main tributaries - right : sakaura , Lukhuni , Ritseula , Lajanuri , gubistsqali , Tskhenistskali, Tekhuri, Tsivi ; Left : Chanchakhi , gharula , Jejora , lekhidari , Kvirila, Khanistskali Sulori Kumuri, khevistsqali . It is fed by glacier , snow, rain and underground water.

Floods in the spring - summer , which is caused by the seasonal snow and glacier melt and rain.

| Region | River | Section | Difficulty Level | | | Recom. Period | Duration of the run (Min) | Start Place |
|--|-------|---------|------------------|----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | | | Apr.-Jun. | Jul-Aug. | Sep.-Oct. | | | |
| Oni Ambrolauri Tsageri Tskhaltubo | Rioni | M1 | 4 -4.5 | 4 | 3.5-4 | May-Oct. | 40-60 | Tchiora |
| | | M2 | 3 -3.5 | 3 | 3 | | 60-90 | Shovi |
| | | M3 | 4 -4.5 | 4 | 3.5 | | 110-120 | Ambrolauri |
| | | M4 | 3 - 4 | 3 | 3 | | 120-170 | Valley of Alpana |
| | | M5 | 2 - 3 | 2.5 | 2.5 | | 120-180 | Valley of Tvishi |
| | | M6 | 2.5-4.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | | 120-180 | |

SECTION OF CHIORA - AMBROLAURI

The first section (M1) is the most difficult one and starts from village Chiora bridge, where the road goes. Approximately one km and a half the river flows very slowly, then begins the valley, the river-bed narrows and the river flows very fast. To view the first section from the road is almost impossible. The river was blocked up by the trees, there are many huge stones, big waves, stoppers, little waterfalls and fast flow. The category ranges between 4- 4.5. Before passing is essential to view whole section. There are some section, where the water doesn't give a possibility to stop and view all sections passed before. The water is technically difficult to pass. There is almost no roads leading to the river from the difficulty of the valley itself.

The first section continues until the river Chanchakshi tributary at Shovi bridge and continues until the Utsera sour waters "Napertskala".

The second section: (M2) The river there is more full-flowing and loses its speed, but there are waves, and stoppers, the category ranges between 3-3.5. It is possible to view the section almost fully. There are a few roads leading to the river. This section wasn't blocked up of trees so that we could pass it.

The third section (M3) is from Napertskala till the bridge of village Utsera. Here the river runs faster again, flows into narrow riverbed, there are many huge stones, big waves, stoppers, little waterfalls and fast flow.

To view the whole section is very difficult, the section is very technical and the category ranges between 4-4.5.

The fourth section (M4) is the bridge of village Utsera and the village Gari. Here flows the river in a wider valley, there are no big stones, but there are lots of waves, stoppers and big waves, the category ranges between 3-4.

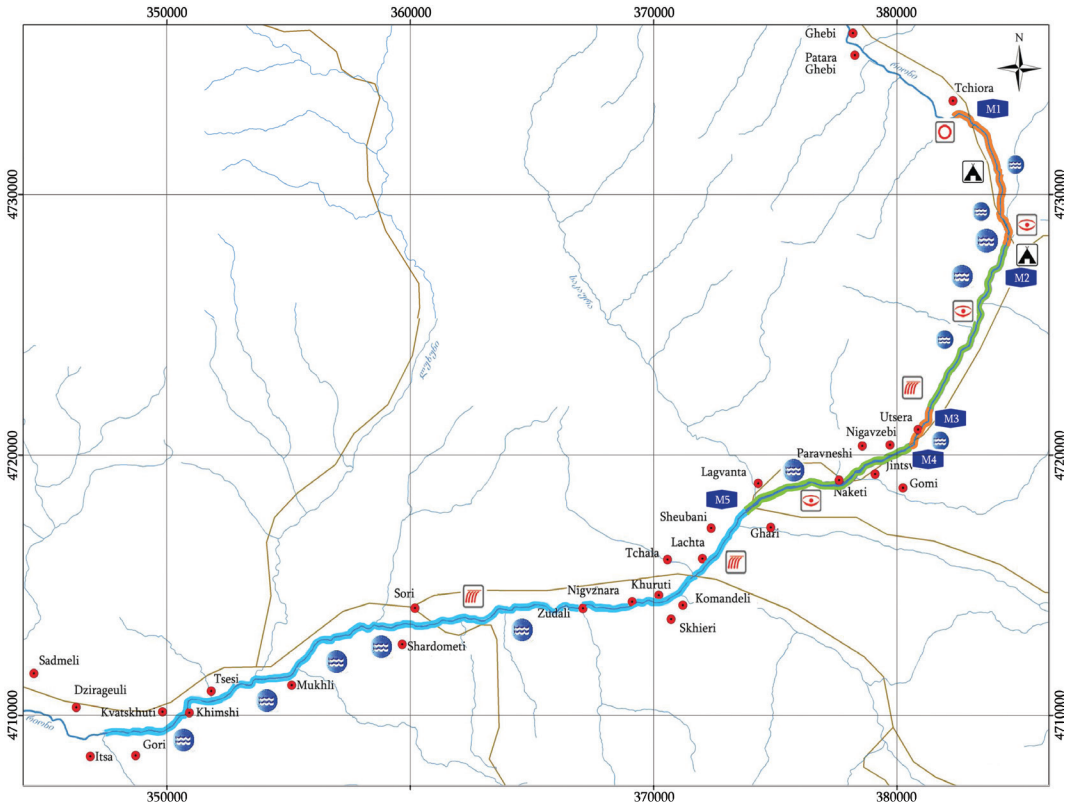
The fifth section (M5) is from village Ghari till Ambrolauri. To every section, by each start and finish goes a road.

SECTION OF ALPANA - THE BRIDGE OF DGHNORISI. SECTION (M6)

Start point located at the village Alpana, where is a good place for camping directly in front of the river.

The river flows in big valley and runs along the road. Almost the whole track is possible to view. The river is full-flow. There are no trees and big stones, there are waves and whirlpools. The category of the whole section ranges from 3-3.5 in addition to some places. Soon from the start by the bridge of Village Tvishi there is a difficult section, which continues approximately 300-400 meters and the category ranges between 4-4.5. Then the river slows down before the village Mekveni. In the upper section of the bridge Derchi, which is not to be seen from the valley itself, are big waves, whirlpools and the category ranges from 4-5 and the whole section continues until 400 meters. Then the river slows down again and until the finish there are no more difficult sections.

RIVER RIONI



Scale 1: 100 000

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|---|--|-----------|
| | Settlements | | Fall | | Section |
| | Roads | | Fall, Normally not run or not runnable | | Camp site |
| | Rivers | | Put-In, Normally preferred | | Bridge |
| | Difficulty Level 2 | | Take-Out, Normally preferred | | Drop |
| | Difficulty Level 3 | | Mandatory Portage | | |
| | Difficulty Level 4 | | Total blockage, always/certain water levels | | |
| | Difficulty Level 5 | | Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary | | |

COORDINATES TABLE (WESTERN GEORGIA)



| Region | River | Section | Coordinates | | Difficulty Level | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|
| | | | Latitude | Longitude | | |
| WESTERN GEORGIA | Martvili | Abasha | I | 42.45621032 | 42.37819768 | 1.5 |
| | | | | 42.41315022 | 42.36852732 | |
| | Shuakhevi Keda | Adjaris-Tskhali | I | 41.62162439 | 42.26394111 | 2 - 3 |
| | | | | 41.64763955 | 42.12197523 | |
| | | | II | 41.64763955 | 42.12197523 | 2 |
| | | | | 41.64000724 | 42.07413870 | |
| | | | III | 41.64000724 | 42.07413870 | 2 - 3 |
| | | | | 41.64700680 | 42.03407253 | |
| | Khelvachauri | Chorokhi | I | 41.50630575 | 41.71128661 | 2 |
| | | | | 41.54373966 | 41.71467181 | |
| | Martvili Senaki | Tekhuri | I | 42.63581003 | 42.42530138 | 3.5 - 4 |
| | | | | 42.59126918 | 42.32290847 | |
| | | | II | 42.37153944 | 42.19294321 | 2 - 2.5 |
| | | | | 42.35627188 | 42.19351653 | |
| | Lentekhi | Tskhenis-Tskhali | I | 42.83191874 | 42.93114756 | 3 - 4 |
| | | | | 42.84235605 | 42.82646245 | |
| | | | II | 42.84235605 | 42.82646245 | 4.5 - 5.5 |
| | | | | 42.80562370 | 42.77950988 | |
| | | | III | 42.78292609 | 42.72207155 | 3 - 4 |
| | | | | 42.69486247 | 42.76147211 | |
| | Oni Ambrolauri Tsageri Tskhaltubo | Rioni | I | 42.73834066 | 43.55505469 | 4 - 4.5 |
| | | | | 42.69489407 | 43.58177092 | |
| | | | II | 42.69489407 | 43.58177092 | 3 - 3.5 |
| | | | | 42.63972673 | 43.54573779 | |
| III | | | 42.63972673 | 43.54573779 | 4 - 4.5 | |
| | | | 42.62619532 | 43.53680109 | | |
| IV | | | 42.62619532 | 43.53680109 | 3 - 4 | |
| | | | 42.60320066 | 43.45790391 | | |
| V | | | 42.60320066 | 43.45790391 | 2 - 3 | |
| | | | 42.52525927 | 43.15163964 | | |
| VI | | | 42.55492173 | 42.80861721 | 2.5 - 4.5 | |
| | | | 42.46052046 | 42.76039897 | | |

COORDINATES TABLE (EASTERN GEORGIA)



| Region | River | Section | Coordinates | | Difficulty Level | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|
| | | | Latitude | Longitude | | |
| EASTERN GEORGIA | Akhmeta | Alazani | M-1 | 42.25530297 | 45.33582472 | 3.5 - 4 |
| | | | | 42.20623590 | 45.31183052 | |
| | | M-2 | 42.20623590 | 45.31183052 | 2 - 2.5 | |
| | | | 42.15178840 | 45.30389437 | | |
| | Dusheti | Aragvi (Pshavi) | M-1 | 42.52735809 | 44.93590191 | 4 - 4.5 |
| | | | | 42.50578148 | 44.92346182 | |
| | | | M-2 | 42.50578148 | 44.92346182 | 2.5 - 3 |
| | | | | 42.47438279 | 44.92943645 | |
| | | | M-3 | 42.47438279 | 44.92943645 | 3.5 - 4.5 |
| | | | | 42.42551177 | 44.94364000 | |
| | | M-4 | 42.42551177 | 44.94364000 | 2.5 - 3 | |
| | | | 42.22019412 | 44.83278405 | | |
| | | Aragvi (white) | M-1 | 42.44567578 | 44.47997608 | 2 - 2.5 |
| | | | | 42.42813354 | 44.55013471 | |
| | | | M-2 | 42.34674702 | 44.69794647 | 2 - 3 |
| | | | | 42.24683457 | 44.67738734 | |
| | Aspindza Borjomi | Mtkvari | M-1 | 41.35069043 | 43.25404521 | 3 |
| | | | | 41.38025969 | 43.29394508 | |
| | | | M-2 | 41.38025969 | 43.29394508 | 3.5 - 4 |
| | | | | 41.41322538 | 43.32481236 | |
| | | | M-3 | 41.41322538 | 43.32481236 | 3 - 3.5 |
| | | | | 41.47649475 | 43.28519178 | |
| | | | M-4 | 41.47649475 | 43.28519178 | 2.5 - 3 |
| | | | | 41.59208405 | 43.17545858 | |
| M-5 | | | 41.77379893 | 43.27552183 | 3 - 3.5 | |
| | | | 41.82482226 | 43.34828831 | | |

ADMINISTRATIVE MA



Kayaking Roads on the river

-  Alazani
-  Aragvi
-  Mtkvari
-  Abasha
-  Tekhuri
-  Adjaristskhali
-  Tchorokhi
-  Tskhenistskhali
-  Rioni





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