

Rivers of Racha-Lechkhumi

Reference · 12 rivers · the Rioni basin

How the Basin Works

One river collects everything. Almost all the region's water belongs to the Rioni basin and leaves with it for the Black Sea at Poti.	The water comes off glaciers. The Rioni basin holds 73 glaciers covering about 60 km ² , above 3,300–3,400 m.	The Labechina ridge splits the region. Lechkhumi to the west, centred on Tsageri; Racha to the east, centred on Ambrolauri.
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Rivers: Length, Basin, Source

River	Length, km	Basin, km ²	Source	Flows into
Rioni	327	13 400	Pasismta, 2960	Black Sea at Poti
Tskhenistskali	176	2120	Svaneti Cauc., 2710	Rioni, right
Jejora	45	438	Maghran-Dvaleti, 2975	Rioni, left
Lukhuni	39	239	Lechkhumi ridge, 2650	Rioni, right
Lajanura	32	296	Lechkhumi ridge, 2710	Rioni, right
Sakaura	30	169	Lechkhumi ridge, 2940	Rioni, right
Ritseula	24	166	Lechkhumi ridge	Rioni, right
Shareula	22	231	Racha ridge, 1091	Rioni, left
Chanchakhi	21,6	185	Chanchakhi glacier, 3025	Rioni, left
Jonoula	21	114	Egrisi ridge, 2455	Tskhenistskali, right
Kvedrula	19,6	48,7	Maghran-Dvaleti, 3075	Jejora, right
Krikhula	15,2	134,6	Racha ridge, 1480	Rioni, left, at Ambrolauri

Average Water Flow

Gauge	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Rioni at Glola	27.3 m ³ /s	345 m ³ /s	16 m ³ /s
Rioni at Kutaisi	134 m ³ /s	1440 m ³ /s	22 m ³ /s
Tskhenistskali, mouth	90.4 m ³ /s	—	—
Lukhuni	12.1 m ³ /s	—	—

Lengths for the Gharula, Notsarula, Chveshura, Zopkhitura, Znakura, Kheori and Kheledula aren't recorded in open sources. Rioni runoff by season: spring 38.8%, summer 28.5%, autumn 18.4%, winter 14.3%.

Waterfalls and Lakes

9 sites · district · GPS coordinates

Site	Type	District	GPS
Chkumi	waterfall	Tsageri Mun.	42.61267, 42.67022
Gvirishi	waterfall	Tsageri Mun.	42.57025, 42.79741
Khvamli	massif, 2,002 m	Tsageri Mun.	42.50075, 42.71345
Znakvi	waterfall	Ambrolauri Mun.	42.5112, 43.0726
Sikvaruli	waterfall	Ambrolauri Mun.	42.52724, 43.11908
Sakinule	cave	Ambrolauri Mun.	42.46324, 43.06729
Shaori	reservoir	Ambrolauri Mun.	42.41988, 43.07840
Skhvava	ice well	Ambrolauri Mun.	42.49976, 43.22613
Usholta	cave	Oni Mun.	42.48943, 43.40126

Listed west to east. The Znakvi coordinates mark the access point; there is no marked trail. Still to confirm: Rachkha, Verdzistava, Kulbaki, Mravaldzali, Udziro, Shovi, Mamisoni, Askhi Plateau.

How to Use the Coordinates

Sat-nav doesn't always recognise these villages by name. Save the GPS points in advance and download an offline map: signal drops out in the gorges. The format is latitude, longitude, and pastes straight into Google Maps search. Entry is free at every site.

What to Bring

- ✓ Shoes with real grip: rocks near the water stay wet year-round
- ✓ Offline map (OsmAnd, Komoot): undeveloped waterfalls have no signs
- ✓ Cash in lari: wine, food and parking in the villages
- ✓ Water and a snack: most sites have no shops nearby
- ✓ Insect repellent: midges in the gorges in the warm season
- ✓ Spare time: mountain roads, low average speed

When to Go

Water in the rivers and waterfalls peaks in spring and early summer, during the snow and glacier melt. Winter is low water. Autumn brings rain-driven spikes: after a long spell of rain the flow picks up within a day or two. The same waterfall looks like a different place in May and in September.