

Bakuriani → Tskhratskaro Pass → Tabatskuri Lake

28 km · 2 days · moderate · Samtskhe-Javakheti, Borjomi municipality

Why Go

A volcanic plateau with no forest and no rock walls, just rolling treeless hills to the horizon. The landscape is not Caucasian at all and people come back for exactly that.

What Matters

There is no shade all day, but getting lost is difficult: the track is clear and landmarks are visible for kilometres.

The Route Stage by Stage

1

Bakuriani to the Weather Station

7 km · 2 h · ascent 300 m

A gravel road climbing out of the village, with the last pines ending around the fifth kilometre.

2

Weather Station to Tskhratskaro Pass

6 km · 2 h 30 min · ascent 450 m

The name means nine springs, and the springs along the way are real.

3

Pass to the Plateau

7 km · 2 h 30 min · descent 300 m

A long gentle descent across open plateau. Camp where it suits you, with water from the springs.

4

Plateau to Tabatskuri Lake

8 km · 3 h

The lake appears on the horizon long before you reach it. The village of the same name sits on the shore.

What to Take With You

- ✓ High factor sun cream
- ✓ Windproof and a warm layer for the night
- ✓ Two litres of water between springs
- ✓ Hat: there is no shade all day
- ✓ Tent, or a room booked in the village
- ✓ Cash in lari

Route Reference

5 points · elevation · coordinates · season · transport

Route Points

Point	Elevation	What It Is	GPS (latitude, longitude)
Bakuriani	1700 მ	town, start of the route	41.7480, 43.5320 approximate
Weather station	2000 მ	landmark on the road	41.7150, 43.5450 approximate
Tskhratskaro Pass	2450 მ	highest point, springs	41.6900, 43.5600 approximate
Descent to the plateau	2150 მ	start of the open plateau	41.6700, 43.5900 approximate
Tabatskuri Lake	1990 მ	lake and lakeside village	41.6560, 43.6120 approximate

Season

Late June to early October. Snow lingers on the plateau longer than in Bakuriani.

Getting There

Train or marshrutka from Tbilisi to Borjomi, then the narrow-gauge train or a marshrutka to Bakuriani. Transport from Tabatskuri village is irregular.

How to Use the Coordinates

The format is latitude, longitude and pastes into a maps search exactly as it appears. Navigation apps do not always recognise these villages by name, so save the points in advance and download an offline map of Georgia. Coordinates point in a straight line, but you walk the path.

Emergency services in Georgia: 112

The same number reaches mountain rescue. Tell someone in town your route and the time you promised to be back.