

Guba

city map

Located in north-eastern Azerbaijan, Guba is a historic, multicultural city and a gateway to the majestic Caucasus Mountains. A beautiful 19th-century arched bridge over the Gudyalchay river connects Guba with one of Azerbaijan's most unique settlements: Red Village was established in the 18th century by Mountain Jews, who continue to live there today, preserving its distinct Jewish heritage. Discover more of the region's history at the Museum of History and Local Lore and Guba Genocide Memorial Complex.

The city hosts two annual festivals – the Regional Cuisine Festival and the Guba Apple Festival – and is home to several workshops producing the world-famous Guba carpets. No visit here is complete without sampling signature sweets pakhlava and *bukme*, made according to age-old local recipes in family-run bakeries. Some even offer ad hoc sweet-making masterclasses.



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|--|---|
| 1 Guba Genocide Memorial Complex | 9 Chukhur Hammam |
| 2 Guba Shahdag Sports Club | 10 Juma Mosque |
| 3 Guba Museum of History and Local Lore | 11 Guba Library |
| 4 Arch Bridge | 12 World Of Carpets Association |
| 5 Grand Synagogue | 13 Azerkhalcha ASC (Carpet Weaving Workshop)* |
| 6 Museum of Mountain Jews | 14 Guba Bazaar |
| 7 Qisori Cemetery | 15 Petek Honey House |
| 8 Gedim Guba carpet weaving centre and souvenir shop | |

* Arrange access and / or a tour through Guba DMO

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|-------------------------|-------------|
| Guba DMO | Mosque |
| Red Village Info Centre | Synagogue |
| Hospital | Police |
| Post | Parking |
| Park | Bus station |



Guba Destination Management Organization

Heydar Aliyev Center,
Heydar Aliyev avenue, AZ4000
+994 70 644 6465
+994 23 335 6465
guba@tourism.gov.az
azerbaijan.travel

Guba–Gusar

region map

The Guba and Gusar regions possess some of the most dramatic countryside anywhere in the Caucasus, dominated by the spectacular Caucasus Mountains. In remote parts of Guba, timeless mountain settlements are populated by tiny ethnic groups still leading traditional ways of life and offer excellent hiking and ecotourism opportunities.

Gusar, on the other hand, is home to one of Azerbaijan's two spectacular ski resorts, Shahdag Mountain Resort, whose growing number of slopes cater to both beginners and off-piste enthusiasts. Other experiences not to be missed are walking behind the impressive Afurja Waterfall and treating yourself to a round of golf at the fabulous National Azerbaijan Golf Club.

Caspian Sea

what to do

Skiing
The luxury resorts at Shahdag Mountain Resort in Gusar have world-class amenities, access to smooth and off-piste slopes and an international ski school. The resort is also open in summer, offering a host of outdoor activities. See www.skiazzerbaijan.com for more information.

Hiking
The Shahdag National Park and numerous rustic villages on its outskirts provide great opportunities for hiking and mountaineering, ranging from easy to difficult. The park itself is home to iconic peaks such as Bazarduzu, Shahdag and Gizilgaya. Head to villages such as Khinalig, Laza and Griz for unique mountain homestays. Note that the local sheepdogs can be aggressive, so hiring a guide is recommended.

Golf
Golf may not be the first thing travellers associate with Azerbaijan, but Guba's National Golf Club course is truly splendid. This was the first golf course to open in the country and boasts a clubhouse with luxurious locker rooms, a shop to suit every golfer's needs and an idyllic countryside setting with mountain views. See www.golfazerbaijan.com for more information.

where to eat

in Gusar
The Gusar region is densely populated by Lezzis, a mountain people with their own special twist on traditional Azerbaijani cuisine. Specialities include flatbreads baked in an oven called a *kharak* and a delicious meat pie called *tskan*, ideal during cold winters.

in Guba
A city famous for its sweets, don't leave Guba without tasting pakhlava and *bukme*. The local pakhlava is made of thin layers of dough filled with ground, caramelised walnut and soaked in honey and syrup, while bukme is made with the same ingredients but differs in shape and is lighter. There are many sweet shops in the city centre, some offering ad hoc masterclasses.

Festivals
The Regional Cuisine Festival takes place over two days at the height of summer and features a range of events that focus on the whole food value chain – from producer to consumer – and include masterclasses, ethnic food displays, a farmer's market and live entertainment. The Guba Apple Festival is a popular local event celebrating the annual apple harvest. Both festivals feature lots of traditional music and dancing.

what to see

Traditional villages
Remote mountain villages are scattered right across the region. Step back in time in Khinalig with its timeless stone houses and people who have their own language and traditions. Find panoramic mountain scenery and fantastic walks at pretty Laza and Griz villages, or if you're a history buff, head to Anig village for its ancient city walls, historic houses and religious sites.

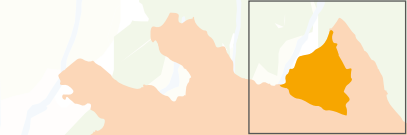
Wonderful waterfalls
One of Azerbaijan's most impressive waterfalls is located along the Velvelechay river near Tengealti village south of Guba. Named Afurja, the falls are about 70 metres high with a footpath leading beneath the cliff behind. Waterfalls in two authentic mountain villages (Griz and Laza) freeze over in winter, adding drama to the already stunning scenery. The one near Griz, whose population speaks its very own language, is about two kilometres from the village and reaching it is an easy and enjoyable hike. The one in Laza occasionally attracts ice climbers.

Historic traces
Reaching Sohub Tower, sitting atop a peak above the village of Sohub, promises breathtaking views of canyons and remote settlements. The tower itself was built for defensive purposes assumedly in the 11-12th centuries as part of a much larger fortification. Built in the 19th century, the mosque in picturesque Anig village in Gusar was inspired by and named after the iconic Taj Mahal in India. Take a stroll through the atmospheric streets of Guba's old quarter for its elegant brick housing, historic mosques and hammams.



Russia

GABALA



0 5 10 km 1:500000

- City
- Customs
- Train station
- Mountain
- Country border
- Region border
- Road
- Railway
- Village
- River
- Khinaliq
- Gudyalchay



ISMAYILLI
SHAMAKHI
KHIZI
SIYAZAN

- Cultural
- Natural
- Wellness
- Special interest
- City highlights
- Hiking
- Camping
- Picnic spot
- Thermal springs
- Local cuisine
- Horse riding
- Fishing
- Rock climbing

Guba

- 1 Khaltan village¹
- 2 Afurja Waterfall¹
- 3 Tengealti village
- 4 Khanagah village
- 5 Chenibel Lake
- 6 National Azerbaijan Golf Club
- 7 Guba Palace Hotel and Spa
- 8 Jannat Bagi Resort
- 9 Gechresh recreational area
- 10 Sohub Fortress¹
- 11 Minare Rock
- 12 Griz village¹
- 13 Griz Waterfall²
- 14 Khinalig State Reserve¹
- 15 Ateshghah Fire Temple¹

Gusar

- 16 Laza Waterfall¹
- 17 Laza village¹
- 18 Pik Palace Hotel and Spa
- 19 Park Chalet Hotel and Spa
- 20 Shahdag Ski Resort
- 21 Anig historical sites
- 22 Taj Mahal Mosque
- 23 Sheikh Juneid Mausoleum
- 24 Hazra village
- 25 Gusar Museum of History and Local Lore
Gusar State Art Gallery
Nariman Narimanov Park
Heydar Aliyev Park

1 - Difficult driving conditions in winter or unsealed road. Contact Guba DMO to check accessibility and/or arrange an offroad vehicle
2 - No road access / accessible by hiking only