


# Sheki

## city map








 United Nations  
 Educational, Scientific and  
 Cultural Organization

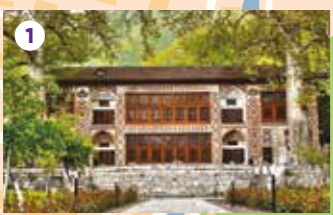

 Historic Centre of Sheki  
 with the Khan's Palace  
 inscribed on the World  
 Heritage List in 2019



Sheki is a charming city in the north-west of Azerbaijan whose historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Once situated on the legendary Silk Road, today Sheki is famous for its timeless architecture, traditional crafts and good-natured local people.

The city's most iconic attraction is the Sheki Khan's Palace, a late 18th-century masterpiece with lavish decorations such as windows made from shebeke – the local art of creating exquisite mosaics from wooden lattices filled with tiny pieces of coloured glass. With over 250 artisans practising 18 types of craft, Sheki can be considered one of Azerbaijan's creative hubs.

-  Info Center
-  Post
-  Mosque
-  Park
-  Stadium
-  Police
-  Parking
-  Bus stop
-  Bridge



- 1 Sheki Khan's Palace
- 2 ABAD Ceramic Arts Centre
- 3 Shebeke workshop
- 4 Sheki Museum of History and Local Lore
- 5 Museum of Folk and Applied Arts
- 6 Art Gallery
- 7 Craftsmen's House (Sheki TIC office located here)
- 8 Mustafa bey's garden & camping
- 9 Bakhtiyar Vahabzade House Museum
- 10 Gilehli Minaret
- 11 Mirza Fatali Akhundzade House Museum
- 12 Memory of Native Land Museum
- 13 Upper Caravanserai
- 14 Local artist's workshop
- 15 Art Club café
- 16 Lower Caravanserai
- 17 Shekhanovs' House
- 18 Godek Minaret
- 19 Chukhur Hammam
- 20 Central library
- 21 Abdulkhalig Hammam
- 22 Kelaghai headscarf workshop



Sheki Destination Management Organization  
 Sheki Tourist Information Center

Sheki Castle Walls Complex  
 Craftsmen house, 2nd floor  
 +994 24 244 60 95  
 shaki@tourism.gov.az  
 facebook.com/sheki.tic  
 azerbaijan.travel  
 sheki.heritage.org.az

### Sheki Castle



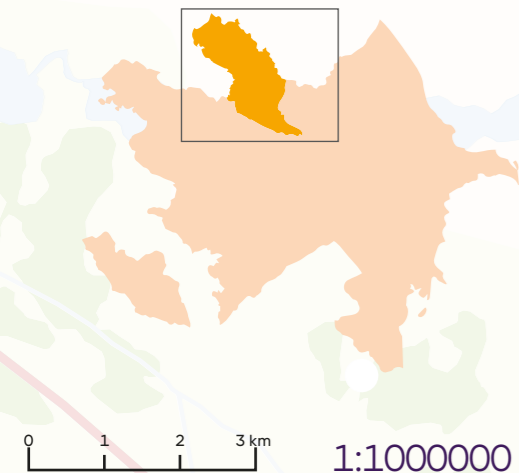
# Sheki-Balaken region map



The north-western region spanning from Sheki to Balaken is one of diverse culture and traditions with traces of fascinating history hidden away in bucolic villages and verdant mountainsides. Indeed, a branch of the ancient Silk Roads once passed this way, helping to shape the customs, cuisine and lifestyle of the local population, which includes several small nations.

Travelling to the north-west region means passing through lush forests and majestic mountains with opportunities aplenty to escape the urban hustle and bustle.

The local cuisine is also some of the best the country has to offer, with intriguing local delicacies and unique twists on classic Azerbaijani dishes. So whether hunting for historical monuments, learning about the everyday life of the locals or immersing yourself in their rich culture and traditions, there is plenty to see and do between Sheki and Balaken.



- City
- Customs
- Train station
- Country border
- Region border
- Road
- Railway
- Village
- River
- Bash Goynuk
- Kurmukchay

## where to relax

Boasting an exclusive Wellness and Spa Centre with salt, amber and sand rooms, the five-star Markhal Resort & Spa is just a few kilometres from central Sheki in the emerald green foothills of the Greater Caucasus Mountains.

A similarly scenic escape can be experienced an hour's drive west of here at the Uludag Complex, located near Ilisu Waterfall at the top of Gakh.

For a quintessential Silk Road experience, spend a night at Sheki's Karvansaray, an authentic 18th-century caravanserai, or for a more local feel, try any of the family-run guesthouses functioning throughout the region.

## where to go

Sheki's historic centre is the region's top attraction. Located at the top of today's city, the area is made up of 18th and 19th-century merchant housing with distinctive gabled roofs lining charming cobblestone streets also home to old mosques and hammams. At its centre is the Sheki Fortress and the exquisite Sheki Khans' Palace with its beautifully tiled facade and shebeke stained-glass windows. Be sure to call into the splendid church in nearby Kish to discover one of our best monuments of Caucasian Albania.

In Gakh, explore the charming villages of Ilisu and Saribash and head to the eye-catching Ilisu Waterfall (also known as Ram Rama) – Azerbaijan's highest waterfall and considered something of a hidden gem by locals. And in Zagatala, take a tour of this picturesque city's main historical attraction: the crumbling walls of an Imperial Russian military garrison.

## what to eat

Sheki's residents are known for having an extremely sweet tooth! Just try the city's famous halva and you'll see why. Made of multiple rice-based layers, ground nuts, sugar, syrup, honey and spices, its recipe is a family secret passed down from generation to generation. Something else not to miss in Sheki is the city's signature dish – piti, a lamb stew served in clay pots and eaten in two servings.

Further west, the mountainous areas of Gakh are known for their use of dried meat. Try a dish called surhullu which consists of chunks of dough topped with meat dried over winter.

And the quiet country villages of Zagatala and Balaken are blessed with verdant gardens brimming with hazelnuts and persimmons, both of which are celebrated at their own special festivals. Other culinary features of the north-west are the rose petal jam and scented water, and the wonderful wild honey produced in the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains.

- Cultural
- Wellness
- Natural
- Affinity

## Sheki

- 1 "Yukhari Bash" State Historical-Architectural Reserve UNESCO World Heritage Site
- 2 Bio Garden Agro Tourism Centre
- 3 Fazil Necropolis<sup>1</sup>
- 4 Dashbulag Albanian Temple
- 5 Marxal Resort & Spa Hotel
- 6 Khan Pasture<sup>1</sup>
- 7 Kish Temple
- 8 Khanland zipline and camping
- 9 Gelsen-Gorsen castle ruins
- 10 Gaynar Waterfall<sup>1</sup>

## Gakh

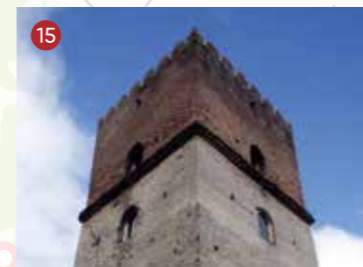
- 11 Kurmuk Temple
- 12 Icheri Bazaar old quarter
- 13 Museum of History and old temple
- 14 St. George Church
- 15 Sumug-gala Castle
- 16 Ulu bridge
- 17 Ilisu village
- 18 Galacha (or Shamil) Tower
- 19 Uludag Tourism and Recreation Complex
- 20 Ram-Rama Waterfall
- 21 Hamamchay River and thermal springs<sup>1</sup>
- 22 Saribash village<sup>2</sup>
- 23 Lekit Honey House
- 24 Lekit Seven Churches Complex
- 25 Lekit Waterfall

## Zagatala

- 26 Albanian temple and Dede Gorgud Park
- 27 Zagatala Castle Walls
- 28 Jar village
- 29 Honzogor/Shamil Peak<sup>1</sup>
- 30 Katekh River picnic and camping area
- 31 Hope Lake eco-farm

## Balaken

- 32 Heydar Aliyev Park, including teahouse at the summit with a panoramic view of the Alazan Valley
- 33 Old Juma Mosque and minaret
- 34 Arilgibina Temple



1 - this attraction may have restricted accessibility. Please contact or visit Sheki Destination Management Organisation & Tourist Information Centre before you leave in order to check or arrange access.  
2 - in rainy weather, it is dangerous to cross rivers