## Money and banking

The banking system in Abkhazia comprises fifteen commercial banks and the National Bank of Abkhazia. Additionally, twenty-three branches of Sberbank of Russia operate within the Republic, where currency exchange services are available.

The official currency of Abkhazia is the Russian ruble. If you're planning to visit Abkhazia, it is advisable to exchange foreign currency for Russian rubles in advance. Currency exchange points are scarce in Abkhazia, unlike in major Russian cities where they are readily available.

# **Money transfers**

All banks in Abkhazia facilitate money transfers without requiring the opening of an account. Available transfer systems include ANELIK, CONTACT, MIGOM, "InterExpress", and "Zolotaya Korona". Please note that WESTERN UNION does not operate within the Republic of Abkhazia. However, the CONTACT system is available at any branch of Sberbank of Russia.

All you need to send or receive a money transfer is your passport. The time required to receive a transfer can vary from a few minutes to a day, depending on the transfer system chosen. Transfer fees typically range from 2 to 3%, depending on the currency used.

## **Cash import regulations**

There are certain restrictions on bringing cash to Abkhazia. You may bring in up to \$2,000 without declaring it to customs. Any amount exceeding this limit must be declared to the customs authorities. For amounts exceeding \$10,000, permission from the Central Bank of Abkhazia is required.

### List of commercial banks in Abkhazia

## Sukhumi (also Sukhum)

OJSC Sberbank of Abkhazia 1 Constitution Square, Sukhumi

Phone: +7-840-229-43-38, +7-840-229-43-40, +7-840-229-43-45

Fax: +7-840-229-43-32

CONTACT money transfer system is available.

LLC CB "Sukhumi-Bank" 31 Leon Avenue, Sukhumi Phone: +7-840-226-12-81 Fax: +7-840-226-35-45

CONTACT and "Zolotaya Korona" money transfer systems are available.

LLC CB "Garant-Bank"
21 Pushkin Street, Sukhumi

Phone: +7-840-226-24-46, +7-840-226-27-18, +7-840-226-24-79

Fax: +7-840-226-25-98

CONTACT, MIGOM, ANELIK, and "Zolotaya Korona" money transfer systems are available.

LLC CB "Black Sea Development Bank"

35 Lakoba Street, Sukhumi Phone: +7-840-226-01-05 Fax: +7-840-229-33-23

CONTACT, MIGOM, and "Zolotaya Korona" money transfer systems are available.

LLC CB "Invest-Bank"

31 Abazinskaya Street, Sukhumi

Phone: +7-840-226-53-23, +7-840-226-50-89, +7-840-226-23-67

Fax: +7-840-226-53-62

CONTACT, MIGOM, ANELIK, "Zolotaya Korona", and "InterExpress" money transfer

systems are available.

LLC CB "Universal Bank"

31 Lakoba Street, Sukhumi

Phone: +7-840-226-33-60, +7-840-226-33-61, +7-840-226-33-64

Fax: +7-840-223-99-15

MIGOM money transfer system is available.

LLC CB "Fininvest Bank"

29 Kogonia Street, Sukhumi

Phone: +7-840-226-01-11, +7-840-226-17-06

Fax: +7-840-226-17-06

CONTACT, MIGOM, ANELIK, "Zolotaya Korona", and "InterExpress" money transfer

systems are available.

LLC CB "Amra-Bank"

70/27 Lakoba-Konfederatov Street, Sukhumi

Phone: +7-840-223-33-32 Fax: +7-840-223-33-35

CONTACT, MIGOM, ANELIK, UNISTREAM money transfer systems are available.

LLC CB "Bank-Prestige"

37 Constitution Square, Gulrypsh

Phone: +7-840-275-50-12 Fax: +7-840-275-53-16

Money transfers are available only through bank accounts.

LLC Regional Commercial Bank "Eshera"

5 Voinov-Internatsionalistov Street, Sukhumi

Phone: +7-840-222-60-82, +7-840-226-96-32

CONTACT money transfer system and only ruble transfers are available.

LLC CB "KIBIT-Bank"

9 Leon Avenue, Sukhumi

Phone: +7-840-229-41-82, +7-840-229-41-76

CONTACT and MIGOM money transfer systems are available. Currency exchange services are offered.

#### Gudauta

Gudauta Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia

20 Heroes Avenue, Gudauta

Phone: +7-940-993-05-32, +7-940-992-24-00

CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.

CB "Agricultural Bank"

3 Chanba Street, Gudauta Phone: +7-840-245-60-63

Currency exchange services are offered. Money transfer systems are currently not available.

## Gagra

Gagra Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia

55/4 Abazgaa Street, Gagra

Phone: +7-840-234-47-18

CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.

LLC CB "Gagra-Bank"

28-a Demerdzhypa Street, Gagra

Phone: +7-840-234-41-30, Fax: +7-840-234-41-57 CONTACT money transfer system is available.

## **New Athos**

LLC CB "Leon Bank"

2 Kharazia Street, New Athos

Phone: +7-840-245-80-94, +7-840-242-40-25

CONTACT money transfer system and only ruble transfers are available.

### **Ochamchira**

LLC "Ochamchira Commercial Bank"

63 B. Shinkuba Street, Ochamchira

Phone: +7-840-251-02-52

Currency exchange services are offered. Money transfer systems are currently not available.

Ochamchira Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia

97 B. Shinkuba Street, Ochamchira

Phone: +7-840-251-00-91

CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.

### **Gali District**

Gali Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia

91 Samurzakan Street (formerly Mira Street), Gali

Phone: +7-840-285-01-46

CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.

Gali Branch of LLC CB "Black Sea Development Bank"

5 Dzhguburia Street, Gali

Phone: +7-840-226-01-05, central office in Sukhumi CONTACT, MIGOM, and "Zolotaya Korona" money transfer systems are available.

#### **Tkaurchal District**

Tkaurchal Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia 83 Liberty Avenue, Tkaurchal 5 Apsilov Street

Phone: +7-840-263-10-08, +7-840-263-10-45

CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.

### List of addresses of commercial banks in Abkhazia

#### Sukhumi

- OJSC Sberbank of Abkhazia, 1 Constitution Square, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-229-43-38, +7-840-229-43-40, +7-840-229-43-45, fax: +7-840-229-43-32. CONTACT money transfer system is available.
- LLC CB "Sukhumi-Bank", 31 Leon Avenue, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-226-12-81, fax: +7-840-226-35-45. CONTACT and "Zolotaya Korona" money transfer systems are available.
- LLC CB "Garant-Bank", 21 Pushkin Street, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-226-24-46, +7-840-226-27-18, +7-840-226-24-79, fax: +7-840-226-25-98. CONTACT, MIGOM, ANELIK, and "Zolotaya Korona" money transfer systems are available.
- LLC CB "Black Sea Development Bank", 35 Lakoba Street, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-226-01-05, fax: +7-840-229-33-23. CONTACT, MIGOM, and "Zolotaya Korona" money transfer systems are available.
- LLC CB "Invest-Bank", 31 Abazinskaya Street, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-226-53-23, +7-840-226-50-89, +7-840-226-23-67, fax: +7-840-226-53-62. CONTACT, MIGOM, ANELIK, "Zolotaya Korona", and "InterExpress" money transfer systems are available.
- LLC CB "Universal Bank", 31 Lakoba Street, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-226-33-60, +7-840-226-33-61, +7-840-226-33-64, fax: +7-840-223-99-15. MIGOM money transfer system is available.
- LLC CB "Fininvest Bank", 29 Kogonia Street, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-226-01-11, +7-840-226-17-06, fax: +7-840-226-17-06. CONTACT, MIGOM, ANELIK, "Zolotaya Korona", and "InterExpress" money transfer systems are available.
- LLC CB "Amra-Bank", 70/27 Lakoba-Konfederatov Street, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-223-33-32, fax: +7-840-223-33-35. CONTACT, MIGOM, ANELIK, UNISTREAM money transfer systems are available.
- LLC CB "Bank-Prestige", 37 Constitution Square, Gulrypsh, phone: +7-840-275-50-12, fax: +7-840-275-53-16. Money transfers are available only through bank

accounts.

- LLC Regional Commercial Bank "Eshera", 5 Voinov-Internatsionalistov Street, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-222-60-82, +7-840-226-96-32. CONTACT money transfer system and only ruble transfers are available.
- LLC CB "KIBIT-Bank", 9 Leon Avenue, Sukhumi, phone: +7-840-229-41-82, +7-840-229-41-76. CONTACT and MIGOM money transfer systems are available. Currency exchange services are offered.

#### Gudauta

- Gudauta Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia, 20 Heroes Avenue,
   Gudauta, phone: +7-940-993-05-32, +7-940-992-24-00. CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.
- CB "Agricultural Bank", 3 Chanba Street, Gudauta, phone: +7-840-245-60-63.
   Currency exchange services are offered. Money transfer systems are currently not available.

# Gagra

- Gagra Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia, 55/4 Abazgaa Street, Gagra, phone: +7-840-234-47-18. CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.
- LLC CB "Gagra-Bank", 28-a Demerdzhypa Street, Gagra, phone: +7-840-234-41-30, Fax: +7-840-234-41-57. CONTACT money transfer system is available.

## **New Athos**

• LLC CB "Leon Bank", 2 Kharazia Street, New Athos, phone: +7-840-245-80-94, +7-840-242-40-25. CONTACT money transfer system and only ruble transfers are available.

## **Ochamchira**

- LLC "Ochamchira Commercial Bank", 63 B. Shinkuba Street, Ochamchira, phone: +7-840-251-02-52. Currency exchange services are offered. Money transfer systems are currently not available.
- Ochamchira Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia, 97 B. Shinkuba Street, Ochamchira, phone: +7-840-251-00-91. CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.

### **Gali District**

- Gali Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia, 91 Samurzakan Street (formerly Mira Street), Gali, phone: +7-840-285-01-46. CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.
- Gali Branch of LLC CB "Black Sea Development Bank", 5 Dzhguburia Street, Gali, phone: +7-840-226-01-05, central office in Sukhumi. CONTACT, MIGOM, and

"Zolotaya Korona" money transfer systems are available.

#### **Tkaurchal District**

• Tkaurchal Branch of Sberbank of the Republic of Abkhazia, 83 Liberty Avenue, Tkaurchal, 5 Apsilov Street, phone: +7-840-263-10-08, +7-840-263-10-45. CONTACT money transfer system is available. Currency exchange services are offered.

# **Monetary Transactions and Transfers in Abkhazia**

The banking system in the Republic of Abkhazia comprises the National Bank of the Republic of Abkhazia (Bank of Abkhazia) and 15 commercial banks. Across the country, there are 23 branches of Sberbank of Abkhazia, and currency exchange services are available at commercial banks and all branches of Sberbank.

The official currency of Abkhazia is the Russian ruble. Currently, transactions using credit or debit cards are prohibited throughout the Republic, and as a result, there are no ATMs available.

All banks in Abkhazia offer money transfer services without the need to open an account. Transfers can be made in Russian rubles, U.S. dollars, or euros through systems such as CONTACT, ANELIK, MIGOM, Zolotaya Korona, and InterExpress. The Western Union money transfer system is not available in Abkhazia. However, the CONTACT system operates in all district branches of Sberbank of Abkhazia.

All you need to send or receive a money transfer is your passport. Transfers can be made to a wide range of destinations, from Russia to various countries both near and far abroad. The time to receive a transfer ranges from just a few minutes (MIGOM) to up to 24 hours (CONTACT). Commission fees do not exceed 2% for ruble transfers or 3% for foreign currency transfers. There is no minimum transfer amount, while the maximum amount you can send or receive in a single transaction is 50,000 rubles or its equivalent in foreign currency (2,000 USD or 1,500 EUR).