

# Georgia

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*for the best moments of your life*

★ Kyiv

**UKRAINE**



MOLDOVA



Sea of  
Azov

**ROMANIA**

Bucharest ★

★ Sofia

**BULGARIA**

*Black Sea*

★ Ankara

**TURKEY**





**GEORGIA**

Tbilisi ★

**ARMENIA**

★ Yerevan

**AZERBAIJAN**

Baku ★

*Caspian  
Sea*



*At the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Georgia is a combination of uniqueness and diversity. Although a small country, you can find here the Caucasus Mountain range, Black Sea coastline, curative climate and mineral waters, national parks and UNESCO Heritage Sites, ancient history, diverse culture and traditions, delicious cuisine, rich wine culture and last but not least, our world-famous Georgian hospitality.*

# Welcome to Georgia

**Georgia has more to offer than any other country of its size in the world, so what is it like to visit?**

It is a land of contrasts at the crossroads of East and West. For thousands of years traders and adventurers have visited via the historic Silk Road, their legacy remains today in the culture, sounds and monuments, including many UNESCO heritage sites.

From the architecture of Tbilisi's Old Town to the vineyards of Kakheti; from the ancient stone towers of Svaneti to the beaches and nightlife of Batumi, there is something inspiring and exciting for everyone.

Ski the Caucasus mountains, Europe's highest mountain range, in the morning and relax at the Black Sea coast in the afternoon. Sample the delicious Georgian cuisine and wine at a traditional supra (or feast) one day, detox in our natural saunas and spas the next.

Georgia has a unique, welcoming culture which explains its world-famous hospitality. With its own alphabet and language, and many world-famous artists, Georgia will surprise and delight you at every turn.

Whatever it is you want from a holiday, come to Georgia:

*for the best moments of your life.*

# Our history

One of the most striking things you see as you travel through Georgia is the number of churches. Georgia was one of the first countries in the world to officially adopt Christianity, in 337 AD.

Some of the world's oldest hominid remains, dating back over 1.8 million years have been found near the capital, Tbilisi.

Ancient Greek story of Jason and the Argonauts search for the Golden Fleece is inspired by the Georgian's unique way of using sheepskins to collect the heavy gold deposits from the high, mountain rivers.

Georgia has long been a kingdom and over the years its boundaries and capitals have changed, as successive Kings and invaders held sway; from King David to Queen Tamar; from the Mongols, Persians and Ottomans to the Russians. Each has left their mark, yet somehow the true spirit and character of Georgia shines through.





Tamar Bridge  
(XII Century)





# Our culture

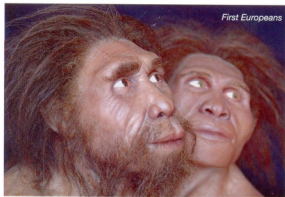
There is a saying in Georgia that “the guest is the gift from God”. You will be surprised by the warmth and genuineness of the hospitality you receive no matter where you travel and stay in Georgia.

During a traditional Supra, or feast, not only will you enjoy the amazing local food, but you will also be expected to sample much of the wine, which has been produced here for thousands of years. Today more than 500 varieties of grapes are grown in Georgia.

No trip to Georgia will be complete without the spectacular sound and vision of the world-renowned polyphonic singing and traditional dancing, described by UNESCO as “masterpiece of the world’s intangible cultural heritage.”

Georgia’s architectural inheritance is exceptionally rich. So are the churches and frescoes superb, so are the many of our historical monuments.

# Did you know...?



## FIRST EUROPEANS

Remains of a 1.8 million year old hominid were discovered in Georgia. They are the oldest links to modern man found outside Africa.

## AT THE CROSSROADS OF EUROPE AND ASIA

A mix of these two continents and their diversity can be seen in the culture and architectural heritage of Georgia.

## ONE OF THE OLDEST CHRISTIAN COUNTRIES

Georgia was one of the first countries in the world to officially adopt Christianity in 337 AD.

## EUROPE'S HIGHEST SETTLEMENT

Ushguli village in the Svaneti region, at 2,300 meters is the highest settlement in Europe.







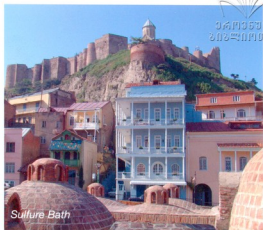
CRADLE OF WINE

Archaeological research provides evidence of viticulture in Georgia stretching back over 7,000 years, and many believe that Georgia is the birthplace of wine.



A UNIQUE ALPHABET

There are just 14 independent scripts in the world and Georgian is one of them.



HOT SPRINGS AND SPA TOWNS

103 spa resorts and over 2400 mineral springs mean that Georgia has been one of the centres of spa life for thousands of years. The location of today's capital Tbilisi was chosen because of its natural hot sulphur baths, now found in the heart of the city.

Combine all this with a Mediterranean climate and the legendary Georgian hospitality and you have a unique travel destination.

#### EUROPE'S MOST DIVERSE AND UNSPOILT NATURE

Although only 69,700 square kilometers, Georgia's biodiversity is immense: subtropical marshes, semideserts, lofty alpine meadows and mighty snow-covered peaks can all be found within a hundred kilometers of each other. There are more than 40 protected areas. So much of Georgia is still untouched and unspoilt.

So come and explore it for yourself!

# Things to see & do

With so many things to offer in such a small country, here are some of the highlights to make your trip perfect:

Walk through Tbilisi's Old Town and experience the stunning architecture and European café-style culture.

Home-stay in Ushguli, or camp in one of our National Parks.

Trek through the Caucasus mountains in summer.

Sample the local wine at a hundred years old vineyard on a wine tour of Kakheti.

Visit the walled city of Signagi.

Discover the Monastery at the fabulous caved city of Vardzia.

Go deep underground, and boat on our amazing underground cave rivers in Imereti.

Ski Europe's highest mountain range at one of our resorts at Gudauri, Bakuriani or Mestia. And for the true adventure, try heli-skiing.

Have a traditional sauna in the hot spring baths in the middle of Tbilisi.

Make new friends at the Supra – the traditional Georgian feast.

Whitewater rafting on our glacier fed rivers.

These will make your stay in Georgia unforgettable and remain in memories as the best moments of your life.





Vardzia Cave Town



Mt. Kazbegi



Chardin St., Tbilisi



Gudauri



Prometheus Cave



WHERE



# Travel information



## VISA REQUIREMENTS

Valid passports are required for visitors of all nationalities. There is no visa requirement for those who hold a passport issued by the United States of America, Canada, Japan, Israel, member countries of European Union, the Russian Federation, GCC countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates), etc. Nationalities from CIS countries, except those holding passports from Turkmenistan do not require a visa.

For more information please visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia:

[www.mfa.gov.ge](http://www.mfa.gov.ge)

[http://mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=96&info\\_id=10474](http://mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=96&info_id=10474)

## GETTING THERE

### BY AIR

Direct flights to Tbilisi are available from many European and Asian cities. Non-stop flights can be taken from Amsterdam, Munich, Riga, Vienna, Frankfurt, Prague, Paris, Warsaw, Istanbul, Dubai, Tel-Aviv, Athens, Baku, Rome, Moscow, Yekaterinburg, Kiev, Minsk, Alma-Ata, Astana, Aktau, Tehran and Urumqi.

### BY LAND

Daily buses mainly to Tbilisi depart from Baku, Istanbul, Ankara, Trabzon, Yerevan and Athens.

### BY TRAIN

Georgia is connected to Armenia and Azerbaijan. Trains from Baku are available every day and for more information and timetables, please visit: [www.railway.ge](http://www.railway.ge)

### BY SEA

Georgia can be accessed by weekly ferries from Ukrainian ports of Ilychevsk and Odessa.

## ACCOMMODATION

Major cities like Tbilisi and Batumi offer hotels of all categories from international five-star, to home-stays. In rural regions accommodation is primarily three-star family hotels, bed and breakfast and home-stays.

## CUISINE

There are many excellent restaurants in Tbilisi and in other major cities serving both traditional Georgian and international cuisine, while restaurants in rural regions mainly offer traditional dishes.

## CLIMATE

The climate of the country is extremely diverse, considering the nation's small size. The Greater Caucasus Mountain Range plays an important role in moderating Georgia's climate, protecting the nation from cold air from the north, while the Lesser Caucasus Mountains protects from the very dry, hot air from the south. Average temperature in summer varies from 19 °C to 22 °C, and in winter from 1.5 °C to 3 °C.

## CURRENCY

The official currency in Georgia is Georgian Lari officially indicated as GEL. Lari is subdivided into 100 Tetrils. One GEL equals to 0.46 Euros or 0.60 U.S. Dollars (as of January 2012). Major hotels accept credit cards, but please check outside the main cities. ATM machines are available throughout major towns and cities.

## ELECTRICITY

Electrical current - 220 Volts, 50 Hz. EU standard plugs work throughout Georgia.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The country code is +995 and the area code for Tbilisi is 322. Georgian mobile operators (Geocell, Magticom and Beeline) cover almost the whole territory of the country and there are many Wi-Fi zones that enable visitors to use the internet for free.

For more information please visit: [www.georgia.travel](http://www.georgia.travel)

## HEALTH

There are excellent medical facilities throughout Georgia. During travel getting medical insurance is strongly advised. For the emergency services please call 112 - the Emergency Management Department.

[www.georgia.travel](http://www.georgia.travel)

# Testimonials



**theguardian**

'Winter sports fans and city breakers looking for somewhere new should try Georgia. The country is attracting a growing number of independent travellers who are exploring mountains dotted with historic castles and churches, beautiful towns such as Svaneti and Kazbegi, and the Europe-meets-Asia capital Tbilisi.'

*'The 2012 travel calendar', The Guardian*

'Georgia and its wines are still wild and raw and if what you are looking for is a uniquely real tasting adventure, Georgia will definitely not disappoint.'

*Isabelle Legeron, master of wine, Travel Channel presenter*



**The New York Times**  
Expect the World®

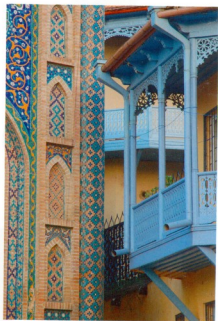
'A rustic ski wonderland on the verge of discovery.'

*'The 41 Places to Go in 2011', The New York Times*

'You won't want to go to Tusheti if you're afraid of heights. Hidden deep in the Caucasus Mountains, the region's villages cling to dizzyingly steep slopes that are as picturesque as they are precarious.'



*'12 best places you've never heard of', CNN*



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Not for sale



**Georgia**

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