



MAP

Most visited destinations & sightseeing



Georgia



SHATILI – 364
The remote village of Shatili stands as an outstanding and unique example of fortress architecture. Located on the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus, beyond a high pass, the village is composed of some 60 towers all clustered together to form one large protective building.



TUSHETI – 14
Tusheti is an unforgettable remote mountain destination and is one of Georgia's hidden secrets.

DMANISI – 88
Dmanisi is famous for its archaeological find of a 1.8 million years old hominid.

making the crucial link between Africa and the first Europeans.



CAVE TOWNS

Vardzia (E7) – This rock monastery cut into steep cliffs above a river valley, climbs up thirteen stories. Containing around 250

caves, it represents the royal complex founded during the reign of Queen Tamar (1184 – 1213). The main church is carved into the rock and the walls serve as a canvas for one of only three portraits of Queen Tamar painted in her lifetime.



Uplistsikhe (G6) – The large complex of natural caves at Uplistsikhe has been inhabited from pre-Christian times. Set on a hill overlooking a river it served as an important trade center on the Historic Silk Road until the 12th century. Today a small chapel perches on its summit and draws tourists and locals alike.



David Gareji (H7) – This grandiose complex of cave monasteries located in the semi-desert just south of Tbilisi, was established in the 6th century. It once housed over 10,000 monks and although it fell into neglect, today it functions as a monastery once more. Set on the top of high cliffs, the caves look out across a

spectacular vista, their walls still covered in striking religious frescoes.



NATIONAL PARKS

Nearly 40% of Georgia's territory is still forest. There are more than 40 Protected Areas specially identified for conservation. Bujumi-Kharagauli is the largest National

Park in Europe and is the only member of 900 parks in the Caucasus region.



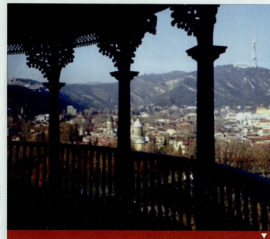
GROTTOES – D5

Western Georgia is home to many long, deep karstic caves and some have underground rivers allowing you to have the extraordinary experience of boating in

a cave.
Satskha is a karst cave located about 6 km north-west of Gurjaani in a national reserve of the same name. It was first discovered in 1925. The grotto features spectacular stalactites and stalagmites and is 850m long, 10m high and 32m wide. Famous dinosaur footprints have been discovered here as well.
Tsikalabdo karst grotto is a unique natural phenomenon which has featured in many myths and stories. From Georgia to Ancient Greece, its main 1 km-long path hosts many amazing sights: halls, galleries, an underground river, polished floors, various forms of stalactites and stalagmites and other exotic natural phenomenon.

So come and explore it for yourself!

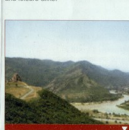




church pierces prominently on a hilltop. Visible for miles around, it symbolizes the importance of this holy site for all Georgians, overlooking the confluence of two major rivers, the Aragvi and the Mtskheti.

The impressive Svetitskhovi Cathedral was built on the site of a former Zoroastrian temple to mark Georgia's conversion to Christianity in AD 337. It is the largest ancient structure in Georgia and its lofty interior walls carry some fabulous and unusual frescoes. This splendid building was spared the centuries for the coronation and burial of Georgia's monarchs.

BATUMI - 06
 Located on the Black Sea, Batumi is one of the most beautiful and modern resorts in the region. This popular tourist destination hosts many local and international cultural events.



MTSKHETA - 06
 Looking down on Georgia's former capital of Mtskheta, a ancient Jewish



MUKAZI - 06
 Mukazi is Georgia's second largest city after Tbilisi. Situated in the west of Georgia, Mukazi has retained many features of a medieval town. It is blessed with two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Bagrat Cathedral and Gelati Monastery. Nearby, Mtsameta Mountain is beautifully located within lush green hills.



Bagrat's Cathedral - The cross-domed Cathedral of Domonik, overlooking Kutaisi was built in the 11th century during the reign of King Bagrat III. Notable for its grandiose proportions, facade decorations and relief carvings, the cathedral was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1994.



Gelati Monastery - This well-preserved complex was founded by King David Aghmashenebel (David the Builder) in 1106 and stands as one of the finest examples of medieval architecture in Georgia. The interior walls are covered, floor to ceiling, with brightly coloured frescoes that date from the church's inception. Originally Gelati contained an Academy with a reputation for learning that carried across the Caucasus and beyond.

SHONAGI - 17
 A large town perched on top of a hill, Shonagi is enclosed by a long, spectacular, defensive wall built by King Erekle II in the second half of the 18th

century. One of the wall's 23 towers remained after a nearly 400-year siege as a refuge for the whole community. The town offers splendid views of the Alazani Valley and the Caucasus mountain range.



KAZBEGI - 04
 Gelgeli Trinity church is set prominently on a hill directly below the towering white Mount Kazbegi (5,033m). Built six hundred years ago its stones have withstood repeated hiccups, rain and invasion to stand as a proud symbol of Georgian resilience in the face of adversity.

TBILISI - 06
 Tbilisi has been the capital of Georgia for over 1,500 years.

Here, the atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming, with its wooden houses, many churches, cafes and of course its famous spa-baths. It has the same character today as it had when the first traders and camel trains took refuge in Tbilisi on their long journeys along the Silk Road from Asia to Europe.

The mix of cultures meant that Tbilisi became an important place for artists, philosophers and writers, including Alexander Dumas, Pushkin, Leo Tolstoy, Mikhail Gorky, Gurdjieff, Konstantin Tsimakava, Ramaziy

MacDonald and Fyroz MacLellan.

Walking through the old town you find quaint wooden houses that climb up the hillside to the Narikala fortress which overlooks and protects the capital. The pepper pot-topped roofs of the distinctive Georgian churches stand out from the surrounding architecture that takes in Russian classicalism, Art Nouveau, Soviet-era buildings and more modern structures.

This mix reflects the diverse nature of the people that have made Tbilisi their home. The old town still has its Jewish, Azeri and Armenian quarters and the mosques, synagogues, Armenian and Georgian.

(4,690m) and Tetradz (4,858m), it has always been a popular tourist destination for adventure and outdoor sports.

USHGULI - 03
 This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a picturesque and exceptionally remote village, unique not only for its amazing collection of medieval towers, but also its altitude - 2,300m. As the highest village in Europe, it spends much of the year snowed in. On a clear day it looks straight into the face of Georgia's highest mountain, Shkhara 5,069m.

GUDAUZI - 04
 Located in the very heart of the Caucasus mountains and surrounded by some of Europe's most dramatic peaks, Gudauri is a popular ski resort and all four seasons adventure destination.

Only a short drive - and even a short helicopter flight - from Tbilisi's International Airport, Gudauri is Georgia's year-round playground.

During the ski season, from December to mid-April, Gudauri offers exciting long and short runs for all classes of skiers and snowboarders. Expert skiers will want to try some of the most challenging off-piste slopes in Europe, while across-country skis and trails and heli-skiing are also available.



BORJOMI - 06
 Borjomi is most famous for its mineral waters, whose natural high purity and healthy chemical components make it not only pleasant to drink but also a perfect preventive and curative against a number of diseases. With a large number of permanently flowing mineral water springs, it attracts the large Borjomi National Park with its many well-maintained trails, overnight huts and mile upon mile of genuine, wild forest.

MESTIA - 02
 This small town in South Georgia has recently been developed as a new ski resort. Famous for its stone towers, beautiful landscapes and mountains Ibbiza



Travel information

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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://mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=95&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

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 four-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 serving both traditional Georgian and international cuisines, while restaurants in different regions of the country 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 against cold air from the north, while the Lesser Caucasus Mountains protect against from the very dry, hot air from the south. Average temperatures in summer range from 19 °C to 22 °C, and in winter from 1.5 °C to 3 °C.

CURRENCY

The official currency in Georgia is the Georgian Lari usually indicated as GEL, the Lari is subdivided into 100 Tetr. One GEL equals 0.44 Euro or 0.60 U.S. Dollars (as of January 2012). Major hotels accept credit cards, but please check outside the main cities. Cash point 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 Bee-line) cover almost the whole territory of the country and there are many Wi-Fi zones that enable visitors to use the internet for free.

HEALTH

For the emergency services please call 112 - the Emergency Management Department.

For more information please visit www.georgia.travel

**GEORGIAN NATIONAL TOURISM
ADMINISTRATION**
4 Sanapiro str, 0105, Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: +99532 2436999
Fax: +99532 2436986
E-mail: info@gnata.ge
www.gnata.ge

