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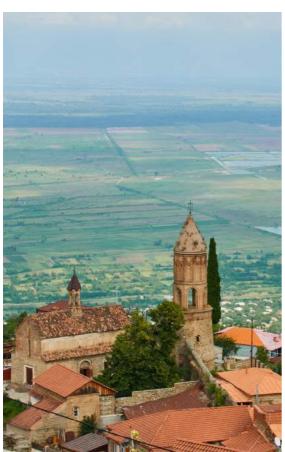
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Since ancient times, Georgia charms visitors with its breathtaking nature, ancient culture and interesting history.

Georgia is a country in the Caucasus region of Eurasia. Located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe, it is bounded to the west by the Black Sea, to the north by Russia, to the south by Turkey and Armenia, and to the southeast by Azerbaijan. The capital and largest city is Tbilisi. Georgia covers a territory of 69,700 sq.m. and its 2017 population is about 3.718 million. Georgia is a unitary semi-presidential republic, with the government elected through a representative democracy. National language – Georgian, and has an ancient alphabet.

Georgia has an ancient musical tradition, which is primarily known for its early development of polyphony. The Georgian folk song "Chakrulo" was one of 27 musical compositions included on the Voyage Golden Records that were sent into space on Voyager 2 on 20th August 1977. Also impress you Georgian national dances, which have their own kinds, each region has its own distinctive dance based on the traditions of the region. There are a number of Georgian dances, two of these dances "Perkhuli" and "Khorumi" are inscribed on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Georgia list.

Georgian architecture has been influenced by many civilizations. There are several different architectural styles for castles, towers, fortifications and churches. Georgia is proud of monuments also, which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Georgia is one of the oldest wine regions in the world, for at least 8000 years. By the wine production, the best known region is Kakheti. Georgian wine is well renowned outside the country, such as wine: Khvanchkara, Saperavi, Tsinandali, Kindzmarauli, Mukuzani, Teliani etc. UNESCO added the ancient traditional Georgian winemaking method using the Kvevri clay jars to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists. The history has preserved the fact that Georgia was visited by the Argonauts, Marco Polo and many other famous travelers. Territory was crossed by the famous Silk Road.

Georgian cuisine and wine have evolved through the centuries, adapting traditions in each era. One of the most unusual traditions of dining is "supra", or Georgian table, which is also a way of socializing with friends and family. The head of "supra" is known as "Tamada". He also conducts the highly philosophical toasts and makes sure that everyone is enjoying themselves. Various historical regions of Georgia are known for their particular dishes, for example, "Khinkali" (meat dumplings) from eastern mountainous Georgia and "Khachapuri" mainly from Imereti, Samegrelo and Adjara (regions of Georgia).

Georgia is attractive in all seasons. In winter you can enjoy time in the ski resorts, such as: Gudauri, Bakuriani, Mestia. Lovers of cultural tourism can visit Georgia during spring and autumn . In summer visitors can relax in Batumi on the Black Sea and visit beautiful canyons and caves in the west part of Georgia. You can choose any kind type of holiday with your family and friends, relax on the azure beach or arrange trekking in high mountains. The country , which you will never forget and offers you a lot of beautiful emotions.







According to one legend, when the God was distributing the lands among the people, the Georgians were late. The God told them: I am sorry but I have no land left for you and asked, why they had not come earlier. The Georgians answered, that they were drinking a toast to him and that was why they were late. The God thought a little and gave them the land, which he had saved for himself. So, the Georgians got the land which was worthy of God. That's why you should visit Georgia.

#### WHY GEORGIA?

- 1. The first Europeans come from Georgia. An archeological expedition in Dmanisi found the oldest human skulls in the Caucasus, suggesting that a man from Africa traveled to Europe through Georgia. The 1.8 million-year-old skulls are the remains of a human couple of Georgians called Zezva and Mzia. It is without a doubt that Georgia is a homeland of the first European.
- 2.Taste Georgian wine. Once here, you need to try Georgian wine. The country is considered to be one of the oldest wine-making regions in the world. Georgians have been producing wine for at least 8,000 years and have their own unique wine-making technique that caught the attention of UNESCO, which listed the Qveveri wine-making method in its Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Traditional wine is made in egg-shaped clay jars, Qvevri, that are buried underground for fermentation, storage, and aging of the wine.
- 3.Travel to the highest settlement in Europe. Georgia is also known for having the highest settlement in Europe at an altitude of 2,100 meters above the sea



level near the foot of Shkhara Mountain, one of the highest summits of the Greater Caucasus Mountains. Ushguli is one of the villages in Svaneti inhabited by approximately 200 people. The area is covered by snow for six months of the year. Therefore, heavy snow blocks roads to central towns of the region.

4.Eat Georgian meat dumplings. Khinkali is number one Georgian dish every visitor should try. It originated in the mountain regions of the country, where each region has its own variety. And Tbilisi has its own. The original meal comes from the Khevsureti region and is called Khevsuruli. The recipe calls for only minced meat, onions, salt, pepper, and cumin. The modern version, called Kalakuri, the one you'll eat in most restaurants in Tbilisi, uses fresh parsley and cilantro. Dumplings have their own way of being eaten – you need to eat them with your hands. First, take a small bite and suck the broth out, so you don't spill a single drop on the plate. It surely needs some practice.

5.It has a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. There are three cultural sites listed on UNESCO's World Heritage list: an ancient city and former capital Mtskheta, the massive cathedral complex Gelati Monastery, and the mountainous region of Upper Svaneti, while 15 other sites are on a tentative list.

6.It is an undiscovered heli-ski destination. Abundant powder, spectacular views, and wide open slopes make Georgia's ski resort Gudauri an excellent destination for heli-skiing and freeriding lovers. Gudauri is up-and-







coming ski destination without the crowds of other European resorts. And even if you are not an adrenaline junkie, Gudauri still offers great slopes for skiers and snowboarders.

7.Discover the cave town of the 12 century. Ever wandered through a massive cave town? Well, you can scratch it off your bucket list in Georgia. Vardzia cave monastery complex dates back to the second half of the twelfth century and stretches along the cliff for 500 meters.

8.Georgia hides a beautiful architecture. If you like examining the architecture of the city, you'll find a lot of interesting buildings here. From the ancient ruins to Soviet buildings, from Art Nouveau to modern, Tbilisi and the rest of the country has it all.

9. You can have a different spa experience here. Georgia is famous for its natural hot springs and spa resorts across its territory. But sulfur baths in Tbilisi's Abanotubani are the first stop for many tourists. Water at those baths are naturally hot at 40-degree Celsius and is believed to be beneficial for skin and your well-being.

10.It's all about nature here. Despite its small size, Georgia has all kinds of climate zones including deserts, ski resorts, Black Sea coasts and alpine zones. The country is a paradise for hiking and camping lovers or for those who simply enjoy stunning views of the Caucasus Mountain Range. Additionally, you can explore breathtaking lakes, canyons, waterfalls or relax at its spa resorts.



## TBILISI / EXPLORE THE CAPITAL

Tbilisi is the capital and the largest city of Georgia. The city covers area of 720 km2 on the both sides of Mtkvari river and has the population of 1.152.000 people . Founded in the 5th century AD by Vakhtang Gorgasali, the Georgian King of Kartli (Iberia) and made into a capital in the 6th century, Tbilisi is a significant industrial, social, and cultural center.

The Old Tbilisi, with it's small streets, hung with beautiful balconies and verandas, open cafes with pleasant music & Sulfur Baths, especially attracts the visitors.

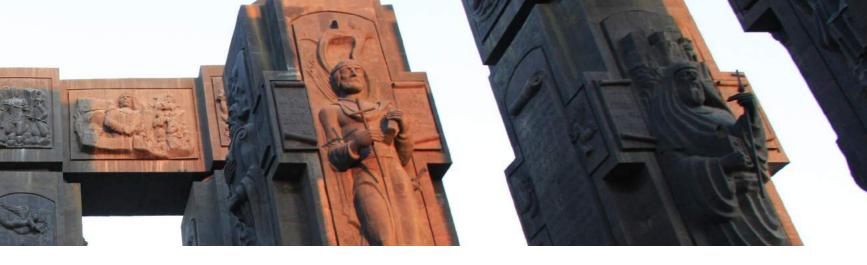
The biggest trade road, the Great Silk Road, passed through Georgia's capital Tbilisi and made it an important place for many centuries. This also played a significant role in the development of the city where the cultural interchange of both regions made Tbilisi a unique place. However, it also brought many invasions over the period of its existence.

The capital has been burned down and rebuilt several times. And despite its violent past, Tbilisi succeeded in maintaining its charm and authenticity. Narrow cobblestone lanes, old residential houses with wooden balconies and Art Nouveau buildings perfectly show its history, culture, and traditions.

#### LEGEND ABOUT TBILISI

Tbilisi was founded in the 5th century by King of Georgia Vakhtang Gor-







gasali. A beautiful legend exists regarding Tbilisi. Iakob Gogebashvili's interpretation of the legend is as follows: "There were many forests full of beasts on the place where Tbilisi is located now. Once The King Vakhtang-Gorgasali was hunting on this site and he let a hawk chase a falcon. After a while, both the hawk and the falcon disappeared from sight. Then, the king went to find them himself. To his surprise, he saw a big hot spring, where the hawk and the falcon had been boiled. When the king realized how useful this hot water was, he ordered to develop this place into a city. ("Tbili" means warm in Georgian). After when Tbilisi became bigger and nicer, it was recognized as the capital of Georgia instead of Mtskheta and the king's throne was moved there.







#### MTSKHETA (Ancient Town / UNESCO Heritage)

The ancient capital of Georgia is located 20 km from Tbilisi. The main attractions there are: one of the most ancient and esteemed temples Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (11th century) where the robe of Christ is buried and ancient Jvari Monastery (6th century) is standing on the edge of a high rock and is in wonderful harmony with extremely picturesque nature of this area. Below at the foot noisy Mtkvari and Aragvi, two most known rivers in Georgia are flowing by.











#### GORI / UPLISTSIKHE

Gori is the birthplace of the Soviet leader Stalini (Jhoseph Jhughashvili), you will stop for photo at the museum of Stalini, after proceed to the cave town Uplistsikhe (1st millennium BC) (literally "The Lord's Fortress) 10km from town of Gori – built on a high rocky left of the Mtkvari River, it contains various structures dating from the Early iron Age to the Late Middle Ages and is notable for the unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures from Anatolia and Iran . The caves were the site of pagan rituals, before Georgia became a Christian country. At the top of the complex is a Christian stone basilica, dating from the 10th century. The rock-cut structures include a large hall called Tamaris Darbazi, pagan places of sacrifice, dwellings, as well as functional buildings, like a pharmacy, a bakery, a prison and even an amphitheatre. They are connected by tunnels.





#### BORJOMI

Borjomi, land of healing springs is situated in the south-east of Georgia. The Borjomi mineral water became a famous brand, a visiting card of Georgia long ago. The main Borjomi source is situated in Borjomi Central Park where everybody who wishes can have it. There are several dozens of healthful institutions, recreation complexes, sanatoriums and rest houses in Borjomi. All of them are located in the vicinities of the Central Park. There are children's amusements, swimming pool and cinema theatre in the territory of the Park.







## RABATI FORTRESS

The old stone Rabati fortress, the main sight of the Akhaltsikhe town, is standing on the small hill on the very shores of the Potskhovi river. Its name comes from Arabic meaning "fortified place". It is located on the western suburbs and can be seen practically from anywhere in the city. This military building erected in the 13th century had witnessed a lot over the centuries. In 2012 there was held a large reconstruction after which Rabati fortress in Akhaltsikhe turned into a town within the town. It has become not only a historical monument, but a real cultural city centre. There are church, mosque, synagogue, small park, History Museum, various shops, hotels and even civil registry office inside the fortress walls.





## VARDZIA

Vardzia is a cave monastery site in southern Georgia, excavated from the slopes of the Erusheti Mountain on the left bank of the Mtkvari River. During an epoch of Queen Tamar (1184-1213) a monastery played significant role in cultural, educational and political life of the country.





## ANANURI FORTRESS

The lands of the mountains, historical province in eastern Georgia. Pass famouse Military Highway, visit Ananuri Castle (17th century) one of the best carvings of the Christian art, with beautiful overlooks the artificial reservoir of Zhinvali, built in 1971.





## **GUDAURI**

Visit Gudauri, a ski resort with beautiful nature located along The Georgian Military Highway near the Cross Pass at an elevation of 2,200 meters above sea level with skiable area from December to April. Near Gudauri you can visit Russia-Georgia Friendship Monument built in 1983 to celebrate ongoing friendship between Georgia and Soviet Russia.







## KAZBEGI

Arrive at Kazbegi, you will see Gergeti Trinity Church (14th century) located at an elevation of 2170 meters above sea level, in front of one of the highest and most beautiful mountain of the Caucasus range Mt. Kazbegi (5047m).



#### KAKHETI REGION

Eastern & Famous wine making region of Georgia, rich of various sorts of wine. The route goes through the Gombori Pass and the famous Shuamta Forest, which makes it one of the most beautiful roads of Georgia. Arrive in Telavi, capital of Kakheti. The best place to start tour is Nadikvari Park, which is wonderful place for leisure. Here you will find walking trails, beautiful nature, playgrounds, open-air theatre/concert arena, panoramic views on Alazani valley and Caucasus mountains. Visit main square and Batonis-tsikhe fortress with the statue of King Erekle II in front of the entrance to fortress. In Batonis-Tsikhe there is a museum and royal apartments, which were damaged by fire and restored later. Also, there is a small church and some ancient ruins inside the fortress wall. Telavi is full of small souvenir shops and cafes. One thing you most definitely must see is almost 900 years old giant maple tree, which is one of the oldest attractions of the city.



Visit Tsinandali – Museum of the 19th century. Situated to the north of Tbilisi-Telavi highway. Famous for its beautiful garden and wine.

Visit Gremi- Center of Kakheti Kingdom in the 15th – 16th century. Built by Levan, King of Kakhetians. Georgian Historical Monastery.

Alaverdi Monastery is a Georgian Eastern Orthodox Monastery located 25 km from Akhmeta, in the Kakheti region of Eastern Georgia, While parts of the monastery date back to 6th century, the present day cathedral was built in the 11th century by Kvirike III of Kakheti, replacing an older church of St. George.







## SIGHNAGHI

Is called City of lovers, a small town in the east of Georgia situated on the mountainside in the historical region of Kakheti. It was founded in the 17th century. It is also famous for its long city walls (18th Century), with watchtowers, there are well preserved 4.5 kilometer of stone walls and you can get the magnificent view of the Alazan valley and the great Caucasus Mountain. There are three medieval churches and all of them are at restoration works. But only 2 km. away from Sighnaghi, there is a famous for tourists and piligrims a Bodbe Monastery, where the remains of the St. Nino are enshrined (4th century)







## KUTAISI

Kutaisi is Georgia's third largest metropolitan area and currently serves as the parliamentary legislative capital. It is located in the central western region of Imereti on the banks of the Rioni River. Kutaisi was the capital of the fabled Kingdom of Colchis. The myth of the Golden Fleece originates here as the waters of the Rioni were once panned for gold using sheep skin. Kutaisi was once the cultural and intellectual center of Georgia. The city is rich with regional Georgian cuisine, museums and shopping. Kutaisi also serves as a transportation hub for domestic and trans-European air travel, lending a cosmopolitan vibrancy to its small town charm. The diminutive Old City Center and its White Bridge are a must see. For those not faint of heart, ride the old soviet cable car from White Bridge to the park above which overlooks the city with stunning views.





## BAGRATI CATHEDRAL

From the Jachvis Khidi (Chain Bridge), you can walk up cobbled streets to the stately Bagrati Cathedral on Ukimerioni Hill. The cathedral was built in 1003 by Bagrat III, with a tall drum and pointed dome resting on four free-standing pillars. In 1692 a Turkish explosion brought down drum, dome and ceiling to leave the cathedral in a ruined state. It was fully renovated between 2009 and 2012, with a mix of old and new stone and a few steel sections. The cathedral gained Unesco World Heritage listing in 1994 following intermittent restoration efforts through the 20th century. Ironically the recent renovation has put it on Unesco's World Heritage in Danger list, due to threats to the 'integrity and authenticity of the site'. The palace-citadel immediately east of the cathedral dates back to the 6th century. It was wrecked in 1769 during Georgian-Russo-Turkish wars, but you can discern remains of wine cellars and a church.



# KATSKHI PILLAR



Georgia is famous not only for the places that are located on the ground or in the mountains, but you can also find something spectacular in the air. The Katskhi Pillar is a 40-meter high limestone monolith that is located in the village of Katskhi. This place is near Chiatura, that is the western part of Georgia. In the past, the pillar was a place of worship, and people were calling it "the Pillar of Life". During the times when we believed in idols, the Katskhi Pillar was a representation of the local fertility god. So, it was a holy place for different rituals. After spreading of Christianity in the 4th century, this place became a favorite place for the monks. They loved to sit or stand on the top of the pillar and pray. While praying, the monks were feeling themselves closer to God. St Simeon was the most famous pillar monk who stayed there for 30 years. St Alypius stayed on the Katskhi Pillar for 67 years, and that is why the region became known as the place of the monks.

#### PROMETHEUS CAVE

Discovered in Imereti region in 1984, Prometheus Cave is one of Georgia's natural wonders providing visitors with breath-taking examples of stalactites, stalagmites, curtains, petrified waterfalls, cave pearls, underground rivers, and lakes. Promete cave 1 hour tourist route passes through Argonauts Hall, Kolkheti Hall, Medea Hall, Love Hall, Prometheus Hall and Iberia Hall. The trail finishes by pedestrian or boating tour on an underground flow of river Kumi. It takes 15 minutes. Entrance fee- 20 Gel / Boat service: 1 person - 15 Gel / Working hours: 10:00 - 18:00 / Working days: every day except Mondays / The active season lasts from April to November / You can enjoy tours whole year round , but Due to visitors' safety boating is prohibited if the water level rises in the cave.



## OKATSE CANYON

The wonderful canyon in the middle of Georgia One of the places near Kutaisi that is really worth seeing is the Canyon of Okatse River. It is a sight of natural beauty that has been recently adapted for tourists. The work took about 2 years and now length of the route around the canyon is about 2 kilometers. where visitors can take memorable photos by "Smart Selfie" Camera.

Entrance fee- 15 Gel / Working hours: 10:00 - 18:00 / Working days: every day except Mondays / The active season lasts from April to November



## ZUGDIDI DADIANI PALACE

Zugdidi is located in Samegrelo region of Western Georgia 327km from Tbilisi. The name "Zugdidi" means "big/great hill" in Laz and Mingrelian. Main Architectural sight of this city is the Dadiani Palace museum, built in 19th century. There are also an old Botanical Garden (Queen's garden/alley) near the Palace. Napoleon's death mask is on display in the Dadiani Palace Museum in Zugdidi, but the main treasure of this museum is a Shroud of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Museum is open every day, except Monday 10:00AM-5:00 pm. Entrance fee – 2 GEL.



#### MARTVILI CANYON

Martvili is located in Samegrelo region of Western Georgia, 280km from Tbilisi. Martvili canyons used to be a bath place for Dadiani family. Now people visit it to enjoy the scenery, its waterfalls and take a boat trip in the river with deep green color. Visitors can enjoy 300 meter boat tour on river Abasha and beautiful views of mountain river canyon.

Entrance fee– 15 Gel / Boat service: 1 person - 13 Gel / Working hours: 10:00 – 18:00 / Working days: every day except Mondays / The active season lasts from April to October



## BATUMI /ADJARA

Batumi—the "Pearl of the Black Sea," as it is often called—is located in the autonomous republic of Adjara. European architects undertook numerous projects in Batumi at the beginning of the 20th century, and today it remains a hub of architectural innovation.

Adjara is home to the picturesque beaches of Batumi, Kvariati, Sarpi, Gonio, Tsikhisdziri, Mtsvane Kontskhi (the Green Cape) and Kobuleti. In the summertime, the beaches are filled with tourists enjoying their holidays. Adjara's beach towns offer well developed infrastructure and fresh, healthy air. One of the oldest cities in Georgia, Batumi was founded in the 8th century, but the initial settlement, Batus, is mentioned in texts that date back to the 4th century BC. Batumi's interesting historical past has considerably influenced the architectural diversity of city (a number of projects were completed by European architects during the Porto Franco period). Old Batumi's most historical part is stretched between the seaport and the Boulevard, and features distinctive building facades and balconies.







Batumi Boulevard - Construction of the 7 km seaside boardwalk begun in 1881 by the famous Prussian gardener and landscape architect Ressler. Two years after the project began, Ressler passed away and Michael D'alfons, a French architect, completed the boulevard. Recently, a Spanish architect designed and constructed a new, modern addition for the boulevard. The coastal line of the boulevard has been beautified with bungalows, café-lounges, restaurants, children's attractions, benches, sculptures and dancing fountains—making it one of the city's most attractive tourist destinations.







Batumi Botanical Garden - Boasting one of the widest varieties of flora in the world, the Batumi Botanical Garden was established in 1912 by the prominent botanist and geographer Andrey Krasnov. The garden is 111 hectares and contains flora from nine phyto-geographic areas: East Asia, North America, New Zealand, South America, the Himalayas, Mexico, Australia, the Mediterranean, and the Caucasian humid subtropics. Visitors can wander the botanical garden by foot or in carts, which can be rented from the garden's administration.





## MESTIA

Mestia, the main regional center of Zemo (Upper) Svaneti, is situated 456 km from Georgia's capital city, Tbilisi, and is 1,500 meters above sea level. It is a relatively small town of around 2,600 inhabitants, but it is the main service center for the Svaneti region and as such has many of the characteristics of larger cities. It is a very tourist-friendly town, in part due to several major construction activities including a new road (a twisty but well-maintained mountain road), a renovated town center with a number of new buildings, and a new airport. It is the starting point for most trips to Svaneti, with a range of hotels, guesthouses and local travel services, and makes a convenient base for exploring the area. From the center of Mestia it is possible to hike up to the glaciers at the foot of mount Ushba, or take horses into the pristine alpine meadows. New ski resorts Hatsvali and Tetnuldi attract the attention of winter sports lovers who are looking for the new places and challenges. Tourists interested in religious history will find plenty of examples of wall paintings, frescoes and icons from the Middle Ages in the churches around Mestia. Within Mestia, the Church of Saint George contains well-preserved crosses and icons from the XII century. Additionally, Pusdi Church still contains fragments of XIII century wall paintings.









## **SHATILI**

Shatili is a historic highland village in Georgia, near the border with Chechnya. It is located on the northern slope of the Greater Caucasus mountains, in the historical Georgian province of Upper Khevsureti, which is now part of the modern-day region of Mtskheta-Mtianeti. Shatili is still inhabited by a dozen or so families, but is inaccessible by road during wintertime. The village is a favorite destination for tourists and mountain trekkers.





## **DMANISI**

The first Europeans come from Georgia. An archeological expedition in Dmanisi found the oldest human skulls in the Caucasus, suggesting that a man from Africa traveled to Europe through Georgia. The 1.8 million-year-old skulls are the remains of a human couple of Georgians called Zezva and Mzia. It is without a doubt that Georgia is a homeland of the first European.









# BE TRAVELER NOT A TOURIST

Fulfil yourself with unique culture & history
Explore Georgian cuisine
Discover the tradition of wine making
Be native not a guest & feel free to be Georgian
Don't forget to visit us again



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