

# GEORGIA



**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++995**

**State Department of Tourism of Georgia:** 80 Chavchavadze Avenue 380062 Tbilisi Tel: (32)-226-125 Fax: (32)-294-052

**Capital:** Tbilisi **Time:** GMT + 4

**Background:** Georgia was absorbed into the Russian Empire in the 19th century. Independent for three years (1918-1921) following the Russian revolution, it was forcibly incorporated into the USSR until the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. Russian troops remain garrisoned at four military bases and as peacekeepers in the separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The country continues to move toward a market economy and greater integration with Western institutions.

**Location:** Southwestern Asia, bordering the Black Sea, between Turkey and Russia

**Map References:** Commonwealth of Independent States

**Area:** total: 69,700 sq km land: 69,700 sq km water: 0 sq km

**Climate:** warm and pleasant; Mediterranean-like on Black Sea coast

**Terrain:** largely mountainous with Great Caucasus Mountains in the north and Lesser Caucasus Mountains in the south; Kolkhet'is Dablobi (Kolkhida Lowland) opens to the Black Sea in the west; Mtkvari River Basin in the east; good soils in river valley flood plains, foothills of Kolkhida Lowland

**Natural Resources:** forests, hydropower, manganese deposits, iron ore, copper, minor coal and oil deposits; coastal climate and soils allow for important tea and citrus growth

**Population:** 5,019,538 (July 2000 est.)

**Nationality:** noun: Georgian(s) adjective: Georgian

**Ethnic Groups:** Georgian 70.1%, Armenian 8.1%, Russian 6.3%, Azeri 5.7%, Ossetian 3%, Abkhaz 1.8%, other 5%

**Religions:** Georgian Orthodox 65%, Muslim 11%, Russian Orthodox 10%, Armenian Apostolic 8%, unknown 6%

**Languages:** Georgian 71% (official), Russian 9%, Armenian 7%, Azeri 6%, other 7% note: Abkhaz (official in Abkhazia)

**Economy:** Georgia's economy has traditionally revolved around Black Sea tourism; cultivation of citrus fruits, tea, and grapes; mining of manganese and copper; and output of a small industrial sector producing wine, metals, machinery, chemicals, and textiles. The country imports the bulk of its energy needs, including natural gas and oil products. Its only sizable internal energy resource is hydropower. Despite the severe damage the economy has suffered due to civil strife, Georgia, with the help of the IMF and World Bank, made substantial economic gains since 1995, increasing GDP growth and slashing inflation. The Georgian economy continues to experience large budget deficits due to a failure to collect tax revenues. Georgia also still suffers from energy shortages; it privatized the distribution network in 1998, and deliveries are steadily improving. Georgia is pinning its hopes for long-term recovery on the development of an international transportation corridor through the key Black Sea ports of Pot'i and Bat'umi. The growing trade deficit, continuing problems with tax evasion and corruption, and political uncertainties cloud the short-term economic picture. However, revived investment could spur higher economic growth in 2000, perhaps up to 6%.

Industries: steel, aircraft, machine tools, electric locomotives, trucks, tractors, textiles, shoes, chemicals, wood products, wine

**Currency:** 1 lari (GEL) = 100 tetri

**Railways:** total: 1,583 km in common carrier service; does not include industrial lines broad gauge: 1,583 km 1.520-m gauge (1993)

**Highways:** total: 20,700 km paved: 19,354 km unpaved: 1,346 km (1996 est.)

**Ports and Harbors:** Bat'umi, Pot'i, Sokhumi

**Airports:** 28 (1994 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 14 over 3,047 m: 1 2,438 to 3,047 m: 7 1,524 to 2,437 m: 4 914 to 1,523 m: 1 under 914 m: 1 (1994 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 14 over 3,047 m: 1 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 914 to 1,523 m: 5 under 914 m: 6 (1994 est.)

Note: transportation network is in poor condition and disrupted by ethnic conflict, criminal activities, and fuel shortages; network lacks maintenance and repair

**Visa:** required by all, except nationals of Bulgaria and Poland

**Duty Free:** goods permitted: 200 cigarettes, 3 litres of wine or 10 litres of beer, personal goods up to the weight of 100kg

**Health:** typhoid and polio risk. All water should be considered as potentially contaminated

## HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

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**BATUMI WORLD PALACE**, 1/3 Melashvili Str. Batumi Georgia, Tel:995 422 225 790, Fax:995 422 225 792, [info@batumiworldpalace.com](mailto:info@batumiworldpalace.com), <http://batumiworldpalace.com>

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**GOLDEN PALACE BATUMI HOTEL & CASINO**, Tel:995 422 212530, <http://www.goldenpalacebatumi.com/en>

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**HOTEL EGRISI**, Gonio, Batumi, Georgia, Phone: 995790 33 5000 , [info@HotelEgrisi.com](mailto:info@HotelEgrisi.com) <http://www.hotelegrisi.com>

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**TBILISI AIRPORT**, Georgia, 380058 Tbilisi, Tel: +995 (8)32 43-31-21, Fax: +995 (8)32 77-96-24, Email: [i.qivi@wanex.ge](mailto:i.qivi@wanex.ge)



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