

The cultural program of the congress

Dear Colleges Dear Guests,

We welcome you to Georgia, across an ancient and still flourishing culture - very Exotic, Great Cultural, Historical and Spiritual Country.

Georgia is small with territory, but the greatest and deepest with its culture.

The churches and temples; Christian Bedrock; Birthplace of wine; the First Europeans; UNESCO World Heritage; Golden Fleece of Colchis and Cave Architecture are waiting for you.

Spend your holidays in Georgia and it will always stay on your mind. Let them be more interesting, impressive and emotional. Taste many traditional delicious dishes and famous Georgian wines. Take pleasure from the beautiful views of Georgian nature splendid landscapes; Visit cultural and historical monuments and masterpieces; Listen to the Ancient National Folk Songs kept for the future generations; Share the lot temperament, watching the Georgian Dances.

Travel and discover Georgia, feel, taste and breathe its life.

We take great pride in our ability to provide you with the best professional and efficient service.

We recommend you the direct flights of “Georgian Airways” from Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam, Kiev and Athens to Tbilisi - “Tbilisi National Airport”

“Georgian Airways” also has flights to Batumi - “Batumi National Airport” from different towns in accordance with season.

The direct flights to Batumi are from Tbilisi, Istanbul, Odessa and other cities, according season.

I. Pre Congress Tours

June 26, Day 1: Tbilisi-Mtskheta Tour

Drive to - Mtskheta is one of oldest cities of Georgia (in Kartli province of Eastern Georgia), near Tbilisi. Mtskheta was a capital of the Georgian Kingdom of Iberia during the 3rd century BC - 5th century AD. Here Georgians accepted Christianity in 317 and Mtskheta still remains the headquarters of the Georgian Orthodox and Apostolic Church.

Jvari Monastery is a Georgian Orthodox monastery of the 6th century near Mtskheta (World Heritage site), Mtskheta-Mtianeti region, eastern Georgia. The name is translated as the Monastery of the Cross. For another, Georgian monastery with the same name is located in Jerusalem-

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, built in the 11th century. Though the site itself is even older dating back to the early 4th century and is surrounded by a number of legends associated primarily with the early Christian traditions. Svetitskhoveli, known as the burial site of Christ's mantle, has long been the principal Georgian church and remains one of the most venerated places of worship to this day. The church is in UNESCO world heritage sites.

Samtavro 11th century monastery complex. The first Christian king Miriani and his wife Nana are buried in the church. Return in Tbilisi. **Start Tbilisi Tour.** Tbilisi is the capital and the largest city of Georgia. The city covers area of 726 km² on the both sides of Mtkvari River and has the population of 1.480.000 people (2006 census). 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. Several interesting places include: **Anchiskhati church** - built in 5th-6th centuries, is situated in Old Tbilisi. It is triple-nave basilica.

Sioni cathedral - was initially built in the 6th-7th centuries. Since then, it has been destroyed by foreign invaders and reconstructed by Georgians several times. The current church is based on a 13th century version with some changes from the 17th to the 19th centuries.





Narikala castle - exists here since the middle of the 4th century. It was occupied by Iranian, North Caucasian and Byzantine, Arab conquerors in various periods of time. Royal palace was also resided here. Church of St. Nickoloz was built within the castle in 13th century. It was rebuilt in the latter half of 20th century.

Metechi church of Holy Virgin - built in 5th century and rebuilt in 13th century. Royal palace was situated here before moving to Narikala Castle. Metechi is a central-domed church.

Sameba cathedral - Holy Trinity Cathedral, called as "Millennium Building". Sameba is the greatest Orthodox Cathedral in Georgia and Caucasus. It represents the synthesis of cross-domed and central-domed churches. It is 100 meters in height. Drive back to Tbilisi.

OVERNIGHT IN TBILISI

Price per person USD 85

Price includes: Transportation, Guide Service, and lunch in Local restaurants in Mtskheta dinner in Local restaurant in Tbilisi, vat 18%

Price exclude: Museum entrance fees,

June 27, Day 2: Kakheti Tour

After breakfast in Tbilisi hotel we will drive to Kakheti region. Visit **Tsinandali** – Museum of the 19th century, situated to the north of Tbilisi-Telavi highway, famous for its beautiful garden



and wine. **King Erekle Museum** - Fortress and residence of King Erekle the II. King of Georgia in the 18th century.

Alaverdi – Cathedral belonging to the 11th c.,

central-domed church of St. George. **Gremi** – Centre of Kakheti kingdom in the 15th – 16th c., situated on the bank of the river Intsoby.



Afterwards drive to Kvareli Lake. Drive to **Sighanghi**. Drive back to Tbilisi.

OVERNIGHT IN TBILISI

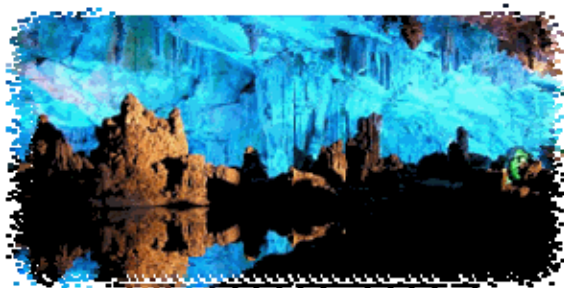
Price per person USD 115

Price includes: Transportation, Guide Service, lunch in Local restaurants in Telavi, dinner in Local restaurant in Tbilisi or Sighanghi, vat 18%

Price exclude: Museum entrance fees.

June 28, Day 3: Tbilisi/Gori/Uplistsikhe/Kutaisi/Promete Cave/Batumi.

After breakfast drive to **Gori**. The city was founded by one of the greatest kings of Georgia, David the Builder (1089–1125). Visit **Uplistsikhe** (entrance fee: USD 1, 70), "the lord's fortress", which is an ancient rock-hewn town in eastern



Georgia.

Built on a high rocky left bank of Mtkvari



River, it contains various structures dating from the 2nd ML BC to the Late Middle Ages, and is notable for the unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures. Drive to **Kutaisi**. Visit **Promete Cave** in Tskaltubo. Afterwards drive to **Batumi**.

Price per person is USD 225

Price includes: Transportation, Guide Service, lunch in Local restaurant, dinner in Local restaurant, vat 18%

Price exclude: Museum entrance fees.

OVERNIGHT IN BATUMI.

June 29. Congress I Day

OVERNIGHT IN BATUMI.

June 30, Congress II Day

OVERNIGHT IN BATUMI.

II. Post Congress Tours

Batumi tours

Come and visit the beautiful ruins of the ancient fortress which was built by Romans in the second half of the first century since few vacations can compete with this unique vacation offered in Gonio. You will get to see the fascinating views of the Black Sea and the castle.

Discover unforgettable beauty of flora in Batumi Botanical Garden. Few sights can compete with the one in this mystical garden. It includes the departments of East Asia, North America, New Zealand, South America, the Himalayas, Mexico, Australia, the Mediterranean Sea and Caucasian Humid. You will get a chance to see the flora from all over the world and enjoy an amazing view of the Black Sea.

THE NOBEL BROTHERS BATUMI TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM: activities of the Nobel Brothers, the Rotschids, and Mantashev are outstanding. With their help the new technology of oil transit was implemented and Batumi was involved into the International Trade Affairs.

Batumi port: "Porto –Franco" (free port) status was granted to port because of its advantages. Ships and cruises from different countries of the world stop by in order to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Black Sea surrounded by mountains.

July 1, Day 6: Batumi Tour I

Batumi is the most beautiful city of Georgia. After breakfast - Batumi sightseeing. We will visit **Technological Museum of Nobel**

Brothers, <http://www.ajaraheritage.ge/vtours/nobel/>, Visit **Gonio**

Fortress (entrance fee: USD 1, 70), **Petra** castle and Batumi

botanical garden (entrance fee: USD 4, 50).

Night Tour in Batumi

Price per person is USD130

Price includes: Transportation, Guide Service, lunch in Local restaurant, dinner in Local restaurant, vat 18%

Price exclude: Museum entrance fees.



Batumi Tour II

Day Tour 10:00 – 15:00: Gonio Fortress, Sarfi Border, Botanical Garden, Nobel Brothers Technological Museum,

Night Tour 18:00 – 20:00 in Batumi: Piazza Square, Dancing Fountain, New Boulevard, Saint Barbara Church, Ali & Nino.



Tour Price Includes: Transportation, English Speaking Guide, Admission fees and permits where applicable, Service charges and government taxes

Price: *Group of minimum 14 people from per person USD 40*

Price includes: *Transportation, Guide Service, , vat 18%*

Price exclude: *lunch and dinner in Local Restaurant.*

OVERNIGHT IN BATUMI.

July 2, Day 7. Batumi- Tbilisi.

Transfer to Tbilisi.

In case of full Batumi Tour program (5 days: June 28 - July 02)

Price per person is USD 400

Price includes: *Transportation, Guide Service, 3 lunches and 3 dinners in local restaurants (except conference days), VAT 18%.*

Price exclude: *Museum entrance fees.*

Post Congress Tours from Batumi

3 Days Tour to Svaneti



Day 1: Batumi/Zugdidi/Mestia

Drive from Batumi to Zugdidi. Visit **Dadiani Palace** there (entrance fee: USD 1, 70). The representatives of Dadiani Dynasty were acquainted with world history, culture latest technical achievements. They were tightly involved in the social events. The Palace keeps 41 000 museum objects. Most of them are unique and invaluable examples of Georgian and foreign art. En route we visit **Enguri Dam** with the height of 271 meters (the highest dam of this type in the world). The Dam makes a water-storage

reservoir in the picturesque gorges of Samegrelo and Svaneti mountains. It's time to get ready for the most exciting part of the trip - a journey to Svaneti, the region of the highest mountains and glaciers and the most abiding ancient traditions.

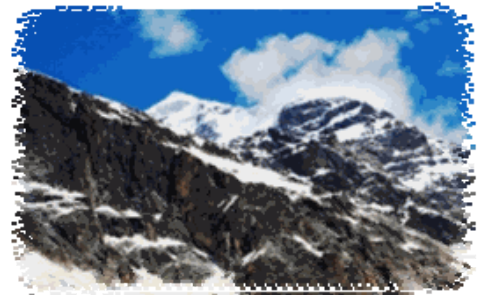
Dinner and overnight in Mestia.

Day 2: Mestia/Ushguli/Mestia

After breakfast drive to Ushguli by Jeeps. Visit **Laghami Saint George's church** (7th-12th c.c.) and Svan dwelling complex. The church of St. George in **Nakipari** (1130 AD) and **Ethnographic Museums** in Ushguli. Ushguli is considered to be the highest populated place in Europe (2200 m above sea level).

(NOTE: please note that in Svaneti region you may need approximately USD 6 for each sight, this is stated not by government, but by the local people who are taking care of each sightseeing place).

Dinner and overnight in Mestia.





Day 3: Mestia/Batumi

After breakfast visit Latali and Lenjeri single-nave basilicas of the 8th-9th-14th c.c., built by stones without ornamentation, with the interior richly decorated with murals. Afterwards drive to Batumi the most beautiful city of Georgia. Have a free time in Batumi to take a walk across the beach in a famous Batumi boulevard.

Overnight in Batumi.

Price per person is: USD 450

The rates include: Transportation as per program and the jeeps in Ushguli; English/Russian speaking Cultural tour guide; FB: (2 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners); 1 bottle of mineral water per day/per person; VAT 18%

The rates do not include: Travel insurance; Overnights in Hotels.

H O T E L "Tetnaldi" in Mestia

Standard single room - 87 USD

Standard double room - 110 USD

Deluxe single - 95 USD

Deluxe double - 123 USD

Suite - 167 USD

Prices include BB and VAT 18% - prices can be changed in 2012 year.

Hotel "Mestia" in Mestia -

Per person price with HB - 45 USD (shared bath.)

Per person with HB - 70 USD (with own bath)

Guesthouse "Koka" in Mestia-

Per person price with FB - 65 USD (shared bath.)

The Tours from Batumi

ONE DAY: Batumi/Kutaisi/Promete Cave/Batumi.

Batumi is the most beautiful city of Georgia. After breakfast - Batumi sightseeing. We will visit **Technological Museum of Nobel Brothers**, <http://www.ajaraheritage.ge/vtours/nobel/>, Visit **Gonio Fortress** (entrance fee: USD 1, 70), and Batumi **botanical garden** (entrance fee: USD 4, 50). After- drive to **Kutaisi**. Visit **Promete Cave** in Tskaltubo. Afterwards drive to **Batumi**.

Price per person is: USD 370;

Price includes: Transportation, Guide Service, 1 lunch and 1 dinner in restaurants, VAT 18%

Price excludes: Museum entrance fees.

ONE DAY: Batumi/Kutaisi/Promete Cave/Tbilisi

Batumi is the most beautiful city of Georgia. After breakfast - Batumi sightseeing. We will visit **Technological Museum of Nobel Brothers**, <http://www.ajaraheritage.ge/vtours/nobel/>, Visit **Gonio Fortress** (entrance fee: USD 1, 70), and Batumi **botanical garden** (entrance fee: USD 4, 50). After- drive to Kutaisi. Visit **Promete Cave** in Tskaltubo. Afterwards drive to **Tbilisi**. In the evening we will have evening Tbilisi tour.

Price per person is: USD 390.

Price includes: Transportation, Guide Service, 1 lunch and 1 dinner in restaurants, VAT 18%

Price excludes: Museum entrance fees.

We would recommend reserving Pre- and Post Congress tours for earlier.

The currency and Banking in Georgia

The currency in Georgia is Georgian Lari (GEL)

The exchange rate of GEL for today is: *1USD-1.65 GEL; 1 EUR -2.25GEL*

Banks in Tbilisi and in Batumi are open From Monday to Friday from 10.00a.m. Till 17.00p.m. On Saturday from 10.00a.m. Till 14.00p.m.

All Banks provide 24 hour cash machines, which accept most credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard, Maestro, or American Express.

We advise you to have CC with Dollars into account.