



Practical Info Sheet





TBS

Arriving at Tbilisi International Airport (IATA: TBS)



KUT

Arriving at Kutaisi International Airport (IATA: KUT) and reaching Tbilisi

Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi International Airport is the main airport in Georgia located 17km southeast of Tbilisi. Since most of the international air carriers land very early in the morning, we assume that you will need a taxi to get to your hotel or accommodation. There are two main options for this - official Airport Taxi service and individual drivers who offer lift services; both options are available outside the terminal, at the curbside of the arrival hall providing 24-hour service to the passengers. The route time to the city center takes 20-30 minutes and the fee depends on which of the two options you take (the fee may vary between 50 and 70 GEL); the official Airport Taxi is more expensive than unofficial drivers.

Alternatively, you can take a bus to reach the center of Tbilisi, in particular, Tbilisi airport is served by a municipal Bus #37, which will take you to Rustaveli Avenue. Navigating in the city is very easy from there, as you will be able to use minibuses, buses and metro station to reach the hotels in every part of the city.

Below is the route which airport Bus #37 takes from the airport to Rustaveli Avenue and the travel takes one hour. The cost of travel is 0.5 GEL (approximately 0.15 EUR) and you have to purchase the ticket on board. You must have an exact amount of cash/coins.



10-12 GEL



15-20 GEL



Kutaisi International Airport located in the Western Georgia offers budget airline flights. The distance from Kutaisi to Tbilisi is 200km (approximately 4 hours bus ride to Tbilisi). Georgian Bus Company makes transfer of passengers from Kutaisi to Tbilisi and vice versa and its timetable is adjusted to the certain flight schedules. Mini and full buses depart regularly for Kutaisi from Didube Bus Station located at the Didube metro stop in Tbilisi. Mini-buses depart once an hour and typical fare is 20 GEL, large buses depart every three hours and the ticket costs 15 GEL.



#37 airport bus
0.5 GEL

22 km
1 hours

TAXI
30-50 GEL



200 km
4 hours





Entering Georgia

As you may be aware there are two occupied territories in Georgia - Abkhazia and South Ossetia. There is Georgian National Law on Occupied Territories, which defines who can enter these territories and from where. Those, who cross the border from any place other than legal administrative borders of Georgia are subject to the Criminal Code of Georgia. There is a high probability that those who have the history of illegal border crossing to Abkhazia or South Ossetia won't be allowed to enter the country.



Exchanging Money

Please take into account that it is not permitted to pay taxi services (or anything else) in foreign currency. For this reason, we advise you to exchange money in one of the branches of the banks available in the Arrivals Hall of Tbilisi International Airport. The exchange rates do not differ based on the location of the service in the country, so the bank exchange rates in town are identical to the same bank offices at the airport. Bank of Georgia (orange colored logo), TBC Bank (light blue colored logo) - both are private banks trading on London Stock Exchange, therefore trustworthy. Their branches at the airport are open 24/7. You could also use ATMs at the airport to withdraw national currency.



Time & Weather

For time and weather in Georgia please see <http://www.timeanddate.com/weather/georgia/tbilisi>



Safety

Georgia is a safe country and violent crime is very unusual. However, petty theft is not uncommon. Normal precautions should be taken, including keeping track of your wallet or other valuables on crowded buses and trains. Be especially aware of pick-pockets in crowded tourist areas of Tbilisi – such as nightclubs, bars and on pedestrian streets. Make a photocopy of your passport picture and bring this with you when you go out – keep your passport in a safe place. Also, take only the cash you need for an evening out. The police are extremely helpful. As a rule, the “patruli” (=city police) are intermediate in spoken English so you can rest assured they will take you to your destination in case of trouble.



Useful Numbers

- Police, fire brigade, ambulance – 112
- Information service – 118 09; 118 08
- Airport - Arrivals: (+995 32) 2 31 03 41; Departures: (+995 32) 2 31 04 21
- Tbilisi Tourism Information Centre – (+995 32) 2 43 69 99

Georgia is an exquisite gastronomic destination. We highly recommend using this chance to try some of Georgian dishes among an array of vegetarian and non-vegetarian options available here, which can be done in some of the restaurants below:



You can try authentic Georgian food and wine at **Azarphesha**

Address: 2, Ingorokva Street, Tbilisi 0105, Georgia, (+995 32) 2 98 23 46



An exquisite fusion cuisine at vintage restaurant **Purpur**

1, Abo Tbileli St | Near Gudiashvili Garden, Tbilisi 0105, Georgia, (+995 32) 2 47 77 76



Georgian and European cuisine at **Gabriadze Cafe**

12, Shavteli Street Next to Gabriadze Theatre, Tbilisi, Georgia (+995 32) 2 98 65 94



Western Georgian cuisine at **Megruli Sakhli**

Mosashvili St., 13 | Atoneli St., 31, Tbilisi 0162, Georgia

Note: Tips are usually not included in the bills and are optional.



Restaurants

Things to do on a weekend

In case you decide to stay for the weekend, there are many things you could also explore in Tbilisi. Below you will find a few ideas on how to spend free time.

About Tbilisi

Founded in the 5th century Tbilisi is the capital and the largest city of Georgia with a population of roughly 1,5 million inhabitants. History of Tbilisi is reflected in its architecture, which is a mix of medieval, classical, Soviet and modern structures. Historically, Tbilisi has been home to people of diverse cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, though it is overwhelmingly Eastern Orthodox Christian. Georgia is host to an extensive variety of sights, unique cultural venues, museums, and other landmarks. Tbilisi is of particular interest because it is the political, cultural, and social heartbeat of Georgia. From Turkish Baths to bookstores, Tbilisi has something to offer to all of its visitors.



Places to visit

City Sightseeing with Tbilisi Hop-On Hop-Off Tour (<http://hopon-hopoff.ge/en/>)

1-Day Pass from GEL 50

2-Day Pass from GEL 60

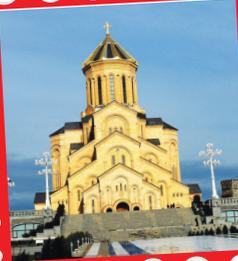
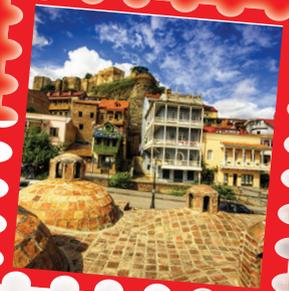
Booking of the tour can be made on the company website.

Sightseeing in Tbilisi <http://www.info-tbilisi.com/> is a great resource for keeping up on current events and activities in the city. It also has addresses of local restaurants, museums, and other sights.



Places to visit

Abanotubani - The renowned bath district of Tbilisi. The rounded domes of the bathhouses can be seen from the street, making it a sight worth seeing, even if you don't take a bath!



Holy Trinity Cathedral, Sameba - Beautiful Sameba Cathedral, colloquially known as "Sameba", is the primary cathedral of the Georgian Orthodox Church in Tbilisi.

Metekhi Church - Constructed sometime between 1278-1284AD the Metekhi Church rests on top of a hill. It is known to be one of the most beautiful spots in all of Tbilisi.



Narikala Fortress - A landmark that dates all the way back to the 4th century AD, the Narikala Fortress rests on a hill that overlooks Tbilisi near the botanical gardens.

The Botanic Garden - beautiful all year round, a great place for an extended walk.



Freedom Square - The location of many demonstrations for Georgian independence from the Soviet Union. At the center of the square stands a statue of St. George, one of Georgia's patron saints, slaying the dragon.

Mtatsminda (Holy Mountain) Park - Mtatsminda is the mountain which overlooks central Tbilisi. Located 800-metres above the city Mtatsminda Park spreads over more than 1 sq km and has been a popular fun spot for generations.



