



8-th Eurasian Meeting on Heterocyclic  
Chemistry

## Guide of Georgia



*Pirosmani (1861-1918), Three Deer Drinking Water*

### **EAMHC-2014**

20-24 September, 2014  
Tbilisi, Georgia

[www.chemistry.ge/conferences/eamhc-2014](http://www.chemistry.ge/conferences/eamhc-2014)

## TBILISI AND CONFERENCE VANUE

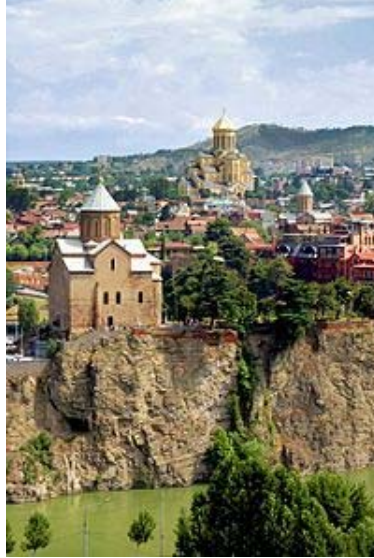
Tbilisi (Georgian: თბილისი [tʰbilɪsɪ]) is the capital and the largest city of Georgia, lying on the banks of the Mt'k'vari (Kura) River. The name is derived from an early Georgian form T'pilisi and it was officially known as Tiflis until 1936. The city covers an area of 726 km<sup>2</sup> (280.3 square miles) and has 1,480,000 inhabitants.



Founded in the 5th century by Vakhtang Gorgasali, the Georgian King of Iberia, and made into a capital in the 6th century, Tbilisi is a significant industrial, social, and cultural centre. The city is also emerging as an important transit route for global energy and trade projects. Located strategically at the crossroads between Europe and Asia and lying along the historic Silk Road routes, Tbilisi has often been a point of contention between various rival powers and empires. The history of the city can be seen by its architecture, where the Haussmannized Rustaveli Avenue and downtown are blended with the narrower streets of the medieval Narikala district.



The demographics of the city is diverse and historically it has been home to people from diverse cultures, religions and ethnicities. Despite being overwhelmingly Orthodox Christian, Tbilisi is one of the few places in the world where a synagogue and a mosque are located next to each other, in the ancient Bath district several hundred metres from the Metekhi Church.



Tbilisi has one international airport. Notable tourist destinations include the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi, Freedom Square, Sioni Cathedral, Metekhi, Narikala, Rustaveli Avenue, Tbilisi Opera and Ballet Theatre, Anchiskhati Basilica, Mtatsminda Pantheon (Holy Mountain), Kashueti Church along with the National and Historic Museums of Georgia and a number of art galleries. Tbilisi is the home of famous artists.



The city life was immortalized in their art by Niko Pirosmiani and Lado Gudiashvili as well

as other modern painters.

Tbilisi is a multicultural city. The city is home to more than 100 different ethnic groups. Around 89% of the population is ethnically Georgian, with significant populations of other ethnic groups such as Armenians, Russians, and Azeris. Along with the above mentioned groups, Tbilisi is also home to various other ethnic groups including Ossetians, Abkhazians, Ukrainians, Greeks, Germans, Jews, Estonians, Kurds, Assyrians, and others.



Painting by G. Markozashvili



Painting by G. Markozashvili

## **ADDITIONL INFORMATION**

### **Invitation Letter**

On request, the Conference Secretary will be happy to send a personal invitation to participation in the conference. It should be understood that the sole purpose of this invitation is to help participants to raise travel funds in their own countries. Such invitation is not a commitment on the part of the organizers to provide financial support.

### **Local Transportation Card**

Local transportation card (7-days card) is available. The cost is 2 GEL and may be purchased at each subway station.

### **Air Travel to Tbilisi**

There are direct flights to Tbilisi International Airport from/to all main cities in Europe and Asia: Kiev, Antalya, Tel Aviv, Tehran, Urumqi, Aktau, Baku, Riga, Minsk, Munich, Istanbul-Ataturk, Prague, Warsaw, Istanbul-S.Gokçen, Amsterdam, Moscow-Domodedovo.

For detail information please see: <http://www.tbilisiairport.com>

### **Passports and VISA**

The countries whose citizens do not need a visa to enter and stay on the territory of Georgia for 360 days:

All countries of the European Union, United States of America, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Israel, the Holy See, Principality of Andorra, San-Marino, Republic of Iceland, United Arab Emirates, State of Kuwait, South Korea, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Bahrain, Oman, Brunei, Singapore, Australia, Monaco, New Zealand, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Seychelles, Botswana, Croatia, Chile, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Argentina, Malaysia, Mexico, Uruguay, Mauritius, Panama, Costa Rica, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand, Belize, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Albania, Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Iraq.

All foreign visitors (except the countries listed below) must possess a passport valid for at least the next 6 months. Some participants may require visas in order to enter Georgia. Please check with your local Georgian Consulate or Embassy for details regarding visa and entry requirements. If no such representation exists in a particular country, please visit the site: <http://www.mfa.gov.ge>.

## **ADDITIONL INFORMATION**

### **Electricity**

Electricity supply is 220-230V.

### **Time Zone**

Tbilisi time zone: **UTC/GMT +4**

Time zone abbreviation: **GET - Georgia Standard Time**

No daylight saving time at the moment

### **Mobile Phones**

All Georgian GSM operators use GSM 900/1800 network type. When calling from your mobile to a stationary phone in Tbilisi use the prefix "832".

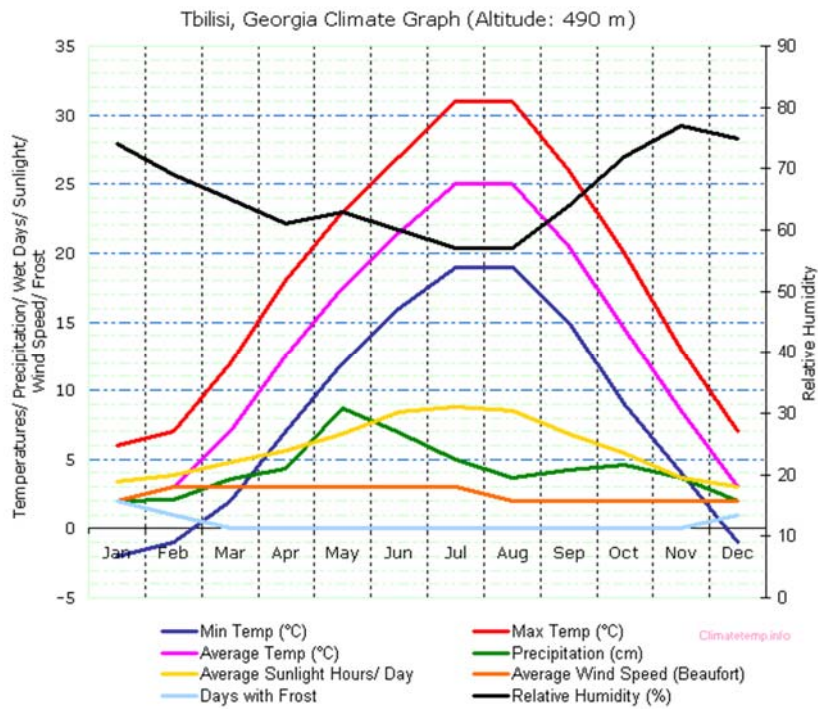
### **Currency**

**Currency and Credit Cards**The currency unit in Georgia is the Lari (GEL) which is subdivided into 100 tetri. The current exchange rate to Euro and US dollar can be checked at [http://coinmill.com/GEL\\_calculator.html](http://coinmill.com/GEL_calculator.html)

Delegates may change foreign currency and travellers cheques at several banks located in the centre of the city as well as in many exchange bureaus, at the railway station, at the airport or in many others places. International credit cards are accepted in many hotels, restaurants, and cash machines.

### Climate and Clothing

The weather in September in Tbilisi is usually warm and pleasant. The average daytime temperature varies from 18 degrees to 25 degrees of Celsius. There is the possibility of rain, so an umbrella, light raincoat and comfortable shoes are advisable.



## CONFERENCE EXCURSION

Mtskheta (Georgian: მცხეთა), one of the oldest cities of the country of Georgia (in Kartli province of Eastern Georgia), is located approximately 20 kilometers north of Tbilisi at the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari (Kura) rivers. The city (population 19,423 as of January 1, 2008) is now the administrative centre of the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region. Due to its historical significance and numerous ancient monuments, the "Historical Monuments of Mtskheta" became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994.

### History

Remains of towns at this location have been dated to earlier than the year 1000 BC, and Mtskheta was capital of the early Georgian Kingdom of Iberia during the 3rd century BC – 5th century AD. It was the site of early Christian activity, and the location where Christianity was proclaimed the state religion of Georgia in 317. Mtskheta still remains the headquarters of the Georgian Orthodox and Apostolic Church.



King Dachi I Ujarmeli (beginning of the 6th century AD), who was the successor of Vakhtang I Gorgasali, moved the capital from Mtskheta to the more easily defensible Tbilisi according to the will left by his father. However, Mtskheta continued to serve as the coronation and burial place for most

kings of Georgia until the end of the kingdom in the 19th century.

The old city lies at the confluence of the rivers Mtkvari and Aragvi. The rare blend of cultural values had ruled in this part of the world since the Bronze Age until prosperous Christian era over the unique electric lifestyle creating the mood of the town which is as old as the history of Georgia. Mtskheta is the most religious city of Georgia as it has been the shrine of pagan idols since immemorial times and it is where Christianity in Georgia takes its origin.

### Monuments

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (11th century) and Jvari Monastery (6th century) in Mtskheta are amongst the most significant monuments of Georgian Christian architecture, and are historically significant in the development of medieval architecture throughout the Caucasus. Of special significance are early inscriptions, which form a valuable reference in the study of the origins of the early Georgian alphabet.

In the outskirts of Mtskheta are the ruins of Armaztsikhe fortress (3rd century BC), the Armaztsikhe acropolis (dating to the late 1st millennium BC), remains of a "Pompey's bridge" (according to legends built by Roman legionnaires of Pompey the Great in 1st century BC), the fragmentary remains of a royal palace (1st-3rd century AD), a nearby tomb of the 1st century AD, a small church of the 4th century, the Samtavro Monastery (11th century), and the fortress of Bebris Tsikhe (14th century). The Institute of Archaeology, and the garden of Mikheil

Mamulashvili are also worthy of note.

### Threats

The Historical Monuments of Mtskheta were recently placed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger, citing "serious deterioration of the stonework and frescoes" as the main threat to the site's long-term preservation.

### Svetitskhoveli Cathedral

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral is a Georgian Orthodox cathedral located in the historical town of Mtskheta, Georgia, 20 km (12.5 miles) northwest of the nation's capital of Tbilisi.

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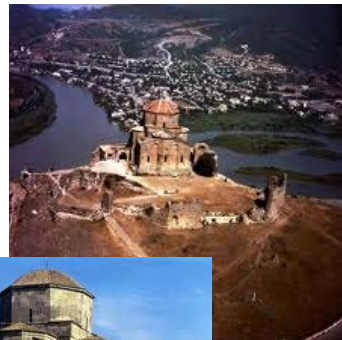
Svetitskhoveli, known as the burial site of Christ's mantle, has long been the principal Georgian church and remains one of the most venerated places of worship to this day.

The original church was built in 4th century A.D. during the reign of Mirian III of Kartli (Iberia). St. Nino is said to have chosen the confluence of the Mtkvari (Kura) and Aragvi rivers as the place of the first Georgian Church.



### Jvari or Jvari Monastery

Jvari or Jvari Monastery (Georgian: ჯვარი, ჯვრის მონასტერი) is a Georgian Orthodox monastery of the 6th century near Mtskheta (World Heritage site), Mtskheta-Mtianeti region, eastern Georgia. Jvari Monastery stands on the rocky mountain top at the confluence of the Mtkvari and Aragvi rivers, overlooking the village of Mtskheta. Jvari was listed together with other monuments of Mtskheta in 1996 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





### Samtavro

Samtavro Transfiguration Orthodox Church and Nunnery of St. Nino were built in the 4th century by King Mirian III of Iberia. The church was reconstructed in the 11th century by King George I and Catholicos-Patriarch Melkisedek. The famous Georgian monk Gabriel is buried in the yard of Samtavro Church.

The dome collapsed after an earthquake in 1283 and restored in the XIII-XIV centuries. In spite of this, the original idea of architecture is clearly visible.



### Museum

**Museum collection description:** Museum-reserve includes: several exceptional archaeological exhibits of different historical periods the earliest of which – the agricultural tools dated back by IV millennium BC belonged to ancient farmers; toys of children of prehistoric times (II millennium BC.), precious metal artifacts of the Antique Period marked with highest level of craftsmanship and the perfect samples of the Ancient Greek epigraphy. Besides, tourists will be able to visit ancient burial ground used for the vast period of time - from the II Millennium BC till the VIII-IX cc AD and the settlement remains dated back by VIII-VII cc BC. Other outstanding monuments of Antique Era and early medieval times are as follows: Armaztsikhe-Bagineti- an acropolis of the city of Mtskheta, the royal residence of the rulers of Iberia (III c BC – VIII c AD), Armaziskhevi – the residence of the Pitiakhshis-Eristavs of Kartli and their burial ground and a mausoleum built in the I c. AD at the bottom of a rocky mountain



## SHOPPING

Most shops (except for food stores) are open from 10:00 until 18:00. Some department stores may open earlier or close later on weekdays as well as on Saturdays and Sundays.

Georgian craftwork is fascinating:

### Cloisonne Enamel



The art of cloisonne enamel is a very popular form of ornamentation in Georgia. Those women who can afford handmade enamel pieces – they may have one big ring, a pendant or a pair of earrings – wear them with pride, regardless of their age or taste. This particular attitude of Georgians to this kind of enamel dates back centuries, as Georgia is presumed to be one of the motherlands

of cloisonne culture. Enamel is one of the oldest art forms in Eastern culture and one of its forms was developed in ancient Egypt. From the 8th century onward it can be found in China, while the 10th-12th centuries was considered the golden era of cloisonne in the Byzantine Empire.



### Georgian Carpets

Would you like to get in original and exotics world? Georgia, and it's capital



Tbilisi, historically always was the route of Euro-Asia, because exactly here, ran caravan road from Europe to Asia. This is the reason, that Tbilisi becomes Caucasian market center.

Once, on this place, you could meet European and Asian unique cultural masterpieces, valuable works of Iranian, Turkish, Indian, Chinese, Central Asian and Caucasian handmade carpets, kilims, embroideries, mafrashes, Khourdjins (saddlebags) and etc.

Since ancient times, in Caucasia there was carpet and kilim weaving tradition, for sheep raising was widely developed. Exactly of this animals wool were weaved carpets, kilims, clothes and other everyday things. In ornaments and symbols of those works, Caucasian nation's (Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijanian, Dagestanian, Chechenian ...) history, religion and old traditions were reflected.

Nowadays, Caucasian carpets are on every continents, but it's important to notice that in its natural form, without any falsification, and what is more important at very real and available prices.

**Felt**

Felt is a non-woven cloth that is produced by matting, condensing and pressing fibers. The fibers form the structure of the fabric. While some types of felt are very soft, some are tough enough to form construction materials. Felt can be of any color, and made into any shape or size. Felt is the oldest form of fabric known to humankind. It predates weaving and knitting.

**Silk**

The "Silk Roads" have played an important role in cultural exchange and the establishment of economic relations between East and West. It is likely that with the help of ETN's "Silk Route" program cultural contacts within the textile industry will be established. Although it has always been part of European culture. Georgia has been isolated from Europe for centuries as a result of political conditions. Every opportunity for displaying Georgian culture or treasures is therefore most welcome to us.

Georgia established trade relations with the Far East early. The northern part of the "Silk Route" crossed its territory. The importance of the Egrisi towns to this traffic was well-known in the early Hellenistic period and also later in the 5th - 6th centuries.

Tiny fragments of silk fabric have been found in Georgian burial grounds of the 2nd - 4th centuries. As they have not been studied from the point of view of weaving technique, it is difficult to determine their origin. It is interesting to note that in Georgia, on the banks of the river Mtkvari and elsewhere, certain endemic species of mulberry trees were wide-spread. All this leads one to believe that Georgia has long been acquainted with silk. According to legend, silk culture was introduced to Georgia from India and is connected with the 5th century Georgian King Vakhtang Gorgasali.

**Food**

**Georgian cuisine** refers to the cooking styles and dishes with origins in the nation of Georgia and prepared by Georgian people around the world. The Georgian cuisine is specific to the country, but also contains some influences

from the Middle Eastern and European culinary traditions. The cuisine offers a variety of dishes with various herbs and spices. Each historical province of Georgia has its own distinct culinary tradition, such as Megrelian, Kakhetian, and Imeretian cuisines. In addition to various meat dishes, Georgian cuisine also offers a variety of vegetarian meals.

The importance of both food and drink to Georgian culture is best observed during a feast, or *supra*, when a huge assortment of dishes is prepared, always accompanied by large amounts of wine, and dinner can last for hours. In a Georgian feast, the role of the *tamada* (toastmaster) is an important and honoured position.

There are several traditional foods:

**Khachapuri**- The most popular variety, Imeruli khachapuri or Imeretian khachapuri, is basically bread stuffed with cheese.

**Khinkali** -Georgian dumplings filled with various fillings such as mushrooms or cheese, but mostly with spiced meat (usually beef and pork, sometimes mutton) with greens, onions and garlic. They are eaten plain, or with coarse black pepper.

**Lobiani**- "Bean khachapuri", bread baked with a seasoned bean stuffing. Especially eaten on the Georgian holiday of Barbaroba, or St. Barbara's Day (December 17).

**Pkhaleuli**- Vegetarian dishes from a variety of plants, similar to spinach but each having a unique taste and seasoning. Among these are: *Jijilaka*, *Boloqa*, and *Ekala*. Pkhaleuli is widespread in the Imereti region.

**Tsotskhali**- A freshly prepared fish from a freshwater source.

**Satsivi**-Chicken or Turkey in a walnut sauce.

**Lobio**- Beans prepared with ground walnuts, various spices, vinegar and/or olive oil.

**Nadughi**- A dairy product similar to cottage cheese, but with a softer taste.

**Matsoni**- A dairy product similar to plain yogurt, but somewhat more sour.

**Badrijani Nigvzit**- Eggplants seasoned with ground walnuts, vinegar (or pomegranate juice), pomegranates and spices.

**Ajapsandali**- A vegetarian dish consisting of eggplants, potatoes, tomatoes, bell peppers and seasoning.

**Soko**- Mushrooms prepared in various ways, seasoned with spices and herbs.

**Ispanakhi**- Spinach with ground walnut seasoning, spices and herbs.

**Mtchadi**- Cornbread. Can be small and thick fried in oil, or thin and wide with crunchy surface.