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DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISTIC ROUTES IN THE SOUTH-EAST REGION

Project “Development of Sustainable Cultural Tourism in the Black Sea Basin - CULTOUR-BSB”, eMS code BSB -117



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



**DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISTIC ROUTES IN THE
ODESA, MYKOLAIV, KHERSON, ZAPORIZHZHYA REGIOS**
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ALONG THE ROADS OF THE HOLY PLACES OF TURKEY AND GEORGIA

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Along the roads of the holy places of Turkey and Georgia

Turkey and Georgia. Two countries, two religions. In one, the majority of people profess Islam, in the other Christianity. Nevertheless, in both countries, all religions of the world are worshiped and our route proves this. Tune in to the waves of inspiration and tranquility and set off to visit the most beautiful temples and mosques of these beautiful countries.

Technical features

Administrative geography/counties included: Turkey, Georgia

Duration of the tourist route: 17 days

Season: all year long

Transport accessibility: car, bike, bus

Basic goals:

- promotion of local architecture and cultural heritage
- strengthening the image and recognition of the region
- promoting sustainable religious tourism

Sector 1:

Edirne – Istanbul – Yalova – Düzce –Bolu.

Time 6 days.

Sector 2:

Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Kakheti - Samtskhe - Kutaisi – Adjara.

Time 11 days.

Keywords:

religious tourism

ethnography

traditional crafts

nature exploration

religious art / architecture



Types of sites:

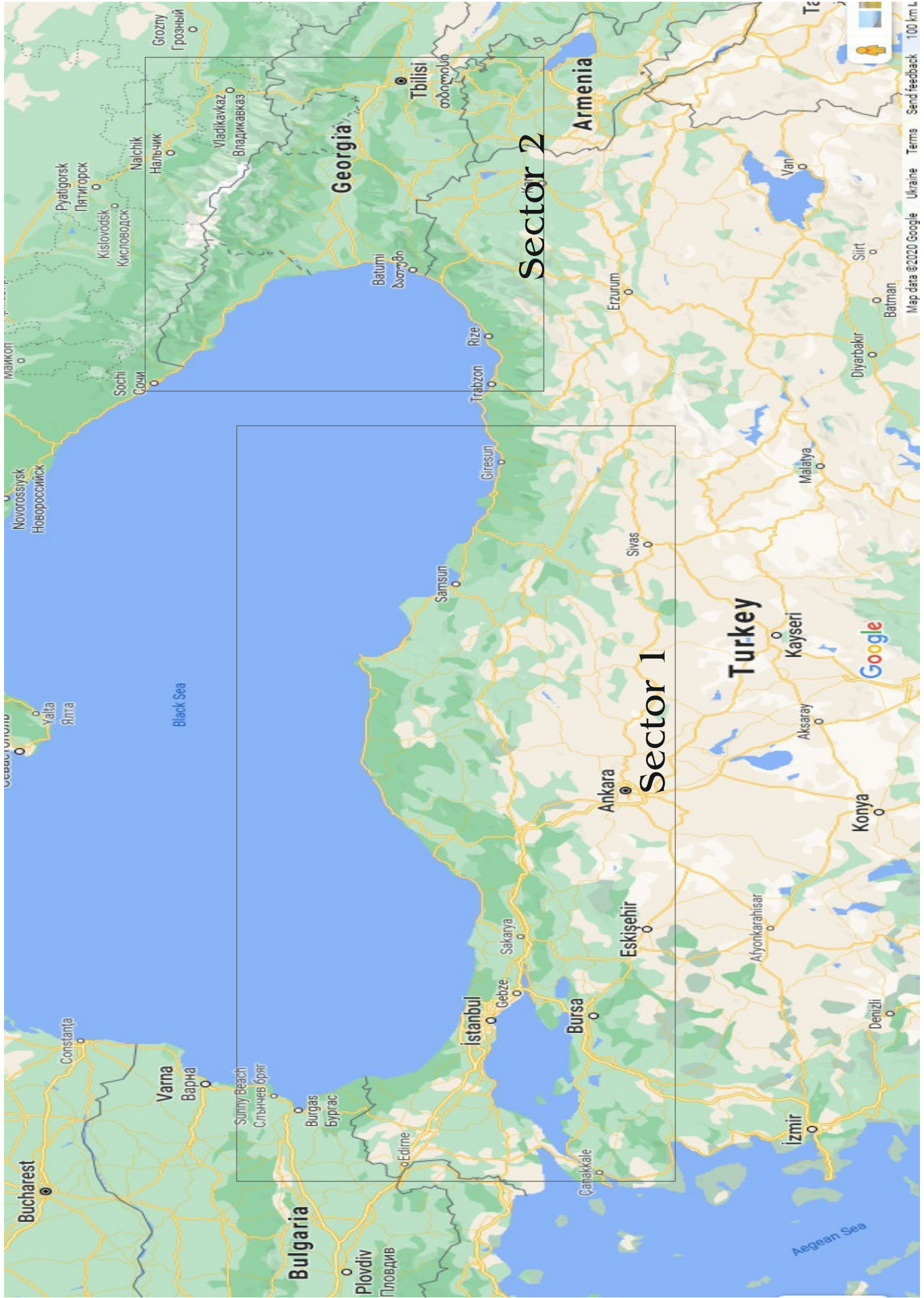
churches

temples

monasteries

mosques

synagogues



Sector 1

Sector 2

Start point: Edirne
Stop-point Istanbul, Yalova, Düzce
End point: Bolu

Sector 1:
Edirne – Istanbul – Yalova – Düzce –Bolu.

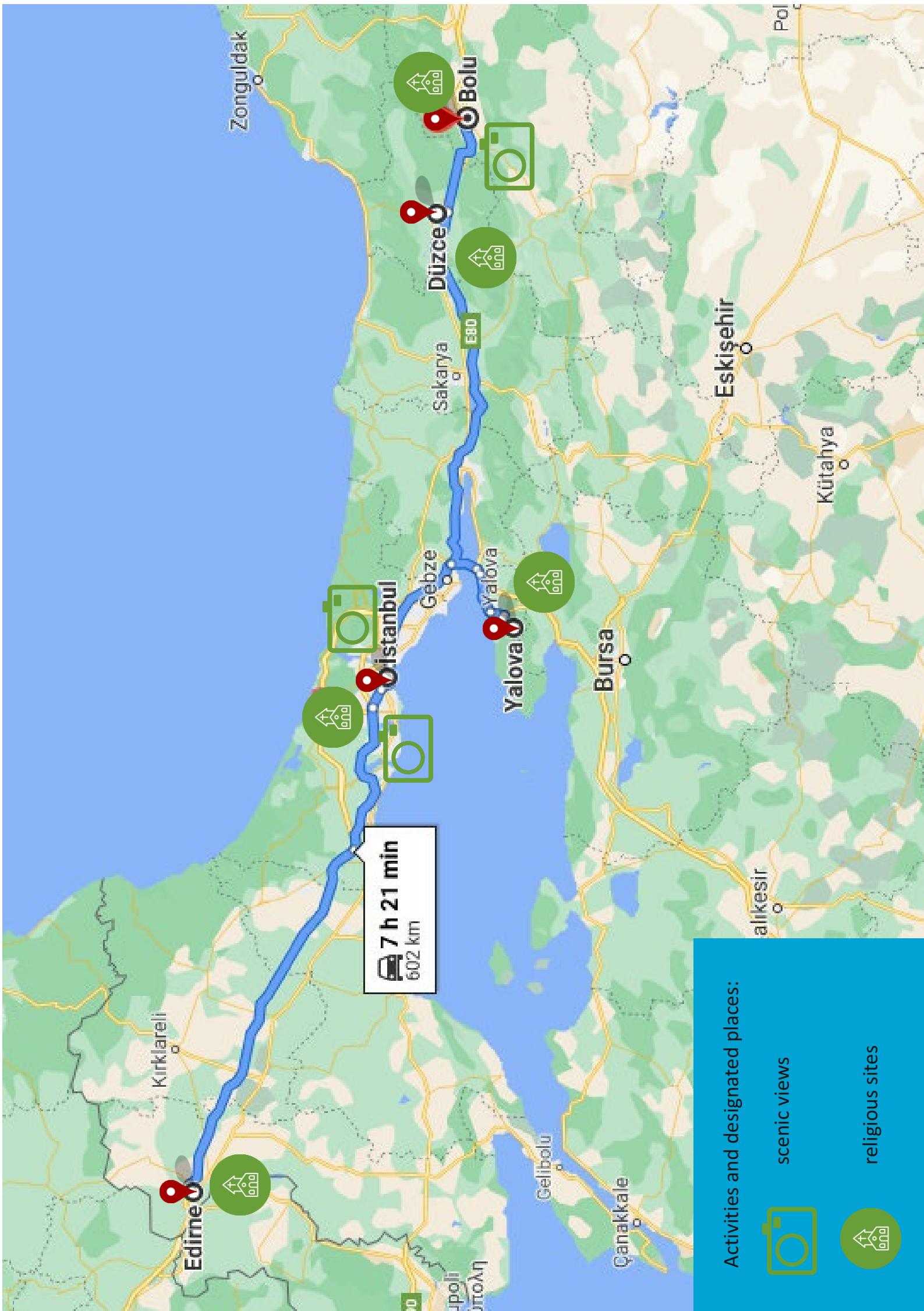


Targeted types of tourists: seniors (more than half of the total number of tourists), middle aged

Main targeted country markets: Europe, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, North Africa.

Religion and religious elements are crucial to people's travel from one place to another. People visit religious places with tendencies such as fulfilling the requirements of religious beliefs, strengthening their spiritual ties with the Creator in a spiritual atmosphere, increasing the positive effects of sacred places and religious leaders on individual life. Visiting places that are considered "sacred" in religious terms and people who are considered "important" in religious terms (visiting them in person if they are alive), traveling to visit their graves if they are not alive are the elements that constitute religious tourism. Determining a tourism route where people will participate with their religious beliefs will play a significant role in meeting the requirements in this field.

The presence of holy places and religious leaders belonging to three Abrahamic religions in the cities within the scope of the route has been effective in determining the route of religious tourism. Especially Istanbul's hosting of the historical and glorious religious structures of the three heavenly religions brings the province to a privileged position in terms of faith tourism. Similarly, Edirne has numerous and individually aesthetic and beautiful religious venues and is another capital of faith tourism as well as hosting the Selimiye Mosque, which Mimar Sinan called "my masterpiece". Besides religious places, there are graves (tombs) of religious leaders in all provinces on the route which are visited every year by thousands of domestic and foreign tourists due to the spiritual atmosphere they offer together with their surroundings.



7 h 21 min
602 km

Activities and designated places:

-  scenic views
-  religious sites

Start point: Tbilisi

Stop-point: Mtskheta, Kakheti, Samtskhe, Kutaisi

End point: Adjara



Sector 2:

Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Kakheti - Samtskhe - Kutaisi – Adjara.

Targeted types of tourists: seniors (more than half of the total number of tourists), middle aged

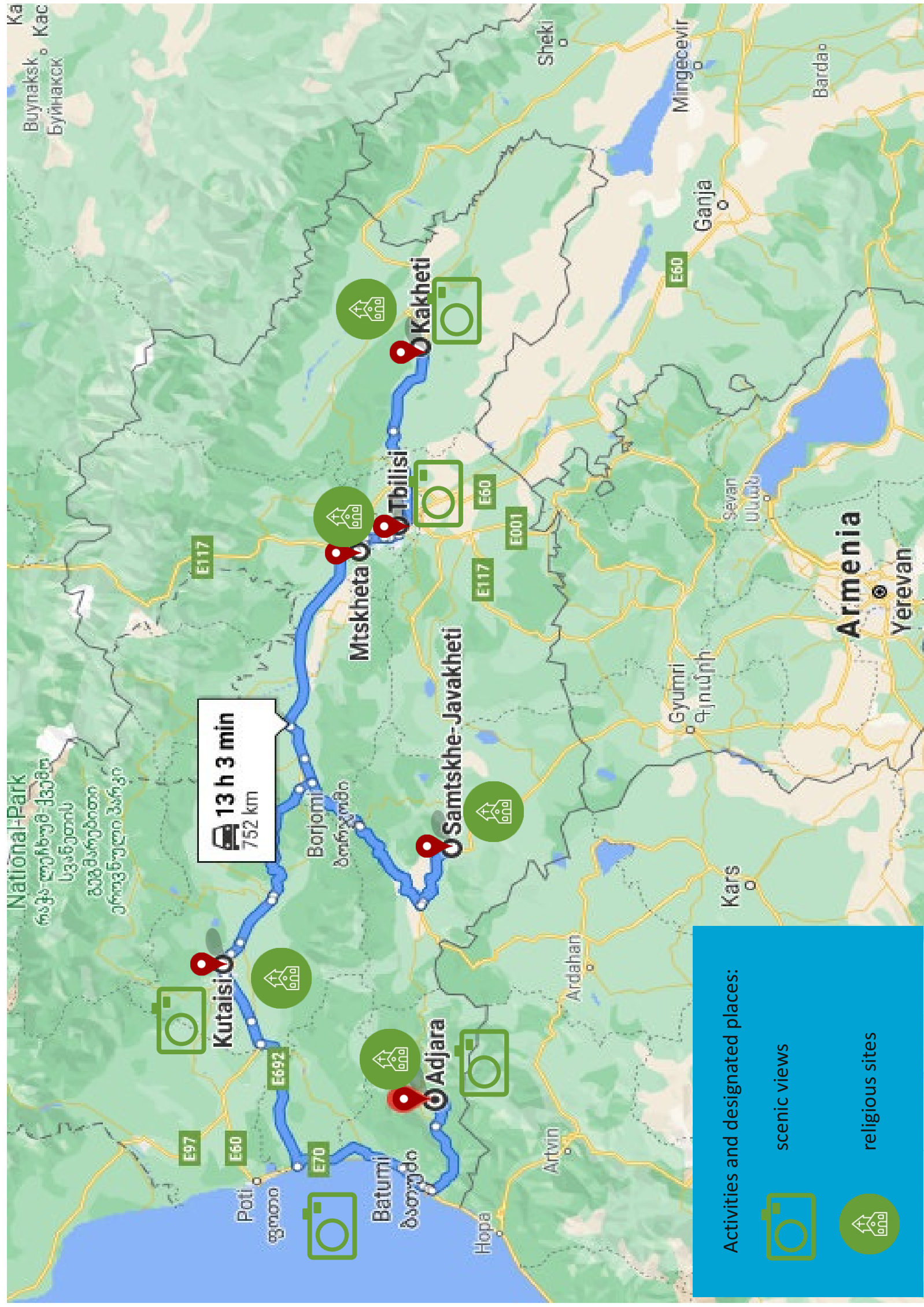
Main targeted country markets: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Iran, Israel, Poland, Germany, Kazakhstan, India, USA, Saudi Arabia, Belarus.

From ancient times to present day Georgians consider Mother Mary as saint protector of the country, she sent apostles to preach the word of god in Georgia: Andrew the Apostle, Simon the Zealot, Bartholomaeus and Matthias. According to the ancient scriptures, Hebrews brought Seamless robe of Jesus to Georgia, which is buried in Mtskheta, under the main supporting column of Svetitskhoveli (Dzeli Tskhoveli).

Christianity was announced as a country's religion around 337 AD (4th century). The effort to introduce and cement Christianity as the nation's religion was led by St Nino of cappadocia. Soon near handcrafted wooden churches, beautiful stone churches would be built which were defined in two categories: Basilica and Dome. Master craftsmen were summoned from Greece to help with the process. In the 6th century Georgia would welcome Thirteen Assyrian Fathers, who would integrate christianity and church values deep into the roots of Georgia. Kartli and Kakheti were covered with a network of monasteries.

As for today, Georgia's church is an inseparable part of Christian religion. Most of the population in Georgia are Christians, the faith is a big part of the culture and history for this small but beautiful country.

The route offers the possibility to explore the buildings, monasteries and temples belonging to different religions and cultures, scattered in different region of Georgia - this is a sun kissed land with ancient history and distinct culture, breathtaking nature, majestic mountains. From Alazani valley and Davit Garejis deserts to shores of the black sea, this tiny hospitable country has it all.



SELİMİYE MOSQUE AND ITS
SOCIAL COMPLEX MERKEZ





Selimiye Mosque and its Complex in Edirne city, which was the capital city of the Ottoman Empire before İstanbul, were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2011. Alongside with İstanbul and Bursa, the most beautiful mosques in Turkey were built in Edirne.

These mosques, the most recent of which dates back to the Ottoman period, attract considerable attention in terms of religious tourism. The most significant of these is the Selimiye Mosque. The Selimiye Mosque, which is a unique structure with its four elegant minarets and magnificent dome and visible from all over Edirne, is the work of Mimar Sinan, one of the famous architects of world history. Mimar Sinan defined the mosque considered as the most important art work of Ottoman architecture as “my masterpiece”. Located in the four corners of the Selimiye Mosque, which attracts attention with its monumental appearance, minarets with three balconies each are shown among the most magnificent examples in the world.



Useful Information

Address:

Meydan, Mimar Sinan Cd., 22020 Edirne

Merkez/Edirne

Website:

www.kulturportali.gov.tr/portal/edirneselimi-yecamiivekulliyesi

BURMALI (ÜÇ ŞEREFELİ)
- BADEMİRTAŞ MERKEZ -EDİRNE





This mosque has the first courtyard with a large cloister in the history of Ottoman Architecture. The decorations of Üç Şerefeli Mosque are quite interesting. As soon as we enter the mosque, we come under the main dome which is a feature belonging to this Üç Şerefeli Mosque. The original hand drawings in the domes are the oldest examples seen in the Ottoman Mosques. "Fruit Table" consisting of various fruits can be seen in the dome. Inspired by the Üç Şerefeli Mosque, mosques built on a hexagonal pergola have a unique position in world architecture. The echo feature is significant in the sound scheme. One of the four minarets has three, the other one has two and the other two has one balcony and it is decorated with the motifs of baklava, şışhane and wreathy motifs. The door of Üç Şerefeli Mosque is almost as famous as the mosque in its original condition.



Useful Information

Address:

Babademirtaş, 22000 Merkez/Edirne

Website:

www.edirnevdb.gov.tr/kultur/ucserefeli.html

www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/edirne/kultur-envanteri/burmali--uc-serefeli--cami

GRAND SYNAGOGUE
DİLAVERBEY - MERKEZ





The Grand Synagogue, which was permitted to be built in Edirne on January 6, 1906, was built by French architect France Depre and opened in 1907 under the name Kal Kados ha Godal, replacing the 14 synagogues completely destroyed in the August 1905 fire in the neighborhood of Mayor Synagogue and Apulia Synagogue. In addition to the community in the city, the cost of the synagogue was covered by money collected from Russia and from various parts of Europe, especially Germany and Hungary. The structure mentioned by Ersin Alok and Emili Mitrani as the largest synagogue in the Balkans and the third largest synagogue in Europe was actively used until 1960's when the community was densely located.



Useful Information

Address:

Dilaverbey, Maarif Cd. No: 75, 22020
Kaleiçi/Merkez/Edirne

Website:

www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/edirne/gezilecekyer/sinagog

OLD CAMİ - SABUNİ – MERKEZ - EDİRNE





OLD CAMİ - SABUNİ
- MERKEZ - EDİRNE

It is the oldest monumental structure survived today from the Ottomans in Edirne. It is the most important massive mosques built in the 15th century. It is also known as the first original magnificent structure in Edirne to survive till our time. The mosque was named Old Mosque after the construction of the Mosque with Three Minaret Balcony. The sides of the marble minbar are decorated with rumi and geometric patterns. Since it was the city's first great mosque, the flag was always hung as a symbol of conquest and the protocol ceremonies were held here. Mustafa III and Ahmet II girded their swords in this mosque. In order to sustain this tradition symbolically the imams come to Friday sermons with the Sword.



Useful Information

Address:

Sabuni, Lise Bayırı Sokak, Edirne Merkez/Edirne

Website:

1) www.edirnevdb.gov.tr/kultur/eskicami.html

2) edirne.ktb.gov.tr/TR-110703/eski-cami.html

EYÜP SULTAN MOSQUE AND TOMB
MERKEZ -EYÜP





Eyüp Sultan Tomb is located right next to Eyüp Sultan Mosque. This tomb is the grave of Eyyub El-Ensari who was a bannerman in Muhammad's army and was martyred during the siege of İstanbul. The tomb was found after the conquest of İstanbul and the tomb on it was built with the mosque in 1459.

Exteriors of Eyüp Sultan Tomb is decorated with ceramics and is swarmed with many visitors. The tomb is located on the north side of the famous and sacred mosque known as Eyüp Sultan Mosque and right in front of its inner court. Inside the tomb, all the walls up to the lower windows are covered with blue and white patterned ceramics. It is especially overflowed with visitors in the sacred month of Ramadan.

After or before the visit to Eyüp Sultan Mosque, you can watch the views of Golden Horn and İstanbul from the hill bearing the name of famous French writer Pier Loti.



Useful Information

Address:

Merkez Mh, Cami Kebir Sk. No: 1, 34050

Eyüp/İstanbul

FENER GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
BALAT - FATİH





The Fener Greek Patriarchate, or Constantinople Ecumenical Patriarchate, is located in İstanbul's Fener district. The structure, named after Fener Greek Patriarchate as the Aya Yorgi Church was located in, is an institution in the position of a dignitary for 250 million Orthodox Christian. İstanbul, hence Fener district is considered as the spiritual capital of the Orthodox since it is home to the capital of the Orthodox world, Fener Greek Patriarchate. The Archdiocese of the Orthodox Church, Fener Greek Patriarchate, a collection of structures established by one of the disciples of Jesus, Saint Andrew in 4th century. The patriarchy, which includes the Patriarch's office, Aya Yorgi Church, library and other official departments, attracts visitors with its rather ostentatious craftsmanship.

Having a special place in Orthodox as it is the main church of most of the Orthodox churches; after the conquest of İstanbul in 1453, the legal status of the Fener Greek Patriarchate gained continuity with the decree issued by Fatih Sultan Mehmet granting extensive rights to the patriarchate. The patriarchate, which moved to Pammakaristos Monastery in 1455, was restored in 1518 and was expanded and rebuilt during the patriarchy of Ieremias II. Evacuated in 1586, the church was first moved to the Vlah Palace Church in Fener and to the Ayios Dimitrios Church in Ayvansaray in 1597. The Patriarchate settled at Ayios Yeoryios Monastery in Fener in 1602. After the service building burned down in 1941, repairs under the supervision of the High Architect Aristidis Pasadeos in 1989 were completed in 1991. The Patriarchate is still operating in its new building. The Greek Male High School near the church is also worth seeing.

Useful Information

Address:

Yavuz Sultan Selim, Dr. Sadık Ahmet Cd. No: 44, 34083 Fatih/İstanbul

SÜLEYMANİYE MOSQUE
SÜLEYMANİYE - FATİH





The largest and most magnificent mosque of the city, built by Mimar Sinan, is located in the neighborhood of the same name in İstanbul. It is the most important example of classical Ottoman architecture. Completed in 1557, the mosque was simple in terms of decoration, but technically rich. Among 36 Ottoman Sultans, Süleyman the Magnificent ruled for 47 years the longest.

This renowned Sultan had assigned the mosque to be built in his name to Mimar Sinan. Mimar Sinan, a genius of the architectural world, completed the large complex surrounding the mosque and its surroundings between the years of 1550-1557. Mimar Sinan, founder and developer of the classical period of Turkish art, proved the superiority of his art here as well. The large complex surrounding the courtyard of the mosque includes schools, libraries, baths, soup kitchens, khans, hospitals and shops.



Useful Information

Address:

Süleymaniye Mah., Prof. Sıddık Sami Onar Cd. No: 1, 34116 Fatih/İstanbul

EMİNÖNÜ NEW MOSQUE
EMİNÖNÜ - FATİH





It is one of the most magnificent of the Sultan mosques on the Bosphorus coast and one of the fundamental symbols of the İstanbul silhouette. Mother of Mehmet III, Safiye Sultan with the title of Valide Sultan who was influential in state affairs, wanted to build a great mosque to raise her honor with charity and good. The mosque, of which the construction started in 1597, was opened for prayers in 1663. The interior of the New Mosque, which can be accessed through three different doors, is built very elegantly with colorful windows and beautiful ceramic decorations. New Mosque is located in Eminönü Square in Fatih district, one of the most crowded places in İstanbul. Aside from hosting a large number of locals or foreigners, the square is a home to pigeons. It is easily accessible by urban public transportation (bus, tram, ferry) vehicles.



Useful Information

Address:

Rüstem Paşa, Yeni Cami Cd. No: 3, 34116 Fatih/İstanbul

HAGIA SOPHIA MOSQUE (MUSEUM)
SULTANAHMET - FATİH





Hagia Sophia, which has been resisting time for centuries with its innovative architecture, rich history, religious importance and extraordinary features; The largest Eastern Roman church in İstanbul. The oldest and fastest completed cathedral in the world, built three times in the same place. It is one of the masterpieces of architectural history with its dizzying dome that hangs in the air, monolithic marble columns and unique mosaics. Hagia Sophia was built in 537. Used as a church for 916 years, Hagia Sophia was used as a mosque with brick minaret added during the reign of Fatih Sultan Mehmet after 1453 and as a museum after 1935.



Useful Information

Address:

Hagia Sophia Square No:1 34122 Sultanahmet

Visiting hours:

Winter (October 31 - April 1): 09:00-18:00

Ticket office closing time: 17:00

Summer (April 1-October 31): 09:00-19:00

Ticket office closing time: 18:00

Closed on Mondays.

Entrance fees:

Single price is 100 TL.

SULTANAHMET MOSQUE
SULTANAHMET - FATİH





Also known as the Blue Mosque. Sultanahmet Mosque, built by İstanbul Sultan Ahmed I in 1616 by architect Sedefkar Mehmet Ağa opposite of Hagia Sophia Mosque, is one of leading tourist attracting places in İstanbul. Sultanahmet Mosque, which is the 6th of the selatin mosques built by the Ottoman sultans and their families and means “Sultan mosques”, is called “Blue Mosque” by Europeans because it is decorated with Blue İznik Ceramics. It is one of the symbolic mosques of İstanbul. There are 16 minaret balconies due to the fact that Sultan Ahmet, who built the mosque in the Minarets, was the 16th Ottoman Sultan.



Useful Information

Address:

Horse Square No.7 34122 Fatih İstanbul

Visiting Time Information: 0850 346 30 34

ASHKENAZİ SYNAGOGUE
GALATA - BEYOĞLU





ASHKENAZI SYNAGOGUE GALATA - BEYOĞLU

Istanbul Ashkenazi Synagogue is the only survivor and only active of the three synagogues built by Ashkenazis, which account for 4% of the total Jewish population in Turkey. Built in 1900 by Austrian Jews, Ashkenazi Synagogue is located near Galata Tower in Beyoğlu. The chandeliers inside were brought from Vienna and many of the plates inside are German. Ashkenazi has another feature. It has an Azara section which means women's balcony among such synagogues. Dr. David Marcus, who was the founder of a Jewish School Bene Berit was the dignitary of the congregation until his death in 1938.

Weddings, Bar Mitzvahs and other religious ceremonies are held in the synagogue in Ashkenazi ways.

You can witness the splendour, interior and exterior architecture of Ashkenazi Synagogue in your Beyoğlu -Karaköy -Galata trip. Being İstanbul's first mosque, the Arab Mosque is in this region and you can visit the Arab Mosque and continue your journey by visiting other historical buildings on İstiklal Street



Useful Information

Address:

Banker Sok. No:10 Karaköy Beyoğlu İstanbul

NEVE SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
GALATA - BEYOĞLU





Synagogues, bearing this meaningful name which means Oasis of Peace are also encountered in the old periods of the history of İstanbul. In the 1937s, the Keneset (Apollon) and Zülfaris Synagogues could not meet the religious needs of Galata and Beyoğlu's rapidly growing Jewish population. Elyo Ventura and Bernar Motola, graduates from İstanbul Technical University, approved the project for a new synagogue building by the congregation. The most important problem of Elyo and Bernar was to build a dome that could hold both a magnificent and very heavy chandelier. The calculations of the dome within the scope of the project was made by the famous architect Bodin and built by the famous Master Garbis. The stained glass were painted at the Academy of Fine Arts; the glass were imported from England.

Neve Shalom Synagogue opened at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 25, 1951 (17 Adar 5711) with a magnificent ceremony led by the religious leader of the congregation, Rav Rafael Saban, beginning with the prayer of Baruh Aba, which Hazan Izak Maçoro recited.



Useful Information

Address:

Bereketzade Mh, Büyük Hendek Cd No: 39, Beyoğlu İstanbul

Tel: 0212 292 03 86

SAINT ANTUAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
BEYOĞLU





In 1230, the priests built a church near Galata in the name of their founder, Saint Fransua of Assisi. Saint Fransua Church, which burned twice in the fires of 1639 and 1660 and was rebuilt in the same place after each fire, moved to its new location in Beyoglu after the fire of 1696, which was the last fire it had and destroyed its entire surroundings. In 1724, this new church, called St. Antuan in Pera, was built and blessed for the citizens and their families of the Catholic countries (mostly Italian-French) serving the Ottoman Empire and the state and also engaged in trade.

The construction of the current church, whose facade was covered with red bricks, began in 1906 at the site of the old one, and on February 15, 1912, the anniversary of St. Antuan's body being moved to its place in the Basilica of Padua, the Priests moved to their new church, the church was blessed and opened for prayers. It was built as reinforced concrete in Italian Neogothic style by Giulio Mongeri, an Italian architect born in İstanbul. It was built in 20x50 m, in the shape of Latin cross and in neogothic style. Church walls are mosaic pavement to a certain height and the exterior walls of the structure are made of brick. The entrance to the church was allowed through the door between two buildings built to provide income for the church. This door opens to the courtyard of the church and the width of this front overlooking İstiklal Street is 38 meters. The church is run by Italian priests. Two apartments with six floors in front of the courtyard at the entrance of İstiklâl Street and connected to each other with a passage were built to provide income to the church. These are St. Antoine Apartments and they are one of the first reinforced concrete buildings of İstiklâl Street.

Useful Information

Address:

Tomtom Mahallesi İstiklal Caddesi No:171 Beyoğlu İSTANBUL Tel: 0090-212-2440935

Website: www.sentantuan.com

GREAT MECİDİYE (ORTAKÖY) MOSQUE
ORTAKÖY - BEŞİKTAŞ





Ortaköy Mosque is one of the most beautiful structures in İstanbul from the 19th century. The building, whose original name is the Grand Mecidiye Mosque, was completed in 1854. It is known that Mahmud Ağa built the first building where the mosque is located.

The present state of Ortaköy Mosque was built by Sultan Abdülmecid. Ortaköy Mosque stands out with its fine and elegant minarets. Like other İstanbul mosques, Ortaköy Mosque is open for tourist visits from 08.30 a.m. The mosque is closed during the prayer hours and open to visitors and those who want to take photographs except for the prayer times. The mosque is closed for visits from 6 p.m. Ortaköy Mosque, one of the most prominent mosques in the city, is the focus of attention of photographers along with the July 15 Martyrs Bridge (Bosphorus bridge).



Useful Information

Address:

Mecidiye, Mecidiye Köprüsü Sk. No:1 D:1, 34347 Beşiktaş/İstanbul

BLACK CHURCH
ÇİFTLİKKÖY





It is located within the boundaries of  iftlikk y District, 3km east of Yalova. The structure is made of brick. Its dome and arches has survived intact today. The bath was used as a church in the 6th century AD and as a church in the 8th and 9th centuries AD. It is known to the public and in the records as the Black Church. The Church is a strange example of a free cross plan. There are remnants of an ancient port and aqueducts on the coast of  iftlikk y where the Black Church is located.

Although the Black Church shows the Closed Greek Cross Plan, which is a widely used type of Byzantine architecture with its exedras situated as a closed space in four corners and that it was turned into a church in the Byzantine period, it attracts attention with the presence of an abscess.



Useful Information

Address:

Sahil, Akasya Cd. No: 17, 77600  iftlikk y/Yalova

RÜSTEM PASHA MOSQUE
BAHÇELİEVLER - MERKEZ





RÜSTEM PASHA
MOSQUE
BAHÇELİEVLER -
MERKEZ

Rüstem Pasha Mosque is one of the most important places to visit if you want to explore the historical beauties of Yalova. It is the only mosque built by Mimar Sinan in Yalova.

It is known that the Grand Vizier of Suleiman the Magnificent (1500 – 1561) built it as a mosque-khan-bath in the form of a complex. Only mosque and bath have survived today from the complex.



Useful Information

Address:

Bahçelievler, Stadyum Cd. No: 3, 77200 Yalova Merkez/Yalova

HEMŞİN VILLAGE AĞAÇ (ÇANTI) MOSQUE





The historical Hemşin Village Mosque, 15 km away from Akçakoca, built by the Hamshenis who came from Artvin after the Ottoman-Russian War in 1877 is one of the best examples of the canti-type mosques (without the use of nails).

The mosque, which was built using stone craftsmanship on the first floor and canti technique on the second floor, has a history of nearly 150 years. Hemşin Mosque, which has a wooden minaret, stands out with its ceiling workmanship, altar and minbar.



Useful Information

Address:

Kayadibi, 81650 Hemşin/Akçakoca/Düzce

ORHANGAZI MOSQUE
ÇAYAĞZI VILLAGE - AKÇAKOCA





It is known that Orhan Gazi, who is one of the founders of the Ottoman Empire, came and stayed (Miladi 1323) and ordered construction of a mosque named after himself. This cultural heritage, which was recorded as Sultan Orhan Mosque Şerifi, was restored by the General Directorate of Foundations in 2007 and re-opened to prayers and visit. In the area where Ottoman masjid were built without nails by crossing of tall logs with cantı technique 687 years ago, Turbaned tombstones also attract attention.

In wooden architecture, a rectangular tambour formed by cantı technique forms a kind of foundation by opening deep notches into logs or timber. Structures built without foundation are reinforced by placing tambours on large stones. The fact that no nails are used is known as the most significant feature of these structures. Nails are not preferred in the roofing method to make the timber more durable and long-lasting.



Useful Information

Address:

Çayağzı Village, Akçakoca, DÜZCE

AKÇAKOCA CENTRAL MOSQUE
AKÇAKOCA





Akçakoca Central Mosque, which stands out with its extraordinary appearance in the city center, stands out with its contemporary architecture unlike the mosques built with a single dome system. The mosque, which was founded in 1989 and opened in 2004 and applied Turkish and modern architectural synthesis, is the only example of such architecture in Turkey.

The most prominent architectural feature is that it has a roof system inspired by the Turkish Otağ tent, which is seated on octagonal corners used in Seljuk architecture instead of the classical single roof system. While the interior was decorated with stained glass, 32 tons of copper plate was used in the dome coatings.

Inspired by Seljuk haircloth tents, the mosque is equipped to meet many social needs aside from the fields that religious traditions can fulfill.



Useful Information

Address:

Yalı, Plaj Sk. 1a, 81650 Akçakoca/Düzce

SELİMİYE MOSQUE AND ITS
SOCIAL COMPLEX MERKEZ





BOLU YILDIRIM BAYEZİD MOSQUE MERKEZ

Located between the streets of Bolu province, Merkez district, Büyükcami Neighborhood, Pamukçular and Büyükcami streets, the mosque is the center of the madrasa and library built by Yıldırım Bayezid in 1382. Today, there is no trace of the madrasa and library of the mosque. This mosque, which is probably wood, burned down in 1891 and was rebuilt as a single dome in 1899.

Surrounded by high body walls, the main space is covered by a dome with a polygon tambour. The gathering place, which is kept wide to cover the last congregation place, is covered with two rows of domes and vaults. Multi-edged minarets are located in the northwest and northeast corners.



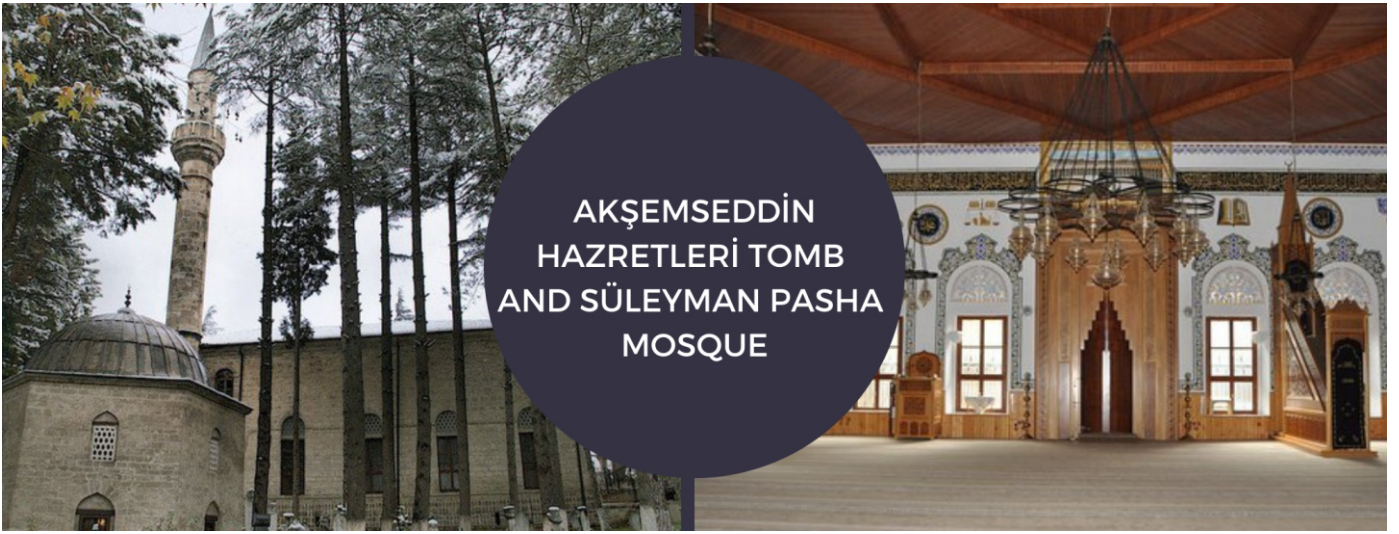
Useful Information

Address:

Büyükcami Mahallesi, Büyükcami Sokak 14030 Merkez/Bolu

AKŞEMSEDDİN HAZRETLERİ TOMB
AND SÜLEYMAN PASHA MOSQUE





Tomb of Akşemseddin, who was the teacher of Fatih Sultan Mehmet and passed away in 1459, is located in the courtyard of Gazi Süleyman Pasha Mosque in Göynük district. The tomb, built in 1464 by Fatih Sultan Mehmet on behalf of this great personality of the Ottoman scientific world, has a hexagonal plan and was built from limestone. The chest in the tomb, made of walnut wood, is a very valuable example of wood craftsmanship.



Useful Information

Address:

Cuma, Akşemseddin Cd., 14780 Göynük/Bolu

SAINT TRINITY CATHEDRAL





Saint Trinity Cathedral Main and biggest orthodox church in Caucasus region. It mainly consists of two parts under and above ground complexes, Height: 86 meters (including the cross 7.5 meters in height).

The cathedral is a symbol of christianity to the country and one of the most popular out of tourist hotspots. This is a dome style church which is a fusion of old and new architecture styles, combining modern techniques and ancient traditions to create an unique church which seamlessly blends with cities style which is also fusion of Old and New.

Construction of the cathedral began during 1989 and was finished in 2004 with the blessing of Georgia's Catholicos Patriarch. Cathedral can be seen from most of the Tbilisi's elevated regions, it wows everyone with its beauty, majesty and scale.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Elia Hill, Avlabari

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

METEKHI'S MOTHER MARY'S
NAMESAKE CHURCH





METEKHI'S MOTHER MARY'S NAMESAKE CHURCH

Metekhi's Mother Mary's namesake Church is located in Old Tbilisi historically significant region on the left shore of Mtkvari river. It's one of the oldest churches built in Tbilisi, It is dated to 6th century, constructed by the orders of King Vakhtang Gorgasali The First, church, fortress and a castle was built and was used as a king's residence.

Over the centuries the church's architecture went through a lot of changes and a trail of different techniques and masters can be clearly seen. It's a dome style church, the walls are built with cut green greyish stone. The cathedral houses Saint Shushanikis grave (7th century), according to tales, Metekhi cliffside was one of the places Martyr Abo was tortured, a small church is built at the base of the cliff honoring him.

There's a bridge connecting Metekhi to Old Tbilisi, which was built in 1951 in place of two older bridges. Gorgeous view is displayed from Metekhi church, you can see Narikala, Abanotubani, Peace Bridge and Etc. This is the old Tbilisi in all of its glory.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Metekhi №1

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

NARIKALAS SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH





Narikala Saint Nicholas Church was built on one of the oldest fortresses of Georgia (4th Century) in the 13th century. The church is in Cross-Dome style, it resembles Metekhis architecture, but its style has been refined a bit later than Metekhi. Also reconstruction of the king's palace is going on, the first floor is preserved with its walls, secret tunnels and watch towers. Currently it is one of the tourist hotspots, it can be seen from mostly anywhere from Tbilisi, church overlooks river Mtkvari and is in between sulfur baths and botanic garden.



Useful Information:

Adress.: Narikala Fortress,
Saiatnova St, №1

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

Tel: 032 2 72-30-64.

TBILISI JUMAH MOSQUE MUSLIM SHRINE





Tbilisi Juma Mosque is located at the foot of Narikala Prison at the end of the current Botanical Street. It is the only Muslim shrine in the city. In 1723-1735, the Ottomans, who held Tbilisi, built a Sunni mosque at the foot of Narikala. In the 1740s, Persians destroyed it. In 1846-1851 it was rebuilt by architect Giovanni Scudier project, and in late 1895, the mosque was completely repaired by Azerbaijani Muslims, which changed its eastern part markedly.

The mosque stands on the slope. There are arch panes on longitudinal walls. Neo Gothic and Islamic elements are combined in their architecture. The eight-year-old minaret was erected at the gate, which attracts attention from afar and is perceived differently from different points of view.

Currently, Muslim believers living in Tbilisi are two parts – Sunnis and Shiites. The Sunni mosque is the only operating mosque in Tbilisi. It serves both Sunni and Shiite Muslims.



Useful information:

Adr.: Botanik Str. 32

Tel.: 032 253 16 30

577 62 30 02

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

SURFGEVORDI GREGORIAN CHURCH





Surfgevorqi Saint George Cathedral - famous Armenian church and main armenian-Gregorian church in Tbilisi. It is located in Old Tbilisi under Narikala fortress, it was built in the 7th century, it was ransacked often during the invasions, the version which was preserved was 15th century recreation which was restored in 1779 and after that we can see paintings appear in the chapel.

The modern facade of the church was determined by 18th century minimalist style, which gave it primitive and plain walls without any ornaments.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Samgebro str .№5

TBILISI SYNAGOGUE





TBILISI SYNAGOGUE

According to old history sources, hebrews arrived in Georgia 70AD. Hebrews were trying to build a community and Synagogue in Tbilisi, Which as we see was quite a success.

Tbilisis Big Synagogue - was built in 1910, abolishing feudalism helped hebrews to urbanize, the synagogue is wide, high and built with red brick, it has two floors. It is one of the biggest tourist hotspots in Tbilisi, there are more than 500 visitors per day in the church.



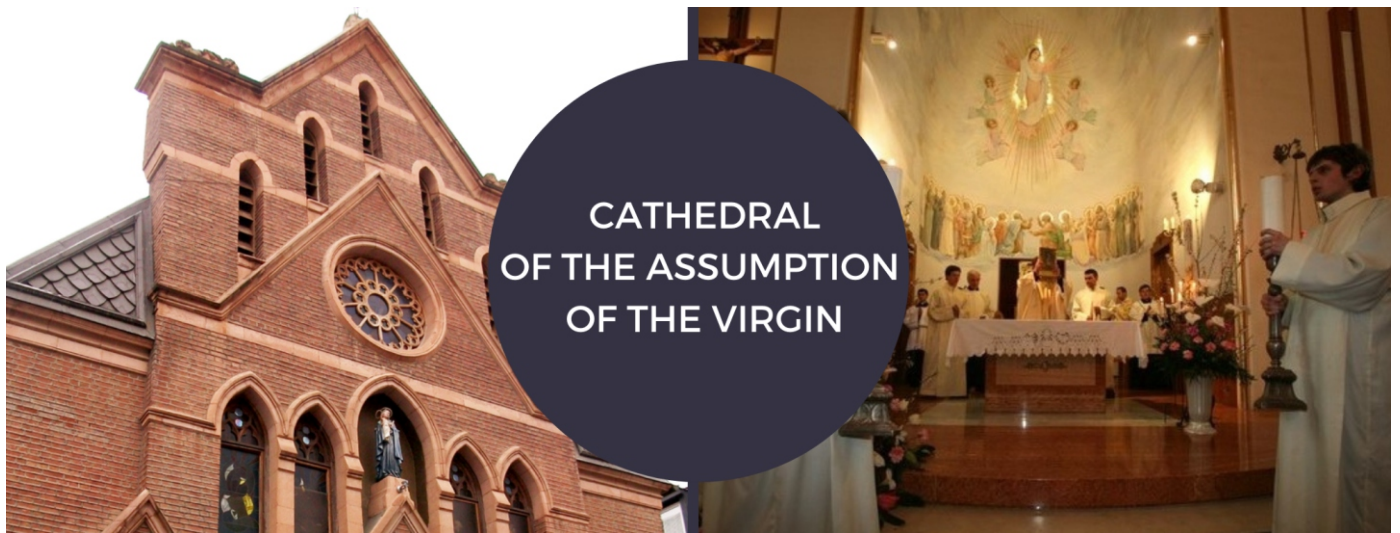
Useful Information:

Adr.: Kote Apkhazi str. №45

Open: 09.00 - 19.00 Everyday

CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE VIRGIN





After Russia's assimilation of Georgia (1801), permit was given to catholics to build the church, in 1804 money and land was given to catholics to build it on Kapucini Str, the church is 23 meters in height. Even austrias monarch had a part to play in the construction, and in the 19th century the church was expanded.

In 1937 the church was disbanded, in 1999 15th August it resumed functioning after Pope John Paul II visited Georgia. The liturgy is read in Georgian, with roman Kontakion. There are a lot of statues and vitrages of saints in the church.



Useful Information:

Adr.: G. Abesadze str. №4

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

SIONI CATHEDRAL CHURCHI





Sioni cathedral is one of the most important churches in Georgia's and orthodox church's history, it is in the central part of Tbilisi. Sioni church is on the right shore of the Mtkvari river. Name Sioni is derived from the holy mountain in Jerusalem. It's a Hebrew word meaning sunny. The Sioni complex consists of an outer wall, Mother Mary's church and two bell towers.

Construction began in the 6th century and was going on for around 100 years, it was over in the 2nd half of 7th century. The church is central dome variety and architecture is classic style of mid century craftsmen. The church was ransacked during invasions and this was the reason for its several restorations and architectural changes.

Hundreds of tourists are visiting Sioni cathedral today.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Sioni str. №3

Tel.: 032 298 89 53

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

SAINT ALEXANDRE NEVEL CHURCH





The church was built in 1864, it was built from donations of the churchgoers, it was constructed using brick as a main material. In 1886 the church expanded and doubled in area, it added a belltower, entryway and stone paved stairs. With help of Exarch Paule the eparchy architect was sent to oversee the development. There's a praying corner in the yard built in 1913 for theodoric saint Mary, which was dedicated to Romanov dynasty's 300th anniversary.



Useful Information:

Adr.: K. Marjanishvili str. №38

Ph.: 032 295-63-14

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

MTATSMINDA FARTHER DAVITI CHURCH





Mtatsminda or Father Daviti Hill, is west from Tbilisi center, 770 meters above sea level. Cathedral is dome style with Georgian traditional architecture, built with brick. Father Davit Garejeli was one of the Assyrian fathers who, while working in Tbilisi, carved a small sanctuary and built a chapel, so the Georgians called the mountain "Mtatsminda" (Holy Mountain).

In fact, the construction of a new and larger temple began in 1857 and was completed in 1871. The height of the temple (crosswise) is 25.7 meters, the length is 17.2 meters and the width is 10.7 meters. The building can accommodate up to 400 people. The building is not distinguished by its unique architecture. In 1915, a special cemetery would be set up in front of the nation on Mtatsminda. And here a pantheon of Georgian writers and public figures was established, who were crucial and distinguished for their nation. It can be climbed by several types of vehicles, among which the funicular and ropeway are especially popular. Mtatsminda currently has the largest recreation park and TV tower in Georgia.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Shio Chitadze str

Tel.: 032 299-70-39

SVETITSKHOVELI CATHEDRAL





The main patriarchal cathedral of the Georgian Orthodox Church, the Mother Cathedral of Georgia, the place of enthronement (enthronement) of Georgian Catholicos-Patriarchs, the burial place of many Georgian kings, their family members and patriarchs, the monument of Georgian architecture of the XI century is located 20 km from Tbilisi. In Mtskheta.

The robe of the Lord is buried in Svetitskhoveli and the robe of the prophet Elijah. The construction of the temple is associated with many miracles. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral is a rectangle extending from east to west. The face of the cross is created in space with four arms outstretched on all four sides of the dome. There are 16 windows in the dome. Temple with its sharp lines, It is a perfect example of a Georgian church with a stone roof and reliefs of light columns. Although the temple has undergone many changes, a large part of the old frescoes have been destroyed, and the whitewashing of the walls has deprived the interior of the necessary organic elements for its artistic integrity, it still leaves a glorious impression today.

The Svetitskhoveli temple is surrounded by a square-shaped fence. It was built in 1787 by order of King Erekle II, as evidenced by the inscription carved on the top of the south entrance.

Svetitskhoveli Church is always full of locals and tourists. The Svetitskhoveli temple is surrounded by a square-shaped fence.

Useful Information:

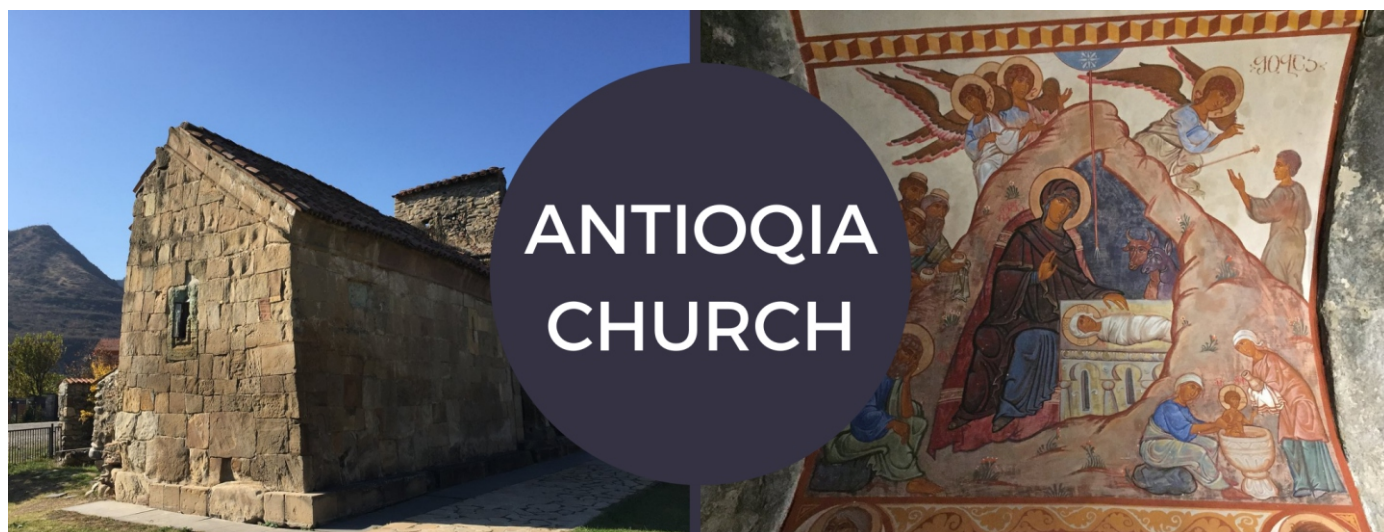
Adr.: Mtskheta

Tel.: 032 299-70-39

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyd

ANTIOQIA CHURCH





Antioq, the Church of St. Stephen the First Martyr, stands on the right bank of the Aragvi River in Mtskheta, at the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers. It is one of the oldest in Mtskheta (built in 4-5th centuries). In the 8th century, during the ruthless conquest of Murvan-Krus in Georgia, the temple was burnt down. In the 15-18th centuries it was thoroughly repaired.

In the 90s of the 20th century, with the charitable work of the United Georgian Bank, the interior of the temple was repaired and painted (iconographer Irakli Tsintsadze), the yard was fenced and a residential house was built.

In 2002, the Antioch Cathedral was transferred to the St. Nino's Convent in Samtavro. In the same year, the convent of St. Stephen the First Martyr was founded here. Currently, there are several sisters in the monastery. The monastery has a small farm, an orchard, icon-painting and embroidery workshops, and is engaged in translation work.



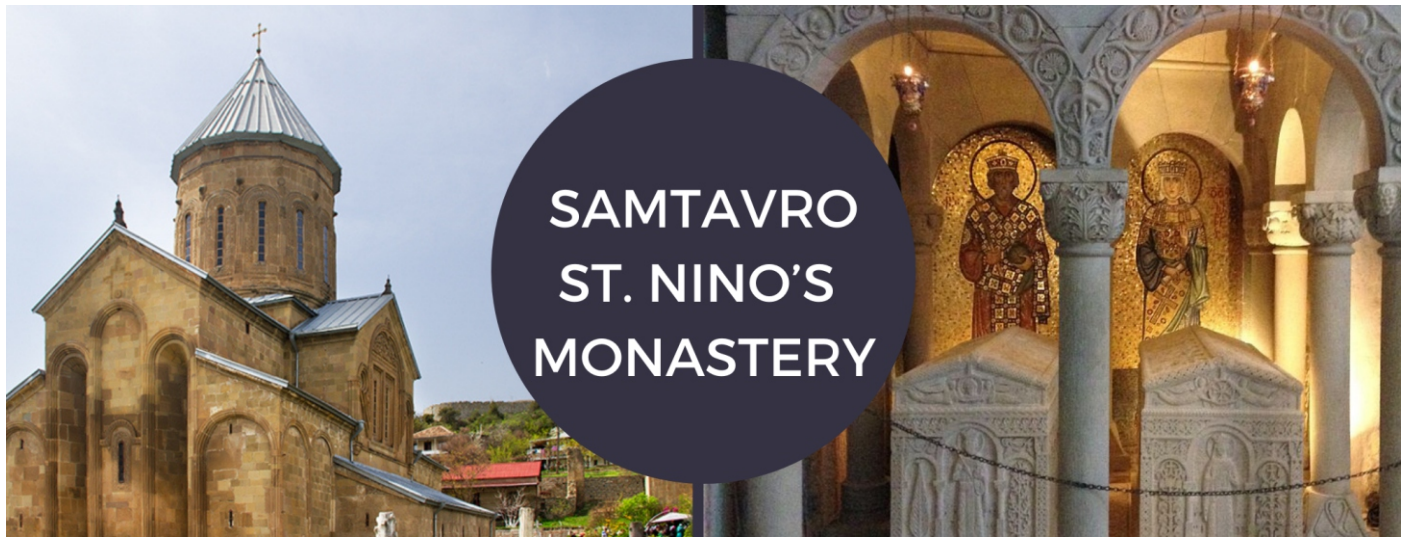
Useful Information:

Adr.: S-1, Mtskheta

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

SAMTAVRO ST. NINO'S MONASTERY





St. Nino's Convent is located in the ancient city of Mtskheta, Georgia. In the yard of the temple, there is a church dating back to the 4th century, Nino's small church, where she prayed. In the south-west corner of the temple, there are the tombs of the first Georgian Christian king Mirian and Queen Nana, who St. Nino converted to Christianity.

Especially noteworthy is the interior decoration of the temple. A five-day composition is used on the east façade. The south and north façades are painted with utmost mastery. The temple was completely re-painted from the beginning, but the situation has deteriorated over time.

The surviving painting dates back to the 14th century. The nunnery has been operating here since 1811.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Mtskheta, Samtavro Valley

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

SHIO CAVE MONASTERY COMPLEX





SHIO CAVE MONASTERY COMPLEX

Shiomghvimi monastery complex is located 12 km from Mtskheta. On the left bank of the Mtkvari. The monastery was founded in the middle of the 6th century by Shio, a disciple of his thirteen Assyrian fathers, St. John. In the 11th century, a cave church was built, which was later joined by the Church of St. John the Baptist. The Shiomghvimi monastery complex includes: a domed church, an upper church and a chapel near the monastery. The Temple of the Crucifixion (XII c.) is located on a high mountain southeast of the monastery, from where beautiful views unfold. Shiomghvime was also an old Georgian cultural-literary center. Many manuscripts have been recovered from Shiomghvime's largest library. Today there is a monastery of the Fathers operating here.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Mtskheta

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

JVARI MONASTERY





Jvari Monastery is located 15 kilometers from Mtskheta (10 minutes drive), stands on a rocky mountain (656 m high) at the confluence of the rivers Mtkvari and Aragvi, overlooking Mtskheta. Here tourists can enjoy both the natural environment and the cultural heritage.

On the top of the mountain at the confluence of the Mtkvari and Aragvi stands the masterpiece of Georgian architecture - Jvari Monastery. In the 4th century, at the behest of St. Nino and by order of King Mirian, a large wooden cross was erected on the site of the temple as a symbol of the Christian faith. This is a sixth century Georgian Orthodox monastery.

Along with other historical structures in Mtskheta, it is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The cross belongs to the rare buildings that have remained almost unchanged since the Middle Ages.

The dimensions of the temple are: 22.3 m long, 19 m wide and 25 m high. The monastery is the best example of harmonious blending with the natural environment characteristic of Georgian architecture.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Mtskheta

Tel.: 555 34 64 38

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

ZEDAZENI MONASTERY





Zedazeni is one of the oldest monuments of Georgian architecture, located in the north-east of Mtskheta (8 km) on the left bank of the Aragvi, on the Saguramo ridge, at 1170 meters above sea level. In the 6th century (the forties) a Georgian monastery was founded by one of the Assyrian fathers. At first the road is asphalt, but after the village the dirt road continues. The three-nave basilica of the church, which was built at the end of the 8th century, has survived to this day. In the northern part of the temple there is a well, the water of which is considered to have healing properties. Mtskheta and Jvari Monastery can be seen from the yard of the monastery, which is very eye-catching and makes for a great view.



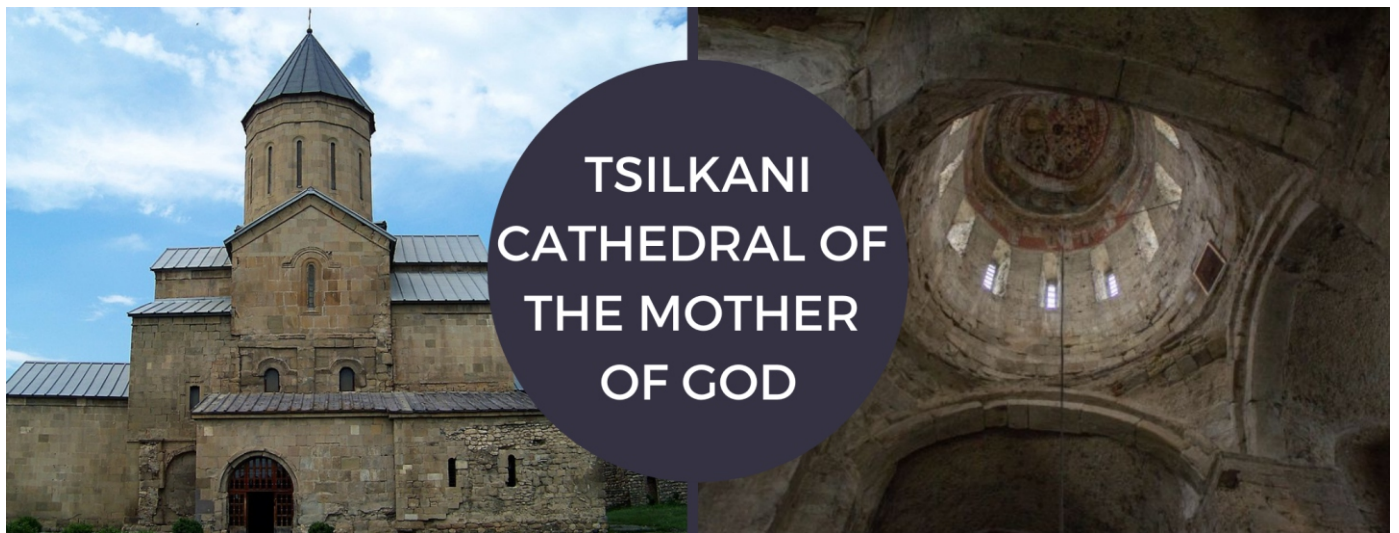
Useful Information:

Adr.: Zedazeni Rd

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

TSILKANI CATHEDRAL
OF THE MOTHER OF GOD





TSILKANI CATHEDRAL OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Tsilkani Episcopal Cathedral was founded in the 4th century. The complex includes the Church of the Assumption and a 8th century castle-fence. The temple combines three buildings of different eras: the hall church (end of IV century), the three-nave basilica (V-VIII centuries) and the domed temple. Calligraphers worked here at different times, scribes and poets.

Cliff stones, bricks and ornamental frames are used in the decoration of the facade walls, the unique ornaments of the Basilica period are especially interesting from the decoration of the temple, the painting is preserved only in the dome. There is a road leading to monastery complex.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Mtskheta region, village

Tsilkani

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

ANANURI ARCHITECTURAL
MONASTERY COMPLEX





The architectural ensemble of the 16-18th centuries architecture is one of the most important monuments of the late feudal period of Georgia. It houses cult, military and secular monuments. Although the monuments of this epoch can be found on the territory of Georgia, only a few of them are gathered together and relatively well preserved. The beauty of Ananuri Castle is the large domed church. The complex includes the following buildings: the upper and lower castles, the fence, the towers, the Church of the Assumption, the Church of the Deity, the Church of the Healer, the bell tower, the octagonal cell and the reservoirs.

The road leads directly to the citadel, there are many counters, where various Georgian souvenirs and handcrafted gifts are sold. The beautiful views from the towers overlook the Zhinvali Reservoir, which leaves an unforgettable impression on tourists.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Dusheti municipality,

Village Ananuri

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

GERGETI TRINITY CHURCH





Gergeti Trinity - an architectural complex located at 2200 meters above sea level. The fence bounded by the fence includes the domed temple of the Trinity, the bell tower and the council room (14th c.). The plan of the temple is simple, It is based on the cross. The temple is built of well-smoothed Andesite squares. The facades are carved. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Georgia. Gergeti Trinity Church with its history and location is the face of Georgia - a Christian oasis hidden in beautiful nature but harsh mountain.

Today, the Fathers' Monastery is being built here and the monks are working. The access road is well maintained and can be accessed by most means of transportation, and the walk takes about 30 minutes to 1 hour.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Kazbegi municipality, village
Gergeti.

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

DARIALI MONASTERY COMPLEX





Dariali Archangel Fathers Monastery Complex is located at 1300 meters above sea level near the Russian-Georgian border. The complex includes several churches. Construction of 12 temples is finally planned in the monastery complex of the Fathers.

Construction of the monastery began in 2005 at the initiative of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, and in 2011 he consecrated the Church of the Holy Archangels. The monastery complex is 10 km away from the center of Stepantsminda (Kazbegi).



Useful Information:

Adr.: Kazbegi municipality, RussianGeorgia border.

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

NEKRESI MONASTERY





The ancient temple of Nekresi is located about 8 km from Kvareli, on Mount Nekresi. Nekresi is on the left bank of the Alazani River. Its magnificent location and the beauty of the temple itself amazes many visitors.

The Nekresi monastery complex consists of various buildings. Some of them date back to the 4-5th centuries, some belong to the 8-9 centuries. It is of the basilica type. The temple is covered with uncut stone slabs. The internal area of the temple is 12 square meters. The painting of the temple is very damaged. Most of the inscriptions have also been destroyed. The main temple is dated back to the 6th century, built by St. Abibo Nekresel.

The temple is built with high architectural standards and is distinguished by the peculiarity of its forms. The church bell tower also appears to have been used as a watchtower.



Useful Information:

Adr.: in between Kvareli and village Shilda

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

Arriving at the monastery is done by a special car, which is waiting for tourists at the foot of the mountain.

The cost of the climb is 1 GEL.

Tel.: 599 55 89 50

GREMI MONASTERY





Gremi - Georgian Orthodox Church, built in 1565. The Grammy Architectural Complex consists of a variety of buildings. Here is the most eye catching part - the Church of the Dome of the Archangels, which stands at the end of a rocky ridge, a three-storey palace-bell tower, agricultural buildings, a fence, a secret exit to the river Intsoba. There are baths, a market and a caravanserai.

The historic Grammy Complex has been a museum-reserve since 1975. The palace-bell tower exhibits ethnographic material and artefacts excavated (a total of 2,056 exhibits).

The Cathedral of the Archangels in Grammys is one of the most magnificent buildings in the landscape.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Kvareli municipality, village Gremi

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

ALAVERDI MONASTERY





The Alaverdi Monastery, located 20 km from Telavi in the Alazani Valley, founded in the 6th century by Joseph Alaverdeli, one of the 12 Assyrian fathers. At the beginning of the XI century, King Kvirike of Kakheti visited St. Alaverdi. A cathedral, known as Alaverdi, was built on the site of St. George's Little Church.

The church is one of the largest church buildings in Georgia. Its height is - more than 50 meters. The buildings included in the complex are: Alaverdi St. George's Cathedral, fence, bell tower, chamber, Feikar-Khan Palace, cellar and bath.

From the 11th century, the Alaverdi Cathedral became the crypt of the Kakheti Royal House.

Monks make excellent wine in the cellar of the Alaverdi Monastery, which was founded in the 11th century. There is a vineyard in the temple area where tourists can see the exhibition of 120 varieties of grapes.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Akhmeta municipality, village Alaverdi

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

IKALTO MONASTERY





Ikalto Monastery, founded in the second half of the 6th century, the monastery was an important cultural and educational center not only in Kakheti, but throughout Georgia. The higher education academy was founded here, where the famous Georgian philosopher Arsen Ikaltoeli worked. There are three churches on the territory of the monastery: Deity, All Saints and Trinity. Also, various buildings, the ruins of the academy. The main church is the Church of the Transfiguration of the 8-9th centuries "Deity". The building is built of cobblestone. It is noteworthy that in the yard of the academy there is a tunnel under the Trinity Church, which according to the oral tradition is connected with the old Shuamta.



Useful Information:

Adr.: West of Telavi 7-8km

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 Everyday

Tel.: 577523738

NEW SHUAMTI KHAKHULI
MOTHER OF GOD MONASTERY





The New Shuamta Khakhuli Mother of God Monastery was founded in the 16th century (fifties) after the old Shuamta Monastery was emptied. The new monastery was founded by Tinatin, the wife of King Levan of Kakheti, who was ordained as a nun and is buried in the New Shuamta Monastery.

One of the main shrines of the monastery is the icon of the Virgin of Khakhuli. It was placed in front of the temple iconostasis, on the right side. The painted face of the infant Virgin is encrusted with gold and precious stones (jasper, turquoise, diamonds and pearls). The icon has 44 sacred parts on its back. Today, this icon is preserved in the treasures of the Georgian State Museum of Art in Tbilisi.



Useful Information:

Adr.: West from Telavi 5-6 Km

Open: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

MARTKOPI DIVINE MONASTERY





The monastery of the Deity of Martkopi was founded in the 6th century by Anton Martkopol, one of the 13 Assyrian fathers. He was called Martkopeli, deriving from Georgian word "Marto " which means alone, and his lifestyle earned him the title. The temple was damaged and destroyed many times. The monastery also had a military purpose, it was surrounded by an artillery fence, the circumference of which reached 1400 meters. To the east of the monastery, on the mountain, stands the column of Anton Martkopol, where he spent the last 15 years of his life. In addition to the cultural value, the monastery, which is hidden in the trees, also has extensive, panoramic views, which creates a beautiful synthesis of nature and architecture.

There's a road which leads to monastery, most of the cars can access it.



Useful Information:

Adr.: Gardabani municipality, village Martkopi.

Day: 08.00 - 20.00 everyday

MONASTERY OF ST.GEORGE
OF CHITAKHEVI





St. George's Monastery in Chitakhevi, which people affectionately call the Green Monastery, is built out of stones, all of which are green, some dark and some light. The monastery complex of the Fathers' Monastery of the 9th century includes a basilica-type church and a later built bell tower. The bell tower has two floors, the first floor is a chapel, and the second floor is a hand carved masterpiece. It is built of rough-hewn stone and has almost no decor.

During the invasions of Shah Tamaz in the 16th century, the monastery was raided, the monks were tortured, killed and thrown into the river. The bloody stones are still covering almost the entire length of the river flowing through the monastery grounds. Lots of pilgrims and tourists come here to see this miracle.

There is a sarcophagus in the temple where the fathers found the bones. The church was restored in the 80s of the 20th century, and in 2002 the Fathers' Monastery was restored.



Useful information:

Address: Chitakhevi village of
Borjomi municipality

Open: 09.00 - 19.00 every day

VARDZIA MONASTIC ENSEMBLE





Vardzia - a rock-cut monastic ensemble, a monument of Georgian artistic culture of the 12-13th centuries, located 30 km from the historic Aspindzin River. On the left bank of the Mtkvari (1300-1462 m above sea level). Vardzia Fortress-City is located spread through 13 levels. It has more than 600 storerooms. There are dining rooms, sinks, pantries, auxiliary storerooms and a 25 cellar with 185 pitchers. During the reign of Queen Tamar, the purpose of the original military fortress of the prison was changed and it was presented as a huge fortified monastery. The ensemble was founded mainly in 1156-1203, with 15 churches in the complex. The most important of these is the Church of the Assumption. Excellent painting on the wall is also preserved here. In the 16th century, Vardzia was overthrown by the Shah of Iran. The Persians stole many famous treasures. Then Vardzia was conquered by the Turks. It was ransacked again. The monks were killed but some of them managed to escape in different places and the place was abandoned. In the 20th century, first a tourist base and then a museum were established here. 1989 With the blessing of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II, worship was restored in Vardzia, and since 1999 the monastic life has been renewed.

Useful information:

Address: Javakheti, Aspindza district (30 km from Aspindza)

Open: 09.00 - 19.00 every day

Entrance fee: 15 GEL



UBISA MONASTERY





Ubisa - St. George's Church and monastery complex was built in the 9th century. In the 14th century, the temple of Ubisi was painted. The temple presents a magnificent composition of all the sacred feasts the Annunciation, the Feast of Tabernacles, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, the Epiphany, and more. Among the frescoes are the "fresco of St. George of Ubisi" and the "Secret Supper".

The main temple is of the hall type. Its core is the main building erected in the center of the fence, which has buildings from the south west and north.

The monastery also has the tower made in the 12th century - a fourstorey building, each floor has one room. According to a special examination of the column, the entrance to the column was from the first floor. On the first floor there was a pantry (2,2X2,2 m), with a deep and wide staircase. They went up the stairs to the second floor, which was the living room (2,55X3.00 m), with a large fireplace and a toilet. It was well covered with three windows and a wide door. From this room they climbed a convenient stone staircase to the upper room (3,05X3,30 m), which was to be used for prayer and work.



Useful information:

Address: Kharagauli district, The village Ubisa

Open: 09.00 - 19.00 every day

MARTYR'S MONASTERY





Motsameta (Martyr's) Monastery is one of the important monuments of ancient Georgian culture. The monastery, surrounded by a fence, is located on a rocky outcrop on a cliffside. In the early Middle Ages, there was a church of the Annunciation in the fortress of Tskaltsiteli, which was destroyed by the Arab army under the command of Murvan Krush in 735-737. The princes of Argiveti, who were martyred during the invasion, buried David and Constantine in the crypt of the ruined church of the Annunciation. Presumably, King Bagrat IV built a monastery here and arranged a tomb for the holy martyrs in his church. This place was later renamed to Martyrs church. The current church was built to immortalize the holy brothers David and Konstantine Mkheidze.



Useful information:

Address: Tkibuli municipality, village of Motsameta

Open: 09.00 - 19.00 everyday

GELATI MONASTERY COMPLEX





The monastery was founded by King David IV the Builder of Georgia (12-13th centuries). Restricted by a fence. The ensemble includes buildings of different times (mainly 12-13th centuries). Included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. According to historical sources, Gelati was the crypt of the kings of united Georgia and all the kings of the 12-13th century are buried here.

Gelati Monastery Complex includes Gelati Academy, the main center of education in medieval Georgia. Along with teaching at the academy, translation and scientific activities were carried out, original works were created. Gelati was a royal monastery in the 12-15th century and was directly subordinate to the king and the scribe (the first minister). The life of Gelati Academy was renewed under the leadership of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, His Holiness Ilia II in the 20th century, when the Gelati Scientific Academy was established. Gelati mosaic is preserved in the main temple of Gelati monastery complex. This is a highly artistic, sophisticated technique of painting and an example of virtuoso mastery. The north wall depicts a fresco of David the Builder.



Useful information:

Address: 9 km northeast of Kutaisi

Open: 09.00 - 19.00 every day

JEWISH GREAT SYNAGOGUE





The Great Synagogue is one of three synagogues in the city. The Great Synagogue was built in 1885 and is the second largest synagogue in Georgia after the Tbilisi Synagogue. Today, it serves the local Jewish community. It is designed to accommodate 350 worshipers. For the Passover (a holiday dedicated to the Lord's deliverance of the Jews from the bondage of the Egyptians), Matsa will be sent from Israel to Matsa Fesakh for the Jews of Kutaisi today. The rabbi manages to arrive in Kutaisi from Tbilisi only during important holidays.



Useful information:

Address: Kutaisi, Boris Gaponov St. # 57-59.

Open: 08.00 - 10.00 in the morning; 20.00 - 22.00 in the evening

BAGRATI CHURCH





Bagrati Temple - built by the King of Abkhazia and Georgia, Bagrat III (10 - 11th centuries) in the name of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which with its architectural and artistic dignity occupies a special place in the history of Georgian culture. Historically, it has been a symbol of a united Georgia. It is a symbol of the unity and strength of the country. Until the end of the 17th century, the monument stood intact. In 1692, the Ottomans demolished the dome of the temple. Over time, its destruction continued. Currently, the `Bagrati Temple Restoration Foundation is established with the aim of reconstructing the temple in all of its glory. Since 1994, the Bagrati Temple has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In 1995, the temple was restored. In 2009, the Georgian government began a full restoration of the monument.



Useful information:

Address: Kutaisi, Bagrati st.

Open: 09.00 - 19.00 every day

MARTVILI MONASTERY





Martvili Monastery Complex - an early medieval Christian church and monastery complex, located on a high hill in a convenient geographical and strategic location. At the foot of the mountain the plains of the river Tskhenistskali and the river Abasha are widely spread. Almost the whole of Imereti and Samegrelo can be seen from the monastery, which sits nestled in the lap of scenic greenery. The main temple is named after the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The buildings included in the Martvili monastery complex are: fence, rectangular storeroom, main church, church, bell tower and equator. The monastery complex was a large cultural and educational center in the Middle Ages. Paintings from 14-17th centuries are preserved in the temple. Next to the main temple is a two-story church built in the 10th century. To the west, near the main temple, stands a tall pillar with a Mesvet church.

The main church of the monastery complex - the Church of the Assumption (21 x 17.5 m) - is built in the middle of a small fence. The temple has been painted many times, Ransacked and raided many times as well. To the south-west of the main temple there is a pillar built in 10-11 centuries, at the bottom of which there was a staircase, and at the top - the church. In the second half of the 19th century, the Fathers' Monastery was opened in Martvili, which existed until the 1920 s.

Useful information:

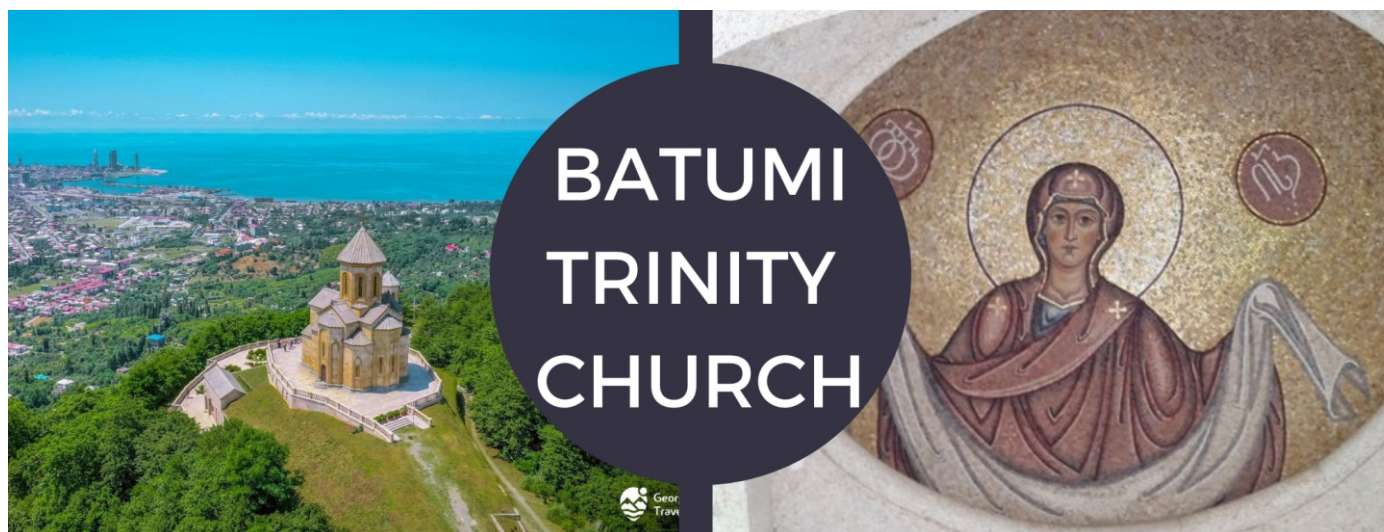
Address: Martvili Municipality, village.

Martvili

Open: 09.00 - 19.00 every day

BATUMI TRINITY CHURCH





Batumi Holy Trinity Church was built in the second half of the 19th century. It has been considered a cemetery area for years. In the 1930s, services were suspended. It was used as a warehouse - agricultural inventory was stored. In 1947, the All-Holy Trinity Cathedral was opened. The temple had a choir of 30 people. However, in the summer of 1976, the temple caught fire and was completely destroyed. Soon the restoration began, the roof work was done so the service continued in 1979, but its not fully complete, the restoration is still going on to this day. Construction of the All-Holy Trinity Monastery Complex began in 2002. It consists of two temples. Amazing views of Batumi and seaside will mesmerize every guest. Behind the temple is the Trinity Convent.



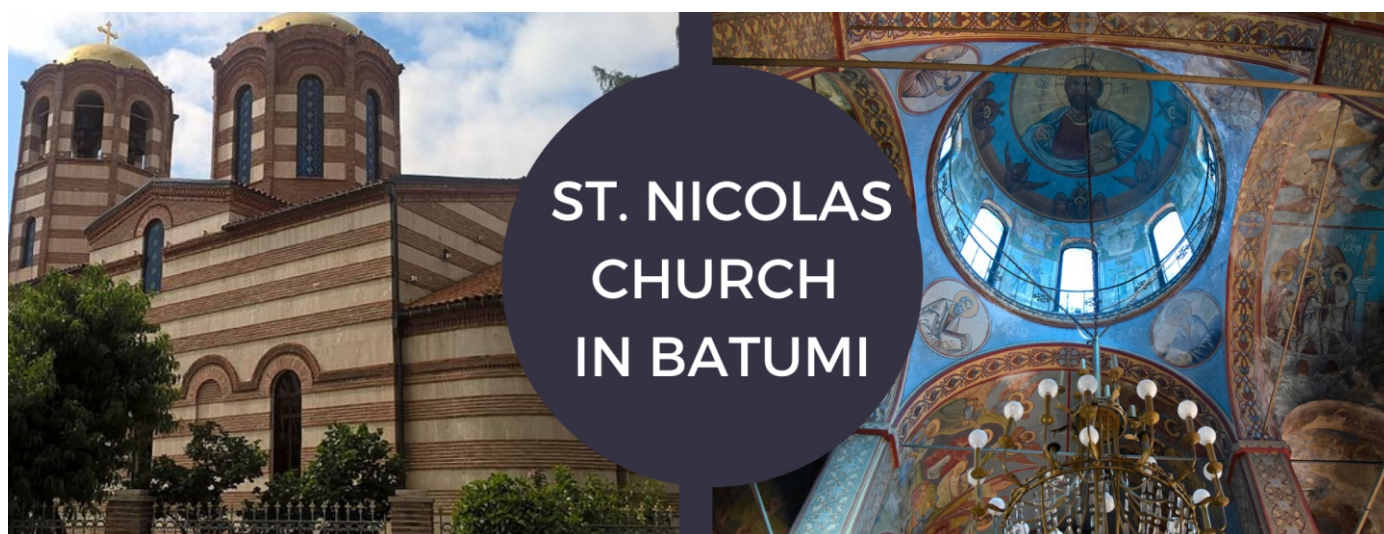
Useful information:

Address: 8 km from Batumi, on Trinity Mountain

Open: 09:00 - 19:00 every day

ST. NICOLAS CHURCH IN BATUMI





The construction of St. Nicholas Church in Batumi in the sixties of the 19th century turned out to be the signal of the fading grasp of Turkish rule in this ancient Christian region. The first liturgy took place in 1871. In 1894-1898 it was transferred to the ownership of the yard-area church, after which boys' and women's schools were opened on the territory of the temple. During the Soviet era, the church ceased to function for 10- 12 years, and in 1946, with the donation of an Orthodox parishioner, the church was restored and so was the priesthood. Restoration works of the temple have been carried out since 1998. The exterior of the temple was repaired, the yard was expanded and improved. The church is currently being painted.



Useful information:

Address: Batumi, Parnavaz Mepe St. 18

Open: 09:00 - 19:00 every day

BATUMI CATHEDRAL OF THE NATIVITY
OF THE VIRGIN MARY





The Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary - the Georgian Orthodox Church in Batumi, is a cultural heritage site of national importance. Built at the end of the 19th century, the temple has both architectural and artistic value. The building is built in Neo-Gothic style and has three domes. During the Soviet era, an archive was housed here, followed by a highvoltage laboratory. Later, by the decision of the government of Adjara, the building was transferred to the Georgian Orthodox Church.

In 1989, the church was consecrated by the Catholicos Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II. A solemn baptism was held on this day, where about 5,000 people shared the true faith of Christ. The Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God in Batumi was named the Cathedral. Today, the Church of the Mother of God in Batumi is the main cathedral of the Diocese of Batumi and Lazeti.



Useful information:

Address: Batumi, N. Baratashvili st.

Working hours: 09:00 - 19:00

BATUMI SYNAGOGUE





In the early twentieth century, local Hebrews petitioned the then Russian Emperor Nicholas II for permission to build a synagogue. After obtaining permission, the construction of a stone synagogue began, which was completed in 1904, and it was analogous to the synagogues of Amsterdam and The Hague. During the Soviet era, the building was used for various purposes. In 1993, the synagogue was again handed over to the Jewish Diaspora.



Useful information:

Address: Batumi, Vazha-Pshavela Street
33

Working hours: 09:00 - 19:00 every day

Tel: 555 36 66 99

ARMENIAN-GREGORIAN CHURCH OF BATUMI





The Armenian-Gregorian Church in Batumi was built in 1873. It was a wooden building that had long served as a follower of this faith. In 1885 a wooden church was demolished and a new temple was built by the design of the Austrian architect Malfred. During the Soviet era, the planetarium was opened in the church building, and in 1992, at the request of Armenians and the Armenian diaspora living in Batumi, the church returned to its old functions



Useful information:

Address: Batumi. K. Gamsakhurdia st. 23

Working hours: 09:00 - 19:00 every day

BATUMI CATHOLIC CHURCH





Batumi Holy Spirit Catholic Church - located in Adjara, Batumi. It was built in 2000 by Catholics in Batumi.

The church was consecrated by Transcaucasian administrator Reverend Giuseppe Pazotto. The Vatican Ambassador to Georgia often visits the church and a solemn service is held.



Useful information:

Address: Batumi, Gogebashvili st. 60 a

Working hours: 09:00 to 20:00 every day

Tel: 599 539 744

BATUMI MOSQUE – MUSLIM SHRINE





BATUMI MOSQUE – MUSLIM SHRINE

The history of Batumi mosques dates back to Ottoman times. The first, the so-called The Aziziye Mosque was built in 1863 in Batumi. The second mosque became known as the Ahmediye Mosque. This mosque was made of wood and soon burned down. Soon in 1866, Orta-Ahmed Jame was built on its site, which will be painted by a Laz master. This mosque was mainly intended for Georgian Muslims.

From 1878, when Batumi became part of the Russian Empire, its ethnic and religious composition gradually changed. Due to this, the mosques, due to the reduction of the population of this category, gradually lost their function and only one functioning mosque in the city - Akhmedie remained. The mosque hosts daily as well as festive prayers, sermons, and petitions. For festive prayers, believers will be called by Muezzin.

Due to its status and importance, the mosque is often visited by government officials, representatives of various organizations and confessions, and tourists.



Useful information:

Address: Batumi, Kutaisi st.

Open: 09:00 - 19:00 every day

TYPES OF TARGET CLIENTS

Origin

local
national
international

USA, Republic of Moldova,
Israel, Republic of Belarus,
Russian Federation, Italy,
Greece

Age

20-60 years old

middle aged (smallest
segment)
seniors (more than half of
the religious tourists)

Budget

low budget
medium budget

TRAVELER PROFILE

Motivated cultural tourist
significant interest in architecture / art / history
significant interest in culture
significant interest in social and environmental
Pilgrim tourist
interested in the spiritual / religious aspect
desire to heal from spiritual and physical ailments
expressing their need to pray for relatives and
less interest in cultural aspects of the visited
I wish to participate in rituals
prefers to travel in groups rather than alone



MARKETING STRATEGY

ONLINE

1. Promotion on the website and in social networks.
2. Social media influencer integration and support local population and local tourism participants
3. Promotion and partnership with digital tourism newspapers and travel blogs
4. PDF guide and mobile app.

OFFLINE

1. Promotion through brochures in hotels and restaurants, partnership with tourist offices
2. Establishing partnerships with tour operators and local travel providers

NEW PRODUCTS / SERVICES RECOMMENDED

1. Establishing routes to specific religious sites based on architecture, art, culture, etc., which complement each other religious / pilgrimage tours / routes.



**Agency of Sustainable Development and European
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Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020
Agency of Sustainable Development and European Integration “Lower Danube” Euroregion”
August, 2020

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