

TBILISI

The myth of the founding of the city takes us back to the reign of Georgia's mighty 5th century monarch Vaktang Gorgasali. The king was hunting with his falcon in the wooden valley, just a short distance from his then capital city of Mtskheta, the king noticed a pheasant. Sending off his falcon to retrieve the bird, he suddenly lost the sight of it. After searching for a while, he found out that both of the birds had fallen into a hot spring and had been boiled. Seeing the tremendous benefits of having such wonderful springs close at hand, he decided to build a new capital city on the site, and name it Tbilisi (tbili - on Georgian means "warm").

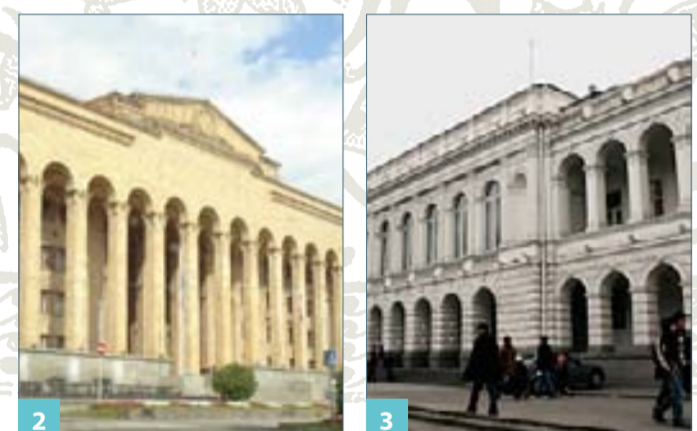
Indeed, there are numerous sulphur hot springs that came out of the ground in Abanotubani, where the famous sulphur baths are located.

The capital is both relaxed and welcoming with its wooden houses, churches, cafes and baths. It has retained this mood since the first traders and camel trains took refuge in Tbilisi on their long journeys along the Silk Road from Asia to Europe.

They were followed by artists, thinkers and writers of the modern era including Alexander Dumas, Pushkin, Lermontov, Tchaikovsky, Knut Hamsen, Ramsay MacDonald and etc. All of them found inspiration in Tbilisi.

Tbilisi is a major economic, transportation and cultural center - hub of the Southern Caucasus. In its Old Town the visitors will find a Mediterranean atmosphere and a harmonious architectural mélange which reflects the wide variety of nationalities that down through the ages have made their homes in Tbilisi. The old town still has its Jewish, Azeri and Armenian quarters. And the mosque, synagogue, Armenian and Georgian orthodox churches are all within walking distance of each other.

Sights to visit include the Sioni Cathedral and the Anchiskhati Basilica in the Old Town. The Narikala Fortress, first established by the Persians in the fourth century AD and most recently rebuilt in the 17th century, is a good vantage point for views over the old city. The health-giving sulfur baths in a domed, oriental-style 19th-century bath house were also frequented by city's visitors. The Opera House, a splendid, neo-Moorish Opera building on Tbilisi's Rustaveli Avenue provides a lively calendar of events throughout the year. The Georgian State Museum on Rustaveli Avenue houses a collection of icons, frescoes and porcelain, as well as an outstanding display of the "Gold of Colchis" jewellery. The Georgian State Art Museum, in the centre of town, includes paintings by the much-loved 19th-century artist Niko Pirosmani.

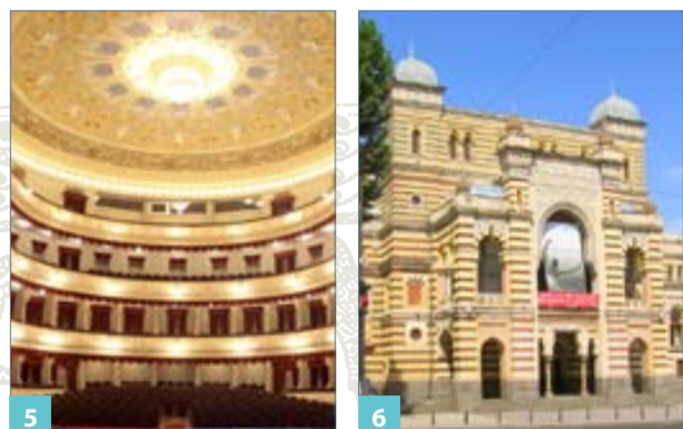


1 Rustaveli Avenue - is the central avenue in Tbilisi, named after the medieval Georgian poet Shota Rustaveli. The avenue starts at Freedom Square and extends for about 1.5 km.

2 Parliament - of Georgia is located at the centre of Rustaveli Avenue. It is one of the most original piece of architecture with its large shape and magnificent design characterized for the Soviet period. The materials applied in the construction of the Parliament building are parts of the National architecture - golden tofus and architectural ornaments.

3 Tbilisi National Youth Palace - counts 200 years of history. It is one of the historic buildings in the city from the architectural point of view. Formerly named Boris Dzeladze Youth Republican Palace, abbreviated as the Palace of Pioneers was established in 1941. Diversified educational and training institutions for middle school age children and adults are common in the republic.

4 Georgian National Museum.
Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia
Working hours: Everyday except from Monday -10:30-17:00 The museum houses hundreds of thousands of Georgian and Caucasian artifacts of archeology and ethnography. After the reconstruction the most valuable exhibits of the museum include the Gold



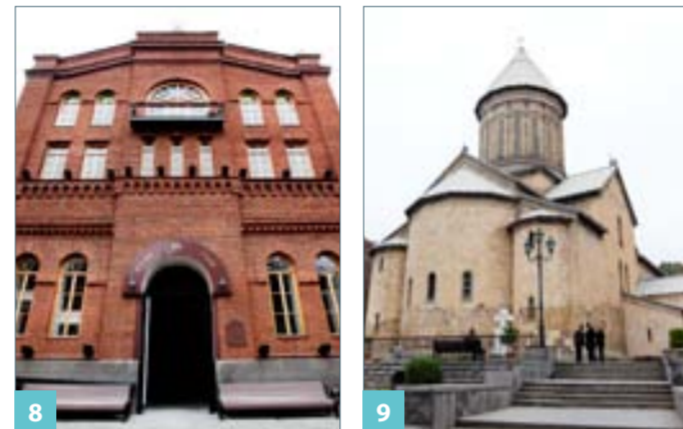
Treasure which consists of the unique collection of the pre-Christian goldsmith pieces (III millennium BC - IV century AD); The hall of the Soviet occupation - displaying archive documents, photo and video materials following the timeline of Georgia's history from the short-lived independence between 1918 and 1921 to the Soviet army crack down in 1989 and the declaration of Georgia's independence in 1991; The collection of the famous photographer Dimitri Ermakov comprises a large quantity of photographs, negatives, albums and photographic equipment illustrating a great variety of people and places in the Caucasus and Asia Minor of the 1800s and early 1900s; The National Gallery where 1 half of XX century Georgian art masterpieces are displayed.

5 Rustaveli Theatre - Founded in 1887 by the "Artists' Society", Rustaveli Theater is one of the largest and oldest theaters in Georgia. In 1921 it was named after a renowned Georgian poet - Shota Rustaveli. The building is located at 17 Shota Rustaveli Avenue.

6 Tbilisi Opera and Ballet Theatre - Opera House
The main Music theater of Georgia is the oldest opera house founded in 1851. The building serves as the main venue for cultural life in the city center.

7 Freedom Square - The Tbilisi city's central square is located in the old district. Freedom Monument - St. George is erected at the center of the Freedom square.

8 Synagogue - Georgian Jews are one of the oldest communities in Georgia, tracing their migration into the country during the Babylonian captivity in 6th century BC. In Tbilisi Jewish Diaspora was



mainly concentrated in Lower Kala and operated several synagogues in the city. The synagogue in Leselidze Street was built in 1910 and is still functioning.

9 Sioni Street, Sioni Cathedral
Sioni cathedral is situated in historic Sioni Kucha (Sioni Street) in downtown Tbilisi, with its eastern façade fronting the right embankment of the river Mtkvari. It was initially built in the 6th-7th centuries and was multiply restored. Sioni Cathedral was the main Georgian Orthodox Cathedral and the seat of Catholicos-Patriarch of all Georgia until the Holy Trinity Cathedral was concentrated in 2004. However, it still holds the venerated Grapevine cross (exhibited at the left of the altar) forged by St. Nino, a Cappadocian woman who preached Christianity in Georgia in the early 4th century. Sioni Cathedral was the place where the Russian Imperial manifesto on the annexation of Georgia was first published on April 12, 1802, when the Russian commander-in-chief in Georgia, General Karl von Knorring, assembled the Georgian nobles in the Cathedral surrounded by Russian troops. The nobles were forced to take an oath to the Russian Imperial crown and anyone who disagreed was taken into custody.

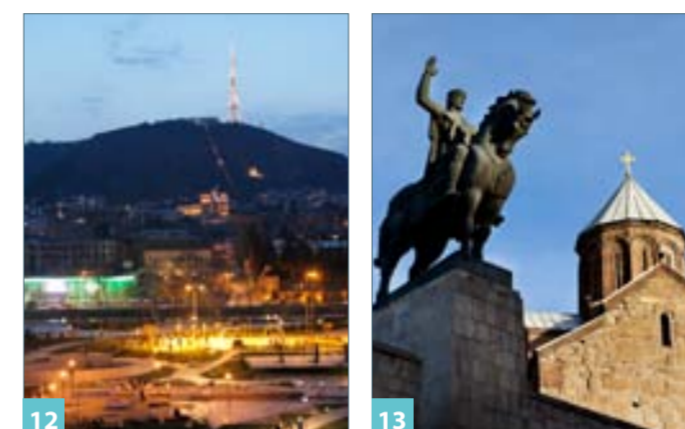
10 Anchiskhati Basilica - The Anchiskhati Basilica of St. Mary is the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi, situated in Shaveti Street of Upper Kala. Built in the 6th century the church is a three-nave Basilica. Originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it was renamed Anchiskhati (i.e. icon of Anchi) in 1675 when the treasured icon of the Savior created by twelfth-century goldsmith Beka Opizari at the Archi was moved to Tbilisi to preserve it from an Ottoman invasion.



The icon was preserved at the Basilica of St. Mary for centuries and is presently on display at the Art Museum of Georgia.

11 Peace Bridge - Straddling the river Mtkvari in Tbilisi, Georgia, is a new pedestrian bridge, courtesy of Italian architect Michel De Lucchi and French lightning director Philippe Martinard. The structure is composed of glass and iron connecting Old Tbilisi with the new district, and boasts a 150m roof of steel and glass. The bridge provides a unique Old Tbilisi view. It also possesses an interactive light display system. 30,000 LEDs and 240 sensors installed within the structure convey specific messages, scrolled across the two parapets of the bridge every hour. The bridge is considered to be a symbol of Georgia's way from the past to the better future.

12 Rike Park - The new recreation complex Rike square is laid



out on 10 hectares in the historic district of Tbilisi. It has a shape of Georgia's map where different regions are connected to one another with pedestrian pathways. There is an Amphitheatre and a children's square too. The park is distinguished with its dancing and musician foundation designed by Spanish architect.

13 Monument of King Vaktang Gorgasali, Metekhi Church - is located in the historic neighborhood of Tbilisi is situated on the elevated cliff that overlooks the Mtkvari river. The district was one of the earliest inhabited areas on the city. According to historic recounts, King Vaktang Gorgasali I is erected the church and a fort which also served as the king's residence; hence comes the name Metekhi, which dates back to the 12th century and literally means "The area around the palace".

14 Ropeway - connecting Rike Park and Narikala fortress in the shortest period was additional to the city municipal transport. Ropeway has been built in compliance with international standards and it completely meets European safety regulations. Length of Rike-Narikala ropeway is 500 meter and includes 7 gondolas. Each of them is covered with glass, but one is fully glassy giving it more attraction. Ropeway is adapted for disabled persons.

15 Narikala and the Church of St. Nicholas - There is the possibility to visit Narikala directly from Rike Park by ropeway. Narikala is the ancient citadel of Georgia, and the river Mtkvari. The fortress consists of two-walled sections on a steep hill between the sulfur baths and the botanical garden of Tbilisi. On the lower court there is the recently restored St. Nicholas church. The fortress already existed by the 4th century as Shuris-Tsikhe (i.e. "Invidious Fort") and considerably expanded by the Umayyads in the 7th century and later, by King David the Builder. The Mongols renamed it "Narin Qala" (i.e. "Little Fortress" in Persian). Most of the extant fortifications date back to the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1827, the fortress was damaged by an earthquake and partially demolished.

16 Botanical Garden - Occupying the area of 161 hectares, its history spans more than three centuries. It was first described in 1671 by the French traveler Jean Chardin as royal gardens which might have been founded at least in 1625. Its extremely rich collection includes floral species from the Mediterranean, North America, China and Japan, the Himalayas, Turkey and Siberia, as well as rare species, such as dark red Maiko peonies and Iberian irises that are virtually no longer extant in the wild nature.

17 Tbilisi Mosque - The eight angled Minaret of the brick mosque draws the attention even from the far distance and is perceived in a different ways from the various sides. The original Sunni mosque, located at the end of the botanical garden is the only functioning mosque in Tbilisi at present, after the Shiite Mosque on the other bank of the river Mtkvari was destroyed by communist rulers. Now it serves Shia as well as Sunni Muslims which is extremely rare in any country of the world.

18 Tbilisi Bathhouses - The sulfur baths are located in Old Tbilisi, on the other side of the river, opposite Darejani Palace, and are known for their tranquilizing effect. After taking the cathedrals and museums of Tbilisi, reward your weary body with a soak in one of the city's famous bathhouses. A deep sulfur spring feeds the city with naturally heated mineral water, and bath houses have proliferated across the city for more than a thousand years, offering residents and visitors the opportunity to wash away the stresses of the day. A soak in a sulfur bath is still very much a Tbilisi ritual, a tribute to the pheasant which gave start to the city and its name as well ("tbili" meaning "warm" in Georgian). While the bath houses have existed here for more than a thousand years, the extant baths were mainly built in the 17-18th century and bear strong resemblance to Islamic architecture.

19 Bamba (Cotton) Row and Chardin Streets - Once part of



the Old Tbilisi bazaar, Chardin street and the arched Bamba Row even now from a true "Diagon Alley" of the Georgian Capital. The streets offer the best night life spots, such as restaurants, cafes, night bars and international open air festivals, concerts and galleries.

20 The Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi
The main cathedral of Georgian Orthodox Church presents a gorgeous view from various points in the city. This magnificent ensemble was built where once was the Church of St. Elias and consecrated on 3 March 1996.

21 Tbilisi Funicular Railway and Restaurant
The Tiflis Funicular railway opened on March 27, 1905 and was intended to develop the uninhabited Mtatsminda plateau that overlooks the city. At that time, the railway carriage accommodated up to 50 people and the journey took 6 minutes.



The Funicular gained further popularity in the 1930s when the amusement and leisure park of Mtatsminda was constructed. Nowadays, the park boasts restaurants, cafes, shops, recreation zones, celebration centers and a marital home. In 2012, the Funicular railway underwent a reconstruction and was equipped with modern carriages and mechanisms. Today, the Funicular Restaurant Complex itself includes 5 separate dining facilities: Chela (traditional Georgian), Puri Guliani (bakery), the Bar-Lounge, signature Funicular Restaurant and Events hall.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

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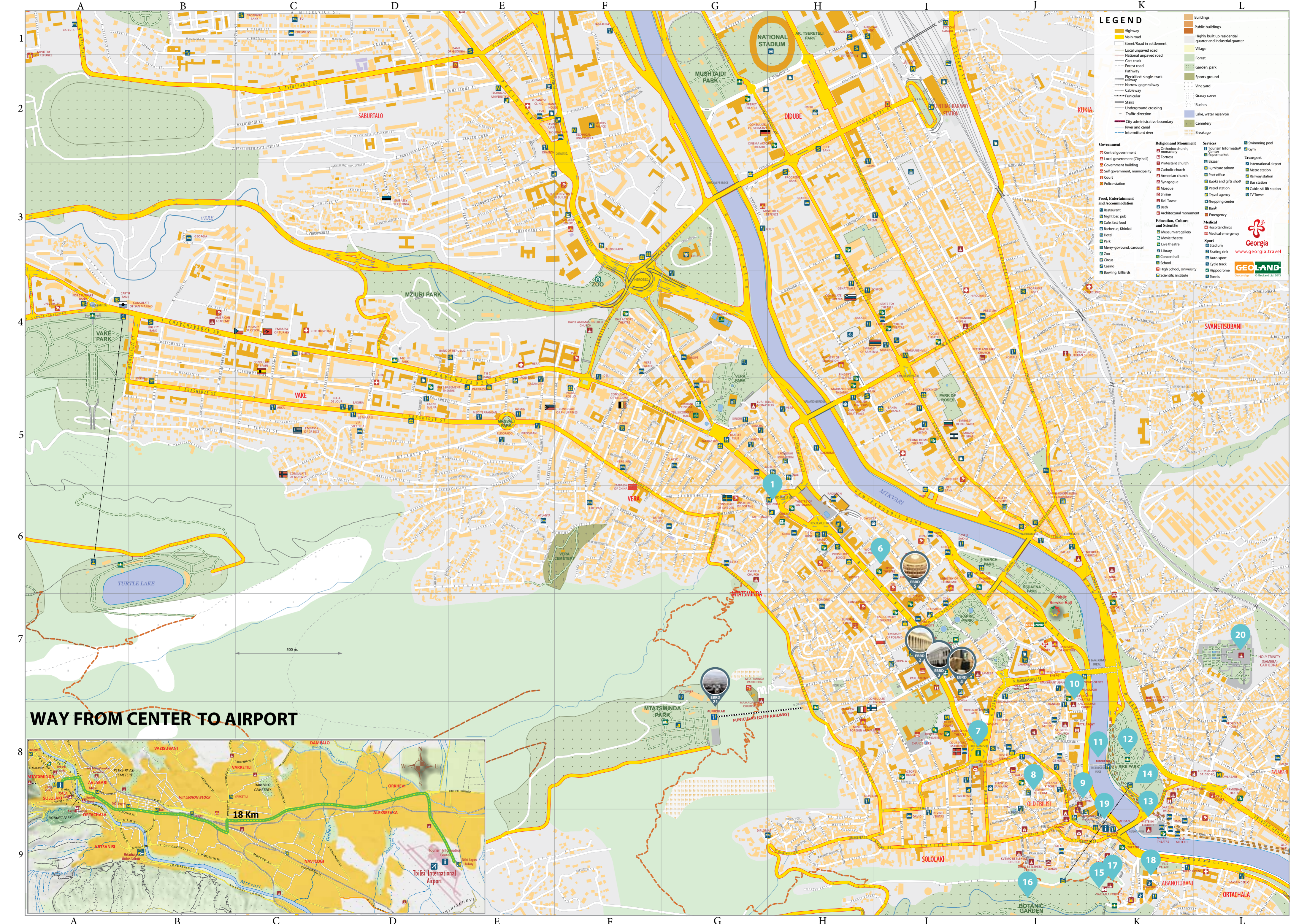
TBILISI TRAVELERS GUIDE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS & BUSINESS FORUM

14 - 15 MAY 2015

TBILISI2015

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LEGEND

Highway	Buildings	Public buildings	Highly built up residential quarter and industrial quarter
Main road	Street/Road in settlement	Village	Forest
Local unpaved road	National unpaved road	Forest park	Sports ground
Cart-track	Pathway	Wine yard	Grassy cover
Electrified single-track railway	Narrow-gauge railway	Bushes	Lake, water reservoir
Cableway	Funicular	Stairs	Cemetery
Underground crossing	Traffic direction	City administrative boundary	River and canal
Intermittent river	Breakage	Government	Religion and Monument
Central government	Local government (City hall)	Government building	Self government, municipality
Court	Police station	Restaurant	Night bar, pub
Cafe, fast food	Barbecue, khinkali	Hotel	Bar
Merry-ground, carousel	Zoo	Casino	Bowling, billiards
Central government	Religion and Monument	Services	Swimming pool
Central government	Religion and Monument	Services	Gym
Central government	Religion and Monument	Services	Tram
Central government	Religion and Monument	Services	International airport
Central government	Religion and Monument	Services	Metro station
Central government	Religion and Monument	Services	Railway station
Central government	Religion and Monument	Services	Bus station
Central government	Religion and Monument	Services	Cable, ski lift station
Central government	Religion and Monument	Services	TV Tower

WAY FROM CENTER TO AIRPORT

