



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Georgia

Welcome to Tbilisi, Georgia!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	GEORGIA: BACKGROUND	1
II.	TBILISI: CAPITAL OF GEORGIA.....	5
III.	MUSEUMS IN TBILISI	7
IV.	RESTAURANTS IN TBILISI.....	8
V.	MONEY	10
VI.	USEFUL INFORMATION	11
VII.	SDSU G CONTACT INFORMATION	12

I. GEORGIA: BACKGROUND

OFFICIAL NAME:
Georgia



Source: www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5253.htm

Geography

Area: 69,700 square kilometers; slightly smaller than South Carolina; approximately 20% of its total territory is not under Georgian Government control.

Cities: *Capital* --Tbilisi (population 1.2 million, 2014).

Terrain: Mostly rugged and mountainous.

Climate: Generally moderate; mild on the Black Sea coast with cold winters in the mountains.

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*--Georgian(s).

Population (July 2014 est.): 4.9 million.

Population growth rate (2014 est.): -0.11%.

Ethnic groups (2002 census): Georgian 83.8%, Azeri 6.5%, Armenian 5.7%, Russian 1.5%, other 2.5%.

Religion (2002 census): Orthodox Christian 83.9%, Muslim 9.9%, Armenian Apostolic 3.9%, Catholic 0.8%; other 0.8%; none 0.7%.

Language: Georgian 71% (official), Russian 9%, Armenian 7%, Azeri 6%, other 7%. Abkhaz is also "official language" in Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Education: *Years compulsory* -- 9; *Literacy* (2012 est.) -- 99.7%.

Health: *Infant mortality rate* (2014 est.) --17 deaths/1,000 live births. *Life expectancy* (2014 est.)--76 years.

Economy

GDP (2014 est.): \$16.1 billion.

GDP per capita (2014 est.): \$7,700.

GDP growth (2014 est.): 5%.

Inflation rate (2014): 3.3%.

Natural resources: Forests, hydropower, nonferrous metals, manganese, iron ore, copper, citrus fruits, tea, wine.

Industry: *Types* -- steel, aircraft, machine tools, foundry equipment (automobiles, trucks, and tractors), tower cranes, electric welding equipment, and fuel re-exports, machinery for food packing, electric motors, textiles, shoes, chemicals, wood products, bottled water, tourism, and wine.

Trade (2014 est.): *Exports* -- \$4.49 billion. *Partners (by volume)*: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Ukraine, Bulgaria,

United States, Russia, and Germany. *Imports* -- \$8.3 billion. *Partners*: Turkey, China, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Russia, Germany, Romania, United States, Japan. Work force (2011): 1.96 million. *Agriculture* -- 55.6%, *industry* -- 8.9%, *services* -- 35.5% (National Statistics Office of Georgia). Unemployment as of 2014 was 14.9% (IMF).

Georgian Language

Georgian is the state language in Georgia and is spoken by 90 % of the population. Besides the official Georgian language, the ethnic minorities speak Armenian, Azeri, Russian, Greek, Kurdish, and Hebrew.

The Georgian language is made up of various dialects and sub dialects. The Georgian language has five vowels and twenty nine consonants. The words in Georgian are written as they are pronounced. The Georgian alphabet is one out of 14 alphabets known in the world. The Georgian writing is very old and it was invented by the Georgian priests in 412 BC and reformed by the king Parnavaz in the 284 BC. The Georgian alphabet consists of 33 letters:

ა	ani	[a]	ბ	mani	[m]	გ	ghani	[y]
ბ	bani	[b]	ნ	nari	[n]	ყ	q'ari	[qʰ]
გ	gani	[g]	ო	oni	[o]	შ	shini	[ʃ]
დ	dani	[d]	პ	p'ari	[pʰ]	ჩ	chini	[tʃ]
ე	eni	[e]	ჯ	zhani	[ʒ]	ც	tsani	[ts]
ვ	vini	[v]	რ	rae	[r]	ძ	dzili	[dz]
ზ	zeni	[z]	ს	sani	[s]	წ	ts'ili	[tsʰ]
თ	tani	[t]	ტ	t'ani	[tʰ]	ჭ	ch'ari	[tʃʰ]
ი	ini	[i]	უ	uni	[u]	ხ	xani	[x]
კ	k'ani	[kʰ]	ფ	pari	[p]	ჯ	jani	[j]
ლ	lazi	[l]	ქ	kani	[k]	ჰ	hae	[h]

Useful Phrases:

Hello! - gamarjoba!
 How are you? - Rogor khar?
 I am fine - Kargad
 Sorry! – bodishi!
 Thanks! – gmadlobt!
 You're welcome! – arapris!
 Good night - Ghame mshvidobisa
 Good morning - Dila mshvidobisa
 No - ara / Yes - diakh
 Good evening – Saghamo mshvidobisa
 What is it? – ra aris es?
 What time? – romel saatze?
 Excuse me - Ukacravad
 Hotel - Sastumro
 Tea – Chai / Coffee - Kava
 Water - Tskali
 Beer - Ludi
 Big – Didi / Small – Patara
 Good – Kargi
 Airport – aeroporti

What? – Ra?
 I know - Vitsi
 I like Georgia– Me momtsons sakartvelo
 Do you speak English? - Laparakob inglisurad?
 I don't understand-Ver gavige
 Money - Puli
 How much is it? - Ra ghirs?

Counting

one – erti
 two – ori
 three – sami
 four – otkhi
 five – khuti
 six – ekvsi
 seven – shvidi
 eight – rva
 nine – tskhra
 ten – ati

People and History

Georgia's recorded history dates back more than 2,500 years. Georgian -- a South Caucasian (or "Kartvelian") language unrelated to any other outside the immediate region -- is one of the oldest living languages in the world, and it has its own distinctive alphabet. Tbilisi, located in the picturesque Mtkvari River valley, is more than 1,500 years old. In the early 4th century Georgia adopted Christianity, only the second nation in the world to do so officially, and Orthodox Christianity -- in combination with a unique language and alphabet -- proved to be key factors in preserving Georgia's separate identity for so many centuries.

Georgia has historically found itself on the margins of great empires, and Georgians have lived together in a unified state for only a small fraction of their existence as a people. Much of Georgia's territory was fought over by Persian, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Mongol, and Turkish armies from at least the 1st century B.C. through the 18th century. The zenith of Georgia's power as an independent kingdom came in the 11th and 12th centuries, during the reigns of King David the Builder and Queen Tamara, who still rank among the most celebrated of all Georgian rulers.

In 1783 the king of Kartli (in eastern Georgia) signed the Treaty of Georgievsk with the Russians, by which Russia agreed to take the kingdom as its protectorate. In 1801, the Russian empire began the piecemeal process of unifying and annexing Georgian territory, and for most of the next two centuries (1801-1991) Georgia found itself ruled from St. Petersburg and Moscow. Exposed to modern European ideas of nationalism under Russian tutelage, Georgians like the writer Ilya Chavchavadze began calling for greater Georgian independence. In the wake of the collapse of tsarist rule and war with the Turks, the first Republic of Georgia was established on May 26, 1918, and the country enjoyed a brief period of independence under the Menshevik president, Noe Zhordania. However, in March 1921, the Russian Red Army re-occupied the country, and Georgia became a republic of the Soviet Union.

Several of the Soviet Union's most notorious leaders in the 1920s and 1930s were Georgian, such as Joseph Stalin, Sergo Orjonikidze, and Lavrenti Beria. In the postwar period, Georgia was perceived as one of the wealthiest and most privileged of Soviet republics, and many Russians treated the country's Black Sea coast as a kind of Soviet Riviera. On April 9, 1991, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia declared independence from the U.S.S.R.

Beset by ethnic and civil strife from independence in 1991, Georgia began to stabilize in 1995. However, almost 300,000 internally displaced persons present an enormous strain on the country. Peace remains fragile in the separatist areas of Abkhazia and South Ossetia -- overseen by Commonwealth of Independent States' (essentially Russian) peacekeepers, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Considerable progress has been made in negotiations on the Ossetian-Georgian conflict. Negotiations are continuing on the stalemated Georgia-Abkhazia conflict under the aegis of the United Nations.

Government

Georgia has been a democratic republic since the presidential elections and constitutional referendum of October 1995. The President is elected for a term of 5 years, limited to 2 terms; his constitutional successor is the Chairman of the Parliament.

The Georgian state is highly centralized, except for the autonomous regions of Abkhazia and Ajara, whose precise legal statuses have not been determined by law. Those regions were subjects of special autonomies during Soviet rule, and the legacy of that influence remains. In October 27th 2013 Giorgi Margvelashvili was elected to a 5-year term.

The Georgian Government stakes much of its future on the revival of the ancient Silk Road as the Eurasian energy transportation corridor, using Georgia's geography as a bridge for transit of goods between Europe and Asia. Georgians are renowned for their hospitality and artistry in dance, theater, music, and design.

History and Culture

The birthplace of wine

Wine growing has a long tradition in Georgia. It's impossible to imagine daily life, the traditions or the picturesque landscapes without it.

Archaeological research provides evidence of viniculture as far back as 7000 years in the Caucasus region. Many say that the generic word "wine" stems from the Georgian word "gvino".

Georgia has over 500 varieties of grapes. Saperavi, Tsinandali, Mukuzani, are names now extending beyond the former Soviet empire into the super-markets of Western Europe and America.

The living culture of wine production extends into virtually every Georgian family. For thousands of years grapes have been placed in large, earthenware vessels called Qvevri. Buried in the ground up to their necks and kept in wine vaults called "marani", they are then sealed and left for three to four months.

This technique has long tradition and is still in use today. This is how the tannin and vitamin-rich wine is produced.

Table and Tamada

The Georgian table is an Aladdin's cave of culinary discovery. Visitors always remark on the amazing abundance of so many unfamiliar but mouth-watering dishes-that seem to just keep on coming. Among there are Khachapuri, the traditional cheese-bread of Georgia and Tkemali, the several kinds of delicious sour plum sauces born of Georgia's popular Tkemali tree.

There are Baje, a rich garlic and creamed walnut sauce, Pkhali, the generic term for numerous vegetable pates made with ground walnuts, Khinkali, the famous dough pockets filled with meat and Satsivi, chicken in walnut sauce.

Not to forget the delicious Georgian Mtsvadi, meat grilled to perfection over a vine-wood fire, Ajika, the devil's own spicy, hot sauce and Churchkhela, hazel and walnuts stung together in a thickened wine sauce. All these have their tastes refined and heightened by Georgia's unique selection of white and red wines. And there are only some of the treats waiting at the Georgian feast-or "supra".

Georgia has developed a strong tradition of table culture. Not content with merely eating and drinking-the ceremony has evolved into a key stratagem of cultural survival.

Georgians have a saying that the guest is the gift from god. Essential to the table ceremony is the Tamada or toast-maker. He guides the mood of the meal by introducing eloquent, often moving toasts at key moments starting with "friendship". Glasses are raised then drained "bolomde"-to the bottom. Guests are sometimes invited to add their own words "alaverdi", as the assigned glass-filler, or "merikipe" ensured all the glasses are printed for the next toasts.

A feast, or supra, accompanies all key events of Georgian life-and stands at the very heart of the Georgia's famed hospitality. Be prepared... and remember the best response to a toast is the words "Gaumarjos!" This translates "here's to our victory!"

Straight from the heart

Georgians are rightly proud of their tradition of polyphonic song. It's unique, slightly dissonant style, transports the listener instantly into the mountainscapes of pre-history. Nobody knows where they come from. The Greek historian Strabo records the multi-voiced chants of Georgians riding into battle in the 1st century BC. Igor Stravinsky declared Georgian polyphony as "more important than all the discoveries of new music".

Most interesting of all for the visitor these three part songs are completely integrated into modern culture, not only in the churches and monasteries, but also around the Georgian table. Enchanting voices are often heard floating down Tbilisi's back-street of an early evening, or across the village fields in summer.

Georgian dance, like its polyphonic songs, remains a major cultural export. The Georgian State Dance company tours the world for the greater part of the year. The vigorous, leaping dances, clashing swords, flying sparks, daggers quivering in the floor-combine elegantly with the graceful gliding female dancers. Add to this fabulous colorful costume from mountain villages, wild drumming, pipe and accordion-and the overall effect is unforgettable.

III. TBILISI

Time in Tbilisi: + 4 hrs GMT

Tbilisi is the capital of Georgia. The population of the city is 1.2 million (2014). It is situated on the both banks of the Mtkvari River, in the gorge surrounded by mountains. It is named after Georgian tbili (warm) due to hot Sulphur-springs on its territory. A complete and detailed map of Tbilisi can be found online at: <https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&msid=207074630881031687541.0004b3a40df83dedad38e&ie=UTF8&ll=41.706706,44.787354&spn=0,0&t=h&vpsrc=1&iwloc=0004b3a4109fd13ce26ab&output=>.



The city originates in the ancient times. Throughout the centuries it played an important role in the history of the country. Tbilisi became the capital of Georgia in the 11th century. The unification of Georgia with Russia contributed to the growth of the city, and as a result of it Tbilisi became a Transcaucasian center. The city, especially the Rustaveli Avenue, was considerably damaged in 1991-1992, during the armed struggle between the supporters of the President Gamsakhurdia and the opposition. Today most buildings are restored.

Tbilisi is an important industrial and transport center of the country. There is a number of enterprises in the city, specialized in carriage and machine building. Paper-making, cognac and textile production are also of a great importance.

Tbilisi is the city of an irresistible beauty due to its natural conditions. Former gardens are reorganized into the national parks. Public buildings are mostly located on the Rustaveli Avenue, a central street of the city. Tbilisi is famous for its historical monuments: [Narikala](#) fortress of the ancient times, [Metekhi](#) church, situated on the right bank of the Mtkvari River opposite Narikhala fortress, [Sioni](#) Cathedral Church (5th century), [Anchiskhati](#) Church (6th century)

Tbilisi is an important cultural and educational center. There are the Academy of Science (founded in 1941), the University (1918), the Conservatory, the Academy of Arts, and various theatres and museums in Tbilisi. There is the Pantheon on the [Mtatsminda](#) Mountain with the graves of the distinguished Georgian figures.



Historic Tbilisi Baths

The Tbilisi baths play an important role in the city's history. According to legend, they are the reason that King Vakhtang Gorgasali moved the Georgian capital to its present location in the 5th century. The original capital, mtskheta, lies some 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) upriver. There are two legends as to why the capital was moved from Mtskheta to Tbilisi, both of which are attributed to one of King Gorgasali's hunting trips in which the King's hunting falcon caught, injured and dropped a pheasant into a hot sculpture spring. In the first version, the hunting party arrived to find the pheasant perfectly cooked and ready to eat. In the second version the hunting party arrived to find the pheasant in the spring. The pheasant's wounds were sufficiently cauterized by the hot water to stop bleeding. The approaching party startled the bird, which flew away, apparently healed by the curative hot spring water. Feeling the event extraordinary (either way it happened), the King ordered that a town called "Tbilisi" be built on this side. "Tbili" in Georgian means warm.



Brick domes host the main baths, which flank Abano (Georgian for "baths") Street in the heart of Old Tbilisi. The baths are housed in subterranean caverns capped by the numerous beehive domes. There is also an aboveground bathhouse at the end of Abano Street with a more Islamic feel to it and which is beautifully tiled in blue. All the modern baths are fed by natural sulfide water from underground springs and are some 200 years old. Many travelers and writers have commented on their curative effects, including Alexandre Dumas. In the 12th century, there are just six. The majority of the current bathhouses were built during the 17th and 18th centuries. Despite some 19th century alternates, the original approaches and names of the baths have been kept.

Freedom Square

The site of many peaceful demonstrations leading up to 2003's Rose Revolution, Freedom Square was originally laid out by the Russians between the 1820s and 1870s. Originally called Yerevan Squire, it was Lenin Square until 1990; the Statue of Lenin has now been replaced by a fountain and a grassy roundabout. The square is dominated by what is now City Hall, a building ex expended in 1880 by German architect Paul Stern as the seat of power for the tsarist governor of the Caucasus. Today it remains the center of city government, including the Mayor's office, his deputies and other executive offices, and the city council. Mikheil Saakashvili served here as chair of the city Council at the time of the Rose Revolution, having been elected to local government in 2002.

Old Tbilisi

Once an important stopover on Silk Road, old Tbilisi is a unique mix of ancient cultures and religions. Within a one-kilometer radius, there is a Jewish synagogue, Muslim mosque, an Armenian Apostolic cathedral, the remains of a Zoroastrian fire temple, and several Georgian Orthodox churches. Only Jerusalem can match religions and cultures, yet old Tbilisi is denser and no longer troubled by ethnically or religiously motivated violence. Citizens of Tbilisi are proud of their city's historical reputation for tolerance and respect for all nationalities and religions.

Several of the beautiful caravanserai buildings (Silk Road-style trader's markets), traditional Tbilisian houses, with their decorative wooden balconies, as well as souvenir shops are also located along old Tbilisi's winding cobblestone streets.

Narikala Fortress

Dominating the city skyline, Narikala Fortress is an ancient symbol of Tbilisi's defensive skills. Its walls date from various periods; the earliest is from a 4th-century Persian citadel. The foundations and towers of the walls that remain today, however, are the work of Arabs, who ruled until the Georgian King David the Builder reconquered the city in 1122. St. Nicholas' Church, which sits inside the fortress, was constructed in 1996-1997 over the remains of the original 13th century church of the same name. There are superb views over Tbilisi from the top of the fortress.

Metekhi Church

Old Tbilisi is overlooked by the Metekhi Church, which sits on a rocky outcrop on the left side of the river. In the 5th century King Gorgasali, the founder of Tbilisi, built the first church on this site. A statue of King Gorgasali on horseback stands on the church grounds. A series of Mongol and Persian invasions destroyed the early church building, which was rebuilt several times. From 1819 to 1937, the Russian Tsarist regime used a building on this site as a jail, where many notable Russians and Georgian revolutionaries were locked up, including Maxim Gorky. The Soviet authorities converted the building into a museum and eventually into a theatre. In 1988, church services were renewed. There are spectacular views of old Tbilisi from the grounds of the church.

Sharden Street – Pedestrian area with restaurants.

The main walking street Sharden together with its parallel Bambis Rigi and Rkinis Rigi, and Erekle II a little further north, are narrow pedestrian streets lined with fashionable galleries and cafes. Now crowded and fussy place, one of key areas of Tbilisi nightlife, was formerly inhabited by artisans, handling shops and stores in 18-19 centuries.



IV. MAIN MUSEUMS IN TBILISI

GEORGIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

The museum covers the whole history of Georgia, containing archeological findings from Paleolithic period (Newly found human skulls of Dmanisi Hominids, dated back to 1.8million years are the oldest in Eurasia) to early Iron Age (13th century BC). The museum's treasury exhibits important finds from old Georgian kingdoms - Colchis and Iberia and other outstanding examples Georgia's history.

Address: 3, Rustaveli Ave. Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: 299-80-22

MUSEUM OF SOVIET OCCUPATION

The Museum of the Soviet Occupation is a history museum in Tbilisi, Georgia, documenting the seven decades of the Soviet rule in Georgia (1921–1991) and dedicated to the history of the anti-occupational, national-liberation movement of Georgia, to the victims of the Soviet political repressions throughout this period. It was established on May 26, 2006. The Museum is a part of the Georgian National Museum.

Address: 3, Rustaveli Ave. Tbilisi, Georgia. 4th floor

Tel: 299-80-22

GEORGIAN ART MUSEUM

The Treasury of the Museum contains masterpieces of Georgian art of the Middle Ages. It contains extraordinary works in gold, silver and jewelry and one of the world's largest collections of the cloisonné enamel. The pride of the collection is Khakhuli Triptych, the Icon of the Mother of God (10th – 12th cc).

The museum exhibitions include paintings of famous Georgian painters as well as the art works from Western Europe and Russia.

Address: 1 Gudishvili Str. Tbilisi, Georgia Tel: 299-99-09

THE OPEN AIR ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM

An open-air ethnography museum containing around 70 traditional dwellings and farm buildings from various parts of Georgia. It includes "darbazi", one of the ancient Georgian house.

Address: Turtle Lake Territory Tel: 272-90-45, 298-21-33

TBILISI HISTORY MUSEUM

Built by the last king of Georgia, George XII as a palace and Caravanserai, the museum houses thousands of items of history of Tbilisi: domestic implements, examples of clothing, weapons, coins, furniture, carpets, musical instruments, etc.

Address: 8, Sioni Str. Tbilisi, Georgia. Tel/Fax: 298-22-81, 298-21-33 E-mail: info@museum.ge

V. RESTAURANTS IN TBILISI

Source: www.tbilisi.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=4131

Restaurant	Cuisine	Address	Phone	Hours	Notes
Old House (Dzveli Sakhli)	Georgian	3 Right River Bank	236-53-65	12pm-12am	Live Georgian music and Georgian dancing- sometimes a little loud in main room
Café Leila (vegetarian)		18 Shavteli st.	555 94-94-20	12pm - 2 am	The best vegetarian restaurant in town
Black Lion (Shavi lomi)	Tbilisi	23 Amaghleba st.	2 93 10 07	12pm-2am	www.facebook.com/pages/Shavi-Lomi-Tbilisi-Cuisine/122512711165833
Funicular Restaurant	Georgian	Mtatsminda plateau	298-00-00	1pm-12am	Great view of Tbilisi, nice staff and good food.

Krtsanisi	Georgian	2 Gorgasali st.	272-47-88	12pm-1am	Nice atmosphere, decorated in old Georgian traditions with live music
Khinkali Center	Georgian	37 Rustaveli Avenue	577 78-76-65	9am-12am	Walk down stairs and enter into large, sparsely decorated basement. Khinkali are large dumplings filled with meat, potato or mushrooms
Entree	French	86 Agmashenebeli Street 7 Pekini Street 19 Petriashvili Street		8am-10pm	French artisan bakery chain. Entrée has eight cafés in Tbilisi
Baraqa	Georgian	33 Paliashvili St.	222-56-78	9am-9:30am	Only sells 5 varieties of Khachpuri-Georgian cheese-bread-fast food, casual atmosphere
Puris Sakhli	Georgian	7 Gorgasali St.	275-00-94	24 hours	Outside and inside restaurant. Very tasty food and pleasant live music of violin and piano
Baan Thai	Thai	35 Tabukashvili St	2 99 78 02		www.facebook.com/BaanThaiCuisineTbilisi
PurPur	Georgian	1 Abo Tbileli St. (old town)	247-77-76	12pm-2am	The decor and atmosphere is quirky, trendy, cosy and curious all at the same time.
Picasso	Chinese	4 Miminoshvili St.	298-90-86	12pm-12am	Near Babylon supermarket, off of Perovskaya
Prego	Italian	84 Barnovi St. 14 Erekle II St.	225-22-58 293-14-11	11am-23pm	Small and authentic-in Saburtalo region
Batonebi	American	64 Paliashvili Street http://batonebi.site.ge	225-06-69	11am-1am	American-style café/restaurant with diverse menu and good selection of sweets and chocolates
Prospero's Books	American	34 Rustaveli Avenue	292-35-92	10am-21pm	American Bookstore/café-great teas, decaffeinated coffee, and cappuccino. Also variety of salads and sandwiches
Reiners Cafe	German/ Italian	32 Barnov Street	299-54-29	12pm-12am	Comfortable atmosphere, good pizza and German food; rotating photography exhibits

VI. MONEY

The local currency is Georgian Lari (GEL) and tetri. The current exchange rate is approximately \$1.00 = GEL 2.28. No place will take USD and in bazaars, some shops, and taxis you can negotiate a price. There are 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 Lari banknotes and coins for 1 and 2 Lari, as well as the smaller change of 5, 10, 20 and 50 tetri.

ATMs

Automated Teller-Machines are located in all throughout Tbilisi. On the main streets there will be one on nearly every block, both at banks and at individual machines. Many shops/markets office have free standing machines.

Credit Cards

Many places in Tbilisi now accept credit cards including restaurants, shops, stores, and souvenir shops. However, this is mainly for Visa, followed by Mastercard, and American Express.

Money Changers

Most banks and large hotels change foreign currencies. Traveler's checks and American Express cards are rarely accepted. Apart from banks and hotels, small currency exchange booths scattered throughout the city offer competitive rates.

Georgian money depicts famous local writers, painters, composers, and historical figures.





VII. USEFUL INFORMATION

Emergency Phone Numbers

US Embassy: American citizen with an after-hours emergency may contact the duty officer at: (995 32) 227 7133 (If calling from the local cell phone: 032 227 7133)

Consular Section contact information: Address: 11 George Balanchini Street 0131 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: (995 32) 227 7724 (If calling from the local cell phone: 032 227 7724) E-mail: askconsultbilisi@state.gov

Police / Fire / Medical emergency / Safety concerns 112

MediClub (English speaking doctors): (+995) 599 581 991

Phone Calls

Making International Calls from fixed line telephones: 001+Country Code+Area Code+Telephone Number

International Codes for selected countries:

Country:	Country Code
1. Azerbaijan	994
2. Armenia	374
3. Russia	7
4. Ukraine	380
5. United States	1

For U.S. cell phones with auto roam facility

a) Making international phone calls from Georgia

Press "+", key for the Country Code of the destination to which you are calling, followed by the Area Code and telephone number of the person you wish to contact.

b) Making local calls from local cell phone in Georgia

For land line: Dial "032" plus the local 7 digit number. For cell phone: Dial the 9 digit number.

Making local call from a land line in Georgia

For cell phone: Dial 0 and 9 digit number. For land line: Dial 7 digit number.

Taxi Services:

2-200-200 or 2-511-111

Taxes are inexpensive: The price of a taxi ride within town is generally 5 lari or less. There is no tipping in taxi cabs.

Electricity

The voltage in Georgia is 220-240 volts AC. Electricity can often be very unreliable in Georgia, however electricity in Tbilisi is now usually very reliable. Hotels and Businesses most always will have a backup generator. Protect your electronics with a surge protection cord is strongly recommended.

Tipping

Georgians tip between 10%-15% for services such as restaurant meals.

Useful Websites:

President of Georgia: www.president.gov.ge

Parliament of Georgia: www.parliament.ge

The "Messenger", English Daily newspaper about Georgia (available online): www.messenger.com.ge

Civil Georgia an online current events news magazine about Georgia: www.civil.ge

Tbilisi City Info

www.tbilisi.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=1 or www.info-tbilisi.ge

IX. SDSU Georgia CONTACT INFORMATION

SDSU Georgia Address

5 Kostava Str.
Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Tel: +995 32 2 311 611
Cell: +995 593 498 512

Ken Walsh	Dean	558 174414	kwalsh@mail.sdsu.edu
Stephen Armington	Construction/Renovation Manager	555 768447	sarmington@mail.sdsu.edu
Lado Kiknadze	Fin/Admin director	593 307323	vkiknadze@mail.sdsu.edu
Elene Aladashvili	Director of Community Relations and Development	577 974004	ealadashvili@mail.sdsu.edu
Nino Chubinidze	Academic Director	599 305556	nchubinidze@mail.sdsu.edu
Keti Todadze	Dean's assistant/Student Affairs Coordinator	593 313400	ktodadze@mail.sdsu.edu
Nini Pantsulaia	Academic Relations Coordinator	577 278817	nino.pantsulaia@iliauni.edu.ge
Giorgi Usanetashvili	Driver	592 354563	usanetashviligary@gmail.com