

Georgia

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Georgian

Population: 3,700,000

Currency: Georgian Lari (GEL)

Area: 69,700

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Narikala Fortress', 'writeup': 'An ancient fortress overlooking Tbilisi, offering panoramic views of the city and the Kura River.'}
- {'name': 'Svetitskhoveli Cathedral', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site in Mtskheta, known for its architectural beauty and religious significance.'}
- {'name': 'Uplistsikhe', 'writeup': 'An ancient rock-hewn town that showcases early urban culture in the region.'}
- {'name': 'Gergeti Trinity Church', 'writeup': 'A 14th-century church located near Mount Kazbek, famous for its scenic mountain backdrop.'}
- {'name': 'Vardzia', 'writeup': 'A cave monastery complex carved into the cliffs, dating back to the 12th century.'}

Head of State / Government:

Salome Zourabichvili (President)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Tbilisi International Film Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event showcasing international and Georgian cinema, promoting cultural exchange.'}
- {'name': 'Rtveli', 'writeup': 'A traditional grape harvest festival celebrated with feasts, music, and wine-making rituals.'}
- {'name': 'Tbilisoba', 'writeup': 'A festival celebrating the city of Tbilisi with music, food, and cultural performances.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Georgian cuisine is known for its diverse flavors and unique dishes such as khachapuri (cheese-filled bread), khinkali (dumplings), and various meat and vegetable stews, often accompanied by local wines.

Brief History:

Georgia has a rich history dating back to ancient kingdoms such as Colchis and Iberia. It was a significant cultural and political center in the Caucasus, experienced periods under Persian, Ottoman, and Russian rule, and declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Important People:

- Joseph Stalin - Soviet leader born in Georgia
- Shota Rustaveli - Medieval poet known for 'The Knight in the Panther's Skin'
- Zviad Gamsakhurdia - First President of independent Georgia

Current Conflicts:

Ongoing territorial disputes with Russia over the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which declared independence but are recognized by most countries as part of Georgia.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Georgia: The Land of Ancient Culture and Stunning Landscapes
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Georgia
- Georgian Cuisine: Traditional Foods You Must Try
- History of Georgia: From Ancient Kingdoms to Modern Times
- Tbilisi Travel Guide: Exploring the Capital of Georgia