GEORGIA

AREA, GEOGRAPHY, AND CLIMATE

The Republic of Georgia is situated on the eastern shore of the Black Sea and bordered by Russia and the Caucasus Mountains to the north. Its neighbor to the east is Azerbaijan, to the south are Turkey and Armenia. Georgia is at a crossroads of European and Asian commerce, culture, and religion.

Georgia is 69,900 square kilometers, slightly larger than West Virginia. Starting in the east, Georgia’s landscape is largely semidesert. In the western portion lay the permanently snow-covered peaks and glaciers of the Caucasian Mountains, with summits as high as 5,000 meters. The peak of Kazbegi is a popular destination for climbers. The subtropical climate near the Black Sea coast nourishes citrus groves and tea plantations. Numerous rivers, including the Mtkvari and the Rioni, wind through Georgia’s mountains and valleys. Many of these rivers are used to generate hydroelectric power.

Protected by the Black Sea and Caucasus Mountains, Georgia’s climate is relatively mild. Seasonal temperatures range from winter daytime highs of 32°F–35°F to summer daytime highs of 86°F–93°F. Except in the subtropical regions, humidity is relatively low in summer. Spring daytime highs average in the high 60s to the mid 70s. The weather allows for outside activity most of the year.

POPULATION

Georgia’s population is 4.5 million, of which some two-thirds are ethnic Georgians. More than 80 other nationalities reside in Georgia, including Armenians, Russians, Azerbaijanis, Ossetians, Kists, Greeks, Abkhazians, Ukrainians, Jews, and Kurds.

Georgian is a proto-Caucasian language of the Iberian-Caucasian family and is spoken throughout the country. Most urban Georgians speak Russian; it is somewhat less common in the countryside. Among younger people, English is a more popular second language. The Georgian people call themselves “Khartvelee,” their country “Sakhartvelo” and their language “Khartoolee.” It is useful to speak some basic Russian or Georgian to use in one’s daily routine (at the market or for calling a taxi, for instance). Georgian is a unique language, unrelated to Indo-European or Turkic languages, with its own alphabet and vocabulary.

Christianity was spread throughout Georgia in the 4th century. Today, the majority of Georgians identify themselves as Georgian Orthodox, an autocephalic church (i.e. one with its own patriarch) similar to the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches. The unusual Georgian Orthodox cross, with its downward-bowed crosspiece, is ascribed to Saint Nino of Cappadocia, who introduced Christianity to Georgia. According to legend, upon entering Georgia, St. Nino took two grapevine branches and, with strands of her own hair, bound them together in the form of a cross.
Islam is practiced among sectors of the population of Tbilisi, in villages near the Azeri and north Caucasus borders, and in the autonomous republic of Adjara in the southwest. The Jewish population in Georgia dates back 25 centuries. Roman Catholicism is practiced by some Georgians, mostly in the west.

Reflecting Georgia’s religious diversity, one small area in Old Town Tbilisi has five different places of worship: a Georgian Orthodox Church, a Roman Catholic Church, a mosque, a synagogue, and an Armenian Evangelical Church.

As John Steinbeck once wrote: “If one tried to describe Georgia using one single word, the right word would definitely be ‘hospitality.’” Georgians receive guests as a “gift from God.” This hospitality is best seen at the “Georgian Table,” known as the Supra. The table is stacked with many traditional dishes, such as Georgian flat bread; khachapuri (a cheese pie); lamb, pork or beef shishkebab; roast pig; chicken or turkey in a walnut sauce; and accompanying tkemali, a spicy plum sauce. The traditional drink of Georgia is wine; grapes are grown throughout the country, especially in the region of Kakheti. Churchkhela is a special dessert made with walnuts or hazelnuts dipped into a paste made from boiled grape skins. A unique feature of the supra is the tamada, or toastmaster. Chosen by the male members of the table, the tamada offers a series of traditional, personalized toasts for the guests during the meal.

The family unit is important for Georgians. It is common for extended families to live together, often because of the housing shortage, but also because tradition has imposed a strong sense of obligation for family members to look after one another.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Georgia became 1 of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union when the Red Army invaded following a brief period of independence from 1918–21. For over 70 years, the Communist Party dominated the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic.

As the Soviet Union began to disintegrate, Georgia became one of the first republics to declare its independence. The first democratically elected post-Soviet government, headed by Zviad Gamsakhurdia, was overthrown in late 1991. In March 1992, former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze returned to his native Georgia to head a new State Council. Georgia held elections for Parliament in October 1992. Mr. Shevardnadze was elected Head of Parliament and Head of State.

Georgia adopted a new constitution in August 1995. The constitution provides for three branches of government: the Executive (President), Legislative (Parliament), and Judicial (Supreme Court). In November of 1995, presidential and parliamentary elections were held. International monitors described them as “generally free and fair.” Eduard Shevardnadze was elected to a 5-year term. Parliamentary elections in 1999 and the Presidential election in April 2000, especially the latter, were characterized as having numerous irregularities.

ARTS, SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION
Georgians are proud of their centuries-long cultural and academic traditions, many of which continue still. Georgians are renowned as talented dancers and musicians. The Georgian folksong continues an age-old polyphonic style, and even singers who have never practiced together can create complex and haunting harmonies. A traditional dinner usually includes Georgian folk songs.

Theaters in Tbilisi offer opera, symphony concerts, ballet, and drama. Tbilisi’s most famous theatrical company, the Rustaveli Theater, has performed throughout Europe and took its performance of King Lear to the 1996 Edinburgh Festival. There are also several other theaters, including a marionette and children’s theater where performances are offered in Georgian and Russian.

Tbilisi is home to Georgia’s finest history museums and art galleries. The Fine Arts Museum contains remarkable examples of ancient textiles and jewelry. The Georgian National Bank’s Museum of Money has examples of money instruments of the region going back four millennia. And the Ethnographic Museum is an unusual open-air exhibit depicting life at various times in all the regions of Georgia. In Tbilisi and throughout the country there are striking examples of Georgian ecclesiastical and secular architecture.

Georgia’s educational system is currently faced with pressures to reform to meet contemporary needs at a time when it is experiencing difficult financial problems. Georgian students attend school from age 6 and continue through graduation from high school. Traditionally, Georgians are highly educated and place great value on education. However, both the declining quality of education and declining school enrollment have had serious negative influences on the Georgian educational system, particularly its higher education.

**COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

The Georgian economy has been growing quickly since 2004 and attracting significant foreign investment as the government has steered the economy toward privatization, free markets, reduced regulation and control of corruption. The face of Tbilisi is being transformed by new construction and renovation of historic buildings. Real GDP growth reached 12.4% in 2007 and was over 9% in 2005 and 2006. Inflation was 11% in 2007. A strongly negative balance of trade is offset by inflows of investment, remittances and assistance from international donors.

Improved collection and administration of taxes have greatly increased government revenues. In four years, from 2003 to 2007, tax collections went up from 13.9% of GDP to 27%. The government has increased spending on infrastructure such as roads and electric energy systems. It has privatized nearly all of the largest state-owned industries, reducing opportunities for corruption. Georgia was recognized by the World Bank as the world’s fastest reforming economy in 2006 and as the 18th easiest country in which to do business in 2007, ranking higher than many Western European countries.

Since 2006, trade relations have been plagued by politically-motivated interruptions of exports to Russia of wine, fruits and vegetables and mineral water. In September 2006, all direct transportation links with Russia were severed. Georgian businesses are actively seeking new
markets for their products in the EU, Eastern Europe, North America and elsewhere with some success. Despite Russian sanctions, exports of goods grew by 15% in 2006 and 25% in 2007. Georgia’s main exports are metals and ores, wine, vehicles, fruits and nuts, cement and fertilizers. Its principal trading partners are Turkey, Russia, other countries of the former Soviet Union and Western European countries.

Average wages in paid employment have more than doubled since 2003, although more than 30% of Georgians still live below the official poverty line and many are self-employed on family farms. Efforts to improve the efficiency of government operations have required the government to release workers, pushing official unemployment above 14% in 2007.

Before 2004 electricity blackouts were common throughout the country, but now electricity is more reliable - particularly in Tbilisi. Georgia now exports electricity to neighboring countries. Because of conservation, new hydroelectricity sources and the availability of natural gas from Azerbaijan, Georgia’s dependence on Russia for supplies of natural gas is decreasing. The banking sector is considered to be relatively stable, and Georgian banks' assets and profitability are growing rapidly.

The United States and other international donors are assisting Georgia’s transition to democracy, an efficient and competitive economy, and poverty reduction. Georgia is one of the first countries to receive a compact, in the amount of $295 million over five years, from the United States Millennium Challenge Corporation, which offers grant assistance to countries that meet certain requirements for good governance and commitment to reform. The World Bank, EBRD, EU, OSCE and the United Nations are all active in Georgia. Their goals are similar, and include assisting in conflict resolution in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, energy and transportation development, legal and administrative reform, health, and many other areas.

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Automobiles**

Unleaded gas and diesel are widely available; leaded gas is no longer sold in Georgia. Some car parts for non-Russian vehicles are available, and vehicle servicing has improved. An increasing number of major international auto companies have opened local dealerships in Tbilisi. Most repair parts and local dealer mechanics are now available for Audi, BMW, General Motors (Opal and Chevrolet), Honda, KIA, Mercedes-Benz, Chrysler, Mitsubishi, Renault, Toyota, Nissan, Volkswagen, and Volvo.

Keep in mind that some models of these manufacturers that are sold in the United States may not be available in Georgia, and some parts may have to be imported for them (which could require a few weeks).

Driving conditions in Georgia remain chaotic, particularly in cities. Many drivers are inexperienced. Traffic laws are often ignored by drivers and not routinely enforced by police. While roads have improved greatly in recent years, many still prefer four-wheel-drive vehicles that tolerate the poor road conditions better than a conventional sedan. Roads outside Tbilisi are often in very poor condition. Russian-made vehicles are available at reasonable prices.
European and Japanese used cars are also available, but at prices somewhat higher than in the United States. Private cars and drivers can also be hired at reasonable rates by the month or for individual outings, however, some of these cars do not have seatbelts. Reliable taxi service, dispatched by phone, is now available in Tbilisi.

**Local Transportation**

In Tbilisi, an inexpensive underground metro system connects some outlying districts to the city. Power outages have stranded metro riders between stops in the past, though such incidents are rare now. Overcrowded buses, trolley buses and minivan taxis serve the inner and outlying areas of the city. The average taxi ride within the city is 5-10 Lari ($3.50-$7.00 at the current exchange rate).

**Regional Transportation**

Two train stations provide service to other regions of the country and to neighboring Armenia and Azerbaijan. The trains are in a condition below Western standards, and schedules are sometimes unreliable. Fares are reasonable, though the trains tend to be slower than buses. Border crossings when travelling by train can take 2-4 hours.

Tbilisi opened a new airport in 2007. A number of airlines operate international flights out of the airport, including Air Zena (Georgia's national carrier), Turkish Air, Lufthansa, British Midland Airlines, and Ukraine International Airlines. As of May 2012, destinations served by direct flights from Tbilisi include Athens, Baku, Dubai, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Kiev, London, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Prague, Riga, Tel Aviv, and Vienna.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Telephones and Telecommunications**

A large variety of long distance service providers exist with very reasonable prices. Domestic telegraph, fax, and wireless services are also available. More and more people in the city use cell phones in addition to or instead of home telephones because of the increasingly bad quality of phone lines and local telephone switching offices. Several commercial providers offer cell phone services and modern cell phone equipment at reasonable prices. A large variety of long distance service providers exist with very reasonable prices. Domestic telegraph, fax, and wireless services are also available.

**Internet**

Several Internet service providers offer increased bandwidth at reasonable prices. You may subscribe to a monthly service, pre-purchase connect time, or use a connection billed through the local telephone office. However, bad phone lines and low power can sometimes cause connection problems. But in general, the service is reliable. You can also use computers at several Internet Cafes in the city and at major hotels.

**Computer Equipment**
You can easily purchase state-of-the-art personal computers, printers, accessories, and software at local computer stores at about 20% more expensive than comparable U.S. prices. Several equipment manufacturers, such as HP and IBM, have local sales offices and also offer support services. You are advised to check the authenticity of software licenses carefully before purchasing software locally. Due to almost daily fluctuating electrical current, it is strongly recommended that you purchase an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) to protect your computer.

Mail

Georgian international mail service is very slow and subject to pilferage. It is seldom used by the American community. Federal Express and DHL are available in Tbilisi but are expensive.

Radio and TV

Georgia uses the PAL B format for its broadcasts; old channels were on SECAM. Cable television is available in Tbilisi for a reasonable monthly fee. Among many English programs are Discovery Channel, BBC World Service, Eurosport, CNN, Cartoon Network, TNT, ESPN, and SKYNEWS. Spanish, Italian, French, German and Russian programs are also available on cable.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

There are several small, daily and weekly English-language newspapers—among them *Resonance, Georgian Messenger, Georgian Times,* and *Georgia Today* — with varying degrees of English-language proficiency and factual content. There is an English-language bookstore that sells novels, guidebooks, newspapers, magazines, and videos at expensive prices. You can also rent English-language videos at this bookstore and at other video stores in the city.

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Medical Facilities

Local medical facilities are available for minor problems but are not equal to Western European or US medical standard of care. Two local expatriate clinics, Mediclub and IMSS, have western-trained physicians and fairly well stocked ambulances. Major medical emergencies are stabilized and then evacuated out of country. Hospitals are of Soviet style and many practices have a Soviet methodology and background. There are a few well-trained sub-specialists available, but with rare exceptions, only local stabilization is advised.

Environmental hazards include erratic driving; prevalent diseases include hepatitis A and rabies. Corrective lenses can be made inexpensively in Tbilisi, but there is no guarantee of quality. It is advisable to bring your up-to-date prescription lenses with you.

Most drugs are available locally but supplies are not predictable. It is highly recommended to include an ample supply of special medications or any over-the-counter medications that you rely on. Bring Pepto-Bismol, Ibuprofen or other non-steroidal pain medication, cold medications, Tylenol, multivitamins, an ointment for rashes and itching, an anti-bacterial ointment, mosquito repellant, and two first-aid kits for your home and car.
More information about the general health and medical situation in Georgia, as well as recommended and required immunizations, can be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control web site at [http://www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Note that there are many stray dogs in the city, and you should be protected against rabies.

**Preventive Health**

Sanitation standards and public health capabilities in Georgia are not comparable to US levels. Vaccine-preventable illnesses exist, as do a number of bacterial illnesses brought on by a lack of hygienic handling of food and an aging public water delivery system. The Embassy strongly advises against drinking untreated tap water. A serious risk for gastrointestinal problems exists, because water and sewer lines are old and have deteriorated. Bottled water is widely available and potable.

**Pest Management**

Occasionally ant infestations are a problem in Tbilisi. Flies and mosquitoes are thick during the summer months. Al fresco dining and outdoor parties are a common and pleasant part of summertime living in Georgia, so it is advised to bring a large supply of mosquito repellant.

**FOOD**

Georgia is known for its seasonal bounty of various food products and also for delicious breads. Fresh fruits and vegetables are abundant seasonally and imports during the winter are available. Although Georgian farmers do not use night soil for fertilizer, it is still recommended that fruits and vegetables be cleaned well before eating. Most Georgian food products are not enriched or fortified. Flour does not have added B-vitamins, the orange juice does not contain calcium, and there is no vitamin-D in the milk.

Georgia is an agricultural country; and as such, there are many open-air and covered markets selling locally grown fruit, vegetables, spices, nuts, and grains at reasonable prices. A growing number of supermarkets in Tbilisi sell imported food items. Local meat markets carry a full-range of poultry, beef, pork, and lamb products, although questionable sanitary conditions and a lack of refrigeration are sometimes inhibiting factors in purchasing unprocessed meat from these sources. There is a foreign-owned butcher whose store is quite popular in the American community. There are bread shops on every street corner in Tbilisi and several foreign-owned bakery shops that produce hand-dipped candies, pies, cakes, various types of breads and sweets. Salami and sausages abound in their variety and are safe when purchased at appropriate stores.

Generally, pork, beef, veal, lamb, imported chickens, and fish (freshness is not guaranteed) are available in the local open markets. Local meat vendors do not practice the art of carving: meat is cut off the carcass and, in general, is not trimmed to Western standards. Good quality cutting utensils, storage bags and a meat grinder are recommended in preparing meat for cooking or freezing. Those interested in freezing or canning fruits or vegetables should bring all supplies required.
Locally produced yogurt, sour cream, eggs, butter and cheese are available. Long-life milk (UHT - from 0.0% to 3.5% fat) is available and costs approximately $1 a liter. The selection of imported products (cheese and yogurt) has improved significantly in the past year. There is a small, but growing number of “supermarkets” selling expensive, imported food. These are generally small establishments with a limited variety and supply of products. You can find most food products in Tbilisi (usually not your favorite American brands, though). A new European-standard supermarket has open in Tbilisi that is located close to the NEC in Digomi. Many German and European products are available as well as Russian and Georgian products. A wide variety of fresh herbs, dried spices, fruit, and beans is available year round.

**UTILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

The electrical current in Tbilisi is 220 volts/50 Hz. Personal computer users should bring a high quality surge suppressor and an UPS. Power outages are common, especially in the winter.

**CLOTHING**

At present, only a few small private shops offer a limited supply of Western style clothing. It is advisable to bring all clothing and shoes. The climate in Tbilisi is similar to that in New York; thus, clothing for four seasons is needed.

Washable, lightweight cotton fabrics are appropriate for the late spring and summer months. Winter clothing is required for the cold months of November through March. It is not uncommon for women to wear pants to work or to social functions.

Good quality imported shoes are available, but they are very expensive.

Children’s clothes are available locally; inexpensive clothes are of poor quality and do not last long (which is not necessarily a problem as your children are growing), and good quality clothes are expensive. It is difficult to find good quality shoes at any price, inexpensive poor quality shoes are in plentiful supply.

**SUPPLIES AND SERVICES**

You may want to consider bringing an emergency supply of toiletries, coffee filters, cosmetics, hair-care products, sanitary supplies, tobacco, home medicines, common household needs, household repair items, candles, cleaning equipment and products, napkins, shower curtains and curtain hooks, and postage stamps. You can find many of these items locally, but imported items can be expensive and the supply is usually erratic. Locally produced laundry detergent is readily available and inexpensive, but if you prefer using an American product, you should not rely on the local market. In addition to children’s clothing and baby supplies, bring children’s art supplies, books, and toys. Bring a durable stroller because the roads and sidewalks are extremely bumpy. Disposable diapers are available locally with prices comparable to the U.S.

**Basic Services**
Tailoring, dressmaking, shoe repair, dry cleaning, beauty shops, and barbershops are available locally. Some people prefer to take their own supplies when visiting a local beauty shop. Dry cleaning and shoe repair services are available and inexpensive. Tailoring and dressmaking are done with care, and prices are reasonable.

**Religious Activities**

There are a variety of denominations represented in Tbilisi. Services are conducted in Hebrew, Russian, Georgian, and Armenian. Catholic services are conducted in English at a local church, and some Americans have opened their homes to sponsor Protestant Sunday School and Bible study.

**EDUCATION**

**Dependent Education**

The QSI International School of Tbilisi is an independent, coeducational day school, which offers an educational program for students of all nationalities, beginning at age 3. The School was founded in 1995. The School year comprises 3 trimesters, extending from August 25 to December 16, from January 9 to March 23, and from March 26 to June 14.

The School offers an outcomes-based educational program with a curriculum similar to that of U.S. public and private schools. Instruction, leading to individual mastery, takes advantage of small class sizes and the diverse educational backgrounds of the students. Instruction is in English.

Russian, French, German, and Georgian are taught as foreign languages. Advanced Placement courses are offered in biology, chemistry, calculus, world history, American history, French, and literature. The School also offers choral music, band, and drama. An after-school activities program for ages 5 through high school includes team sports, ballet, gymnastics, karate, chess, crafts, various clubs, and fine arts. The School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

In the 2011-2012 school year, there are 28 full-time and 3 part-time faculty members. The student/teacher ration is 8:1, which allows for individual assistance in all areas.

Contact information:
Director Mr. Jim Rehberg
Village Zurgovani, Tbilisi, 0126
+(995 32) 253-7670 Phone
+(995 32) 232-2607 Fax
Tbilisi@qsi.org
School website: [http://tbilisi-charters-ca.schoolloop.com/program](http://tbilisi-charters-ca.schoolloop.com/program)

New School is fully authorized International Baccalaureate World school in Georgia to offer all three programmes - Primary Years, Middle Years and the Diploma. There are two departments in our school, Georgian and English.
Please contact New School directly for more information:

director@newschoolgeorgia.com (Director of school)
esprincipal@newschoolgeorgia.com (Elementary principal)
usprincipal@newschoolgeorgia.com (Upper school principal)

School website: http://newschoolgeorgia.com/

RECREATION AND SOCIAL LIFE

Sports

Visitors can purchase memberships to one of several sports clubs.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

The city of Tbilisi is full of many interesting historic sites. The Old City has preserved its intricate maze of narrow, meandering streets and lanes. Steep cobblestone streets often end in stairs leading up the mountain; wooden balconies with intricate lattice or metal work encircle courtyards; domes of ancient churches and bathhouses catch the eye. Near the Sheraton Hotel is the 13th-century Metekhi Church with the monument to Vakhtang Gorgasali, the founder of Tbilisi. Dominating Old Tbilisi are the ruins of the 5th-century Narikala Fortress and the more recent gleaming statue of Mother Georgia.

One of the benefits of living in Tbilisi is proximity to the Caucasus Mountains. An excellent area to ski in winter and hike in summer is about 2 hours away by car to the village of Gudauri, which has a four-star hotel with indoor pool, tennis courts and bowling alley. Bakuriani, the other ski resort, is also 2+ hours away from Tbilisi and has decent guesthouses.

The lovely seaside city of Batumi on the Black Sea is reached in a 6–7 hour drive. A few new hotels have recently opened in Kobuleti, Poti, and Batumi, all with the large smooth pebble beaches typical of the Black Sea.

Rough camping is possible throughout the country, even near the capital city, but because of security and safety considerations, the Embassy recommends that campers go in groups.

Entertainment

You can find out what is going on in Tbilisi by visiting the website http://www.info-tbilisi.com/ (all information is in English).

Operas, ballets, recitals, concerts, plays, pantomime and the marionette theater are popular forms of entertainment in Tbilisi. Tickets are generally inexpensive.

There are many movie theaters in Tbilisi showing first-run American and other foreign films, usually dubbed in Russian. If a Georgian film is shown, it usually has English subtitles. One cinema offers feature length first run movies in English once a week.

Smoking

People in Georgia smoke extensively. They don’t have non-smoking policy in the restaurants, and only some restaurants have non-smoking seats. People can smoke practically everywhere, so be prepared.
Dining Out
There are a big variety of restaurants in Tbilisi offering American, Italian, German, French, Chinese, Mexican, Thai and, of course, Georgian food. All western-style hotels have restaurant, cafe and bars. Nightclub entertainment is diverse. Most people find Georgians warm and hospitable people with whom they develop quick friendships; informal gatherings at the homes of Georgians and members of the international communities are frequent.

NOTES FOR TRAVELERS
Travel time to Tbilisi from Washington, D.C., is about 24 hours in transit and 30–36 hours from the west coast.

Complex visa requirements in Russia make it more desirable to fly to Tbilisi from Western Europe, usually from London, Zurich, Frankfurt, Vienna, or Istanbul.

CURRENCY, BANKING, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
The Lari is Georgia’s official currency. Only Lari-based transactions are legal, but use of dollars is widespread. Georgia has several reliable banking facilities and money-wire facilities that can transfer currency into and out of Georgia.

Some banks and major hotels accept travelers’ checks and major credit cards. However, because of the risk of fraud and counterfeiting activities, it is recommended that you use your credit cards only in major hotels, stores and restaurants in Georgia. Outside of Tbilisi, cash is king.

RECOMMENDED READING
These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on Georgia. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

Bullough, Oliver. Let Our Fame be Great: Journeys Among the Defiant People of the Caucasus. 2010, Allen Lane/Penguin Books.
(http://www.penguin.co.uk/nf/Book/BookDisplay/0,9780141037745,00.html?strSrchSql=let+our+fame+be+great*/Let_Our_Fame_Be_Great_Oliver_Bullough)

(http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Politics/AmericanPolitics/HistoryPolitics/?view=usa&ci=9780195399769)

(http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/HistoryWorld/RussiaFormerSovietUnion/?view=usa&ci=9780195177756)


Barnard, Andrew. The Smart Guide to Georgia.

Burford, Tim. Bradt Travel Guide.


Gersamia, Tamaz. Old Tbilisi (photos).


Lordkipanidze, Mariam. Essays on Georgian History.

Nasmyth, Peter. Georgia in the Mountains of Poetry.


Rostaveli, Shota. The Knight in the Panther’s Skin.

Tolstoy, Leo. Hadji Murad. 1912 (Tolstoy served in the Russian Army in Georgia, and in 1851 he met the Chechen revolutionary, Hadji Murad.)


Shevardnadze, Eduard. Great Silk Route.