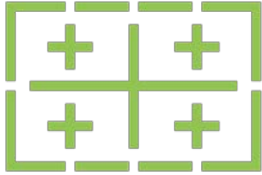


**GALA**

Georgian Association of Landscape Architects

**GREEN DAYS IN GEORGIA** 14-20 Oct 2018  
and **V International Landscape Forum** 18 Oct  
«Natural Landscapes in Urban Environment»





# GALA

Georgian Association of Landscape Architects

## PROGRAM OF EVENTS

14 October 2018

Arriving to Tbilisi

Tbilisi walking tour



Landscape architecture of Georgia in both villages and towns is a harmonious part of the environment. The geographical location of the Georgian capital Tbilisi has caused the specifics of the architecture of the city. Old buildings interflow with the natural environment and emphasized the plasticity of relief.

In the old town 11 royal gardens were located (XII century). The whole city was one well-designed garden. In Tbilisi the gardens were built for different purposes in different periods. For example Alexander Garden built in 1859 is a public garden for citizens. This garden was designed by gardener Sharer.

Main attractions of the city are in the Old Tbilisi with historical sulphur baths – **Abanotubani and Sharden Street** – a popular destination for tourists and locals. It has a lot of restaurants, outdoor cafes – bars, nightclubs and art galleries.

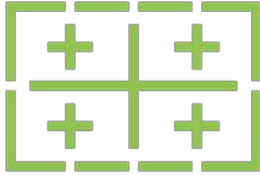
**Narikala Fortress** which towers can be seen from all parts of the Old Tbilisi has been build the IV-VI centuries to protect city government from invasion.

**Rustaveli Avenue** starts at the Freedom Square. This street is modern city centre where are public, social, cultural and business facilities are situated.

**Dry Bridge** is a place known for its open air daily exhibition and sale of paintings. Antiques market is also there.

**Agmashenebeli Avenue** is one of the oldest and most beautiful streets of Tbilisi, where you can admire the architecture of the XIX century with painted porches and original ornaments.





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## 15 October 2018

### Mtskheta bus tour



**Mtskheta Centre** is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The first settlers were there for about a thousand years BC

Mtskheta was a capital of ancient Iberia (modern eastern Georgia). The town, situated on the ancient trade routes of the Great Silk Road is 20 kilometres from the modern capital of Georgia, Tbilisi at the confluence of the Mtkvari and Aragvi rivers.

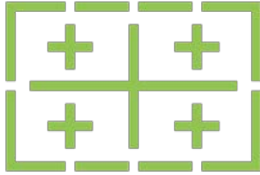
This city – a living chronicle of Georgia. Excavations on its territory has given a huge archaeological material of several millennia. Archaeologists found evidence that Mtskheta was an important place on the trade route. Ancient glass bottles of perfume, Greek and Aramaic inscriptions, ceramics, metal and jewels are at display in the city museum.

The ancient geographer Strabo described Mtskheta as a highly developed city with water supply system, markets and stone houses. Mtskheta was also the religious centre of the pagan period. After St. Nino has brought Christianity to Georgia a church was build there in about 337 BC

Despite the fact that the capital was moved to a fortified Tbilisi at the beginning of the VI century, the city of Mtskheta remained the place of coronation and burial of kings of Georgia, as well as a place of residence of the patriarch, also known as the Bishop of Mtskheta. Currently, in a beautiful renovated old town feel of calmness and provincialism, especially compared to the more dynamic Tbilisi.

**Svetitskhoveli Cathedral.** This monument of XI century Georgian architecture. For centuries it played an important role in the Orthodox life. The complex includes the church, the gate, the bell tower and clerical residences. In the cathedral Svetitskhoveli buried the tunic of the prophet Iliia and Jesus Christ. Also on the territory of the cathedral is buried the founder of Tbilisi, King Vakhtang Gorgasali. Construction of the temple coincides with a new phase of prosperity in Georgia. It is not only one of the main architectural structures throughout Georgia but Georgian church centre.

**Church of the Cross (Jvari).** Georgian Orthodox church of VI century is situated



# GALA

Georgian Association of Landscape Architects

on a hill right in front of the old capital. After the Christianising King Mirian III erected a wooden cross on the hill to mark the first years of the Christian life. In the 2nd half of the VI century Kartli governor built a small church next to the cross. Church of the Cross is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Here in Mtskheta we will visit the Georgian farmer family and try their home wine and chacha with Georgian traditional delicious lunch. The highlight of the day will be tasting Khinkali (traditional Georgian dumplings).

## Chateau Mukhrani bus tour



**Chateau Mukhrani** is located in the family estate of Bagrationi of Mukhrani (former Kings of Georgia) near the town of Mtskheta.

After his military career was finished the owner of the estate Ivane Bagrationi-Mukhranski made a trip to France. There he visited famous provinces as Bordeaux and Champagne where he learned the European technology of wine production. On returning to his native Georgia he settled in his estate in Mukhrani and decided that the estate needed a European style palace which must be the most luxurious, the most beautiful building in Georgia. And he called it "Chateau Mukhrani".

In 1873 the construction began. It was completed in 12 years.

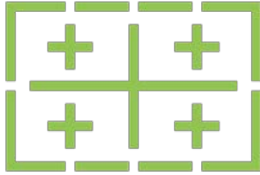
French specialists took part in the construction.

Garden of the palace was constructed by the gardener specially invited from Versailles. It still exists and attracts the attention of visitors.

The estate was once the cultural centre of the Georgian elite. Among the guests there were the famous Georgian public figures, writers, poets, such as Ilia Chavchavadze, Akaki Tsereteli, and others. Even Russian emperor visited Mukhrani.

In Soviet times the estate was neglected. Since 2006 extensive work on the restoration of the palace, wine cellars, stables garden and construction of the modern winery were carried out.

Now it is a terrific place which attracts visitors by its combination of ancient and modern which are harmoniously combined in palace, garden, vineyard, Georgian wine, Georgian food and traditions of Georgia. **Return to Tbilisi.**



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## 16 October 2018

### Kakheti bus tour



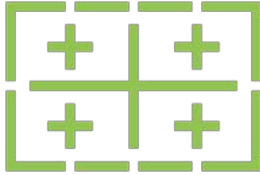
**Tsinandali** is historic park and the palace built by Prince Alexander Chavchavadze in 1889. The park was designed by the architect Arnold Regel. Park was designed in English style. The palace has been restored. There is a museum, a tasting room of famous wines and an exhibition hall. In the park you can visit the wine cellars of the 19th century. Georgia is home to grapes and vines. Culture of wine-making in Georgia is more than 8000 years old.

**Rtveli** is one of the most ancient traditions that has survived to the present day is a celebration of grape harvest and tasting of Georgian vintage wines.

**Sighnaghi-Town** of wine and love as it was named in recent years, is small beautiful town recognised as UNESCO World Heritage. Walking along romantic cobbled streets leading down the steep slopes, you can admire carved balustrade of balconies with beautiful views of the mountains and fine forged lattice doors. Sighnaghi is famous for its long old city fortification wall (4.5 kilometres) which stretches along several small mountain ranges. You can stroll on it and admire the view on Alazani Valley. Sighnaghi is the birthplace of the most famous Georgian artist Niko Pirosmani whose works were highly appreciated by Picasso.

**Bodbe Monastery** is located near Sighnaghi. This beautiful monastery is the most important place for Georgians because St. Nino who brought Christianity to Georgia in the III century was buried here. Her grave can be visited. You can also go down to the spring of St. Nino with iced cold water.

**Lunch in Kakheti. Return to Tbilisi.**



# GALA

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## 17 October 2018

### Borjomi bus tour



**Borjomi** – a resort famous for its mineral water is located in the Borjomi gorge at an altitude of 800 meters above sea level therefore all its buildings stretched in a line along the river. The city can be divided into the right bank and left bank. The route passes through all the left-bank part of the city.

Borjomi architecture is completely unique to Georgia. One of the most popular is Likani palace – villa in Moorish style which was built for Russian Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich in 1892-95 on the banks of the Kura River.

**Likani Palace and Garden.** Construction of the palace designed by architect Leon Benoit lasted three years and was completed in 1895.

The main feature of the Moroccan style – the adaptation of European design for the hot humid climate – caught on as well as possible in the Borjomi Gorge. The palace is designed in such a way that is always dry and cool inside The Palace contains a unique royal artefacts.

Among them the table presented to the royal family by French Emperor Napoleon; chair – a gift from the Shah of Iran, a table made by Emperor Peter the Great from the roots of walnut; pool table of Romanov time, Old Russian oven with images of animals of Borjomi gorge and much more.

Likani Palace later became one of the Summer Residences of Stalin who worked at the same room as Romanov.

Tourists can see two "historical" nails nailed by Stalin personally: one in the desk for caps and the other on the wall for his jacket.

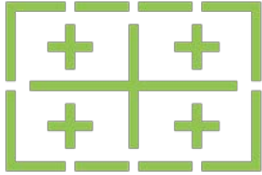
The so-called bedroom with "butterflies" is also very popular among visitors.

There are at least two legends why the walls were paint with butterflies.

One of them says that it was done at the request of the Emperor daughter and the other that one of the royal naturalist was so impressed with the variety of butterflies in Borjomi that proposed to paint them on the wall of one of the rooms.

Beautiful garden can be seen in front of the Palace. **Return to Tbilisi.**



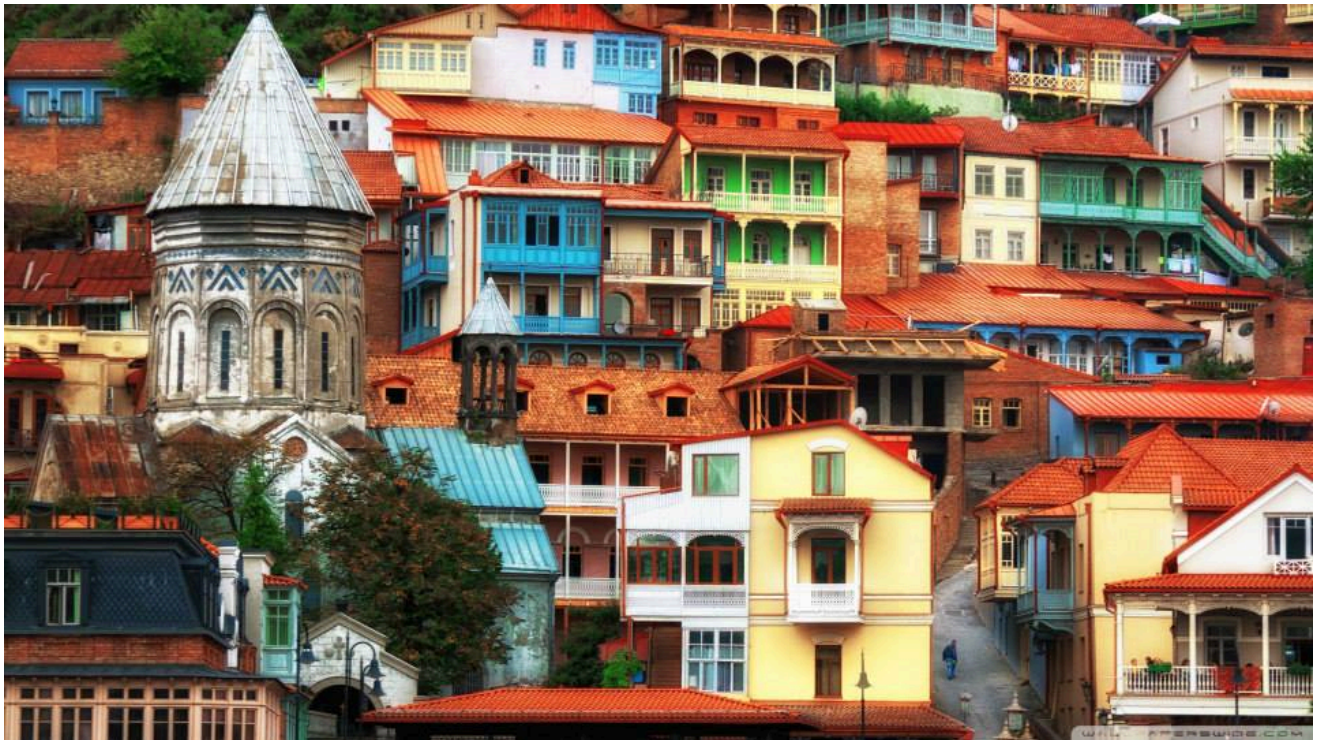


# GALA

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18 October 2018

## V International Landscape Forum

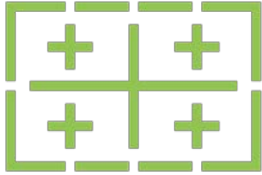


Please submit the title and abstract (max 250 words) of your presentation to organizer of the **V International Landscape Forum** Prof. Tinatin Khimshiashvili via e-mail [tinatinkhimshiashvili@gmail.com](mailto:tinatinkhimshiashvili@gmail.com). Deadline is **31 August 2018**.

Expected participants may include landscape architects and urban ecologists from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey, Baltic States, Russia, Italy, France, UK and other European countries, as well as thematic projects in Georgia supported by European (H2020, EBRD), US (USAID) and other international funding agencies.

**Agenda** of the V International Landscape Forum on «Natural Landscapes in Urban Environment» would be published around 10 September 2018.

V International Landscape Forum 2018 is organised by the Georgian Association of Landscape Architects (<http://GALA.com.ge>) and is supported in-kind by Municipality of Tbilisi City Hall (<http://Tbilisi.gov.ge>), Tbilisi State Art Academy (<http://art.edu.ge>), Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Georgia, USAID project in Georgia, Green Building Council of Georgia, Horizon 2020 project <https://ConnectingNature.eu> and its Georgian partner GeoGraphic (<http://GeoGraphic.ge>), ProCredit Bank Georgia (<https://ProCreditBank.ge>).



# GALA

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## 19 October 2018

### Gori. Cave city Uplistsikhe. Bus tour



**Gori** is one of the oldest cities of Georgia. Among the main attractions is Gori Fortress towering on the hill in the city centre, historical and ethnographic museum and the house-museum of Stalin and Ateni Zion Church.

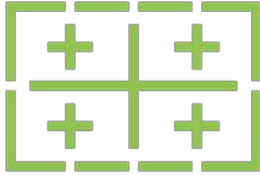
Though the main attraction is the house-museum of the most famous native of Gori Stalin. The museum complex includes the house where Stalin was born, exposition building with tower and Stalin's personal train car in which he travelled to Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam. The museum has his personal belongings in 2010, a monument to Stalin was moved the central square of Gori the museum.

In the 15-20 km from Gori, you can see the cave city Uplistsikhe.

**Uplistsikhe** – is an ancient city carved into the rock. Archaeological excavations of the 20th century indicates that in this area people were already living back in the XVI-XV centuries BC. In the X-VI centuries BC it was a big city. In the I-III centuries Uplistsikhe became an important military-strategic and at the same time a cult place. There is a legend that slaves has built Uplistsikhe. They were handed the tools coated with a layer of cheap metal under which was an expensive steel. The slave had to work with a tool to erase metal. After that he received as a gift a precious metal and a freedom. After the announcement of Christianity as the state religion in Georgia (30th years of IV century) the population in Uplistsikhe fell but still it remained a powerful fortress and an important strategic point.

**Return to Tbilisi.**





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20 October 2018

Tbilisi walking tour. Free time.

Departure from Tbilisi

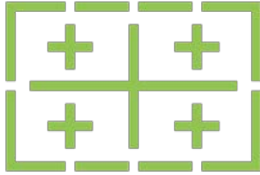


**Vake Park** is a beautiful park of the Soviet period (1937) designed by the Georgian landscape architecture with avenues radiating rays and Victory Monument.

**Tbilisi Ethnographic Museum** where house from different regions of Georgia were brought and the everyday life of previous centuries was reconstructed.

**Tbilisi Funicular.** The cable car leads to the Mtatsminda plateau to the marvellous park founded in the early 20th century and restored 10 years ago. Entertainment complex "Bombora" – the largest amusement park in the city. The observation deck with a cosy cafe and elegant restaurant offers an unforgettable view over the evening Tbilisi.

**Dry Bridge** is a place known for its open air daily exhibition and sale of paintings. Antiques market is also there.



# GALA

Georgian Association of Landscape Architects

## ORGANISATION OF EVENTS



The organizer and director of the **Green days in Georgia** and **V International Landscape Forum** – Tinatin Khimshiashvili, PhD, Professor of Landscape Architecture of Tbilisi State Art Academy.

Contact e-mail [tinatinkhimshiashvili@gmail.com](mailto:tinatinkhimshiashvili@gmail.com).

**Fee** for participation in **Green Days in Georgia** is **370 Euros**, and **100 EUR** only for participation in **V International Landscape Forum**.

This fee includes bus and working tours led by Georgian landscape architects, members of GALA (Georgian Association of Landscape Architecture), tickets to museums and parks and International Landscape Conference and coffer-breaks. GALA Dinner with national songs and dance performance (all other dinners are to be paid by participants, see other costs).

### **Other costs**

Fee does not include travel, hotel, lunches, dinners and other expenses.

Best to experience Tbilisi is by staying in Old Town area. The accommodation in the 3 stars hotels in the centre of Tbilisi may cost 50-60 Euros per person (single room) and 4 star hotels are available in a range of 100-150 Euros.

In case any advice need with hotel accommodation please contact organisers.

There is a wide range of apartments available at <https://airbnb.com> at 20-25 Euros, as well as at <https://booking.com>.

Transfer from the airport is about 15-20 Euros.

Dinner is around 5-10 Euros.

Please see more about Georgia at.