



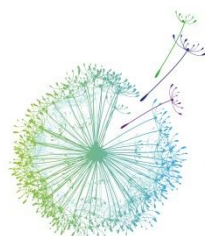
3rd Euro-Asian Mountain Resorts Conference

- Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Mountain Tourism Development -

4 - 7 April, 2017
Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi, Georgia

Information Note

24/03/2017



2017
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
FOR DEVELOPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

This information note provides details on administrative and logistical arrangements, along with other relevant information pertaining to your participation in the 3rd UNWTO Euro-Asian Mountain Resorts Conference. The information note is subject to change and will be updated.

1.1 The Host City



Georgia's ancient and vibrant capital city spreads out on both banks of the Mtkvari River. The name Tbilisi derives from the old Georgian word "tbili", meaning warm, due to the warm waters of the ancient city. Picturesque architecture with its old-style balconies, sites ranging from churches to mosques and synagogues, winding narrow streets, charming shops, ever-lively arts and cultural scene, renowned wines and cuisine and traditional sulphur bathhouses make Tbilisi a must-visit destination.

1.2 Georgia's Mountains



Georgia is one of the most ecologically diverse countries in the world, with climatic zones ranging from subtropical and high alpine to semi-desert. When it comes to the height of its mountains and variety of available treks, Georgia's High Caucasus offers a lot of options to the mountaineers. Georgia is a paradise for freeriders and heli-skiers.

1.3 Conference Overview

- **Title:** The 3rd UNWTO Euro-Asian Mountain Resorts Conference: - Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Mountain Tourism Development -
- **Date:** 4–7 April 2017
- **Venue:** Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi, Georgia
- **Host:** Georgian National Tourism Administration, Mountain Resorts Development Company of Georgia
- **Organizer:** UNWTO
- **Participants:** Approximately 300 participants Incl. local authorities, government officials, DMOs, private sector representatives, infrastructure providers and academia, UNWTO members and World Alps Cities
- **Official Languages:** Georgian, English & Russian (simultaneous translation will be provided)

2. PARTICIPATION

2.1. Registration and Identification Badges

The participation in the Conference **is free of charge** but **registration is obligatory**. Participants are kindly requested to [register online](#) and also provide information on their travel schedule to help the host make the necessary arrangements for transfers.

Moreover, the participants shall need their online registration confirmation in order to collect their conference badges at the registration counters on 4 April (14:00-20:00), 5 (8:00-17:00) and 6 April (8:00-12:00) located in the main venue, the Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi.

Access to the areas set aside for the meetings and to the social programme will be restricted exclusively to participants wearing identification badges.

Please note that registration will be closed once the number of participants reaches 300. The deadline for [online registration](#) is **31 March 2017**.

2.2. Visas

In order to enter Georgia, all participants are required to present their valid passports with appropriate entry visas, unless they come from one of the visa exempt countries. Participants are advised to obtain their visas in advance if required.

Holders of a valid visa for the United States, European member states, Schengen Area, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Japan, Iceland, Israel, Canada, Korea, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE may enter the country without a visa.

For citizens of the countries which require a visa to enter Georgia, E-visa option is available. For more information please visit: www.e-visa.gov.ge

For additional information please contact:

Mr. Sascha Stange Destination Management & Quality Programme World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) C/ Capitán Haya 42, 28020 Madrid, Spain Tel: +34 91 567 82 28 Fax: +34 91 571 37 33 sstange@unwto.org	Ms. Rusudan Mamatsashvili First Deputy Head Georgian National Tourism Administration Tel: +995 322 436999 r.mamatsashvili@gnta.ge	Mr. Tornike Zirakishvili Head of Georgian Convention and Exhibition Bureau Tel : +955 322 436999 (1812) t.zirakishvili@gnta.ge
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Nationals of the following countries, **DO NOT REQUIRE** a visa to enter Georgia:

Albania	Kuwait (Incl. resident permit holders)
Andorra	Kyrgyzstan
Antigua and Barbuda	Latvia (Incl. resident permit holders)
Argentina	Lebanon
Armenia	Liechtenstein (Incl. resident permit holders)
Australia (Incl. resident permit holders)	Lithuania (Incl. resident permit holders)
Austria (Incl. resident permit holders)	Luxembourg (Incl. resident permit holders)
Azerbaijan	Malaysia
Bahamas	Malta (Incl. resident permit holders)
Bahrain (Incl. resident permit holders)	Mauritius
Barbados	Mexico
Belarus	Moldova
Belgium (Incl. resident permit holders)	Monaco
Belize	Montenegro
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Netherlands (Incl. resident permit holders)
Botswana	New Zealand (Incl. resident permit holders)
Brazil	Norway (Incl. resident permit holders)
Brunei Darussalam	Oman (Incl. resident permit holders)
Bulgaria (Incl. resident permit holders)	Panama
Canada (Incl. resident permit holders)	Poland (Incl. resident permit holders)
Colombia	Portugal (Incl. resident permit holders)
Costa Rica	Qatar (Incl. resident permit holders)
Croatia (Incl. resident permit holders)	Romania (Incl. resident permit holders)
Cyprus (Incl. resident permit holders)	Russian Federation
Czech Republic (Incl. resident permit holders)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Denmark (Incl. resident permit holders)	San Marino
Dominican Republic	Saudi Arabia (Incl. resident permit holders)
Ecuador	Serbia
El Salvador	Seychelles
Estonia (Incl. resident permit holders)	Singapore
Finland (Incl. resident permit holders)	Slovakia (Incl. resident permit holders)
France (Incl. resident permit holders)	Slovenia (Incl. resident permit holders)
Germany (Incl. resident permit holders)	South Africa
Greece (Incl. resident permit holders)	Spain (Incl. resident permit holders)
Holy See	Sweden (Incl. resident permit holders)
Honduras	Switzerland (Incl. resident permit holders)
Hungary (Incl. resident permit holders)	Tajikistan
Iceland (Incl. resident permit holders)	Thailand
Iran	Turkey
Ireland (Incl. resident permit holders)	Turkmenistan
Israel (Incl. resident permit holders)	Ukraine
Italy (Incl. resident permit holders)	United Arab Emirates (Incl. resident permit holders)
Japan (Incl. resident permit holders)	United Kingdom of Great Britain
Jordan	United States of America (Incl. resident permit holders)
Kazakhstan	Uzbekistan
Korea (Incl. resident permit holders)	

3. PROGRAMME

3.1. Conference Programme

The Conference programme extends over two days with 5 technical sessions on 5 and 6 April 2017. Please find detailed information on the sessions' speakers and their biographies on the event's [website](#).

3.2 Social Programmes

The Conference will host a social programme for the participants and includes cultural performances and local gastronomy which allow for networking within a pleasant setting. Both events are on invitation only and the registered participants will be informed the days before the event if they are among the invitees. Further detailed information will be provided in due course on the event's [website](#).

Evening Welcome Reception Tue, 4 April, 20:00–22:00 Restaurant “Funicular”

Gala Dinner Wed, 5 April, 20:00–22:00 Restaurant “Gujari”, Mtskheta

3.3 Cultural Visit, Mountain and Ski Resort tours

Please be informed that a Cultural Visit to the City of Tbilisi on 4 April is part of the programme.

[Technical Visit: Old Tbilisi Walking Tour, 4 April 12:00-14:00](#)

Additionally all Conference participants are invited to enjoy the slopes of the Georgian Ski Resorts and will receive free ski passes.



Kazbegi – Stepantsminda – formerly Kazbegi is a town situated in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region in the north-eastern part of Georgia. The town is located along the banks of the River Thergi, 157 kilometers to the north of Tbilisi at an elevation of 1 740 meters above sea level. Stepantsminda, literary translated as “Saint Stephan” was named so after a Georgian Orthodox monk Stephan, who constructed a hermitage at this location on what the Georgian

Military Highway was laid later on.

Stepantsminda is known for its scenic location in the Greater Caucasus Mountains, and is a center for trekkers and mountain climbing. Local attractions include the Kazbegi museum and Ethnographic museum in town and the Gergeti Trinity Church outside the town, as well as Mount Kazbegi itself together with the surrounding alpine meadows and forests. Mount Kazbek is the third highest mountains in Georgia and the seventh highest peaks overall the Greater Caucasus Mountains. Its name in Georgian “Mkinvartsveri” translates as “Glacier” and it is elevated to 5034 meters.



Gudauri is the best ski resort in Georgia with well-developed infrastructure, the greatest difference in altitude, and unlimited possibilities for freeride and back country (ski touring). The resort is the highest settlement on the Georgian Military Road (the old name "Heavenly Gorge") at the altitude of 2000 m. The season in Gudauri begins in late December and lasts till

the end of April. From Tbilisi Gudauri can be reached in approximately 2 hours (120 km). 10 ski lifts and 3 moving carpets make available skiing and snowboarding along the southern slopes (70 km certified trails of various difficulty levels, 15% with artificial snow making system) at the altitude from 3250 m to 2000 m, with altitude difference of 1275 meters. Freeride is possible both along the trails near the ski lifts and in the neighboring area along the western and eastern slopes of the mountains Chrdili, Bidara and the northern slopes of Mt. Sadzele (Kobi Gorge). Adrenaline seekers also have the chance to try paragliding, speedriding (an extreme mix of skiing and paragliding) and heli-skiing.



List of travel companies providing special tours

<p>Caucasus Travel Address: 22 Peritsvaleba Str. Tel: +995 32 2987400, +995 32 2931175, Contact Person: Ketii AspindzelaSvili E mail: tours@caucasustravel.com Tel: +995 599 15 49 86 Web: http://www.caucasustravel.com/</p>	<p>GeorgiCa Travel Address: 5, King Erekle Str. Tel: +995 32 2252199, +995 32 2474720 Contact Person: Lika Tskitishvili E mail: lika.tskitishvili@georgicatravel.ge Tel: +995 593 999 664 Web: https://georgicatravel.ge/</p>
<p>Visit Georgia Address: 4a, Ingorokva Str. Tel: +995 32 2922245, +995 32 2922247 Contact Person: Khatuna Gabitashvili E mail: operation@visitgeorgia.ge Tel: +995 577684812 Web: http://www.visitgeorgia.ge/</p>	<p>Omnes Tour Address: 4, Abashidze Str. Tel: +995 32 2933400 Contact Person: Sopho Zuliashvili E mail: info@omnestour.ge Tel: +995 599 431343 Web: http://omnestour.ge</p>
<p>Exotour Address: 9, G.Tabidze Str. Tel: +995 32 2913191, +995 32 2997131 Contact Person: Mari Dvalishvili E mail: tours@exotour.ge Tel: +995 599413191 Web: http://www.exotour.travel</p>	<p>Georgian Discovery Tours Address: 80, Chavchavadze Avenue. Tel: Contact Person: Eka Mikadze E mail: eka.mikadze@gdt.ge Tel: +995 595995433; Web: http://www.gdt.ge</p>

<p>Living Roots Address: 3, P. Ingorokva Str. Contact Person: Tamar Natenadze E mail: tamara@travellingroots.com Tel: +995 599480086 Web: http://travellingroots.com/</p>	<p>Concord Travel Address: 82, Barnovi Str. Tel: +995 32 2225151 Contact Person: Nina Tabatadze E mail: Office@concordtravel.ge Tel: +599 574 257722 Web: http://www.concordtravel.ge/</p>
<p>Explore Georgia Address: 22, Peritsvaleba Str. Tel: +995 32 2921911, +995 32 2180201 Contact Person: Nina Ardishvili E mail: welcome@exploregorgia.com Tel: +995 595 777 670 Web: http://www.exploregorgia.com</p>	

4. ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

4.1 Arrivals

Tbilisi International Airport is situated 20 km from the city centre. The drive takes 20 minutes. Further information regarding the airport is available on the following website: www.tbilisiairport.com

Tbilisi International Airport offers direct flights to the following destinations:

Amsterdam	Hurghada	Sharjah
Aktau	Istanbul	Sharm el-Sheikh
Almaty	Kiev	Tehran
Astana	Minsk	Tel Aviv
Athens	Moscow	Urumqi
Baku	Munich	Vienna
Beijing	Riga	Warsaw
Doha	Rostov	Yekaterinburg
Dubai	Saint Petersburg	Yerevan

Air companies operating in Georgia:

Aegean Airlines	China Southern Airlines	Qeshm Air
Aeroflot	Dart	Scat
Air Arabia	EI Al	S7 Airlines
Air Astana	Fly Dubai	Taban Airlines
AirBaltic	Georgian Airways	Turkish Airlines
Air Cairo	LOT	Ukrainian Int. Airlines
Ata Airlines	Lufthansa	Ural Airlines
AtlasGlobal	Pegasus Airlines	Zagros Airlines
Azerbaijan Airlines	Pobeda	Yanair
Belavia	Qatar Airways	

4.2 Transfers

The hosts will make arrangements to welcome participants upon arrival at Tbilisi International Airport. Please look for the “3rd UNWTO Euro-Asian Mountain Resorts Conference” sign at the gate. More detailed information on airport arrangements will be provided in due course.

Courtesy shuttle services will also be provided between the Tbilisi International Airport, the designated hotels and the main venue during the Conference, the Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi. In order to facilitate the arrival/departure procedures, all international participants are required to provide information on their flight schedules during the registration process or inform the Secretariat accordingly.

Day 1:

Transfer from Tbilisi International Airport to the designated hotels.

Transfer from designated hotels to the Welcome Reception and back.

Day 2:

Transfer from designated hotels to the venue of the conference.

Transfer from the venue of the conference to the restaurant and back to the designated hotels.

Day 3:

Transfer from the designated hotels to the venue of the conference and back.

Day 4:

Transfer from the designated hotels to the Tbilisi International Airport.

5. ACCOMMODATION

5.1 Hotel Reservations

Due to the high occupancy rate in Tbilisi during April it is highly recommended for each participant to make necessary reservations as early as possible. See the special rates of the partner hotels below, which are applicable during the dates of the conference and note that the hotels will not be able to guarantee special discounted rates and regular rates will be offered after the dates indicated.

Please note that participants are responsible for all costs associated with accommodation.

5.2 Recommended Hotels

The main venue is the Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi which is located in the downtown area with most of its attractions and touristic sights within walking distance and it is pleasant and convenient for travellers. It is easily accessible from the airport, bus terminals, and shopping centres.

A Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi (Main Venue)

Address: 29 Shota Rustaveli Avenue.

0108 Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: + 995 32 72 72 72; Mob: +955 579010701

E-mail:

ketevan.rekhviashvili@biltmorecollection.com

Website:

<https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/tbilisi/the-biltmore-hotel-tbilisi/>

In order to make bookings, please follow the [link](#).



The host has additionally blocked some rooms with special rates in business hotels which are close to the main venue.

B. Tbilisi Marriott

Address: 13 Shota Rustaveli Avenue.
0108 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: +995 32 277 92 00; Mob: +995 591 704 790;
E-mail: natia.nanobashvili@marriott.com;
mariam.sekhniashvili@marriott.com;
Website: www.tbilisimarriott.com



C. Courtyard by Marriott Tbilisi

Address: 4 Freedom Square.
0108 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: +995 32 277 92 00; +995 591 704 790;
E-mail: natia.nanobashvili@marriott.com ;
Mariam.sekhniashvili@marriott.com
Website: www.tbilisimarriott.com



D. Citadines City Centre Tbilisi

Address: 4 Freedom Square.
0105 Tbilisi; Georgia
Tel: +995 32 254 70 30
E- Mail: tbilisi@citadines.com
Website: www.citadines.com



E. Hotel Citrus

Address: #3, 9 April Street.
0108 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: +995 32 2550300,
E- Mail: info@hotelcitrus.ge
Website: www.hotelcitrus.ge



D. Radisson Blu Iveria

Address: Rose Revolution Square 1.
0108 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: +995 322 40 22 00; Mob: +995 577 717 874; +995 577 24 55 55
E-mail: david.berozashvili@radissonblu.com ;
eka.tvaladze@radissonblu.com
Booking: see [link](#)



5.3 Hotel Booking

Participants are highly recommended to reserve accommodation at their earliest possible. Subsequent to the deadline, the hotels will not be able to guarantee special discounted rates and regular rates will be offered.

Payment will be made directly in the hotel. Credit cards are requested as a guarantee of the reservation. Payment by Credit Card: Payment with Visa Card, Master Card, Amex or Diners is accepted. The following details are however to be provided to confirm the reservation:

- Type of credit card: Visa/ MasterCard/Amex/ Diners
- Expiry date
- Cardholder's name and surname signature

Please note that in order to make bookings and obtain the preferential rates, reservations should be made directly through the hotel indicating the code "UNWTO" by following the links or e-mail instructions provided for the respective hotels below.

Hotel	Room Type	Room Rate	
		Singe	Double
Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi (Main Venue) ¹	Deluxe	USD 140 (EUR 130)	USD 170 (EUR 160)
	Premium	USD 170 (EUR 158)	USD 200 (EUR 187)
	Junior Suite	USD 240 (EUR 223)	USD 270 (EUR 252)
	Executive	USD 290 (EUR 270)	USD 320 (EUR 300)
	Royal Suite	USD 2140 (EUR 2022)	USD 2170 (EUR 2051)
Tbilisi Marriott (0.5km from Main Venue) ²	Deluxe Room	USD 150 (EUR 140)	USD 170 (EUR 160)
	Superior Room	USD 170 (EUR 160)	USD 190 (EUR 177)
	Executive Room	USD 190 (EUR 177)	USD 210 (EUR 196)
Courtyard by Marriott Tbilisi (1.1km from Main Venue) ³	Deluxe Room	USD 115 (EUR 100)	USD 130 (EUR 121)
	Superior Room	USD 135 (EUR 126)	USD 150 (EUR 140)
Citadines City Centre Tbilisi (1.1km from Main Venue) ⁴	Studio Room	USD 85 (EUR 80)	USD 95 (EUR 89)
	One-Bedroom Deluxe Apartment	USD 100 (EUR 93)	USD 110 (EUR 103)
	One-Bedroom Executive Apartment	USD 115 (EUR 107)	USD 125 (EUR 117)
Hotel Citrus (1.0 km from Main Venue) ⁵	Standard Room	USD 75 (EUR 70)	USD 95 (EUR 89)
	Junior Suite	USD 135 (EUR 126)	USD 155 (EUR 145)
Radisson Blu Iveria (0.2 km from Main Venue)	Superior Room	USD 145 (EUR 135)	USD 165 (EUR 154)
	Business Class	USD 155 (EUR 145)	USD 175 (EUR 164)

¹Rates are quoted per room, per night, inclusive of buffet breakfast and excluding VAT.

²Rates are quoted per room, per night, Incl. breakfast and excluding VAT.

³Rates are quoted per room, per night, Incl. breakfast and excluding VAT.

⁴Rates are quoted per room, per night, inclusive of continental breakfast and VAT.

⁵Rates are quoted per room, per night, inclusive of buffet breakfast and VAT.

⁶Rates are quoted per room, per night, inclusive of buffet breakfast and excluding VAT.

Cancelation Policy:

The Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi:	<i>Cancellation before -25.03.2017 – no penalty.</i>
Tbilisi Marriott:	<i>Cancellation before -16.03.2017 – no penalty Cancellation after -17.03.2017 – 50% of total room revenue Cancellation after – 24.03.2017 – 100 % of total room revenue</i>
Courtyard by Marriott Tbilisi:	<i>Cancellation before -16.03.2017 – no penalty Cancellation after -17.03.2017 – 50% of total room revenue Cancellation after – 24.03.2017 – 100 % of total room revenue</i>
Citadines City Centre Tbilisi:	<i>Free Cancellation until 13h of March. If cancelled after 13.03.2017 room charge for 1 night will be applied.</i>
Hotel Citrus:	<i>Free Cancellation until 25th of March. If cancelled after 25.03.2017 room charge for 1 night will be applied.</i>
Radisson Blu Iveria:	<i>Given prices are valid until 17.03.2017 – Cancellation after - 17.03.2017 – 100% of total room revenue</i>

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

7.1 Climate

Tbilisi has a humid continental climate, with warm to hot summers and cold winters. The average annual temperature in Tbilisi is approximately 24.4 °C (75.9 °F). The absolute minimum recorded temperature is -24 °C (-11 °F) and the absolute maximum is 40.3 °C (104.5 °F) Average temperature in September is 19°C (66°F) to 26°C (79°F)

7.2 Official time

Standard Time Zone: GMT/UTC + 04:00 hour

7.3 Currency and Banking

The official currency in Georgia is the Georgian Lari (GEL)

Exchange rate as of 8.2.2017: **1 USD=2,64 GEL; 1 EUR=2,83 GEL**

Currency exchange is available at banks, airports and major hotels in Georgia. ATM services are also available at most hotels in Georgia, including the Conference venue.

7.4 Credit Cards, Shopping and Tipping

Most shopping malls and big stores, hotels and restaurants in Georgia accept major international credit cards. However, it is recommended to carry some cash since some small establishments and stores may not accept credit cards.

Bargaining is a custom in Georgia, and when you visit make sure you exchange your money for GEL. It will make your stay much more enjoyable.

When dining, you will more than likely see a 10% service charge added to your bill. If it has not been added, you can leave a gratuity of around 10 to 15%.

7.5 Language

The native language is Georgian; but most people speak English and Russian. Business meetings are usually held in English

7.6 Electricity

The power supply in Georgia is 220-240V/50 Hz (two round pins). Adaptors and converters may be needed if you are traveling from countries that use 110V or other types of plugs.



7.7 Local & International Phone Calls

For international inbound calls, the country code is +995, and the area code for Tbilisi is 32.

7.8 Tourist Information Georgia

Please see Visit Georgia's website for more information: <http://georgia.travel>

7.9 Useful Telephone Numbers

Fire/Medical Emergencies: 112	Airport Directory: 231 03 41, 231 04 21
Police: 112	Tbilisi Tourism Information Center: +995 322 15 86 97