

Shifting Tides: Exploring Conflict Dynamics in the Black Sea Region

Black Sea Summer University Booklet

14-20 July, 2024 | Tbilisi, Georgia

The programme is organized by the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE) in partnership with the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP), with support of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and New Vision University.

The Summer School is organized under the project "Mapping and mitigating Georgia's Resilience Risks," which was co-sponsored by the NATO Public Diplomacy Division in Georgia and the British Embassy in Tbilisi.

July 14th, Sunday

The Arrival of the Participants
Accommodation

July 15th, Monday

New Vision University

11 Nodar Bokhua Street, 0159, Tbilisi

9:30- 9:55

Registration with coffee

10:00 - 11:00

Welcoming remarks:

Prof. Kornely Kakachia, Director, Georgian Institute of Politics

Marie-France PERDIGON, Director, Summer University Programme, CIFE Nice

Prof. George BARKALAIA, New Vision University, Georgia

Prof. David KERESLIDZE, New Vision University, Georgia

Presentation of the candidates

11:00 - 12:30

Europe: United in Diversity? Means for Protecting Minority Rights and Languages

Prof. Benedikt HARZL, Associate Professor, Centre for East European Law and Eurasian Studies and the Institute of International Law of the Law School of the University of Graz

Prof. Jürgen PIRKER, Full Professor of Law and Governance, University of Graz; Member of the Committee of Experts under the CoE Language Charter

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

Building Resilience in the Black Sea Region: Climate Policy and Geopolitical Challenges

Prof. Michael LUKEN, Professor in International Relations, New Vision University, Georgia

16:00 - 18:00

Organized walking tour in Tbilisi

July 16th, Tuesday

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi

Auditorium 115

9:00 - 09:30

Registration with coffee

09:30 - 10:00

Welcoming Remarks

Prof. Salome DUNDUA, Dean, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

10:00 - 11:30

The Last Fight - Geopolitical Rivalries and the Role of Societal Resilience (Georgia and Armenia)

Prof. Shalva DZEBISASHVILI, Associate Professor and Head of the Political Science and International Relations Programs, the University of Georgia

11:45 - 13:15

Hybrid Warfare in the Black Sea Region and Implications for Georgia

Amb. Vano MATCHAVARIANI, Expert on Strategic and International Affairs; Former Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia

13:15 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 16:00

Black Sea Region and Georgia in the U.S. Foreign Policy Agenda: Key Take Aways of the NATO Washington Summit

Mikheil DARCHIASHVILI, Affiliated Professor and Member of Governing Board at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA); Former Deputy Defence Minister

16:00 - 17:00

Free time to visit Tbilisi



საქართველოს პოლიტიკის ინსტიტუტი
GEORGIAN INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

afe Institut européen
European Institute



July 17th, Wednesday

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi

Auditorium 115

9:30 - 10:00

Registration with coffee

10:00 - 11:30

National Perspectives to European Security Challenges in the Black Sea Region

Florent MARCIACQ, Senior Fellow at the Centre international de formation européenne, Research associate at the French institute of international relations (Ifri)

11:45 - 13:15

Media and Information Warfare in the Black Sea Region

Florent PARMENTIER, General Secretary, Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po (CEVIPCF)

13:15 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 16:00

Energy Politics and Resource Competition in the Black Sea Region

Florent PARMENTIER, General Secretary, Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po (CEVIPCF)

16:00 - 17:00

Free time to visit Tbilisi

July 18th, Thursday

Full Day Excursion to Uplistsikhe



საქართველოს პოლიტიკის ინსტიტუტი
GEORGIAN INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

cfé Institut européen
European Institute



British Embassy
Tbilisi



**NEW VISION
UNIVERSITY**

July 19th, Friday

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University - Auditorium 107

1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi
Auditorium 115

9:30 - 10:00

Registration with coffee

10:00 - 11:30

Georgia's Euro-Atlantic Future: Prospects and Challenges

Prof. Kornely KAKACHIA, Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University; Georgian Institute of Politics

11:45 - 13:15

The Geopolitics of EU Enlargement in the East

Florent MARCIACQ

Senior Fellow at the Centre international de formation européenne, Research associate at the French institute of international relations (Ifri)

13:15 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 16:00

Exams for ECTS Credits for the students wishing to acquire Credits

Free afternoon for the others

16:30 - 17:30

Closing ceremony and distribution of the Certificates

July 20th, Saturday

Departure of the international participants

LECTURERS & SESSION OVERVIEWS

Prof. Benedikt HARZL, Associate Professor, Centre for East European Law and Eurasian Studies and the Institute of International Law of the Law School of the University of Graz

Associate Professor Dr. Benedikt C. Harzl is based at the Centre for East European Law and Eurasian Studies of the Law Faculty of the University of Graz. He is General Editor of the journal *Review of Central and East European Law* and the book series *Law in Eastern Europe* (Brill Nijhoff). He graduated in Law at the University in Graz and completed his MA studies in "East European Studies" at the Free University of Berlin (2010). After working at the Institute for European Studies in Minsk and the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin he was a researcher at the European Academy in Bolzano/Bozen (2007–2012) and worked as a university researcher at the REES Centre (2012-2016). He completed his PhD in law at the University of Frankfurt and was based at Johns Hopkins University as a Marshall Plan Foundation Fellow (2016-2017). His habilitation thesis examined matters pertaining to international law in the post-Soviet space. He is co-editor of *Unrecognized Entities: Perspectives in International, European and Constitutional Law* (Brill Nijhoff, 2022) as well as *Diversity Management in Russia* (Routledge, 2013).

Prof. Jürgen PIRKER, Full Professor of Law and Governance, University of Graz; Member of the Committee of Experts under the CoE Language Charter

Prof. Jürgen Pirker is Professor for Law and Governance and Head of the Department of Global Governance at the Institute for the Foundations of Law of the University of Graz. He has held several international research and teaching positions, such as a Substitute-Professorship at the Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg (Germany), Visiting Professorship at Bar Ilan University (Israel), Fulbright Scholarship at University of Denver (USA), Guest Professorship at University of Minnesota (USA), Guest Lectureships at University of Nanjing (China), Batumi (Georgia), or the Interuniversity Center Dubrovnik (Croatia). Having graduated in Law and History, his teaching and research focusses on public law, as well as, interdisciplinary issues at the intersection of public law, history and politics, particularly in the fields of: fundamental rights protection, minority rights, cultural diversity and interactive conflict transformation in Europe.

Topic: "Europe: United in Diversity? Means for Protecting Minority Rights and Languages"

The current rise of identity politics in Europe poses challenges for the protection of minority languages and minority rights. The presentation will explain the basics of protecting diversity within the framework of the Council of Europe by discussing the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The presentation will analyze how the Council of Europe monitors the obligations of these core instruments, despite the vague wording of the international documents. Case studies will range from the problems of indigenous groups to the inclusion of new or classical minority groups. Finally, the presentation will consider how other means, such as interactive conflict resolution, can complement legal means to address identity politics.

Prof. Michael LUKEN, Professor in International Relations, New Vision University, Georgia

Prof. Michael Luken is an invited lecturer in International Relations at New Vision University, Georgia. He holds a Master's degree in Physics (Heidelberg University) and a PhD in Economics (Technical University Berlin). He was a researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and worked on model-based analyses of global mitigation strategies and their political and economic implications. Michael has a passion for teaching and government consulting on energy and climate-related topics. In 2015-2016, he was also a Lecturer at Humboldt-University Berlin.

Topic: "Building Resilience in the Black Sea Region: Climate Policy and Geopolitical Challenges"

In an era characterized by multiple crises, the concept of resilience gains growing attention: the ability to successfully deal with external shocks. This lecture examines the intersection of resilience, climate policy, and international relations with a focus on the Black Sea Region. Using case examples, the lecture highlights the dynamics of energy trade dependencies and current political conflicts, underscoring the urgent need for proactive measures in building resilience. Specifically, for countries in the Black Sea Region, further integration with European institutions and the continued strengthening of open civil societies are inevitable steps in enhancing resilience in the face of geopolitical challenges.

LECTURERS & SESSION OVERVIEWS

Prof. Shalva DZEBISASHVILI, Associate Professor and Head of the Political Science and International Relations Programs, the University of Georgia

Shalva Dzebisashvili received a doctoral fellowship (GEM-Erasmus Mundus) from the European Commission in September 2012, successfully defended his thesis and was awarded the doctoral degree at the Free University Brussels (IEE-ULB, Brussels) and University Bielefeld (Germany) in January 2016. In 2008-09 he successfully completed an M.A. course in Strategic Security Studies at the NDU (Washington D.C.) and consequently took over the position of Senior Civilian Representative of Georgian MOD (Defense Advisor) to the Georgian Mission to NATO in 2009-2012. From 2003 to 2009 and from 2016-to 2019 he served at various senior defense policy and planning related positions at the Georgian Ministry of Defense. In October 2017 he assumed the capacity of a program manager for developing courses such as Strategic Policy and Planning, and Public Policy and Reporting at the Defense Institution Building School (DIBS). Currently he is an associate professor and the head of the Political Science and International Relations Program at the University of Georgia and leads the VW-funded post-doc project on institutional transformation and social practices in Georgia and Armenia. Dr. Dzebisashvili is actively collaborating with various Georgian non-governmental organizations and think-tanks such as the Civil Council on Defense and Security (CCDS), the Georgian Strategic Analysis Center (GSAC), the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP) and is author of multiple academic articles and other publications.

Topic: *"The Last Fight - Geopolitical Rivalries and the Role of Societal Resilience (Georgia and Armenia)"*

As the post-soviet area increasingly entered the "hot period" of geopolitical contestation, aggressively triggered by Russia since 2020, the nature of mechanisms applied by conflicting parties in the South Caucasus to gain upper hand and ultimate domination begs for a clear exploration and explanation. We will discuss the elements of national power of Russia and EU/USA as an integral concept of power projection in the region in a comparative manner, and will try to establish the key relevance of the societal awareness and resilience in combating. i.e. resisting to policies and actions that undermine public trust in state, cohesion and national interests in Armenia and Georgia.

Ambassador Ivane MATCHAVARIANI, Former Ambassador, Georgian Embassy to Japan/Co-Chairman of the Executive Board at the Georgian Strategic Analysis Center (GSAC)

Vano Matchavariani is an expert on strategic and international affairs and political commentator whose career spans foreign relations, diplomacy, business, academia and the non-profit sector. Most recently, he served as Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia. Previously, he was Executive Director of the Georgia Development Foundation, Deputy CEO for External Relations at JSC Partnership Fund, and Advisor on Foreign Relations to President Giorgi Margvelashvili. Mr. Matchavariani served as Ambassador to Japan from 2007 to 2009 and as Ambassador-at-Large/Special Envoy on Energy Security Issues in Georgia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2007. From 2004 to 2007, Mr. Matchavariani was in the private sector as Director's Representative for External Relations for the Australian listed company Bolnisi Gold and then as a member of the Supervisory Board of the Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation. From 1998 to 2002, he was Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations in New York. In 1997 and 1998, he was Assistant on Foreign Affairs to Chairman of the Parliament Zurab Zhvania. In 1996, he was a visiting fellow at the Institute for Conflict Management and Resolution at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. From 1996 to 1997, he founded and ran the Georgian office of the NGO Partners for Democratic Change. Mr. Matchavariani holds a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC, a graduate diploma in European Studies from the Central European University (CEU) in Prague, Czech Republic, and an undergraduate diploma from the Georgian Polytechnical University. He has taught foreign policy at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs.

Topic: *"Hybrid Warfare in the Black Sea Region and Implications for Georgia"*

The lecture seeks to analyze the multifaceted security challenges in the Black Sea region, with a particular focus on the implications of hybrid warfare for Georgia. It will explore how the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has influenced the security dynamics in Georgia and the broader Black Sea area, as well as how it has altered the international perception of Russia. Additionally, the lecture will delve into Georgia's strategic interests and how these are viewed by various regional and international stakeholders. The Black Sea is central to Georgia's national identity and aspirations, and the recent geopolitical shifts in the region offer both prospects for advancement and obstacles that must be navigated carefully.

LECTURERS & SESSION OVERVIEWS

Mikheil DARCHIASHVILI, Affiliated Professor and Member of Governing Board at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA); Former Deputy Defence Minister

Mikheil (Misha) Darchiashvili has over 20 years of professional experience in international development, international relations, and national security including as a senior government official. Mr. Darchiashvili started a diplomatic career at the Political-Military Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia in 2001 where he held different positions. He worked at the Georgian Mission to NATO, NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium initially as a first secretary, and later as a political counselor (2004-2008). In 2008-2013 years, he served at the Embassy of Georgia to the United States in Washington DC, initially as senior counselor, and later as minister plenipotentiary. In 2013-2014 years, Mr. Darchiashvili served as Deputy Defense Minister of Georgia. In this capacity he was responsible for international relations with a focus on Georgia's NATO membership process, U.S.-Georgia Defense Cooperation as well as defense policy and planning. For over the last 9 years, Mr. Darchiashvili has been involved in USAID-funded programs aimed at strengthening governance at the central and subnational levels in Georgia. In parallel, Mr. Darchiashvili is chair of the Government Board of the Atlantic Council of Georgia. At the same time, he is a member of the Governing Board and an Affiliated Professor at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). Mikheil Darchiashvili is a GIPA graduate and holds a master's degree in public administration (MPA). He is also an alumnus of the Leadership Academy for Development (LAD) of Stanford University's CDDRL and EPRC.

Topic: *"Black Sea Region and Georgia in the U.S. Foreign Policy Agenda"*

The lecture will explore the foundational principles of US foreign policy, emphasizing its primary objective of engagement with Europe and its strategic interests and policies concerning the Black Sea Region. Special attention will be given to the US-Georgia Strategic Partnership, with a detailed examination of Georgia's significance within the US legislative agenda.

Dr. Florent MARCIACQ, Senior Fellow at the Centre international de formation européenne, Research associate at the French institute of international relations (Ifri)

Florent Marciacq, PhD is a Research Associate at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), Deputy Secretary General of the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (ÖFZ) in Vienna, Director of the Observatoire des Balkans at the Fondation Jean Jaurès in Paris and Senior Fellow at the Centre international de formation européenne in Berlin and Nice. Florent Marciacq is a coordinator of the Pezinok Group on Strategic Autonomy and European Political Community strategic dialogues. He heads several track-2 initiatives dealing with European foreign policy issues, EU enlargement, the Western Balkans, the Eastern neighbours and Black Sea security. He is a Member of the International Advisory Committee of the Belgrade Security Conference. Florent Marciacq holds a Ph.D. in political sciences from the University of Vienna and Luxembourg and graduated in international relations, management and sinology. Florent Marciacq previously worked as an associate researcher at the European Governance Research Group of the University of Luxembourg, OSCE researcher in residence in Prague and guest researcher at the Austrian Defence Academy in Vienna. Florent Marciacq teaches European politics, delivers professional trainings and regularly publishes academic peer-reviewed contributions, think-tank policy-papers and articles in the press.

Topic: *"National perspectives to European security challenges in the Black Sea region"*

The objective of the session will be to explore the different facets of European security in the Black Sea region, with an emphasis put on hard security challenges in the context of heightened power rivalry; to map the riparian countries' security interests in the Black Sea and discuss the engagement of other powers, from the EU to the US and China, in the current geopolitical context.

Topic: *"The geopolitics of EU enlargement in the East"*

The objective of the session will be to advance a nuanced understanding of the politics of enlargement in the new geopolitical context, map the Member states' approaches to enlargement in national and European debates, explore how these intersect with the policy process that is currently reformed and discuss strategies for the Accession countries in the East, given the new geographies of enlargement and external actors' competing influence. The session will include group work discussions based on seminal speeches about the future of Europe.

LECTURERS & SESSION OVERVIEWS

Dr. Florent PARMENTIER, General Secretary, Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po (CEVIPCF)

Florent Parmentier is secretary general of the Centre for Political Research of Sciences Po (CEVIPOF). He is also research associate for HEC Paris, German Marshall Funds and Institute Jacques Delors. His work includes research on EU, Central European, and Eastern European affairs, and he regularly comments on these issues for French and international media. He teaches European geopolitics, foresight studies and public affairs at Sciences Po and at the University Mohamed VI Polytechnic in Rabat. He has published several books in French, English, and Romanian.

Topic: *"Energy Politics and Resource Competition in the Black Sea Region"*

The Black Sea region is a geopolitical hotspot where energy dynamics intersect with territorial disputes. Russia's dominance, Turkey's emerging role, and resource competition shape the landscape. Pipelines, military presence, and EU aspirations add complexity. Balancing integration and security remains crucial.

Topic: *"Media and Information Warfare in the Black Sea Region"*

Protracted regional conflicts impact Black Sea security through increased militarization, disinformation, and an absence of comprehensive peacebuilding policies. Russia's use of information warfare tactics further complicates neighborly relations. The region faces challenges ranging from conventional threats to cyber vulnerabilities.

Prof. Kornely KAKACHIA, Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University; Georgian Institute of Politics

Prof. Kornely Kakachia is a Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia. He is also the Director of the Tbilisi-based think tank Georgian Institute of Politics. His current research focuses on Georgian domestic and foreign policy, security issues of the wider Black Sea area, and comparative party politics. He was a recipient of IREX and OSI fellowships and was a visiting fellow at Harvard University's Black Sea Security program (2009–2010), Harriman Institute, Columbia University (2011), and The Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. Prof. Kakachia is co-editor of the book titled "Georgia's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century: Challenges for a Small State" (London, New York: I.B. Tauris, 2021). In his capacity as an expert on Georgian Domestic and Foreign policy, Kakachia has appeared on the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Financial Times, Le Monde, Figaro, Time and Economist, on Georgian radio television stations to comment on Georgia's foreign policy, regional security, and other issues.

Topic: *"Georgia's Euro-Atlantic Future: Prospects and Challenges"*

Georgia has been actively pursuing European integration for nearly two decades, with a level of commitment that surpasses most other post-Soviet states, excluding the Baltic nations. The process of European integration has spurred significant internal reforms in Georgia, particularly in the realms of governance and democratization. However, lately there is a noticeable and growing disconnect at the societal level, with an increasing fatigue regarding European values. A critical shortcoming in the Europeanization process is the disparity between Georgian society and those of other European countries, stemming from a lack of shared experiences and engagement in common public discourse. Georgia may proclaim itself as part of Europe in its rhetoric, but in practice, knowledge and comprehension of European realities remain quite limited.

The lecture is designed to offer insights into the intricate challenges that define Georgia's foreign policy landscape. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the prospects for Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration, the obstacles that stand in the way, and the advancements that have been made to date. Moreover, the lecture seeks to enhance awareness not only of Georgia's own potential trajectory but also of the stance adopted by Western states regarding Georgia's path toward Euro-Atlantic integration.

BLACK SEA SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2024 PARTICIPANTS

Name	Country of origin	University degree or qualification
Abuladze Ilia	Georgia	4th year BA Student, European Studies, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University
Arveladze Anano	Georgia	4th year BA student, Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University
Bibichadze Tamari	Georgia	4th year BA Student, International Relations, Tbilisi State University
Casadei Michele	Italy	Master in Law (4th year), Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna (Italy)
Chi Wai Chan	China (HKSAR)	Master student in European Studies, University of Hong Kong.
Choromanski Victoria	Belgium	Master in Translation (Dutch and German) and Bachelor in Politics Sciences, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium).
Damoiseau Julie	France	Second year at Science Po Lille, specialization International relations, media & society, University of Lille (France)
Doliashvili Mariam	Georgia	3rd year BA Student, Social and Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University
Gelashvili Mariam	Georgia	3rd year BA Student, International Relations, Free University of Tbilisi
Girsiashvili Natia	Georgia	2nd year MA Student, Migration, Rights, Integration, Università degli Studi di Palermo
Gogebashvili Salome	Georgia	3rd year BA Student, Social and Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University
Jakhua Tamar	Georgia	2nd year MA Student, Social and Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University and Free University of Berlin
Javashvili Teona	Georgia	2nd year MA Student, Comparative Private and International, New Vision University
Jyrkaes Simon	Sweden	Master of Science in European Affairs, Lund University (Sweden)

BLACK SEA SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2024 PARTICIPANTS

Name	Country of origin	University degree or qualification
Karalashvili Nino	Georgia	BA Graduate, Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University
Ketterer Valentin	Germany	Master in European and International Studies, CIFE Nice (France)
Kobald Bianca	Austria	Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature degree, specialization in Political Science, University of Vienna, (Austria)
Lutz Alexander John Paul	USA	Master of Theological Studies, Harvard Divinity School
Machabeli Lasha	Georgia	3rd year BA Student, International Relations, Tbilisi State University
Mitaishvili-Rayyis Yasmine	Georgia	MSc in International Development Management, London School of Economics and Political Sciences
Nirkko Minni	Finland	Bachelor (2nd year) in Global Studies, Malmö University, Sweden.
Pitt Lado	Georgia	MA, Evolution of International Relations, International Security, Brunel University London
Saleh Amir Maurice	Germany	Student in Law, University of Bremen (Germany)
Sanikidze Anano	Georgia	3rd year BA Student, Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University
Shaverdashvili Tinatin	Georgia	2nd year MA Student, Comparative Private and International, New Vision University
Steen Maria	Sweden	Journalist
Tkhlashidze Mariam	Georgia	3rd year BA Student, Social and Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University
Van Dalen Daan	Netherlands	1st year MA student, Political Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Free University of Amsterdam)
Wasbergs Patricia	Germany	Bachelor in Sociology, political-media and communication science, Heinrich-Heine University, Dusseldorf (Germany)

PROGRAM ORGANIZERS

Marie-France Perdigon

Director of the Summer University Programme, Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE), (France)

Contact info: direction.mfp@orange.fr

Nini Kvirikashvili

Summer University Programme Coordinator, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP), (Georgia)

Contact info: kvirikashvili@gip.ge +995 555 65 44 45

VENUES

- **July 15 – Lectures:** New Vision University, **Address:** 11, Nodar Bokhua street.
Lunch: New Vision University, **Address:** 11, Nodar Bokhua street.
- **July 16, 17, 19 - Lectures,** Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), **Address:** 1 Chavchavadze Avenue.
Lunch: Restaurant “Varazi”, **Address:** 2 Varaziskhevi St.
- **Excursion & Lunch:** Uplistsikhe, Shida Kartli; “Armazi Tskharo”, Mtskheta.

GEORGIAN RESTAURANTS & CAFÉS

- Sofia Melnikovas Fantastiuri Duqani: serves vegetarian Khinkali, <https://www.facebook.com/Sofia-Melnikovas-Fantastic-Douqan-186216914838587/>
- Tbili Sio: cafe/bar (with food) with outside seating <https://www.facebook.com/tbili.sio.public.garden/>
- Ezo: <https://www.facebook.com/EZO.Restaurant/>
- Café Leila: vegetarian; offers Gobi (bowl with mixed Georgian starters) https://www.tripadvisor.de/Restaurant_Review-g294195-d7987536-Reviews-Kafe_Leila-Tbilisi.html
- G.Vino or Vino Underground: for Georgian wine traditionally made in clay pots (qvevri) - <https://www.facebook.com/g.vinotbilisi/> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vino-Underground/349171521822676>
- Racha: affordable & tasty https://www.tripadvisor.de/Restaurant_Review-g294195-d3378818-Reviews-Racha_Dukhan-Tbilisi.html

SIGHTSEEING



- National Gallery: collection of the most famous Georgian painters
- Museum of Georgia: thousand years old jewelry
- Take a cable car up to the fortress, from there walk to Mother Georgia and then down to the old town.
- For more views, climb up to the statue in Vake Park or take the ropeway to Turtle Lake
- Visit a traditional steam bath at Abanotubani
- Souvenirs: Small shop in the yard of Sofia Melnikova's (look above)
- Shops at Fabrika
- Dry bridge flea market
- For more traditional souvenirs: churchkhela, Georgian tea and Svanetian salt (e.g. from Badagi, 6 Roman Miminoshvili St); qvevri wine.
- Recommended webpage for the Walking Tour: <http://tbilisifreewalkingtours.com>

