



The following is an itinerary of a proposed trip organised by the Bristol Tbilisi Association for its members and others, who are interested.

For this trip **flights should be booked by individuals.**

The cheapest way to fly is **Wizzair** from Luton airport to Kutaisi and then get a coach from Kutaisi to Tbilisi (3 hrs). The airfare is about £120-£150 return and the coach is about £15 return

**Georgian Airways** flies from Gatwick to Tbilisi; at the moment there are flights on the website for £230 return. There are other airlines flying from London to Tbilisi (Air Baltic, Turkish Airlines)

**Accommodation should also be booked by individuals**, based on choices provided or researched by individual travellers

**London Palace Hotel** (2 Metro stops from the centre of the city) will offer people joining this anniversary trip rooms at a special rate of \$40 per room Bed and Breakfast. Twin rooms are available if single guests wish to share a room. (To be booked via Esther, Secretary of the BTA, rather than via Booking.Com)

**Hotel Kalasi**, which is in the centre has rooms at \$100/\$120 per night (can be booked via Booking.com)

**Marriott Court Yard Hotel**, which is also in the centre, starts at £130 per room per night and can be booked on the hotel website.

The official trip programme will start on Monday 29 October. Derek Pickup (Chair BTA) and Esther Keller (Secretary of the BTA) will fly Luton - Kutaisi on Thursday 25 October, arriving in Tbilisi in the early hours of Friday 26 October. They will stay in London Palace Hotel and fly back on Sunday 4 November.

Trip outline:

### **Monday 29 October 2018 - 2:00 pm**

Start your trip with a walking tour around the Old City of Tbilisi, a visit to the National Museum and a ride up the cable car.

### **Tuesday 30 October 2018**

Trip to Stepantsminda and Mount Kazbegi. Drive by coach to Gudauri, ski resort and then on to Mount Kazbegi and Gergeti Trinity Church. Have lunch on the way and dinner on the way back. This is a long all day trip, but very worthwhile.

### **Wednesday 31 October 2018**

Enjoy a daytrip to Mtskheta and Jvari monastery  
Includes lunch in Mtsketa

### **Thursday 1 November 2018**

Day trip to Gori and Uplistsikhe the cave city. Includes lunch on the way.

Leave after breakfast to drive to Gori, birth place of Stalin and visit the Stalin museum. After lunch, drive to the cave city of Uplistsikhe and explore the dwellings carved out in caves.

### **Friday 2 November 2018**

Enjoy a coach trip to the wine region in Eastern Georgia, Kakheti. Visit the hill top medieval fortified village of Signaghi for a wine tour. Enjoy lunch and taste some of Georgia's famous Kakhetian wines

In the evening on this day there will a **special anniversary party**, to which we will invite some Georgian guests, who have been involved in twinning projects over the past 30 years. This should be a good evening!

### **Saturday 3 November 2018**

Half day trip to the open-air Ethnographic Museum. Have an insight into Georgia's varied examples of folk architecture and craftwork from various regions of the country.

The trips will be led by a professional guide and a coach will be available for the trips.

The cost of all the trips, including lunches (basic lunches consisting of khachapuri and salad, plus lemonade or mineral water) and dinners (Georgian supra with lemonade, mineral water and one glass of wine pp) will be £230 per person.

Total cost of trip if going for the cheaper flight and cheaper hotel could be as follows:

Airfare plus coach Kutaisi – Tbilisi and travel to Luton from Bristol ca £ 175

Room in London Palace Hotel (staying one week) £200

Trips, including lunches and dinners £ 230

**Total: £605**

Next steps:

- If there are further questions contact Esther Keller via email or phone: 07811 723427
- If you decide to come on the trip book your flight quickly!
- Let Esther know that you are coming on the trip
- If you are not a member of the Bristol Tbilisi Association yet, join now <http://bristoltbilisi.com/index.php/membership#.WsvQ5S7wbX4>
- Decide where you want to stay and book your accommodation, making sure you arrive in time for the start of the official programme on Monday 29 October at 2:00 pm. Remember to book London Palace Hotel via Esther so you get the preferential rate – don't book London Palace via Booking.Com
- Make an online transfer into the Bristol Tbilisi Association account for £230 pp including the reference: 'your surname' – BTA trip. Bank sort code: 089299 account number: 65367995. Let Paul Hinchcliffe our treasurer know, via email, you have made the transfer - paul.hinchcliffe@uwe.ac.uk