

Georgia

Business Guide

Compiled by:

Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia

Tbilisi, December 2015

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Currently, there are no direct flights between Switzerland and Georgia. The following airlines offer the most comfortable connecting flights:

Airline	Flight transfers
Turkish	Istanbul
Lufthansa	Munich
Ukrainian	Kiev
Pegasus	Istanbul

LANGUAGES USED FOR BUSINESS

Georgian, English, Russian

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

January 1 st and 2 nd	New Year's Day
January 7 th	Orthodox Christmas
January 19 th	Epiphany
March 3 rd	Mother's Day
March 8 th	International Women's Day
April 9 th	Day of National Unity
Moveable	Eastern Orthodox Good Friday, Great Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday
May 9 th	Day of Victory over Fascism
May 12 th	Day of Apostle Andrew
May 26 th	Independence Day

August 28 th	Saint Mary's Day
October 14 th	Day of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral
November 28 th	Saint George's Day

HEALTH AND INOCULATIONS

The following vaccines are recommended: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, hepatitis A. In special circumstances, the following vaccines might also be recommended: hepatitis B, typhoid fever, rabies.

TIME ZONES

UTC/GMT +4, country-wide, no DST.

TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND GEORGIA

Summer: +2h; Winter: +3h.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

- 24 hours
- Voltage: 220-240 Volts
- Primary Socket Type: Europlug / Schuko

METHODS OF PAYMENT

Cash and Credit Cards.

TRANSPORTATION

• BY AIR

The best way to reach Georgia is by air. The main airport is Tbilisi International Airport. Other international airports are in Kutaisi and Batumi, albeit significantly smaller.

• BY SEA

Batumi seaport and Poti seaport offer connections to Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Turkey.

• BY ROAD

The roads are generally in an acceptable condition. Construction of a highway between Tbilisi and Batumi is underway. Georgia has an extensive system of Minibuses, so-called "Marshutkas", by means of which every city in Georgia can be reached.

• BY RAIL

The railway system in Georgia is not very well-developed. There is, however, a fast and comfortable train connecting Tbilisi and Batumi and international connections exist to Baku and Yerevan.

HOTELS

Hotel	Address
Betsy's Hotel	32/34 Makashvili St
Hotel Terrace	Kote Meskhi II Rise
Marriott Tbilisi	13, Rustaveli Ave
Radisson Blu Iveria	1, Revolution Square
Holiday Inn	1, 26 May Square

COMMUNICATION

Main mobile phone companies are: Magti, Geocell and Beeline.

BUSINESS HOURS

In general, 10:00 – 18:00. Exceptions possible in the private sector.

ADDRESSES AND OPENING HOURS OF THE EMBASSY OF THE COUNTRY IN SWITZERLAND

Embassy of Georgia to the Swiss Confederation
Seftigenstrasse 7
3007 Bern

Tel.: + 41 31 351 58 55
Email: bern.emb@mfa.gov.ge
bern.con@mfa.gov.ge
Website: http://switzerland.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?sec_id=500&lang_id=ENG
Opening hours: Mo – Fri 09:00 – 18.00
Sat – Sun Closed

ADDRESSES OF THE SWISS EMBASSY AND CONSULATES

Embassy of Switzerland
Krtsanisi 11
0114 Tbilisi

Tel.: + 995 322 75 30 01 / 02
+ 41 58 462 18 41
Email: tif.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
Website: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/tbilisi>
Opening hours: Mo – Fri 09:00 – 12.30
Sat – Sun Closed

TIPS FOR INITIATING BUSINESS CONTACTS

Business Association of Georgia	http://www.bag.ge/en/home
The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Georgia	http://www.gcci.ge
Georgian Employer's Association	http://www.employer.ge/Default.aspx?lang=en
Georgian Small and Medium Enterprises Association	http://www.gsmea.ge/?lng=eng
The Georgian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce	http://www.icc.ge
Georgian Swiss Business Association	http://www.gsba.org.ge
American Chamber of Commerce	http://www.amcham.ge
EU-Georgia Business Council	http://eugbc.net/
German Business Association	http://www.dwvg.ge/eng/about.php

BUSINESS PRACTICES

The Georgian business culture is less formal than in Western Europe. The communication style is generally relatively direct and emotive. Georgians tend to be relationship oriented in their outlook. Accordingly, one may receive affirmative answers, even where not (yet) warranted. In the attempt to conclude business, time and patience are essential.

Date: 22 December 2015
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