

TBILISI WALKING TOURS

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ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND REMAINS IN TBILISI / ROUTE 1



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1| GANJISKARI (GANJA GATEWAY)

one of the historical gateways to Tbilisi and remains of a 9-18th c. defensive wall in the 300 Aragvian Park area. The road starting at Ganjiskari gate led to Ganja in today's Azerbaijan, hence, the name. Archaeological excavations have revealed remains of a large pottery destroyed under the first invasion of Tamerlane.

2| METEKHI

The historical heart of the city, Metekhi is the place from where King Vakhtang Gorgasali started to develop the new capital erecting the first church on top of the hill in the 5th c. Tradition holds that it was also a site where the 5th-century martyr lady Saint Shushanik, the heroine of the oldest known Georgian piece of literature, was buried. Later kings chose the site to host their court, royal palace, fortress and a cathedral here and it remained the royal residence right through Queen Tamar's reign until Khwarezmid invasion headed by Jalal ad-Din in 1226 left Tbilisi in ruins and its Isani district, including this gorgeous hill-top ensemble, in flames. The extant Metekhi Church

of Assumption dates back to circa 1278–1284. It was later damaged and restored several times. Metekhi is a must-see for any new visitor to Tbilisi.

3| THE SITE OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FORTY

The Church of the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste was erected at the start of the foot of the slope leading to the Botanical Gardens. It is known as the place where St. Abo of Tiflis was beheaded. It also contains remains of residential, industrial, religious and other buildings of various ages, including a fortification wall dating back to the 5-6th cc.

4| NARIKALA

Narikala is the ancient citadel overlooking the capital of Georgia, and the Mtkvari river. The fortress consists of two walled sections on a steep hill between the sulfur baths and the botanical gardens of Tbilisi. On the lower court there is the recently restored St Nicholas church. The fortress already existed by the 4th century as Shuristsikhe (i.e., "Invidious Fort") and considerably expanded by the Umayyads in the 7th century and

later, by King David the Builder. The Mongols renamed it "Narin Qala" (i.e., "Little Fortress" in Persian). Most of extant fortifications date from the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1827, the fortress was damaged by an earthquake and partially demolished.

5| 3, GOMI STREET. ATESHGAH.

This Zoroastrian Temple of Fire has existed in the beautiful Kldisubani district since the ancient times and is one of the oldest religious facilities in the city. The name is derived from the Persian word 'ateshgah' meaning 'place of fire'. There were in all five ateshgahs in Georgia and this one is the only currently remaining place of fire worship, and one of the two still extant in Southern Caucasus – the other one being in Baku. Soon after construction of the temple Persians converted to Islam and the building remained functionless until Turks transformed it into a Sunni Mosque in the 18th c. However, Iranian Shah Nadir who confessed Shiite Islam, banished Turks from Tbilisi and annihilated any Sunni traces in the building.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND REMAINS IN TBILISI / ROUTE 1



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6| 41, LESELIDZE STREET. JVRI SMAMA (CROSS FATHER) CHURCH.

The Church of St. Cross known to the public as Jvrismama Church is situated in Lower Kala, at the corner of Leselidze and Jerusalem Streets. Tradition holds it that it was initially King Vakhtang Gorgasali who built a church here naming it after Golgotha. The present church was built in the 16th c.

7| 4, SIONI STREET. SIONI CATHEDRAL.

Sioni Cathedral is situated in historic Sionis Kucha (Sioni Street) in downtown Tbilisi, with its eastern façade fronting the right embankment of the Mtkvari River. It was initially built in the 6th-7th centuries and was multiply restored. Sioni Cathedral was the main Georgian Orthodox Cathedral and the seat of Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia until the Holy Trinity Cathedral was consecrated in 2004. However, it still holds the venerated Grapevine cross (exhibited at the left of the altar) forged by Saint Nino,

a Cappadocian woman who preached Christianity in Georgia in the early 4th century. Sioni Cathedral was the place where the Russian Imperial manifesto on the annexation of Georgia was first published on April 12, 1802, when the Russian commander-in-chief in Georgia, General Karl von Knorring, assembled the Georgian nobles in the Cathedral surrounded by Russian troops. The nobles were forced to take an oath to the Russian Imperial crown and any who disagreed was taken into custody.

8| ZARAPHANA (MINT) – KING ROSTOM'S BATHHOUSE.

The Zaraphana building King Rostom's Bathhouse is located next to the Patriarch's residence. While the oldest known mint is known to have been functioning and producing the first coins with Georgian inscriptions in Tbilisi already in the 6th c. this mint dates back to 1804 when it resumed operation after the pause caused by annexation of Georgia by the Russian Empire.

9| 4, SHAVTELI STREET. KARI (COURT) CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE.

According to a legend the first church – that of Archangel – in this spot was built by King Vakhtang Gorgasali, the founder of Tbilisi City. The current hall-type church dates back to the 18th c. The oldest archaeological layers, though, such as old graves and sarcophagi, belong to the 4-5th cc. i.e. are as old as Tbilisi city itself.

10| SHAVTELI STREET AND ANCHISKHATI BASILICA

The Anchiskhati Basilica of St Mary is the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi, situated in Shavteli Street of Upper Kala. Built in the 6th c. the church is a three-nave basilica. Originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it was renamed Anchiskhati (i.e., icon of Anchi) in 1675 when the treasured icon of the Savior created by the twelfth-century goldsmith Beka Opizari at the Anchi was moved to Tbilisi to preserve it from an Ottoman invasion. The icon was preserved at the Basilica of St Mary for centuries and is presently on display at the Art Museum of Georgia.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND REMAINS IN TBILISI / ROUTE2



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1| KIACHELI STREET. BLUE MONASTERY.

Church of St. Andrew the Protokletos, referred simply as the Blue Monastery is located at the end of Kiacheli St. in the center of the city.

According to historical annals the first monastery of St. John the Evangelist was founded here in the 7th c. and the current church was built in the 12th c. Devastated by a Persian invasion in the 16th c. the monastery was finally rebuilt in the 19th c.

2| RUSTAVELI AVENUE. KASHVETI CHURCH.

The Kashveti Church of St. George is a Georgian Orthodox church in central Tbilisi, across the Parliament building in Rustaveli Avenue. The name "kashveti" is derived from Georgian words kva for "a stone" and shva "to give birth". Legend has it the prominent 6th-century monk David of Gareja, of the Thirteen Assyrian Fathers, was accused by a woman of making her pregnant in Tbilisi. David prophesied his denial would be proved when she gave birth to a stone. She did, and the place received the name of "k(v)ashveti". The church stands out for its

beautiful decoration of the altar painted by the prominent Georgian artist Lado Gudiashvili in 1947.

3| MAMADAVITI CHURCH, MTATSMINDA.

The history of the Mamadaviti (Father David) Church takes start from the 6th c. when Assyrian Father David of Gareja cut out a small cave in the hill erected in the west of the town and made a small chapel nearby. According to a legend, Father David prayed to God to give him a spring of water that could cure various diseases and he was granted the wish. Soon after Father David left Tbilisi and moved to Gareja, but Tbilisi inhabitants preserved the respect and gratitude they felt for him for centuries and gave his name to the mountain. The church is surrounded by a terrace serving as a pantheon of famous writers and poets. The curative spring still flows nearby. Mtatsminda is also a popular place, especially in summer, and Tbilisi inhabitants frequent its beautiful park and amusement facilities to escape the heat of the city.



ROUTE 1



LEGEND

- 10 Number of Sights
- M Underground
- i Tourism Information Centre
- 90 Bus Station (Route Number)
- Architectural Monuments
- Start Point
- Sightseeing Route
- Bus Route



TRADITIONAL BALCONIED HOUSES IN TBILISI

This route offers the visitor an opportunity to take a look at the old galleried houses typical for Tbilisi architecture. Many writers and poets have noted Tbilisi is a multi-galleried city where centuries coexist and where the train of time has stopped. Balconies, all sorts – wooden, glass, open, carved, galleried yards – are a real charming trademark of Tbilisi City.



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1| 8, DUMAS STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.

The residential house dates back to the mid 1800s and is one of the noteworthy examples of buildings with a mezzanine floor in Tbilisi. Its artistic features are made distinct with a two-layered traced gallery.

2| 13, DUMAS STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.

The two-storey house dates back to the mid 1800s and is one of the artistically refined examples of residential buildings in Tbilisi. Its façade follows the street curve and is decorated with a tri-pillared arched windowed gallery. The side overlooking the yard is decorated with another gallery. This windowed balcony is one of the best in Tbilisi.

3| 56, VERSTKHLI STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.

The residential house was built in 1860. Its proportions and significance in urban development are worth noting. This was the place where one of the city gates – namely, Digomi

gate – was located. The house has three different facades: one overlooking the yard is lined with a hanging wooden balcony; the second is directed to Alexandre Dumas Street and is filled with a brick wall with pilasters, and the third – a wooden balcony – is hanging over the corner of the streets.

4| BARATASHVILI STREET. GALLERIED HOUSES.

Residential houses decorated with beautiful balconies run along the street from its start to its end. They were reconstructed to the current status by architect Kavlashvili in 1979.

5| 15, CHAKHRUKHADZE STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.

This 19th c. residential house has two facades. One of them, classicistic in style overlooks Chakhrukhadze Street and the other – lined with a balcony – is directed towards Shavteli Street.

6| 10, EREKLE II SQUARE. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.

Residential house built in the mid 1800s. The two-storey house has a

noteworthy wooden hanging balcony. The roofed gallery with carved railings harmonizes with the classicistic elements of the façade.

7| 4, AKOPIANI STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.

The 19th c. residential house is a classical example of Tbilisi architecture and stands out for its artistic significance.

8| 21, EREKLE STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.

The three-storey house dates back to the 19th c. Its façade is marked by a charming two-storey balcony lined with iron tracery. The classicistic and baroque façade harmonizes with the light iron balconies. The house stands out for its refined proportions.

9| 2, GUDIASHVILI SQUARE

Editorial of the Literaturluli Sakartvelo newspaper is one of the oldest among the remaining buildings dating back to the 19th c. Visitors must pay attention to its moucharaby-style decorations and carved arches with traces of classicistic elements.



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**10| 2, LERMONTOV STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.**

The residential house dating back to the 19th c. is a classical example of a traditional Tbilisi residential building. Its yard-overlooking side is a harmonious entirety of wooden balconies and elements of European architecture.

**11| 34, DADIANI STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.**

This two-storey house is one of the oldest among its fine neighbors. Its wooden hanging and richly decorated balcony follows the curve of the corner.

**12| 8, AMAGHLEBA STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSES.**

These buildings dating back to the mid 1800s stand out for their classicistic elements and hanging, carved wooden balconies. Their traditional galleries overlook the yard.

**13| 8, BETHLEHEM STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.**

This building defines the architectural character of the Bethlehem slope along with other buildings. It is well fit

into the cliffy landscape and has two facades, decorated with two-layered wooden balconies. The house was built in 1830.

**14| 3, BETHLEHEM STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.**

This two-storey residential building that dates back to the 19th c. defines the entire character of the district. The gallery with the carved railings that lines the façade is one of the most outstanding in Tbilisi. The house is further enriched by a wooden windowed staircase.

**15| 4, GOMI STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.**

This residential building dating back to the early 1800s is perched on a cliff adjacent to the Ateshgah temple. While artistically important as a whole, it stands out for its moucharaby galleries.

16| HOUSES IN ABANO STREET

The galleried houses in Abano Street are typical examples of traditional Tbilisi architecture.

**17| HOUSES IN METEKHI PLATEAU.
OLD METEKHI HOTEL**

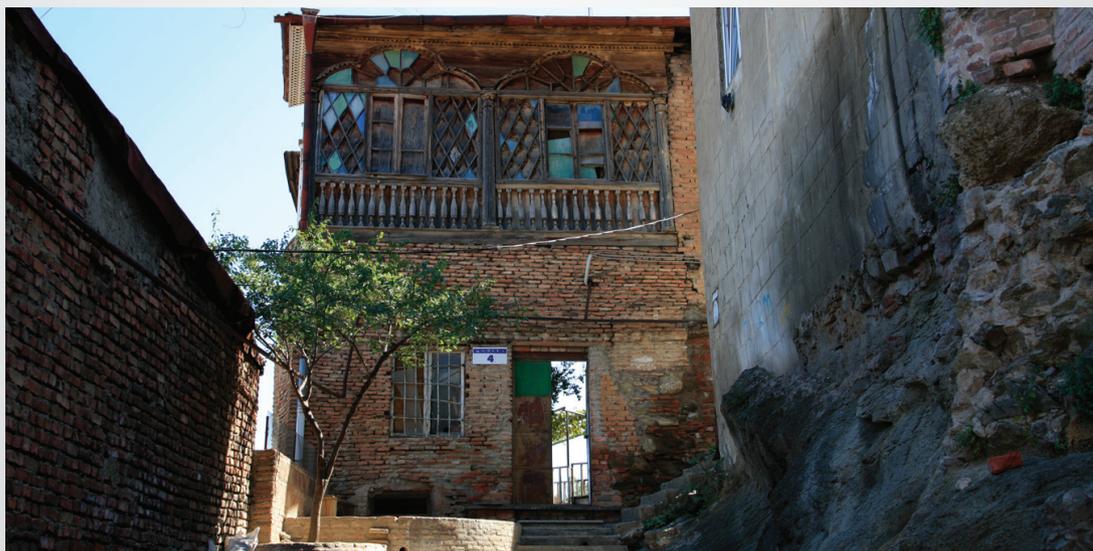
Houses in Metekhi Plateau and Ruisi Street are very important both for their aesthetic value and significance in urban development. The galleried houses perched on the cliff overlook the Mtkvari creating a unique atmosphere characteristic to Tbilisi only. Old Metekhi Hotel certainly stands out among other buildings. First built in 1830, it was further reconstructed and rebuilt in 1976-1978 by architects G. Japaridze and V. Orbeladze.

TRADITIONAL BALCONIED HOUSES IN TBILISI

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ECLECTIC TBILISI – ON THE CROSSROADS OF THE ORIENT AND OCCIDENT / ROUTE 1

Tbilisi is the place where Europe and Asia, the Orient and the Occident have historically come into contact. This is especially evident in the architecture throughout the city. Patios lined with tracery balconies and stained glass galleries, hide away behind European facades. The typical house a la Tbilisi appeared back in the earlier half of the 19th century and came to contain both European and Oriental elements, still standing out as a piece of original local architecture. This route will show you around Tbilisian eclecticism scattered throughout its buildings and streets.



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1| 22, DADIANI STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Built in 1905, the house stands out with its harmonious combination of a European facade and wooden balconies.

2| 18, ASATIANI STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Designed and built by architect Korneli Tatischev as his own dwelling house, it incorporates Islamic architectural themes and traditional open wooden balconies overlooking the yard.

3| 28, L. ASATIANI STREET. SECONDARY SCHOOL

Former girls' grammar school was built in 1903 by engineer Rotinov in neo-gothic style.

4| 21/24, G. TABIDZE STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Three-storey residential house built in 1896 and representing an interesting piece of renaissance and baroque eclectics. The house has a richly decorated entrance.

5| 27/17, ASATIANI STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Built in 1908, this two-storey house is one of the most interesting samples of pseudo-Moresque orientalism in Tbilisi. It stands out with its wedge-shaped embrasures, stalactite friezes, an eight-point star and stylized ornaments in the stone balconies and the wooden elements in the glass galleries overlooking the yard. The entrance is also richly decorated in Moresque style and has beautiful arches and polychrome ornaments. The house was designed by architect Ghazar Sarkysyan.

6| 11, KIKODZE STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Referred to as Miov's House, the building was designed by Gabriel Ter-Melikov and constructed in 1914, standing out as a fusion of traditional and renaissance motifs.

7| 6, KIKODZE STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Residential house built in 1906 with design of famous architect Aleksander Ozerov. The house was owned by

brothers Dolukhanov and is one of the most exemplary modernistic pieces in Tbilisi, with traces of neo-romanticism, and gothic elements on its facade.

8| 4, CHONKADZE STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.

A modernistic architecture house built in 1903 and designed by architect Mikheil Ohanjanov. Thanks to its architectural features and advantageous position it has an accentuating role in the current development of Sololaki district: the house stands on a high terrace and connects to the street with a stair-case carved in a tunnel through the cliff. There is also a sad legend associated with the house: the owners' daughter died at a young age and the parents built a tower on top of the house to overlook her grave on the other bank of the Mtkvari.

9| 11, TCHONKADZE ST. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

The building is an exemplary piece of stylistic diversity, standing out for its Islamic features, and served as the



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residence for Iranian consul Mirza Reza Khan during 1889-1894.

10| 12, TCHONKADZE STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Built in 1914 the house is an interesting building of modernistic style and was designed by Architect Mikheil Ohanjanov with collaboration of Architect Petre Kolchin. Owned by brothers Bozardjants, the house received the 2nd Best Facade of the Year award from the City Council in 1914 (1st prize was not granted to any building).

11| 6, INGOROKVA STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Built in two stages: main part constructed based on a design of 1887, and added a two-storey residential outhouse instead of the gate in 1901. Both designed by Shimkevich.

12| 20, INGOROKVA STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Two-storey residential house built in modernistic style in 1914. Designed by architect Mikheil Neprintsev, the

house was one of the nominees for the Best Facade of the Year award in 1915 organized by Tbilisi town council.

13| 16, RUSTAVELI AVENUE.
OFFICER'S HOUSE

Former Tbilisi 'Circle' was built in 1916 and bears resemblance to forms characteristic to European Neoclassicism. The rounded corner balconies on the second floor are decorated with caryatids designed by famous Georgian architect, Iakob Nikoladze. The building was also known for Café Argonauts' Boat located in its basement since 1918. The café was painted by famous artists Zdanevich, Gudiashvili and Bazhbeuk-Melyaov.

14| 13, RUSTAVELI AVENUE.
MARRIOTT TBILISI HOTEL

Former Hotel Majestic designed by Alexander Ozerov was built in 1911. In 1915 Gabriel Ter-Melikov – an architect from Tbilisi – added the final touch. The building stands out for its Renaissance-Baroque forms. The hotel was restored from the severe damages it received through the Tbilisi War of 1991-92.

15| 31, ATONELI STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Former hotel London was designed by Architect Otto Jakob Simonson and owned by Aleksandre Zubalashvili. The hotel was opened in 1875 and functioned as one of the luxurious spots in the city through the 1900s. Its visitors at various times included an English scholar and translator of the Knight in the Panther's Skin Marjory Wardrop and Norwegian author Knut Hamsun. The hotel had a casino frequented by famous Georgian writer and public figure Ilia Chavchavadze. On 28 June 1890 the hotel hosted the first public hearing session of the phonograph invented by Thomas Alva Edison.

Zacharia Paliashvili Opera and Ballet State Academic Theatre. 25, Rustaveli Avenue.

Designed by Korneli Tatischev and built in 1897. Surrounded by a small garden. The baroque-eclectic facade is accentuated by a wooden ornamented balcony, and a richly decorated entrance.

ECLECTIC TBILISI – ON THE CROSSROADS OF THE ORIENT AND OCCIDENT / ROUTE 1



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16| 25, RUSTAVELI AVENUE.
ZAKARIA PALIASHVILI STATE
ACADEMIC THEATRE OF OPERA AND
BALLET

Designed by Korneli Tatischev and built in 1897. Surrounded by a small garden. The baroque-eclectic facade is accentuated by a wooden ornamented balcony, and a richly decorated entrance.



ECLECTIC TBILISI – ON THE CROSSROADS OF THE ORIENT AND OCCIDENT / ROUTE2



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1 | 93, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Three-storey residential house with a garret on top of the risalit was built in 1904. The building is an example of renaissance-baroque eclectics and contains modernistic elements. The entrance is richly decorated and painted.

2 | 39, M. TSINAMDZGHVISHVILI STREET. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

Built at the dawn of the 20th c. at the design of Architect Pavle Zurabian, the house with an abundantly painted entrance is a particularly appealing modernistic building and represents a combination of two identical three-storey houses.



ROUTE 1



EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS IN TBILISI / ROUTE1

This route includes the residential and public edifices designed by foreign architects in Tbilisi, which have contributed to creation of the artistic and historical image of the city.



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1| 2, FREEDOM SQUARE. TBILISI SAKREBULO - TBILISI CITY COUNCIL.

The building was built under the Imperial Russian rule in the 1830s and reconstructed several times. It served, until 1879, as a Chancellery of Chief Policemaster and police department. A competition announced in 1878 for the remodeling the building to the City Hall (Gorodskoy Dom) was won by the architect Paul Stern's project. The facade reflects the then-popular Exotic style with Neo-Moorish design. A tower was added in 1910 and the building was further expanded in 1912.

2| 22, GALAKTION TABIDZE STREET.
The residential house belongs to the family of Tamamshevs and was built by architect Aleksander Salzmann in 1883. Its architectural decor is finished in old Georgian style.

3| 13, MACHABELI STREET.
The two-storey modernistic residential house with a mezzanine was built in 1905 based on the design of German architect Karl Zaar.

The house belonged to outstanding Georgian businessman and patron of art Davit Sarajishvili (1848-1911). Since 1921 the building has functioned as the headquarters of the Georgian Writers' Union. The house has a beautiful door rich in ornaments, and a hall lined with colorful marble. Arched plafonds are decorated with floral images and arches stand out for their colorful caissons.

4| 6, G. KIKODZE ST.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Two-storey residential house built in 1906 with the design of famous architect from Tbilisi Aleksander Ozerov (1849-1922).

5| 6, PAVLE INGOROKVA STREET.
Two-storey residential house built in two stages. Its main part was built on 3 September 1887 with the design of architect Aleksander Shimkevich.

6| 20, PAVLE INGOROKVA STREET.
Two-storey modernistic residential house built in 1914. Its interior was of particular importance. The design belongs to architect from Tbilisi Mikheil Neprintsev (1877-1962).

7| 6, RUSTAVELI AVENUE, YOUTH PALACE.

Initially Palace of the Vice Regent of the Russian Empire and later the Government House of the Democratic Republic of Georgia was built in 1845-1847 with the design of Semionov. Later, in 1858-1859 Architect Otto Jacob Simonson gave the palace an innovative touch: a classicist facade with elements of the renaissance was replaced by a harmonious assembly of angular and rugged rustic work, alteration of Corinthian pilasters and arches, arcade of galleries, medallions and circular pediments. The palace is noted for its beautiful garden and a mirror-lined large hall.

8| 3-5, GUDIASHVILI ST.
NATIONAL LIBRARY.
Former Nobles' Bank. The main building was built in 1913-1916 with the design of architect Anatoli Kaligin and artist Heinrich Hrinevsky. The architecture is noteworthy for its application of Georgian traditional forms. The interior stands out for its rich paintings and decorations.



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9| ALEXANDER'S GARDEN.

Designed by Otto Jacob Simonson and developed with contribution of gardener Heinrich Karel Werner Scharar in 1859, it was the first public garden in Tbilisi.

10| RUSTAVELI AVENUE, THE KASHVETI CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

is a Georgian Orthodox church in central Tbilisi, across the Parliament building in Rustaveli Avenue. The oldest church was built here in the 6th c. but it was further replaced first in the 18th c. and then at the dawn of the 20th c. with the design of architect Leopold Billfeld. His design took after one of the masterpieces of Georgian architecture – Samtavisi Cathedral of the 11th c. Kashveti church is one of the best examples of how new architecture can apply old traditional forms in design. By the end of the 19th c. the yard came to host a small Baratashvili family vault. The church stands out for its beautiful decoration of the altar painted by the prominent Georgian artist Lado Gudiashvili in 1947.

11| RUSTAVELI AVENUE, NATIONAL PICTURE GALLERY.

designed by architect Albert Salzmann The former 'Cathedral of Glory' or a military and history museum was built in 1888-92 as a prototype of the Exhibition Palace in Rome and has served as a picture gallery since the 1930s. Working hours: every day except Monday, 11.00 – 18.00

12| 31, ATONELI ST. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.

Former hotel London was designed by Architect Otto Jakob Simonson and owned by Aleksandre Zubalashvili. The hotel was opened in 1875 and functioned as one of the luxurious spots in the city through the 1900s. Its visitors at various times included an English scholar and translator of the Knight in the Panther's Skin Marjory Wardrop and Norwegian author Knut Hamsun. The hotel had a casino frequented by famous Georgian writer and public figure Ilia Chavchavadze. On 28 June 1890 the hotel hosted the first public hearing session of the phonograph invented by Thomas Alva Edison.

13| 17, RUSTAVELI AVENUE SHOTA RUSTAVELI STATE ACADEMIC THEATRE.

Designed by architects Aleksander Shimkevich and Korneli Tatischev. Famous artists Davit Kakabadze, Lado Gudiashvili, Ilia Zdanevich and Serge Sudeikin contributed by painting the walls of the basement Cafe Chimerion opened in 1919 and being a gathering place for the city's bohemian world of poets and artists.

14| 25, RUSTAVELI AVENUE ZAKARIA PALIASHVILI STATE ACADEMIC THEATRE OF OPERA AND BALLET

Designed and built by Viktor Schreter, an architect from Petersburg in 1880. The building is greatly characterized by elements of Islamic architecture, with an accentuated and richly ornamented portico. The interior is also decorated in pseudo-Moresque style.

15| 37, RUSTAVELI AVENUE.

This house referred to as Melik Azariants house was built by architect Nikolai Obolensky in the dawn of the 20th c. and is one of the outstanding pieces

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS IN TBILISI / ROUTE1



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of then popular modernistic style. Its facade is richly decorated by figured carvings, garlands, crowns, etc.

16| 8, AL. GRIBOEDOV'S STR.
CONSERVATOIRE.

Former musical school. Architect – Aleksander Shimkevich.

17| 32, ZUBALASHVILIS STR.,
SUPREME COURT.

Built by the end of the 19th c with the design of architect Aleksander Shimkevich.

18| CHURCH OF MIKHEIL OF TVERI.
At the foothills of Mtatsminda Mt.
Architect I. Dizmann.





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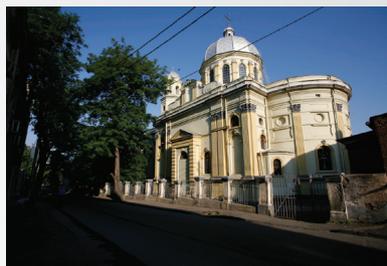
EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS IN TBILISI / ROUTE2



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1| 16, MARJANISHVILI STREET.
CENTRAL BRANCH OF TBC BANK.
Built in 1913 based on the design of architect Aleksander Rogosky the building initially served as the quarters of the Caucasian Officers' Economic Society. The building has an impressive dome and is a good example of modernistic architecture.

2| 8, MARJANISHVILI STREET.
MARJANISHVILI THEATRE.
This former Public House was built at the initiative of Georgian businessman K. Zubalashvili with the design of S. Krichinsky, an architect from St. Petersburg. Notwithstanding the multiple reconstructions the building has retained many originally modernistic elements, including the facade.

3| CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST PAUL IN JAVAKHISHVILI STREET.
The church was built in 1870-1877 with financial sponsorship of businessman Konstantine Zubalashvili and architectural design of Albert Salzmann. Its parish mainly consisted of the Poles exiled in Georgia after the

Polish insurrection. It is also noteworthy as the church where Pope John Paul II held his mass during his visit in Tbilisi in 1999. The architecture follows the trend prevailing in Roman churches of early baroque style, namely that of Il Gesu Church in Vignola.

4| 17, TERENTI GRANELI STREET.
LUTHERAN CHURCH.
German Lutheran Church was built in 1996-1997 at the initiative of Pastor Gerdt Hummel. 19th c. was marked with a concentration of German Diaspora in the area of present Aghmashenebeli Avenue. They initially built a small church in Marjanishvili Square. In 1894-1897 architect L. Bilfeld constructed a large neo-gothic Lutheran church, a so-called Kirche in its place, which was destroyed in 1945.

5| 101/2 AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE
TBILISI STATE PUPPET THEATRE.
Former Wetzel Hotel was built in the second half of the 19th c. with the design of architect L. Bilfeld and belonged to merchant Friedrich Wetzel. The architecture mainly follows German baroque style.

6| 10, KRYLOV STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE. ARCHITECT – I. DIZMANN.

7| 135, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
FORMER APOLO CINEMA.
The building was one of the oldest in Tbilisi that quartered a cinema in the city. Opened in 1909, the building is a good example of modernistic style, with its rich decorations of the facade and interior. The architect remaining unknown, the sculptors were A. Nowak and Karl Soucek.

8| 6, KARGARETELI STREET.
MUSEUM OF CINEMA, THEATRE AND MUSIC
Museum was built in 1895 with the design of architect P. Stern. Its architecture encompasses gothic and classicistic elements. The museum exhibits amazing materials reflecting the history of old and modern Georgian Theatre, cinema, music and choreography, including an antique theatrical mask discovered in the excavations in Vani and pieces of avant-garde art of the 20th c. Working hours: everyday except Monday, 10.00 – 17.00



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9| 150, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
MAGNETIC METEOROLOGICAL
OBSERVATORY

Observatory was built at the initiative of German astronomer A. Moritz. The main building was designed by architect Otto Simonson in 1858 and is an exemplary piece of classicistic style. In 1970 the observatory was transformed into the museum of geophysical sciences.

10| STATE SILK MUSEUM.

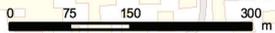
Former Main Building of Caucasian Silk Station was designed by Al. Shimkevich in 1892. It is one of the oldest museums in Tbilisi and stands out for its collection of world history of silk industry that is one of the oldest in the world, including 5000 species and variations.





LEGEND

-  Number of Sights
-  Underground
-  Tourism Information Centre
-  Bus Station (Route Number)
-  Architectural Monuments
-  Start Point
-  Sightseeing Route
-  Bus Route





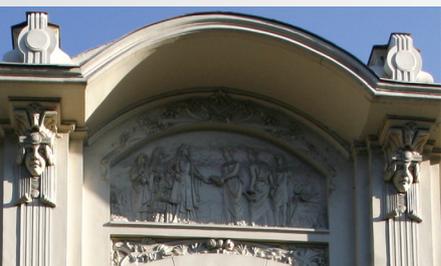
LEGEND

- 10 Number of Sights
- M Underground
- i Tourism Information Centre
- Bus Station (Route Number)
- Architectural Monuments
- Start Point
- Sightseeing Route
- Bus Route



FACADE SCULPTURE IN TBILISI / ROUTE 1

Sculptures on the facades of urban developments started to appear in Tbilisi in the 19th c. finding their roots in the long tradition of Georgian religious architecture. European style buildings were richly decorated with ornaments and models. Facades often bore sculptures depicting mythological creatures: Hermes, Atlantes, Amours, lions, satires, chimeras, etc. and allegorical figures. From the early 20th c. development of modernistic style was accompanied by flourishing of frontal sculptures. The buildings now had bigger sculptures, multi-figured panels, etc. Modernistic buildings came to blend various fields of art: architecture, sculpture, fine art, vitrage, and mosaics. Frontal sculpture is an integral part of the artistic and cultural environment of old Tbilisi.



2



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1| 7, MARJANISHVILI STREET.
CENTRAL BRANCH OF TBC BANK.
Architect A. Rogoisky. 1912.

2| 8, MARJANISHVILI STREET.
MARJANISHVILI THEATRE.
Architect S. Krichinsky. 1907. Public House
built and gifted to Tbilisi by Zubalashvili
brothers.

3| 93, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Built in 1904.

4| 103, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
TBILISI STATE PUPPET THEATRE.
Built in the second half of the 19th as
Wetzel Hotel. Architect L. Bilfeld.

5| 10, KRILOV STREET.
One of the remarkable examples of the
20th c. modernistic style.

6| 135, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
FORMER APOLLO CINEMA.
One of the first cinema buildings in Tbilisi.
Opened in 1909.

7| 6, KARGARETELI STREET.
MUSEUM OF CINEMA, THEATRE AND
MUSIC.

Museum was Built in 1895. Architect Karl
Stern.

8| 28, NINOSHVILI STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Early 20th c.

9| 16, MAZNIASHVILI STREET.
Modernistic facade. Built in the mid 1800s
and reconstructed in the early 20th c.

10| 6, ST. PETERSBURG STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Early 20th c.

11| 36, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
Former E. Chavchanidze's residence.
Unknown Arcitect. 1903.

12| 4, VARTSIKHE STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Architect S. Kldiashvili. Late 19th c.
Reconstructed in modernistic style in
1902.

13| 23, VARTSIKHE STREET.

14| 6, IV. JAVAKHISHVILI STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Early 20th c.





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11



12



14



FACADE SCULPTURE IN TBILISI / ROUTE2



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2



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1| 7, MARJANISHVILI STREET.
CENTRAL BRANCH OF TBC BANK.
Architect A. Rogoisky. 1912.

2| 8, MARJANISHVILI STREET.
MARJANISHVILI THEATRE.
Architect S. Krichinsky. 1907. Public
House built and gifted to Tbilisi by
Zubalashvili brothers.

3| 93, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Built in 1904.

4| 103, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
TBILISI STATE PUPPET THEATRE.
Built in the second half of the 19th as
Wetzel Hotel. Architect L. Bilfeld.

5| 10, KRILOV STREET.
One of the remarkable examples of
the 20th c. modernistic style.

6| 135, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
FORMER APOLLO CINEMA.
One of the first cinema buildings in
Tbilisi. Opened in 1909.

7| 6, KARGARETELI STREET.
MUSEUM OF CINEMA, THEATRE AND
MUSIC.

Built in 1895. Architect Karl Stern.

8| 28, NINOSHVILI STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Early 20th c.

9| 16, MAZNIASHVILI STREET.
Modernistic facade. Built in the mid
1800s and reconstructed in the early
20th c.

10| 6, ST. PETERSBURG STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Early 20th c.

11| 36, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
Former E. Chavchanidze's residence.
Unknown Arcitect. 1903.

12| 4, VARTSIKHE STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Architect S. Kldiashvili. Late 19th c.
Reconstructed in modernistic style in
1902.

13| 23, VARTSIKHE STREET.

14| 6, IV. JAVAKHISHVILI STREET.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE.
Early 20th c.





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LEGEND

- 14 Number of Sights
- M Underground
- i Tourism Information Centre
- Bus Station (Route Number)
- Architectural Monuments
- Start Point
- Sightseeing Route
- Bus Route





LEGEND

-  Number of Sights
-  Underground
-  Tourism Information Centre
-  Bus Station (Route Number)
-  Architectural Monuments
-  Start Point
-  Sightseeing Route
-  Bus Route

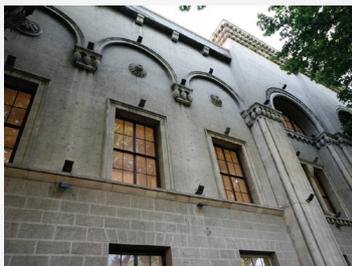


GENERAL ROUTE / ROUTE 1

While there are many ways to see Tbilisi where older traditions and newer fashions have been interacting harmoniously for many centuries, one of the most recommendable ways is to venture out to the streets on your own so that you feel the pulse of the most bustling city of the Caucasus. This tour offers a way to create an overall impression of its history, architecture and atmosphere.



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1 | 4, A. PUSHKINI STREET.
GEORGIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM.
SHALVA AMIRANASHVILI MUSEUM
OF FINE ARTS

Working hours: Everyday except
Monday, 11.00 – 16.30

The museum preserves approximately 900 hundred thousand exhibits from the medieval period up to the XX c. and few materials of the pre-Christian period. The Museum is distinguished for its Georgian goldsmith pieces dated back to the VIII-XIX Centuries. The most significant exhibits include the icon of Zarzma Monastery, the Chalice of Bedia, Anchistkhati and Khakhuli Triptychs, etc. The museum also houses the unique exhibits of vitreous enamel, jewelry and art textiles, medieval architecture monuments, paintings, mosaics, statues, etc. Visitors are encouraged to inquire for special passes to access the special Gold Funds exhibiting the greatest masterpieces of the museum's treasures of the Christian era.

2 | 3, RUSTAVELI AVENUE.
GEORGIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM.
SIMON JANASHIA MUSEUM OF
GEORGIA

Working Hours: Everyday except
Monday-10:30-17:30

The museum houses hundreds of thousands of Georgian and Caucasian artifacts of archeology and ethnography. After the reconstruction the most valuable exhibits of the museum include the Gold Treasure which consists of the unique collection of the pre-Christian goldsmith pieces (III millennium BC-IV century AD); The hall of the Soviet Occupation - displaying archive documents, photo and video materials following the timeline of Georgia's history from the short-lived independence between 1918 and 1921 to the Soviet army crackdown in 1989 and the declaration of Georgia's independence in 1991; The collection of the famous photographer Dmitri Ermakov comprises a large quantity of photographs, negatives, albums and photographic equipment illustrating a great variety of people and places in the Caucasus and Asia Minor of the late 1800s and early 1900s; The

National Gallery where 1 half of XX century Georgian art masterpieces are displayed.

3 | 11, L. GUDIASHVILI STREET
LADO GUDIASHVILI EXHIBITION HALL
Working Hours: 11:00-18:30; Everyday
except Monday

Two dictatorial systems Marxism-Leninism and Fascism brutally destroyed free thought and humanistic values over the years. As an artist, Lado Gudiashvili could not tolerate the horrible reality and expressed the protest by creating a series of satirical graphic works which later became one of the important elements of Georgian visual art. Upon the initiative of the artist's family, the part of the living space has been turned into an exhibition hall displaying Lado Gudiashvili's artworks.

4 | 1, RUSTAVELI AVENUE
KASHVETI CHURCH

The Kashveti Church of St. George is a Georgian Orthodox church in central Tbilisi, across the Parliament building in Rustaveli Avenue. The name "kashveti" is derived from Georgian words kva for "a



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stone" and shva "to give birth". Legend has it the prominent 6th-century monk David of Gareja, of the Thirteen Assyrian Fathers, was accused by a woman of making her pregnant in Tbilisi. David prophesied his denial would be proved when she gave birth to a stone. She did, and the place received the name of "k(v) ashveti". The church stands out for its beautiful decoration of the altar painted by the prominent Georgian artist Lado Gudiashvili in 1947.

5| 11, RUSTAVELI AVENUE GEORGIAN NATIONAL PICTURE GALLERY

Working hours: every day except
Monday, 11.00 – 18.00

The former 'Cathedral of Glory' or a military and history museum was built in 1888-92 as a prototype of the Exhibition Palace in Rome and has served as a picture gallery since the 1930s.

6| MTATSMINDA AND MAMADAVITI CHURCH

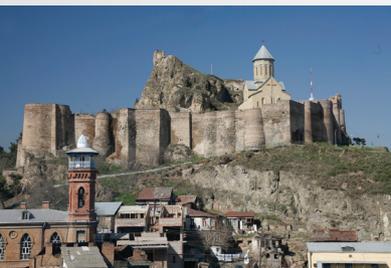
The history of the Mamadaviti (Father David) Church takes start from the 6th c. when Assyrian Father David of Gareja

cut out a small cave in the hill erected in the west of the town and made a small chapel nearby. According to a legend, Father David prayed to God to give him a spring of water that could cure various diseases and he was granted the wish. Soon after Father David left Tbilisi and moved to Gareja, but Tbilisi inhabitants preserved the respect and gratitude they felt for him for centuries and gave his name to the mountain. The church is surrounded by a terrace serving as a pantheon of famous writers and poets. The curative spring still flows nearby. Mtatsminda is also a popular place, especially in summer, and Tbilisi inhabitants frequent its beautiful park and amusement facilities to escape the heat of the city.



GENERAL ROUTE /

ROUTE 2



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1| NARIKALA AND THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

Narikala is the ancient citadel overlooking the capital of Georgia, and the Mtkvari river. The fortress consists of two walled sections on a steep hill between the sulfur baths and the botanical gardens of Tbilisi. On the lower court there is the recently restored St Nicholas church. The fortress already existed by the 4th century as Shuris-tsikhe (i.e., "Invidious Fort") and considerably expanded by the Umayyads in the 7th century and later, by King David the Builder. The Mongols renamed it "Narin Qala" (i.e., "Little Fortress" in Persian). Most of extant fortifications date from the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1827, the fortress was damaged by an earthquake and partially demolished.

2| TBILISI BATHHOUSES

The Sulfur Baths are located in Old Tbilisi, on the other side of the river, opposite Darejani Palace, and are known for their tranquilizing effect. After taking in the cathedrals and

museums of Tbilisi, reward your weary body with a soak in one of the city's famous bathhouses. A deep sulfur spring feeds the city with naturally heated mineral water, and bath houses have proliferated across the city for more than a thousand years, offering residents and visitors the opportunity to wash away the stresses of the day. A soak in a sulfur bath is still very much a Tbilisi ritual, a tribute to the pheasant boiled in the naturally hot water spring, which gave start to the city and its name as well ('tbili' meaning 'warm' in Georgian). While the bathhouses have existed here for more than a thousand years, the extant baths were mainly built in the 17-18th c. and bear strong resemblance to Islamic architecture.

3| TBILISI MOSQUE

The eight angled Minaret of the brick mosque draws the attention even from the far distance and is perceived in a different ways from the various sides. The originally Sunni mosque, located at the end of the Botanical garden is the only functioning mosque in Tbilisi at present, after the Shiite Mosque

on the other bank of the Mtkvari was destroyed by communist rulers. Now it serves Shia as well as Sunni Muslims which is extremely rare in any country of the world.

4| BOTANICAL GARDEN

Occupying the area of 161 hectares, its history spans more than three centuries. It was first described in 1671 by the French traveler Jean Chardin as royal gardens which might have been founded at least in 1625. Its extremely rich collection includes floral species from the Mediterranean, North America, China and Japan, the Himalayas, Turkey and Siberia, as well as rare species, such as dark red Maiko peonies and Iberian irises that are virtually no longer extant in the wild nature.

GENERAL ROUTE /

ROUTE 3



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1| BAMBA (COTTON) ROW AND CHARDIN STREET

Once part of the Old Tbilisi bazaar, Chardin Street and the arched Bamba Row even now form a true 'Diagon Alley' of the Georgian Capital. The streets offer the best night life spots, such as restaurants, cafes, night bars in the city and seasonally host local and international open air festivals, concerts and galleries.

3| 8, SIONI STREET TBILISI HISTORY MUSEUM, FORMER KING ROSTOM'S CARAVANSARAY.

Working hours: Everyday except Monday, 10.00 – 18.00
The museum houses over 50 thousand exhibits. They reflect Tbilisi history from the end of the IV millennium to this date. The museum presents archeological, ethnological and documental materials as well as the pieces of national and applied arts, a rich photo-collection etc. A number of unique works of artistic and graphic arts are also preserved in this museum. Together with the old works the museum also exposes the pieces of contemporary art.

4| 4, SIONI STREET SIONI CATHEDRAL.

Sioni Cathedral is situated in historic Sionis Kucha (Sioni Street) in downtown Tbilisi, with its eastern façade fronting the right embankment of the Mtkvari River. It was initially built in the 6th-7th centuries and was multiply restored. Sioni Cathedral was the main Georgian Orthodox Cathedral and the seat of Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia until the Holy Trinity Cathedral was consecrated in 2004. However, it still holds the venerated Grapevine cross (exhibited at the left of the altar) forged by Saint Nino, a Cappadocian woman who preached Christianity in Georgia in the early 4th century. Sioni Cathedral was the place where the Russian Imperial manifesto on the annexation of Georgia was first published on April 12, 1802, when the Russian commander-in-chief in Georgia, General Karl von Knorring, assembled the Georgian nobles in the Cathedral surrounded by Russian troops. The nobles were forced to take an oath to the Russian Imperial crown and any who disagreed was taken into custody.

5| 47, LESELIDZE STREET SYNAGOGUE.

Georgian Jews are one of the oldest communities in Georgia, tracing their migration into the country during the Babylonian captivity in 6th century BC. In Tbilisi Jewish Diaspora was mainly concentrated in Lower Kala and operated several synagogues in the city. The synagogue in Leselidze Street was built in 1910 and is still functioning.

6| PEACE BRIDGE

Straddling the Mtkvari river in Tbilisi, Georgia, is a new pedestrian bridge, courtesy of Italian architect Michel De Lucchi and French lighting director Philippe Martinaud. The structure is composed of glass and iron connecting Old Tbilisi with the new district, and boasts a 150m roof of steel and glass. The bridge provides a unique old Tbilisi view. It also possesses an interactive light display system. 30,000 LEDs and 240 sensors installed within the structure convey specific messages, scrolled across the two parapets of the bridge every hour. According to the Georgian president, Mikheil Saakashvili the Peace Bridge is a symbol of Georgia's way from the past to the better future.

GENERAL ROUTE /

ROUTE 3



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7| 41, LESELIDZE STREET JVRISMAMA (CROSS FATHER).

The Church of St. Cross known to the public as Jvrismama Church is situated in Lower Kala, at the corner of Leselidze and Jerusalem Streets. Tradition holds it that it was initially King Vakhtang Gorgasali who built a church here naming it after Golgotha. The present church was built in the 16th c.

8| ANCHISKHATI BASILICA

The Anchiskhati Basilica of St Mary is the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi, situated in Shavteli Street of Upper Kala. Built in the 6th c. the church is a three-nave basilica. Originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it was renamed Anchiskhati (i.e., icon of Anchi) in 1675 when the treasured icon of the Savior created by the twelfth-century goldsmith Beka Opizari at the Anchi was moved to Tbilisi to preserve it from an Ottoman invasion. The icon was preserved at the Basilica of St Mary for centuries and is presently on display at the Art Museum of Georgia.

9| RIKE PARK

The new recreation complex on Rike square is laid out on 10 hectares in the

historic district of Tbilisi. It has a shape of Georgia's map in which different regions are connected to each other with pedestrian pathways. There are Amphitheatre and children's square too. The park is distinguished with its dancing and musical foundation designed by Spanish architect. Rike Park is already open for tourists and residents of Tbilisi, although its final rehabilitation will be completed in 2012.

10| METEKHI

The historical heart of the city, Metekhi is the place from where King Vakhtang Gorgasali started to develop the new capital erecting the first church on top of the hill in the 5th c. Tradition holds that it was also a site where the 5th-century martyr lady Saint Shushanik, the heroine of the oldest known Georgian piece of literature, was buried. Later kings chose the site to host their court, royal palace, fortress and a cathedral here and it remained the royal residence right through Queen Tamar's reign until Khwarezmid invasion headed by Jalal ad-Din in 1226 left Tbilisi in ruins and its Isani district, including this gorgeous hill-top ensemble, in flames. The extant

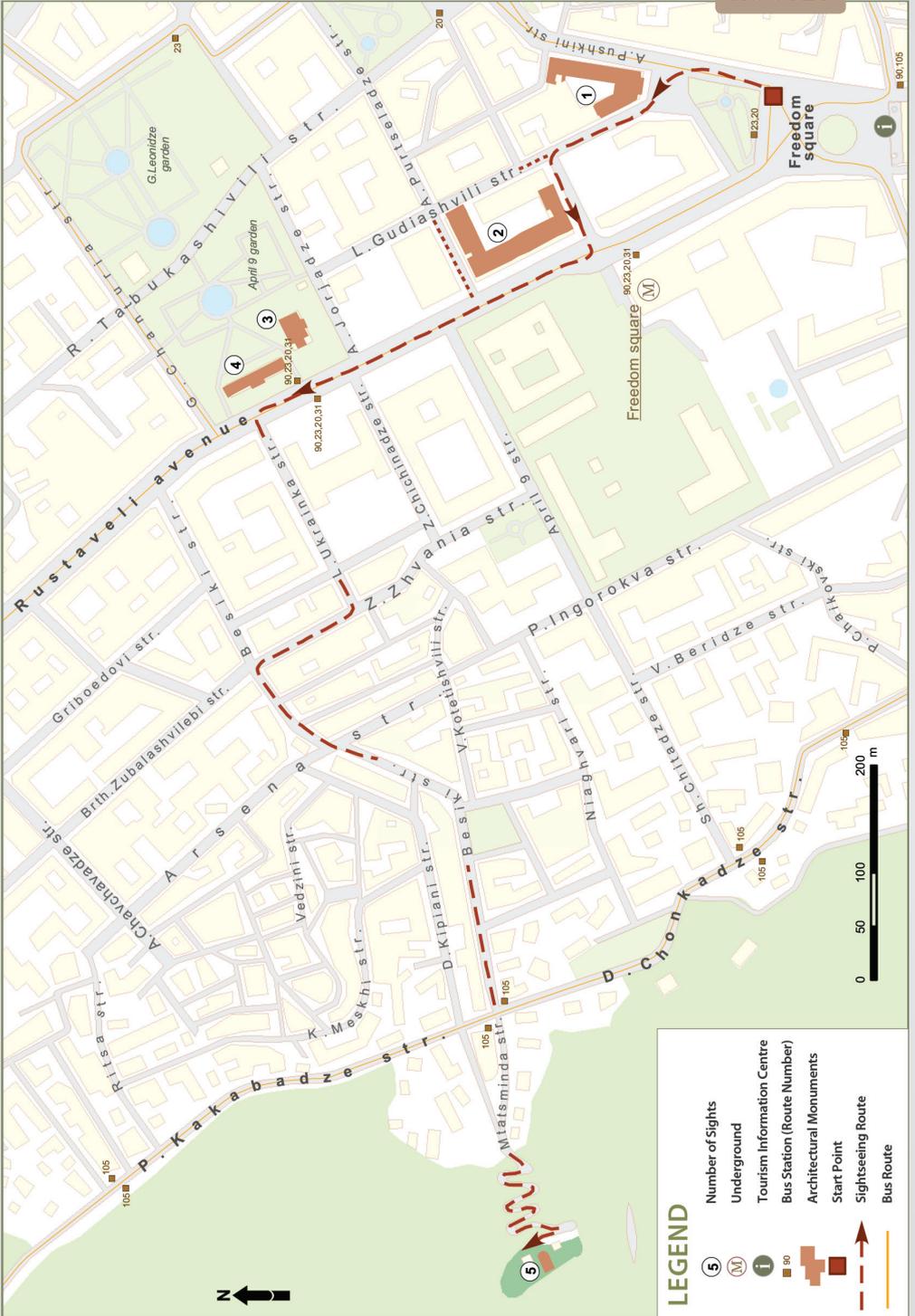
Metekhi Church of Assumption, resting upon the top of the cliff, was built by the Georgian king St Demetrius II circa 1278–1284 and is somewhat an unusual example of domed Georgian Orthodox church. It was later damaged and restored several times. Metekhi is a must-see for any new visitor to Tbilisi.

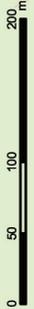
11| DAREJANI PALACE AND CHURCH OF TRANSFIGURATION

Another popular attraction, the colorful Darejani Palace or Sachino Estate is also nested on the cliff, next to Metekhi Church. In the 18th c. Queen Darejan, the wife of King Erekle II had the palace edified as her summer residence and had a chapel of the King's and Queen's Saints – Erekle and Daria – built beside it. A Theatre during the Soviet era it has been a functioning Convent since 1991.

12| SAMEBA CATHEDRAL

The main cathedral of the Georgian Orthodox Church presents a gorgeous view from various points in the city. This magnificent ensemble was built where once was the Church of St. Elias and consecrated on 3 March 1996.







TBILISI FOR KIDS / ROUTE 1

This route is specially designed for children to show them around Tbilisi attractions such as parks, museums and amusement places.



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1| 37, RUSTAVELI AVENUE. "ANIMAL WORLD". MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

The museum exhibits animal and bird species from Georgia, as well as Asia, Africa and Americas. Working hours: Everyday 11.00 – 16.00

2| 12, LEO KIACHELI ST. GEORGIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM. HOUSE-MUSEUM OF ELENE AKHVLEDIANI.

The museum exhibits the artist's painting, her collections of works of applied and decorative arts. The museum hosted exhibitions of young artists still in her life.

Working hours: Everyday except Sunday and Monday, 10.00 – 18.00

3| ELENE AKHVLEDIANI NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PICTURE GALLERY. CORNER OF SHAVTELI AND BARATASHVILI STREETS.

Established in 1969. It is famous for its Golden Reserve of paintings by Georgian children, and for its collection of about 20 thousand pieces of fine art, graphics, sculpture,

ceramics, stitching, embroidering and wooden and metallic works. It annually hosts multiple exhibitions and competition and has an arts studio for children.

Working hours: Everyday 11.00 – 16.00

4| 17, IOANE SHAVTELI ST. MUSEUM OF DOLLS AND PUPPETS.

The museum presents an exclusive 19-20th c. collection of dolls and puppets. Working hours: Everyday 11.00 – 16.00

5| 8, SIONI ST.

Georgian National Museum. Ioseb Grishashvili Tbilisi History Museum (former Karvasla).

Children will find it interesting to see the collections reflecting Tbilisi history, everyday life and culture; unique documentary, archaeological and ethnographic pieces, everyday tools, and all sorts of odds and ends.

Working hours: Everyday except Monday, 10.00 – 18.00

6| MTATSMINDA AMUSEMENT PARK.

Mtatsminda plateau. An amusement park for children.

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TBILISI FOR KIDS / ROUTE2



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1| 29, NIKO PIROSMANI ST. NIKO PIROSMANASHVILI HOUSE- MUSEUM

(Branch of Niko Pirosmanshvili House-Museum in Mirzaani).

The museum is organized in what was initially the famous artist's 'residence' – a small room under the stairs where he lived and died. The other, bigger room contains Pirosmani's photos, archived materials and copies of his works.

Working hours: Everyday 11.00 – 16.00

2| 6, GIORGI TSABADZE STREET. SILK MUSEUM

In 1887 famous naturalist Nikoloz Shavrov organized the Caucasian Silk Station, which later acquired the status of a museum. It possesses an ancient collection reflecting the global history of silk industry, threads, weaving looms, pieces of cloth, collection of exotic butterflies, etc.

3| 6, GIORGI TSABADZE STREET. MUSHTAIDI PARK.

Mushtaidi Park was built by Phete Agha Seid Tavriz, a Shiite leader who had fled Iran in 1830. Tradition has

it that he chose Tbilisi as his shelter because of his Georgian wife who had died earlier and is buried in the same park. Mushtaidi was well-known for the exhibitions, performances and festivals organized in the garden. In 1935 Mushtaidi put into operation the first children railway.



TBILISI FOR KIDS / ROUTE 3



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1| 64, KOSTAVA ST. TBILISI ZOO.

Founded in 1927, the zoo occupies up to 120 ha of land and exhibits fauna species endemic to the Caucasus, such as aurochs, wild goat, chamois, deer, roe, common pheasant, Caucasian grouse, Caucasian snowcock, etc. The zoo also has an amusement section for the kids.

Working hours: 9:00-21:00 in summer; 10:00-18:00 in winter. Entrance fee: 0.5 GEL (free for 0-3 year old children).

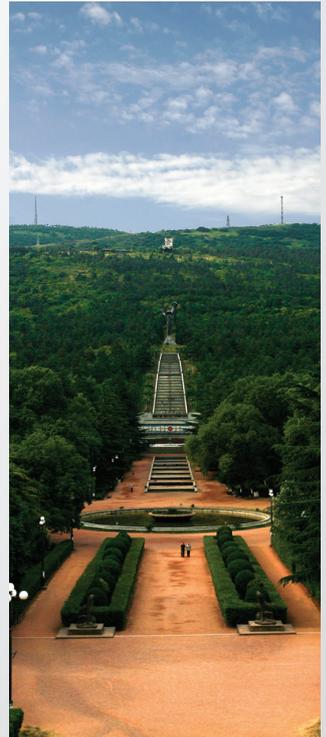
2| VAKE PARK.

The park is stretched on a bare slope of Trialeti Range, at one of the ends of the prolonged Vake district, and connects with Chavchavadze Avenue with a wide staircase. The central part of the park stands out with a fountain surrounded by a round pool. The park looks especially attractive thanks to the red sand covering its paths. There is a children's town, open cinema, multiple cafes and a restaurant in the park ending with the Locomotive Stadium in its south-west.

3| ETHNOGRAPHIC OPEN AIR MUSEUM.

Founded in 1966 on the slope leading to the Turtles Lake, Giorgi Chitaia Georgian Folk Architecture and Ethnography occupies 52 hectares of land and houses more than 8 thousand exhibits brought from all over Georgia. The Open Air Museum exposes 14 ethnographic zones: Kartli, Samegrelo, Adjara, Abkhazia, Svaneti, Khevsureti, Kakheti, Meskheta, Javakheti, Guria, Imereti, Racha, Lechkhumi and Osetia. Each of them presents the particular historic-ethnographic area of Georgia. Together with the architectural monuments the museum exposes ethnographic materials - different kinds of tools, textile and ceramics. The museum also exposes the V-VI c. basilica of Sioni, as well as a rich collection of the grave stones in relief.

Working hours: Everyday except Monday, 10.00 – 18.00

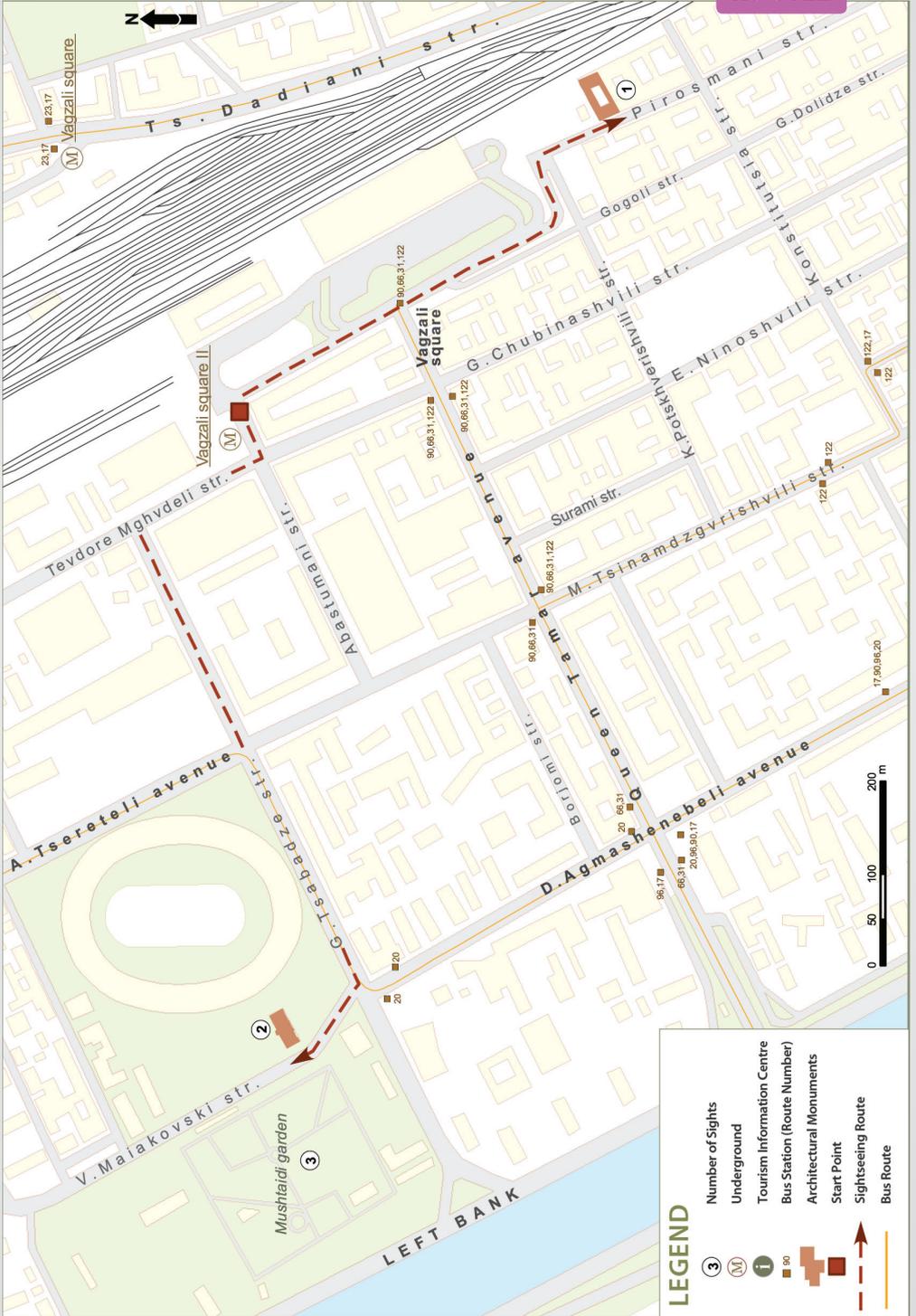


ROUTE 1

LEGEND

-  Number of Sights
-  Underground
-  Tourism Information Centre
-  Bus Station (Route Number)
-  Architectural Monuments
-  Start Point
-  Sightseeing Route
-  Bus Route





LEGEND

- ③ Number of Sights
- Ⓜ Underground
- Ⓜ Tourism Information Centre
- Ⓜ Bus Station (Route Number)
- 90 Architectural Monuments
- Start Point
- Sightseeing Route
- Bus Route

ART NOUVEAU IN TBILISI

/ ROUTE 1

As the 19th c. was fading away Europe witnessed rising of a new and very popular style of Art Nouveau referred to as Modernist style in Georgia. The new trend started to gain popularity in Georgia right from its appearance and many buildings that have now been recognized as certain landmarks in our city were built following its artistic features. Modernistic forms in Tbilisi acquired an original shape and character and are now part of world heritage. The modernistic buildings presented throughout this route have largely contributed to the unique character of Tbilisi as a European city.



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1| 3, PUSHKIN STREET.

Architect A. Salzmann. 1870s.
Reconstructed in modernistic style in 1903. Former Tbilisi City Credit Society quarters.

2| 3/7, AKHOSPIRELI LANE.

Unknown architect. Early 20th c.
Residential building.

3| MANTASHEVI AND BAMBA (COTTON) ROWS

In 1905 architect Ghazar Sarkisyan built the so-called Mantashev's commercial row. The facilities follow the curved line of the street and create a whole ensemble of modernistic style.

4| 3, LEONIDZE STREET.

Architect M. Ohanjanov. 1910.
National Bank of Georgia.

5| 7, LEONIDZE STREET.

Unknown architect. 1902. Former glove atelier.

6| 4, KIKODZE STREET.

Unknown architect. Early 20th c.

Former residential building, currently public school 50.

7| 6, KIKODZE STREET.

Architect Aleksander Ozerov. 1906.
Residential building.

8| 13, MACHABELI STREET.

Architect K. Zaar. 1905. Former D. Sarajshvili's house. Currently Writers' Union quarters.

9| 3, KOJORI STREET.

Architect P. Zurabian. 1905. Residential building.

10| 4, CHONKADZE STREET.

Architect M. Ohanjanov. 1903.
Residential building.

11| 12, CHONKADZE STREET.

Architect M. Ohanjanov. 1914.
Residential building.

12| 20, INGOROKVA STREET.

Early 20th c. Architect Mikheil Noprntsev. 1914. Residential building.



ART NOUVEAU IN TBILISI

/ ROUTE 2



1



2



4

1| 7, MARJANISHVILI STREET.
TBC BANK QUARTERS.

Architect A. Rogoisky. 1912. Former
Caucasian Officers' Economic Society.

2| 8, MARJANISHVILI STREET.
MARJANISHVILI THEATRE.

Architect S. Krichinsky. 1907. Public
House built and gifted to Tbilisi by
Zubalashvili brothers.

3| 8, CHKHEIDZE STREET.

Architect M. Neprintsev. 1913. Former
Real Gymnasium.

4| 10, KRILOV STREET.

Architect I. Dizmann. Early 20th c.
Residential building.

5| 130, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.

Unknown architect. 1912. Residential
building.

6| 125, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.

Unknown architect. 1909. Former
Palace Cinema.

7| 135, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.
FORMER APOLLO CINEMA.

One of the first cinema buildings in

Tbilisi. Opened in 1909.

8| 3A, KARGARETELI STREET.

Unknown architect. Early 20th c.
Residential building.

9| 3B, KARGARETELI STREET.

Unknown architect. 1903. Residential
building.

10| 28, NINOSHVILI STREET.

Architect G. Kurdiani. 1904. Residential
building.

11| 16, GENERAL MAZNIASHVILI
STREET.

Unknown architect. 1906. Residential
building.

12| 39, TSINAMDZGHVRISHVILI STREET.

Architect P. Zurabian. Early 20th c.
Residential building.

13| 36, AGHMASHENEBELI AVENUE.

Unknown architect. 1903. Residential
building.

14| 4, VARTSIKHE STREET.

Architect S. Kldiashvili. 2nd half of the

19th c. Reconstructed in modernistic
style in 1902. Residential building.

15| 6, IV. JAVAKHISHVILI STREET.

Unknown architect. Early 20th c.
Residential building.

ART NOUVEAU IN TBILISI

/ ROUTE2



7



12



13



14



ART NOUVEAU IN TBILISI

/ ROUTE 3



1



2

1| 37, RUSTAVELI AVENUE.
Melik Azaryants House. Architect N. Obolensky. 1915.

2| 18, RUSTAVELI AVENUE.
Early 20th c. Residential building.

3| 48/52, ZUBALASHVILI BROTHERS STREET.
Architect M. Ohanjanov. 1906. Former House of Invalids built and gifted to Tbilisi by Zubalashvili brothers.

4| ALEKSANDRE CHAVCHAVADZE Alley. Architect M. Neprintsev. 1913. Residential building.

5| 3, DAVIT TORADZE ALLEY.
Unknown architect. 1910s. Residential building.

6| 20, ZANDUKELI STREET.
Unknown architect. 1910s. Early 20th c.

7| 16, BARNOV STREET.
Unknown architect. 1910s. Residential building.

8| 18, MAKASHVILI STREET.
Unknown architect. 1910s. Residential building.

9| 14, TATISHVILI STREET.
Unknown architect. 1905. Residential building.



ART NOUVEAU IN TBILISI

/ ROUTE3

3



6



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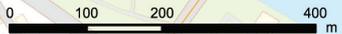
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- Bus Station (Route Number) 90
- Architectural Monuments
- Start Point
- Sightseeing Route
- Bus Route





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MULTICULTURAL TBILISI

/ ROUTE 1

Tbilisi is known for its multicultural roots and forms. This route presents religious and public venues for peoples of various faiths and ethnicities mainly concentrated in Kala and Chughureti area.



2



3



4



5

1| 20, GALAKTIONI STREET CAUCASIAN HOUSE AND SMIRNOV MUSEUM

Smirnov Museum is located in the former residence of Empress's Lady in Waiting Aleksandra-Rosetti built in 1860s. Her descendant Mikheil Smirnov presented the house and the relics owned by his family in the past to Georgia.

2| CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ASCENSION

Catholics started to actively visit and open their missionary activities in Georgia in the 18th c. In 1671 Capuchins built the first Catholic Church in Abesadze Street. In 1805-1808 Church of Ascension was built in the same place. In 1999 Catholics restored the church and have operated it since then.

3| MUSEUM OF JEWISH HISTORY IN GEORGIA

3, ANTON KATALIKOSI STREET.
Former Synagogue. David Baazov Museum of Jewish History in Georgia. Built in 1910. Classicistic style. The museum collections include ritual

items, icons, paintings by famous Jewish artist Shalva Koboshvili, etc.

4| 41, LESELIDZE STREET. NORASHENI

Gregorian Church of Virgin Mary. According to French traveler Jean Chardin Norasheni church was built in the early half of 1670; however historians attribute construction date to 1793. The church is built of bricks in the form of a cross and is related to the Armenian and Georgian architecture of the late medieval centuries. Its façade has some traces of classicistic style. The church was painted in the 19th c. by Armenian artist Mkrtym Ovnatanian. It is the main Gregorian church in Tbilisi.

5| 4, SIONI STREET. SIONI CATHEDRAL

Sioni Cathedral is situated in historic Sionis Kucha (Sioni Street) in downtown Tbilisi, with its eastern facade fronting the right embankment of the Mtkvari River. It was initially built in the 6th-7th centuries and was restored multiple times. Sioni Cathedral was the main

Georgian Orthodox Cathedral and the seat of Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia until the Holy Trinity Cathedral was consecrated in 2004. However, it still holds the venerated Grapevine cross (exhibited at the left of the altar) forged by Saint Nino, a Cappadocian woman who preached Christianity in Georgia in the early 4th century. Sioni Cathedral was the place where the Russian Imperial manifesto on the annexation of Georgia was first published on April 12, 1802, when the Russian commander-in-chief in Georgia, General Karl von Knorring, assembled the Georgian nobles in the Cathedral surrounded by Russian troops. The nobles were forced to take an oath to the Russian Imperial crown and any who disagreed was taken into custody.

6| 47, LESELIDZE STREET. SYNAGOGUE

Georgian Jews are one of the oldest communities in Georgia, tracing their migration into the country during the Babylonian captivity in 6th century BC. In Tbilisi Jewish Diaspora was mainly concentrated in Lower Kala and



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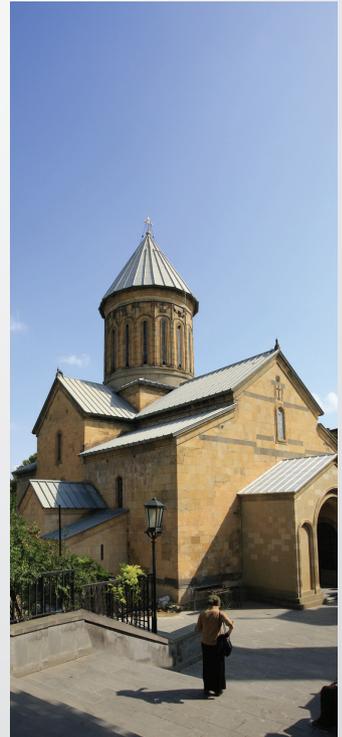
operated several synagogues in the city. The synagogue in Leselidze Street was built in 1910 and is still functioning.

7| 3, GOMI STREET. ATESHGAH

This Zoroastrian Temple of Fire has existed in the beautiful Kldisubani district since the ancient times and is one of the oldest religious facilities in the city. The name is derived from the Persian word 'ateshgah' meaning 'place of fire'. There were in all five ateshgahs in Georgia and this one is the only currently remaining place of fire worship, and one of the two still extant in Southern Caucasus – the other one being in Baku. Soon after construction of the temple Persians converted to Islam and the building remained functionless until Turks transformed it into a Sunni Mosque in the 18th c. However, Iranian Shah Nadir who confessed Shiite Islam, banished Turks from Tbilisi and annihilated any Sunni traces in the building.

8| 21, BOTANICAL GARDEN STREET. MOSQUE

The eight angled Minaret of the brick mosque draws the attention even from the far distance and is perceived in a different ways from the various sides. The originally Sunni mosque, located at the end of the Botanical garden is the only functioning mosque in Tbilisi at present, after the Shiite Mosque on the other bank of the Mtkvari was destroyed by communist rulers. Now it serves Shia as well as Sunni Muslims which is extremely rare in any country of the world.



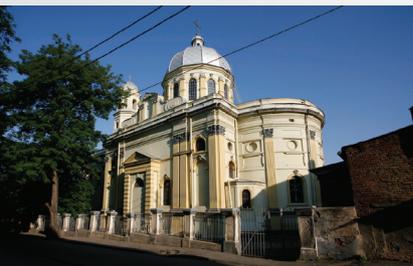
MULTICULTURAL TBILISI

/ ROUTE 1

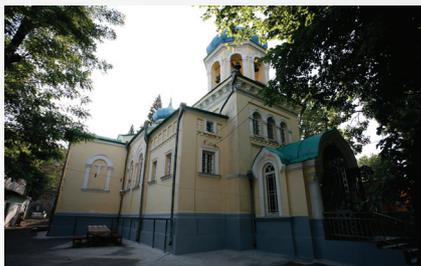


MULTICULTURAL TBILISI

/ ROUTE2



1



2



3

55, JAVAKHISHVILI STREET.
CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST PAUL
 The church was built in 1870-1877 with financial sponsorship of businessman Konstantine Zubalashvili and architectural design of Albert Salzmann. Its parish mainly consisted of the Poles exiled in Georgia after the Polish insurrection. It is also noteworthy as the church where Pope John Paul II held his mass during his visit in Tbilisi in 1999. The architecture follows the trend prevailing in Roman churches of early baroque style, namely that of Il Gesu Church in Vignola.

36, MARJANISHVILI STREET.
CHURCH OF ALEKSANDER NEVSKY
 Russian Orthodox Church of Aleksander Nevsky was built in 1863-64, the church is an early example of Russian architecture in Tbilisi.

17, TARENTI GRANELI STR.
LUTHERAN CHURCH
 German Lutheran Church was built in 1996-1997 at the initiative of Pastor Gerdt Hummel. 19th c. was marked with a concentration of German Diaspora in the area of

present Aghmashenebeli Avenue. They initially built a small church in Marjanishvili Square. In 1894-1897 architect L. Bilfeld constructed a large neo-gothic Lutheran church, a so-called Kirche in its place, which was destroyed in 1945.





LEGEND

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- Tourism Information Centre
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- Architectural Monuments
- Start Point
- Sightseeing route
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ROUTE 2



LEGEND

- Number of Sights
- Underground
- Tourism Information Centre
- Bus Station (Route Number)
- Architectural Monuments
- Start Point
- Sightseeing Route
- Bus Route



OLD ENTRANCES / ROUTE 1

One of the most exciting phenomenon or you may Call it a secret or surprise tbilisi holds for you Is often the porches hidden away from the facades, With their festive halls, salve inscribed on The floor, portals, pilasters, marble panels, beautiful rails, Salon-like artistry and even stained Glass windows. This route enables the visitor to stroll around the historically and artistically significant houses Dating back to the 19-20th c. That stand out with Their gorgeous porches.



1



4

1| 54, RUSTAVELI AVENUE.

The two-storey house was built with the design of Korneli Tatischev in 1897 and owned by Vasil Gabashvili. The facade stands out with its carved wooden gallery that is one of the masterpieces of Tbilisi balconies by its structure and decoration. The facade is mainly built in baroque-eclectic style and richened by modeled ornaments. The entrance is ornately decorated with pilasters, panels and cornices, a lead light, and ornamented floor. The decor is mainly of pseudo-baroque style and is an excellent piece of architectural sculpture.

2| 27, GRIBOEDOV STREET.

3| 14, GRIBOEDOV STREET.

4| 5, TAMAR ABAKELIA STREET.

The three-storey residential building built in the 1880-1890s. With the original design the

house contained two floors. The third floor was added later. The building is an example of renaissance-baroque eclectics. The small entrance has an original architecture and artistic decoration. It is fully painted. The plafond bears a view of the sky with a figurine. The walls are decorated with decorative panels imitating marble, with meander and floral motifs. The same theme persists in the decoration of the staircase. The dynamic form of the semi-curling stairs and the bronze candelabra on the upper floor are worth noting.

5| 10, KONSTANTINE MAKASHVILI STREET.

6| 16, BARNOV STREET.

7| 41, MERAB KOSTAVA STREET.



OLD ENTRANCES /

ROUTE 2



2



3



4

1| 3/7, BEGLAR AKHOSPIRELI LANE.

2| 24, LADO ASATIANI STREET.

3| 24/21, GALAKTION TABIDZE STREET.

4| 18, GALAKTION TABIDZE STREET.

The four-storey residential house acquired the current form by reconstructing the previously existing buildings. The house belonged to brothers Seilanov. The torch is fully painted in oil with allegoric images of various countries and continents on the walls, such as Asia, Europe, Australia, Africa, Russia, etc. assumedly by Beno Tellingater. The walls around the staircase still have remains of romantic landscapes. Certain elements are accomplished by trompe d'oeil. The top floor has decorations in the form of the owners' monograms. Also noteworthy is the colorful carpet of the floor mosaics with the owners' name incrustated on the floor in the hall.

5| 6, GERONTI KIKODZE STREET.

6| 13, MACHABELI STREET.

The two-storey modernistic residential house with an attic was built in 1905 based on the design of German architect Karl Zaar. The house belonged to outstanding Georgian businessman and patron of art Davit Sarajishvili (1848-1911). Since 1921 the building has functioned as the headquarters of the Georgian Writers' Union. The house has a beautiful door rich in ornaments, and a hall lined with colorful marble. Arched plafonds are decorated with floral images and arches stand out for their colorful caissons.

7| 27, L. ASATIANI STREET.

The two-storey residential house was built in 1908 and stands out as one of the most characteristic pieces of pseudo-Moresque architecture. Designed by architect Ghazar Sarkysyan (1874-1946), the building has two painted porches. The main entrance is decorated in Moresque

style with stucco stalactites. The plafond in the main hall is bedecked in polychromic ornaments. The entrance was heated with a glazed oven. Especially noteworthy is the arcade tiled with marble on the second floor. The ceiling on the top floor was lined with stained glass, however, it was lost with time.

8| 58, LADO ASATIANI STREET.

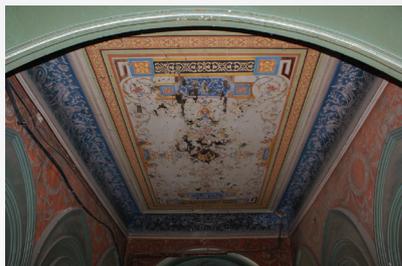
9| 4, DANIEL CHONKADZE STREET.

A modernistic house built in 1903 and designed by architect Mikheil Ohanjanov. Thanks to its architectural features and advantageous position it has an accentuating role in the current development of Sololaki district: the house stands on a high terrace and connects to the street with a stair-case carved in a tunnel through the cliff. The entrance is worth of noting. The upper part of the entrance has two exits: one connecting to the yard and the other – to the main entrance. The staircase walls and plafond still has remains of painted

OLD ENTRANCES / ROUTE 2



6



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9

décor. The decorations on the balustrade are also worth noting. The stairs leading to the yard are flanked with pillars and the stone balustrade is enriched by modernistic colorful floral motif. There is also a sad legend associated with the house: the owners' daughter died at a young age and the parents built a tower on top of the house to overlook her grave on the other bank of the Mtkvari.

10| 12, DANIEL CHONKADZE STREET. Built in 1914 the house is an interesting building of modernistic style and was designed by Architect Mikheil Ohanjanov with collaboration of Architect Petre Kolchin. Owned by brothers Bozardjians, the house received the 2nd Best Façade of the Year award from the City Council in 1914 (1st prize was not granted to any building). The entrance is mainly modernistic with traces of art deco. The walls are lined with white ceramic tiles, with the upper

part decorated with laconic ornaments. The niches of the inner door are rich in stained glass windows. The balustrade is made of colorful marble. The wooden details and artistically refined metallic handles are worth noting.

11| 4, Z. ZHVANIA STREET.

12| 31, GIORGI ATONELI STREET.



OLD ENTRANCES / ROUTE 3



2



4

1| 93, DAVID AGHMASHENBELI AVENUE.

2| 111, DAVID AGHMASHENBELI AVENUE.

3| 53, DIMITRI UZNADZE STREET.

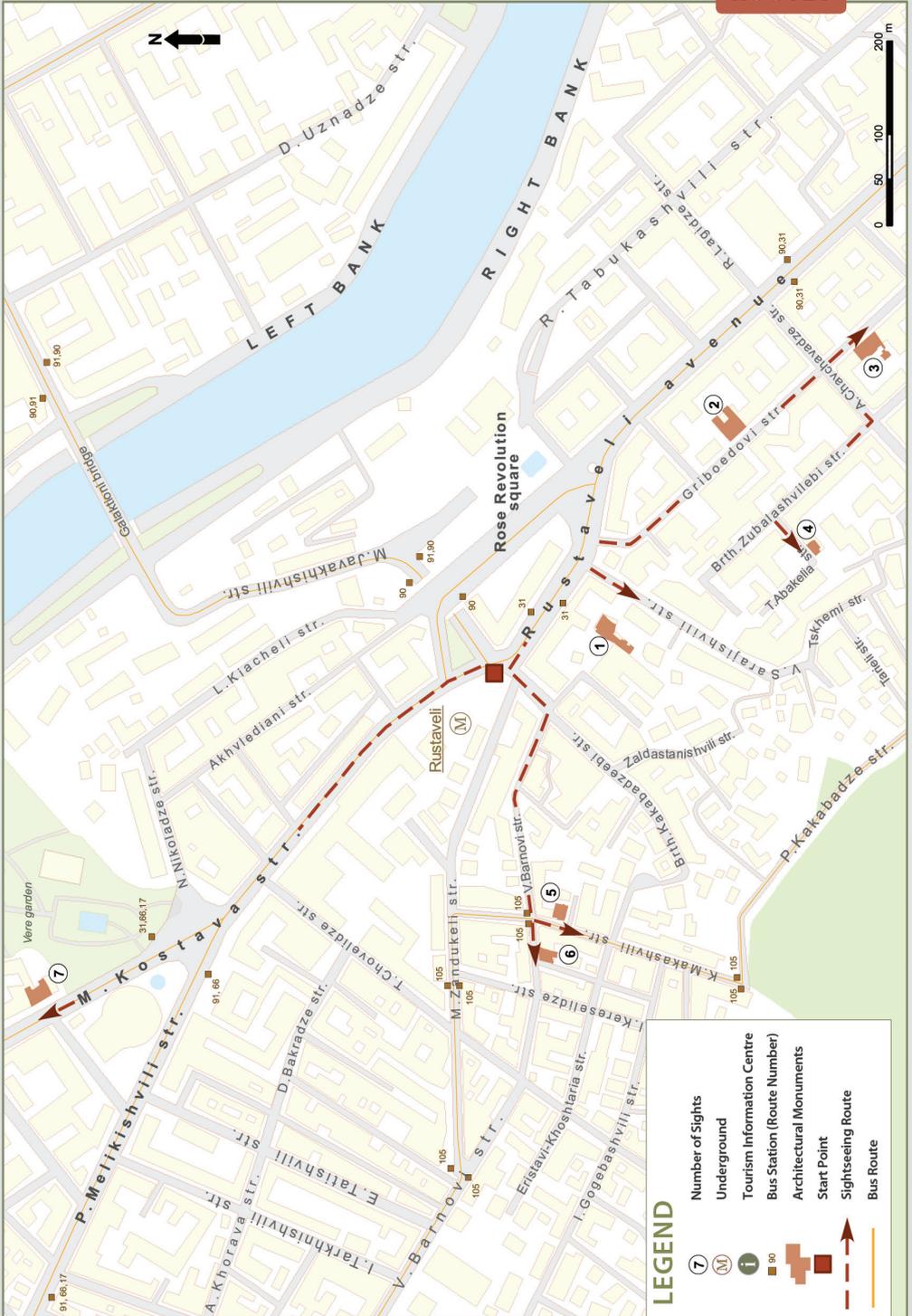
4| 36, DAVID AGHMASHENBELI AVENUE.

5| 15, DIMITRI UZNADZE STREET.

6| 39, MIKHEIL TSINAMDZGHVRISHVILI STREET.

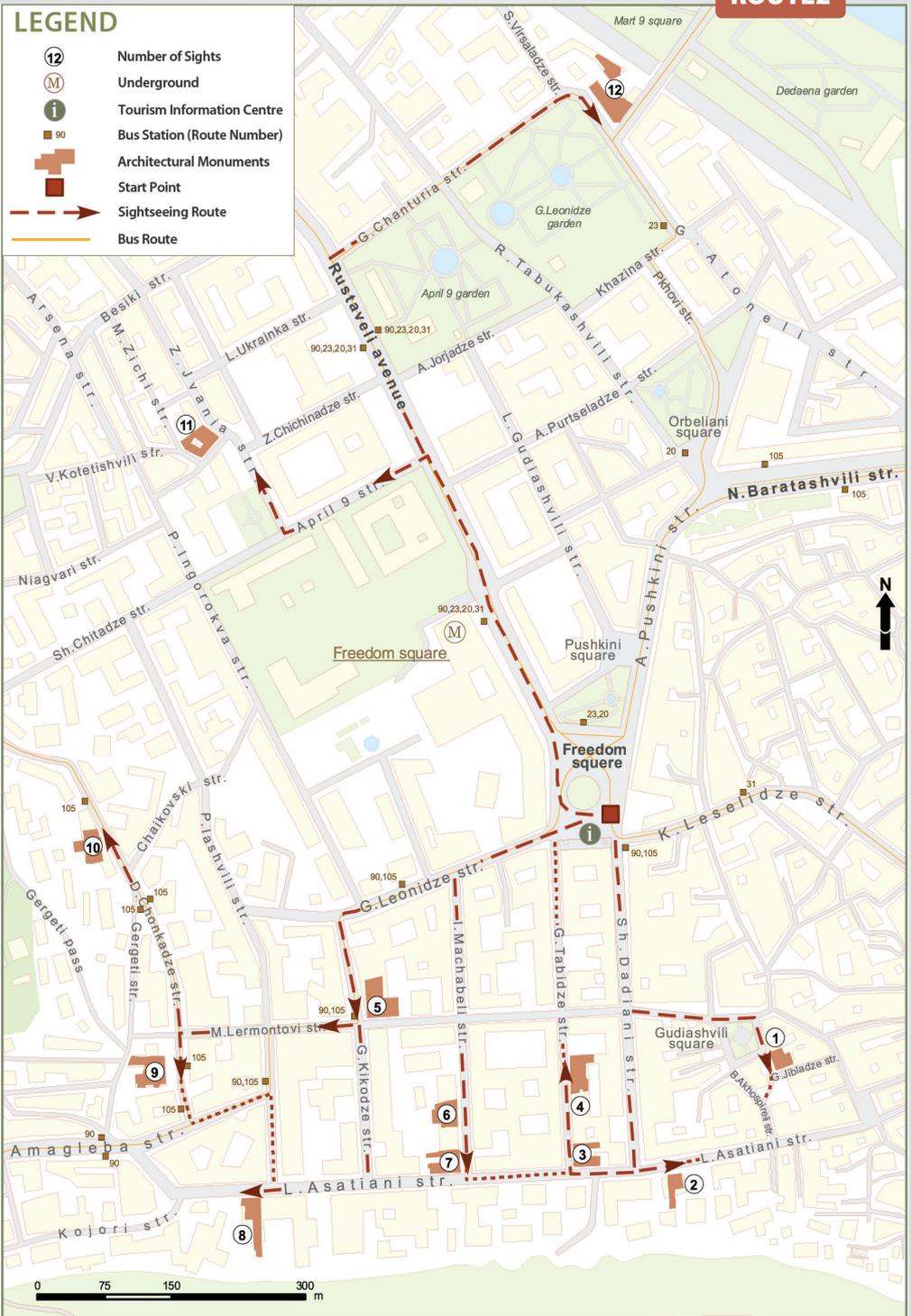
7| 31, IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI STREET.

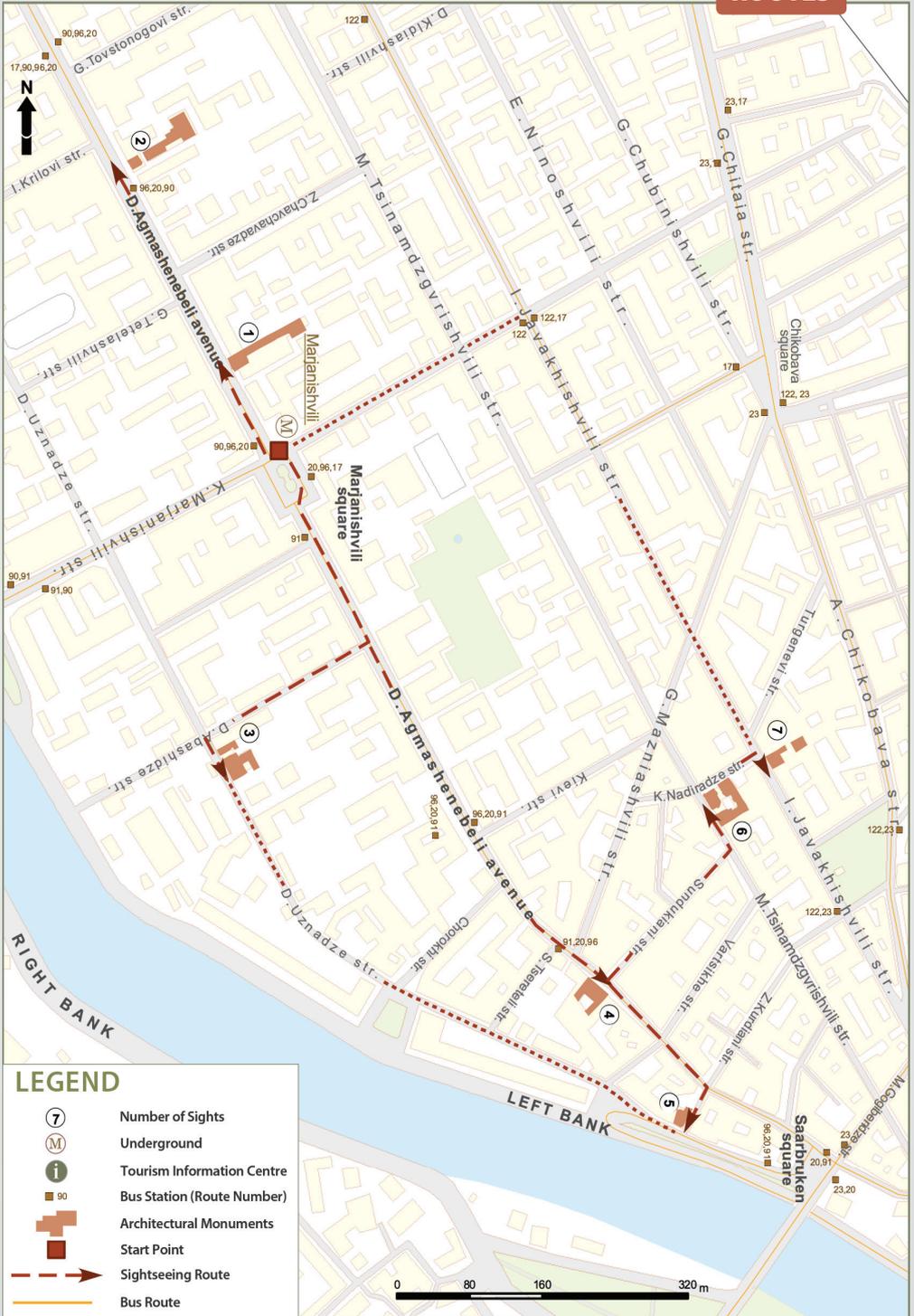




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