

Tbilisi Architecture & Travel Guide

A cliff-and-river reading of fortresses, domed bathhouses, carved balconies and the glass icons of the new city.



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ARCHITECTURAL LENS	GUIDE STATUS	WEB EDITION
Fortress · Bathhouse · Glass	Editorial guide · reviewed 08 October 2026	worldarchjournal.com/atlas/georgia/tbilisi/

Read the city in layers.

Tbilisi is a city of hills: the ridge and gorge sections are steep and exposed, so mix walking with the cable car and Bolt rides. Spring and autumn are the walking seasons. Use the guide as an architecture-led framework and confirm opening hours and access with each venue.

This downloadable edition is an editorial companion to the live guide. It is not a booking service, does not make a current price or availability claim, and does not replace official venue information.

Five places to study.

Narikala Fortress

The fourth-century citadel crowning the ridge — Persian in origin, rebuilt over sixteen centuries. Walk the walls for the city's defining panorama; the cable car from Rike Park climbs in about two minutes.

Metekhi Church

The thirteenth-century church on the cliff above the Mtkvari, watched over by the statue of King Vakhtang Gorgasali — the legendary fifth-century founder. Study the perch before the building: the site is the composition.

Abanotubani

The sulfur-bath district at the city's root: brick domes and vaulted roofs rising straight from the ground, the most intact of them the blue-tiled Orbeliani bathhouse. Read the district as one piece of thermal infrastructure.

Bridge of Peace

Michele De Lucchi's 2010 bow — 150 metres of steel and glass spanning the Mtkvari to Rike Park, lit at night by LEDs that blink the periodic table in Morse code. Cross it at dusk.

Sameba (Holy Trinity Cathedral)

The cathedral complex on St Elijah hill in Avlabari — one of the largest Orthodox churches built in the modern era. The courtyard at sunset, belltower against the foothills, is the composed view.

Two ways to explore.

Old Town walking loop

Start at Meidan Square, walk through Abanotubani past the bathhouse domes, follow the Leghvtakhevi gorge to its waterfall, then climb the ridge to Narikala and the Kartlis Deda statue. Descend through the lanes to Sioni Cathedral and Shardeni Street. Allow three hours unhurried.

Bridge of Peace to Sameba

Cross the Bridge of Peace from Rike Park at dusk, continue through Europe Square and climb Avlabari to the Sameba Cathedral terrace — river, ridge and foothills read in one sequence. Time the terrace for sunset.

04 / PRACTICAL NOTES

Use the live page for links and updates.

Opening hours, access, weather, transport, trail conditions and venue policies can change. Re-check the official source before travelling. The web edition contains live Google Maps links and the current source list.

Open the live guide: <https://worldarchjournal.com/atlas/georgia/tbilisi/>

Sources and editorial boundary.

- Georgia Travel: official visitor information
- The Georgian Guide: Tbilisi Old Town walking tour
- Madloba: Narikala Fortress guide

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