

A Field Trip to Georgia – Ancient Heritage and Museum Politics

Introduction

KulturAgenda – Institute for Museums, Cultural Enterprises and Audiences aspires to offer great-value professional excursions which are driven by local developments and have a strong cultural component. This time we have joined forces with ICOM Georgia in developing a programme that will be for sure rewarding and not just for museum professionals.

Abstract

Our excursion to Georgia, which recently signed an affiliation treaty with the EU, will not only showcase a museums sector still re-inventing itself after gaining independence from Russia, but also explore some of the country's vast cultural heritage on the crossroads between Asia and Europe.

Georgia, for many people an overlooked destination, is one of the world's most fascinating countries to visit. Rich in historic sites, museum collections, architecture and traditions you can almost immediately connect with a history that has so many facets and stories to tell.

On our route we will look behind the scenes at cultural heritage sites and museums, as listed below, and we will also of course connect with local people - Georgians are known for their hospitality and kindness – and we will have the luxury to feel and taste Georgian cuisine and wine made in Quveries, an ancient tradition which makes Georgia the motherland of wine.

On the political side Georgia had so many struggles for survival against powerful forces throughout its existence. Even today the country is under immense pressure from its northern neighbour Russia. We will not shy away from these political hot topics and also plan a discussion with local politicians and political scientists in Tbilisi.

The main objectives of this excursion are to give participants an insight into Georgian culture in times of regional devolution and explore the dynamics of a museums and culture sector that faces immense challenges in a politically unstable region. We will discuss with colleagues the deeper implications of the independence process, how museums are funded and operated and how they link with their local communities and the wider public.

Venues include

- National Museum of Fine Art, Tbilisi
- National Museum Georgia
- Silk Museum Tbilisi
- Mzcheta UNESCO-World Heritage Site
- Khacheti wine region (Eastern Georgia)
- Tsinandali, Aleksandre Chavchavadze Museum (founder of the Georgian romantic poetry)

Concept and Tour Guide

Christian Waltl, KulturAgenda

Dates: 29.3 to 2.4.2016

Programme Fee

Standard Fee: 750 €

This includes 4 hotel nights, half board, all bus transfers, entries to museums and heritage sites and wine tasting. **Please note that flights to Tbilisi are not included and need to be arranged individually.** Travel insurance is also not included.

Who should participate?

Museum professionals but also cultural tourists who have a specific interest in Georgian history and culture.

Number of participants

18 people maximum (registration is on a first-come first-served basis).

Please note that the excursion will only take place if we do reach a minimum number of bookings

Language

English (with some German translation)

Organisers

KulturAgenda Institute in cooperation with ICOM Georgia.