



Telavi

Reflecting medieval Georgia almost nowhere can one meet such a harmonious and wonderful fusion of European and Asian cultures, which has been developing for centuries in Eastern Georgia, and in particular, in the Kakheti region and its capital, Telavi. In addition, the heart of Kakheti, Telavi, is the best location to describe the harmonious combination of Georgian spiritual culture, polyphonic songs, traditions, and supra (table) merged into unity. Over the span of the past two hundred years, during which Georgia's social and political life developed under the hegemonic sign of a "foreign," "imposed" order, the order of the supra became the symbol of true authenticity. At the beginning of the XI century Telavi is a capital of Kakheti and becomes big settlement when king Kvirike III united the kingdom of Kakheti and Hereti. In the 12th century, it was one of the important cities of Georgia with developed trade and crafts. From the second half of the 13th century, after the Mongol campaigns, its importance declined. In the 15th-16th centuries, Telavi was promoted again. In the 17th century, the further development of the city was hindered by the campaigns of Iran. In the second half of the 17th century Telavi became a center of culture and education.

Old Telavi

The value of the historical part of Telavi lies in the close unity of medieval feudal fortresses and civil architecture which shows the harmonic fusion of European and Asian cultures. The scale and character of the old walls of the four forts determine the basis of the development of the city. The oldest among them is the Kadori Castle, also known as the "Old Wall", which dominates the elevated Kadori Hill. The road to the Kadori castle splits in two directions. The first overlooks the part of the historical city, while the second runs down to the Kadori garden. These developments repeat the outline of the old castle creating particularly interesting artistic-architectural composition. "Kadori's hill" is a landmark of the territory of "Old Telavi". There is a beautiful view of the Caucasus Mountains from here. Residential houses are significant in a sense of artistic and historical value. The architecture of the house is closely related to the fence wall and is its continuation. At the same time, it creates a small dominant for this micro district with wall piles, order, a moderate scale and a completely unique combination with the surrounding terrain. Along with it, family cellars that have survived for now in Telavi demonstrate the traditional hospitality culture of Georgia with combination of tasting the wine from the ancient pitchers preserved there.

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Telavi Historical Museum

Telavi Historical Museum is located on the territory of "Batonis Tsikhe", where many collections are gathered: Ancient human remains found in Kakheti, unique archeological and ethnographic items, natural history material, rich heritage of Christian culture Engraved and painted icons, crosses, embroidery, cloisonné enamel, first-class oriental monuments, rich collection of numismatics; Excellent works by Georgian and European artists of different times, etc. The Georgian folk musical instruments preserved in the museum are especially interesting in the sense that relatively simple and archaic forms are preserved in them, next to the developed instruments. There are - presses, pitchers, wooden barrels, clay vessels - jugs, vases, Glass bottles, cups- all wine making related things exhibited in the museum. The museum exhibits also a large number of items related to the Georgian traditional table. Besides of it, Ketevan Iashvili's (famous collector of arts in Georgia) art gallery belongs to the museum. 187 exhibits of the private collection are protected and exhibited in the museum. Among them interesting samples of Dutch, French, German, Russian (works of Ivan Aivazovsky, Ivan Kramskoi and other artists) paintings and small sculptures of the 19th century, as well as works of Georgian artists (Elene Akhvediani, Lado Gudiashvili, Jemal Khutsishvili and others). In addition to collections of archaeology, ethnography, numismatics, textiles, manuscripts and canvases, the museum has a scientific library with a collection of more than 5,000 books.

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