SARKE
STUDIO



PRODUCTION BOOK

GEORGIA & **CAUCASUS**



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SARKE STUDIO

Sarke Studio is an international film production company operating for over two decades, developing, financing, producing, and providing production services globally.

Our portfolio includes over 40 international features, series, shorts, 800+ commercials, and music videos with various budget scales spreading over 10 territories such as the US, UK, China, India and Australia.

Our international team of experienced film producers, financiers, line producers, production managers, and director assistants, is ready to turn your ideas into stunning visual content with a strong global appeal.

From the majestic Caucasus Mountains and the splendid oil shelves of the Caspian Sea to the boundless plains of Ukraine lies an unexploited world of vast opportunities combined into one unique film set, we call - **The Playground**.



WHY GEORGIA

Located in the Caucasus region where Europe meets Asia, Georgia has a lot to offer filmmakers; From flamboyant glass and steel structures to ancient fortresses and Soviet-Era buildings, snowy mountains to seashores, thick humid forests & woods to semi-deserts.

Every corner is capture-ready. You don't have to scout for locations around the world, choose Georgia - **a scaled down version of the planet Earth.**

Wide infrastructure, cost effective shooting facilities and equipment, experienced English speaking crews, liberal legislation, and the latest Cash Rebate incentives make Georgia a professional and unique production marketplace offering flexible and cost effective conditions for filmmakers globally.

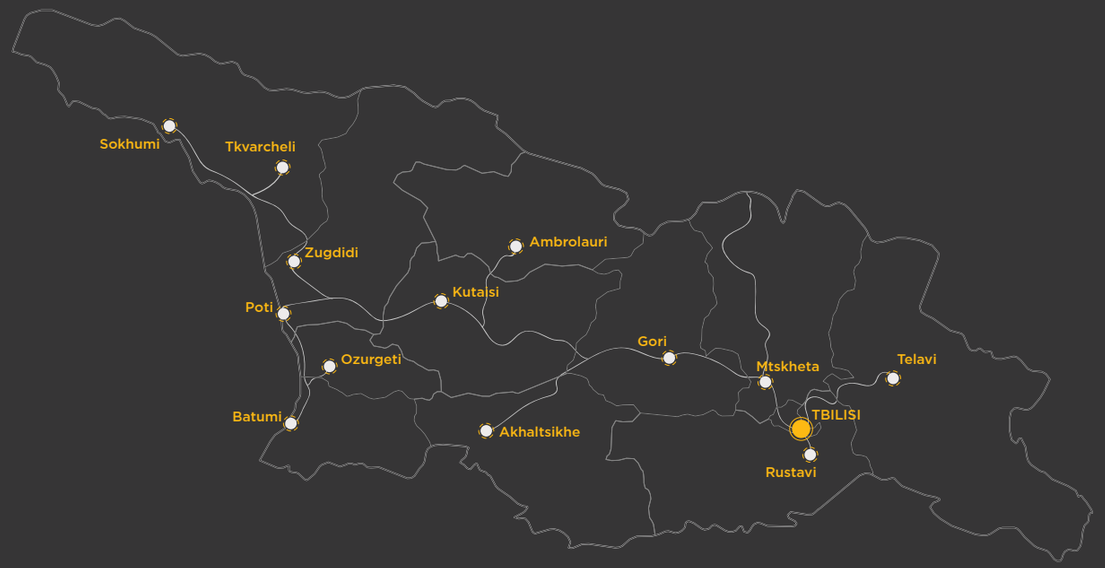
FACTS AND FIGURES

CAPITAL: Tbilisi
AREA: 69 700 sq. kilometers (26 911 sq. miles)
POPULATION: 3 718 200
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Georgian
CURRENCY: Lari (GEL)
GDP: USD 16, 209 mln
ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT with the EU
VISA-FREE travel to EU Countries
CLIMATE:

- Summer average temperature: 35/20 (°C) or 95/68 (°F) High/Low
- Winter average temperature: 10/0 (°C) or 50/0 (°F) High/Low

DAYLIGHT:

- Summer average daylight: 14h
- Winter average daylight: 9.5h



- National Capital
- Regional Center
- Main Road
- International Boundary
- Regions



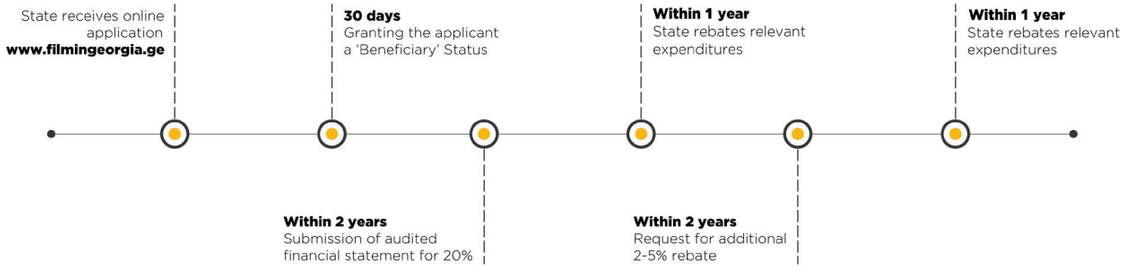
FILM INCENTIVE

Productions can benefit from “Film in Georgia” incentive scheme, offering 20-25% cash back on qualified local expenditures, including post production and international crew and cast. “Film in Georgia” is jointly administered by the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Culture of Georgia.

Initial 20% has no content requirement or cultural test and productions apply online. Additional rebate of up to 5% is a post release part of the scheme and is available if a production promotes Georgia by meeting the program’s “Cultural Test”.

Productions Eligible For Cash Rebate	***Min Local Spend***	***Audience Coverage Requrements***
Feature Film	$190,000	N/A
Series, Mini Series (Including Pilots)	$190,000	In at least one country outside Georgia
Animated Film	$110,000	N/A
Commercials, Music Video, Reality Show	$110,000	In at least one country outside Georgia
Documentary	$110,000	N/A

PROCEDURES TIMELINE



TREATIES

Georgia is part of the European Convention on European Co-production (known as European Co-production Treaty), which was signed in 2001. This enables Georgia to easily co-produce with all the European countries, either bilaterally or multilaterally. Additionally, Georgia has a bilateral co-production treaty with France. Georgia is a member and frequent beneficiary of the Council of Europe’s pan-European coproduction fund Eurimages. Georgia is also a member of the European Union’s Creative Europe program and recently joined Council of Europe’s Audiovisual observatory.

Memberships also include the European Film Production (EFP), the international network of organization promoting and marketing European films worldwide, and The Film New Europe Association, networking platform of professionals in the Central, Eastern European and Baltic region.

INDUSTRY RESOURCES

Georgia is a home to a vibrant film industry which dates back to 1908. Since then, national cinematography has enjoyed great success and established its own unique identity. Over the century, the film industry has nurtured experienced professionals who ensure that films made in Georgia are internationally acclaimed. Built in the late 20s, Georgian Film Studio is one of the oldest established film studios in Europe, with vast experience and traditions of filmmaking on an international level.

CREW:

Georgian film crews are not unionized but well organized, flexible, and have a strong diligent work ethic. The industry is very creative and budget conscious. A workday is usually 12 hours with overtime calculated proportionally and a minimum turnaround is 12 hours.

TECHNICAL RESOURCES:

The majority of equipment rental companies are located in Tbilisi. Latest grip equipment, generators, cameras, lighting equipment and cranes are available in Georgia. However; additional equipment if required can be easily rented from partner companies in Ukraine and Turkey, as well as directly from ARRI Rental.

Our post-production partner - Postred, provides the highest quality services for movie studios, advertising agencies and video game companies worldwide. Services cover full audio post-production and music production spectrums, like sound design, foley, ADR, music, composing and scoring, as well as DIT, data management, assistant editorial and color grading.



Georgian Film Studio



Postred
Mixing Suite



Georgian Public Broadcaster
Stage 2

STAGES



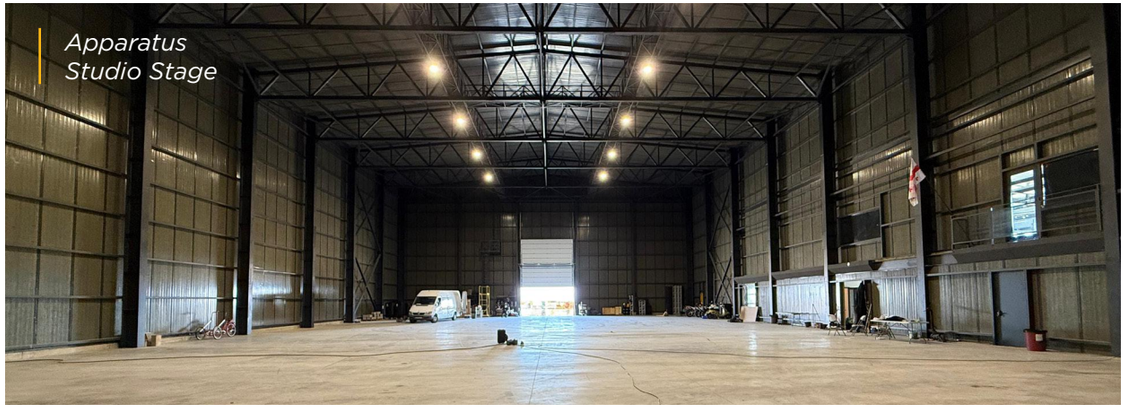
Georgian Film Studios
Stage 5



Georgian Film Studios
Stage 4

Georgia features a number of purpose-built professional sound stages providing more than 90,000 sq. ft. of production space.

With more than 300 acres of available land and proven solution to quickly erecting prefabricated structures, as well as many soviet-era industrial facilities that can be used as production stages, we can accommodate any requirement at short notice.



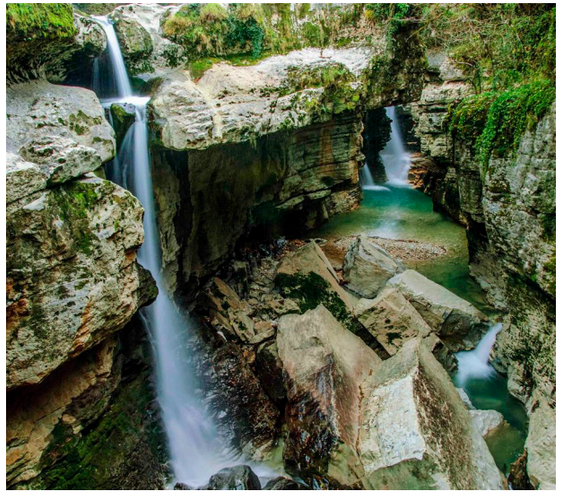
Apparatus
Studio Stage



Lake Paliastomi
Kolkheti National Park

LOCATIONS





Due to its exceptional geographical location, Georgia is one of the most diverse places in the world. Despite its relatively small area, the country has a great number of climatic zones.









Ranging from subtropical to alpine, from low-land marsh-forests to eternal snows and glaciers. From sandy and stony beaches of Black Sea to semi-arid plains and deserts.







Paravani Lake Region
Samtskhe-Javakheti

LANDSCAPES

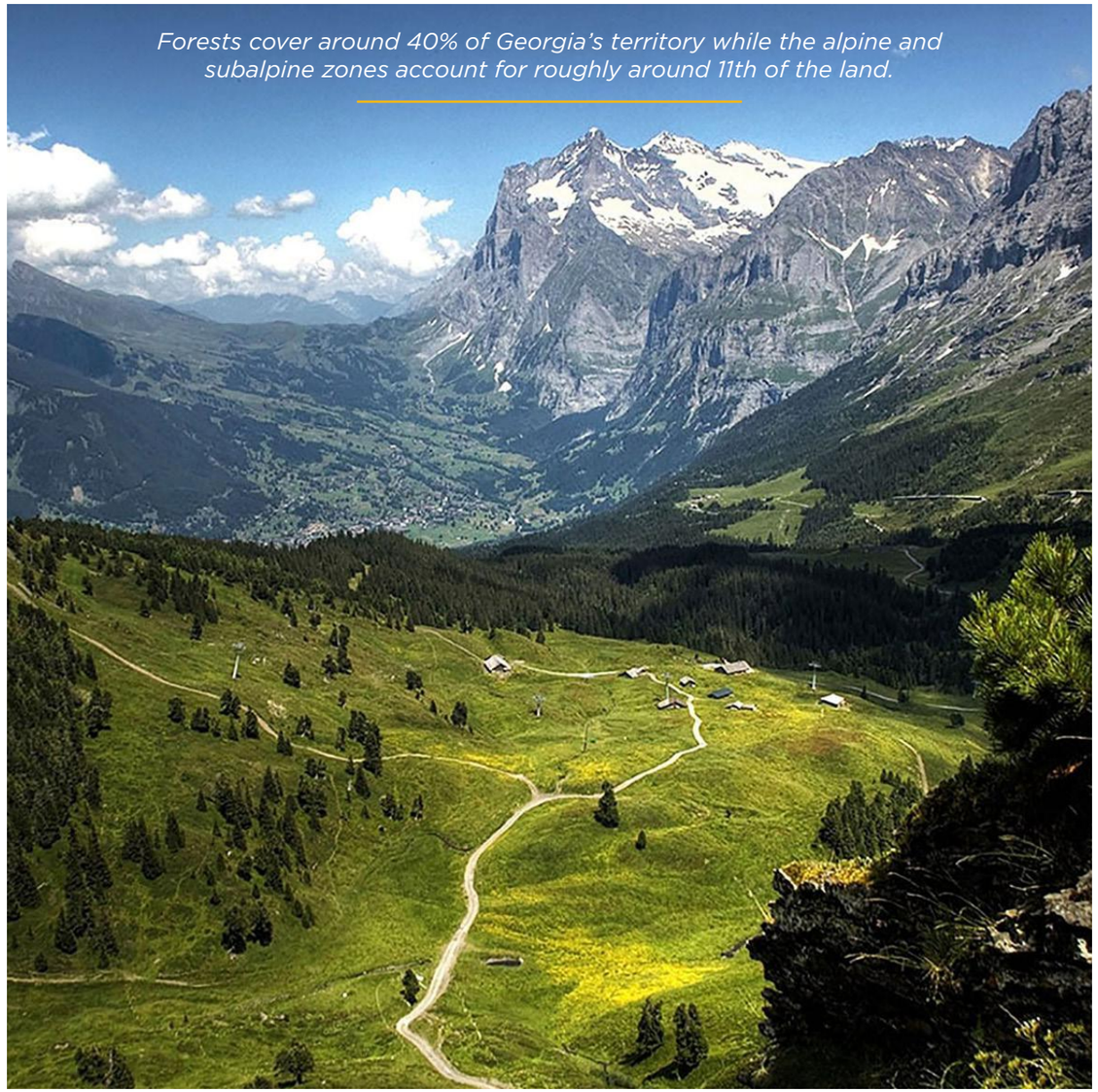


Shurubumu
Samegrelo



Miniature mud volcanos of Takhti-Tepa
Vashlovani National Park

Forests cover around 40% of Georgia's territory while the alpine and subalpine zones account for roughly around 11th of the land.



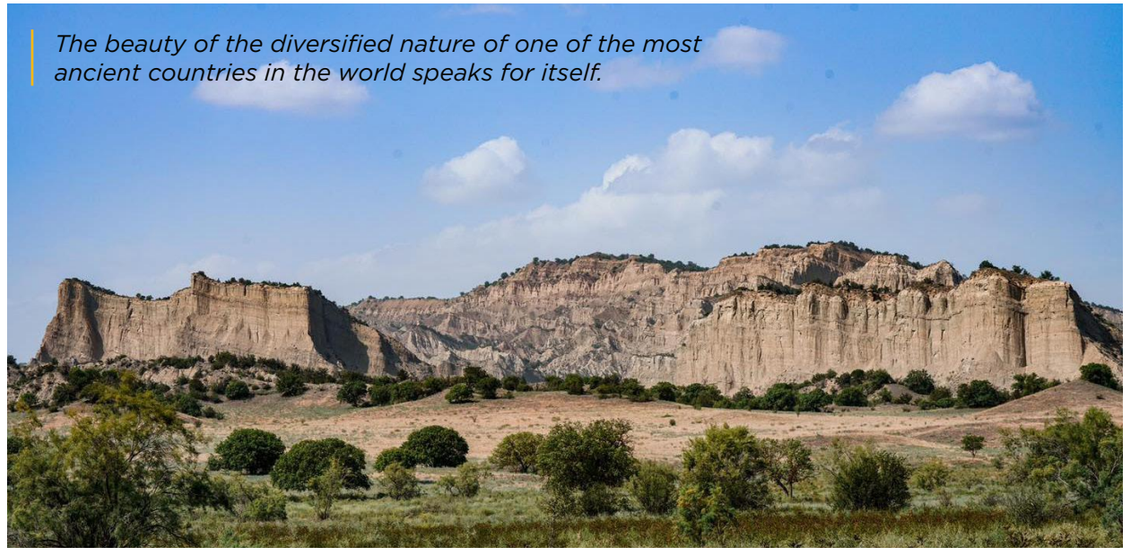


Nothing compares to the beauty and charm of Georgian mountains.



Variety of Georgian landscapes could offer any possible environment for the exterior shootings.

The beauty of the diversified nature of one of the most ancient countries in the world speaks for itself.





Tbilisi
Capital of Georgia

CITIES



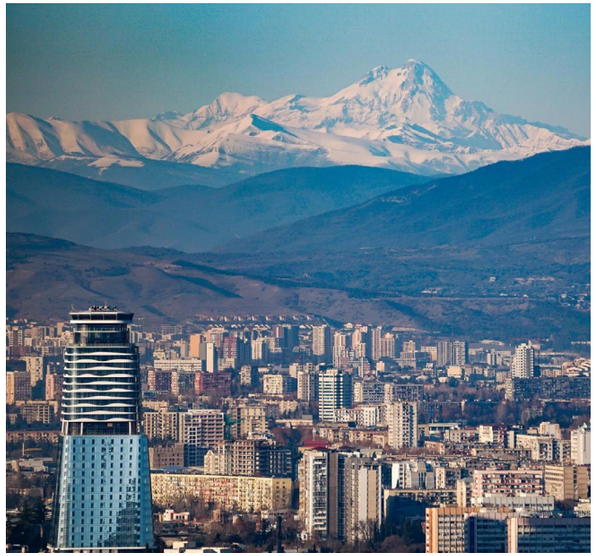
*East meets West in **Tbilisi**, the capital of Georgia. Epitome of local original, Asian and Art Nouveau architecture.*

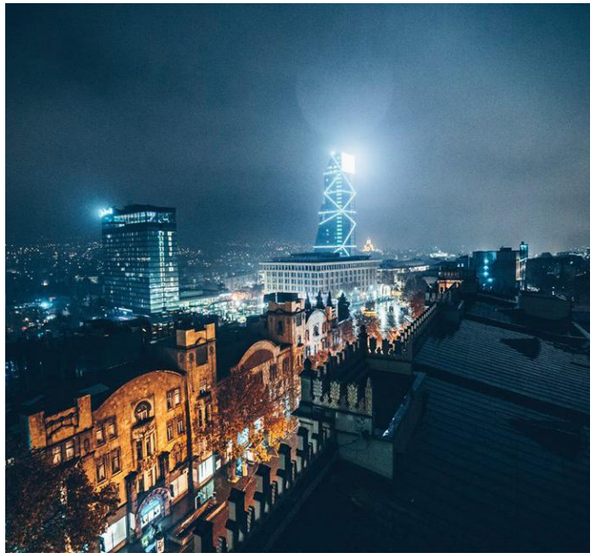






Long history and the Soviet era leftovers give contemporary Tbilisi unique atmosphere and flavor.



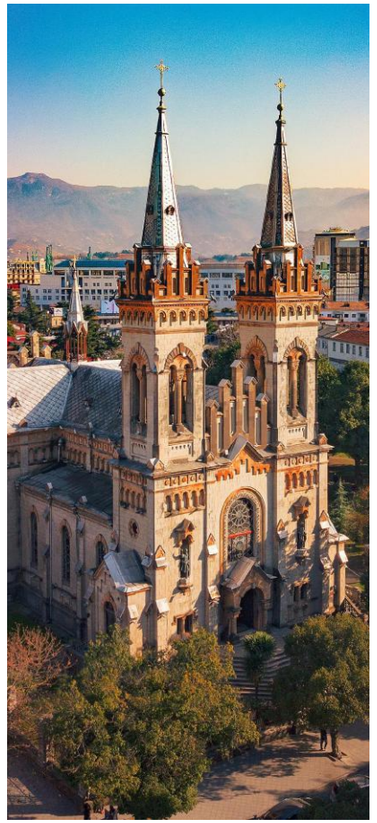


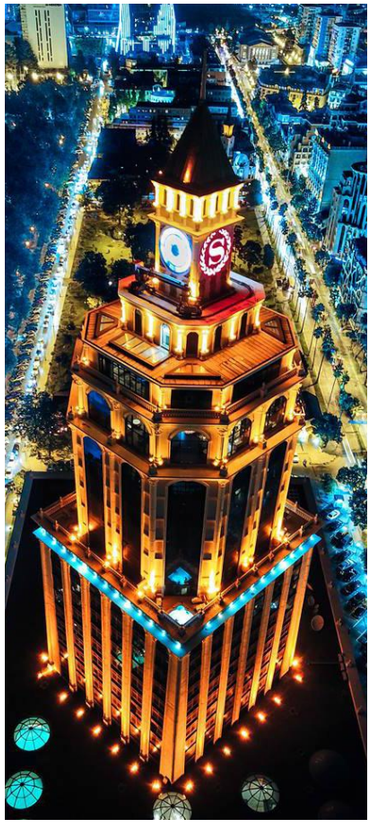






Batumi *is the pearl of Georgia. Located on the coast of the Black Sea, it is lined with palm trees and surrounded by mountains. Batumi presents an eclectic mix of architecture, ranging from 19th century classical edifices to ultra-modern skyscrapers housing hotels and casinos.*

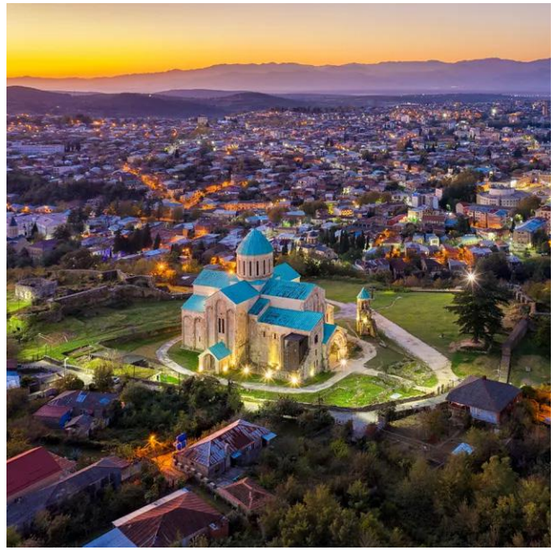


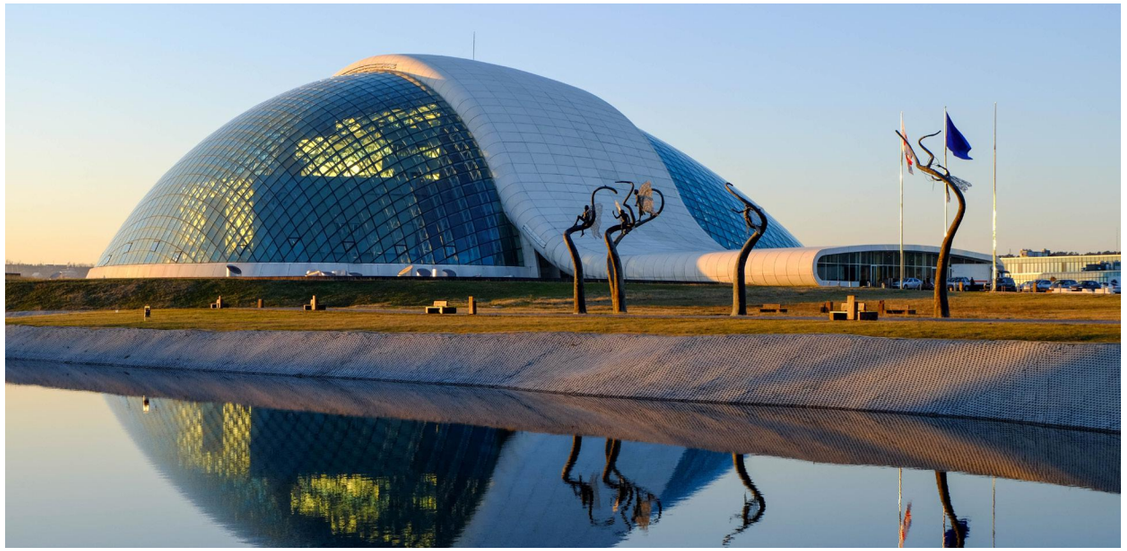




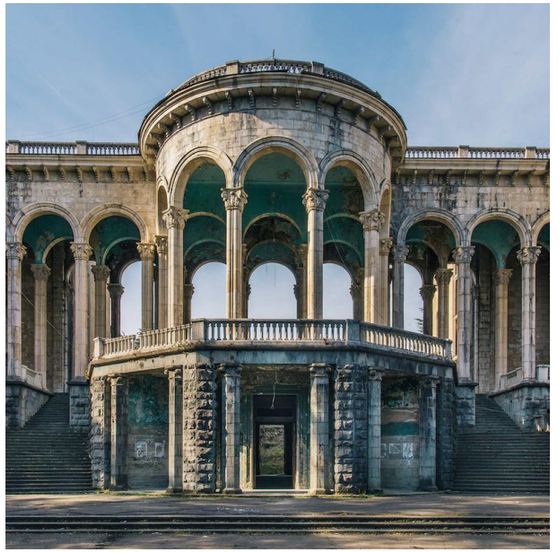
Kutaisi *one of the oldest and the third most populous city in Georgia. It served as a political capital of ancient Colchis Kingdom, where Jason of Argonauts stole the Golden Fleece from King Aeëtes and unchained Prometheus from the 70 million year old cave, according to the Greek Mythology.*

Abandoned resort of Kutaisi suburb Tskaltubo, represents decayed architectural synthesis of classical Stalinist, Georgian ethnic, Gothic and Roman features.















Bank of Georgia Headquarters
Tbilisi

ARCHITECTURE



Rezo Gabriadze Marrionette Theatre

While having extraordinary traditional buildings scattered all over the country, the array of stylistic architecture seems to be boundless.



Presidential Palace Tbilisi



Mosque in Old Town of Tbilisi

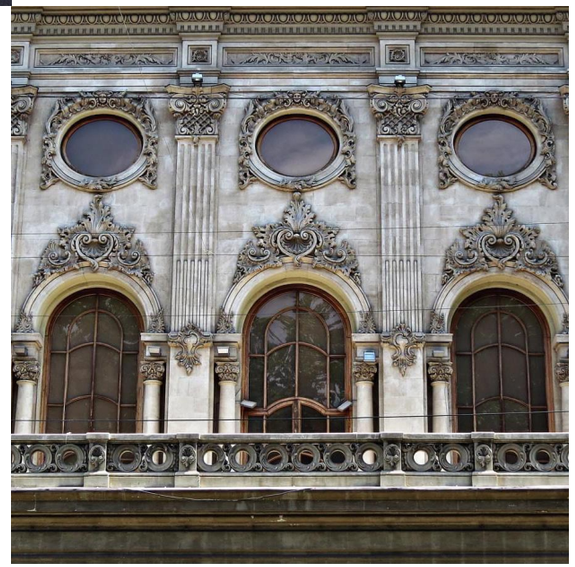


Typical Old Neighborhood of Tbilisi



Designed by Italian architect Michele De Lucchi, Tbilisi's Bridge of Peace gracefully links the historic Old Town with contemporary Rike Park. Its spectacular wave-shaped canopy of glass and steel appears to float above the Mtkvari River, while thousands of LED lights transform its fluid, sculptural form into a shimmering landmark after dark.

Rustaveli National Theatre is the largest and one of the oldest theaters of Georgia. Housed in an ornate Roccoco style edifice, the theatre was founded in 1887.

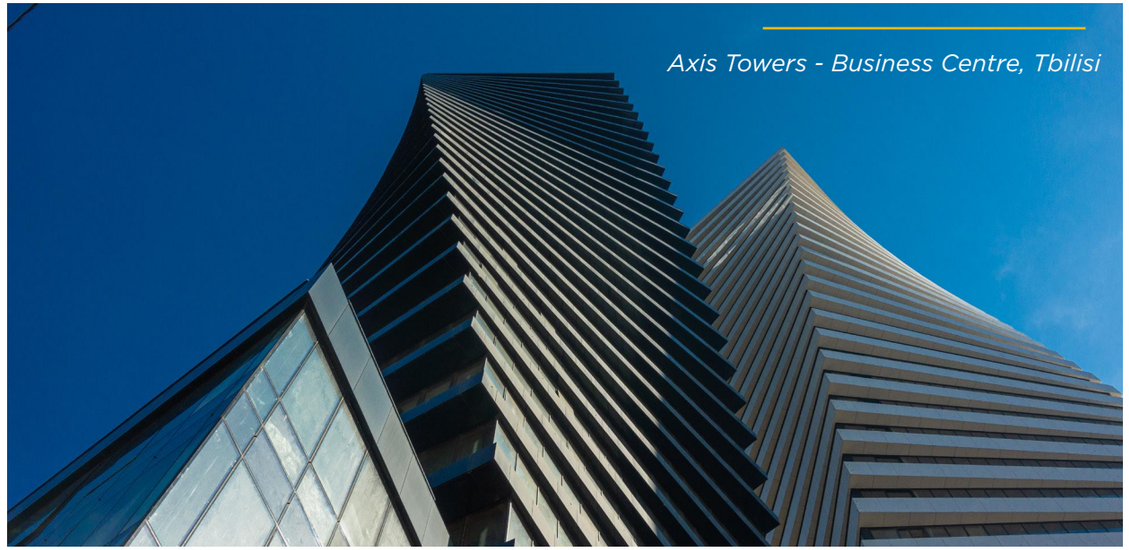


One of the oldest school buildings in Tbilisi, built by architect Alexander Ozerov in 1903-1905 for the 3rd Gymnasium for Girls. It's architecture is an excellent example of the Neo - Gothic Style and most of the authentic architectural details have been preserved to this day. The restoration of the building started in 2012 according to the project by Swiss architect Thomas Krayer.





The history of the Opera theatre counts more than 165 year. The foundation was laid down on April 15, 1847 by the initiative of the Adjutant General, Prince Mikhail Vorontsov. The construction of the building, under the supervision of the Italian architect, Scudieri lasted for four years.



Axis Towers - Business Centre, Tbilisi



Black Sea Arena Concert Hall, Shekvetili



Village Shatili, Tusheti Region



Sighnagi Town, Kakheti Region

Cave Town of Vardzia

Soviet-era excavations have shown that the area of Vardzia was inhabited during the Bronze Age. This cave town is a monument of history, culture and religion and is connected with King Tamar, the great female monarch of Georgia. Only 100 years after its construction a devastating earthquake in 1283 destroyed more than two-thirds of the city.



Khertvisi Fortress

Khertvisi Fortress is one of the oldest in Georgia. According to legends it was once destroyed by Alexanader the Great, though it has been reconstructed soon after.





Dadiani Palace

Built in 1840, Palace of Princess Ekaterine Chavchavadze-Dadiani was transformed into a History and Architecture Museum that houses significant relics such as St. Mary's holy vesture and masque of Emperor of France Napoleon Bonaparte, brought by the husband of Ekaterine's daughter, Prince Achille Murat, grandson of Napoleon's sister, Caroline.



Rabati Castle

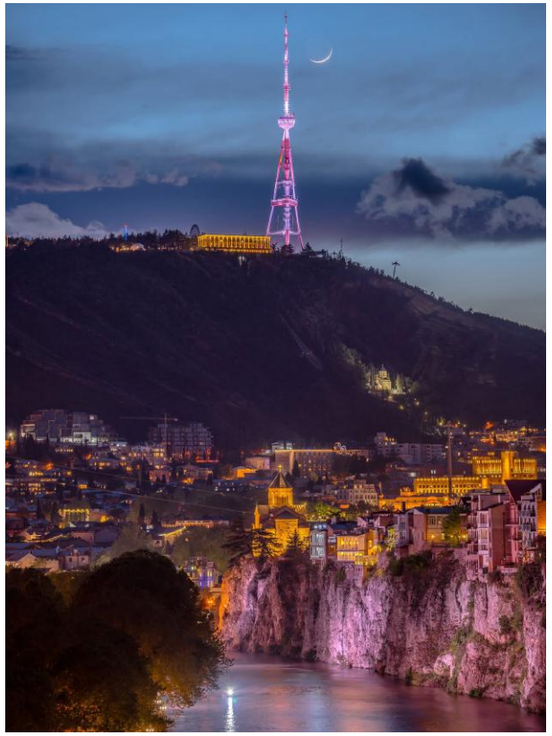
Rabati Castle is a medieval fortress built in the 9th century under the name "Lomisa Castle" in the city of Akhaltsikhe, Southern Georgia. The fortress has survived numerous invasions such as Turko-Mongol army led by Tamerlane. Recently fully reconstructed.











The Soviet era buildings are impossible to bypass, as they constitute the major establishments of the Georgian cities. Constructivist style with prevailing elements of classical forms: monumental and symmetrical, brutal, made of cold grey concrete, sometimes red granite, and ceramics. The history of Soviet architecture is closely linked to the process of the rise and fall of the early socialist states. By overcoming the "leftish" cultural deviations of the period of early proletarian "siege of the sky", Soviet architecture generated more genuinely socialist concepts of urban development, while bourgeois architectural modernism was given a determined battle. Georgia is the perfect example.



Cement Plant
Kaspi

HARD TO SECURE LOCATIONS



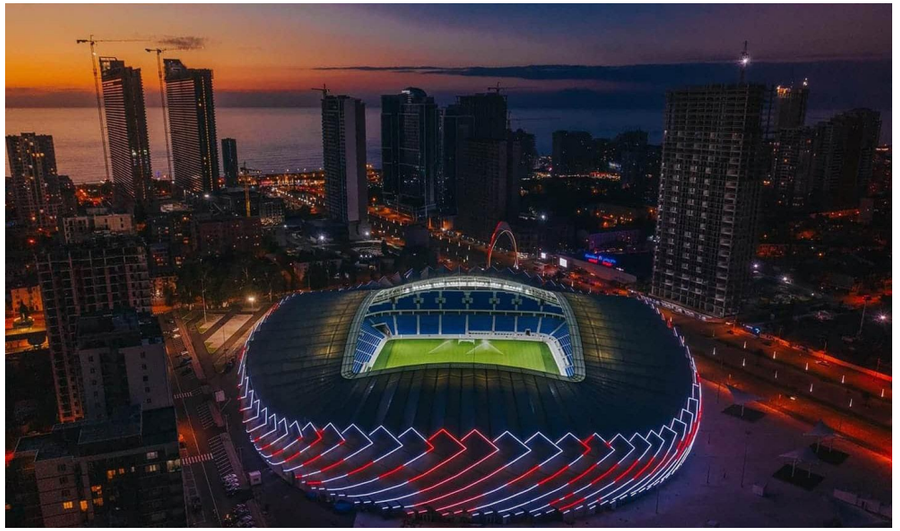
Gardabani Power Plant



Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi International Airport



Vaziani Military Training Field



The Batumi Stadium



The Enguri Hydro Electric Dam



Borjomi Railway



Rustavi Metallurgical Plant



Baku
Capital of Azerbaijan

Sarke Studio expands its services to the neighbor countries - Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Since none of these countries have adopted incentives yet, working through Sarke Studio makes the significant part of expenditures qualifiable under the Georgian Rebates.

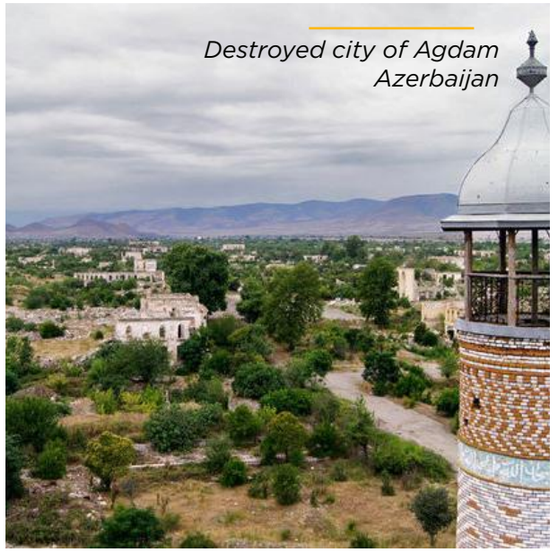


Ardakan Castle
Azerbaijan



Shah Deniz Bravo, Caspian Sea
Azerbaijan

Photo courtesy of BP.



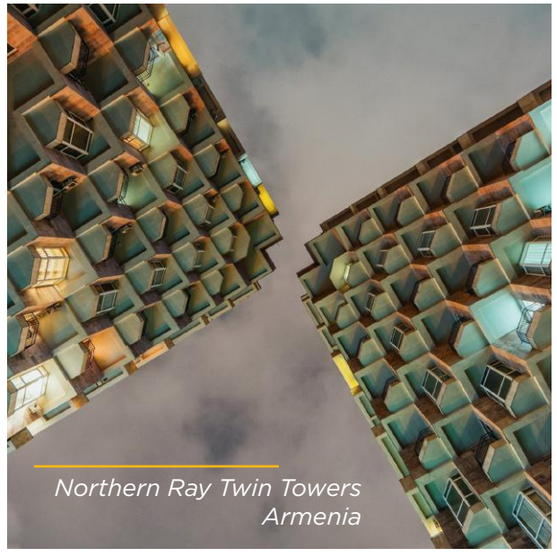
Destroyed city of Agdam
Azerbaijan



The Naxcivan Ilandag
Azerbaijan



Erevan
Capital of Armenia



Northern Ray Twin Towers
Armenia



Cascade Stairs
Armenia



Temple of Garni
Armenia



Sevan Monastery
Armenia



Zvartnots Cathedral with
a view of Mount Ararat
Armenia

MILITARY ASSETS & WORKSHOP

Sarke Studio maintains its own collection of fully functional military vehicle props, weaponry, costumes and battlefield accessories, covering periods from WWI to contemporary warfare. Proprietary fleet comprises decommissioned military vehicles converted for film production and purpose-built replicas, including tanks, armoured personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles, rocket launchers, Humvees, military trucks, and other vehicles, alongside period-specific weapons, uniforms and accessories.

The dedicated workshop specialises in procuring, designing, building and converting donor vehicles into fully functional, screen-ready military props, combining mechanical operability with exceptional visual authenticity. This in-house capability enables the delivery of military props while significantly reducing production costs, sourcing complexity and logistical challenges, as their purpose-built status simplifies transportation, handling, on-set operations and compliance with applicable regulations.









VISAS & PERMITS

Georgia is visa-free for 94 countries.

- Only one week to get an e-Visa for other countries
- Equally and easily accessible from Europe, Middle East and Asia

Filming in public and state-owned places normally does not require a permit, local police and authorities are cooperative, and local communities are extremely film-friendly and supportive. Coordination with the police is required if filming any special arrangements, such as re-routing of traffic.

Filming at airports, seaports, railway stations, industrial plants, dams and other traditionally hard-to-access locations is easily arranged through streamlined access and permitting procedures.

TRANSPORTATION

There are 3 international airports in Georgia, Tbilisi (TBS), Kutaisi (KUT) and Batumi (BUS).

Tbilisi International Airport remains the main business aviation hub in Georgia, with over 55 international airlines operating passengers and cargo routes connecting Georgia directly with 36 foreign countries.

Roads and highways are of a good standard, making travel within Georgia easy.

CUSTOMS & TAXES

Georgia is a country with low taxes and transparent tax system. Tax and customs legislation is unified under one code. The collection of taxes and supervision of the tax environment is provided by the Revenue Service of Georgia. All tax administration procedures and customs clearances are performed mostly online.

Georgia offers a competitive tax regime with 18% VAT, 20% personal income tax, and 0% corporate tax on retained and reinvested profits. Non-residents are subject to a 10% withholding tax. Dividend tax is 5%, property tax is up to 1%, and import duties range from 0% to 12%. Individual entrepreneurs benefit from a 1% turnover tax. There is no general social security tax, while employer pension contributions are 2% for eligible employees.

Georgia has Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty with 54 countries.

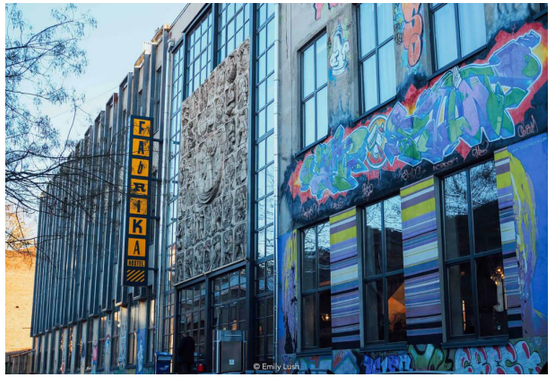
World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report named Georgia #9 among low tax economies.

The Customs policy of Georgia is developed in harmonization and unification with the universally acknowledged international legal norms and practices. Important reforms undergone during last two decades have created an environment which provides a platform for simplified and swift operations.

In addition to the cash rebate, an innovative financing mechanism developed by Sarke Studio enables the advance financing of the full 18% Georgian VAT, providing a significant cash-flow advantage even before production begins.

ACCOMMODATION





Georgia, famous for its hospitality, has been attracting millions of curious travelers. Exclusive locations, picturesque surroundings, marvelous cousine and A-class hotel services are unrivaled attributes for Georgian travel. Top international and local hotel chains are present in Georgia: Marriot, Sheraton, Hilton, Radisson, Best Western, Biltmore, IHG, Rooms, all providing exclusive discounts for our clients.



DINING

Famous for its ‘Khachapuri’ and ‘Khinkali’, Georgian cuisine has absorbed culinary traditions of Transcaucasia, Asia and the Black Sea coast. Food is quite appropriately an expression of the culture in the country. As one of the countries on the Silk Road, travelers have been influencing Georgian cuisine from ancient times. Still, it has managed to retain its original character, as different regions of the country have unique culinary highlights or cooking methods for their own traditional dishes.

And, of course... Georgia is officially recognized as the motherland of wine. The fertile valleys and protective slopes of the Caucasian mountains were home to grapevine cultivation and neolithic wine production for at least 8000 years.



ENTERTAINMENT



Bruno Mars
Dinamo
Arena



Aerosmith
Starring Georgia
Black Sea Arena

A creative wave has swept over the capital, embodied by urban art, vintage cafes and vibrant nightlife. Seemingly overnight, Georgia has become hip.



Bassiani Nightclub

Embedded with unique and rich folklore, Georgia offers a variety of entertainment from cultural festivals to modern nightlife.



Geogian Folk



Premiere of Simon Boccanegra
Tbilisi National Opera

The country offers world famous brand collections and more than 100,000 sq. ft. of modern shopping area.



Tbilisi Galleria
Shopping Mall

OUR PORTFOLIO

Includes number of notable UK, US, French, Indian and Chinese award winning projects:



The Search
Shooting Days: 90
Company: La Petite Reine / Wild Bunch / Warner Bros.(France)
Director: Michel Hazanavicius



The Mask
Shooting days: 50 (2 Units)
Company: Beijing Shanmu Film & TV Cultural Media / Little Cheetah Media (China)
Director: Bowen Han



Inside Edge - Season 2
Shooting Days: 14
Company: Amazon Prime (India)
Director: Akash Bhatia



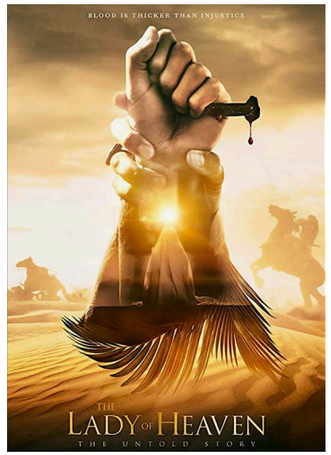
The Legacy of Lies
Shooting Days: 30
Company: Legacy Films (UK)
Toy Cinema (Ukraine)
Director: Adrian Bol



Tatami
Shooting Days: 23
Company: Keshet Studios (USA)
Directors: Guy Nattiv & Zar Amir Ebrahimi



Operation Ganga
Shooting Days: 64
Company: Sree Gokulam Movies (India)
Director: Vishnu Mohan



The Lady of Heaven
Shooting days: 51
Company: Enlightened Kingdom (UK)
Director: Eli King



Varanasi
Shooting Days: 7
Company: Sri Durga Arts (India)
Director: S.S. Rajamouli

GEORGIA HEADQUARTERS

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