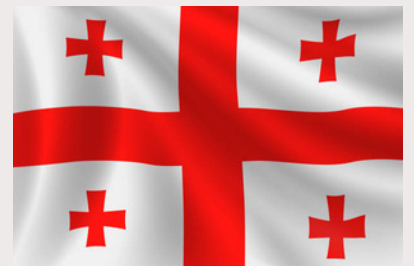


TÜRKİYE - ROMANIA - GEORGIA CULTURAL HERİTAGE BOOKLET

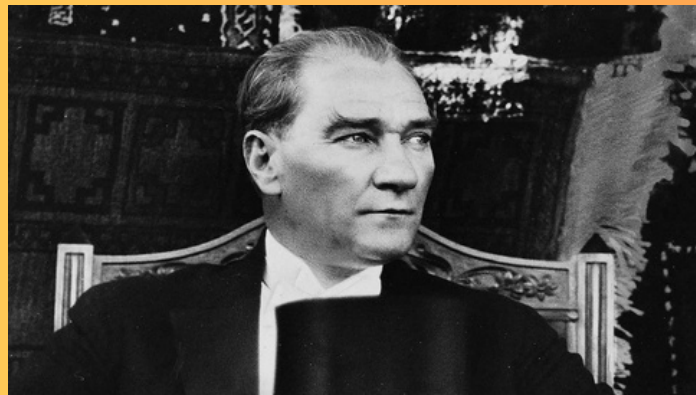




TÜRKİYE



NAMES THAT SHAPE NATIONS



MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is the founder and the first president of the Republic of Turkey. He was born in 1881 in Thessaloniki. He led the Turkish nation to victory in the War of Independence. He made important reforms in many areas such as education, law, and women's rights. He passed away in Istanbul on November 10, 1938.z

NENE HATUN



Nene Hatun was a Turkish heroine born in 1857 in Erzurum. During the 1877–1878 Ottoman-Russian War, she fought with the people to defend the Aziziye Fort. Like everyone who could hold a weapon, she rushed to protect her homeland. With her great bravery, she became a symbol in the memory of the Turkish nation. She passed away in Erzurum in 1955.

YÖRÜK ALİ EFE



Yörük Ali Efe was born in 1895 in the Sultanhisar district of Aydın. He was an important folk hero and leader who resisted the Greek occupation in the Aegean Region during the War of Independence. On June 16, 1919, he organized the Malgaç Raid and dealt a major blow to the enemy. With his courage and leadership, he won the hearts of the people. He passed away in 1951.

FOOD CULTURE



KEBAB



Kebab is a traditional dish unique to Turkey, made by cooking meat in various ways. It is usually prepared with lamb, beef, or chicken. One of the most well-known types is “şiş kebab,” where the meat is grilled on skewers. There are also versions cooked in the oven, in pots, or on an iron plate. Each region in Turkey has its own unique flavors and styles of preparing kebab.

DÖNER



Döner is a traditional Turkish dish made by slowly cooking meat on a vertical rotisserie. It is usually prepared with beef, lamb, or chicken. The thinly sliced meat is served as a portion or inside bread. It can be accompanied by rice, salad, or yogurt. Döner is a very popular dish both in Turkey and around the world.

AYRAN



Ayran is a traditional Turkish drink made by mixing yogurt, water, and salt. It not only quenches thirst but also aids digestion. A staple of Turkish cuisine since the Ottoman era, ayran is especially popular alongside meat dishes. As part of the yogurt tradition, which has been recognized by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage, ayran holds a special place in Turkish food culture. Today, it is consumed in many countries, but its homeland is Turkey.

BAKLAVA



Baklava is a traditional Turkish dessert made by layering thin sheets of pastry with walnuts, pistachios, or hazelnuts, then baking and soaking it in sweet syrup. Originating from the Ottoman palace cuisine, baklava is commonly served during special occasions, holidays, and when hosting guests. Although it is known across the Middle East and the Balkans, its roots lie in Turkish cuisine.

MARAŞ ICE CREAM



Maraş ice cream is a world-famous variety of ice cream that originates from the city of Kahramanmaraş in Turkey. Unlike regular ice cream, it contains salep (orchid root powder) and goat's milk, which give it a thick, stretchy, and chewy texture. It is so dense that it can be cut with a knife. Traditionally, it is prepared by pounding with wooden paddles, and it is well known for the playful tricks and performances of street vendors during serving. Maraş ice cream is one of the unique and cherished desserts of Turkish cuisine.

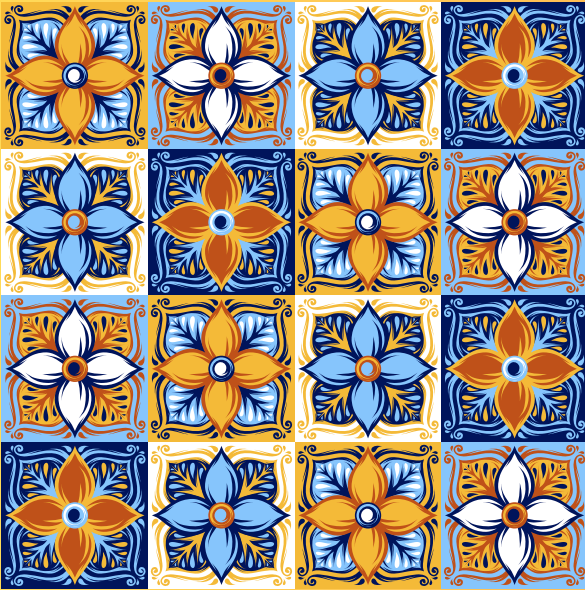
TURKISH COFFEE



Turkish coffee is a traditional Turkish beverage made by cooking finely ground coffee beans in a coffee pot with water and sugar, and served with the grounds. It has a unique culture with its foam, aroma and presentation style. It is an indispensable part of conversations, hospitality and traditions.

In 2013, it was included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. It also carries cultural richness with traditional practices such as coffee fortune telling

HANDICRAFT



TILE ART



Çini art, also known as Turkish tile art, is a traditional form of decorative ceramics that has been an important part of Turkish culture for centuries. It became especially popular during the Seljuk and Ottoman periods, when it was used to decorate mosques, palaces, and fountains. The tiles are typically made of ceramic or quartz-based materials and are decorated with vibrant patterns in blue, turquoise, red, and green. Common motifs include flowers, geometric shapes, and Islamic calligraphy, often inspired by nature and spirituality. Today, çini art is both a symbol of Turkey's rich artistic heritage and a handcrafted art form still practiced by skilled artisans.

CARPET WEAVING



Carpet weaving is one of the oldest and most important traditional crafts in Turkish culture, with a history dating back thousands of years. Turkish carpets are known for their rich colors, intricate patterns, and strong wool or silk materials. Each region in Turkey has its own unique style and motifs, often reflecting local culture, beliefs, and daily life. The process of weaving a carpet is entirely handmade, requiring great skill, patience, and time. Today, Turkish carpets are highly valued worldwide as both functional items and pieces of art that represent cultural heritage.

KIRKYAMA



Kirkyama, also known as Turkish patchwork quilting, is a traditional textile art where pieces of fabric are sewn together to create colorful and patterned designs. The name “kirkyama” literally means “forty patches,” symbolizing the idea of bringing together different parts to form a unified whole. It was traditionally used to make quilts, bed covers, cushions, and even clothing, often using leftover or recycled fabric pieces. Each patchwork design can tell a personal or cultural story, reflecting the creativity and heritage of the maker. Today, kirkyama is both a functional craft and a form of artistic expression, kept alive through workshops and exhibitions.

EBRU ART



Ebru art, also known as Turkish marbling, is a traditional paper decoration technique that involves creating colorful patterns on water and transferring them onto paper. It dates back to the Ottoman Empire and has been used for decorating manuscripts, calligraphy borders, and book covers. The artist drops natural pigments mixed with ox gall onto water thickened with a special solution, then carefully shapes the colors with tools like combs or needles. Each piece of ebru is unique and cannot be exactly replicated, making it a highly valued form of artistic expression. Today, ebru is recognized as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage and continues to be practiced and taught around the world.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS



ANITKABİR



Anıtkabir is the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, and it is located in the Çankaya district of Ankara. Its construction began on October 9, 1944, and was completed on September 1, 1953. The architects of Anıtkabir were Emin Onat and Orhan Arda, who were selected through a competition. The monument consists of sections such as the Lion Road, Ceremonial Plaza, Mausoleum, and Peace Park. Atatürk's remains were transferred to Anıtkabir on November 10, 1953, on the 15th anniversary of his death, in a grand ceremony.

HAGIA SOPHIA MOSQUE



Hagia Sophia Mosque is one of the most important historical buildings in Istanbul, known for both its architecture and history. It was originally built as a church in 537 AD by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I. It remained a church for nearly 900 years, and after the conquest of Istanbul in 1453, it was converted into a mosque by Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror. In 1935, it was turned into a museum, and in 2020, it was reopened as a mosque. Hagia Sophia is considered one of the greatest domed structures in the history of world architecture, and it features both Christian mosaics and Islamic motifs. With this unique combination, it reflects the traces of different civilizations

TOPKAPI PALACE



Topkapi Palace is a magnificent structure located in the historical peninsula of Istanbul and served as the administrative center of the Ottoman Empire for nearly 400 years. The palace was built in 1478 by the order of Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror. Inside, there are sections such as the harem where the sultans lived, the imperial council chamber where state affairs were conducted, and areas where sacred relics are displayed. Topkapi Palace was not only a residence but also a center of education, administration, and culture. Today, it functions as a museum and is visited by millions of local and foreign tourists every year.

EPHESUS ANCIENT CITY



Ephesus is one of the most well-preserved ancient cities in the world and is located near the modern town of Selçuk in western Turkey. It was founded in the 10th century BC by the ancient Greeks and later became an important city of the Roman Empire, especially during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Ephesus was home to the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The city also features impressive structures like the Celsus Library, the Great Theatre, and wide marble streets. Today, Ephesus is a major archaeological site and tourist destination, attracting visitors from all around the world.

SUMELA MONASTERY



The Sumela Monastery is a historic Greek Orthodox monastery built on a steep cliff in the Pontic Mountains near Trabzon, Turkey. It was founded in the 4th century AD, during the reign of the Roman Emperor Theodosius I. The monastery is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and has been an important religious and cultural site for centuries. It features chapels, kitchens, student rooms, and a library, all carved into the rock. Today, Sumela is a popular tourist attraction, known for its stunning location and historical significance.

NATURAL BEAUTIES



CAPPADOCIA



Cappadocia is a unique historical region located in central Turkey, known for its otherworldly landscapes formed by volcanic activity and erosion. It is famous for its fairy chimneys, which are tall, cone-shaped rock formations found especially in the towns of Göreme and Ürgüp. The region has a rich history and was home to early Christian communities, who carved churches and homes into the soft volcanic rock. Cappadocia is also well known for its hot air balloon rides, which offer stunning views of the valleys and rock formations. Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and attracts visitors from all around the world.

PAMUKKALE TRAVERTINES



Pamukkale, located in southwestern Turkey, is famous for its white travertine terraces formed by the thermal waters rich in calcium carbonate. The terraces have been shaped over thousands of years, creating stunning natural pools that attract visitors. The site is also known for its healing properties, as the mineral-rich waters have been used for therapeutic purposes since ancient times. Pamukkale is home to the ruins of the ancient city of Hierapolis, where you can explore Roman baths, a theater, and a large necropolis. Today, Pamukkale is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and remains a popular tourist destination for both its natural beauty and historical significance.

AYDER PLATEAU



Ayder Plateau is located in the northeastern part of Turkey, in the Rize province, and is known for its lush green landscapes and natural beauty. The plateau sits at an altitude of around 1,350 meters and offers stunning views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Ayder is famous for its hot springs, which have been used for therapeutic purposes for centuries. Visitors to the plateau can enjoy activities like hiking, exploring waterfalls, and experiencing the traditional black sea cuisine. Today, Ayder is a popular destination for tourists seeking both relaxation and adventure in nature.

LAKE SALDA



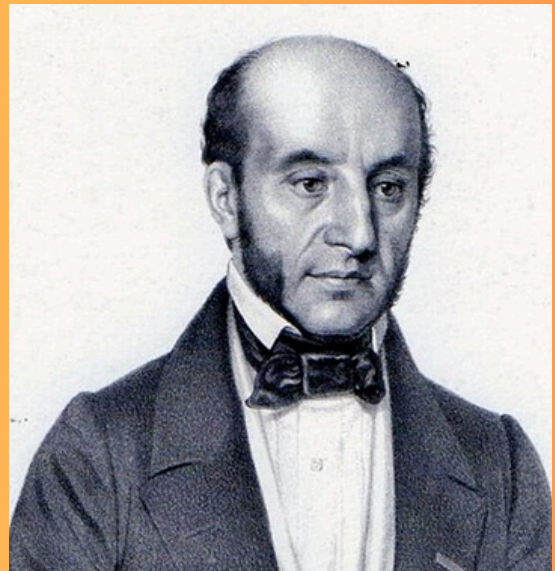
Salda Lake, located in the Burdur province of Turkey, is known for its stunning turquoise waters and is often referred to as the “Maldives of Turkey.” The lake is surrounded by white sandy beaches and unique marl (calcium carbonate) deposits, which give the area its distinct appearance. Salda Lake is also a protected natural area, as its ecosystem is home to various species of plants and animals, including migratory birds. The lake’s water is incredibly clear, making it a popular destination for swimming and photography. Due to its natural beauty and tranquility, Salda Lake has become a favorite spot for both local and international tourists.



ROMANIA



NAMES THAT SHAPE NATIONS



MİHAİ EMİNESCU



Mihai Eminescu (1850–1889) is widely regarded as Romania's greatest poet and a central figure in its national identity. His work captures the spirit, struggles, and beauty of the Romanian soul, blending deep philosophical thought with lyrical mastery.

SPIRU HARET



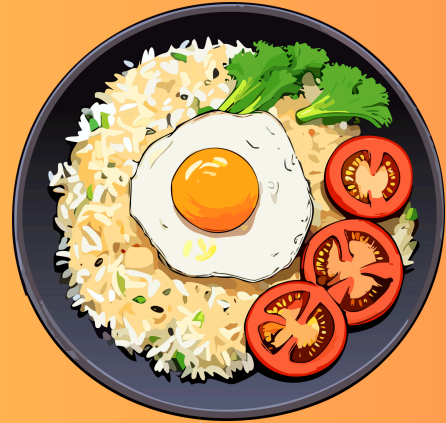
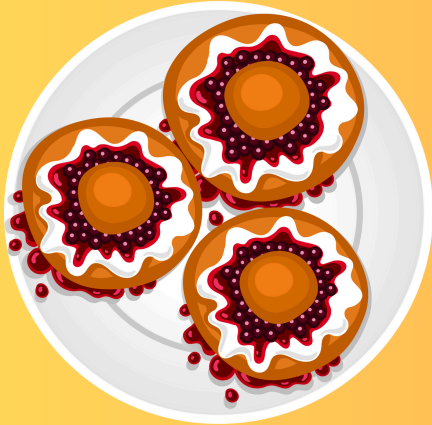
Spiru Haret (1851–1912) was a Romanian mathematician, astronomer, and visionary reformer who profoundly transformed the Romanian education system. Often called the father of modern Romanian education, his impact is still felt today.

PETRACHE POENARU



Petrache Poenaru (1799–1875) was a Romanian inventor, engineer, educator, and revolutionary, best known for inventing the world's first fountain pen, patented in Paris in 1827. Poenaru was a visionary who saw education, science, and innovation as essential tools for building a stronger, independent Romania.

FOOD CULTURE



Food Culture in Romania – A Rich Blend of Tradition and Flavor

Key features of Romanian food culture:

- Homemade and seasonal – Meals are often made from scratch using fresh, local ingredients, especially vegetables, dairy, and meat.**
- Hospitality – Food is central to social life; guests are warmly welcomed with generous servings and homemade treats.**
- Family traditions – Recipes are passed down through generations and tied to family gatherings and celebrations.**

Festive meals are central to Easter, Christmas, and weddings, often including roasted meats, soups, and pastries.

Romanian food culture celebrates simplicity, warmth, and connection—offering more than just nourishment: it's a taste of home and heritage.

Sarmale



These are traditional Romanian cabbage rolls made by wrapping a mixture of combination of meats and rice in pickled cabbage leaves. They're slowly cooked with tomato sauce and herbs, often served with sour cream and mămăligă (cornmeal porridge). A staple at festive meals like Christmas and weddings.

Ciorba de burta



A beloved Romanian soup made from beef tripe, flavored with vinegar, garlic, and sour cream, and thickened with egg yolk. It has a creamy, tangy taste and is usually served hot with hot chili peppers and vinegar on the side.

Mamaliga



This is a soft cornmeal porridge, very similar to Italian polenta. In Romania, it's a traditional side dish served with cheese (brânză), sour cream (smântână), or as a base for meat and stews. It's hearty, simple, and comforting.

Mititei



Also known as "mici", these are small, grilled rolls of minced meat (usually a mix of beef, lamb, and pork), seasoned with garlic, thyme, and black pepper. Often served with mustard and bread, they're a favorite at barbecues and street food stalls.

Cozonac



A sweet, rich holiday bread, traditionally made for Easter and Christmas. It's filled with walnuts, cocoa, raisins, or Turkish delight, then baked to golden perfection. It's a symbol of celebration and homemade goodness.

Papanasi



A popular Romanian dessert, made of fried or boiled doughnuts crafted from cottage cheese, eggs, and semolina. They're served warm, topped with sour cream and fruit jam, usually blueberry or cherry. Crispy on the outside and soft inside—irresistible!

HANDICRAFT



Handicrafts in Romania – A Living Heritage of Art and Tradition

Key Romanian handicrafts include:

- Embroidery and traditional clothing**
- Weaving and textiles**
- Wood carving**
- Pottery**
- Easter egg painting**

These handicrafts are not just beautiful objects—they are living stories of Romanian identity, creativity, and craftsmanship, still celebrated today at fairs, museums, and festivals.

Embroidery and traditional clothing



Hand-sewn blouses (ie), vests, and skirts, often decorated with symbolic patterns and natural dyes. The Romanian ie is internationally recognized and worn proudly on traditional days.

The ie, a traditional Romanian blouse, features intricate hand-stitched patterns, often in vibrant colors.

These blouses are made from natural fibers like flax or cotton and are adorned with geometric and floral motifs.

Pottery



Handmade ceramics from places like Horezu (UNESCO-listed) are decorated with spirals, roosters, and nature-inspired motifs in earthy tones.

Horezu pottery is renowned for its bright colors and unique designs, such as the "Cocoșul de Hurez" (Horezu rooster).

- Each piece is handcrafted and painted, reflecting centuries-old traditions.

Wood carving



Artisans craft wooden spoons, gates, furniture, and religious icons with incredible detail, especially in Maramureș. Traditional wooden gates are famous for their symbolic carvings.

Weaving and textiles



Rugs (covoare), wall hangings (scoarțe), and tablecloths, made on wooden looms, featuring geometric or floral patterns.

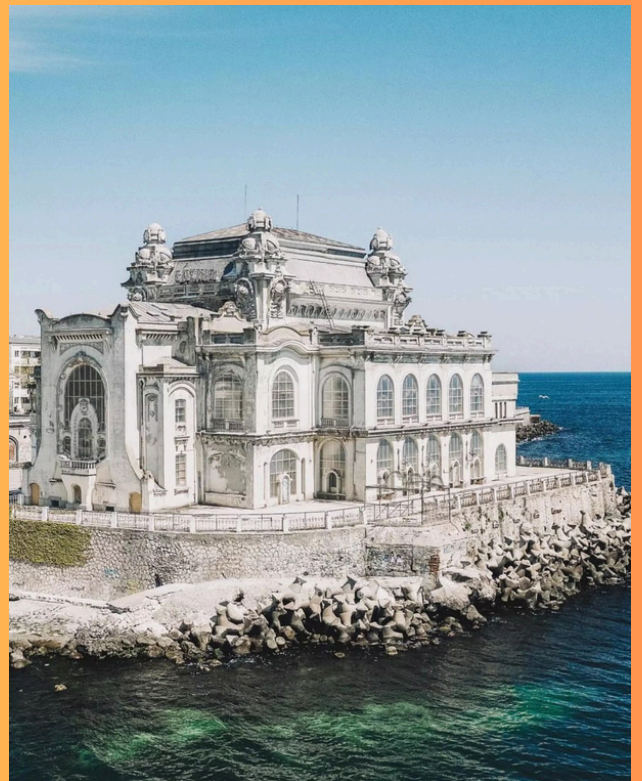
Easter egg painting



Intricate egg decorating, especially in Bukovina, uses wax-resist techniques and strong colors to create miniature works of art.

These eggs are a staple during Easter celebrations and are considered works of art.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS



Palace of the Parliament (Bucharest)



- One of the largest administrative buildings in the world
- Built under Nicolae Ceaușescu's regime
- Massive neoclassical architecture, symbol of communist-era grandeur

Bran Castle (near Braşov)



- Known as "Dracula's Castle"**
- Medieval fortress with Gothic architecture**
- Popular tourist destination tied to the legend of Vlad the Impaler**

Constanța Casino - Icon of the Black Sea Coast



The Constanța Casino is one of Romania's most iconic architectural landmarks, located on the seafront promenade of Constanța, overlooking the Black Sea. Built in Art Nouveau style in 1910, the casino once symbolized the elegance and cosmopolitan spirit of the early 20th century.

- Designed by architect Daniel Renard**
- Initially a luxury entertainment venue for the elite**
- Served various purposes over time: casino, hospital, restaurant**
- Closed for decades, now undergoing restoration**

With its ornate details, sweeping windows, and dramatic seaside setting, the Constanța Casino remains a symbol of Romania's architectural heritage and cultural identity. It represents both the city's golden past and its hopes for renewal.

Peleş Castle (Sinaia)



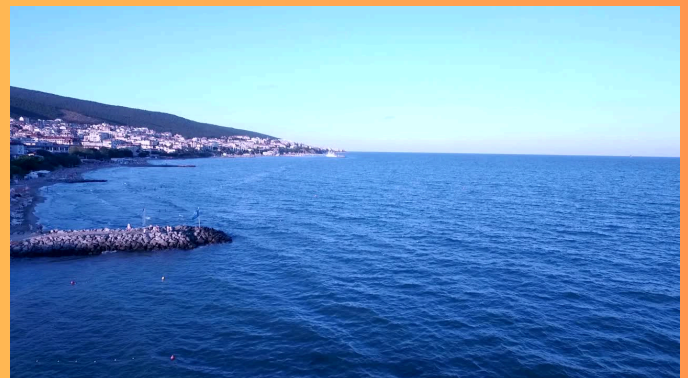
- **Neo-Renaissance castle built in the Carpathian Mountains**
- **Former royal summer residence**
- **Richly decorated, with stunning woodwork and stained glass**

Voroneț Monastery (Suceava County)



- Famous for its vivid blue frescoes, especially the “Last Judgment”
- A jewel of medieval Moldavian architecture

NATURAL BEAUTIES



The Bucegi Sphinx - A Mysterious Natural Monument of Romania



The Bucegi Sphinx is a famous natural rock formation located in the Bucegi Mountains, at an altitude of over 2,200 meters. Shaped by wind and erosion, it strikingly resembles a human face when viewed from a certain angle—hence the name “Sphinx.” The Sphinx is surrounded by myths. Some believe it was a sacred site of the ancient Dacians, or even an energy point with spiritual significance. These stories make it a symbol of Romanian mystery and national pride.

Visitors come for both the breathtaking mountain views and the mystical allure of this fascinating formation.

The Black Sea Coast - Romania's Seaside Gem



Romania's Black Sea coast stretches for about 245 km, offering sandy beaches, resorts, natural beauty, and historical sites. It's a favorite summer destination for both locals and tourists.

- Constanța – The largest port city, rich in history and culture (home to the famous Constanța Casino and Roman Mosaic Edifice).**
- Mamaia – The most popular and modern resort, known for its long, wide beaches, nightlife, and water sports.**
- Eforie Nord & Eforie Sud – Famous for spa treatments, mud therapy, and wellness tourism around Lake Techirghiol.**
- Costinești – A youthful resort, loved for music festivals and its laid-back atmosphere.**
- Vama Veche – A bohemian village near the Bulgarian border, known for its free spirit, camping on the beach, and live music.**

The Transfăgărășan Highway



- **Winding road through the Făgăraș Mountains**
- **Often called “the best driving road in the world” (Top Gear)**
- **Offers breathtaking views and access to Bâlea Lake**

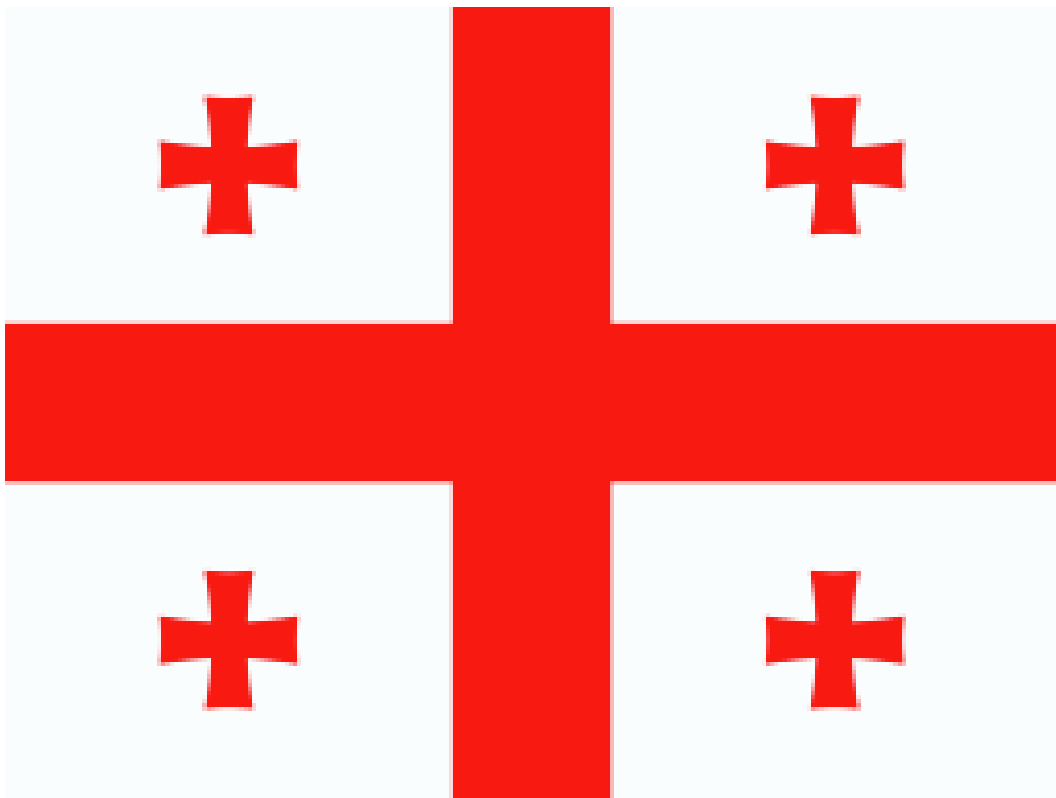
The Danube Delta (UNESCO)



- One of Europe's largest and best-preserved wetlands**
- A paradise for birdwatchers, with over 300 species of birds**
- Rich biodiversity, water channels, and floating reed islands**

GEORGIA

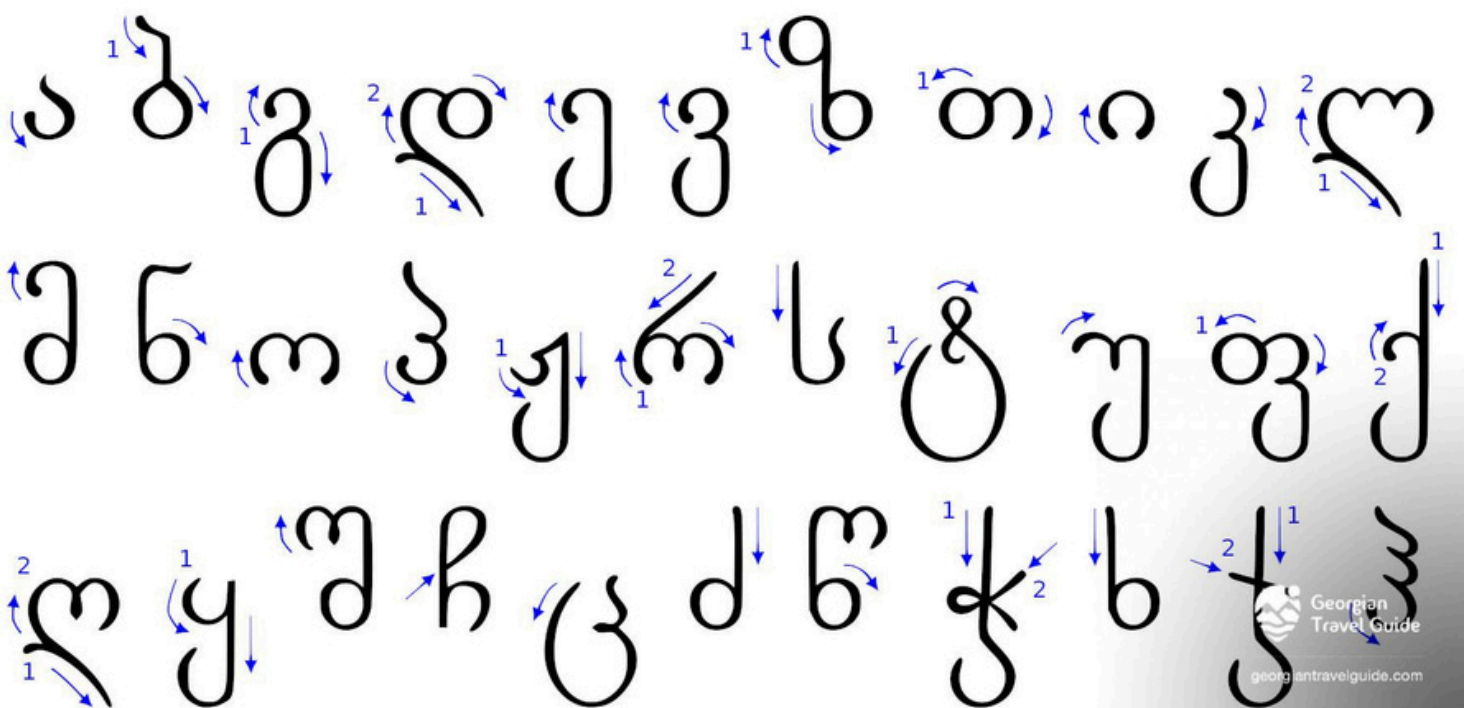
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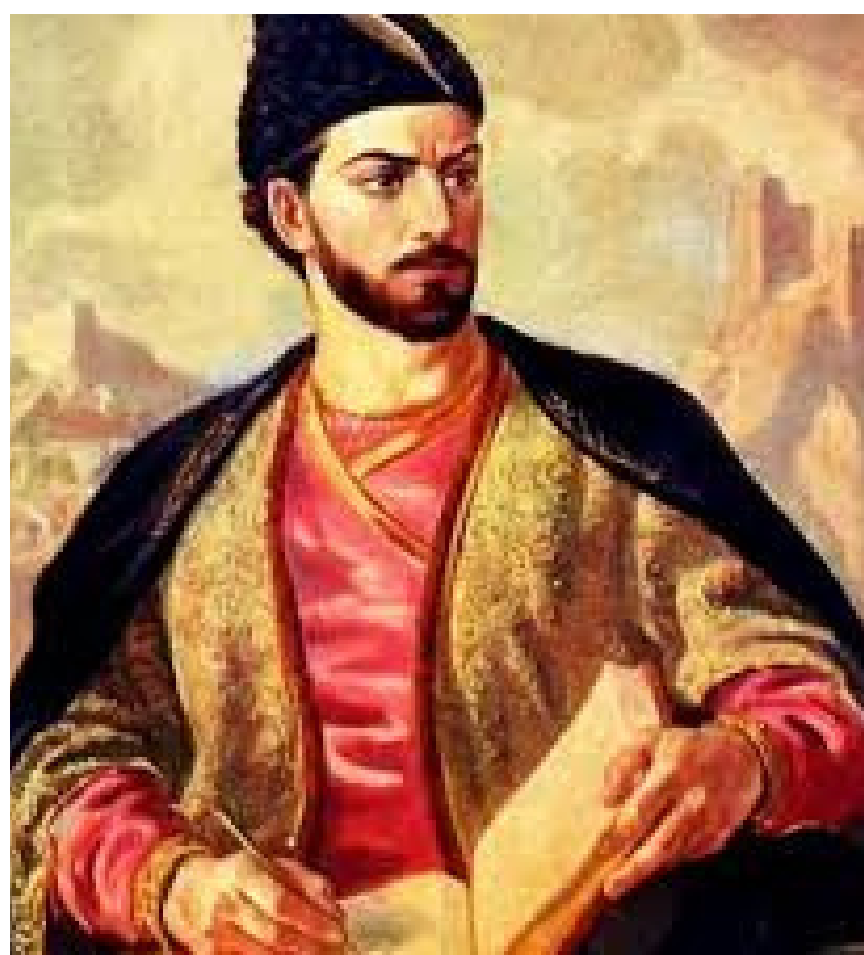
Georgian Cultural Heritage

Language and Literature

The Georgian language is part of the Kartvelian language family and is written in its own distinctive script, one of the oldest alphabets in the world.



Georgian literature dates back to the 5th century with religious texts and evolved through medieval poetry, including the epic poem “The Knight in the Panther's Skin” by Shota Rustaveli in the 12th century, a masterpiece of Georgian literature.



Georgia is known for its ancient Christian architecture, including beautiful Orthodox churches and monasteries such as Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Jvari Monastery, and Gelati Monastery, which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



JVARI MONASTERY



GELATI MONASTERY



BAGRATI CATHEDRAL



Georgian folk music is famous for its unique polyphonic singing, recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. Different regions have distinct styles, often characterized by complex harmonies.



Georgian dance is theatrical and energetic, often telling stories of battle, love, and celebration, with dances like Kartuli and Khorumi being particularly well-known.



Georgian cuisine reflects the country's diverse agricultural products and traditions.

Popular dishes include “khachapuri” (cheese-filled bread), “khinkali” (dumplings), “mtsvadi” (grilled meat skewers), and “pkhali”(vegetable pâtés). Georgian wine-making is ancient and renowned, with traditional methods of fermenting wine in qvevri (large clay vessels) recognized by UNESCO.



Georgia has a tradition of handicrafts including enamel work (minankari), ceramics, woodcarving, and textile weaving. Traditional folk art includes intricate embroidery and jewelry-making.

