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Discover Georgia

General Information About Georgia

Georgia, one of the oldest countries in the world, is situated in South-east Europe, on the crossroad of the ancient Silk Road that connected Asia to Europe. Although it is a small country, Georgia is a country with an outsized strategic importance because of its location. Georgia, with territory a little smaller than Hokkaido (area: 69.7 sq.km, population: 4.5 million), has a surprisingly wide variety of nature in each area. High mountains enabled the Georgian people to maintain their distinctive culture until today. In Georgia, there are about four thousand historically and culturally interesting places that were made in the past two thousand and five hundred years.

Georgia recently made world headlines with the startling discovery of the 1.8 million year old Dmanisi hominoids in the hills just south of Tbilisi. This archeological finding provides the missing link in human evolution between Africa and Europe and proves that territory of Georgia is a birthplace of the European civilization. Georgia has 3,800 years of history of statehood. And it is worth mentioning that out of the 14 written languages of the world, one is represented by the Georgian alphabet.

Tbilisi, the capital and the largest city of Georgia, was founded in the 5th century by King Vakhtang Gorgasali of the Kingdom of Iberia in Georgia. It has become the capitol of Georgia in the 6th century.

Culture

Historical sources of VIII-IV centuries BC give us data about dance, labor and travel polyphonic songs. In 2001 UNESCO declared Georgian polyphonic music as an intangible cultural heritage. Georgian polyphonic songs are sung in the United States, West Europe, Japan, etc.. In Japan, a musical group called Yamashirogumi is performing the music.

Powerful and beautiful, Georgian Folk dances mesmerize the audience. They are characterized by their rough and technical movements. Many of these dances involve the use of daggers and knives, and they require tremendous skill and practice on the part of the performers.

In art, Georgia is the birthplace of a primitivist painter Niko Pirosmani (1862-1918), whose paintings were displayed at big exhibitions around the world.

Georgia is well-known for classical ballet, which has obtained high technique and reached international standards under the artistic guidance of world-famous Georgian prima-ballerina Nino Ananiashvili.

Wine

Georgia is a true birthplace of wine. The Greeks of the ancient period used to import wine from Georgia and consume it. There

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"Discover Serbia" in collaboration with Design Festa and IAC

In collaboration with IAC and Sakura Group, on July 6, 2013 a short presentation about Serbia followed by Serbian cooking class by Mr. Nemanja Grbic, Attaché and Ms. Tijana Nagato, Secretary to the Ambassador from the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia was held at "Sakura Tei".

From July 5-10 the exhibition "Discover Serbia" was held at "Design Festa Gallery". Art works of three Serbian young artists Marijana Andjelic, Milica Nikolic and Milena Milosavljevic were exhibited together with Serbian art objects and crafts.

Many visitors were impressed with the exhibition that gave them the opportunity to know more about Serbia and its' culture.

Here are impressions of Ms. Marijana Andjelic about the exhibition:

With the opportunity to participate in this unusual event I had the privilege to meet very interesting people during those five days of exhibition.

Cultural exchange, a talk with someone who never even heard of the country Serbia, people accidentally passing by pulled by the unusual setup of the space. Among many things they had the opportunity to see Serbia painted on a plate! I also had an honour of exhibiting three

is also a linguistic evidence that the word wine "vino", "vine"-has Georgian roots and comes from Georgian "gvino" (wine). Several years ago scientists have discovered in Georgia the world's oldest wine. They could not find the wine itself, but they tested the residue inside the wine bottle from Stone Age, 8,000 years ago. In Neolithic era, people bottled and deliberately aged red wine in Georgia. Kvevri wine, which is made in giant clay vessels, is said to be good for your health. It is rich in tannin and vitamin, completely organic and distinctively flavorful. Georgian Kveri wine is richer in tannin than famous European wines. Since wine is rich with Polyphenol, it is ideal for dealing with Cardio-vascular diseases and keeping the level of the cholesterol low, thus contributing to longevity. Out of the world's 2,000 varieties of grape, Georgia is home to more than 500 indigenous species of grape, most of them used for wine. Names like Saperavi, Mukuzani, Tsinandali, Khvanchkara Teliani are familiar to wine connoisseurs around the world.

Sightseeing

Svaneti region

In Svaneti, there are medieval tower-shaped houses, churches, Ushguli village medieval fortress surrounded by about 5,000 meter high Caucasus mountain range, pure forests, villages with ecological environment, unique frescoes, icons, manuscripts, and smithery products.

The remote and picturesque Svaneti is not only famous for its historic towers, but it is also known as the highest settlement in Europe (2,300 meters). Due to its location, on a fine day, the highest peak of Georgia-Skhara (5,068 meters) can be seen straight from Ushguli, which is covered in snow most of the time during the year. Also, architectural monuments of Svaneti are included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1996.

Batumi

"Summer paradise", the Black Sea coast of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, has resorts such as Batumi, Kobuleti, Gonio, Sarpi and offers a full spectrum of entertainment at hotels of all levels.

Besides the above mentioned places, tourists are welcome to explore other UNESCO World Heritage sites of Georgia such as Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, and also the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta.

(Revaz Beshidze, Ambassador of Embassy of Georgia)



paintings done in Japanese style painting, all bringing Serbian motifs to Japanese environment. The strange collaboration inspired some to talk about long forgotten stories, so overall I had an amazing time chatting with people during the time I spent in the gallery"

Short Resume of Ms. Marijana Andjelic

1984 - Born in Belgrade, Serbia.

2008 - Graduated from Printmaking department of Art University of Belgrade, Faculty of Fine Arts

2012 - Enrolled in Master course of Japanese painting department at Tokyo University of Arts

Held numerous group exhibitions in Serbia and Japan in techniques such as mosaic, printmaking and Japanese painting. Currently exploring the Japanese painting technique while painting Serbian landscapes. Finding the unexpected connection between the two cultures.

(Embassy of the Republic of Serbia)

(photo (top) by A.M. Fujikura, IAC)

(photo (bottom) by Tetsuya Fujikura, IAC)

Understanding the culture of Ecuador through Food



Letter from the Ambassador of Ecuador to IAC
Tokyo, May 23rd, 2013

Dear Ms. Kanaya,
I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for all your support and contribution during the Ecuadorian Cooking Workshop, held last April 20th, organized together with Design Festa Gallery and Sakura House. Without any doubt, this kind of activities allows us to reach out to people and to share with them what Ecuador is about: a country with a broad diversity that it is expressed in its people,

its culture and, of course, its gastronomy. I am looking forward to working on another joint project with your prestigious organization that will strengthen the comprehension and mutual understanding of Japanese and Ecuadorian people. Allow me to take this opportunity to present to you and your staff the assurances of my consideration.

Leonardo Carrión Eguiguren,
AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR
(photo by A. M. Fujikura, IAC)

Hello, dear embassy #15 Poland



Poland's Unyielding Spirit Spurs Country's Recovery The bond between Poland and Japan is firm and diverse, beyond time and space. Russian Revolution, Great Hanshin Earthquake, the Great East Japan Earthquake Japan becoming wildly popular in modern day Poland.

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland is located in a quiet neighborhood between JR Meguro station and Ebisu station. Mr. Cyryl Kozaczewski, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland is a forty-four year old elite diplomat with a thick beard, who has been serving in Japan for about a year. There was a philosophical atmosphere around him that comes from his quiet looks and logical way of talking.

The tie between Poland and Japan is very deep. At the time of Russian Revolution, the Japanese government sent the Polish children who were left in Siberia to Japan, and then to their home country, Poland. The Polish people didn't forget this and invited Japanese children who had suffered the Great Hanshin Earthquake to Poland. Also, an organization in Poland donated a new hall and reconstructed the kindergarten that lost a hall when it was hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

"We heard that in 18th century, Poland was invaded three times and disappeared from the world map. During the World War II, Poland was invaded by Nazi Germany and suffered great damage. After WWII, it was incorporated into the Soviet Union (today's Russia), but established its own democracy in 1989. After that, Poland made progress both politically and economically and became a member of EU. Where did this indomitable power come from?"

The bond between Poland and Japan is beyond time and space. Ambassador: "Recently, Japanese food, martial arts, comics, and animations are booming in Poland. The interest toward Japan is increasing more than ever. Furthermore, there are about 290 Japanese companies operating in Poland. Polish pork, poultry and their processed food are imported to Japan and sold in the Japanese shops. Please try them."

Ambassador: "That is the product of solidarity of the people in Poland. Also, the Polish people's great respect for its cultural assets played an important role."

"The centerpiece of the economic cooperation between Japan and Poland is in energy related field. I'm sure we can cooperate in the fields of clean coal technology (the technology to burn coal with lower impact on the environment), renewable energy, nuclear energy, natural gas, and energy saving technology."

"To the Japanese people, President Walesa's indomitable way of life reminds us of the history of Poland."

Ambassador: "President Walesa worked vigorously to gain sovereignty in Poland. The people of Poland were the driving force behind him."

Ambassador, who is aiming to strengthen the bond between Poland and Japan in the field of diplomacy, economics, culture, etc., explained to us, "If I could truly feel that the bond between the two countries became stronger when I go back after serving the term, I would probably think that I had accomplished my job." It sounded like he was speaking about his life's philosophy.

This fall, Japan Post will issue stamps of famous people from Poland. People who will be portrayed include Chopin, Copernicus, Marie Curie, movie director Andrzej Wajda, President Walesa, Pope John Paul II, and Bronislaw Pilsudski. Pilsudski, who might not be familiar to the Japanese people, was married to an Ainu woman while he was an exile in Sakhalin and devoted himself to the research of Ainu people. He recorded songs by Ainu people on wax-coated cylinders.

(Yasunori Yamashita, IAC)
(translated by Keiko Hori, IAC)
(photo by A. M. Fujikura, IAC)

The Design Festa Gallery is an international art gallery and a mecca of artistic and cultural diversity found in the heart of Tokyo's Harajuku. With two buildings and 21 show rooms, over 30% of the 80,000 guests the gallery welcomes annually visit from overseas. There are no conditions, restrictions, regulations or censorship at the Design Festa gallery, which offers equal opportunity to all painters, photographers, sculptors, cinematographers, performers, fashion designers, illustrators, workshop instructors and graphic artists of all ages, nationalities and genres.



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International Artists Center (IAC) is a non-profit organization. It was established in 1960 and has been doing its activities in the aim to contribute to the international understanding and the world peace through cultural exchanges programs.

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