



Newsletter #4 – September 21, 2018
Georgian Association of Guides
World Federation of Tourist Guide
Associations



18th WFTGA Convention in Tbilisi, Georgia

20-25 January, 2019

Less than 4 months left!

Workshop Topics Announced:

We have received a number of workshop applications, and we are grateful for your interest and participation! The ExBo members and Organizational Committee attempted to choose the most relevant and interesting topics, so here are some of the workshops on offer:

1. *WFTGA Training Division* - An opportunity to learn more about WFTGA Training Division and its activities.
Considering becoming a WFTGA Trainer? We discuss how you can become part of the Training division family.
2. *UNESCO recognized Georgian Gastronomy Traditions* – Food, Wine and Georgian “Supra”.
3. *Responsible and Sustainable Tourism*
4. *Guiding with Children* - an entertaining and interactive lesson
5. *Guiding on an Archeological site: Georgian archeological treasury* – in preparation for the visit to the Georgian national Museum
6. *Voice and Breathing techniques for Tourist Guides*
7. *Guiding in Sacred Places*
8. *Georgian Folklore* - Master class in Polyphonic singing
9. *Memory Skills*
10. *Storytelling on the Silk Road; Georgia and beyond*
11. *Are you running your Association efficiently?*
12. *How to lead a Battlefield Tour*

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Jane Orde Scholarship

Thank you to all those who applied. The successful candidate will be announced on 26th October 2018

info@wftga.org for more information

On wftga2019.com you will also find a story about Jane Orde - a founder of a scholarship, a person, who dedicated all of her wisdom and kindness to WFTGA during her presidency

Did you know?

“WFTGA logo – the hand of friendship and the hand of guidance stretched across the world – was designed during Jane’s presidency.” – Mary Kemp Clarke



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Registration for these workshops will be available via our official website www.wftga2019.com from early November 2018.

Detailed information about the content of the workshops and the presenters will be announced in upcoming Newsletters and Social Media posts. So, keep an eye on these!

CONVENTION NEWS:

The WFTGA Pre Convention Tour is SOLD OUT!!!

Save the dates: Pre-convention Tour 18.01.19 - 20.01.19



The WFTGA Delegates Pre Convention Tour has limited seats still available.

(Kindly note this is only applicable to Registered Delegates)



The WFTGA Convention has over 220 registrations already and there is still plenty of space available.

Save the date: WFTGA 18th Convention 20.01.19 - 25.01.19

The WFTGA Post Convention Tour has only a few remaining places left!!! Save the date: Post-convention Tour 25.01.19 - 29.01.19



WFTGA 2019 Post Convention Tour was designed to show the diversity that Georgia has to offer to its guest. In contrast with the Cradle of Wine and vineyard valleys of the Pre Convention Tour, during the Post Convention Tour you will experience the Cradle of Georgian Culture with its ancient caves, fashionable sanatoriums from the Soviet era along with today's luxury spa hotels, different type of wine with different type of folklore. The Post Convention Tours ends at the Pearls of the Black sea – Batumi, where you will have an opportunity to breathe the mountain air and sea breeze.

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Must see in Georgia: Batumi as a part of Post-Convention tour experience

During the Post-Convention tour participants of WFTGA 2019 will visit Batumi—the “Pearl of the Black Sea,” as it is often called, located in the autonomous republic of Adjara. European architects undertook numerous projects in Batumi at the beginning of the 20th century, and today it remains a hub of architectural innovation. One of the oldest cities in Georgia, Batumi was founded in the 8th century, but the initial settlement, Batus, is mentioned in texts that date back to the 4th century BCE.

Gonio-Apsaros Fortress is located 12 km south of Batumi, on the left bank of the River Chorokhi. One of Georgia’s most ancient settlements was located around this fortress. Due to its strategic location, Gonio-Apsaros became a supporting citadel first for the Romans and later to the Byzantines and Ottomans along the eastern Black Sea coastline. The history of Gonio-Apsaros fortress references the myth of Jason and the Argonauts. According to the legend, King Aetes buried his son Apsaros, who was killed by Jason as he fled, in the territory of Gonio. According to some sources, Mathias, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ, is believed to be buried here. There is a museum inside the fortress.

One of the most beautiful regions in Georgia, Adjara is situated in southwest Georgia on the Black Sea coastline. Turkey borders Adjara to the south.

Adjara’s visitors especially admire the region’s pristine and unaltered nature, and it is particularly intriguing for eco tourists.



LATEST NEWS:

**CONFIRMED: Turkish Airlines the
official airline of the WFTGA 2019
Convention in Tbilisi, Georgia.**



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

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Following many months of negotiations and meetings with a various different Airlines, a last minute opportunity has arisen from Turkish Airlines. We received confirmation that they will offer 20% discounts on flights to this Convention.

Unfortunately this is only valid from this point in time, and sadly we cannot use this discount with reservations that have already been made and confirmed. We are sorry about this, and regrettably those who have already confirmed their travel tickets are not be able to use the discount.

Turkish Airlines are now the official airline of WFTGA Convention 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia and will offer special discounts on certain booking classes only.



Organizer



Delegate

In order to proceed with the online booking tool for discounted flight ticket, please, visit “Turkish Conventions” website:

<https://www4.thy.com/TKC/app/main?language=en> and use the promo code under the “Delegate” section. **Event promo code is upon request on the email undress info@wftga2019.com.**

NOTES

- Please, note, that the word “Delegate”, which is placed on the Turkish Airlines web-site at the registration field, does not indicate your WFTGA participation status.
- Discounts are only applicable through online purchase via provided link.
- The discounts mentioned herein are valid only for the destination in which the Convention will take place and it is mandatory to present the event code and a payment confirmation to the sales office or the agency that will do the ticketing.
- Discounted prices for international flights are only applicable for the participant and one accompanying person and are only valid to the destination in which the Event is taking place and for 7 days before the event starts and 7 days after the event ends.

INTRODUCING...

The Official Convention House Keeper

Ketevan Akhobadze – A.K.A Katy A.



You probably remember Katy A –she presented the Georgian bid at the 17th WFTGA Convention in Tehran. For the last 6 years, Ketevan actively works as a Tourist Guide. She is a certified English Speaking guide, and her basic tourism direction is Cultural, Wine and Gastro tourism all around Georgia. For last 3 years, Ketevan has been working as the cultural tour guide for the Parliament of Georgia, different ministries, diplomatic organizations, universities and other business establishments for guiding various international guest delegations in Georgia. As the certified wine tourism guide – she leads her wine tourism company and provides Wine Tourism lectures to the Georgian Guides Association Guiding School too. In May 2018, Katy successfully completed WFTGA training courses HOT and TrT and became a National Trainer.

What is the role of the Convention House Keeper?

The House Keeper of the Convention will do a daily morning housekeeping announcement. These will include a summary of the programme for the day, including the announcement of any logistics.



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GEORGIAN NATIONAL
TOURISM ADMINISTRATION

Key Note Speakers - Part 1

George Chogovadze

George Chogovadze is Head of the Georgian National Tourism Administration. He graduated from the European School of Management, Georgia, with a Bachelor of Business Administration and an MBA and is fluent in English and Russian. George has an extensive background working in both the private and public sectors. He has worked as General Manager for several companies, including Lufthansa City Centre Central Travel. He has also worked as Deputy General Manager at Swiss Airlines “Swissair” and as the Deputy Head of Economic Affairs at Tbilisi City Hall.



New Staff Member

Vakhtang Barkalaia – A.K.A Vakho

Operations Manager

Coordinates the daily operations of the preparation of the conference and communicates all updated information and logistics to the operating departments throughout the different divisions. By joining our Convention's Organizing Committee, he brought the fresh vision and bright ideas on board.



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REMINDER

Closing date for all Registrations is the **21st November 2018**.

(Only the WFTGA 2021 Convention Bidding countries will be accommodated until the first week of December 2018 for registration)

WFTGA Association Members – you may register for your Association in the meantime and confirm your attending Delegate details by the first week of December

Top FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

- Q: Can we arrange a triple room accommodation option during WFTGA Convention 2019?
A: No, no triple room packages are available during WFTGA 2019
- Q: Can I bring more than 1 accompany person with me?
A: No, only one accompanying person per individual member is allowed. If you wish to be accompanied by more non-members please organize their hotel reservations yourself.
- Q: I have registered during early-bird rates period, but have not paid yet, what should I do?
- A: If you have registered during the early-bird period, but haven't paid by the 22 of June (or within the agreed period in your confirmation letter) – your early bird registration will be cancelled, and you will have to register on the regular rates.

Registration links:

Click the **REGISTER HERE** button just under the big picture or just use the link according to your status:

<https://wftga2019.com/delegates>

<https://wftga2019.com/members>

<https://wftga2019.com/non-members>

<https://wftga2019.com/accompanying>

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Also, please, don't forget to follow us on social media:

- <https://twitter.com/Wftga2019>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Wftga2019>
- <https://www.instagram.com/wftga2019>
- <https://www.youtube.com> – Wftga 2019 Georgia
- <https://www.facebook.com/wftga>
- Twitter: @WFTGAofficial
- Instagram: wftga_official_

We look forward to welcoming you in Georgia!

Warm regards,

Ketevan Meladze and Organizing Team

Churchkhela

Georgian “Energy Bar” made
out of the grape juice and
walnuts/nuts



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