

Georgia Independence Day Special

Robust growth a boon for tourism, business

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AMBASSADOR OF GEORGIA



On May 26, we Georgians proudly celebrate the 108th anniversary of the restoration of our statehood. In 1918, the people declared independence and established the First Democratic Republic of Georgia.

Our nation chose the path of peace, democracy and development — building a free country based on respect for the rule of law, human rights and democratic values. Sadly, the first republic was short-lived, falling to Soviet occupation in 1921.

However, in 1991, we reclaimed our independence. It is worth emphasizing that Japan was among the first countries to recognize Georgia's independence — both during the first republic and again in 1992. Japan has remained a steadfast friend and a valuable partner throughout our journey, supporting Georgia through difficult times as we have worked to build democratic institutions and a sustainable economy.

Today, Georgia stands as one of the safest

countries in the world, according to prominent international rankings. We offer a liberal and transparent tax system, a favorable investment climate and a government committed to a business-friendly environment. These factors have contributed to impressive annual economic growth of about 9% over the past five years.

Strategically situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Georgia plays a key role in regional connectivity, with its Black Sea access augmenting numerous transit opportunities. Our credible and efficient distribution channels also offer ample access to global markets through newly expanded transport and energy infrastructure.

We already have free trade agreements with the European Union, the U.K., Turkey, Ukraine, members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Free Trade Association, China, the United Arab Emirates and South Korea. Georgia also offers access and transportation possibilities to the nations of Azerbaijan and landlocked Armenia.

Beyond our economic appeal, we take immense pride in our ancient culture, rich traditions, distinctive cuisine and the world's oldest winemaking heritage. Georgia is the cradle of wine — archaeological

evidence confirms that wine was first produced in our region over 8,000 years ago. Georgian wine pairs wonderfully with Japanese cuisine, and this cultural harmony was recognized in 2013 when traditional Georgian winemaking was inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Georgia is also blessed with stunning landscapes and diverse nature, making it one of the world's fastest-growing tourism destinations. Each year, millions of visitors discover the charm of our mountains, coasts and vibrant cities. Georgians are predominantly hospitable, generous and friendly people. Indeed, the land of the Golden Fleece — attracting Argonauts and heroes in ancient days — now stuns tourists with incredible Black Sea beaches, high mountains and ski resorts.

In recent years, Japan and Georgia have deepened their economic partnership through important agreements, including a bilateral investment treaty, an agreement against double taxation, and a memorandum of cooperation establishing a joint crediting mechanism. As a result, Japanese companies are showing growing interest in Georgia, particularly in finance, renewable energy, hospitality and manufacturing.

Thanks to our abundant water resources, 85% of Georgia's electricity comes from renewable sources. Expanding this ratio is a strategic national goal. We are also embarking on an ambitious new project — a submarine cable across the Black Sea that will connect Georgia to Romania and the broader European power grid. This project will significantly boost our export capacity and further integrate Georgia into the European energy market as a key supplier of clean, renewable energy.

Despite challenging external environmental and geopolitical tensions, Georgia has demonstrated remarkable economic resilience and growth. Our performance has attracted the attention of Japanese

investors, and we are confident that our bilateral economic ties will continue to strengthen in the coming years.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our Japanese friends for their steadfast support of Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and democratic development. I am confident that our already excellent political, economic and cultural relationship will grow even stronger and more vibrant in the years ahead.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Tbilisi's Old Town district is a popular tourist destination.
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The Kazbegi Mountains provide a rugged backdrop for the more adventurous traveler.

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on their Independence Day



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