

SOILI MUSTAPÄÄ

A Pilgrimage to the Easter – photographs from Georgia

Culture Centre Sofia 3.3. - 28.5.2013

1. Saint Nino

Icon of Saint Nino and the venerated Grapevine cross (Jvari Vazisa) also known as the Georgian cross or Saint Nino's cross. This cross is a major symbol of the Georgian Orthodox Church and dates from the 4th century AD, when Christianity became the official religion in the kingdom of Iberia (Kartli).

Jvari, Mtkseta. According to traditional accounts, on this location in the early 4th century Saint Nino, a female evangelist credited with converting King Mirian III of Iberia to Christianity, erected a large wooden cross on the site of a pagan temple. The cross was reportedly able to work miracles and therefore drew pilgrims from all over the Caucasus. A small church was erected over the remnants of the wooden cross in c.545 named the "Small Jvari Church".

2. The confession.

Anchiskhati Basilica of St Mary from the 6th century, Tbilisi.

3. Holy Thursday, evening service.

The church of St. Marina in Akhaltsikhe.

4. Svetitskhoveli Cathedral.

The most sacred place in Georgia. UNESCO has inscribed the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta on the List of World Heritage in Danger because of concerns over their preservation.

5. Great and Holy Wednesday.

The "Sioni" Cathedral of the Dormition, Sionis Kucha, Tbilisi.

6. Cave monastery of Vardzia on Great and Holy Friday.

Vardzia is one of the supreme symbols of Georgian culture, and arguably the most important monument of the Georgian renaissance.

7. Gergeti Trinity Church.

Tsminda Sameba at an elevation of 2170 meters on a hilltop above Gergeti, under Mount Kazbegi (hidden in a thick cloud).

8. The Georgian Military Road.

The historic name for a major route through the Caucasus from Georgia to Russia.

9. Church in Gudauri.

A new, still unfinished Church in Gudauri -ski resort. It is high up in the Greater Caucasus, on The Georgian Military Road, near the Russian border.

10. Tomb venetrated with flowers.

Jvari monastery, Mtskheta.

11. Jvari monastery, Mtskheta.

Interior view to the East, big wooden cross.

12. Reading of the Twelve Gospels of the Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Great and Holy Thursday. Church of St. Marina in Akhaltsikhe.

13. "Orthros of Lamentations at the Tomb".

Great and Holy Saturday, morning service. The Epitaphios placed in the nave of the church for the faithful to venerate. **The "Sioni" Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Tbilisi.**

14. St. David's Church "Mamadaviti".

On the slope of Mount Mtatsminda (Holy Mountain), Tbilisi.

15. The "Sioni" Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Tbilisi.

16. Church bells of Vardzia cave monastery.

17. Bas-relief Glorification of the Cross.

The church built 586-604, Tympanum of the Southern Entrance. Jvari Monastery, Mtskheta.

18. Hands of a nun.

Sameba, the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi. Tbilisis cminda samebis sakathedro tadzari.

19. Woman at the stairs.

Jvari monastery, Mtskheta.

PRICE LIST

Fotosec acrylic photograp, size 48 x 70 cm (landscape or portrait), á 480 euros.

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