



**SAMPLE ITNERARY**

**Day One: Depart for Georgia**

Afternoon      Depart for Georgia

**Day Two: Arrival in Georgia**

Evening          Light Dinner at Hotel Restaurant

*Overnight in Tbilisi:*

**Day Three: Community Building Through Local Initiatives**

Morning          Breakfast at the Hotel

Welcome to Georgia! Opening Ice Breakers Facilitated by Trip-chairs and Staff

Briefing on JDC's Role in Georgia by JDC Representative Zohar David & Introduction to Life in Georgia with JDC Entwine Global Jewish Service Corps Fellow

Tour of Jewish Tbilisi led by Marina

Afternoon      Visit to the Jewish Community House & Presentation on Current Program Models with Organization Directors: Hesed Eliyahu Director Revaz Shatashvili, JCC Director Helen Berkovich, KIC Director Zaira Davarashvili

*Tbilisi's Jewish Community House officially opened in 2003. Today the Jewish Community House is home to several Tbilisi Jewish Community organizations. It houses Hesed "Eliyahu" Welfare Center and Day Center, the JCC of Tbilisi and the Knowledge in Information Centre (KIC) of Jewish community in Caucasus countries. During the 2008 South Ossetian War, the Jewish Community House served as a center of relief activities, providing round-the-clock warm kosher meals, critical supplies and emotional support to displaced persons.*

*Throughout the year, the Jewish Community Center runs a variety of Jewish renewal programs, with a special focus on programming for children and young adults. JCC programs include classes on Jewish topics, art and cultural activities – including community holiday celebrations.*

*Knowledge in Information Center of Jewish community in Caucasus Countries (KIC). The KIC provides professional training for the staff of JDC-supported organizations. The Director of the institute also leads the 26th Century Friendship Club, named in honor of the community's 2,600th Anniversary, which meets once a month for lectures and cultural events and includes Georgia's Jewish and non-Jewish community members.*

Lunch at the Jewish Community House with Organization Directors

*The Hesed Welfare Center model was developed in 1993 by JDC professionals in response to the multifaceted, unmet needs of elderly and disabled Jews in the Former Soviet Union (FSU).*

*Tbilisi's Hesed Eliyahu was founded in 1997 to provide Tbilisi's needy, elderly Jews – more than 30% of the population – with vital services to ease their suffering and hardship.*

Interactive Visit to the Hesed Eliyahu Day Center

Home Visits with Hesed Staff to Elderly Hesed Clients

## INTERNAL DRAFT ITINERARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Evening      Core Conversation #1: *Setting Our Intentions*

*Identity and Community* - As RSJs, what defines our identity? Do we see ourselves as Jews first, Americans, Russian-Americans, or some combination? How are we connected to global Jewish Peoplehood?

Dinner at Restaurant

Optional Evening Out

*Overnight in Tbilisi*

### **Day Four: Addressing Welfare Needs & Sustaining a Community**

Morning      Breakfast at Hotel

Guided Visit to the Stalin Museum

Group Discussion, Debrief of Stalin Museum Visit in the Park on the Museum Grounds

Afternoon    Lunch in Gori Hesed with the Community & Discussion with Hesed Director

*Gori was an important military stronghold in the Middle Ages and maintains a strategic importance due to its location on the principal highway connecting eastern and western parts of Georgia. In the course of its history, Gori has been invaded by the armies of regional powers several times. Gori is known as the birthplace of [Joseph Stalin](#), the city has long been associated with its citadel, the [Gori Fortress](#), which is built on a cliffy hill overlooking the central part of the modern city.*

Georgian Folk Dance Class with the Community

Caring for the Needy: Home Visits with At-Risk Clients

Evening      Core Conversation #2: *Arevut and JDC*

Dinner at Restaurant with Hillel Leaders

Optional Evening Out

*Overnight in Tbilisi*

### **Day Five: Engaging the Next Generation**

Morning      Breakfast & Discussion with Zaza Vashakmadze, Chairman of The State Agency for Religious Issues, at the Hotel

Day of Fun at Tbilisi Lake with Jewish Family Service Clients

Outdoor Games & Activities with Children

Afternoon    Picnic Lunch

Group Discussion with Parents

Evening      Core Conversation #3: *Arevut and Me*

Dinner at a Restaurant

Optional Evening Out

*Overnight in Tbilisi*

### **Day Six: Day Trip to the Periphery & Engaging with Local Peers**

Morning      Breakfast at the Hotel

## INTERNAL DRAFT ITINERARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- Stop at Viewpoint/Monastery
- Free Time in Signaghi
- Afternoon Lunch & Wine Tasting with Local Peers from Hillel
- Optional Outing to Local Bath House & Spa
- Evening Pre-Shabbat Activity with Young Adults from the Hillel Community (on the terrace)
- Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner with Hillel Community
- Optional Evening Out/Walk Back to Hotel

### *Overnight in Tbilisi*

#### **Day Seven: Shabbat in Tbilisi**

- Morning Breakfast
- Shabbat Morning Services (Optional)
- Optional Hike at Mtatsminda Park
- Group Lunch in Hotel Restaurant
- Afternoon Optional Walking Tour of Old City & the Main Street of Tbilisi led by Marina
- Core Conversation #4: *Action*
- Evening Havdallah Ceremony at the Hotel
- Festive Closing Dinner & Georgian Dance Performance

#### **Day Eight: Depart Georgia**

- Morning Depart Georgia