



FIGURE SKATING
CHALLENGER SERIES
BATUMI

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 3, 2026
FIRST INFORMATION

WELCOME

The Georgian Figure Skating Federation has a great pleasure to welcome all participants to Batumi for the

“ISU Challenger Series Trialeti Trophy 2026”.

This handbook contains some useful information for your stay here in Batumi.

If you require any additional information, do not hesitate to ask any of our staff in the Organizing Committee Room in the Batumi Ice Arena.

The Organizing Committee wishes you a pleasant stay in Batumi.

We do hope that you will have a great time during your stay in Georgia and looking forward to seeing you here again.

**MARIAM GIORGOBIANI
PRESIDENT OF GEORGIAN
FIGURE SKATING FEDERATION**

Batumi – Beyond the Horizon

City Profile

Set along the Black Sea coastline, Batumi stands as the vibrant administrative center of the Adjara region and Georgia's top seaside destination. Seamlessly uniting historic character with striking modern architecture, the city has evolved into a bustling contemporary hub. Acting as a lively bridge between Eastern and Western cultures, it greets guests with genuine Georgian warmth, a subtropical climate, and an active coastal atmosphere. This unique environment offers visitors a rich tapestry of lush green spaces, seaside promenades, and deep-rooted heritage. Beyond its visual appeal, the city fosters a safe, walkable, and welcoming atmosphere for travelers from across the globe.



Commercial Strength & Growth

As a key economic driver for western Georgia, Batumi is fueled by strong tourism growth, expanding real estate development, and an active commercial port. These factors make the city an attractive center for global business and trade. Backed by forward-thinking urban development and state-of-the-art facilities, Batumi has established itself as a year-round destination for international commerce, regional transport connections, and major international gatherings. Strategic investments continue to modernize local transport networks and expand high-capacity event venues.

Architectural Landmarks & Attractions

- **The Batumi Boulevard:** Stretching over 7 kilometers along the coastline, this historic promenade features lush green walking paths, modern art installations, and the iconic, moving "**Ali and Nino**" statue—a monument to eternal love.
- **Alphabetic Tower:** A majestic 130-meter-high structure celebrating the unique Georgian alphabet, offering panoramic views of the sea and city skyline.
- **Europe Square & Piazza:** Vibrant public squares surrounded by beautifully restored 19th-century architecture, lively open-air cafes, and stunning mosaic art, mirroring the architectural elegance of classic European cities.
- **Batumi Dolphinarium:** One of Georgia's most beloved interactive attractions, featuring a modern, open-air amphitheater where visitors can witness spectacular, choreographed performances by highly intelligent bottlenose dolphins set to vibrant music and dazzling water displays.



Sporting Excellence

Batumi has firmly established itself as a world-class host city, possessing the state-of-the-art infrastructure and organizational expertise required to execute major international and national multisport events at a world class level.



February 2025 – The Winter European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF)

The winter edition of the 2025 European Youth Olympic Festival marked a historic milestone for Georgia. Batumi took center stage as the official host for figure skating and short-track speed skating disciplines, skaters participating from more than 30 different countries.



The Venue: The elite figure skating and short-track speed skating competitions were held at the **newly constructed, Olympic-standard Batumi Ice Rink**. Featuring an 1,800-square-meter ice surface and seating for 2,500 spectators, this state-of-the-art facility earned positive reviews from international delegates for its ice quality and athlete amenities.

A Legacy of Global Events

Beyond the youth Olympic movement, Batumi's sports infrastructure regularly accommodates major global gatherings, including the **43rd World Chess Olympiad**, which welcomed over 4,000 participants from 185 countries, cementing the city's reputation as a trusted, elite destination on the global sports map.

June 2026 – The First Georgian Youth Olympic Festival

Building on its international success, Batumi was selected to host the inaugural Georgian Youth Olympic Festival.

This multi-sport project brought together approximately 1,200 top young athletes representing every region of Georgia to compete in 17 distinct sports.



The festival utilized Batumi's newly constructed international athletic network, led by the Mukhran Vakhtangadze Batumi Sports Palace multi-block complex featuring a 3,500-seat universal arena and nine specialized training halls. The opening ceremony was celebrated at the ultra-modern Batumi Football Stadium (an UEFA Category 4 arena), while the closing ceremonies animated the historic Batumi Boulevard, demonstrating the city's capacity to transform its urban landscape into a vibrant Olympic playground.

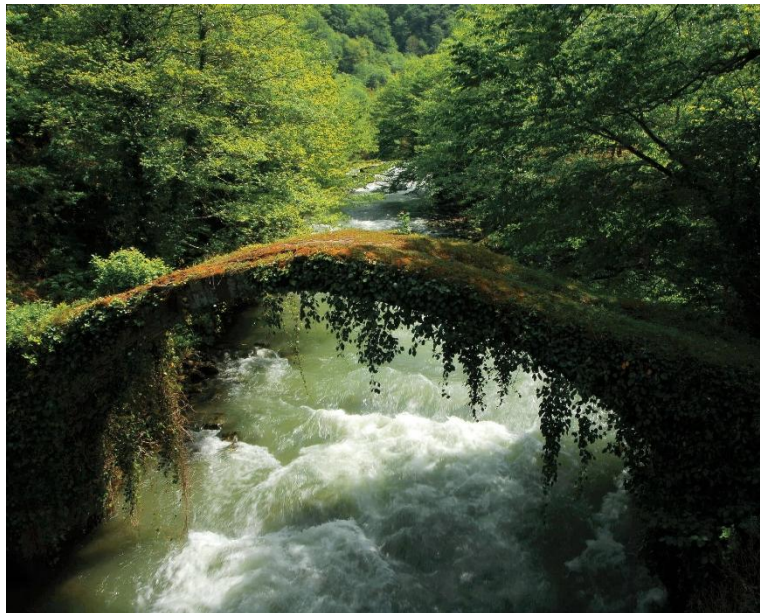
Cultural Heritage & Tourism

Batumi's tourism appeal extends far beyond its sun-drenched beaches and vibrant nightlife. Recognized globally as one of Europe's hidden gems, the region seamlessly pairs upscale, luxury coastal hospitality with deep cultural authenticity. Visitors are increasingly drawn to Adjara's diverse offerings, which range from wine tourism in the ancient, mountainous valleys to immersive cultural trails detailing thousands of years of Black Sea history.



The Emerald Escape: Mtirala National Park

Just a short drive from the coastal breeze lies **Mtirala National Park**, often called the "Georgian Rainforest." Characterized by its extreme humidity and dense, ancient chestnut and beech forests, Mtirala is a sanctuary of biodiversity.



Eco-Adventure: The park features breathtaking ecotourism trails, stunning waterfalls, and crystal-clear mountain rivers. It offers visitors a world-class outdoor experience, complete with hiking, horseback riding, zip-lining, and pristine campsites wrapped in absolute silence.

The Batumi Botanical Garden: Located at the Mtsvane Kontskhi (Green Cape), this legendary garden cascades down steep cliffs directly into the sea. It is one

of the grandest botanical collections in the world, cultivating distinct micro-climates that house flora from nine separate global eco-zones, from East Asia to South America.

Story behind the name “Trialeti Trophy”

The Trialeti region in central Georgia was home to a major Middle Bronze Age civilization that flourished between roughly 2100 and 1500 BCE. This society developed sophisticated social structures and extensive trade networks across Eurasia. Its metalworkers mastered advanced metallurgical techniques, producing extraordinary gold, silver, and bronze objects long before similar practices emerged in many surrounding regions. Among the most significant finds from these times is the Trialeti golden Chalice, the double-walled gold displays early precision techniques in filigree, granulation, and precious stone inlay using carnelian, lapis lazuli, and turquoise.



This artifact was used as a direct inspiration for ISU Challenger Series Trialeti Trophy, connecting Georgia's contemporary role in international athletics with its deep archaeological heritage. The design of the official competition trophy incorporates structural motifs and engraved detail derived directly from the ritual iconography of the ancient golden chalice. By embedding these historical forms into a modern sporting context, the trophy serves as a bridge between ancient Caucasian craftsmanship and contemporary international competition, anchoring this event in the culture of the advanced ancient civilization in this region.

Introduction of the Venue



Address: 27 Lado Asatiani Street, Batumi

Seating Capacity: 1,500 persons

Arena: 30 x 60 Square meters

Facilities: LED Screens, 8 changing rooms.

Average Temperature: 16 °C



Unofficial Practice: Private ice sessions are available for team booking on September 28 and 29. Please contact OC for reservation. Ice time costs 250 EUR/hour to be paid at the accreditation desk.

Introduction of the Hotels

Hotel capacities can **only** be booked via the Organizing Committee. Booking requests have to be sent to the organizer by latest Friday, 4th September 2026. The organizer cannot guarantee the availability of rooms, for bookings which are received after that date. All payments shall be made upon arrival at the hotel.

Hotel for Officials, Judges and Teams

Name: Batumi View Luxury Hotel (www.batumiviewluxury.com)

Address: Lech and Maria Kaczynski Str. 8, Batumi Georgia



Room Rates

Room Type	Occupancy	Rate Per Night
Standard Single Room	Single Occupancy	EUR 100
Standard Double Room	Double Occupancy	EUR 140

Hotel for Teams

Name: Ibis Styles Batumi Hotel (www.all.accor.com)

Address: Lech and Maria Kaczynski Str. 5B, Batumi Georgia

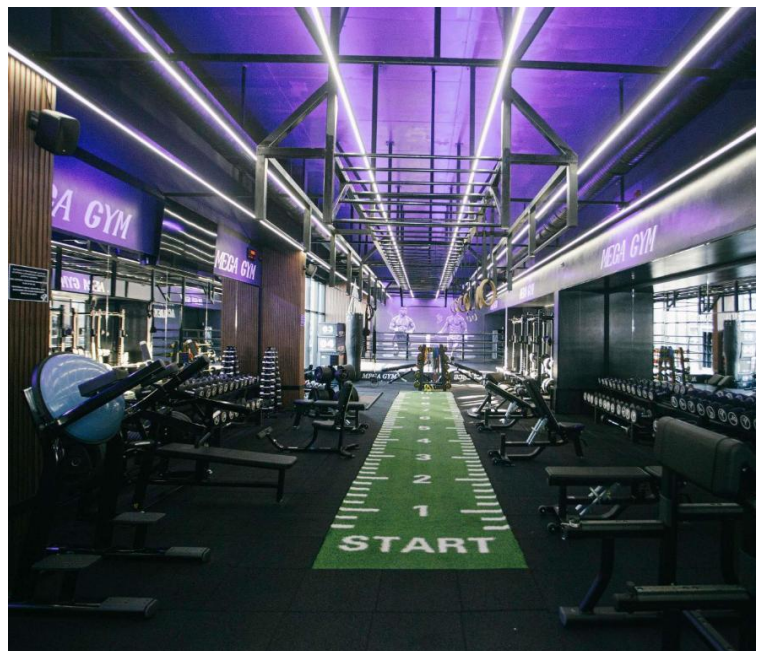


Amenities:

Hotel includes a spacious gym area and an outdoors swimming pool.

Room Rates

Room Type	Occupancy	Rate Per Night
Standard Single Room	Single Occupancy	EUR 110
Standard Double Room	Double Occupancy	EUR 150



Getting Around

OC will provide shuttle bus for all participants ice rink – hotel – ice rink with small fee of **EUR 10** per person per day.

Hotel Reservations & Fee Policy

Reservation Deadline

The deadline for reserving hotel rooms for all participants is at 20:00, **Friday, September 4, 2026**. Booking requests have to be sent to the OC directly. The OC cannot guarantee the availability of rooms for bookings which are received after that date. All payments shall be made upon arrival at the hotel.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

- In case of room cancellation before **Friday, September 4, 2026**, the organizing committee will provide a full refund.
- In case of room cancellation from **Saturday, September 5, 2026**, onwards, the organizing committee will charge the full hotel fee.

All the participants are requested to comply with the above policies to ensure a smooth hotel reservation.

Arrival of Athletes / Teams

The nearest airports to Batumi are Batumi International Airport (BUS), located just 7 kilometers from the city center and the official hotel area; and Kutaisi International Airport (KUT), which is approximately 120 kilometers away.

The Organizing Committee will provide pick-up and drop-off services at Batumi International Airport (BUS) and Kutaisi International Airport (KUT). Please inform the Organizing Committee whether you will use the provided transfer services when you register for the competition.



Batumi International Airport (BUS) transfers are available at a cost of

- **one way:** EUR 15 per person
- **round trip:** EUR 30 per person

Kutaisi International Airport (KUT) transfers are available at a cost of

- **one way:** EUR 50 per person
- **round trip:** EUR 100 per person

Useful Information

- The average weather in Batumi – September in Batumi is wonderfully warm and comfortable, with daytime temperatures averaging between 23°C (73°F) and 25°C (78°F). As autumn sets in during October, daytime temperatures cool to a pleasant average of 20°C (68°F). Evenings and nights are cooler, hovering around 15°C to 19°C (60°F to 66°F) in September and dropping to around 13°C (56°F) in October.
- Time Zone – Batumi is located in the Georgia Standard Time (GET) time zone, UTC+4.
- Electricity – Electrical sockets are 220V plug types C and F. Participants using appliances of different voltages should prepare adapters and may need voltage converters before they can use foreign electrical equipment. Most laptops and other personal devices do not require a transformer. Please check with the manufacturer before testing.
- Taxes – The standard Value-added tax (VAT) in Georgia is 18%. This tax is legally required to be included in the final prices presented to customers and guests in shops, hotels, restaurants, and other service establishments.
- Payment – The official currency is the Georgian Lari (GEL). Major hotels, restaurants, and shops in Batumi widely accept VISA and MasterCard, and contactless mobile payment options (like Apple Pay and Google Pay) are common. However, you should still keep cash (GEL) on hand, as card payments are generally not accepted for local shops and small market vendors.
- Tipping – Tipping 10% to 15% for good service is a standard practice. However, it is not mandatory.

Important!

All visitors to Georgia must have medical and accident insurance.

ACCREDITATION

The official accreditation for Teams is planned at the Batumi Ice Arena upon arrival.

Accreditation as a Team Member will be given to all entered Judges, Competitors, and one Team Leader per participating team, one Coach per Competitor, a maximum of two Team Officials of ISU Members (including the Member President), provided that they are Council Members, Technical Committee Members or Members of the Head Office of their Federation, and a maximum of two medical persons. Accreditation will only be granted to persons in those various functions if officially entered and named through their ISU Member. The ISU Member certifies with the signed entry form the indicated functions within the team of all team members. Any misuse of any function will be sanctioned by the ISU/OC.



In the event of losing accreditation, the fee for issuing a new one is 100 €.

Accreditation will be given to appointed Event Officials and Guests.

Chaperons will not receive accreditation. The Team Leader may request “bus permits” for the officially registered Chaperons to join the official shuttle bus system of the Organizing Committee.

Event Schedule

Tuesday, September 29, 2026	All day	Arrival of teams
Wednesday, September 30, 2026	All day	Official practice
	10:30	Team Leaders Meeting
	TBA	Individual Technical Panel Meetings per Discipline
	16:30	Referees and Technical Controllers Meeting
	17:30	Judges Draw and Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2026	13:00	WOMEN – Short Program
		ICE DANCE – Rhythm Dance
		MEN – Short Program
Friday, October 2, 2026	13:30	ICE DANCE – Free Dance
		MEN – Free Skating
		Victory Ceremonies MEN and ICE DANCE
		PAIRS – Short Program
		ICE DANCE - Technical Panel Review
		MEN - Technical Panel Review
Saturday, October 3, 2026	08:00	ICE DANCE – Round Table Discussion for Judges
	08:30	ICE DANCE – Technical Panel Review
	09:00	MEN – Round Table Discussion for Judges
	09:30	MEN – Technical Panel Review
	13:00	WOMEN – Free Skating
		PAIRS – Free Skating
		Victory Ceremonies PAIRS and WOMEN
	19:00	WOMEN – Round Table Discussion for Judges
	19:30	WOMEN – Technical Panel Review
	20:00	PAIRS – Round Table Discussion for Judges
	20:30	PAIRS – Technical Panel Review