LAW OF GEORGIA ON
TOURISM AND HEALTH-RESORTS

Chapter I. General Provisions

Article 1. Legislation on Tourism and Health-Resorts

1. Legislation of Georgia on tourism and health-resorts regulates the relationship in the scope of tourism and health resorts.
2. Legislation of Georgia on tourism and health-resorts includes this Law, the Constitution of Georgia and statutory acts adopted on the basis of the Constitution of Georgia and present Law.

Article 2. Main Definitions

1. **Tourism** - the free-will, voluntary and temporary movement of humans from their residences to other places in order to rest or recover, to see historical or cultural monuments, or the movement with other purposes.
2. **Tourist** - a person, voluntarily being out of his or her place of residence at least for 24 hours and no longer than a year. In addition, a person must not be paid for the trip.
3. **Medical tourism** - the use of health resorts for the treatment and medical examination, as well as for other medical services.
4. **Resources of tourism** - the unity of Georgia's infrastructures and natural and domestic resources, meeting demands of tourists.
5. **Natural medical (health resort) resources** - mineral waters, medicinal muds, karst caves fit for the treatment; sea, forests, medical climate and other natural resources used for the treatment, rehabilitation and prophylaxis.
6. **Area of health resorts** - the territory with natural medical resources fit for target-oriented exploitation, when there are not appropriate buildings on it.
7. **Health-resort** - the area of health-resort, where the medical or rehabilitation institution or building, or other object of infrastructure is located.
8. **Medical treatment object in the resort** – an object, where visitors receive medical treatment preferably using natural resources (climate, mineral water, medicinal mud, etc.)
9. **Sanitary zone** - the area especially protected under the laws of Georgia, when this area is in need of the prevention of pollution, damage or pre-term
exhaustion of natural resources.

10. **Subject of tourism and health-resort activities (subject of the sector)** - natural person or legal entity carrying out activities in the field of tourism and health-resorts.

11. **Activities in tourism** - services rendered by the subject of the sector in order to inform, accommodate, feed, transport and recover the tourists, as well as the services for rehabilitation, advertising or tour-operative measures, also for excursions, entertainment and cultural or sporting events. These services are directed to meet the demands of tourists.

12. **Activities related to the health-resorts** - organizing of the use of natural medical resources, buildings and equipment (drill-hole, pump-room, mud-care-room gallery, bathroom, beach, climatic pavilion, aero solarium) and other objects of infrastructure (hotel, rest-house, sanatorium, holiday hotel, sporting and cultural objects) for the purpose of treatment, rehabilitation, recovery or prophylactics.

13. **Industry of tourism and health-resorts** - the aggregate of the subjects and objects of the sector of tourism and health-resorts.

14. **Product of tourism, package of tourist services** – at least two components from the services of tourism that is necessary to satisfy tourist (accommodation, food, transport, trips, etc.). The cost must be included in the price of voucher.

15. **Voucher** - a document confirming the status of a tourist, category of service to be rendered and the guarantee of service according to the category.

16. **Tour** - travelling according to the special route, defined purpose and concrete term provided by the product of tourism.

17. **Unorganized tourist** - a tourist travelling independently without the contract, voucher or fixed-route book.

18. **Certificate of correspondence** - a document, confirming the quality of services in the sector of tourism and health-resorts, as well as the compliance of these services with the specific standard or with other statutory act.

19. **Domestic Tourism** – tourism services offered to the citizens of Georgia out of their permanent address but within the country.

20. **Tour-operator** – legal entity that forms and sells a product of tourism.

21. **Tour-agent** – legal entity that sells a product of tourism.

22. **Excursion** – visiting special places with the purpose of learning, sports activities and resting.

23. **Traveler** - person who participates in the excursion.

24. **Guide** – head of the excursion, which is responsible to provide information about sight. It must be approved by appropriate organization.
25. **Tourism Journey** – form of resting and traveling that should include eating, overnight stay, excursions and active form of transportation (walking, hours riding, biking, skiing, etc.)

26. **Tourism Trip** – form of tourism that should include eating, overnight stay and excursions.

### Article 3. Health-Resort Resources of Georgia

1. Executive body authorized in the sector of tourism and health resorts (hereinafter referred to as the body authorized to administer the sector), in agreement with the Georgia's Ministry of Health, divides the health-resorts according to the nature of health-resort resources, as well as defines the specialization of health-resort institutions.

2. Methods of treatment at health-resorts shall be approved by the Ministry of Health of Georgia.

3. Objects and areas of health-resorts may only be alienated in accordance with the procedures provided by law of Georgia.

4. A natural person or legal entity, which owns the tourist, medical or rehabilitation institution or the institution of other kind, or exploits them, is deemed to be the user of the area of health-resort and shall pay the tax specified by law of Georgia.

5. A natural person or legal entity may be the user of natural medical resources, which shall, pursuant to the procedures provided by law of Georgia, process and use natural medical resources.

6. Establishment of new objects of tourism and health-resorts shall only be implemented in agreement with the body authorized to administer the sector and with local bodies of government.

7. With a view to protect the health-resort resources of Georgia and to rationally use them, sanitary zones shall be set up for every particular health-resort and health-resort area. Such projects are done by the body authorized to administer the sector and the President of Georgia must approve it.

8. The body authorized to administer the sector does expenditure of natural medicinal resources and infrastructure within the sanitary zones of health resorts and areas for resorts, and acts as a coordinator concerning all renovating works.

9. In order to give out state-owned land within the sanitary zone of health resort and area of resort, approval of tourism and resorts government body is
10. Tourism and health-resort activities on the protected areas shall be carried out pursuant to the procedures provided by laws of Georgia.

Chapter II. State Policy towards the Sector of Tourism and Health-Resorts and Regulating this Sector by the State

Article 4. Principles of the Regulations of the Tourism and Health-Resort Sector by the State

1. Resources of tourism and health-resorts are considered to be the national wealth and are protected by the state.

2. The sector of tourism and health-resorts is recognized by the state to be one of the major priorities for the development of national culture and economy. The state creates favorable conditions for activities in the sector of tourism and health-resorts.

3. The Parliament of Georgia shall:
   a) define the guidelines of state policy towards the sector of tourism and health-resorts and regulate the laws concerning this sector;
   b) establish the inter-parliamentary relationship with other states in the sector of tourism and health-resorts.

The President of Georgia shall:
   a) ensure the conduct of the single policy towards the sector of tourism and health-resorts;
   b) approve sanitary zones upon presentation of the body authorized to administer the sector and appropriate services;
   c) take into consideration, in the performance of the most important projects, as well as in relationship with other states and international organizations, the interests of tourism development;
   d) approve the list and status of health-resorts upon presentation of the body authorized to administer the sector.
Article 5. Executive Body Authorized to Administer the Sector of Tourism and Health-Resorts

1. The function of administration in the sector of tourism and health-resorts is carried out by the executive body authorized to administer the sector. This body conducts the single state policy pursuant to the effective legislation, as well as issues statutory acts and takes control of the observance of this Law within its jurisdiction.

2. Various institutions, natural persons or legal entities, related to the tourism and health-resort activities, must observe the statutory acts passed by the body authorized to administer the sector.

3. The body authorized to administer the sector shall:
   a) elaborate and submit to the executive authorities of Georgia the guidelines of the state concept for the development of tourism and health-resorts, as well as the programs for the realization of the concept and ensure their fulfillment;
   b) approve, in compliance with the local bodies of government and institutions interested, regulations of each particular health-resort;
   c) for the development of international tourism, elaborate proposals in order to simplify the issuance of passports and visas;
   d) establish, within the framework of its authority, the relationship with governmental and non-governmental organizations of Georgia and with foreign countries and, if necessary, set-up representative organizations abroad pursuant to international treaties of Georgia;
   e) promote attraction of investments with a view to establish and develop the infrastructure of tourism and health-resorts;
   f) elaborate programs for the use of appropriations allocated from the state budget;
   g) participate in approving the project for architectural and socio-economic planning of those regions, where the resources of tourism are located;
   h) promote the observance of the order provided by the regulations of sanitary zones;
   i) with a view to protect and preserve historical and cultural monuments, monuments of nature and health-resort areas, define jointly with the institutions interested, the limit to the number of tourists to be received, as well as to take control of the observance of this limit.
   j) promote the use and development of the existing scientific and practical
potential;

k) ensure in the sector of tourism and health resorts the implementation of scientific research work, the professional growth and perfection of its specialists.

l) promote social protection of the persons engaged in the sector under the procedure prescribed by legislation of Georgia.

5¹ Regional organizations for management of the sector

1. Regional divisions are go-between organizations within the government body that is in charge of tourism and resorts. Structure and functions of regional divisions is in accordance with this law and the regulation approved by the body authorized to administer the sector of tourism and resorts.

2. Regional divisions are financed by the state budget.

Article 6. Enterprise of Tourism and Health-Resorts

Enterprises of tourism and health resorts are able to purchase the license, if it is in accordance with their interest.

Article 7. Standardization, Certification and Licensing of Services in the Sector

The standardization, certification and licensing of activities in the sector of tourism and health-resorts are regulated by the procedures provided by laws of Georgia.

Article 8. State Register of Subjects of the Tourism and Health-Resort Sector

1. For the purpose of accountancy of the licensed subjects of the tourism and health-resort sector a state register shall be created.

2. The state register shall be maintained by the body authorized to administer the sector.
3. Local bodies of government shall, jointly with the institutions interested, submit the essential data to the body authorized to administer the sector in order these data be entered into the state register.

Chapter III. Economic Activities in the Sector and its Financing

Article 9. Economic Activities

1. Economic activities in the sector are carried out in order to make the use of the tourism and health-resort industry more effective, to increase the state revenues, to voluntarily attract the money of the investors of tourism and health-resort sector, to give jobs to the population and to meet the demands of tourists.

2. Receipt of the foreign tourists and the services rendered to them within the territory of Georgia is deemed to be the export of tourist services.

3. The part of all state revenues, obtained as a result of the activities in the sector, shall be spent on the preservation of tourism and health-resort resources and on scientifically supported development of the sector.

4. Services in the tourism and health-resort sector are taxed under the procedures provided by the Tax Law of Georgia.

Article 10. Sources of Funding the Sector

1. Tourist and health-resort activities are carried out at the expense of the sources designated by laws of Georgia.

2. Expenses for the development of the tourism and health-resort sector, as well as for the creation, rehabilitation or equipment of its infrastructure may be stipulated by the state budget.

3. With a view to work out a state concept for the development of the sector of tourism and health-resorts, to advertise and promotes historical and cultural inheritance of the country and to scientifically support this concept, the funds essential for elaborating investment projects for the objects of tourism and health-resorts, as well as for incorporating in international organizations and for co-operation with them, may be allocated from the state budget.
Chapter IV. Organizing Services

Article 11. Tourism Services

1. Tourist travelling and services rendered in the sector are implemented individually or in group, also organized or unorganized.
2. Services in the sector of tourism and health-resorts are rendered on the grounds of a contract, voucher or fixed-route book, which defines the kind and size of services to be rendered to the tourist. These services may not be rendered to an unorganized tourist.

Article 12. Insuring a Tourist

1. Insurance of the health or life of a tourist or of the damage to the insured property shall be compensated by the state budget under the procedure provided by law.
2. A tourist shall be insured by the subject of the sector on the basis of a contract concluded with the insurance company and under the procedure provided by law.

Article 13. Security Guarantee

1. The body authorized to administer the sector shall, together with the appropriate ministries, other institutions, executive bodies of Autonomous Republics of Abkhazia and Adjara and other territorial entities, elaborate the program for security and protection of tourists and coordinate the fulfillment of this program.
2. A subject of the tourism and resort sector is obliged to provide safety in accordance with the Georgian legislation.

Chapter V. Ensuring Tourism with Workers

Article 14. Training, Retraining and Raising the Skill of Workers
The body authorized to administer the sector, together with other institutions, promotes the establishment of educational institutions and curricula for the purpose of training, retraining and raising the professional skills of workers of the tourism industry.

**Chapter VI. International Cooperation**

**Article 15. Participation in International Tourist and Health-Resort Organizations**

1. The state promotes the development of international co-operation in the field of tourism and health-resorts.

2. Georgia shall be involved in the activities of international tourist and health-resort organizations as a full or associated member or with the status of an observer or with other status.

3. International treaties, to which Georgia is a party, form the legal basis for international co-operation in the field of tourism and health-resorts.

**Chapter VII. Liability for Violation of the Law**

**Article 16. Liability for Violation of the Laws on Tourism and Health-Resorts**

Violation of the requirements of this Law shall be subject to liability under the procedure provided by laws of Georgia.

**Chapter VIII. Transitional Provisions**

**Article 17. Entry into force of Article 7 and Article 8**

1. Article 7 and Article 8 of this Law shall enter into force upon enactment of the Georgia's Law "On Licensing".

2. Till Georgia's law "On Licensing" enters into force, relations mentioned in article 7 and 8 of this law should be regulated by the appropriate rules, approved by State Department of Tourism and Resorts of Georgia.
Chapter IX. Final Provisions

Article 18. Entry into Force of the Law

1. This Law shall enter into force upon enactment of the Law of Georgia "On the Structure and Rule of Activities, of the Executive Authorities of Georgia".

2. "The body authorized to administer the sector" shall be defined pursuant to the Georgia's Law "On the Structure and Rule of Activities of the Executive Authorities of Georgia".

3. The Law of the Republic of Georgia "On Tourism" of June 1, 1995, shall be considered invalid as soon as this Law goes into effect.

President of Georgia
Tbilisi
Tbilisi, March 6, 1997 No.599 II