

Ethnic and Religious Tolerance in Tbilisi

October 2015: Georgia's two neighbors to the south Armenia and Azerbaijan have been at war for years. Yet here in Georgia their expats live in peace.

Although Georgia has been a Christian country since the first century, there are Jews and Muslims living here. When I went to visit the synagogue, I was asked if I was Jewish and I replied no. The Shamash said no matter come on in and take some pictures if you like. He told me that the local Moslems had contributed to the rebuilding of the synagogue and they were very nice people. He suggested I visit their mosque and then gave me directions. Upon approaching the mosque, I was asked if I was Muslim, again I said no and again I was invited inside and told to take pictures if I wanted. There is only one mosque in town. The Sunni and Shiite populations pray together here.

I found all of this rather refreshing particularly in this part of the world.



Synagogue



Mosque



Cathedral