

Traditions and Rituals of the Bolnisi and Tetrtskaro Municipalities

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The Bolnisi and Tetrtskaro municipalities of the Kvemo Kartli region constitute one of the significant centers of Georgia's ethno-cultural diversity. Their location at a historical crossroads and the long-standing coexistence of multiple ethnic groups have shaped a rich variety of local traditions and rituals, which over time have assimilated Georgian as well as other cultural influences. In these municipalities, traditions and rituals, alongside everyday ways of life, also perform important social, religious, and cultural functions, contributing to the strengthening of community identity and cohesion.

The research is based on ethnographic methods, including direct fieldwork, surveys, and interviews, complemented by the analysis of historical and written sources. This methodological approach makes it possible to conduct an in-depth examination of the origins and evolution of traditions, as well as their contemporary forms.

The study examines family and everyday traditions, Christian and local festivals, which play a significant role in contemporary social life. Particular attention is devoted to practices introduced by German colonists, which, through their integration with local culture, have produced a distinctive cultural synthesis.

The findings demonstrate that the traditions and rituals preserved in the Bolnisi and Tetrtskaro municipalities function not only as elements of cultural heritage but also as instruments for strengthening social cohesion and safeguarding cultural identity. Their study is important for academic and educational communities, for the development of regional tourism, and for the further research and promotion of national cultural heritage and, more broadly, ethno-cultural landscapes.