

## From Batumi, Georgia, to Lake Havasu City By Saba Beridze



My Hometown of Batumi, Photo by Giorgi Ebanoidze Photography ©

I grew up in Batumi, Georgia. It's a city by the Black Sea with lots of greenery, crowded beaches and streets, and a perfect description of summer. The weather's mostly warm, and the vibe? It's lively, with people always around, chatting or having a good time outdoors. Then, I moved to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, to study at ASU. Talk about a change, from cool sea breeze to desert air, from crowded streets to quiet, open spaces.

Batumi and Lake Havasu City are like apples and oranges. Back home in Batumi, life revolves around the sea. You end your day watching ships glide by or slowly disappear into the horizon. The city feels alive, with music from street performers or cafes filling the air. Then there's Lake Havasu City, known for its big lake and the London Bridge, yes, that London Bridge. It's a chill place where life's a bit slower, more about enjoying the moment, whether that's a sunset over the lake or a quiet walk along the shore.

Starting my studies at ASU was a bit of a shock. It's smaller, for sure, but that's not a bad thing. It means you actually get to know your professors and classmates. To be honest I miss the buzz of my city, the way you can always find something new happening around the corner.

In Lake Havasu City, things are more laid back. You spend more time outdoors, maybe walking in a park or just chilling by the lake. It's different from Batumi. I had to get into new stuff, like being alone with my thoughts and enjoying how quiet everything is. It was something new for me, figuring out how to enjoy these calm moments and the pretty views all around.

Comparing Batumi to Lake Havasu City, they're different worlds. One is where you're never alone, always part of the crowd, and the other is where you learn to be okay with quiet, to enjoy the space. I've had to grow, to stretch myself in ways I didn't expect. It's been a journey, not just across the globe but within myself, finding out what makes these two places home in their own unique ways.



Dawn in Vegas