5 Day Tour Golden Fleece Cultural & Sightseeing Tours

Overview

Golden Fleece

Starts from: KUTAISI

Available: MAY-OCTOBER

Distance: 643 km Duration: 5 DAYS

Type: Private Cultural Tour

The private tour **Golden Fleece** follows the trail of the Argonauts – Jason and a group of the mythical heroes from the ancient Greece who traveled to the early Georgian kingdom of Colchis for their quest to find the Golden Fleece.

The tour starts and ends in Kutaisi, Imereti region, and includes two more regions - Samegrelo and Zemo Svaneti, nested in remote and inaccessible Great Caucasus mountains in the west Georgia. Visit Ushguli, the village, which is included in UNESCO list, towns Mestia, Zugdidi and Tskaltubo, Prometheus karst caves, Nokalakevi archaeological site and see the beautiful pikes of Ushba (4 700m), Tetnuldi (4,858m) and Shkhara (5,193m).

Welcome to Georgia!

Tour details

Code: GH-27

Starts from: Kutaisi

Max. Group Size: 15 Adults

Duration: 5 Days

Prices

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Sights to Visit

- Ushguli Community
- Bagrati Cathedral
- Gelati Monastery
- Prometheus Cave
- Nokalakevi
- Mestia Museum
- Dadiani Palace
- Kutaisi
- Anaklia Black Sea resort
- Mestia
- Lamaria
- Zugdidi Botanical Garden
- Svaneti
- <u>Samegrelo</u>
- Summit Ushba
- Enguri Dam
- Imereti
- Zugdidi
- Kutaisi Botanical Garden

Itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVAL. KUTAISI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Distance: 27 km (30 min)

Arrival in Kutaisi International Airport. Transfer to the hotel.

Free time. Optional Kutaisi city tour.

Overnight in Kutaisi.

DAY 2: KUTAISI - PROMETHEUS CAVE - NOKALAKEVI - ENGURI DAM - MESTIA

Driving distance: 246 km (5 h 40 min)

After breakfast at the hotel check out and start the tour to **Caucasus mountains**.

Tskaltubo town is next to Kutaisi, visit Prometheus Cave. Discovered in 1984, Prometheus Cave is one of the biggest and beautiful karst caves in Georgia. Take a walk along the 1.2 km long underground trail that is open for visitors and enjoy the look of stalagmites, stalactites and colorful curtains of pre-historic times. At the very end of the caves there is an optional boat trip, which operates if the underground river level is good for navigation.

Continue the tour to **Nokalakevi village Senaki**Municipality, famous for its archaeological findings - the remnants of 4-6th c.c. fortress. **Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti** region of Georgia starts here - after crossing **Abasha** river. Visit **Nokalakevi museum-reserve**, which includes a citadel of the Late Neolithic /Early Middle Ages, the remains of the palaces of the kings of Egrisi (IV-VI centuries), a gate and a secret tunnel, as well as royal and civil baths, a reservoir, a church (IV-VI) XVI-XVIII centuries. Electric car is available on site.

Drive to the north-west and make a stop near the **Enguri hydroelectric dam**, one of the tallest concrete arch dams in the world with a height of 271.5 m.

Follow Enguri river upward stream to Zemo (upper) **Svaneti**The mountain road is attractive, roaring waterfalls, panoramic views, narrow canyons – take time and make several photo stops.

Arrive in town <u>Mestia</u> – the administrative center of **Svaneti**.

Overnight in **Mestia** (two overnights).

DAY 3: MESTIA - USHGULI - MESTIA

Driving distance: 95 km (3 h 16 min)

After breakfast at the hotel leave for one of the most attractive and exotic villages in Europe – **Ushguli** (2,100 m).

Ushguli is a community of four villages that is included in UNESCO World Heritage Sites list, as one of the highest continually inhabited places in Europe. There are about 200 self-defensive medieval towers in the village, which stand as a statement of equality, pride and bravery.

Visit <u>Lamaria</u> church. Take a walk towards <u>Shkhara</u> Glacier – the highest mountain in Georgia (5193 m).

In the evening drive back to **Mestia**.

Overnight in Mestia.

DAY 4: MESTIA - ZUGDIDI - KUTAISI

Driving distance: 243 km (4 h 45 min)

After breakfast, check out and leave for Kutaisi. If the weather is clear, take time and visit Hatsvali mountain lift towards Zuruldi (2340 m). The cable car operates only in calm weather. Fantastic panoramic overview opens on Great Caucasus mountains and on double pikes of <u>Ushba</u> glacier.

 *Optional: Mestia museum keeps amazing collection of manuscripts, early medieval icons, wall paintings and unique ethnographic collection. Don't skip the site and visit museum before leaving Mestia.

Drive to Zugdidi -administrative center of Samegrelo region.

- *Optional: Visit <u>Dadiani Palace</u> and its History and Architectural Museum – the former residence of the Mingrelian dukes. The museum complex includes: palaces of the <u>Samegrelo</u> queen Ekaterine Chavchavadze-Dadiani and Prince Niko Dadiani, court church, and the <u>botanical</u> <u>garden</u>.
- *Optional: Enjoy a leisurely visit to the <u>Anaklia Black</u>
 <u>Sea resort</u>t, easily accessible from Zugdidi with a driving time of approximately 40 minutes each way.

After the tour in <u>Zugdidi</u> drive back to Kutaisi. Leisure evening.

Overnight in Kutaisi.

DAY 5: DEPARTURE FROM KUTAISI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Distance: 47 km (1 h 16 min)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Kutaisi city sightseeng and its surroundings.

Visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites: **Gelati Academy** and Monastery and **Bagrati Cathedral**. Built in 12th century, the Georgian Golden Era, under the rule of King David IV the Builder, Gelati became an intellectual center in middle ages.

Named after King Bagrati III Bagrationy Dynasty, **Bagrati**Cathedral was built in early 11th century(1003) and presents a masterpiece of Georgian medieval church architecture. The cathedral stands on the hill at the heart of Kutaisi and is considered as a symbol of the city.

Transfer to **Kutaisi International Airport** for departure.

Inclusions

Included

Staff:

Private professional guide service during the tour

Transport:

- 2 x transfers from/to Kutaisi airport by a comfortable car to the Kutaisi hotel
- Private transportation with good condition car for 5 days
- Additional transport 4 x 4 WD Jeep Delica service to Ushguli - on day 3

Accommodation in the hotels:

- 2 x nights in Kutaisi 3* hotel Green Rooms (or similar)
- 2 x nights in Mestia 3* hotel Mountain Mestia (or similar)

Meals:

• 4 x Breakfasts - days 2, 3, 4, 5

Entertainment and other:

- 2 x bottles Water per person daily
- Excursions in accordance with the program
- Entrance fees in accordance with the program
- All taxes

Excluded

- Visa Fees
- Insurance
- Flight tickets
- Meals and alcoholic beverages

More Info

Additional Info

***Optional:** Enjoy a leisurely visit to the <u>Anaklia Black Sea</u> resort, easily accessible from Zugdidi with a driving time of approximately 40 minutes each way: 30 \$ double way

Dress code applies in churches and places of worship

1 person from the group will be FREE of charge if 10 and more adults are traveling together

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation is free of charge prior 7 days of the starting day.

• The booking deposit 60 \$ is non-refundable.

If Tourist cancels the booked tour for some reasons not depending on Tour Operator, the following sums are kept back as a fine:

- 50% of the total cost of tourist product in case of tour cancellation 7 days or less prior to the tour;
- 100% of the total cost of the tourist product due to the Tourist's failure to appear.

Gallery













