# 5 day jeep tour to South-West Georgia Jeep and ATV Tours in Georgia

## **Overview**

# 5 Day jeep tour to South-West Georgia

Starts from: BATUMI Type: Private Jeep tour

Available: from June to October

Distance: 823km Duration: 5 DAYS

This 5-day self-drive private jeep tour is spectacular as the route includes two mountain passes on the Lesser Caucasus range: Goderdzi pass (2025m) and Zekari pass (2182 m). The tour starts in Batumi and covers Adjara Highlands, Javakheti and Borjomi National Park, Ktsia-Tabatskuri Managed Reserve, rural, natural, and cultural landmarks in 4 regions of Georgia: Adjara, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Imereti, and Guria. Observe beautiful scenery around and exercise homemade tea preparation in the Ialoni tea. Finish the trip in Batumi with an evening walking by the seaside boulevard.

Happy Travel!

## Tour details

• Code: GH-124

Starts from: Batumi

Max. Group Size: 15 Adults

Duration: 5 Days

#### **Prices**

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# Sights to Visit

- Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park
- Khertvisi Fortress
- Akhaltsikhe Castle, Rabati
- Tmogvi Fortress
- Atskuri Fortress
- Vardzia-Khertvisi
- Ethnographic Museum
- Batumi Piazza
- Beshumi
- Guria
- Makhuntseti Waterfall
- Ozurgeti
- Batumi Boulevard
- Adjarian Wine House
- Khulo
- Abastumani Observatory
- Samtskhe-Javakheti
- Ktsia-Tabatskuri Reserve
- Zarzma Monastery
- Sapara Monastery
- Abastumani Resort

# **Itinerary**

# DAY 1: BATUMI-MAKHUNTSETI WATERFALL-SHUAKHEVI-KHULO-GODERDZI PASS-BESHUMI-ZARZMA-ADIGENI-AKHALTSIKHE

Pick up rental car.

To get introduction of ordinary lifestyle of the mountain locals, make first stop at ethnographic al museum Borjgalo. The museum was established by Kemal Turmanidze – the master of wood carving and his family. This heart warming museum exhibits the working environment and process of: weaving, pottery making, processing of metal, stone and trees; the models, weapons and inventory are shown separately according to the fields they belong to and all this is accompanied by the folkloric music. Excursion will take about 30 minutes and then follow Adjaristskali river valley towards **Keda** municipality at **Makhuntseti Waterfall**.

Continue to the mountain regions of Adjara – to Shuakhevi and <u>Khulo</u>. Stop at Soviet-era cable car which offers exciting ride to a tiny charming village Tago over the river valley.

Next stop is **Beshumi** Resort - climatic and spa resort, located at an altitude of 1,850 - 2,000 meters.

Goderdzi pass is merging <u>Adjara</u> and <u>Samtskhe-Javakheti</u>, the highest point on the road is at an elevation of 2.025m above sea level.

One more hidden beauty that shouldn't be missed on the way is Zarzma - a medieval monastery (since 8th c) nested in the forested river valley, **Adigeni** municipality.

After a memorable day arrive in **Akhaltsikhe** town and check in to the hotel for overnight.

# DAY 2: AKHALTSIKHE-ASPINDZA-KHERTVISI-SAPARA-APNIA-VARDZIA

Breakfast at the hotel. Explore **Akhaltsikhe** - a historical town and administrative center of **Samtskhe-Javakheti** region. Visit Rabati district, castle and museum located inside the fort. The castle occupies about 7 hectares and is divided in two parts: modern and historical. In the modern part there is a restaurant, hotel, and shops. In the western part, there are several churches, the Akhmedie Mosque, synagogue, the family castle of Jakeli and a historical museum, which houses different manuscript, book, photo, archaeological and numismatic collections. Excursion will take about 40 minutes

Drive to the south, along the <u>Mtkvari</u> river valley and stop at <u>Khertvisi Fortress</u> (10 th -11 th cc), The fort comprises a powerful well-preserved citadel, small basilica church and a tunnel leading to the river. In 2007 <u>Vardzia-Khertvisi</u> were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Next visit **Sapara Monastery** hidden in the woods.

Optional\* Easy hike through small village Apnia. Distance from Apnia to Vardzia – 3 km.

Finally, arrive to Vardzia Caves, unique monument of mediaeval architecture. The rock-hewn town of Vardzia is spread on 13 levels, approximately 600 rooms, which includes prayers, churches, residential and public areas, stables, barracks, bakeries, wine presses and stores. Vardzia is best known for the 12thc mural paintings of the main church. There are old stony steps upgoing and downwards going in the tunnels. Excursion will take about 1 hour.

Overnight in Valodia's cottage farm in Vardzia.

# DAY 3: VARDZIA-AKHALKALAKI-KTSIA TABATSKURI MANAGED-BAKURIANI-BORJOMI

After breakfast at the farm hotel head to **Ktsia Tabatskuri Managed Reserve**.

\* Please keep your ID/Passport with you. Border guards will meet on the way and may ask to register.

The reserve protects unique flora and fauna of the **Lesser Caucasus**. After walk in the subalpine belt drive towards **Tabatskuri Lake**. The route runs over the **Tskratskaro pass** (2454m). Make stops along the way to observe most interesting habitats and plants within the area.

There is a small village on the lake shore. You can choose a spot for picnic at the artificial forest near the lake, however it's always possible to stay with locals and try their cheese.

Continue to **Borjomi** passing **Bakuriani** resort.

Arrive in **Borjomi** town, one of the most popular resorts in the country, famous for its mineral waters, unique nature, and historical monuments. A pleasant walk in **Borjomi Central Park** - a beautiful place with lots of plants, stylish verandas, green pavilion with a transparent dome and mineral water fountain, the **Prometheus monument**, and a hiking path, which leads to an open-air natural hot sulfur springs pool, about two and half kilometers up the trail. A small stream of **Borjomula river** flows through the park and there are several bridges across the stream. Each bridge has its own unique handrail and construction including an Eiffel bridge with a handrail similar in design to the Eiffel tower and a Lover's bridge. The park is entirely covered in dense forests, there are many hiking trails in the park as well.

Check In to the **Borjomi** hotel for overnight.

# DAY 4: BORJOMI-ABASTUMANI ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY-ZEKARI PASS-SAIRME-KUTAISI

Breakfast at the hotel.

On the roads again! Morning visit **Abastumani Astrophysical Observatory** - the first mountainous "classical" observatory in Soviet Union, founded in 1932 on Mount Kanobili, near resort Abastumani. (an ex-soviet mountain resort or rather sanatorium area). Visitors can observe night sky through a unique telescope, converse with astronomers, and familiarize themselves with unique collection in the museum.

The road linking two towns **Abastumani** and **Sairme** is winding through wonderful mountain areas, however it is gravel, rocky, tippy and bumpy at times. Off roader's usually love this route and the terrain.

Crossing **Zekari Pass** on elevation of 2.174m above the sea level.

Next stop at health resort **Sairme**. Taste mineral spring water. The resort is located in a subtropical mountainous area, 950 meters above sea level. Its unique location offers healing springs, an ecologically clean environment and beautiful nature.

Arrive in **Kutaisi** at evening time and check in the hotel for overnight.

#### **DAY 5: KUTAISI-BAKHVI-BATUMI**

Breakfast. Morning city tour in Kutaisi - the third largest city in Georgia and a main cultural and educational center of the region. Visit **Bagrati Cathedral**, Farmer's market, main square and Colchis Fountain, History Museum, cross the white bridge, connecting 2 banks of Rioni River, make some pictures and leave Kutaisi for Batumi.

Drive through Guria region. On the way, make a stop in Ozurgeti Bakhvi village to taste Georgian tea. Ialoni Chai is a tea plantation located in the beautiful region of Guria in Georgia. It is known for producing high-quality tea leaves that are grown organically and processed using traditional methods.

You can tour the plantation and learn about the different varieties of tea that are grown there, including black tea, green tea, and herbal teas. The plantation also offers a tea degustation experience, where visitors can sample different types of tea and learn about the proper brewing techniques.

After tour drive to Batumi. This is suggested Batumi walking tour: see Piazza & Europe squares, visit kinetic sculptures of **Ali and Nino** at the seaside.

Leisure evening in **Batumi Boulevard**, The Miracles Park - you can get to the top of the Georgian Alphabet tower, from where you see all of Batumi, take a ride on the colorful Panorama Wheel, see Lighthouse, Chacha Tower with a big clock or just walk along the seashore, taking in the beauty of the sunset.

Drop off at your preferences or Batumi international airport for departure.

# Inclusions

## **Included**

#### Transport:

 Comfortable Nissan Xterra SPECIALISED OFF-ROAD VEHICLE category (4 seats in each); Toyota Fortuner Hilux (Brand new category, 2016-2021 year of production)- On days 1-5

#### Accommodation in the hotels:

- 1 x night-Akhaltsikhe 4\* hotel Akhaltsikhe Inn (B/-/-)
- 1 x night- Vardzia Valodia's Cottage(B/-/D)
- 1 x night-Borjomi 4\* hotel Golden Tulip (B/-/-)
- 1 x night-Kutaisi 3\* hotel Memoire or similar (B/-/-)

#### Entertainment, equipment and other:

- Local sim card with preloaded balance: 4 GB mobile internet & 10 GEL for local/international calls
- 24/7 assistance of local operator
- All local taxes

## **Excluded**

- Insurance
- Flight tickets
- Early Check Ins/Late Check outs
- Meals & Alcoholic beverages
- Fuel expenses
- Escorted guide Service
- Navigator Jeep with technical assistance

# **More Info**

## **Additional Info**

To arrange airport transfers and additional hotel overnights, contact us at **info[at]georgianholidays.com** 

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

Optional services:

Akhaltsikhe castle and museum per person price entrance 18 GEL+ guide 20GEL

Khertvisi Fortress per person price 10GEL

Vardzia cave per person price 15GEL+ 2 GEL CAR

# **Cancellation Policy**

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

• The booking deposit 60 USD 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

