

# 15 Day Self-Drive Tour to Georgia

## Jeep and ATV Tours in Georgia

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### Overview

#### 15 Day Self-Drive Tour to Georgia

Starts from: Tbilisi

Available: April – October, upon request

Type: Self-Drive Tour

Total driving distance: 1687 km

Duration: 15 days

This is a 15-day self-drive tour of Georgia that takes you from the capital city of Tbilisi to the wine region of Kakheti and then to the mountainous Khevi region. The tour includes visits to ancient monasteries, historical fortresses, beautiful wineries, and picturesque towns. Highlights include the David Gareja Monastery, Bodbe Monastery, Signaghi town, Nekresi Monastery, Tsinandali Estate, Shumi Winery, Gremi Fortress, Ananuri Castle, and Gudauri Viewpoint. The tour also offers opportunities to experience traditional Georgian culture and hospitality.

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### Tour details

- Code: GH-121
- Starts from: Tbilisi
- Max. Group Size: 15 Adults
- Duration: 15 Days

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### Prices

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## Sights to Visit

- [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#)
- [Jvari Monastery](#)
- [Prometheus Cave](#)
- [Uplistsikhe Caves](#)
- [Vardzia rock-cut caves](#)
- [David Gareja](#)
- [Khertvisi Fortress](#)
- [Akhaltsikhe Castle, Rabati](#)
- [Chiatura](#)
- [Vardzia Museum](#)
- [Bodbe Monastery](#)
- [Tsinandali Museum](#)
- [Ananuri Fortress](#)
- [Gergeti Trinity Church](#)
- [Nekresi Monastery](#)
- [Valodia's Cottage](#)
- [Gremi Fortress](#)
- [Okatse Canyon](#)
- [Chubini Wine Cellar](#)
- [Signaghi](#)
- [Kutaisi](#)
- [Telavi](#)
- [Gudauri Ski Resort](#)
- [Dariali Gorge](#)
- [Chaukhi Mountain](#)
- [Stepantsminda](#)
- [Borjomi](#)
- [Akhaltsikhe](#)

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## Itinerary

### Day 1 - Arrival

Arrive at Tbilisi Airport and have a transfer to the hotel

Overnight in Tbilisi

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## **Day 2 - Tbilisi - Free Day**

Breakfast at the Hotel.

Have a Free Day in Tbilisi. Visit The Old Town of Tbilisi, which is a must-see with its winding streets, historical buildings, and traditional architecture. Suggested places to visit: The Metekhi Church, a 13th-century church with beautiful views of the city. The Narikala Fortress, a 4th-century fortress with a cable car to the top for panoramic views. The Sulfur Baths, a popular spot for relaxation and a glimpse into the city's history. The Anchiskhati Basilica, the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi, dating back to the 6th century. The Shardeni Street, a trendy area known for its restaurants, bars, and nightlife. The Rustaveli Avenue, Tbilisi's main street, with many shops, restaurants, and theaters. The Tbilisi Botanical Garden, a peaceful oasis in the heart of the city.

Overnight in Tbilisi

### **Day 3 - Tbilisi - David Gareja Monastery - Bodbe Monastery - Signaghi - Shilda**

Breakfast at the Hotel.

Rental Car Delivery.

Start Driving from Tbilisi to David Gareja Monastery

Head to the David Gareja Monastery - a beautiful complex of rock-hewn monasteries located on the semi-desert landscape. Explore the ancient cave cells, frescoes, and chapels that make up this unique religious site.

From there start driving to the Bodbe Monastery. This picturesque complex is built around the burial site of St. Nino, the 4th-century female Christian martyr who is credited with spreading Christianity in Georgia. Take a moment to reflect at the monastery's peaceful garden and visit the holy spring.

Afterward, take a trip to the picturesque town of Signaghi, known for its charming, well-preserved 18th and 19th-century architecture.

Finally, end your journey with a visit to the the Shilda village and Chubini winery, which is located in the Kakheti region, it's famous for its traditional wineries and vineyards.

Overnight at Chubini Winery & Pine Cottage

## **Day 4 - Shilda - Nekresi Monastery - Tsinandali Estate - Shumi Winery - Gremi Fortress - Shilda**

Breakfast at Guesthouse.

Drive to Nekresi Monastery, located in the nice village of Kakheti region. This monastery was founded in the 6th-century by Abibos, one of thirteen Assyrian fathers - a group of monastic missionaries arrived in Georgia. You need to park the car on down parking spot and continue to the monastery by walking or taking sharing minibus, which costs around 5 GEL and will drop you up there.

Afterward, make your way to the Tsinandali Estate, the birthplace of Prince Alexander Chavchavadze, a famous Georgian poet and philanthropist. Take a tour of the estate, including the palace, wine cellar, and beautiful park.

Your next stop is the Shumi Winery, one of the most reputable wineries in Georgia. Learn about the traditional winemaking process and taste 3 kinds of wine.

Next stop is Gremi Fortress - a 16th-century architectural monument, a medieval fortress located in the Kakheti region. Explore the fortress, including the Royal Palace, the Church of the Archangels, and the Bell Tower, and learn about the history of this important site.

Finally, end your journey back in Chubini village, where you can enjoy the beautiful sunset, and reflect on the rich cultural and historical experiences you had during the day.

Overnight at Chubini Winery & Pine Cottage

## **Day 5 - Chubini - Kvetera Fortress's Church - Ananuri Castle - Gudauri Viewpoint - Kazbegi**

Breakfast at Guesthouse.

On this day you will travel from the wine region to the mountains region, what's called Khevi.

You will drive through incredible views and stop in several sightseeing's to see.

Head to Kvetera Fortress's Church, a historical monument located in the small town of Kvetera. The fortress was built in the 10th century and served as a defense against invaders. The church, located within the fortress, is one of the oldest Christian sites in the region.

The next stop is in Ananuri Castle - located along the Georgian Military Highway. The castle complex includes three churches, a watchtower, and a wall surrounding the complex. Explore the complex and take in the stunning views of the surrounding mountains. In 2007, the complex has been put on the tentative list for inclusion into the UNESCO World Heritage Site program.

Drive to Gudauri Viewpoint, a popular spot for its panoramic views of the Caucasus Mountains. Take in the breathtaking scenery and capture some photos.

Arrive in Kazbegi, a small town located in the Greater Caucasus Mountains. Check-in the Hotel.

Overnight in Stepantsminda

## **Day 6: Stepantsminda -Gergeti Church - Gveleti Waterfalls - Dariali Monastery**

Breakfast at the Hotel.

Start the day early and head towards the Gergeti Trinity Church, one of the most popular attractions in the area. The hike to Gergeti Church takes around 2-3 hours, depending on your pace. The trail is moderate and offers stunning views of the surrounding mountains. Once you reach the church, take some time to explore the surroundings and enjoy the breathtaking views of Mount Kazbegi. After visiting the church, hike back down to the village, drive to Gveleti Waterfalls and hike from the main road for around half an hour.

Next, visit the Dariali Monastery, located near the Russian border. The monastery is known for its beautiful frescoes and stunning views of the surrounding mountains.

After visiting the monastery, head back to Stepantsminda and spend the evening exploring the town or relaxing at your accommodation.

Overnight in Stepantsminda

## **Day 7 - Stepantsminda - Juta**

Breakfast at Hotel

Today, you will continue your journey to the village of Juta, which is located in the heart of the Caucasus Mountains. one of the highest settlements in the area (2200 m asl). Park your car and start walking up the village on a steep path, that soon levels up and turns into more pleasant and relaxing walk towards Chaukhi mountains. Soon you will approach a small but very picturesque waterfall on Chaukhistskali river, cross the river (there is no bridge but there are several crossing points where you'll need to make a small jump) and walk up until you see a sign and improvised wood bridge leading to the Juta lake. Take a break and walk back down to Juta on the same way (please note there is alternative path that goes down from the back side of the lake, but it requires somewhat tricky river cursing toward the end). Hiking distance: 8.5 km, ↑ 370 m / ↓ 370 m, Type: Two way; Min elevation: 2190 m, Max Elevation: 2560 m

overnight in Juta Zeta Camping



## **Day 8 - Juta - Uplistsikhe Caves - Gori**

Breakfast at Guesthouse.

Today's journey takes us from the mountain village of Juta to the ancient cave city of Uplistsikhe, and finally to a cozy hotel in Gori.

The first stop is the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Uplistsikhe, an ancient cave city dating back to the 2nd millennium BC. Explore the various caves and tunnels that make up the city, including a theater, a temple, and even a jail.

continue driving towards the town of Gori, where we'll be staying at a luxury hotel for the night.

## **Day 9 - Free Day in Gori**

Breakfast at Ranch

Have a relaxing day in Gori. There is a swimming pool to enjoy and nearby places to visit.

Overnight in Gori

## **Day 10 - Gori - Borjomi - Rabati - Vardzia**

Breakfast at hotel.

The first stop is Borjomi, a resort town famous for its mineral water. Here, you can take a stroll through Borjomi Central Park, which is home to many unique flora and fauna, including several species of birds.

Continue Driving to Rabati Castle, a medieval fortress located in the city of Akhaltsikhe. The castle has been inhabited by several different cultures over the centuries, including Georgians, Ottomans, and Russians. Today, it serves as a museum and cultural center, and you can explore a castle, fortification, museum, mosque, synagogue, church, and other different interesting attractions.

Continue Driving to Vardzia

Overnight at Valodias Cottages

## **Day 11 - Vardzia- Khertvisi Fortress - Chobareti's Oda - Borjomi**

Breakfast at the Hotel.

You will visit Vardzia cave city, a fascinating UNESCO World Heritage site that was carved into the side of a mountain. The city has over 600 caves, including living quarters, churches, and even a bakery. Georgian Queen Tamar is credited for establishing this monastery during her reign in the 12th c. Nowadays monks still live in caves.

Continue driving and make a short stop by the Khertvisi Fortress, a medieval castle that was strategically placed at the confluence of two rivers.

Then Visit a local family in Chobareti's Oda. You will have lunch there, taste Meskhetian traditional food and do masterclasses in making Meskhetian Bread, Apokhti Khinkali, Traditional pastry, Tenili Cheese and so on. The Oda is a beautiful example of traditional Georgian architecture and has been preserved as a cultural monument.

After Lunch continue driving to Borjomi and have overnight there

Overnight at Borjomi Guesthouse on Erekle

## **Day 12 - Borjomi - Chiautura - Katskhi Pillar - Kutaisi**

Breakfast at Guesthouse.

Start Driving to Chiatura. The town is prominent for a network of Soviet times cable cars built across the town's manganese miners. Despite the oldness, locals still use the cable cars as means of transportation around the town.

Visit main attractions of Chiatura: Photo Art Museum, the Mghvimevi monastery, which is partly carved into the rock and stop at natural limestone monolith Katskhi Pillar on the way. All route is unique, green, not very touristic and full of discoveries. Head to Kutaisi city for overnight. Take a walk through the old town.

Overnight in Kutaisi

## **Day 13 - Kutaisi - Okatse Canyon - Mate's Cellar - Prometheus Caves - Kutaisi**

Breakfast at the Hotel.

Start Driving to Okatse Canyon. After the Visitor Center, walk about 2 km to reach the Okatse Canyon walking pass, which makes a circle through the Dadiani Historical Forest (780m hanging trail). The route takes about 2 hours and goes to an observation deck with a panoramic view.

Continue Driving to Mate's Cellar, have lunch and wine degustation there.

After Lunch visit Prometheus Caves - the natural wonder, the beautiful karst caves with stalactites and stalagmites, river and lake inside. The boat trip is available inside the caves, if the river level is navigable.

Continue Driving Back to Kutaisi

Overnight at Kutaisi

## **Day 14 - Kutaisi - Svetitskhoveli Cathedral - Jvari Monastery - Tbilisi**

Breakfast at the Hotel.

On this day return back to Tbilisi. On the way visit the old Capital of Georgia - Mtskheta and explore two one of the important places. First visit Svetitskhoveli Cathedral - The main Christian Cathedral in Georgia Svetitskhoveli is the burial place of the Christ's Robe and the tomb place of Georgian Kings.

After visiting Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, continue driving to Jvari Monastery - The masterpiece of Early Christian architecture Jvari Monastery dates back to early 4th c. Located on the hill top near the town Mtskheta, it is listed in UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

Drive Back to Tbilisi and have free evening.

Overnight in Tbilisi

## **Day 15 - Departure**

Breakfast at the Hotel.

Departure - Transfer to Tbilisi Airport

Approx. Driving distance: 18 Km / 30 min

<https://goo.gl/maps/kXGZ1gpbqbNswHh7>

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## Inclusions

## Included

### Transport:

- 2 x transfers to/from airport to/from the hotel by a comfortable Climate Controlled sedan car (2 pax), minivan (4 pax), minibus (6-12 pax) or bus (14-16 pax) – days 1, 15
- Comfortable Climate Controlled self-drive sedan/4x4 (1-4 seats) or minivan (6 seats) – days 3-14

### Accommodation:

- 3 x Nights in Tbilisi Hotel Citrus hotel or similar (B/-/-)
- 2 x Nights in Shilda Chubini Winery & Pine Cottage or similar (B/-/-)
- 2 x Nights in Stepantsminda Hotel Sunshine 3\*or similar (B/-/-)
- 1 x Night in Juta Zeta Camping or similar (B/-/-)
- 2 x Nights in Gori Inn or similar (B/-/-)
- 1 x Night in Vardzia Valodias Cottages or similar (B/-/D)
- 1 x Night in Borjomi Guesthouse on Erekle or similar(B/-/-)
- 2 x Nights in Kutaisi Hotel Memoire 3\* or similar (B/-/-)

### Meals:

- 14 x breakfasts;
- 2 x lunches;
- 1 x dinner

### Entertainment and other:

- Excursions in accordance with the program
- Wine Tasting in Tsinandali Estate (1 Glass of wine)
- Wine-tasting in Shumi winery (3 types of wine)
- Lunch & Masterclasses in Chobareti's Oda
- Lunch & Wine Degustation at Mate's Cellar (3types of wine)
- 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

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## More Info

## Additional Info

\*Optional service paid on spot in GEL:

Vardzia cave, per person price 15GEL

Uplistikhe cave, per person price 15GEL

Tsinandali estate, per person price 12 GEL

Gremi fortress, per person price 10GEL

Khertvisi fortress, per person price 10GEL

## 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.
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# Gallery

