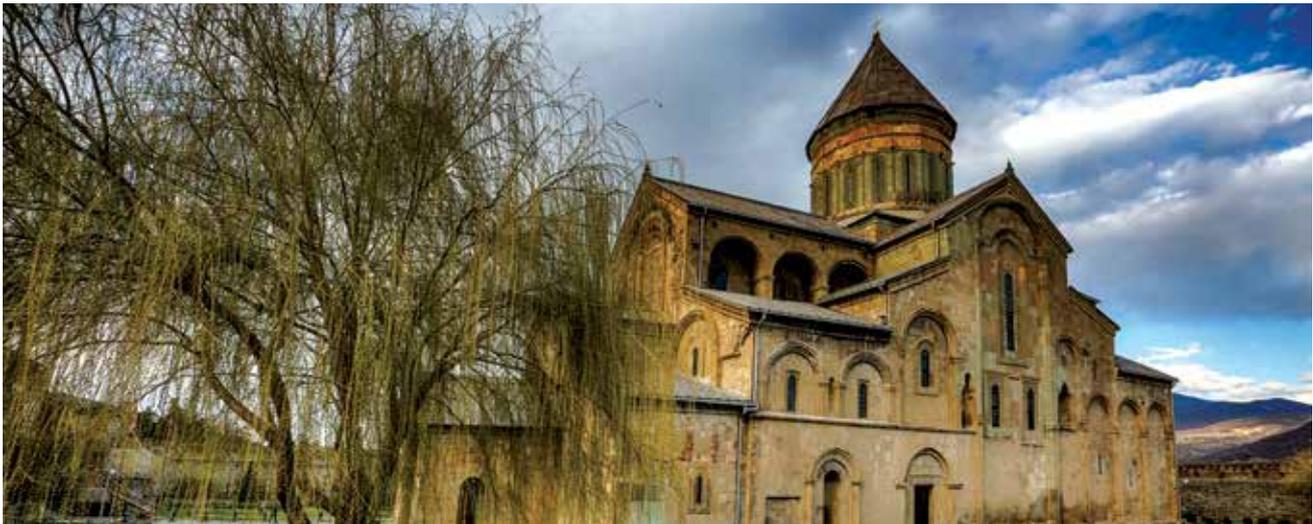


# AUTHENTIC GEORGIA | 8 DAYS

Small group tour to Georgia



BOOK 6 MONTHS IN ADVANCE **SAVE 10%** € 975

## STARTS FROM TBILISI EVERY SECOND SUNDAY

The exploration route is open from May to September. Choose the date and join the group in Tbilisi.

8-day guaranteed group tour 'Authentic Georgia' travels through different Georgian regions, cities and villages. During these 8 days, participants will sightsee major Georgian cities and towns - Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, Mtskheta, Zugdidi and Gori, drive through the highlands of the Greater Caucasus mountains, explore the seashores of the Black Sea, take a journey into the caves of Uplistsikhe and Sataplia, and visit the well-known museums, such as the Georgian National Museum and museum of Joseph Stalin.

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS & SITES:

### TBILISI CITY

- Holy Trinity Cathedral
- Georgian National Museum
- Rustaveli Avenue
- Metekhi Plateau & Church 13<sup>th</sup> c
- Narikala fortress 4<sup>th</sup> c
- Tbilisi Mosque 19<sup>th</sup> c
- Legutakhevi Waterfall
- Sulfur Bathhouse District
- Maidan Square
- Sharden & Erekle II streets
- Sioni Cathedral 13<sup>th</sup> c
- Anchiskhati Basilica 6<sup>th</sup> c

### KARTLI REGION

- Gori Town
- Museum and House of J. Stalin
- Uplistsikhe Caves

### IMERETI REGION

- Kutaisi City
- Bagrati Cathedral 11<sup>th</sup> c 
- Gelati Academy 12<sup>th</sup> c 
- Motsameta Monastery 11<sup>th</sup> c
- Sataplia Karst Caves

### MTSKHETA CITY

- Svetitskhoveli Cathedral 11<sup>th</sup> c 
- Juari Monastery 6<sup>th</sup> c 

### ADJARA REGION

- Batumi City
- Gonio Fortress 1<sup>st</sup> c
- Batumi Old & New Boulevards
- Batumi Botanical Garden

### SAMEGRELO REGION

- Zugdidi Town
- Dadiani Palace 19<sup>th</sup> c

### SVANETI REGION

- Mestia Town
- Ushguli Village & Svan Towers 
- Svaneti Museum

## DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

### 1 DAY | Tbilisi City Tour

In the morning we organize pick up service for the group to start a full day Tbilisi sightseeing tour. Tour take off at 10:00 am. First, we visit one of the tallest Orthodox churches in the world - the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi (Sameba). City tour continues to the Metekhi church of 13<sup>th</sup> c. which stands on a plateau overlooking the river Mtkvari and old Tbilisi downtown. From here, we go up to the Narikala fortress by the areal cable car connecting Europe Square and the top of the hill where the fortress stands. Built in the 4<sup>th</sup> c. Narikala served as a main fortification of Tbilisi through the centuries and has been sieged numerous times.

From Narikala we take the downhill stroll to the old city; follow the Botanical Street, visit Tbilisi Mosque, Legutakhevi (the Fig Ravine) and visit the natural waterfall in the downtown. From Legutakhevi we continue to the Bathhouse Square where the historical Sulfur Bathhouses of the old Tbilisi are.

Passing along the Maidan Square, Shardeni and The King Erekle II streets with souvenir shops and art galleries, Tbilisi city tour proceeds to the Sioni cathedral, dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and Anchiskhati basilica - the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi (dates back to the 6<sup>th</sup> c AD).

We also will visit the Golden Treasury of Georgian National Museum. The collection features gold and silver artifacts from the pre-Christian period from different parts of modern-day Georgia.

After visiting the Georgian National Museum, we take a walk on Rustaveli Avenue towards the building of Parliament of Georgia, Rustaveli Drama theater, National Museum of Contemporary Arts, Tbilisi Opera and Ballet State Theater, Prospero's book store, shopping center and the First Republic Square.

In the evening we return back to the hotel.

## **2 DAY** | Tbilisi-Gori-Uplistsikhe-Kutaisi

After breakfast at the hotel drive to the West through Gori, the heart of Kartli region and visit the museum of Joseph Stalin. Museum consists of Stalin's memorial house, exposition building and Stalin's personal belongings, including personal coach with interior (he used to travel to Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam).

From Stalin Museum we drive to the ancient cave complex of Uplistsikhe that is 14 km away from Gori. Cut in limestone rocks, Uplistsikhe is one the oldest urban settlements in Georgia, which dates back to the Early Iron Age. The archaeological artifacts discovered here date as early as Early Iron Ages. Most of the items found in Uplistsikhe are parts of the collections of Georgian National Museum. It is also possible to visit a small museum nearby and watch 8-minute movie about Uplistsikhe.

Our trip continues to the western part of Georgia – Imereti region. In the evening we arrive at the second largest city in Georgia – Kutaisi, where we pay a visit to the Bagrati Cathedral. Built in 11<sup>th</sup> c., Bagrati Cathedral is among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

## **3 DAY** | Kutaisi – Sataplia – Martuili – Mestia

After breakfast we drive to Sataplia caves and natural reserve. The sight is famous for its well-preserved fossilized dinosaur footprints. The cave is 900 meters long and is enhanced with light and audio effects.

Next visit Martuili Canyons, sight of local waterfalls. Take a boat trip in the river Abasha and observe the surrounding area.

From Martuili we continue our trip to the north, and arrive at Mestia – the heart of Svaneti region – located at an elevation of 1500 meters. Svaneti is unique for its geography and landscapes, as well as authentic and well-preserved culture and architecture. Local Svan towers are good examples of local architecture, which were used for defensive as well as dwelling purposes. Some of them date back as early as 9<sup>th</sup> c.

Dinner and overnight in Mestia.

## **4 DAY** | Mestia-Ushguli-Mestia

After a breakfast in Mestia we start an off-road adventure to the most remote and isolated community Ushguli with 4x4WD vehicles. Ushguli is comprised of 4 villages, and has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. It is one of the highest settlements in the entire Europe (2200m above sea level). On our way to Upper Svaneti we will make couple of stops at Ipari and Kala villages, and take a look at small Svan churches with well-preserved medieval frescos.

## **5 DAY** | Mestia-Zugdidi-Batumi

After breakfast we will head to Margjani museum – a Svan tower. Margjani Museum shows how Svans were living in the medieval times.

From Svaneti we arrive in Zugdidi – the administrative center of Samegrelo region and former capital of principality of Mingrelia. In Zugdidi we will visit Dadiani

Palace – a museum established by Prince David Dadiani. Museum's collection includes death masks of Napoleon Bonaparte, important Georgian cultural and archaeological artifacts etc.

From Zugdidi we will drive to Adjara region – its capital city and port Batumi. In the evening we can take a walk on city's boulevards.

## **6 DAY** | Batumi-Kutaisi

After breakfast we will visit well-preserved ancient Roman fortification of Gonio located in about 10 km from Batumi. Gonio Fortress functioned as a fortified Roman city within the historical region of Colchis.

Next stop will be in the Batumi Botanical Garden with panoramic views over the Black Sea shores and numerous indigenous plants. The garden was founded during the Russian Empire and was later expanded under the Soviet leadership. Nowadays it occupies 108 ha and has over 2000 taxonomic units of ligneous plants from all over the world.

From the Batumi we will head to Kutaisi to visit Gelati Academy, which was built during the reign of the King David IV of Georgia (David the Builder) in the 12<sup>th</sup> c. In middle ages, Gelati Monastery was one of the major cultural and intellectual centers in Georgia.

In the evening we can take a walk through Kutaisi city center.

## **7 DAY** | Kutaisi-Mtskheta-Tbilisi

After breakfast at the hotel we drive back to Tbilisi. We will visit Mtskheta town on the way. Mtskheta is famous for its UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Suetitskhoveli Cathedral and Juari Monastery. Suetitskhoveli Cathedral was built in 11<sup>th</sup> c. and is associated with various legends from early Christian times. On the other hand, Juari Monastery, which stands on the hill overlooking the confluence of the rivers Mtkvari and Aragvi, was constructed during 6<sup>th</sup> c.

From Mtskheta sightseeing tour we arrive back in Tbilisi to have a free evening for leisure.

Overnight at Tbilisi hotel.

\*You can book farewell dinner with Georgian folk show for additional cost (optional).

Note: In case you want to travel longer, please see the extensions or contact us at [trips@georgianholidays.com](mailto:trips@georgianholidays.com) Those taking extension trips to Georgia will start their tour next morning after breakfast.

## **8 DAY** | Tbilisi

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out time until 12:00 pm. End of service.





UNESCO   
ARRIVAL 

€ 975 **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Air conditioned comfortable vehicle all days
- 4x4WD jeep in Mestia on day 4
- English speaking professional tour guide and driver

**3\* ACCOMMODATION IN DOUBLE/TWIN ROOMS:**

- 2 x nights in Tbilisi
- 2 x nights in Kutaisi
- 2 x nights in Mestia
- 1 x night in Batumi

**MEALS:**

- 7 x Breakfasts on days: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8;
- 2 x Dinners on days 3, 4

**MORE:**

- Excursions and all entrance fees
- 1 x bottle of mineral water per person per day

The deposit for this tour is: 200 €

**ADDITIONAL PRICING INFORMATION:**

Single room supplement is 101 €

**8 DAY TOUR STARTS EVERY SECOND SUNDAY  
JOIN IN TBILISI**

Book 6 months in advance & **SAVE 10%**

2019 START DATES	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
	05.05 19.05	02.06 16.06 30.06 14.07 28.07 11.08 25.08	08.09 22.09

Book 12 months in advance & **SAVE 15%**

2020 START DATES	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
	03.05 17.05 31.05	14.06 28.06 12.07 26.07 09.08 23.08	06.09 20.09

