

# EXPLORATION OF GEORGIA | 6 DAYS

Small group tour to Georgia



BOOK 6 MONTHS IN ADVANCE **SAVE 10%** € 621

## STARTS FROM TBILISI EVERY SECOND SUNDAY

The exploration route is open for all seasons. Choose the date and join the group in Tbilisi.

The tour is designed to run four seasons a year. Explore the cultural heritage of Georgia, follow the Great Silk Road and discover the country's culture and fascinating folklore.

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS & SITES:

### TBILISI CITY

- Holy Trinity Cathedral
- Georgian National Museum
- Rustaveli Avenue
- Metekhi 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
- Meidan Square
- Sharden & King Erekle II streets
- Sioni Cathedral 13<sup>th</sup> c
- Anchiskhati Basilica 7<sup>th</sup> c

### KARTLI PROVINCE

- Gori Town
- Museum and House of J. Stalin
- Uplistsikhe Caves 1<sup>st</sup> millennium B.C

### IMERETI REGION

- Kutaisi City
- Bagrati Cathedral 11<sup>th</sup> c 
- Gelati Academy 12<sup>th</sup> c 
- Motsameta Monastery 10<sup>th</sup> c
- Prometheus Karst Caves

### MTSKHETA TOWN

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

### KAKHETI REGION

- Bodbe Monastery 9<sup>th</sup> c
- Signagi Town
- Shumi Winery
- Tsinandali
- Telavi Town



## DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

### 1 DAY | Tbilisi City Tour

Georgian Holidays will organize a pick up from Tbilisi hotel in the morning. 'Exploration of Georgia' takes off with Tbilisi City tour on day 1. First, we are going to visit the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi (Sameba). Sameba is one of the tallest Orthodox churches in the world and the tallest in Georgia. It presents a mixture of traditional styles of Georgian church architecture. Afterwards we can head to the Metekhi plateau and visit Metekhi church of 13<sup>th</sup> c. overlooking Mtkvari river. Near the

church you can spot the monument of King Vakhtang I Gorgasali (trans. as "Wolf Head") who ruled eastern Georgia in 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD. He is credited with establishing Tbilisi – the capital of Georgia. From Metekhi our tour moves on to Narikala fortress. Narikala is an ancient fortress overlooking Tbilisi from the hill and can be reached by a cable car from the old city.

From Narikala we come back to the old city and visit Tbilisi Mosque, the only surviving mosque dating back to 18<sup>th</sup> c.



Our tour continues to Legutakhevi (Fig ravine), as we will visit waterfall nearby and take a walk towards Sulfur bathhouse district – one of the oldest districts in Tbilisi. Some of the baths on the natural hot water springs were built in the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> cc. From bathhouse district we will take a walk on Maidan square, Shardeni and Erekle II streets. Lots of cafes, bars and pubs, souvenir shops and art galleries are located here. Sioni cathedral, the former seat of patriarch, also stands here. The cathedral was first established in 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> cc., but was destroyed and rebuilt several times throughout the centuries. The present cathedral dates back to 13<sup>th</sup> c. Tbilisi City tour continue to the Anchiskhati basilica, which is the oldest church in Tbilisi dating from 6<sup>th</sup> c.

The last site of the day 1 is the Golden treasury of Georgia in Georgian National Museum on Rustaveli Avenue. The museum houses various archaeological, numismatic and ethnographic collections.

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

After breakfast at the hotel we start driving to the west while passing through the Kartli region. We will visit the museum of Joseph Stalin, located in Gori town, where Stalin was born. Stalin museum was found shortly after his death in 1950s and consists of the memorial house with collection of Stalin's personal belongings.

From Gori we drive to the ancient Uplistsikhe cave town. Uplistsikhe is one of the oldest rock-hewn urban settlements in Georgia dated back to the 1st millennium BC.

Our next stop is at Kutaisi where we will visit Bagrati Cathedral – a masterpiece of medieval Georgian church architecture. The cathedral was built in 11<sup>th</sup> c. and it was named after the King Bagrat III, who was the first King of unified Georgia. Bagrati Cathedral was renovated in 2012.

## **3 DAY** | Kutaisi Tour

After breakfast we will explore Kutaisi city and its surroundings. First we are going to visit Gelati Academy and Monastery of 12<sup>th</sup> c., built during the reign of King David IV, also known as David the Builder. Reigning during the Georgian Golden Age, David IV was one of the most prominent rulers of Georgian history, while

Gelati was a cultural and intellectual center for a long time and preserved lots of murals and manuscripts from 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> cc.

From Gelati we drive to Motsameta monastery (“the monastery of martyrs”) constructed on the execution place of Georgian Christian martyrs. The monastery dates back to 10<sup>th</sup> c. and was rebuilt in 19<sup>th</sup> c.

After Motsameta we will visit Prometheus cave. Prometheus cave is one of the biggest natural caves in Georgia, discovered in 1984. Cave has a 1.2 km long underground trail open for tourists. The tour is accompanied with light enhancements and classical music.

We will get back to Kutaisi and visit the farmer's bazaar, where locals sell fresh fruit and vegetables and famous local cheese. An evening walk in Kutaisi city center.

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

After breakfast we head towards the East Georgia. On our way to Tbilisi we make a stop at Mtskheta – one of the ancient Georgian cities, which served as the capital of Eastern Georgia up to the 5<sup>th</sup> c. BC, until the court moved to Tbilisi. Mtskheta is a popular tourist destination two of its major sites that belong to the UNESCO World Heritage list – Svetitskhoveli Cathedral of 12<sup>th</sup> c. and Jvari monastery of 6<sup>th</sup> c. These monuments represent two different styles of Georgian church architecture.

In the evening we arrive in Tbilisi for overnight.

## **5 DAY** | Tbilisi – Signaghi – Tsinandali – Tbilisi

After breakfast at the hotel we will drive to Kakheti – region that is known for its wine-making traditions. Our trip starts with visiting Bodbe Nunnery of 9<sup>th</sup> c. – a functioning nunnery and a place where relics of St. Nino are preserved. St. Nino was a female apostle who preached Christianity in Georgia, which eventually resulted in conversion of pagan Kingdom of Kartli in the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

From Bodbe we arrive in Signagi – a small town, surrounded with 18<sup>th</sup> c. defensive structures. After a walk in Signaghi we continue our exploration of Kakheti province. We drive to Tsinandali and visit the house and museum of 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian aristocrat, poet

and general Alexander Chavchavadze. We will visit Chavchavadze's residence, garden and wine cellar located in the museum, where visitors can taste famous Tsinandali wine. From Tsinandali our trip continues to Shumi winery, located just a few minutes from Tsinandali museum. Here, we can pay a visit to the wine museum located in the winery and taste the local wines with light snacks. In the evening we drive back to Tbilisi.

## 6 DAY | Tbilisi

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out until 12:00.



The deposit for this tour is: 200 €

### ADDITIONAL PRICING INFORMATION:

Single room supplement is 111 €

### € 621 PRICE INCLUDES:

#### TRANSPORT:

- Air conditioned comfortable car all days

#### STAFF:

- English speaking Guide & Driver service all days;

#### CATERING:

- 5 x Breakfasts

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

- 3 x overnights in Tbilisi
- 2 x overnights in Kutaisi

#### ENTERTAINMENT AND OTHER:

- 1 x wine tasting in Shumi winery on day 5
- 1 x glass of wine in Tsinandali museum on day 5
- 1 bottle mineral water per person per day
- Excursions and entrance fees per program
- All taxes

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

Book 6 months in advance & <b>SAVE 10%</b>				
2019 START DATES	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
	27.01	10.03	02.06	08.09
	10.02	24.03	16.06	22.09
	24.02	07.04	30.06	06.10
	01.12	21.04	14.07	20.10
	15.12	05.05	28.07	03.11
		19.05	11.08	17.11
			25.08	

Book 12 months in advance & <b>SAVE 15%</b>				
2020 START DATES	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
	26.01	08.03	14.06	06.09
	09.02	22.03	28.06	20.09
	23.02	05.04	12.07	04.10
	13.12	19.04	26.07	18.10
		03.05	09.08	01.11
	17.05	23.08	15.11	
	31.05		29.11	

