GEORGIA-ARMENIA | 11 DAYS

Small group tour to Georgia and Armenia



STARTS FROM TBILISI EVERY SECOND SATURDAY

The route is open from April to October. Choose the date and join the group in Tbilisi.

11-day combined tour with guaranteed dates to two countries - Georgia and Armenia - takes off in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. During these 11 days, participants of this tour will be able to visit different cities and towns of Armenia and Georgia, and get acquainted with people, history and culture of the two countries. Group will be guided by the local experts in each country who will introduce the most important and interesting historical and cultural monuments of Georgia and Armenia to them.

The group is "Guaranteed to run" after 2 people book this tour.

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS & SITES:

GEORGIA

TBILISI CITY

- Holy Trinity Cathdral
- Narikala fortress & Mosque
- · Legutakhevi waterfall
- Sulfur bathhouse district
- Sharden & King Erekle II street
- Sioni & Anchiskhati basilica

KARTLI PROVINCE

- Gori J. Stalin Museum
- Uplistsikhe caues:

MTSKHETA CITY

- Suetitskhoueli of 12th c 🏛
- Juari Monastery of 6th c 🏛

KHEVI PROVINCE

- Ananuri Castle 16-17th c
- Gudauri Ski-Resort 2196m
- Stephantsminda Town, Kazbegi
- Gergeti Holy Trinity Church 14th c

SAMTSKHE REGION

- Borjomi Spa-Resort
- Borjomi-Kharagauli NP
- Akhaltsikhe Town
- Rabat Castle 14-18th cc
- Vardzia Caues 12th c

ARMENIA

- Gyumri town
- Echmiadzin <u>m</u>
- Zuartnoc 🟛
- · Yerevan city
- · Matenadaran museum
- History museum
- Geghard Monastery 📠
- · Garni Pagan Temple
- Khor Virap Monastery
- Armenian Wine Village Areni
- Noravank monastery
- Lake Sevan
- Dilijan town & Sharamberyan Str
- Sanahin Monastery 📠
- Haghpat Monastery 🟛

DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

1 DAY I Tbilisi City Tour

11-day Georgia-Armenia tour takes off in Tbilisi. On day I we will have Tbilisi city tour. Throughout this tour we

will visit one of the tallest Orthodox church in the world the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi, Metekhi Plateau and the 5th century church, old Narikala Fortress on the hill overlooking the city, narrow streets of the old

Tbilisi - Shardeni and Erekle II, the glass Bridge of Peace over river Mtkvari, Legutakhevi canyon and waterfall, Abanotubani - sulfur bathhouse district, Jumah Mosque and Maidani Square full of bars, restaurants, cafes and souvenir stores.

2 DAY ITbilisi -Mtskheta-Ananuri- Gudauri

On day 2 after breakfast we move 20 km north from Tbilisi to the capital of early Georgian kingdoms - Mtskheta - to sightsee two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Juari Monastery (6th c.) and Suetitskhoueli Cathedral (11th c.), both of which represents authentic styles of Georgian church architecture. From Mtskheta, we continue our way to the north and by the Georgian Military Highway get to the Zhinvali reservoir to visit Ananuri architectural complex. Ananuri was a residence of local feudals in middle ages. Fortification and the two churches inside the curtain walls are well-preserved. From Ananuri we continue our way north towards the Greater Caucasus mountains and arrive at Gudauri ski-resort.

3 DAY | Gudauri-Kazbegi-Tbilisi

On day 3 tour explores Caucasus mountains. We begin our journey by driving north and arriving in Kazbegi town through the Cross Pass (2395 m). On our way to Kazbegi we can make couple of stops to observe waterfalls and snowy peaks of the Caucasus mountains, and taste mineral waters. Kazbegi is an administrative of Khevi province. From Kazbegi we drive up to the top of Gergeti Mountain and visit Gergeti Trinity church (14th c.) which is located at an elevation of 2170 m under the Kazbegi peak (5047 m), overlooking Kazbegi town from the top of the mountain.

In the evening return to Kazbegi and drive back to Tbilisi.

4 DAY Gori-Uplistsikhe-Borjomi -Akhaltsikhe

After breakfast we drive to the South Georgia -Samtskhe region. On our way, we will make several stops in Kartli. Museum of Stalin in Gori consists of the memorial house where Stalin was born and his personal belongings. From Gori we head for a sightseeing tour in the ancient Uplistsikhe cave complex. Cut in rock, Uplistsikhe is one of the earliest urban settlements in Georgia that dates back to the 1st millennium BC.

Our next stop will be at Borjomi spa-resort, which is famous for its mineral sparkling water 'Borjomi'. Visitors can taste Borjomi and take a walk through Borjomi Central Park, which is a part of much larger - Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park - one of the largest protected areas in Georgia.

In the evening we arrive in Akhaltsikhe - administrative center of Samtskhe-Javakheti region.

5 DAY | Akhaltsikhe-Vardzia-Akhaltsikhe

After breakfast we start our excursion at Rabati Castle of Akhaltsikhe. Established in the 9th century and later rebuilt during the Ottoman Empire, Rabati is a fortress that has a small "city" - church, mosque, park, various shops and hotels - inside its walls.

From Rabati we drive to Vardzia - a functioning rockhewn cave monastery founded in the 12^{th} - 13^{th} c.c. A well-fortified monastery, Vardzia became an important political, cultural and educational center of Georgia in middle ages.

From Vardzia we return back to Akhaltsikhe.

6 DAY Akhaltsikhe-Baura-Gyumri

After breakfast at the hotel we drive to the border of Georgia and Armenia. On our way we make a short stop at the ancient Khertuisi fortress in Mtkuari river ravine. After our arrival at Baura Border Crossing Point, our group will change transport and guided by the local expert will continue its trip in Armenia. We drive to Gyumri - the second largest city of Armenia and have a short city tour there.

7 DAY | Gyumri-Etchmiadzin-Zvartnots-Yerevan After breakfast we take a walk in the historical center of Gyumri. Historic district of Gyumri has many buildings from 19th century when the city was called Alexandropol and was under the rule of Russian Empire.

After Gyumri sightseeing tour we drive for the city of Vagharshapat to visit two well-known Armenian cathedrals - Etchmiadzin, built in the 4th century, and 7th century Zuartnots. Etchmiadzin Cathedral is a center of Armenian Apostolic Church and is considered as one of the oldest cathedrals in the world.

From Vagharshapat we head to the capital of Armenia - Yerevan. In the evening we visit Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, commonly referred as Matenadaran, and take a look at the rich collection of medieval manuscripts and books of its museum.

8 DAY | Yerevan-Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

On day 8 after breakfast we start our excursion inside and around the Yerevan city. First we visit the History Museum situated in the center of the city. Yerevan History Museum has a rich collection that represents local culture and history from ancient to present times. Afterwards, we drive to see the Temple of Garni - Greco-Roman colonnaded pagan temple from pre-Christian period. Destroyed by the earthquake in the 17th century, temple was reconstructed during the Soviet Union. From Garni our trip continues to Geghard monastery



(founded in the 4^{th} century) near Yerevan, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and take a walk along the canyon where the complex is located. From Geghard we drive back to Yerevan.

9 DAY | Khor Virap-Areni-Norauank - Yereuan

After breakfast at the hotel we depart to the south part of Armenia. Our first stop is at Khor Virap monastery in Ararat Province. According to local belief St. Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned here for about 13 years, after he introduced Christianity to Armenia. From monastery visitors can observe view on the Mount Ararat - national symbol of Armenia.

From Ararat Province we continue our way to the southeast and arrive at the Armenian wine village Areni, Vayots Dzor Province. Village is known for its red wine-making tradition. We can visit wine factory in Areni and have wine degustation. From Areni we leave for Noravank - a monastery established in the $13^{\rm th}$ c. in the narrow garge of Amaghu river.

In the evening we return to Yerevan.

10 DAY | Sevan-Sadakhlo - Tbilisi

On day 10 after breakfast we head to Lake Sevan, one of the world's largest freshwater high-altitude lakes (1900 m above sea level). From Sevan we drive to the north and arrive in Dilijan - administrative center if Tavush Province. On city tour we visit Sharambeyan street in the old town full its artistic workshops and souvenir stores.

From Dilijan we continue our way to Lori Province and get to the medieval Sanahin monastery (built in 10th c.) - one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites. From Sanahin we drive to the last site of our Armenian tour – Haghpat monastery, founded in the 10^{th} century by the Bagratid royal family. From Haghpat we get to the Georgia-Armenia border at Sadakhlo village and led by the Georgian driver transfer to Tbilisi.

11 DAY I Tbilisi

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

11 DAY TOUR STARTS EVERY SECOND SATURDAY JOIN IN TBILISI

	Book 6 mor	nths in aduar	nce & SAVE 10%
ES	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
2019 START DATES	27.04	08.06	14.09
	11.05	22.06	28.09
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71.		20.07	
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01		17.08	
2		31.08	

Book 12 months in advance &	SAVE 15%
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ES	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
2020 START DATES	25.04 09.04 23.04	06.06 20.06 04.07 18.07 01.08 15.08 29.08	12.09 26.09 10.10



€ 1501 PRICE INCLUDES:

TRANSPORTATION:

- 1 x transfer to Baura border day 6
- 1 x transfer from Sadakhlo border on day day 10
- Vehicle service all days except day 11
- 1 x local jeep in Kazbegi on day 3

STAFF:

English speaking Guide & Driver service all days

10 OVERNIGHTS IN DOUBLE/TWIN ROOMS 3* HOTELS:

- 3 x overnights in Tbilisi
- 1 x overnight in Gudauri
- 2 x overnight in Akhaltsikhe
- 1 x overnight in Gyumri
- 3 x overnights in Yerevan

MEALS:

- 10 x breakfasts
- 1 x dinner on day 2

ENTERTAINMENT AND OTHER:

- Entrance fees per program;
- 1 bottle of mineral water per person per day
- 1 x wine tasting in the village Areni on day 9
- All taxes



The deposit for this tour is: 200 €

ADDITIONAL PRICING INFORMATION:

Single room supplement is: 189 €