

ANCIENT GEORGIA | 9 DAYS

Private escorted multiday cultural tour package for individuals and families



BEST TIME

JAN FEB MAR APR **MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT** NOV DEC

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS & SITES:

TBILISI CITY

- Mtatsminda Park
- Rustaveli Central Avenue
- Georgian National Museum
- Holy Trinity Cathedral
- Narikala Fortress 4th c
- Tbilisi Old Town
- Legutakhevi Waterfall
- Sulfur Bathhouses
- Meidan Square

MTSKHETA CITY

- Suetitskhoueli Cathedral 11th c
- Juari Monastery 6th c

SAMTSKHE-JAVAKHETI REGION

- Borjomi Town
- Rabath Fortress Complex 14-18th cc
- Akhaltsikhe Town
- Vardzia Rock-Cut Town 12th c
- Bakuriani Ski-Resort

SAMEGRELO REGION

- Zugdidi Town
- Dadiani Palace
- Juari Dam

IMERETI REGION

- Kutaisi City
- Bagrati Cathedral 11th c
- Prometheus Grotto
- Gelati Monastery 12th c
- Motsameta Monastic Complex 10th c

SVANETI REGION

- Mestia
- Ushguli Village
- Ipari and Kala Villages
- Suanetian Towers
- La-Maria Chapel
- Margiani Family Tower

DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

1 DAY | Arrival

Arrive in Tbilisi airport. Transfer to the hotel for Overnight

2 DAY | Tbilisi-Kutaisi

Start Tbilisi city tour. The panorama from Mtatsminda Park - the highest point in the city (780 m) is a good beginning of the day. Funicular train rides to the top.

Continue to Rustaveli Avenue. Visit the Golden Treasury of National Museum. Drive to the Holy Trinity Cathedral, the largest one in Georgia. Finish Tbilisi sightseeing and continue to the Western Georgia, Imereti to explore very important UNESCO site - Bagrati cathedral 11th c.

3 DAY | Kutaisi-Nokalakevi-Mestia

Before taking direction towards Svaneti region drive to Prometheus grotto. Located near Tskaltubo, town Prometheus cave has a 1.8 km long trail that passes through different halls. From Prometheus cave we continue our journey to Nokalakevi village. Located by the river Tekhuri, Nokalakevi is famous for its excavation site that occupies about 20 ha. Here, archaeologists have discovered numerous ancient artifacts and remnants of the ancient city and fortress Archaeopolis.

From Nokalakevi drive to Enguri river gorge and stop by the Enguri hydroelectric dam, that is among the highest concrete arch dams in the world with a height of 271.5 m. From here we continue our way to mountainous region Svaneti and arrive at the town of Mestia - largest settlement and the administrative center of Svaneti. Mestia, as well as the whole province, is famous for its traditional authentic medieval defensive buildings - Svan towers.

4 DAY | Mestia-Ushguli-Mestia

Start driving to Ushguli community by local 4 x 4 WD jeeps. Pass through the amazing landscapes, rich of coniferous trees and fresh air. The scenery is totally different from the eastern highlands. En route make few stops at Ipari and Kala villages. Arrive in Ushguli, the highest settled village in Europe (2100m), which is included in the UNESCO sites for its unique Svanetian towers dated back to the 9th-12th centuries. In Zhibiani, one of the villages of Ushguli community little chapel is named after the goddess of Fertility in Svanetian belief which was lately called as La Maria because of the Christianity influence. Walk through the old cobble houses of Ushguli. Drive back to Mestia. Overnight in Mestia.

5 DAY | Mestia-Zugdidi-Kutaisi

start short morning tour in Mestia and visit Margiani Museum. In this tower-museum visitors can take a look at local dwelling – “Machubi”, and get introduced to the traditional lifestyle of the Svans.

From Mestia we depart for Kutaisi. On the way we will make a stop at Zugdidi – administrative center of Samegrelo region. Major attraction of Zugdidi is Dadiani Palace and its History and Architectural Museum. Dadiani Palace was the residence of the local noble house of Dadiani – Mingrelian dukes. The museum complex includes palaces of the Dadiani, court church, and the botanical garden.

From Zugdidi we return back to Kutaisi to make a sightseeing tour of the city and its surroundings. First, we are going to visit Gelati Monastery and Academy. The monastic complex of Gelati was established in the 12th century by King David IV of Georgia (David the Builder), the most prominent king from Georgian history. From Gelati, we are going to drive to Bagrati cathedral, built in the 11th century. Situated in the center of Kutaisi, cathedral is considered as a symbol of the city. It is worth noting that both Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati monastic complex are recognized as World Heritage Sites by the UNESCO.

6 DAY | Kutaisi-Borjomi-Bakuriani

In the morning visit of Gelati Monastery and Academy (UNESCO). The complex was founded by the Greatest King of Georgia David the Builder in the beginning of the 12th century and it earned high importance in religious and cultural ways for ages. The main church was painted with amazing frescoes between 12th – 17th centuries. On the right side from the main church there is the tomb of David the Builder with an Iron Gate overlooking on it, which was taken by his grandson to prove his victory on the enemy. Continue to 10th century Mtsameta Monastic Complex and enjoy the quiet atmosphere surrounded by green mountains. Drive towards Borjomi National Park. Take a nice walk inside the park towards the warm mineral water pool and taste local mineral sparkling water. Drive to Bakuriani resort, 26 KM away from Borjomi town. Overnight in Bakuriani.

7 DAY | Bakuriani-Akhaltzikhe-Vardzia

Today explore Samtskhe-Javakheti region. The first visit is at Rabath fortress complex, located in the heart of Akhaltzikhe town. The complex includes: Sargis Jakeli castle of 14th c., Fortress Church (late Middle Ages), Palace 18th century and the Church of Saint Marine (1865) with built-in relief works.

Drive to 12th century Vardzia rock-cut town – a unique monument of Georgian architecture. Due to the fact that the place was often attacked by enemies Samtskhe-Javakheti served as a barrier from the neighbors. Thus, during the reign of King George III and his daughter Queen Tamar town-fortress Vardzia was built to protect the borders.

After excursion in Vardzia drive back to Bakuriani for overnight.

8 DAY | Bakuriani-Mtskheta-Tbilisi

Drive back to Tbilisi. Pass through Mtskheta town, the former capital of the East Georgia Kingdom of Iberia. Visit Svetitskhoveli Cathedral founded in 11th c. The cathedral is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list.

Drive up to 6th century Juari Monastery, located on the cliff, overlooking Mtskheta town and the confluence of two rivers – Aragvi and Mtkuari. Juari is translated literal-

ly as the “monastery of Cross”. This site is also included in UNESCO sites list.

Arrive in Tbilisi. Have half day city tour. Ride up to 4th century Narikala fortress by cable car. Narikala stands on the cliff which makes it one of the most remarkable landmarks of Tbilisi. The fortress consists of two walled sections between the Sulfur bathhouses and Tbilisi Botanical Garden.

Stroll down and enjoy sightseeing in Tbilisi old town. Visit Legutakhevi where you'll find waterfall falling from the cliff 40 m. Continue to Sulfur bathhouses and Meidan square.

9 DAY | Departure

Transfer to Tbilisi International Airport for departure.



INCLUDES:

3* Accommodation, all transfers, excursions & entrance fees, Professional guide & driver service during the tour comfortable vehicle service all days

- 2 x Airport pick up/drop of service
- 2 x nights-Tbilisi
- 2 x nights-Kutaisi
- 2 x nights-Mestia
- 2 x nights-Bakuriani
- 8 x Breakfasts-on days 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- 4 x Dinners-on days 3, 4, 6, 7
- 2 x bottles per person daily
- All local taxes

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

PRICE PER PERSON	PEOPLE IN THE GROUP	CHILD POLICY	
	Solo	1950 €	0-4 years
2 people	1173 €	5-6 years	50 % OFF
4 people	940 €	7-9 years	30 % OFF
6 people	808 €		
8 people	705 €		
10 people	694 €		
Single supplement	92 €		

The deposit for this tour is 30€

