

# GEORGIAN HOLIDAYS | 15 DAYS

Private special tour, escorted long journey for individuals and families



## BEST TIME

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

The aim of 15-day itinerary "Georgian Holidays" is to introduce travelers to all parts of Georgia and let them experience the diversity of nature and society of the country. Tour takes off in the capital Tbilisi, and travels through every corner of Georgia. Visitors are going to sightsee major cities and towns, provinces in the highlands of the Greater and Lesser Caucasus mountains, the shores of the Black Sea, natural wonders of the West Georgia, traditional wine-making areas in the east, and all major historico-cultural monuments of the country. Tour will be accompanied by professional and experienced guide and driver that will make your journey smooth, informational and unforgettable.

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS & SITES:

### TBILISI CITY

- the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi
- Metekhi church
- Narikala Fortress
- Legutakhevi
- Sulfur bathhouses
- Shardeni street
- Maidan square
- Caravanserai - Tbilisi History Museum
- Bridge of Peace
- National Museum of Georgia
- Rustaveli Avenue

### KAKHETI REGION

- David Gareja Monastery
- Signagi
- Bodbe monastery
- Velistskhe family winery "Numisi"
- House Museum of Al. Chavchavadze
- Napareuli village & local wine cellar
- Gremi Royal Citadel & Church

### MTSKHETA CITY

- Juari Monastery 🏛️
- Suetitskhoveli Cathedral 🏛️

### KHEVI REGION

- Gudauri ski resort
- Ananuri Architectural Complex
- Kazbegi
- Gergeti Trinity Church
- Dariali gorge
- Gueleti waterfalls

### KARTLI REGION

- Gori town
- Stalin's house-museum
- Uplistsikhe Cave Complex

### IMERETI REGION

- Kutaisi city
- Gelati Academy and Monastery
- Bagrati Cathedral
- Sataplia karst caves

### SAMEGRELO REGION

- Zugdidi Town
- Dadiani Palace

### SVANETI REGION

- Ushguli community
- Villages Ipari and Kala
- Mestia
- Margjani Museum
- Svaneti Museum

### ADJARA PROVINCE

- Batumi city
- Batumi Boulevard & Piazza square
- Gonio Fortress
- Batumi Botanical Garden

### SAMTSKHE-JAVAKHETI REGION

- Borjomi spa-resort
- Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park
- Rabati Castle in Akhaltsikhe
- Khertvisi fortress
- Vardzia Cave Monastery
- lakes Sagamo
- Paravani and Tsalka

## DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

**1 DAY** | Tbilisi International Airport – Tbilisi  
Meeting at the airport. Transfer to the hotel in Tbilisi.

**2 DAY** | Tbilisi City Tour

We start the exploration of the capital of Georgia – Tbilisi. During the full day city tour we will visit the major attractions of the city. We start from the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi (Sameba), the main Christian Orthodox cathedral in Georgia. Sameba is also one of the tallest orthodox Christian churches in the world. Tour continues

to Metekhi Church, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> c. and located on the bank of the river Mtkvari, on Metekhi Plateau. From Metekhi we move to Rike Park, take an aerial cableway and ride up to the Narikala Fortress. Ancient fortress of Narikala dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century, and is located on a mountain overlooking Tbilisi. Throughout history Narikala served as a main fortification of the city. From Narikala we stroll down to the old districts of Tbilisi and visit several interesting sites: Legutakhevi canyon with a small river

and waterfall, natural Sulfur Bathhouse District, Shardeni street, Meidan square and the surrounding area that is full with outdoor cafes, art galleries and souvenir shops.

On day 1 we are also going to visit two museums: Tbilisi History Museum and National Museum of Georgia on Rustaveli Avenue. National museum of Georgia has vast collection that includes artifacts from different periods of human history – from Paleolithic era till the medieval times, and rich ethnographic and archaeological collections presenting Georgian history, culture and art.

### **3 DAY | Tbilisi – David Gareja – Signagi**

Drive to David Gareja semi-desert to explore David Gareja Monastery in the caves of Gareja hill. Established in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, complex integrates hundreds of cave cells, living areas, churches and chapels. Part of the complex is located on the territory of Azerbaijan. From Gareja we continue our way to Kakheti – major wine-producing region of Georgia – and arrive in Signagi. Signagi is a small town located on the eastern foothills of Gombori mountain range, overlooking the valley of river Alazani and surrounded by the defensive medieval curtain walls.

### **4 DAY | Signagi – Tsinandali – Gremi – Telavi**

Day 4 is dedicated to the exploration of Kakheti. After breakfast we drive to Bodbe monastery – originally built in 9<sup>th</sup> c. and renovated in 17<sup>th</sup>c., monastery nowadays functions as a nunnery, and is a popular pilgrimage site for the locals, as well as travelers. The monastery is closely associated with St. Nino – the Enlightener of Georgia, and her relics are buried there.

From Bodbe we drive to village Velistsikhe and visit Numisi Wine Cellar Museum. Numisi is one of the oldest wine cellars in Kakheti.

From Velistsikhe we head to Tsinandali and visit House Museum of Alexander Chavchavadze. Alexander Chavchavadze was Georgian nobleman, military figure of Russian Imperial army, romanticist poet and a public figure of 19<sup>th</sup> century. Nowadays, Chavchavadze's residence, garden and wine cellar in Tsinandali operates as a museum.

After paying a visit to Tsinandali we drive to Napareuli village, located in inner Kakheti on the left bank of Alazani river. In Napareuli we are going to visit Twins Wine Cellar Museum, where visitors can observe the whole process of making wine in transparent 500-liter pitchers: pressing, boiling, natural filtration etc.

Afterwards we drive to Gremi. Architectural monument of Gremi Royal Citadel and the Church of Archangels is a remnant of a medieval town of Gremi that functioned as the capital of Kingdom of Kakheti in the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Nowadays complex is composed of the Church of Archangels, a three-story castle, a bell tower and a wine cellar, and encircled by a medieval wall with turrets and towers. After sightseeing Gremi, we drive to Telavi town.

### **5 DAY | Telavi-Mtskheta-Ananuri-Gudauri**

We leave Telavi and depart for Mtskheta. Mtskheta is a town located at the confluence of the rivers Aragvi and Mtkvari. Town served as a capital of ancient Kingdom of Iberia and is famous for two of its historical and architectural monuments: Juari Monastery and Suetitskhoveli Cathedral. Both of these monuments are recognized by the UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

From Mtskheta sightseeing we continue our trip to the Greater Caucasus mountains. We drive on Georgian Military Highway and head to the north, towards the ski resort Gudauri. On our way we make a stop at the Ananuri Architectural Complex (16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> c.c.) near Zhinvali reservoir, which integrates medieval fortification with

churches and local feudals' residential buildings inside.

From Ananuri we continue our way to the north and get to Gudauri (2196 m).

### **6 DAY | Gudauri – Kazbegi – Gergeti – Gudauri**

After breakfast at the hotel we start a full-day exploration of Caucasus mountains. We travel to Kazbegi (Stephantsminda) town – the administrative center of Khevi province. On our way we make a stop at the Cross Pass (2395 m) to taste local natural mineral waters. After arrival in Kazbegi we take an easy walk (approx. 2 hours) to Mount Gergeti. Gergeti Trinity Church (14<sup>th</sup> century) is situated on top of the mountain. From there we can enjoy panoramic views of Kazbegi town and Kazbegi Glacier (5047 m).

From Gergeti we return to Kazbegi town, and head to Dariali gorge and Gueleti waterfalls. In the evening return to Gudauri.

### **7 DAY | Gudauri-Gori-Uplistsikhe-Kutaisi**

On day 7 we depart for Kartli region. After breakfast we leave Gudauri and drive to Gori – a town serving as regional capital of Shida (Inner) Kartli. We are going to visit House Museum of Joseph Stalin in Gori, as the town is the birthplace of the Soviet leader.

From Gori we head to the Uplistsikhe Cave Complex, dated as early as 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC. Comprised of different chambers, tunnels, and streets, Uplistsikhe is an ancient rock-hewn town that served as an important political, economic and religious center of the region in the pre-Christian times.

From Uplistsikhe we continue our journey to the western parts of Georgia and get to Kutaisi city, administrative center of Imereti. On our way we make a few stops at the Rikoti pass and visit pottery and farmers' markets.

In the evening we arrive in Kutaisi and have excursions to two of its major historico-cultural sites: Gelati Academy and Monastery and Bagrati Cathedral. Both of these monuments were built during the Georgian Golden Age and nowadays are included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list.

### **8 DAY | Kutaisi-Zugdidi-Mestia**

We are going to visit market in Kutaisi where local farmers are selling eco-friendly fruit and vegetables, as well as local Imeretian cheese.

Afterwards we head to Sataplia Caves and Natural Reserve, located in about 10 km from Kutaisi. Sataplia Natural Reserve is unique for its relict deciduous forests, karst caves and well-preserved footprints of dinosaurs.

From Sataplia we continue our journey to Samegrelo and drive to Zugdidi. Zugdidi is a town that serves as an administrative center of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti province. In Zugdidi we are going to visit Dadiani Palaces and its History and Architectural Museum. Complex comprises of two palaces, church and a botanical garden spread on 67 ha. Museum functions in the palaces of Mingrelian noble family Dadiani and houses various ethnographic, archaeological collections.

From Zugdidi we drive to the north and arrive in mountainous Svaneti province. On our way we make a stop at the Enguri Dam, one of the highest concrete arch dams in the world, constructed on the river Enguri. Afterwards we arrive in Mestia – administrative center of Svaneti.

### **9 DAY | Mestia-Ushguli-Mestia**

Svaneti is a mountainous region surrounded by the peaks and glaciers of the Greater Caucasus mountains. Province has become a popular tourist attraction for its well-preserved authentic architecture and lifestyle from medieval times.

After breakfast at the hotel we drive to the Ushguli community - one of the highest continuously inhabited places in Europe. Ushguli is comprised of 4 villages and has been included in UNESCO World Heritage Sites List. On our way to Ushguli we make a few stops at the villages of Ipari and Kala and to take a look at village churches with medieval frescos and murals.

We can also make an easy hike towards the foothills of Shkhara Glacier - the highest mountain peak in Georgia. In the evening we get back to Mestia and visit Margiani Museum. Located in an ancient Svan housing estate, Margiani Museum presents authentic Svan lifestyle and dwelling to its visitors.

**10 DAY | Mestia- Batumi**

We start our trip by visiting Svaneti Museum of History and Ethnography. Collection of museum includes various ethnographic and archaeological artifacts, old Georgian manuscripts, Georgian Orthodox icons painted in the Svan style etc. Afterwards we leave Svaneti and drive to the south towards Batumi - the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara and second largest city of Georgia, located on the shores of the Black Sea. In the evening after arrival in Batumi we are going to make a short city tour, visit Piazza square and take a walk on the boulevards of the city.

**11 DAY | Batumi- Botanical Garden-Batumi**

After breakfast we head to Gonio, 10 km from Batumi, and visit Gonio Fortress - an archaeological site and historical monument, dating from 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD. Gonio was a well-fortified Roman city in Colchis in 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD. Later it came under Byzantine rule. Afterwards we drive to the Green Cape, where Batumi Botanical Garden is located. Officially opened in 1912 and later expanded during Soviet times, Batumi Botanical Garden has a vast variety of plants and trees from different climate zones. In the evening we return back to Batumi city.

**12 DAY | Batumi-Borjomi-Akhaltzikhe**

On day 12 we leave Batumi and drive to Borjomi spa-resort. After arrival we take a walk in the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park and taste famous natural mineral waters from the springs. Mineral waters of Borjomi have been famous since the early 19<sup>th</sup> c., and are exported to more than 40 countries of the world. Our trip continues to Akhaltzikhe, a historical town and administrative center of Samtskhe-Javakheti region, South Georgia.

**13 DAY | Akhaltzikhe-Vardzia**

Day 13 is dedicated to exploration of Akhaltzikhe and its surrounding area. First we visit Rabati Castle. The complex consists of the castle of 14<sup>th</sup> c., several churches, a mosque, synagogue, and a museum. The museum houses different manuscript, book, photo, archaeological and numismatic collections. Continue exploration of Samtskhe - Javakheti province and drive along Mtkvari river to Vardzia monastery. On our way to Vardzia we make a short stop by the ruins of ancient Khertvisi fortress. Vardzia is a medieval monastery, founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of Queen Tamar of Georgia. Located on the bank of river Mtkvari, complex is cut in rock and consists of multiple chambers, cave dwellings, churches and chapels situated on different floors and tiers.

**14 DAY | Vardzia-Tbilisi**

We depart for Tbilisi. We are going to pass through Javakheti volcanic plateau and make a few stops at the alpine lakes of Sagamo and Paravani, as well as the largest artificial lake of Georgia - Tsalka reservoir. In the evening we arrive in Tbilisi.

**15 DAY | Tbilisi**

Breakfast and check-out from the hotel. Transfer to the Tbilisi International Airport.



UNESCO ARRIVAL

**INCLUDES:**

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

- 3 x nights-Tbilisi
- 1 x night-Sighnaghi
- 1 x night-Telavi
- 2 x nights-Gudauri
- 1 x night-Kutaisi
- 2 x nights-Mestia
- 2 x nights-Batumi
- 1 x night-Akhaltzikhe
- 1 x night-Vardzia
- 14 x Breakfasts-days 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
- 6 x Dinners-on days 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- Water (2 x bottles per person daily)
- Excursions in accordance with the program
- Entrance fees in accordance with the program
- All local taxes

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

PRICE PER PERSON	PEOPLE IN THE GROUP		CHILD POLICY	
	Solo	3530 €	0-4 years	FREE
2 people	2275 €	5-6 years	50 % OFF	
4 people	1834 €	7-9 years	30 % OFF	
6 people	1641 €			
8 people	1580 €			
10 people	1569 €			
Single supplement	487 €			

The deposit for this tour is 200€

