

# 12 Day Beauty of Caucasus Cultural & Sightseeing Tours

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## Overview

### The Beauty of Caucasus

Starts: Tbilisi

Available: MAY-OCT

Total driving distance: 1745 km

Duration: 12 DAYS

Type: Private Cultural tour

The private tour to Caucasus mountains and Black sea beautiful shores, covers the major cultural, historical and natural landmarks on the territory of Georgia. Visit seven regions of Georgia: Kartli, Imereti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Samegrelo, Svaneti, Adjara and Guria; the main cities and mountainous towns of the country: Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Gori, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Akhaltsikhe, Mestia and Batumi; explore the ancient caves and canyons in Vardzia, Martvili and Okatse, and the medieval historical monuments in Mtskheta, Gelati and Ushguli recognized as world heritage sites. All the beauty of Caucasus is right here, enjoy your trip!

“Beauty of Caucasus” is accompanied by professional and experienced staff that will make your journey smooth and pleasant.

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## Tour details

- Code: GH-46
- Starts from: Tbilisi
- Max. Group Size: 15 Adults
- Duration: 12 Days

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## Prices

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## Sights to Visit

- [Martvili Canyon](#)
- [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#)
- [Ushguli Community](#)
- [Bagrati Cathedral](#)
- [Gelati Monastery](#)
- [Jvari Monastery](#)
- [Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park](#)
- [Prometheus Cave](#)
- [Uplistsikhe Caves](#)
- [Vardzia rock-cut caves](#)
- [Narikala Fortress](#)
- [Gonio Fortress](#)
- [Akhaltsikhe Castle, Rabati](#)
- [Holy Trinity Cathedral](#)
- [Metekhi Church](#)
- [National Museum](#)
- [Uplistsikhe Museum](#)
- [Gonio Museum-Reserve](#)
- [Ioseb Stalin State Museum](#)
- [Mestia Museum](#)
- [Dadiani Palace](#)
- [Bridge of Peace](#)
- [Tbilisi Historic District](#)
- [Batumi Botanical Garden](#)
- [Ethnographic Museum](#)
- [Mestia](#)
- [Svaneti](#)
- [Akhaltsikhe](#)

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## Itinerary

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN TBILISI

Meet at the airport. Transfer to the hotel. Relaxing evening.  
Explore the city independently.

Overnight in **Tbilisi**.

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## **DAY 2: TBILISI - MTSKHETA - GORI - UPLISTSIKHE - KUTAISI**

After breakfast, check out and drive to [Mtskheta](#) – the ancient capital of Iberia, the former Kingdom of the early Georgian Kingdom. In [Mtskheta](#) visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites: [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#) 11th c., and [Jvari Monastery](#) 6th c.

Next town is [Gori](#). Optional visit of **Joseph Stalin** Soviet-era museum, which consists of Stalin's memorial house, museum building with tower, and personal train with his study belongings.

From [Gori](#) drive towards **Uplistsikhe** ancient caves that is considered as the oldest urban settlement discovered on the territory of present day **Georgia**. Complex comprises of tunnels, residential caves, prayer halls, streets, markets and Roman time theater carved in sandstone rock.

Continue to the western part of **Georgia** for the third largest city – **Kutaisi**. On the way through Rikoti Pass make a few stops at local pottery and farmers' markets.

Before entering Kutaisi, visit and sightsee **Gelati Academy and Monastery** and [Bagrati Cathedral](#), both of them were built during the Georgian Golden Age and listed as World Heritage by the UNESCO.

Overnight in **Kutaisi**.

### **DAY 3: KUTAISI - PROMETHEUS CAVE - MARTVILI CANYON - MARTVILI**

On day 3 after breakfast is at the hotel we head to explore [Prometheus Cave](#) - one of the most popular and largest caves in **Georgia**. Cave has 1.8 km long trail open for visitors, full of various types of stalactites, stalagmites, underground rivers and lakes.

From [Prometheus Cave](#) we continue our trip to another natural landmark - [Martvili Canyon](#), created over millions of years by the [Abasha](#) river. It is possible to make a boat trip and get to the 7-meter high waterfall of the canyon. From the canyon we drive to small town **Martvili**.

Overnight in **Martvili**.



## **DAY 4: MARTVILI - ENGURI DAM - MESTIA**

After breakfast is at the hotel we leave for [Svaneti](#) - a mountainous region in the Caucasus. Before our arrival, we make a stop at the [Enguri Dam](#) - hydroelectric dam in **Georgia** built on the **Enguri** River, which is one of the highest concrete arch dams in the world. Afterwards we arrive in [Mestia](#), administrative center of [Svaneti](#).

Overnight is in [Mestia](#).

## DAY 5: MESTIA

After breakfast at the hotel we start [Svaneti](#) exploration tour. First we pay a visit to the **Margiani Museum** that presents authentic local way of life of Svan people.

Next visit [Svaneti Museum of History and Ethnography](#) in [Mestia](#). Museum has a rich collection that includes unique medieval icons, ancient manuscripts and other ethnographic artifacts associated with local Svan people. Overnight in Mestia.

*Optional: **MESTIA - USHGULI - MESTIA***

*Driving distance: 100 km*

*It is possible to make an additional trip to **Ushguli** community, from May to October on a 4 x 4 Jeep. Ushguli is a community in [Svaneti](#) that consists of 4 different villages. Situated on 2200 meters above the sea level, Ushguli is one of the highest continuously inhabited places in Europe. For its remote location and well-preserved authentic way of life, **Ushguli** has been included in the World Heritage List by the UNESCO.*

*The road to **Ushguli** passes through Svan villages of Ipari and Kala, where we can make a stop and take a look at the local medieval churches with old frescos and murals. A short and easy hike to the foothills of [Shkhara](#) Glacier is also possible. [Shkhara](#) (5068 m) is the highest peak in Georgia and third-highest in Europe. In the evening we come back to [Mestia](#).*

## **DAY 6: MESTIA - ZUGDIDI - BATUMI**

Day 6 begins with breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, we drive to [Zugdidi](#) - an administrative center of [Samegrelo](#) region, where we are going to visit **Dadiani palace and History museum**. Palace once served as the residence of Mingrelian noble house of Dadiani. Nowadays complex has museum, court church and botanical garden.

From [Zugdidi](#) we get to **Batumi** - the capital of [Adjara](#), located on the shore of the **Black Sea**. On **Batumi** city tour we are going visit following attractions and places: **Piazza square**, statues of Jason & Medea from Greek mythology, moving sculpture of [Ali and Nino](#) by Tamara Kvesitadze. Finally, we take a walk along the **Batumi** Boulevard and enjoy the lights of dancing fountains in the evening.

Overnight in **Batumi**.

## **DAY 7: BOTANICAL GARDEN - GONIO FORTESS - ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM BORJGALO**

After breakfast at the hotel we drive to the place called **Green Cape**, where [Batumi Botanical Garden](#) is located. The garden is unique for its combinations of species from completely different climatic zones. Walk about 1 hour and enjoy amazing views on Black Sea coastline.

Continue to the [Gonio Fortress](#) - a well-preserved Roman fortification dated back to the 1st c. AD, located 10 kilometers from **Batumi**. Excursion will take about 30 minutes.

Next visit is ethnographic museum **Borjgalo** on the way to Khelvachauri. Private owned folk crafts museum displays lifestyle in mountain villages of [Adjara](#).

In the evening we return to **Batumi**.  
Overnight in **Batumi**.

## **DAY 8: BATUMI - BORJOMI PARK - BORJOMI**

On day 8 after breakfast in the hotel we depart to [Borjomi](#) spa-resort. We can make a short [Borjomi](#) tour, visit [Borjomi National Park](#) and taste famous local natural mineral water '[Borjomi](#)' from the springs. Mineral waters of [Borjomi](#) have been famous since 19th c. and are exported to different countries of the world.

Overnight in [Borjomi](#).

## **DAY 9: BORJOMI - VARDZIA - AKHALTSIKHE - BORJOMI**

After breakfast at the hotel we leave for [Akhaltsikhe](#) to visit **Rabati Castle**. **Rabati** comprises of a castle from the 14th century, several churches, a mosque, synagogue and a museum. Museum presents old printed books, manuscripts, archaeological and numismatic collections, photographic collections, etc.

We continue exploration of [Samtskhe-Javakheti](#) and head to [Vardzia](#) cave monastery, located at the bank of [Mtkvari](#) River. [Vardzia](#) is a medieval rock-hewn monastery, established in the 12th c. by the famous Queen Tamar of Georgia.

Overnight in Borjomi.

## **DAY 10: BORJOMI - TBILISI**

On day 10 after breakfast at the hotel drive back to **Tbilisi** and start the city tour. First we are going to visit the **Holy Trinity Cathedral** of Tbilisi (Sameba), one of the tallest Orthodox Christian churches in the world. From **Sameba**, we move to **Metekhi Plateau** and [Metekhi Church](#) built in the 5th century, located on the elevated cliff over the river [Mtkvari](#) and the old **Tbilisi** district. Next, we move to **Narikala** - ancient fortress overlooking **Tbilisi** from the mountain that can be reached by an aerial cable car from the **Rike Park**.

From [Narikala Fortress](#) we stroll down to the old city full of attractions and landmarks: **National Botanical Garden** of Georgia, **Jumah Mosque**, **Legvtakhevi** canyon and waterfall, **Abanotubani** - **historical sulfur bathhouse** district of **Tbilisi**.

Overnight in **Tbilisi**.

## **DAY 11: TBILISI CITY TOUR**

On day 11 we continue **Tbilisi** sightseeing tour. After breakfast we take a tram and go up to **Mtatsminda Mountain**, and pay a visit to the **Mtatsminda Pantheon of Writers** and Public Figures, largest necropolis in Tbilisi where many famous writers, scientists, national heroes and other public figures are buried. From **Mtatsminda** we continue to the **Georgian [National Museum](#)** on **Rustaveli avenue**. Museum has numerous different collection that house artifacts of natural and human history, rich ethnographic and archaeological collections from different historical periods etc.

We can take a walk along the **Rustaveli Avenue**, and take a look at the buildings of the **Parliament of Georgia**, **Rustaveli National Theater**, and **[Georgian National Opera and Ballet Theater](#)** of Tbilisi. We can also visit the glass **[Bridge of Peace](#)**, **Shardeni street** and **Maidan square**, that are full of outdoor cafes, bars, restaurants, souvenir shops and art galleries.

In the evening you may go shopping to **Tbilisi Mall** – one of the biggest shopping centers in Caucasus. Located in the center of **Tbilisi** on **Rustaveli avenue**, **Tbilisi Mall** offers a broad range of shops from many famous international brands. You can also find fruit and vegetable market, banking facilities, a multi-screen cinema and a family entertainment center in the mall.

Overnight in **Tbilisi**.



## **DAY 12: TBILISI**

After breakfast check-out from the hotel and transfer to Tbilisi International airport.

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## Inclusions

## Included

### Private Staff:

- Professional guide service
- Professional driver service

### Transportation:

- 2 x Tbilisi airport to/from transfers by a comfortable a/c car
- Transportation with a comfortable a/c car all days
- 4 x 4 WD Jeep Delica service to Ushguli-on day 5

### Accommodation:

- 3 x nights-Tbilisi 3\* hotel Brigitte (or similar)
- 1 x night-Kutaisi 3\* hotel Green Rooms (or similar)
- 1 x night-Martvili 3\* hotel Martvili Palace (or similar)
- 2 x nights-Mestia 3\* hotel Patrioti, Shgedi (or similar)
- 2 x nights-Batumi 3\* hotel Chao (or similar)
- 2 x nights-Borjomi 3\* hotel Borjomi Palace (or similar)

### Meals:

- 11 x Breakfasts-on days 2- 12

### Other:

- 2 x bottles of spring water per person daily
- Excursions in accordance with program
- Entrance fees in accordance with the program
- All taxes

## Excluded

- Insurance
  - Flight tickets
  - Early Check Ins/Late Check outs
  - Alcoholic beverages
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## More Info

## Additional Info

Don't forget to take comfortable walking shoes, a raincoat, and sunglasses.

### Extra services:

- Single room supplement: 340 \$
- Lunch: 15 \$ per person
- Dinner: 25 \$ per person

To arrange extra services and pre-tour (post-tour) hotel overnights, contact us [info\[at\]georgianholidays.com](mailto:info[at]georgianholidays.com)

1 person from the group will be FREE of charge if 10 and more adults are traveling together

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellation is free of charge prior 7 days of the starting day.

- The booking deposit 60 USD is non-refundable.

If Tourist cancels the booked tour for some reasons not depending on Tour Operator, the following sums are kept back as a fine:

- 50% of the total cost of tourist product in case of tour cancellation 7 days or less prior to the tour;
  - 100% of the total cost of the tourist product due to the Tourist's failure to appear.
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# Gallery

