# 7 Day Taste of Georgia Cultural & Sightseeing Tours

### **Overview**

### Multi-day private tour Taste of Georgia

Starts from: TBILISI Available: All Year Distance: 1022 km Duration: 7 DAYS

7-day private tour Taste of Georgia starts from the capital of Georgia – **Tbilisi**. The tour covers four regions and numerous highlights: the cities of **Tbilisi**, **Kutaisi**, **Borjomi**, **Akhaltsikhe** and **Gori**, UNESCO world Heritage Sites, ancient caves of **Uplistsikhe** and **Vardzia**, **Prometheus karst Caves**, **Borjomi Park**, medieval **Castle Rabati** and two major museums: **Vani archaeological** and housemuseum of Stalin.

We offer delicious traditional dishes in each region to show you the diversity and peculiarity of local gastronomy.

We are excited to greet you in Georgia!

Happy travel!

# Tour details

Code: GH-36

Starts from: Tbilisi

• Max. Group Size: 15 Adults

Duration: 7 Days

# **Prices**

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# Sights to Visit

- Svetitskhoveli Cathedral
- Bagrati Cathedral
- Jvari Monastery
- Prometheus Cave
- Uplistsikhe Caves
- Vardzia rock-cut caves
- Akhaltsikhe Castle, Rabati
- Holy Trinity Cathedral
- Metekhi Church
- Vardzia Museum
- Uplistsikhe Museum
- Ioseb Stalin State Museum
- Bridge of Peace
- Tbilisi Historic District
- Vani Archaeological Site
- Akhaltsikhe

# **Itinerary**

# **DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN TBILISI AIRPORT**

Welcome in Tbilisi international airport.

Transfer to **Tbilisi** hotel. Free evening.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

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

Driving distance: 286 km (5h 57 min)

After breakfast, guide will meet you at the hotel and help for check out.

Suggested time to start a day is 09:00.

Drive to the capital of former Kingdom of Iberia – <u>Mtskheta</u> **town**. Visit UNESCO Sites: **Svetitskhoveli** Cathedral (11th c.), and **Jvari Monastery** (6th c.).

Text stop is small town **Gori**, prominent for agriculture production, especially for apples, and a birthplace of Soviet dictator, Stalin. Visit Soviet-era museum of Joseph Stalin, which consists of Stalin's memorial house, train and exhibition halls displaying his personal belongings.

Drive towards **Uplistsikhe**, an ancient temple town carved in a sandstone rocks. This cave complex is considered as the oldest urban settlement discovered on the territory of present-day Georgia. Sightseeing will take about 45 minutes.

Tour continues to the western Georgia. After driving through 1.8 km tunnel on **Rikoti Pass**, arrive in **Kutaisi**, the third largest city of Georgia country.

In the evening arrive to **Kutaisi** and walk around the central park.

Two overnights in Kutaisi.

# DAY 3: KUTAISI TOUR - PROMETHEUS CAVES - VANI - KUTAISI

Driving distance: 116 km (2h 34 min)

After breakfast at the hotel, visit **Bagrati Cathedral**, at the former residential place of Great King Bagrat III. Built in early 11th c., the cathedral overlooks from the hill and is considered as a symbol of **Kutaisi**.

Today visit the pearl of Imeteri Protected areas - **Prometheus karst caves**, one of the longest and beautiful caves in the region; various types of stalactites, stalagmites, cave pearls, underground rivers and lakes will amaze you. The boat trip is possible to book separately, as availability depends of the river level inside the caves.

After visiting **Prometheus Cave**s, drive to **Vani Archaeological Museum-Reserve**, prominent for archaeological findings of the ancient **Colchis civilization**. The permanent exhibition displays cultural development of the city (from 800 BC up to 100 AD).

\*Optional visit of the winery Vartsikhe is available on the way back to Kutaisi.

Overnight in Kutaisi.

# **DAY 4: KUTAISI - BORJOMI - AKHALTSIKHE**

Driving distance: 183 km (3h 29 min)

In the morning check out and drive to **Borjomi** spa-resort.

Surrounded by evergreen forested mountains, the town lies on the banks of **Mtkvari** and small river Borjomula. Take a nice walk either in a central park or in the **Borjomi- Kharagauli National Park**, taste famous bubbling mineral spring water and have a relaxing day in the nature.

In the evening continue to another town of <u>Samtskhe-Javakheti</u> area, <u>Akhaltsikhe</u>, administrative center of the region. Here, visit <u>Akhaltsikhe</u> <u>Castle</u>, in Rabati district dating back to the 14th century. The Castle includes public area, administrative building, amphitheater, hotel, restaurant, museum (museum entrance fee is not included), church, mosque and remains of residential palace of duke Jakheli.

Overnight in **Akhaltsikhe** hotel.

#### DAY 5: AKHALTSIKHE - VARDZIA - TBILISI

Driving distance: 288 km (5h 22 min)

Today, follow the up-stream of the river <a href="Mtkvari">Mtkvari</a> and explore Javakheti region. Picturesque valley! Visit Europa Nostra winner of 2021 - <a href="Vardzia">Vardzia</a> cave monastery. On the way, we can see ruined medieval fortresses of <a href="Borjomi">Borjomi</a>, <a href="Atskuri">Atskuri</a>, <a href="Khertvisi">Khertvisi</a> and <a href="Tmogvi">Tmogvi</a>, closer to the border of Ottomans.

The rock-hewn cave-monastery **Vardzia** was built in 12th c as a stronghold, and consists of approximately 600 rooms located in five, six, seven and sometimes thirteen tiers. There are residential caves, prayers, spring, churches, refectories, bakeries, wine presses, stables, barracks and stores, secret tunnels, internal corridors and chapels. Complex flourished under the rule of the lady king Tamar the Great of Georgia (1184 to 1213). Her portrayal can be observed on the southern wall of the main church.

In the evening drive back to Tbilisi.

Overnight in **Tbilisi**.

#### **DAY 6: TBILISI CITY TOUR**

Tbilisi full day private sightseeing on foot and car.

After breakfast, head to the highest point of the city - **Mtatsminda Park**. It is possible to get on the top by car or by the **funicular cable tram**. Two main panoramas are the highlights of the tour's final day: view of **Tbilisi historical district** (opera house, Rustaveli avenue, **Metekhi Church**, golden domed Sameba trinity cathedral, **Narikala Fortress** and e.s) and another, view of **Soviet Tbilisi** (Stadium, Tbilisi central railway, residential blocks of Saburtalo district, Sport palace and e.s).

Take a moment under the TV tower, walk in a park and don't skip good portion of ice-cream in Funicular restaurant - the best place to enjoy the day.

Walk to the city by foot, visit Mtatsminda Pantheon and Rustaveli Avenue. Continue to the old city to visit the main cathedral - Holy Trinity of Tbilisi and Metekhi
Church, Rike park Cable car, the ancient Fortress
Narikala, the Sulfur bathhouse district and historical streets of Shardeni and King Erekle II, visit outdoor cafes, souvenir shops, art-galleries, walk through the glass
Bridge of Peace and Dry Bridge flee market over the river Mtkvari. You can feel the spirit of two great continents: this is a crossroad, here Europe meets Asia. You will fall in love with his eclectic city. Have a great evening!

Transfer to the hotel.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

# DAY 7: TRANSFER TO TBILISI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out time is 12:00.

Transfer to the Airport for departure.

We wish you nice flight and wait for your next arrival.

# Inclusions

# Included

# **Transportation:**

- 2 x Private transfers to/from Tbilisi Airport-hotel by a comfortable vehicle
- Private transportation with a comfortable vehicle all days

### **Private Staff:**

Professional guide service during the tour

#### **Accommodation:**

- 3 x nights-Tbilisi 4\* Tbilisi Brosse Garden or similar
- 2 x nights-Kutaisi 4\* Kutaisi Inn or similar
- 1 x nights-Akhaltsikhe 4\* Akhaltsikhe Inn or similar

## Meals:

• 6 x Breakfasts-on days 2-7

#### Other:

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

#### **Excluded**

- Visa Fees (when needed)
- Insurance
- Flight tickets
- Early Check Ins/Late Check outs
- Meals & Alcoholic beverages

# **More Info**

# **Additional Info**

To arrange extra services and pre-tour (post-tour) hotel overnights, contact us 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.

# Gallery













