8 Day Charm of Western Georgia Cultural & Sightseeing Tours

Overview

The Charm of Western Georgia

Starts from: BATUMI

Available: from April to October every day except Thursday

Driving distance in total: 915 km

Duration: 8 DAYS

Type: Private

8-day private tour from Batumi **Charm of Western Georgia** takes you from the Black Sea shores to the highlands of the Greater Caucasus Mountains up to **Svaneti**. The trip covers major cities of west Georgia -Poti, **Zugdidi**, **Mestia**, Batumi, Kutaisi, and karst caves and canyons of **Imereti** region.

Adventure with us a mixture of subtopic nature and the authentic culture of the highlanders.

Tour details

Code: GH-39

• Starts from: Batumi

Max. Group Size: 15 Adults

Duration: 8 Days

Prices

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Sights to Visit

- Kolkheti National Park
- Ushguli Community
- Bagrati Cathedral
- Gelati Monastery
- Nokalakevi
- Vani
- Mestia Museum
- Dadiani Palace
- Colchis Wetlands
- Batumi Botanical Garden
- Georgia In Miniatures Park
- Batumi
- Petra Fortress
- Batumi Piazza
- Mestia
- The sculpture Ali & Nino
- Samegrelo
- Vani Archaeological Site
- Summit Ushba
- Enguri Dam
- Poti
- Golden Lake
- Adjara
- Lighthouse of Poti
- Poti Clock Tower
- Paliastomi Lake
- Poti Cathedral
- Museum of Colchis
- Poti Sea Port
- Europe Square Batumi
- Batumi Boulevard
- Zugdidi
- Sisa Tura

Itinerary Day 1: Arrival in Batumi

Meet and greet at Batumi international airport. Drive to **Batumi** hotel. Check-in.

Overnight in Batumi.

Day 2: Batumi-Poti-Kolkheti National Park-Zugdidi

Driving distance: 135 km

Breakfast at the hotel. Meet your guide at the lobby and start one hour Batumi sightseeing tour – walk Piazza and Europe Squares, see statues of Medea, Poseidon, Ali and Nino, and beautiful boulevard.

After Batumi sightseeing, we drive towards <u>Samegrelo</u> region, to the seaside town Poti.

The first stop is **Poti Museum of Colchian Culture**. The museum houses artifacts representing Colchian culture dating to the early Bronze and Iron ages.

The next stop is at the historical <u>Lighthouse of Poti</u> - the first lighthouse constructed of metal through the entire Russian Empire. The beacon offers a beautiful viewpoint overlooking the conjunction of the river Ri**Oni** joining the Black Sea.

Visit Poti Cathedral - constructed in 1906-07. For 70 years cathedral was used as a theater, pioneering meetings, and speeches on a city scale. Cathedral was restored in 2005.

After Poti city tour drive to **Kolkheti National Park**. It is an ideal place for boating, diving, hiking, and horse-riding. The Park comprises a large area of natural wetlands that are perfect for bird-watching visitors.

Optional *: Choose one of the three trails - this will make the evening unforgettable!

Okros Tba (Golden Lake): 1 h by pontoon boat-tour by kayak Boating trip Paliastomi- Pichori 3 h by pontoon boat Paliastomi- Pichori 2 hours by motor-boat

The next stop is **Zugdidi**, the administrative center of **Samegrelo** region. Relaxing evening.

Overnight in **Zugdidi**.

Day 3: Zugdidi-Mestia Tour

Driving distance: 136 km

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning visit Zugdidi farmer's market.

Next stop is the major attraction of the town - Dadiani palace and **Zugdidi Botanical Garden**. The **Samegrelo** prince's residence is turned into a **National Museum**.

Zugdidi Botanical Garden is one of the oldest landscape architecture examples preserved to this day.

The Lunch is arranged in ethno-complex <u>Sisa Tura</u>, Chkhoria village, 11 Kilometers from Zugdidi.

Start driving towards Caucasus Mountains, to <u>Mestia</u>. On the way make a stop on <u>Enguri Dam</u>, one of the highest arch dams in the world (174 m).

The road to **Svaneti** is picturesque, mountain serpentines runs along the roaring Enguri river. We can make several stops for photoshoots of panoramic views and waterfalls, so don't forget your cameras on!

Evening arrive in <u>Mestia</u>. Check-in the hotel. Rest for 30 minutes and before the dinner visit a beautiful local house-museum belonging Margiani family (12th c.), family used to be here up to the 20th of 20c. Here you get a strong feeling of the medieval traditions of Svans and an authentic lifestyle.

Overnight in Mestia.

Day 4: Mestia-Ushguli-Mestia

Driving distance: 95 km

Today we take local 4x4 WD jeep to Ushguli. Ushguli area comprises in total 4 villages and has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The remote and inaccessible location of Ushguli has been the major reason why its authentic way of life has been well-preserved.

On our way to the village, we make several stops – at the villages of Ipari and Kala.

We can take a short walk towards foothills of the **Shkhara** Glacier - the highest of peak in Georgia (5201 m above the sea level).

In the evening we drive back to **Mestia**.

Overnight in **Mestia**.

Day 5: Mestia-Nokalakevi-Maryvili-Kutaisi Evening Tour

Driving distance: 242 km

Breakfast at the hotel. From <u>Mestia</u> we to the south to the vilage <u>Nokalakevi</u>. Nokalakevi is a large excavation site where archaeologists found the ancient city and fortress of Archaeopolis, as well as lots of gold and silver artifacts from the Hellenistic and Byzantine periods.

After Nokalakevi continue to <u>Martvili Canyon</u> where we can take a boat trip in the river <u>Abasha</u>, and observe the surrounding area.

Optional*: Lunch and wine tasting at local Oda Family winery is available

Evening arrive in Kutaisi – the old capital of Georgia Kingdom.

Kutaisi is famous for its monuments recognized as World Heritage sites by the UNESCO – <u>Bagrati Cathedral</u> 11th c., and <u>Gelati Monastery</u> and Academy, established in the 12th c. Situated on the hill in the heart of the city, <u>Bagrati Cathedral</u> is considered as a symbol of Kutaisi.

In the evening we can take a walk in Kutaisi central park.

Overnight in Kutaisi.

Day 6: Kutaisi-Prometheus Cave-Vani-Batumi

Driving distance: 209 km

After breakfast at the hotel, we drive about 20 minutes to **Prometheus Cave** – also known as Kumistavi, one of the biggest karst caves in Georgia, with a 1.2 km trail. If the water level is good, we can have a boat trip and take a look at the unique sightseeings inside the cave system.

Continue to <u>Vani</u> Archaeological Museum, which houses archaeology assemblages excavated in <u>Vani</u> since 1985.

The permanent exhibition of the museum displays cultural development of the site between 800 BC and 100 AD (goldwork, silver, unique bronze sculptures and their fragments, samples of coins, etc.).

Evening drive to Batumi for overnight.

Day 7: Batumi-Botanical Garden-Ethnographic Museum-Makhuntseti Waterfall

Driving distance: 82 km

Breakfast. Morning visit <u>Batumi Botanical Garden</u> -9 km north from the city of Batumi on Green Cape. One hour pleasant walk through this unique garden or by the electric cart, which can be rented from the garden's administration.

The next visit is the open area ethnographic museum "Borjgalo" founded by local artist Kemal Turmanidze, who devoted 30 years of his life to creating this heartwarming museum. The artifacts tell the story of Adjarian people mostly through the models of residential and agricultural constructions and woodcarving.

Continue to Adjaristskali river towards Mountain villages through the forest.

Optional*: wine tasting and lunch is available at Ajarian Wine House

Visit to the Makhuntseti arched bridge and **Makhuntseti Waterfall** - hidden in the depth of the rocks.

In the evening return back to **Batumi** for overnight.

Day 8: Batumi Airport-Departure

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to **Batumi** Airport for departure.

Hope to greet you again next year!

Inclusions

Included

Staff:

- Private Professional guide
- Private car service

Transportation:

- 2 x private transfers to/from Batumi international Airport
- Private transportation with A/C comfortable car during the tour
- ° 4 x 4WD local Jeep Mitsubishi Delica to Ushguli day 4

Accommodation for 7 overnights:

- 3 x nights in Batumi 3* hotel Chao or similar
- ° 1 x night in Zugdidi Boutique hotel Leto or similar
- ° 2 x nights in Mestia hotel Patrioti, Shgedi or similar
- $^{\circ}$ 1 x night in Kutaisi 3* hotel Green Room or similar

Catering:

- ° 7 x Breakfasts-on days 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- $^{\circ}$ 1 x Lunch-on day 2

Other:

- 2 x bottled Water per person daily
- Excursions in accordance with the program
- Entrance fees in accordance with the program
- All taxes

Excluded

- Visa Fees
- Insurance
- Flight tickets
- Early Check-Ins/Late Check outs
- Meals & beverages

More Info

Additional Info

*Optional Services:

- Single Supplement: 235 \$
- Tour by Motorboat on Paliastomi lake and Pichori River mouth 2h: 11 \$ per person
- Kayaking on Golden Lake: 13 \$
- Lunch 15 \$
- Wine tasting 15 \$

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













