Vashlovani-Georgian Savannah Jeep and ATV Tours in Georgia

Overview

Vashlovani National Park Safari
3 days/2 nights
Pick-up from: Tbilisi/Sighnaghi
Season: April-June / September-October
Hiking Difficulty: Easy

Driving Distance: 540 km

Exclusive itinerary designed for nature enthusiasts seeking a swift retreat. Embark on a remarkable 3-day journey amidst the semi-desert vistas of Georgia's expansive national park, often hailed as the "Georgian Savannah." Overnight in river side cottages near Alazani river, observe the sunrise and spend another night in Guesthouse “Savanna”.

Tour details

- Code: GH-112
- Starts from: Tbilisi
- Max. Group Size: 15 Adults
- Duration: 3 Days

Prices

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Sights to Visit

- Vashlovani National Park
- Dedoplistskaro
- Khornabuji Fortress

Itinerary

Day 1: Tbilisi – Dedoplistskaro – Eagles Canyon – Khornabudgi-Dedoplistskaro-Mijniskure

(image)

Driving (Highway): Tbilisi – **Dedoplistskaro** – 130 km, approx. 2 hours.

7:00 AM pick- up from **Tbilisi** and drive to **Dedoplistskaro** (approx. 2 hours' drive) to register in **Administration of Vashlovani Protected Areas** and obtain our permits at local border police department (the whole procedure takes about 1 hour). After registering we will head out to explore the nearby area.

First, we drive to **Eagles Canyon** and take a short walk (approx. 4 km, 1 hour) enjoy the views and if we are lucky spot some wildlife. This canyon is a famous stopover for Birdwatchers, as it's a natural habitat of **Griffon Vultures and at least 9 other species of other birds of prey**, along with **Common Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus) and Black Stork.**

The next stop is **Khornabuji Fortress (aka "Queen Tamar's Fortress")**, a 5th-century historical monument, located approximately 3 kilometers north of **Dedoplistskaro.** The castle's ruins are sited on the imposing Tsiv-Gombori Range – offering great panoramic views of Caucasus mountains an Alazani valley. Take a short hike to reach the top viewpoint and return back to continue our way towards the heart of **Vashlovani Protected Areas.**

Driving (Part Highway/Dirt Road, 4x4): **Dedoplistskaro** – Kasristskali – Mijniskure – 73 km, approx.. 3 hours. 30 min

After visiting the canyon and fortress, we will continue driving east – towards the border with **Azerbaijan.** Make a stop at **Usakhelo viewpoint** for a panoramic view of the valley and descend into **Minjiskure bay** area for overnight at park cottages near the **Alazani river.**

Day 2: Mijniskure-Bears Gorge-Pantishara-Dali Reservoir-Dedoplistskharo

(image)

Hike: Mijniskure viewpoint – 2.2 km (two-way) 40 meters up/down, approx. 1 hour.

We start this day with a short hike to nearby hills toobserve **Sunrise** (around 6:00 AM, depending on a month),that opens up spectacular views of the **Mijniskure** and surroundings. After the sunrise, we return to cottages for a quick breakfast and head out further into **Vashlovani Protected Area.**

Driving (Dirt road, 4x4): Mijniskure – Bears Gorge – Pantishara, 40 km, approx. 2 hr 45 min

One of the wonders of **Pantishara Canyon** is a **“Town” of Swallows (Delichon urbica**), built on a negative wall of the rock in the middle of the canyon. It includes several thousand nests. This so-called town was built by the swallows and it shows the manner of their col**Oni**al life. In early spring this town is occupied by swallows. Later, the swallows, returning from warm countries, are furiously fighting to get back their town. As a rule, the fight is ended with driving the swallows out.

Site of **Alesilebi** at **Datvis Khevi** ('brown bear gorge') has one more surprise for visitors – meeting with pre-historical fauna. In the deposited layers of exposed rocks, a good observer can easily notice the mollusk chitins that are well preserved. **These mollusks are the oldest habitants of Vashlovani;** they belong to the time when the local territories were covered with sea.

In the same **Datvis Khevi** you can see one more comparatively “young” pre-historical animal: in clay, hill extrudes the hardened shoulder bone of the southern elephant.

Driving (Dirt road, 4x4WD): Pantishara – Keseman – Dali Reservoir, 55 km approx. 4 hr

This relatively long ride will take you upstream of **Iori River Valley** and its Gallery Forests and Grasslands

Day 3: Dedoplistskharo - Dali Reservoir-Takhti-Tepa Mud Volcanoes-Mt. Elia-Dedoplistskaro-Tbilisi

(image)

We start this day by visiting Dali Reservoir, which is located on the way from Dedoplistskaro to the Mud Vulcanos. Takea break and look at the beautiful view of the lake.

Driving (Dirt road, 4x4): Dali Reservoir – Mud Volcanoes – Takhti-Tepa – 14 km approx. 20 min

After Dali Reservoir, continue driving to we will drive backto **Dali Reservoir** for an optional swim and head back to **Dedoplistskaro.**

Driving (Dirt road, 4x4): Mud Volcanoes – Takhti-Tepa – Mt. Elia (Dedoplistskaro) – 52 km, approx. 2 hours.

Our next stop, **Church of the Saint Ilia Tezbiteli,** dating back to the 6th Century is located on a steep slope ofmount Elia overlooking the town of Dedoplsitskaro. FamousFrench writer, **Alexandre Dumas** who visited the areaduring his travels to Caucuses region in 1858,

left a note: “There is another mountain, which is located about six miles from the castles of Queen Tamar (Khornabudji) and there is a legend as well. This mountainis called Elias Mta (Geo: “Mount of Elia”) and at the bottom, there is a salt lake. Inside the wide cave in the middle ofthe mountain there is a bell tower. According to the legend,the crow brought food for the prophet Ilia. He left his caveto his student Elise and raised to the sky from the top of the mountain.”

Driving (Highway): Dedoplistskaro – Tbilisi 130 km, approx. 2 hours.

After exploring the church – we will head back to Tbilisi,with an optional stop for a lunch.

Arrive in Tbilisi – end of the program.

Inclusions

Included

Transportation:

- 4x4WD Jeep AC vehicle during the whole trip;

Staff:

- Private English-speaking guide-driver;

Accommodation:

- 1 x overnight in Mijniskure bungalow;
- 1 x overnight in Guesthouse “Savanna”;

Meals:

- 1 x dinner at hotel, day 2.
- 1 x breakfast at hotel, day 3.

We provide camping cooking set and gas during the trip, where meals are not included.

Other:

- 2x liters of water per-person per day.

Excluded

- Air tickets
- Travel Insurance
- Meals & beverages

More Info

Additional Info

All participants **must carry a valid Passport** for registration at border police.

This itinerary is subject to cancellation due to unfavorable weather conditions, please check with your tour operator at least 7 days before starting the trip.

- Participants are expected to be casually dressed, suitable to the field conditions: wear a hat, sporting trousers, boots and carry a raincoat.
- Bring personal refillable water bottles and food with you.
- Max passengers per 4x4WD Jeep – 3 adults.

For a larger group or custom itinerary please contact us at info [at] georgianholidays.com

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation is free of charge prior 5 days of the starting day.

- The booking deposit 30 $ 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 5 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