

# TOUR DOSSIER ASPIRATIONAL TRAVEL TO GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN

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# Georgia All-in-One: a Journey through Culture, Scenic Trails, and GE-15 Coastline - 16 days



Set out on a remarkable adventure through Georgia, a country where ancient history, stunning natural landscapes, and rich cultural traditions blend seamlessly. Over the course of this 16-day journey, you'll traverse Georgia's varied terrains, from the lively streets of Tbilisi to the peaceful vineyards of Kakheti, and from the majestic peaks of the Caucasus Mountains to the tranquil shores of the Black Sea. Discover UNESCO World Heritage monasteries, centuries-old cave cities, and fortified castles that tell the tales of Georgia's storied past. Hike through verdant forests, expansive alpine meadows, and awe-inspiring mountain passes, uncovering some of the nation's most iconic natural wonders. Throughout the tour, you'll experience the renowned Georgian hospitality, indulging in delicious local dishes, fine wines, and authentic cultural traditions. This thoughtfully designed itinerary offers a harmonious mix of cultural exploration, outdoor adventure, and relaxation, ensuring a journey as diverse and captivating as Georgia itself.

#### **DEPARTURE DATES:**

04.05.2025; 04.12.2025; 04.19.2025; 04.26.2025; 05.03.2025; 05.10.2025; 05.17.2025; 05.24.2025; 05.31.2025; 06.07.2025; 06.14.2025; 06.21.2025; 06.28.2025; 07.05.2025; 07.12.2025; 07.19.2025; 07.26.2025; 08.02.2025; 08.09.2025; 08.16.2025; 08.23.2025; 08.30.2025; 09.06.2025; 09.13.2025; 09.20.2025; 09.27.2025; 10.04.2025.

#### **ITINERARY**

#### Day 1 - Tbilisi

Upon your arrival at Tbilisi International Airport, our friendly representative will warmly welcome you and arrange your transfer to the hotel. Take the evening to unwind and recover from your journey, soaking in the anticipation of the exciting adventure that awaits. Settle into your accommodation and enjoy a restful night in Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi. (D)

#### Day 2 - Tbilisi

Start your day with a hearty Georgian breakfast at the hotel, then step into the rich history and vibrant atmosphere of Tbilisi. Begin your exploration at Metekhi Church, a historic site perched on a cliff overlooking the Mtkvari River, offering stunning views of the city. Next, visit Narikala Fortress, a 4th-century stronghold that provides breathtaking panoramic vistas of Tbilisi. Stroll through the charming old streets to Anchiskhati Church, the city's oldest surviving religious structure, and then admire the architectural beauty of Sioni Cathedral, a 12th-century masterpiece. Stop by the Synagogue to gain insight into the diverse cultural and religious heritage of the city. Continue your journey at the Georgian National Museum, where you'll find a fascinating collection of artifacts that tell the story of Georgia's rich past. Afterwards, wander through the lively flea market, a treasure trove of unique souvenirs and local crafts. Wrap up your day with a leisurely walk along Rustaveli Avenue, the bustling cultural heart of Tbilisi. In the evening, delight in a welcome dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant, where you'll enjoy flavorful local dishes accompanied by live folk music and traditional dances. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

#### Day 3 - Tbilisi - Bodbe - Signaghi

Head to the picturesque Kakheti wine region, celebrated for its centuries-old winemaking heritage and scenic vineyards. Your journey begins in Signaghi, a delightful hilltop town often called the "City of Love," known for its romantic charm and breathtaking views of the Alazani Valley. Explore its cobblestone streets and take in the sight of its defensive walls with 29 historic watchtowers, a testament to its storied past. Visit the tranquil Bodbe Monastery, a revered pilgrimage site dedicated to Saint Nino, the woman who brought Christianity to Georgia in the 4th century. In the evening, immerse yourself in Georgian hospitality with a visit to a local family's home. Savor a variety of local wines and enjoy a delicious homemade dinner, experiencing the warmth and authenticity of Kakheti's culinary traditions. Overnight in Signagi. (B, D)

#### Day 4 - Signagi - Lagodekhi National Park - Telavi

After breakfast, depart for Lagodekhi National Park, a remarkable hiking destination known for its well-marked trails and untouched natural beauty. Begin your adventure on a 9-kilometer round-trip trail leading to a beautiful 6-meter Rocho waterfall, located about 5 kilometers from the Lagodekhi Protected Areas Visitor Center. The trail

is moderate and enjoyable, offering a trek through lush forests filled with fascinating plants and the possibility of spotting local wildlife. Along the way, you'll cross a river, adding a touch of adventure to the hike. The journey itself is just as rewarding as the destination, with nature providing constant interest and beauty. At the end of the trail, you'll be greeted by the spectacular sight of the waterfall, surrounded by vibrant greenery. The hike typically takes 3 to 5 hours to complete, depending on the group's pace. The guide will always adapt the tempo and distance to suit the group's preferences and fitness levels, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone. After your hike, continue to Telavi, the heart of Georgia's wine region, where a delicious dinner awaits. Overnight in Telavi. (B, D)

#### Day 5 - Telavi - Tianeti - Kazbegi

Start your day with a visit to Telavi Bazaar, a lively market where local farmers and artisans offer a variety of fresh produce, handmade goods, and regional specialties. Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the market, a true reflection of the region's agricultural heritage. Afterward, embark on the historic Georgian Military Highway, a scenic route that winds through the stunning landscapes of the Caucasus Mountains. Your first stop is the Ananuri architectural complex, a 17th-century fortress overlooking the turquoise waters of the Aragvi Reservoir. Explore the fortress and enjoy the breathtaking views of the surrounding area. Next, continue your journey with a stop at the Gudauri Friendship Monument, built in 1983 to commemorate Georgian-Russian relations. The monument's semi-circular design, perched on a cliff, offers sweeping panoramic views of the surrounding mountains, making it a perfect photo opportunity. As you drive through the picturesque ski resort town of Gudauri, you'll soon arrive in Kazbegi, a charming village nestled in the heart of the Great Caucasus Mountains. From Kazbegi, take an exhilarating jeep ride up to Gergeti Trinity Church, a 14th-century church situated at an altitude of 2170 meters. From here, you'll be treated to magnificent views of Mount Kazbek and the surrounding rugged landscapes. Overnight in Kazbegi. (B, D)

#### Day 6 - Kazbegi - Juta Valley - Kazbegi

After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive to the village of Juta, one of the highest settlements in Europe, nestled at the foot of the towering Chaukhi Massif. Upon arrival, begin a memorable five-hour trek through this breathtaking alpine landscape, often dubbed the "Dolomites of Georgia" due to its dramatic peaks and rugged terrain. As you trek, enjoy stunning views of jagged mountain tops, colorful wildflowers, and crystal-clear mountain streams that weave through the valleys. The guide will adjust the pace and distance of the hike to suit the fitness level of the group, ensuring that everyone can fully enjoy the experience. Whether you reach the furthest point of the trail or simply take in the serene beauty along the way, the journey promises to be an unforgettable adventure. After the trek, return to Kazbegi. Overnight in Kazbegi. (B, D)

#### Day 7 - Kazbegi - Mtskheta - Gori

After breakfast, depart for Mtskheta, Georgia's ancient capital. Visit Jvari Monastery, a 6th-century site with stunning views, and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its sacred history. Next, head to the Ateni Valley for a wine tasting at a local winery, where you can enjoy fine wines and traditional Georgian cuisine. Afterward, travel to Gori for the evening. Overnight in Gori. (B, D)

#### Day 8 - Gori - Uplistsikhe - Borjomi - Akhaltsikhe

In Gori, visit Uplistsikhe Cave Town, an ancient rock-carved city that once served as a key stop on the Silk Road. Explore its dwellings and temples before heading to the Stalin Museum, dedicated to the life of the Soviet leader. Afterward, travel to Borjomi, renowned for its mineral springs and beautiful park. Enjoy a relaxing walk through Borjomi Central Park before continuing to Akhaltsikhe for dinner and overnight. Overnight in Akhaltsikhe. (B, D)

#### Day 9 - Akhaltsikhe - Vardzia - Akhaltsikhe

Discover Vardzia, a remarkable cave monastery dating back to Georgia's Golden Age. With over 300 chambers carved into the cliffs, it showcases impressive medieval engineering. Afterward, return to Akhaltsikhe to visit Rabati Fortress, a restored complex featuring a museum, mosque, and castle. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Akhaltsikhe. (B, D)

#### Day 10 - Akhaltsikhe - Kutaisi

After breakfast, depart from Akhaltsikhe and head to Kutaisi, Georgia's second-largest city and a cultural center in the west. En route, stop at Prometheus Cave, a stunning natural wonder with vast chambers, stalactites, stalagmites, and underground rivers, formed over millions of years. Upon arrival in Kutaisi, visit Gelati Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Georgia's most significant spiritual landmarks. Founded in the 12th century, Gelati is famous for its intricate frescoes and its role in the country's Golden Age. Next, explore Bagrati Cathedral, another UNESCO-listed site, which once served as the royal seat. The cathedral offers sweeping views of the city and its surrounding landscapes. Overnight in Kutaisi. (B, D)

## Day 11 - Kutaisi - Mestia

Travel to Mestia, the charming gateway to the Svaneti region. On the way, stop at Enguri Dam, Europe's largest arch dam, and take in its impressive size and the stunning natural scenery surrounding it. Upon arrival in Mestia, settle into the peaceful mountain atmosphere and enjoy the picturesque views of the surrounding peaks.

Overnight in Mestia. (B, D)

#### Day 12 - Mestia

Start your day with a visit to the Mestia Museum, where you will dive into the rich culture and history of the Svaneti region. Afterward, explore one of the iconic Svanetian Towers, which have stood for centuries as symbols of the region's rugged resilience. Take a cable car ride up to Hatsvali Mountain for stunning panoramic views of Mestia and the towering peaks of the Caucasus range. For those looking for a more active adventure, enjoy a trek to the Tchalaadi Glacier. After a jeep ride to Tchalaadi Village, begin a scenic walk to the glacier. The trek takes about 3 hours and offers breathtaking views of the Chaukhi Massif and the impressive ice formations of the glacier. The guide will adjust the pace and distance to ensure the trek is suited to the group's fitness level, ensuring a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone. Overnight in Mestia. (B, D)

#### Day 13 - Mestia - Ushguli - Mestia

After breakfast, depart for Ushguli, one of the highest continuously inhabited villages in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Located at the foot of Mount Shkhara, Georgia's tallest peak, Ushguli is renowned for its stunning landscapes and its iconic Svanetian towers, which have stood for centuries as symbols of the region's resilience. Upon arrival, explore the village's charming winding paths and visit Lamaria Church, a historic chapel rich in local legend, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains. For those seeking adventure, the day includes a memorable trek near Mount Shkhara. This scenic hike, lasting around five hours, takes you through lush meadows dotted with wildflowers and pristine alpine terrain, all while offering spectacular views of glaciers and rugged mountain peaks. As always, the guide will adapt the trek to the group's energy levels and preferences, ensuring a comfortable and rewarding experience for all participants. After the trek, return to Mestia by jeep. Overnight in Mestia. (B, D)

#### Day 14 - Mestia - Batumi

Depart for Batumi, located on the picturesque Black Sea coast. Arrive in this vibrant city, renowned for its modern architecture, lush botanical gardens, and laid-back seaside atmosphere. Take some time to explore the city's unique blend of contemporary design and natural beauty. Overnight in Batumi. (B, D)

#### Day 15 - Batumi

Start your day with breakfast before diving into the vibrant atmosphere of Batumi, Georgia's coastal gem on the Black Sea. Known for its striking blend of modern architecture and historical charm, Batumi offers a unique mix of experiences. Begin with a visit to Gonio Fortress, an ancient Roman fortification dating back to the 1st century AD. Explore its well-preserved walls and learn about its significance as a key defensive and trade hub throughout history. Next, continue to Piazza Square and Era Square, where you can admire the city's European-inspired architecture, lively energy, and colorful murals. Take a leisurely stroll along Batumi Boulevard, a beautifully landscaped promenade that stretches along the coastline, offering views of the Black Sea. In the afternoon, visit the Batumi Botanical Garden, a lush paradise with diverse plant collections from around the world. With scenic walking paths and stunning viewpoints overlooking the sea, the garden is the perfect place to relax and enjoy nature. Overnight in Batumi. (B, D)

#### Day 16 - Batumi

Your driver will meet you at the hotel for your transfer to Batumi International Airport. (B)

For those looking to extend their stay, Batumi provides the perfect opportunity for additional days by the seaside. Relax on the beautiful beaches, explore more of the city's attractions, or venture into the surrounding areas for further exploration.

Alternatively, you can opt to travel back to Tbilisi by train, a scenic and comfortable journey that takes approximately 5 hours. Spend the night in Tbilisi, allowing you extra time to enjoy the city's charm before your departure from Tbilisi International Airport.

#### TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

#### Included

**Accommodation** 

Guided tours & cultural programme
English - speaking guides
Half board meals
Ground transportation
Airport transfers

## Not included

Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions

## **Practical information**

About Best of Caucasus company
How our tours are run
Contact our travel consultants

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
04/05/2025 - 04/20/2025	\$3295	\$355
04/12/2025 - 04/27/2025	\$3295	\$355
04/19/2025 - 05/04/2025	\$3295	\$355
04/26/2025 - 05/11/2025	\$3295	\$355
05/03/2025 - 05/18/2025	\$3295	\$355
05/10/2025 - 05/25/2025	\$3295	\$355
05/17/2025 - 06/01/2025	\$3295	\$355
05/24/2025 - 06/08/2025	\$3295	\$355
05/31/2025 - 06/15/2025	\$3295	\$355
06/07/2025 - 06/22/2025	\$3295	\$355
06/14/2025 - 06/29/2025	\$3295	\$355
06/21/2025 - 07/06/2025	\$3295	\$355
06/28/2025 - 07/13/2025	\$3295	\$355
07/05/2025 - 07/20/2025	\$3295	\$355
07/12/2025 - 07/27/2025	\$3295	\$355
07/19/2025 - 08/03/2025	\$3295	\$355
07/26/2025 - 08/10/2025	\$3295	\$355
08/02/2025 - 08/17/2025	\$3295	\$355
08/09/2025 - 08/24/2025	\$3295	\$355
08/16/2025 - 08/31/2025	\$3295	\$355
08/23/2025 - 09/07/2025	\$3295	\$355
08/30/2025 - 09/14/2025	\$3295	\$355
09/06/2025 - 09/21/2025	\$3295	\$355
09/13/2025 - 09/28/2025	\$3295	\$355
09/20/2025 - 10/05/2025	\$3295	\$355
09/27/2025 - 10/12/2025	\$3295	\$355
10/04/2025 - 10/19/2025	\$3295	\$355

### **PREMIUM - 4\* PACKAGE**

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
04/05/2025 - 04/20/2025	\$3595	\$575
04/12/2025 - 04/27/2025	\$3595	\$575
04/19/2025 - 05/04/2025	\$3595	\$575
04/26/2025 - 05/11/2025	\$3595	\$575
05/03/2025 - 05/18/2025	\$3595	\$575
05/10/2025 - 05/25/2025	\$3595	\$575
05/17/2025 - 06/01/2025	\$3595	\$575
05/24/2025 - 06/08/2025	\$3595	\$575
05/31/2025 - 06/15/2025	\$3595	\$575
06/07/2025 - 06/22/2025	\$3595	\$575
06/14/2025 - 06/29/2025	\$3595	\$575
06/21/2025 - 07/06/2025	\$3595	\$575
06/28/2025 - 07/13/2025	\$3595	\$575
07/05/2025 - 07/20/2025	\$3595	\$575
07/12/2025 - 07/27/2025	\$3595	\$575
07/19/2025 - 08/03/2025	\$3595	\$575
07/26/2025 - 08/10/2025	\$3595	\$575
08/02/2025 - 08/17/2025	\$3595	\$575
08/09/2025 - 08/24/2025	\$3595	\$575
08/16/2025 - 08/31/2025	\$3595	\$575
08/23/2025 - 09/07/2025	\$3595	\$575
08/30/2025 - 09/14/2025	\$3595	\$575
09/06/2025 - 09/21/2025	\$3595	\$575
09/13/2025 - 09/28/2025	\$3595	\$575
09/20/2025 - 10/05/2025	\$3595	\$575
09/27/2025 - 10/12/2025	\$3595	\$575
10/04/2025 - 10/19/2025	\$3595	\$575

## ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday

arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please <u>contact us for a quote</u>.

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > <u>Discover Unknown Georgia Svaneti 7 days (GE-08)</u>, Price from \$1,695, 7 days
- > Great Georgian Discovery with Trekking Extension 13 days (GE-11), Price from \$2,695, 13 days
- > Trekking in Georgia Kazbegi Region 8 days (GE-06), Price from \$1,695, 8 days
- > Hiking in Armenia (AM-05), Price from \$1,595, 10 days

## **HOW TO BOOK**

### **Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates**

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Best of Caucasus holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

#### **Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form**

**Online:** log on to <u>www.best-of-caucasus.com</u> and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Best of Caucasus, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@best-of-caucasus.com, or

Phone: call us on +1 (917) 259 13 33

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel category), and available upgrades.

#### **Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking**

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

#### **Step 4 - Payment**

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum \$250) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

# YOUR NOTES

On request we can organise an additional programme for you, please <u>inquire</u> about the price and availability of the optional excursions.

riease find below some space to write down your queries of comments regarding this trip.			