

## Great Georgian Discovery - 11 days

GE-03



This comprehensive 11 day tour gives you the opportunity to really get to know Georgia, its breathtaking landscapes and its friendly people. The Caucasus Mountains provide a stunning backdrop as we travel along the Georgian Military Highway to the hilltop Gergeti Trinity Church. The vineyards of Kakheti are very different yet equally beautiful. We'll also explore pretty Tbilisi, Stalin's birthplace Gori, two incredible cave cities and some of the fortresses, cathedrals and churches that have caught UNESCO's eye.

**DEPARTURE DATES:**

04.05.2024; 11.05.2024; 18.05.2024; 25.05.2024; 01.06.2024; 08.06.2024; 15.06.2024; 22.06.2024; 29.06.2024; 06.07.2024; 13.07.2024; 20.07.2024; 27.07.2024; 03.08.2024; 10.08.2024; 17.08.2024; 24.08.2024; 31.08.2024; 07.09.2024; 14.09.2024; 21.09.2024; 28.09.2024; 05.10.2024; 12.10.2024; 19.10.2024; 26.10.2024; 02.11.2024; 09.11.2024; 16.11.2024.

## ITINERARY

**Day 1 - Tbilisi**

Arrival in Tbilisi and check in to the hotel. (D)

**Day 2 - Tbilisi**

Tbilisi is one of those places which manages to retain a small town charm while successfully juggling capital city functions. The city's setting is a dramatic one, bisected by the Kura River and overlooked by hills. Take a cable car up to the Narikala Fortress, which dates from the 4th century. The compact old town below is crammed full of historic balconied mansions and ancient churches. You'll see the 13th century Methekhi Church, the 6th century Antchiskhati Church and the 12th century Sioni Cathedral for starters. A visit to the excellent Georgian National Museum will help tie it all together and a walk along Tbilisi's most important street, Rustaveli Avenue, will bring you right back to the present. Dinner and overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

**Day 3 - Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Prometheus Cave - Kutaisi**

Tbilisi hasn't always been the Georgian capital. From the 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD, Mtskheta was the seat of government and to this day remains an important place. Mtskheta has two UNESCO World Heritage sites and you'll visit both: the 6th century Djvari Church and the 11th century Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. Leaving Mtskheta, we'll travel three hours west to Kutaisi and onwards to nearby Kumistavi. There, we'll admire the wonderful collection of stalactites and stalagmites in Prometheus. Dinner and overnight in the spa resort of Tskaltubo near Kutaisi. (B, D)

**Day 4 - Kutaisi - Gelati - Bagrati - Akhaltsikhe**

Today's itinerary commences with a visit to a bazaar frequented by local farmers who bring fresh produce to sell each day. From there, we'll move on to Gelati Monastery, which dates from the 12th century, and the Bagrati Monastery which forms part of the same complex. Ownership was transferred to the Georgian Orthodox Church, so you may see services being held. Visitors are equally welcome if they simply wish to admire the distinctive architecture. Tonight's dinner and overnight accommodation is at Akhaltsikhe. (B, D)

**Day 5 - Akhaltsikhe - Vardzia - Rabati Fortress - Akhaltsikhe**

Georgia is a country where the journey is often as memorable as the destination and today is no exception. The breathtaking road that connects Akhaltsikhe to the cave complex of Vardzia is one of the most thrilling, winding its way through the dramatic canyon of the upper Mtkvari River, flanked by bare rock. Vardzia is also compelling, featuring more than 300 underground caves hewn straight from the rock to form wine cellars, churches and refectories. Back in Akhaltsikhe, we'll visit the Ethnographic Museum located in Rabati Fortress. Dinner and overnight at Akhaltsikhe. (B, D)

**Day 6 - Akhaltsikhe - Borjomi - Gori - Uplistikhe - Tbilisi**

On our way to Gori this morning, we make a stop at the resort town of Borjomi, noted for its mineral springs. We'll stretch our legs at the city's park before continuing on to Gori. The town is infamous as the birthplace of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. His humble family home now forms part of a museum complex and memorial which

also includes his private railway carriage. Via the characterful cave city of Uplistikhe, we head back to Tbilisi, where we'll enjoy dinner in a traditional restaurant accompanied by folk dancing and/or singing. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

**Day 7 - Tbilisi - Gombori - Alaverdi - Napareuli - Alaverdi - Gremi - Signagi**

Wine has been produced in Georgia for around 8000 years, making it one of the oldest wine growing regions on the planet. Today's itinerary takes us to Kakheti region's Gremi Fortress and Alaverdi Monastery, before our included wine tasting in Napareuli at the Twins Wine Cellar. The jewel in Kakheti's multi-studded crown is undoubtedly the walled city of Signagi. It's possibly the most famous wine growing town in the country and the views from its walls and towers across the surrounding valley are first class. Signagi is today's dinner and overnight stop too. (B, D)

**Day 8 - Signagi - Bodbe - Tbilisi**

Bodbe Monastery of St Nino is located only 2 km from Signagi but this delightful monastery complex feels entirely different. As well as the church, it's very pleasant to stroll amongst the flower beds and garden landscaping and find a tranquil corner despite the crowds. From here we'll take you back to Tbilisi for dinner and a tonight's accommodation. (B, D)

**Day 9 - Tbilisi - Kazbegi - Gudauri**

Though the thought of driving along the Georgian Military Highway might sound forbidding, in fact it's one of the most scenic drives in the country. At Ananuri, the castle and church form a beautiful architectural complex overlooking the Zhinvali reservoir. Continuing north, you'll see the colourful Georgian Friendship monument and perhaps pick up some locally produced honey. Passing the ski resort of Gudauri we enter the dramatic mountain landscapes of the Great Caucasus. Our destination is the 14th century Gergeti Trinity Church at Kazbegi. Its lofty position atop a hill makes this the most memorable church in the country. It's possible to hike to the top, but equally thrilling to jump in a jeep for the included (but bumpy!) ride on the potholed track which takes us to the top. At 2170m, the air has a chill to it, but a more spectacular setting you won't find anywhere. When you can drag yourself away, tonight's dinner and bed awaits in Gudauri. (B, D)

**Day 10 - Gudauri - Tbilisi**

After breakfast drive back along the Georgian Military Highway to reach Tbilisi. The rest of the day is free for you to spend at your leisure. Dinner and overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

**Day 11 - Tbilisi**

This morning, check out and depart for your transfer to the airport. (B)

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

**Included**

- [International flights](#)
- [Accommodation](#)
- [Guided tours & cultural programme](#)
- [English - speaking guides](#)
- [Half board meals](#)
- [Evening entertainment](#)
- [Ground transportation](#)
- [Airport transfers](#)

**Not included**

- [Personal travel insurance](#)
- [Optional excursions](#)

**Practical information**

- [About Best of Caucasus company](#)
- [Book with confidence - covid FAQs](#)
- [How our tours are run](#)
- [Contact our travel consultants](#)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

**COMFORT - 3\* PACKAGE**

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
04/05/2024 - 14/05/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
11/05/2024 - 21/05/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
18/05/2024 - 28/05/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
25/05/2024 - 04/06/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
01/06/2024 - 11/06/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
08/06/2024 - 18/06/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
15/06/2024 - 25/06/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
22/06/2024 - 02/07/2024	£1795	£2195	£225

29/06/2024 - 09/07/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
06/07/2024 - 16/07/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
13/07/2024 - 23/07/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
20/07/2024 - 30/07/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
27/07/2024 - 06/08/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
03/08/2024 - 13/08/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
10/08/2024 - 20/08/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
17/08/2024 - 27/08/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
24/08/2024 - 03/09/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
31/08/2024 - 10/09/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
07/09/2024 - 17/09/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
14/09/2024 - 24/09/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
21/09/2024 - 01/10/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
28/09/2024 - 08/10/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
05/10/2024 - 15/10/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
12/10/2024 - 22/10/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
19/10/2024 - 29/10/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
26/10/2024 - 05/11/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
02/11/2024 - 12/11/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
09/11/2024 - 19/11/2024	£1795	£2195	£225
16/11/2024 - 26/11/2024	£1795	£2195	£225

#### PREMIUM - 4\* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
04/05/2024 - 14/05/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
11/05/2024 - 21/05/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
18/05/2024 - 28/05/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
25/05/2024 - 04/06/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
01/06/2024 - 11/06/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
08/06/2024 - 18/06/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
15/06/2024 - 25/06/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
22/06/2024 - 02/07/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
29/06/2024 - 09/07/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
06/07/2024 - 16/07/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
13/07/2024 - 23/07/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
20/07/2024 - 30/07/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
27/07/2024 - 06/08/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
03/08/2024 - 13/08/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
10/08/2024 - 20/08/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
17/08/2024 - 27/08/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
24/08/2024 - 03/09/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
31/08/2024 - 10/09/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
07/09/2024 - 17/09/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
14/09/2024 - 24/09/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
21/09/2024 - 01/10/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
28/09/2024 - 08/10/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
05/10/2024 - 15/10/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
12/10/2024 - 22/10/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
19/10/2024 - 29/10/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
26/10/2024 - 05/11/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
02/11/2024 - 12/11/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
09/11/2024 - 19/11/2024	£1995	£2395	£345
16/11/2024 - 26/11/2024	£1995	£2395	£345

#### 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 [contact us for a quote](#).

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

- > [Discover Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan - 16 days \(CT-02\)](#), Price from £2,895, 16 days
- > [Wine and Gourmet Tour of Armenia and Georgia -13 Days \(CT-06\)](#), Price from £2,695, 13 days
- > [Georgia Wine Tour - 8 days \(GE-04\)](#), Price from £1,495, 8 days
- > [A Holiday in Georgia: from the Mountains to the Black Sea - Batumi - 10 days \(GE-10\)](#), Price from £1,495, 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 [www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk](http://www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk) 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.co.uk](mailto:info@best-of-caucasus.co.uk), or

**Phone:** call us on **+44 (0)20 30 51 76 40**

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 £100) 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.



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

Please find below some space to write down your queries or comments regarding this trip.

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