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Discover Unknown Georgia - Svaneti - 7 days

GE-08

This 7 day cultural tour of Georgia combines the country's historic capital city Tbilisi with the wild and beautiful Svaneti region. You'll begin in Tbilisi, a delightful place which straddles the River Kura. The city's old town is especially charming with its many historic mansions, ancient churches and thermal baths. Across the country, Mestia will be your base for an introduction to the mountainous Svaneti region. Known for its towers and jaw-dropping scenery, you'll have time to learn about its unique history and culture as well as take in the extraordinary views during a visit to picture-postcard Ushguli.

DEPARTURE DATES: 03.04.2027; 10.04.2027; 17.04.2027; 24.04.2027; 01.05.2027; 08.05.2027; 15.05.2027; 22.05.2027; 29.05.2027; 05.06.2027; 12.06.2027; 19.06.2027; 26.06.2027; 03.07.2027; 10.07.2027; 17.07.2027; 24.07.2027; 31.07.2027; 07.08.2027; 14.08.2027; 21.08.2027; 28.08.2027; 04.09.2027; 11.09.2027; 18.09.2027; 25.09.2027; 02.10.2027.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Tbilisi
Today your Georgian adventure begins as you arrive in the capital Tbilisi. You'll be met at the airport to transfer to your city centre hotel. Overnight Tbilisi

Day 2 - Tbilisi
Today's your chance to get acquainted with the characterful Georgian capital. Begin at the 13th century Methekhi church, one of the best viewpoints in the city, where you can appreciate the sprawling old town from across the River Kura. Crossing the bridge, we'll head up to the Narikala Fortress, a cliff top castle which dates from the 4th century and whose sturdy walls could tell a tale or two. There's another splendid view of the city from up here, so we'll take our time before continuing on to several of Tbilisi's most significant religious buildings including the 6th century Antchiskhati basilica (the oldest surviving church in the city), the mediaeval Sioni cathedral and also to one of its synagogues. After a visit to the treasury of the Georgian National Museum, there'll be an opportunity to stroll along Rustaveli Avenue, Tbilisi's main shopping street. You might also opt to experience one of Tbilisi's fabulous thermal baths. Breakfast, dinner and overnight in Tbilisi

Day 3 - Tbilisi - Mestia
It's a long drive across Georgia to reach Mestia; often the journey involves 8 hours or more on the road. But don't let that put you off: it's not only a chance to see some of the country but your destination is one of the most enigmatic and breathtakingly beautiful in Georgia. Mestia is the main tourist town in the region of Svaneti. Historically, this was a wild and remote region whose inhabitants were once feared for their banditry. Today, you'll encounter the exact opposite: a warm welcome awaits those who seek out this relatively unspoilt corner of the Caucasus. As you approach Mestia, the scenery becomes more dramatic, with stone towers providing the foreground interest to a backdrop of snow-capped peaks and Alpine meadows. Check into your hotel and take in the extraordinary view. Breakfast in Tbilisi, dinner and overnight in Mestia

Day 4 - Mestia
The town of Mestia is an attractive resort, with wooden chalets and lodges interspersed with stone properties and ancient towers. Though there are signs of modern development, it's not unusual to spot a cow ambling up the main street as you mosey up to the bakery. Off the main drag, there are plenty of cobbled side streets to explore. Your guide will give you the opportunity to climb one of the town's many stone towers and show you round the Svaneti Museum of History and Ethnography, located on the edge of town. Its displays and artefacts will help you to paint a picture of how this region has evolved and understand a little about its people, culture and traditions. From there, you'll ride the Hatsvali cable car up the mountain and take in the remarkable panorama from the upper station on Mount Zuruldi, 2347 metres above sea level and around half a kilometre higher than Mestia itself. Breakfast, dinner and overnight in Mestia.

Day 5 - Mestia - Ushguli - Mestia
If you were impressed with Mestia, you'll be blown away by Ushguli. This cluster of five small villages - Zhibiani, Chvibiani, Chazhashi, Murqmeli and Lamjurishi - nestles at the head of the Enguri gorge. Ushguli is littered with

Svaneti's distinctive towers; there's an estimated 200 in Chazhashi alone. The place has a distinctly rural feel, with plenty of farm animals around and bucolic views at every turn. The road trip up here is an adventure, with plenty of dramatic switchbacks that enable you to cross the Ughviri Pass and motor along steep-sided gorges cut by tumbling rivers. You'll have the opportunity to visit the Lamaria religious complex in Zhibiani, whose fresco-covered chapel was built in the 12th century. There'll also be plenty of time to potter around and see what gives Ushguli its charm. Breakfast, dinner and overnight in Mestia.

Day 6 - Mestia - Tbilisi
Today you'll retrace your steps to Tbilisi, a drive which will afford you plenty of time to enjoy the scenery or review the photos you took of Svaneti. In Tbilisi, there's a treat this evening: dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant where you'll be treated to a performance of folk dancing or singing. Breakfast in Mestia, dinner and overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 7 - Tbilisi
You've come to the end of a wonderful trip and we hope you've fallen for Georgia's charms during your stay. Check out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

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

Not included
Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions

Optional extras and upgrades
Stopover in Istanbul
Stopover in the Middle East

Practical information
About Best of Caucasus company
How our tours are run
Mandatory insurance - Georgia
Is it safe to travel to the Caucasus?
Contact our travel consultants

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
03/04/2027 - 09/04/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
10/04/2027 - 16/04/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
17/04/2027 - 23/04/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
24/04/2027 - 30/04/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
01/05/2027 - 07/05/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
08/05/2027 - 14/05/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
15/05/2027 - 21/05/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
22/05/2027 - 28/05/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
29/05/2027 - 04/06/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
05/06/2027 - 11/06/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
12/06/2027 - 18/06/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
19/06/2027 - 25/06/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
26/06/2027 - 02/07/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
03/07/2027 - 09/07/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
10/07/2027 - 16/07/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
17/07/2027 - 23/07/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
24/07/2027 - 30/07/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
31/07/2027 - 06/08/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
07/08/2027 - 13/08/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
14/08/2027 - 20/08/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
21/08/2027 - 27/08/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
28/08/2027 - 03/09/2027	£1645	£2045	£245

04/09/2027 - 10/09/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
11/09/2027 - 17/09/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
18/09/2027 - 24/09/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
25/09/2027 - 01/10/2027	£1645	£2045	£245
02/10/2027 - 08/10/2027	£1645	£2045	£245

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:

> Georgia All-in-One: a Journey through Culture, Scenic Trails, and Coastline - 16 days (GE-15), Price from £2,945, 16 days
> Great Georgian Discovery - 11 days (GE-03), Price from £1,995, 11 days
> Trekking in Georgia - Kazbegi Region - 8 days (GE-06), Price from £1,545, 8 days
> Hiking in Armenia - 10 Days (AM-05), Price from £1,545, 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 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, 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 BJ100) 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 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.