

# CAUCASUS TRAVEL

SINCE 1991



Culture,  
Nature,  
Adventure  
and more...

საქართველო

[www.caucasustravel.com](http://www.caucasustravel.com)



*Country of*

Dear Friends,



**Saba Kiknadze**  
CEO & Partner

It has been decades, that we have pleasure to welcome travellers from all around the world and being able to enrich them with the opportunity to experience unique moments of discovery and excitement of culture, history, nature, traditions, human relations and hospitality of Georgia and its people.

Georgia has already gained a place among the most popular destinations in the world, but it was very different in 1991 when my partners and I, sharing love of alpine adventure, established this company as an instrument to expose our beautiful country to the world and welcome true adventurers and cultural travellers... and it had been a wonderful challenge.

Back then we even had difficulties explaining where we are from;

*"... NO, not from Georgia in the United States, but Georgia, the country in the Caucasus, on the Black Sea Coast";*

*"...YES, Georgia was in the Soviet Union, but it is not a part of Russia. Georgia is an independent country with totally different culture, language, unique script and thousand's years of countable history".*

Nowadays, when Georgia is listed high on "must visit" destinations, recognized as a country of "Cradle of Wine" and counts millions of visitors each year, we still work with the same enthusiasm to sparkle interest and welcome guests from many different countries and nationalities.

Let us invite you to Georgia - an amazing country, a cluster of cultures and religions, fascinating landscapes and ancient history. The country where everyone can find something to their liking – from the snowy mountain peaks to the lush subtropical shores, from deserts to deep forests, and from the modern cities to enchanting villages.

Discover, learn and explore local cuisine and the variety of wines, cultural heritage and mystical legends, the beauty of nature and warmth of hospitality, harmony of polyphonic songs and fiery dances.

Located on the edge of Europe and Asia, at the crossroad of ancient trade routes and legendary Silk Road Georgia boasts both Mediterranean and European Culture.

Here you will come across the profound evidence of a flourishing culture, which is rich in unique architecture, mural masterpieces, mosaics and handicrafts.

We will be genuinely happy and proud to be your host and share the riches of our country.

There is one thing Georgians have nurtured over many centuries - kindness of spirit and warmth of hospitality.

So, a place awaits you at the Georgian table. Come and taste the pleasures of our country!

Welcome to Georgia!

**Saba Kiknadze**  
CEO & Partner

A blue ink handwritten signature of Saba Kiknadze, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by a few loops.

Caucasus Travel Ltd.

*P.S. This catalogue and its programs are designed to provide a comprehensive picture of Georgia for tourism professionals, tour operators, travel management companies, incentive travel, conference planners and organizers.*

*The catalogue also helps individual travellers to define their travel itineraries in Georgia.*

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**  
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*The Caucasus is a traveller's dream, full of excitement, meetings, adventures and hopefully, life-long impressions. Pristine nature, mountains that enthrall climbers, unique architecture make it one of the world's most beautiful areas to explore. Finally, it is a place which abounds in sunshine, fresh air and clean water.*



Georgia is a small area of land to the south of the Great Caucasus Range, occupying the isthmus between the Black and Caspian Seas. Georgia is bordered to the north by Russia, to the east by Azerbaijan and to the south by Turkey and Armenia.

Due to its relatively small size, (it occupies an area of only 69,700 sq/km) you can cross Georgia by car in a single day, meeting along the way steppes, semi deserts, subtropical forests and glaciers which are overlooked by peaks up to 5,000m high. The Great Caucasus Range serves as Georgia's natural border with Russia. Its highest peaks are Mt.Shkhara 5,068m, Mt.Kazbek 5,047m.

Georgians call themselves Kartveli and their country Sakartvelo, i.e. the Georgians' place. The latter name has not been in use since the 11th century when ethnically and linguistically related kingdoms in the region united to form one nation.

Orthodox Christianity, the state religion since the fourth century, has played a major part in Georgian history and culture.

In geographic terms Georgia belongs to neither Europe nor Asia; in cultural terms it is neither East nor West. It has a distinct language and distinct customs and traditions, found nowhere else in the world.

"Situated in a strategically valued location between East and West, Georgia was frequently invaded by foreign armies, its lands devastated, and its people subjugated to foreign rule and quarrelng native fiefdoms. Together with local unrests, epidemics, and droughts, the invasions disrupted the social system, depleted the population, and inflicted upon the Georgians not just foreign rule but a foreign culture. Yet, even as Georgians adopted features of other cultures, they maintained their own. Their ethnic community was like a balloon: squeezed in one place, it popped out at another, always outliving its enemies".

The Georgian language belongs to the south Caucasian language group which has very little, if anything, in common with other families of languages. The prototype of contemporary Georgian spawned a number of related languages, such as the language of the mountainous province of Svaneti - Svanuri, the language of Samegrelo - Megruli, and some others, which together with the most widespread of them, contemporary Georgian, make up the Caucasian family of languages. Foreigners say the Georgian language is extremely difficult. As for the script, here is an example **გაუმარჯოს** -(gaumarjos), meaning 'cheers', the word most often used in Georgia.

*Georgia - country of Mediterranean culture, climate and legacy, locate on the Black Sea Coastline.*



# Georgia

*A favourite story among modern Georgians relates how God came upon the Georgians only after He had parceled out all the land of the world to other nationalities. The Georgians were in a typically festive mood and invited the Creator to join them in wine and song. The Lord so enjoyed Himself that He decided to give these merry and carefree people the one spot on earth that He had reserved for Himself - the valleys and hills that lie to the south of the Great Caucasus Mountains.*



Recognizable Georgian Kingdoms were in existence from the 6th century BC. It was not until the 10th century, however, under the Georgian dynasty of the Bagratians, that an independent and powerful Georgian-dominated confederal state, which united both East and West Georgians, as well as Muslims and Armenians, was able to shake off foreign domination.

After a "Golden Age" of cultural and political development that lasted until the 13th century, Georgia entered a long period of political isolation as fratricidal conflict between contenders to the Georgian throne tore the kingdom apart. This was brought to an end in the 19th century when the Georgians, reduced to little over half a million by disease, wars, emigration and slave trading, were made subjects of the expanding Russian empire.

The modernizing Imperial Russian state created a new urban culture in Georgia, and an active nationalist intelligentsia, inspired by European ideas of freedom and self-reliance, led a campaign for greater Georgian autonomy. With the collapse of the Russian empire in October 1917, Georgia joined a federal state with the neighbouring states of Armenia and Azerbaijan, but its quick disintegration in May 1918 led to the declaration of Georgian independence.

After almost three years as a moderate social democratic state, the Red Army invaded Georgia in February 1921. It was initially incorporated into the Soviet Union as part of the Transcaucasian Federal Soviet Socialist Republic. Georgia was one of the 15 union republics that formed the Soviet Union, which lasted from 1936 - 1991. Georgia officially declared its independence on April 9th, 1991.

*Stephen F. Jones*

## Modern Georgia

- 1991 - Declaration of Independence
- 1991 - Presidency of Z.Gamsakhurdia
- 1992 - 2005 E.Shevardnadze - Chairman of the State Council of Georgia
- 1992 - Georgia became the UN member
- 1992 - 1993 War in Abkhazia and separatist activities in South Osetia
- 1992 - Joining NATO Cooperation Council
- 1992 - Becoming the member of The Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- 1993 - Signing of the Baku-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline project
- 1995 - Adoption of new constitution of Georgia
- 1995 - 2003 Presidency of E.Shevardnadze
- 1999 - Becoming the member state of the Council of Europe
- 2000 - Becoming the member of WTO (World Trade Organization)
- 2003 - The Rose Revolution and first bloodless change of power
- 2004 - 2013 Presidency of M. Saakashvili, beginning of crucial reforms
- 2008 - Russian Georgian war and occupation of Georgian territories
- 2013 - Presidency of G.Margvelashvili
- 2016 - Deep and Comprehensive Free-Trade Agreement with EU
- 2017 - Visa liberalization to Schengen area and EU Member countries

*St. George - the patron Saint and protector of the country. According to one opinion the name of Georgia is linked to the name of St. George.*



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**A**ccording to the Georgians' favorite story of how The Lord gave to Georgians the land He had reserved for Himself - it must be admitted, that the country occupies territories which are favorably rich and diverse. Located close to The Fertile Crescent, with its natural barriers of The Black Sea and The Caucasus Mountains, this area has played the role of Fertile Refuge of "The Cradle of Civilization".

# Surfing in Timelines



## Timelines

- Cretaceous period dinosaur foot print
- 1.8 million years old Homo Erectus Georgicus
- 6000 BC, earliest archaeological evidence of wine production
- 3000 - 2000 BC, development of metallurgy and blacksmith
- 2000 BC, Mythical journey of Argonauts to Colchis
- 7th-4th cc BC - Greek colonization
- 4th cc BC, creation of East Georgian Kingdom of Iberia, with capital Mtskheta
- 2nd cc BC, Silk Road - the ancient network of trade routes
- 1st cc BC-1st cc AD Roman invasion and conquest
- 1st cc AD, first preachers of Christianity in Georgia - Apostles Simon, Matheus and Andrew
- 337 - Adoption of Christianity as state religion
- 5th cc - Tbilisi, the new capital of Country
- 5th cc - Autocephaly of Georgian Orthodox church
- 5th-6th cc, Persian - Byzantine rivalry;
- 7th-11th cc, Arab conquest
- 10th cc beginning of the unification of Georgia under Bagrationi Royal Dynasty
- 11th-13th cc, The Golden Ages
- 13th-14th cc, Decadence of Georgian Kingdom and Mongol invasions

### Prehistory

till 3000 B.C.

#### The Footprint of Dinosaurs



The limestone proof that dinosaurs once walked here on the edge of the prehistoric ocean, which covered almost the whole territory of the country.

#### Homo Erectus at Europe's Threshold



The remains of Hominid materials discovered in Dmanisi are the oldest and the most primitive in Eurasia. It belonged to Homo erectus who lived here 1.8 million years ago.

#### Megalithic Constructions



Mysterious Cyclopean Structures dating back to the Bronze age represent huge ruins of Fortresses, settlements and cultic buildings.

### Prehistory

till 3000 B.C.

#### Early Metallurgy



Archaeological discoveries reveal the evidence of well developed metallurgy throughout the entire Georgian territory. Ancient Georgian metallic artefacts are found spread across the entire Middle East, Mesopotamia, Syria and the Anatolian Kingdoms.

#### The Ancient Gold Mine



The amount of golden treasure and its artistic value and fine work is proof of a scientist's claim, that Sakdrisi was the oldest known gold mine in the world. (3000 BC)

#### Cradle of Wine



Being The Cradle of Wine, Georgia has an 8,000 year history of continuous wine making tradition. The earliest traces of viticulture and wine were found in the Neolithic settlements; up to 500 indigenous grape varieties are still cultivated here.

### Ancient Age

3000 B.C.-476 A.D.

#### Ancient Cities



The ruins of ancient cities dating back to the 1st m BC include well preserved streets, squares, drainage systems, stairways and other structures including temples, pharmacies, theatres etc.

#### Prometheus (Amirani)

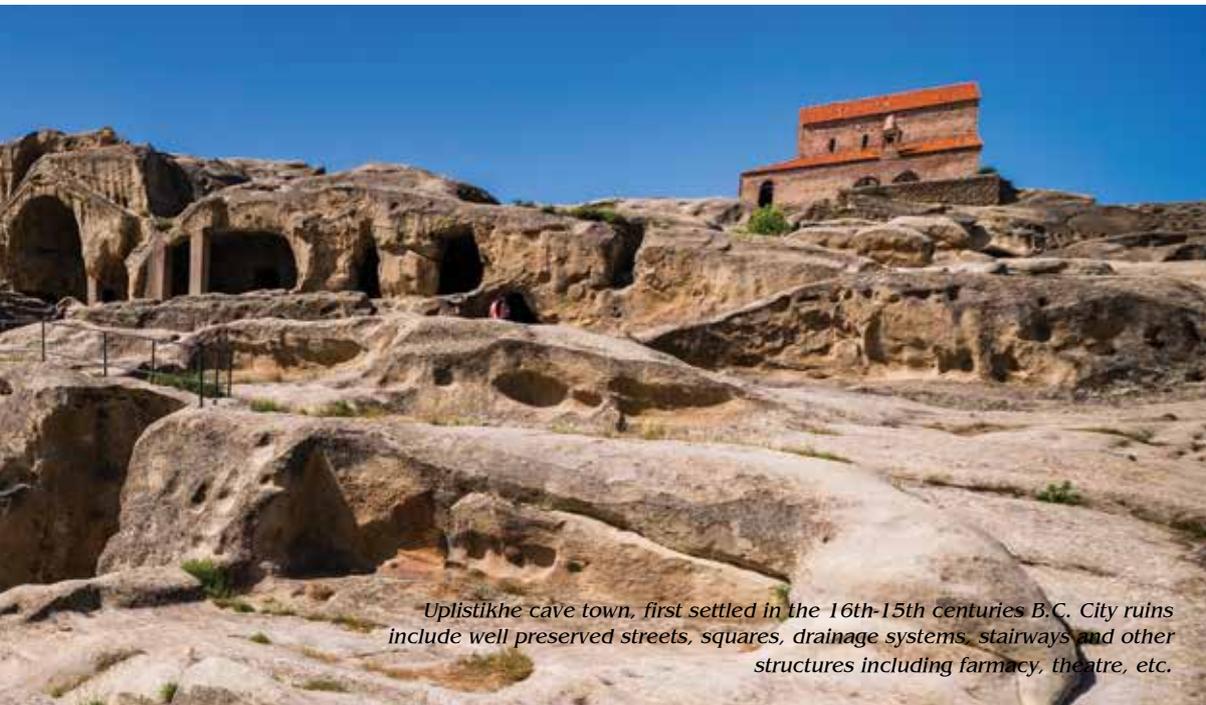


Prometheus (Amirani) was punished by the Gods for bringing fire to humans and was chained on the peak of The Caucasus Mountains.

#### The treasures of Colchis



Numbers of artifacts, precious objects and fine samples of golden treasure confirm the existence of a flourishing culture in the settlement of Colchis.



*Uplistikhe cave town, first settled in the 16th-15th centuries B.C. City ruins include well preserved streets, squares, drainage systems, stairways and other structures including pharmacy, theatre, etc.*

**G**eorgia, because of its strategic geopolitical location, was constantly engaged in numerous battles, defending its borders from enemy invasions. Georgia endured 70 years of Soviet Communist repressions and horror. Despite all the devastation, loss and hard times, the country's resilience proved true, rebuilding and surviving and carefully maintaining its national identity, culture and pride.

### Ancient Age

3000 B.C.-476 A.D.

#### The Journey of Argonauts



*33 centuries ago Argonauts started their mythical journey to The Kingdom of Colchis to capture The Golden Fleece.*

#### Medea and Medicine



*It's believed, that medicine comes from the name of Medea, daughter of The King of Colchi, famous for her healing power.*

#### Antique city of Vani



*Excavations in Vani revealed the traces of rich city life with public buildings, sanctuaries and sacrificial grounds.*

#### Roman Influence



*The best example of Roman-Byzantine architecture is Gonio Fortress with 18 towers and ruins of civil buildings.*

### Medieval Age

476 A.D.-1492

#### Christianity as a State Religion



*In 337 Christianity was declared as a state religion; the starting point of Georgian ecclesiastic life and of the development of Georgian Christian Architecture.*

#### The Georgian Academies



*The Georgian academies were the biggest spiritual, cultural, educational scientific and philosophical centers, appearing in different parts of the country, and even outside its borders. The Academies taught geometry, mathematics, music, rhetoric, grammar, philosophy, astronomy and more.*

#### The Renaissance of Georgian Culture



*In 11th-13th cc, the kingdom of Georgia reached the peak of its power and development. The period attests to a flourishing culture. Architectural masterpieces were built, while mural painting, iconography and poetry all reached new artistic value.*

### Medieval Age

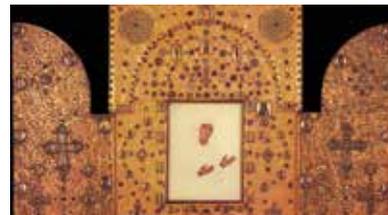
476 A.D.-1492

#### The Knight in the Panther's Skin



*The poem was written in the 12th century by the poet Shota Rustaveli and often is considered as Georgia's national epic. It has been highly praised by literary critics and was translated into more than 50 languages.*

#### A masterpiece of Goldsmith



*Georgian goldsmithing reached the peak of artistic mastery and Khakhuli icon is its best example. The face and hands of the virgin is the masterpiece of Georgian cloisonné enamel.*

#### Persian Influence



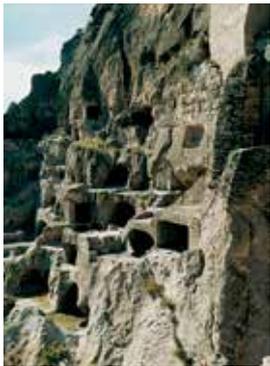
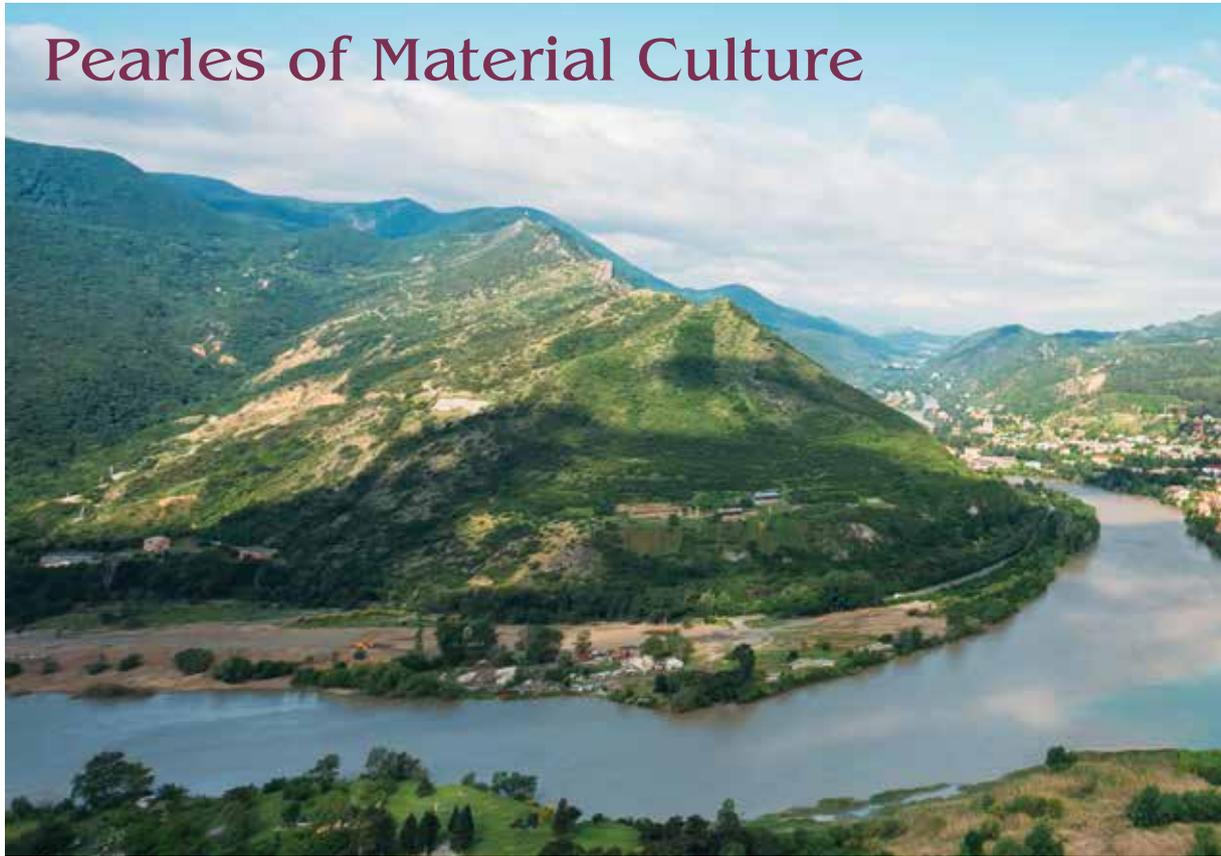
*Even invasions had their positive effects; the Persian cultural influence can be seen in the poetry, painting and elements of architecture.*

### Modern Age

- 15th -17th cc - Ottoman-Iranian conquest
- 1783 - Protectorate Treaty With Russia
- 1802 - Russian annexation
- 1811 - Annulation of Georgian Orthodox Church autocephaly By Russia
- 19th cc - significant cultural, industrial and social developments
- 1918 - 1921 - Establishment of first Democratic Republic of Georgia
- 1918 - Establishment of Tbilisi State University, first University in Caucasus
- 1921 - Red Army invasion and Soviet Anexation
- 1925 - Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and Industrialization
- 1935-1938 - Political Repressions and beginning of National movements
- 1941-1945 - II World War - Georgia contributes almost 20% of its male population to the Soviet war efforts
- 1954 - Political repressions and beginning of National and dissident movements
- 1956 - Manifestation - massacre of 9th March, soviet troops opened fire against peaceful demonstrates
- 1978 - Street demonstrations, to protect the Georgian language status
- 1988 - Demonstration conected with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Democratic Republic
- 1989 on 9th of April - Soviet troops break up a peaceful demonstration, as a result 16 people were killed and thousand poisoned.

**G**eorgia has an exceptionally rich cultural heritage. There are 12,000 historical monuments spread throughout the country. Over 5,000 monuments are protected by the government and four of them are included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO. From the archeological sites and antic settlements, to the cave towns and monasteries, churches, fortresses and laic building.

# Pearles of Material Culture



A great number of architectural monuments, churches, fortresses, communal buildings, and ruins of palaces provide evidence of a rich historical past and cultural heritage of the Georgian people. Two major forms of ecclesiastic building developed in Georgia: basilica and the central domed structure which evolved into many complex variations, such as "free cross" church and the Tetraconch Church, perhaps the best example of the artistic triumph.

**Vardzia Cave Town** - One of the remarkable monuments constructed during Georgian Golden Ages, in the Samtke-Javakheti region by King Tamari. The Rock-hewn complex was founded in the 12th - 13th cc. Initially planned as a town-fortress, the complex became a well-fortified monastery, which had a significant role in political, cultural, educational and spiritual life of the country.

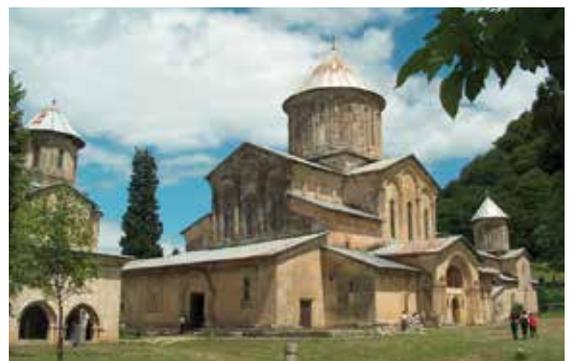


The mosaics of Gelati Monastery (12th cc), is masterpiece of Georgian Renaissance and shows the strong influence of Byzantine Art.

**Gelati Monastery** complex was built in a period of political strength and economic growth of the country and was one of the biggest religious, educational, scientific and phylosophical centers. The complex includes the Cathedral of the Virgin, the churches of St. George and St Nicolas, belfry, gates and the building of the academy. The complex is the burrial place of King David the Builder.



*Gelati is a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



Georgian mural painting was developing from early in the medieval period and reached its height in the Golden Age. It's distinguished by selecting religion scenes, unique use of colors and methods.

**Khertvisi fortress (10<sup>th</sup>c)**  
The best sample of military architecture of middle ages.

**Last Supper. Damiane**  
Mural painting of Ubisi (14<sup>th</sup>cc)  
Frescoes, with influence of Byzantine school, represent Old and New Testament scenes and martyr of Saint George, the patron of the country.



# Mtskheta

Just 30 minutes drive from the center of Tbilisi will get you to Mtskheta, famous for its historical and architectural monuments, as well as its beautiful surroundings.

At the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers, one of the oldest towns and the cultural and religious center of Georgia, Mtskheta, has been populated since the second millennium BC. From the third century BC until the fifth century AD, it was the capital of the eastern Georgian kingdom of Iberia. It is thought that the name "Mtskheta" comes from the name for the "father of all Georgians, the son of Kartlos, Mtskhetos." The oldest monument of Mtskheta, the "Bridge of Pompeus" (65 BC) built by Romans to conquer the country,



**Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (11th century)**, "Life-Giving Pillar" (in translation), is the main church of Mtskheta and the essence of the pride and admiration Georgians feel for their 1,500 year-old Christian history. It is a sacred place where fragments of the robe of Christ are kept. An enormous cedar tree grew from the place where legend claims Christ's was buried. This place was chosen as a foundation to build the church; the magic tree used to make construction pillars. Being one of the best examples of Georgian renaissance church architecture, Svetitskhoveli served as the location for the coronation and burial of Georgian kings.



**Shiomgvi Monastery Complex (6th c)**  
Shio was one of the 13 Syrian fathers from Antioch who established monasteries and strengthened Christianity in Georgia. Near the 6th c. church there was a dark cave where he lived and where he is buried. In the 11th century a church was built over Shio's tomb. Another church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary was erected by king David the Builder. The refectory was built in the 12th century. At the end of the 12th century a complicated water supply system was built. Crossing 7 km of rocky hills spring water finally arrived in monastery complex.

Mtskheta is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a living museum, with many architectural and historical monuments. All programmes in this catalogue provide opportunities for sightseeing in Mtskheta

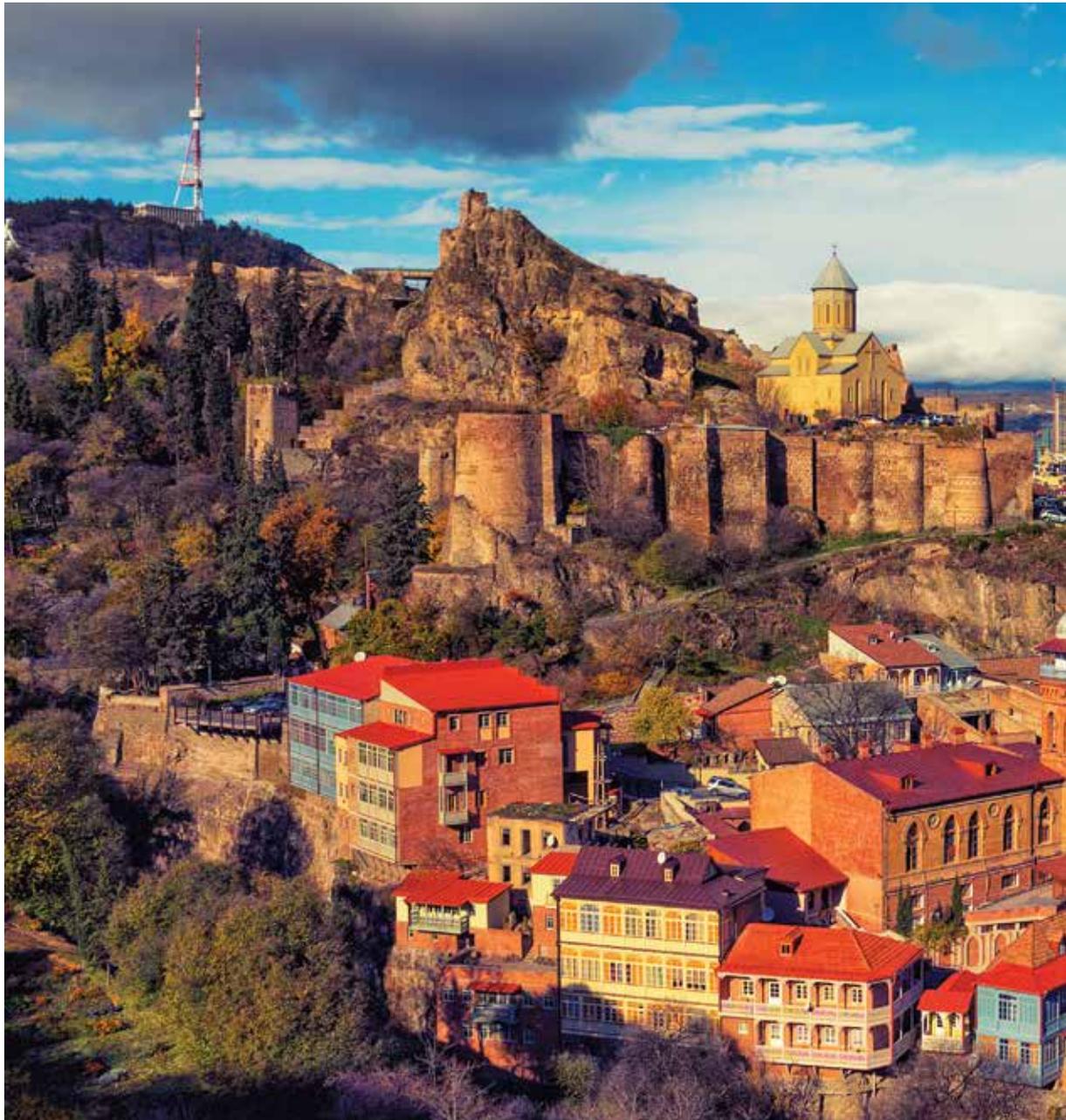


Situated on the top of the hill overlooking the old capital, **Jvari Church (6th-7th c)** is a unique example of early Christian architecture. It was built on the site where one of the first Christian crosses in Georgia was erected.



*Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, the place where the Robe of Christ is kept*

**T**here is a legend as to how the city was founded: In Mtskheta (Ancient Capital), King Vakhtang Gorgasali let his hawk loose one day and it chased after a pheasant. The King waited. He could not see the hawk, nor the pheasant. He followed the path that the hawk had taken down the valley. At the bottom of the valley flowed steaming waters, with the colour of sulphur. The pheasant had drowned and the hawk sat above. Enchanted with the source of the hot waters, the King founded the city in the valley called Tbilisi which means "warm" in Georgian.



In the 19th century, life in Tbilisi or "Tiflis" flourished. The old town was renewed. The city began to expand. Elegant three-four story mansions were built. The first theatre and opera house were open to the public. Here, one could feel the influence of Russia, France, Britain, Germany and Italy. Foreign languages were spoken and European literature was admired. The arts advanced and were highly appreciated. A new generation of Georgian writers and thinkers emerged. Tolstoy, Lermontov, Dumas, Pushkin and others were the frequent visitors of Tbilisi's theatre, opera, sulfur baths and other meeting places of Georgian society.



*Metekhi church (XII c) and wooden balconies overlooking Mtkvari River.*

*Monument to King Vakhtang Gorgasali*



# Capital City - Tbilisi

*The Old Town, called Kala, developed within the walls of a citadel and reached the banks of the Mtkvari River. It represents a wonderful mixture of winding streets, endless snaking alleyways, narrow lanes, passages, steps, arriving at unexpected squares and courtyards.*

*A blend of cultures, a smell of spices, different ethnic groups meeting on street corners, different faiths sharing the same courtyards...this is Tbilisi, the city that has been dominated by traders, warriors, tyrants and dictators in turn. Take a walk around the Old Town and breathe in the living past. Visit its bustling markets, the ancient sulphur baths, and its magnificent churches. Gain a feel for the crossroads of the Caucasus. Tbilisi - a town which conquers you with increasing fascination and lodges in your heart forever.*



Even in wintertime, while mild and still sunny, Tbilisi looks beautiful, wrapped in a white blanket of the snow.

Each season has its own charm and makes Tbilisi so variable and fascinating. Spring fills it up with colorful flowers. Summer gives the city a glow with plenty of sun and heat. Winter wraps it with soft snow and Autumn adorns it with golden colors;



Tbilisiba - Tbilisi city festival, taking place every October, is a great gathering of Georgians and guests for enjoyable events, performances, food and shopping.

The city offers a large variety of shopping malls, modern brand shops, small boutiques and outdoor markets; including carpet shops and souvenir shops, offering traditional craft works. The flea-market and vernissage on the "Dry Bridge" is a must place to visit for art, craft and antiquity lovers.

*Discover the hidden treasures of Abanotubani - the district of bathhouses*



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**T**bilisi does not know whether the western winds took it to the East or eastern winds took it to the West. It knows only one thing: it cannot be uprooted. When it moves forward, something pulls it back, and when it moves back, something pushes it forward....A thousand winds wrestle with it, as though it stands at the cross-roads of the world. It sailed from the East but did not reach the West - it stopped somewhere between the two... Is she a desired maiden? If so, she has had many suitors: Greeks, Romans, Turks, Persians, Khoresmians, Saracens, Arabs, Mongols, Russians. She did not yield to any of them.

Grigol Robakidze  
(Georgian Writer)

# Tbilisi



Tbilisi became the great place for those who are fond of nightlife; Nowadays, Tbilisi is considered to be one of the best clubbing cities in Eastern Europe, where the parting culture has become a New-Age life-style.

Tbilisi is a city born of relaxation and warmth – its wooden balconies, churches, cafes and bath houses have served as a home away from home. Firstly for traders and camel caravans of the Silk Road, then more recently to the artists, thinkers and tourists exploring its centuries old districts, streets and squares.

Tbilisi is the ageless city. Here, child or adult, teenager or retired, will be warmly welcomed and will find a place to love and enjoy.

Tbilisi is growing and expanding. Nowadays it is the modern city with new districts, fashionable buildings and recreation areas. Every year it opens itself more and more for new world visitors.

*The doors of its numerous cafés, restaurants, bars and pubs are always open to welcome visitors*

While walking in Tbilisi you will find a great number of small and large restaurants and cafés offering traditional dishes as well as fusion. The Georgian restaurants compete to offer exquisite interpretation of elaborated dishes made of local ingredients. Additionally, there are restaurants offering European and Indian dishes, as well as Chinese and Japanese cuisine.



Tbilisi, seeking to find its place on the fashion map, is proud to host "Tbilisi Fashion Week" and "Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Tbilisi". Both events attract great attention of local designers, stylists and photographers and have lots of international guests.



# City that Loves You



**T**bilisi today is a rapidly increasing modern city with a vibrant cultural life. Its museums, galleries and exposition areas offer numerous exhibitions and cultural events. Tbilisi Concert Hall, The Opera House and theatres host local and international groups.

Cultural life of Tbilisi is full of events and festivals. Tbilisi Open Air is an annual international music festival, with the emphasis on electronic and rock music. Art-Geni festival, mainly dedicated to Georgian Folk music is accompanied by exhibitions of local crafts. International Classical Music Festival 'Night Serenades' attracts the classic music lovers. Tbilisi also hosts "CinéDOC-Tbilisi" - the International Festival of Documentaries, International Theatrical Festival and others.

A number of museums welcome visitors with its great exhibits: The National Museum of Georgia is one of the oldest museums of the country. Its treasures contain a big number of unique objects from the second half of the III millennium B.C. through XIX c. A.D. The National Museum of Fine Arts and its collection of Icons and religious treasure, The Tbilisi Historical Museum -Carvasla (caravanserai), The Open Air Ethnographical Museum, The State Museum of Folk and Applied Art, The National Gallery, The Georgian State Museum of Theatre, Music, Cinema and Choreography - The Art Palace, The E. Akhvlediani House Museum, The Silk Museum, The Soviet Occupation Museum and many others offer timeless journeys into Georgia's rich history.



*Tbilisi Jazz festival together with Black Sea Jazz Festival is the main jazz event of the country.*



*Numerous Galleries and exhibition areas offer a wide choice of interesting Exhibitions of Georgian Artists and guests of capital.*

*Nino Ananiashvili,  
National Artist of Georgia,  
former Prima Balerina  
of Bolshoy, New York  
Metropolitan and worldwide  
highly prized artist, director of  
the State Ballet of Georgia*



*Tbilisi boasts a very interesting theatrical scene. Among Tbilisi theatres there are: Opera and Ballet Theatre, Rustaveli National Theatre, Marjanishvilli State Academic Theatre, Griboedov Theatre, the Basement Theatre, Royal district Theatre, Theatre of Film Actors, Freedom Theatre and others, as well as, Reso Gabriadze's Puppet Theatre and its satirical adult puppetry production.*





# Sheraton®

METECHI PALACE HOTEL  
TBILISI



## THE SHERATON METECHI PALACE HOTEL – RE-OPENING 2018

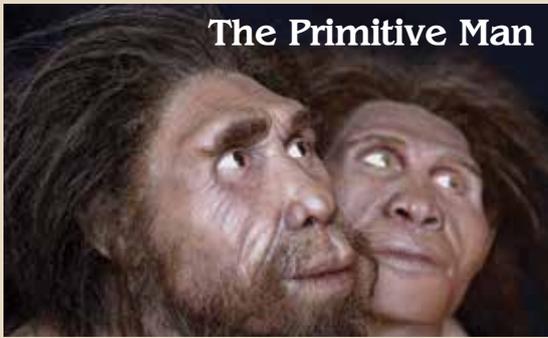
The first 5 star international hotel in the entire Caucasus region opening in 1997, located in the heart of the historic center of Tbilisi. The hotel is managed by Marriott International, one of the world's leading hotel management companies.

The Sheraton Metechi Palace, Tbilisi's iconic five star hotel is to be dramatically transformed by a major investment, which will allow the hotel to be restored to its full glory. To facilitate the \$50 million refurbishment program to take place, the hotel is closed and we will be delighted to host you at the city's signature hotel after re-opening.

**The hotel's guest rooms will be completely re-designed. The hotel will feature 220 luxurious guest rooms, club rooms and suites.** The landmark hotel will be upgraded with state of the art fitness and spa facilities, as well as new restaurants, bars and an exclusive club lounge.

The hotel's conference and events center will be further expanded, offering the biggest Ballroom in the city, 12 meetings rooms with total area 2000sqm. The Hotel will be able to host from small to big conferences, meetings, exhibitions, private dinners or Gala events with its upgraded facilities, the latest amenities and the signature services of the Sheraton brand.





## The Primitive Man

## at Europe's Threshold

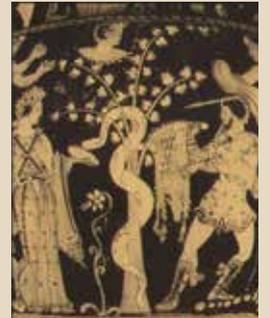
*Dmanisi, the site of a medieval town located at the confluence of two rivers has been registered as an archaeological site in 1960 since excavations began there in 1936. The site is of major importance for research into the origin of man, his evolution and settlement. In 1991, archaeologists unexpectedly came across the remains of an ancient man. In 1999 two hominoid skulls were discovered. The research confirmed that the Dmanisi remains are the oldest and the most primitive in Eurasia. On the basis of archaeological and paleontological discoveries and the hominoid materials, scholars dated the Dmanisi site to 1,7 - 1.8 million years ago.*

## The Myth of Argonauts

35 centuries ago the Argonauts started their mythical Journey to capture The Golden Fleece. Jason's story predated Homer's Odyssey and describes events which have taken place in The Golden Age. "Here in Georgia the sacred place of the bull cult protected by its snakes, in the land where the ram was held sacred and the fleece was used to gather gold, was further striking evidence for the truth of the tale. For me, that moment on the muddy temple mound near Kobuleti was the end of the search, as it must have been for Jason, close on thirty-three centuries earlier."

Tim Severin

*How does the legend of the Argonauts end? King Aetes seemed invincible... But Medea, the charming princess famous for her healing powers, fell in love with Jason. It was only with her help that the Argonauts managed to overcome their challenges and seize the treasure of Colchis.*



*Medea cast a spell on the snake and put it to sleep, Jason takes the Golden Fleece*

## Georgian Blue Tablecloth



Georgian "Blue tablecloth" of unforgettable indigo color, decorated with amazing birds, fish and deer, flowers and many other beautiful figures each with its unique symbolic meaning, has been an integral part of Georgian culture for three centuries.



The tablecloth was granted the status of UNESCO material monument

## Georgian Script - One of the 14 in the World



Georgian alphabet is in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



## ქართული დამწერლობა

The Georgian alphabet has its own independent place among world alphabets and is one of 14 existing scripts in the world. The Georgian scripts are the three writing systems used to write the Georgian language: Asomtavruli, Nuskhuri and Mkhedruli. Although the systems differ in appearance, all three are unicas, their letters share the same names and alphabetical order, and are written horizontally from left to right.

## Georgian Polyphonic Singing

Its textures and vocal timbres sound mystical. Much of the music defies the conventions of harmony and counterpoint, as voice-leading Georgian singing is a polyphonic tradition, which means that the voices sing in multi-part, usually unaccompanied. The songs contain three, or even four, independent melodic lines. Each line functions with great melodic and harmonic independence. For its uniqueness, Georgian polyphonic singing dates back to the ancient times and was, and even nowadays is, an essential part on every stage of human life. The songs accompanied every activity, festivity and leisure time. There were songs for labor while working on agricultural fields or vineyards; lullabies, songs for wars, illness, misery and even loss, when someone dear passed by... Polyphonic singing predates Christianity. After its adoption, the masterpieces of Ecclesiastic music choral music were created.

Each region of the country had its unique polyphonic tradition and characteristics: Svan music is lofty and proud as mountain folk itself; Megrelian music is full of lyricism and refinement. In the songs of the Guria region the male voice performs in a very high laryngeal register. City folklore is an integral part of the Georgian folk music. It was partly the mixture of Georgian folklore and oriental tunes of musical instruments "zurna" and "duduk". Another trend is "Tbilisi songs" developed under the influence of European music; it was often performed under guitar accompaniment, and was mostly romantic, about love and women...



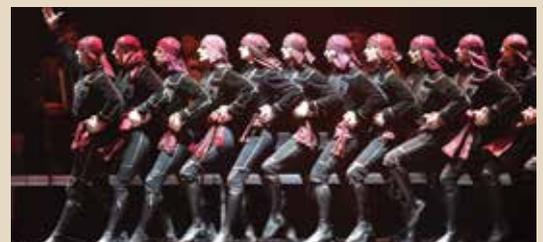
Georgian polyphonic songs were declared as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



## The Breathtaking Georgian Folk Dances



Georgian dances represent a live history book expressing the centuries of Georgian art, culture and tradition. Each dance portrays life of the region in which it originated, and thus is diverse and unique. The mountain dances, such as Khevsuruli, Kazbeguri, or Mtiuluri, are sharply different from some valley dances such as Adjaruli and Davluri. The beautiful costumes, rhythm of movement, and sound of traditional musical instruments blend into one single harmony. Don't miss Georgian National Ballet Sukhishvilebi, Erisioni, Rustavi and others.



## Modern Cloisonné Enamel Art



The tradition of cloisonné enamelwork has deep roots in Georgia. The collection of medieval cloisonné enamels, kept in local museums represents high artistic standards of this particular art. Today cloisonné enamelwork has

a renewed development in Georgian contemporary art. This technique has unlimited possibilities, not only in terms of following old traditions but also in contributing to modern Art and hence, helping to create a more beautiful, human, emotional and artistic world.

## Niko Pirosmani

"Far beyond Georgia, by virtue of his genius and humanity, belongs to world art".

Among the most remarkable, self-taught painters who had no professional training, using simple techniques and depicting the world on a canvas, seen by their unsophisticated eyes, is a Georgian painter Niko Pirosmanashvili.

In Pirosmani's paintings ancient traditions, sense of humour, great affection for his characters and the nature blend in living reality of pre-revolution Georgia and impress viewer with their depth, power and sincerity.



"Actress Margarita", a French dancer who came to Georgia in 1905, became an inspiration for many romantic legends and poems. Niko Pirosmani was so charmed by her beauty that he gave her, literally, a sea of flowers and the painting was born.

## Architecture - Mirror of History

Soviet architectural era's main streams of Brutalism, Constructivism, Soviet/Stalinist Classicism, Functionalism, Soviet Modernism, is well displayed in Tbilisi and other main cities of Georgia.

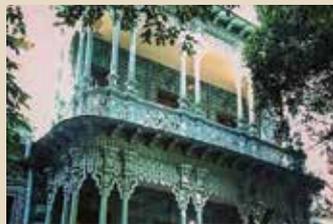


Georgia is real "Park of Wonder" for travelers interesting in architecture. They would surf through different styles and types of manmade structures, reflecting different times, religions, social formations - starting from ancient wooden dwelling houses of "Darbazi" and Dwelling/Defence Towers in remote mountain villages, ending with "l'état de l'art" modern buildings.

Tbilisi is the excellent example of how architecture can be influenced by different cultures and still keep its authentic style. European style and local traditions are united in harmony. Buildings of pseudo-Gothic, -Mauritanian, -Baroque, -Rococo, Art-nouveau, Traditional Georgian architectural styles are scattered throughout cities of Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi.

19th century regular planning of Tbilisi, with buildings of different styles and times, form an intricate city organism, united by the unique "Tbilisian spirit" and, despite its certain eclectic character, combines it into an organic indivisible integrity.

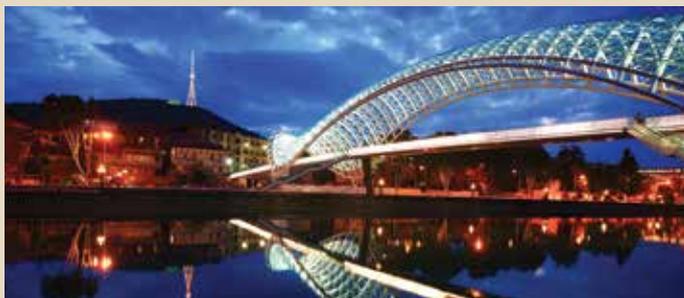
Privileged location of Tbilisi, as a "city - bridge" between two continents, helped to bring Art Nouveau inspired architecture, an unquestionable image of internationalism and modernity that was called "Modern Style" into Georgia. Even though Art Nouveau was imported, the Georgians transformed it into an art movement they could call their own, incorporating local elements. Often Art-Nouveau building facades are hiding vintage Georgian balconies.



Despite of standards and restrictions existed during postwar soviet time, Georgian architectures were able to create interesting and ambitious projects. Outstanding examples, on local and international scale, are Ministry of Roads, Laguna Vere, "Expo Georgia" etc.



Contemporary, modern architecture in Georgia is evidence of a dynamic transformation of the Country. Glass and steel buildings, geometric shapes, modern structures arise beside old buildings and perfectly coexist with them.



## ...a place, where east and west converge

Georgia's position at the crossroads of the eastern and western worlds puts her in contact with the countries of Asia Minor and the Mediterranean, the Hellenist and Roman empires, Iran, Turkey, Russia and Europe. Georgian art culture appeared to be a unique expression of the many worlds around it. The colour and richness typical for Georgian art are expressed in soaring architectural monuments and splendid wall paintings that inspired poetry, polyphonic songs and elegant dancing.

Characteristic features of Georgian architecture are laconism and simplicity of forms, efficient design, harmonious proportions, grandeur combined with perfection, delicate ornamentation, light hues of colour, and a perfect harmony with the surrounding landscapes.

Georgian murals are particularly interesting. The Georgian style of painting, based on Byzantine traditions, grew as an original individual school which reached its peak in the 10th-13th centuries. Georgian folkdances and polyphony singing betrays its origin in the far past. This hundred years old tradition is still a way to express Georgian spirit and is admired by all generations.



Samtavisi Cathedral (11th c)

### The Soul of Georgia

This program gives a flavor of the country

Cultural tour (15 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### The Pilgrimage Route

Visit the most important religious and historic monuments of Georgia

Cultural tour (15 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### The Land of the Golden Fleece

You will explore the land where the myth of Argonauts was acted out

Cultural tour with 1 day hiking (12 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Explore the Secrets of the Ancient Land

Reveal the secrets of the ancient country and learn more about new archaeological discoveries

Archaeological tour (12 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### The Hidden Corners of Georgia

In search of ethnographical diversity

Ethnological tour (15 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### The Kingdom of Towers

The land of century old dwelling and watch towers, fortified villages and fortresses

Cultural tour with 1 day hiking (15 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Caucasus Mountain Life

A trip to Georgia's most intact province – Tusheti (Tusheti National Park)

Cultural tour with 3 days hiking (8 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Georgia in Objective

Traverse Georgia in search of the best shot

Photographical tour (15 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Life in Colors and Ornaments

Meet local craftsmen, visit artist studios and attend on workshops

Craft and Art tour (8 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### In Love and Sorrow with Sounds of Music

Enjoy magnificence and beauty of melodies of different regions

Musical tour (10 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Georgian City Life – Day & Night

We invite you to feel the rhythm of life in Georgia today

Culture and Entertainment (9 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Seasons: Low Good Best

Detailed information on the programmes are available upon request



*Unspoilt nature, original architecture, ancient customs and craftsmanship combine to impress the visitor with the wealth of Georgian culture. Many provinces in Georgia have remained largely unaffected by the pace of modern civilization.*

***This programme has been designed to give the visitor as complete picture of the culture, history, ecology and traditions of Georgia as possible. Over two weeks you will traverse Georgia from the snowy, severe and inaccessible summits of the Caucasus to the subtropical Black Sea coast; from the barren highlands to the rich and fertile agricultural lowlands and from deserts to lush forests and coniferous woods. You will sample some of the many traditional Georgian dishes and famous Georgian wines. As you follow this programme you will visit almost every geographical and historical province of Georgia; Kartli, Kakheti, Imereti, Guria, Adjara, Meskheta, Mtiuleti and Khevi. You will have a chance to meet the local people who speak different dialects, observe different traditions, lead different lives, but who in spite of some differences are united by one main characteristic: hospitality.***

**◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi sightseeing tour; ◆Day 3: Tbilisi - Telavi; ◆Day 4: Telavi - Tbilisi** We will travel to Kakheti, which is well-known for its hard-working, good-tempered people, and most famously, its wines. Kakheti is located on the eastern frontier of Georgia, and has strong eastern influences. **Places to visit:** David Gareja monastery complex. (6th century), Batonistsikhe (18th century), Alaverdi Cathedral (11th century), Ikalto Academy (12th century), Shuamta Monastery Complex (6th-17th centuries), Gremi Architectural Complex (16th-17th centuries), Chavchavadze Residence in Tsinandali; **◆Day 5: Tbilisi - Gudauri; ◆Day 6: Gudauri - Kazbegi - Gudauri** In order to see the high peaks, roaring rivers and mountain lifestyle of Georgia's northern borderlands we will travel towards Mtiuleti and Khevi provinces via one of the oldest roads in Georgia, which the Russian Tsar Alexander I named the Georgian Military Highway,



*Colorful "Tiba-Tve" month of mowing grass and picturesque hayricks*



*Ananuri Architectural Complex*

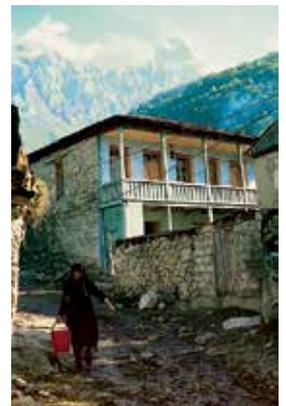
# The Soul of Georgia

Cultural tour (15 days)



**Places to visit:** Mtskheta, Ananuri architectural complex (16th-17th centuries), Gergeti Trinity church (14th century), Dariali and Truso valleys; **◆Days 7: Gudauri - Gori - Bakuriani** From the mountains we return to Kartli, the heart of the country. Known for its agriculture, Kartli is rich in architectural monuments. Gori is the birthplace of Georgia's most infamous son, Joseph Stalin. We follow the River Mtkvari upstream to higher mountains and darker forests, and finally enter the Borjomi valley. In the spa town of Borjomi, first the Romanov kings and more recently, Stalin had their summer residences. The verdant valley is ideal for forest walks and sampling the Borjomi waters. **Places to visit:** The rock-cut town of Uplistsikhe (6th century BC - 6th century AD), Stalin's museum, Timotesubani temple (13th century), Romanovs' Palace in Likani; **◆Day 8: Bakuriani - Vardzia - Bakuriani** After the beautiful lush scenery of the

Borjomi valley, we travel to the dry landscape of Samtskhe-Javakheti, an area where some of the oldest settlements in Georgia are located. In Akhaltsikhe visit "Rabat" Historical center and museum. On the border of Turkey and Georgia, we find the monastery complex of Vardzia, carved out of a cliff face. Vardzia was the main seminary for southwest Georgia from the 12th century. Queen Tamar lived here, and the complex is testament to the renaissance period in which she ruled; **◆Day 9: Bakuriani - Kutaisi** The next province we will visit is Imereti with its cool springs, green fields, and delicate, manicured gardens. It is here that you find the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Colchis - Kutaisi, now the second city of Georgia. The people of Imereti are renowned for their sense of humour, politeness, and a special kind of "khachapuri", the cheese-bread unique to



Typical house in mountain village

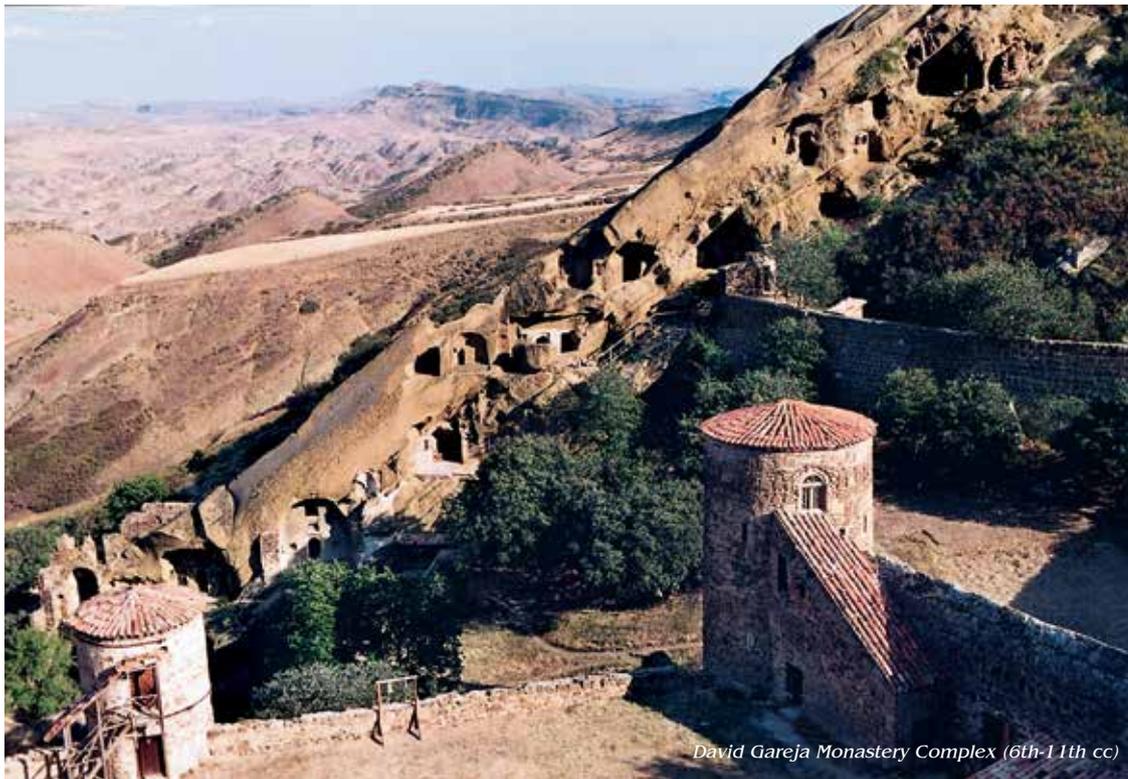
Georgia; **◆Day 10: Sightseeing in Kutaisi** Gelati and Bagrati Monasteries are first to visit in Imereti region; **◆Day 11: Kutaisi - Batumi;** **◆Day 12: Batumi** Through Guria, the land of Georgian citrus and tea, we travel to Adjara. Here Georgia welcomed Roman and Greek trade ships, and bade farewell to the caravans travelling from the east. We will enjoy a day at the shore of the Black Sea in the Adjara capital, Batumi; **◆Day 13: Batumi - Tbilisi;** **◆Day 14: Tbilisi;** **◆Day 15: Departure.**

Mt. Kazbegi (5047m)



# The Pilgrimage Route

Cultural tour (15 days)



David Gareja Monastery Complex (6th-11th cc)

Over these next 15 days, you will travel the path of the Holy Syrian Fathers. You will visit many architectural monuments in Kartli, Kakheti, Imereti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti, which trace the history of Georgian Christianity. Early Georgian architects paid particular attention to how their constructions harmonised with the surrounding landscape and in fact their work was very often inspired by the natural beauty of Georgia's environment.

At the beginning of the 4th century AD, St. Nino of Cappadocia brought Christianity to Georgia. In the year 337, Christianity was proclaimed as the state religion of Georgia, although it was not until some one hundred years later that it became firmly established.

The 13 Holy Syrian Fathers from Antioch were responsible for strengthening Christianity in Georgia. They founded several monastery complexes in Kartli and Kakheti, and turned these two regions of Georgia into centers of Christian culture. Later David Gareja, Shiomghvime, Zedazeni, Alaverdi, Nekresi, Samtavisi and other cathedrals were built on the site of former monasteries.



**Our tour begins in Kartli.** In Mtskheta, St. Nino erected the first Christian cross and the first churches were built here. The cross of St. Nino is now held in the Sioni Cathedral. We will visit the monasteries of Shiomghvime and Zedazeni which were built on former pagan sites. **Places to visit:** Tbilisi: Anchiskhati (6th-7th century), Sioni Cathedral (7th century), Mamadavit'i monastery (6th-19th century), Kashveti church (6th-19th century), Betania monastery (12-13th century), treasury of Fine Arts Museum. Mtskheta: Jvari monastery (6th-7th century), Zedazeni monastery (6-8th century), Shiomghvime monastery (6th century), Svetitskhoveli cathedral (11th century), Tsilkani (4th-17th century). Then onwards to Imereti. Kutaisi, the former capital of western Georgia is the cultural centre of this area. It was from here that

King David IV ("The Builder") began the unification of Georgia. He also founded the Gelati Academy, where he is buried. The Academy holds the only remaining portrait of the King. In Imereti, Samegrelo and Racha visit: Gelati (10th-11th century), Motsameta (8th-10th century), Martvili (7th-10th century), Nikortsminda (11th century). **From Imereti we drive to southern Georgia - Samtskhe-Javakheti and Tori provinces and proceed to Tbilisi;** Visit: Vardzia (12-13th century), the Vani caves (8th-15th century), Khertvisi (2nd century BC - 11th century AD), Sapara (10th century) and Timotesubani (13th century). **Shida (Inner) Kartli:** Samtavisi (11th century), Uplistsikhe (2nd century BC), Ateni Sioni (7th century), Kintsvisi (13th century), Urnisi (5th-6th century), Breti (6th-9th century), Ulumba (6th-19th century), Kvemo (Lower) Kartli: Tsugrugasheni (11th century), Dmanisi (6th-7th century). **The Last province of our trip is Kakheti,** where we visit: Alaverdi (11th century), Ikalto Academy (11th-12th century), Martkhopi (6th-7th century) Khirsa (6th century), Nekresi (6th-9th century), Gremi (16th-17th century), Shuamta (6th-16th century) and David Gareja monastery (6th-11th century). The monastery of David Gareja, built in the desert by the Saint father David, is the holiest place in Georgia. It is said that visiting the David Gareja monastery three times is equivalent to one visit to Jerusalem. In the past, a world famous school of fresco painting thrived within the monastery. Many of the frescos which survive today on the walls of the monastery date back to the 9th century.



◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi Sightseeing tour; ◆Day 3: Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Tbilisi; ◆Day 4: Tbilisi - Kutaisi; ◆Day 5: Kutaisi; ◆Day 6: Kutaisi - Vani - Kutaisi; ◆Day 7: Kutaisi - Nikortsminda - Borjomi; ◆Day 8: Borjomi - Vardzia - Borjomi; ◆Day 9: Borjomi - Tbilisi; ◆Day 10: Tbilisi - Dmanisi - Tbilisi; ◆Day 11: Tbilisi - Telavi; ◆Day 12: Telavi; ◆Day 13: Telavi - Tbilisi; ◆Day 14: Tbilisi - Betania - Tbilisi; ◆Day 15: Departure.

Vardzia cave town

Wall painting in David Gareja



# The Land of the Golden Fleece

Cultural tour with 1 day hiking (12 days)

*In the 6th century BC, the tribes of western Georgia formed a state, the Kingdom of Colchis, lying along the east coast of the Black Sea. Colchis is the land where the epic legend of the Argonauts was acted out. The legend tells of the courageous Hellenes who, led by Jason, crossed the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, reached the shores of the Kingdom of Colchis where the powerful King Aetes reigned, and where the Golden Fleece was kept. Ancient Colchis held the secret of how to obtain gold; the discovery of this secret and the acquisition of the golden fleece was the Argonauts' quest.*



View of mt. Ushba. Svaneti Province

◆**Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi;** ◆**Day 2: Tbilisi - Kutaisi** Our first encounter with the culture of Colchis begins with a visit to the ancient town of Vani where some of the finest examples of ancient artefacts are kept in the Vani Archaeological Museum; ◆**Day 3: Kutaisi - Mestia** We set off for Svaneti. We drive up the Enguri Gorge where the first inhabitants, mainly gold prospectors, settled in ancient times. It was here that most of the Colchis gold was obtained. For centuries the Svan ethnic group evolved here, cut off from the outside world by the high and inaccessible mountains, their culture preserved almost intact. In earlier centuries Svaneti was a recognised part of the Kingdom of Colchis; ◆**Days 4: Mestia;** ◆**Day 5: Mestia - Ushguli** In our journey through Mestia and Ushguli we will find medieval watchtowers, the unique technology for obtaining gold, the Svan school of iconography and metalwork, the ritual of worshipping spirits, the fertility cults, the wolf and the bull, the poetic muse of Svans - Dali, the golden-haired goddess of hunting; we will experience this mystical and fascinating world for almost an entire week. We spend a night in Ushguli, one of the highest villages in Europe and an architecturally unique Middle Age fortification, surrounded by the 5,000m giants of the Caucasus Mountain Range. According to the legend, it was in the Ushguli towers that the Georgian monarch

and saint, Queen Tamar (12-13th century) had her summer and winter residences. Queen Tamar is revered by Svans as the symbol of a strong and rich Georgia; ◆**Days 6: Ushguli - Mestia;** ◆**Day 7: Mestia - Becho** On the way from Ushguli to Mestia we will see the church of St. Kvirike (1112 AD). Kvirikoba is the most important festival in Svaneti. Kviria, an ancient Georgian pagan deity, was protector of the fertility of soil, man and animals. Despite prohibition by the Synod, sacrificial rituals are still practised in the Christian churches of Svaneti. The frescos of the Lamaria church (10th -12th century) in Ushguli and the Church of St. George in Nakipari (1130 AD) are unique in their design and beauty for the period. In Mestia, the regional centre of Svaneti, we will visit the historical and ethnological museum which houses manuscripts from the 10th and 12th centuries, religious tracts from the 9th-11th centuries, icons, metal and other artefacts of the 14th -16th centuries, gold coins of the antique and late antique periods, and several Bronze Age treasures. The museums of Svan architecture and mountaineering in Mestia are very informative. From Mestia, we will continue to Becho from where we will hike to the waterfalls of Ushba, the sovereign mountain of Svaneti; ◆**Day 8: Becho-Batumi** After 6-7 hours of travelling, we will arrive in Batumi, one of the oldest cities in Georgia and inhabited from as early as the third century BC. Batumi is mentioned by Greek and Roman sources as one of the Black Sea's principal ports; ◆**Day 9: Batumi;** ◆**Day 10: Batumi - Tbilisi;** ◆**Day 11: Tbilisi;** ◆**Day 12: Departure.**

*In this tour we shall explore the lands of this ancient legend. We will visit the provinces of Georgia connected with the adventure of the Argonauts; Imereti, Samegrelo, Svaneti and Adjara.*

Golden figure of a Lion. 2500-3000 BC



Temple pendants (4th century BC)



Ushguli, located at about 2200 m. above sea level is the highest settled village in Europe. It represents a junction of watchtowers, dwelling complexes and basilicas decorated with the murals.

# Explore The Secrets of The Ancient Land

Archaeological tour (12 Days)



We invite you to visit some of the most important and unique archaeological sites of the country and learn about the cultural heritage and other secrets kept by this ancient land. Here discoveries are still waiting their turn...

Visitors to Dmanisi will find in one and the same location, an important medieval site, picturesque scenery and the most ancient hominoid remains found in Eurasia in the course of archaeological excavations.

This program has been designed to develop new, essential knowledge about Georgia, its cultural heritage and unique archaeological sites by visiting Dmanisi, the medieval site where archaeologists unexpectedly came across the remains of ancient men. The Dmanisi remains are the oldest and the most primitive in Eurasia. We will explore Dzalisi archeological site, once the second Capital of Kartli Kingdom. The site represents an amazing architectural complex and burial ground of the first settlements, dating back to the second millennium BC. Next site to visit is Vani, the capital of legendary Colchis, where excavations revealed the sanctuary with traces of fire, numerous potteries and figurines of animals, sacrificial grounds, clay vessels, cult ritual remains, objects of household and weapons. We will also visit such sites as Nokalakevi, a unique political and historical center of Western Georgia between the 4th<sup>6th</sup> cc AD; Uplistsikhe cave town from the 1st half of the 1st millennium BC; Gonio fortress and other...



Specially invited lecturer, one of the leading Georgian archaeologists will introduce to you the recent discoveries.



Huge jars used for burial purposes



◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi Sightseeing tour with visit to State History Museum and its treasury; ◆Day 3: Dmanisi – Day trip to visit Dmanisi archaeological site, beautifully located at the confluence of two rivers; ◆Day 4: Tbilisi - Mtskheta – Tsikheagora The day trip will spent in heart of Kartli province; visit old settlements of Mtskheta as well as multilayered site of Tsikheagora which revealed a large architectural complex belonging to the Hellenistic period; ◆Day 5: Tbilisi - Uplistsikhe - Kutaisi Drive to Kutaisi, en route short stop to visit Samtavisi cathedral and archaeological site, where excavations are still in course; Also visit Uplistsikhe cave town; ◆Day 6: Kutaisi - Vani - Kutaisi Today we will explore Vani - the capital of legendary Colchis, we will visit the ancient town and some of the finest examples of ancient artefacts kept in the Vani Archaeological Museum; ◆Day 7: Kutaisi - Batumi Drive to the Black Sea Shore; en rout to Batumi visit Pichvnari archaeological site; ◆Day 8: Batumi Today we will explore Batumi, one of the oldest cities in Georgia, inhabited from the third century BC. Visit Gonio fortress and Batumi Archaeological Museum; ◆Day 9: Batumi - Borjomi drive to explore Nokalakevi archaeological site, surrounded from the three sides by the river Tekhura and protected by the three lines of the high walls; ◆Day 10: Borjomi - Akhalkalaki - Tbilisi Explore Javakheti Area and drive to Tbilisi; ◆Day 11: Tbilisi - Dzalisi - Tbilisi Day trip to visit Dzalisi archaeological site and its impressive mosaics; ◆Day 12: Departure.

Treasury of Ancient Colchis  
Templar pendant, IV cc BC found in Vani, where extensive archaeological excavations have taken place over the past 100 years and astonishing number of artefacts have been discovered.



The land sharing its secrets

# The Hidden Corners of Georgia

Ethnological tour – 15 Days

Take a journey of discovery to five incredible destinations in Georgia, along the Caucasus Mountains and lowlands with fascinating landscapes and its inhabitants. We will explore the less travelled “corners” in the isolation of the Caucasus Mountains with turbulent histories, lifestyle, ethnological diversity, unique festivals and secret rituals.



Akvani - Baby Cradle easy to hide and transport in period of war and together with mother's lullaby rocking child to sleep and sweet dreams in period of peace.



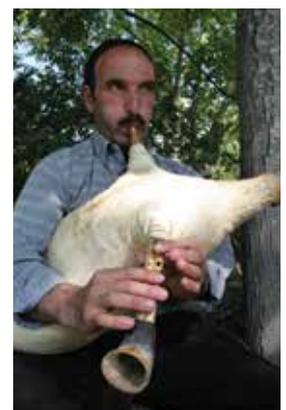
Isindi - Georgian Folk Game, once part of military training, still today is popular in Guria & Imereti



Machubi - Svan dwelling tower

**Kakheti** - meet a local family in Napareuli, enjoy old wine-makers company, share their experience in wine nursing and taste home-made wines. **Tusheti** - feel the spirit of knighthood and hospitality. Deep river gorges, narrow paths, abounding in smoke houses, brave horsemen, secrets of rituals and lively festivals harmoniously blend here. As in the past, today festivals are held in Tusheti with rituals of sacrifice, brewing beer and preparation of the best traditional dishes. We may just watch or take part in breathtaking horse races, meet old hunters armed with time forgotten hunting rifles, listen stories about their forefathers who were cattle-breeders and brave warriors. **Guria** – here people still perform ancient rituals dedicated to deity, which protects viniculture and fertility. **Svaneti** - religious traditions were an important part of life for the Svan ethnic group. The mystical ritual of worshipping spirits, the cults of fertility and fire are typical for this fascinating world. Svan people perform polyphonic songs, extremely unique fiery dances and observe rituals with a great deal of care. For centuries Svan people were building towers and bridges, making hats and coats from felt - pressed wool known as “teka”, creating poems and songs, passing all of these from generation to generation. Cuisine of Svaneti is exceptionally delicate and diverse throughout the Caucasus region. Svan people developed gold-prospecting, field-farming, endemic sorts of wheat, cattle-breeding and dairy products of exceptional quality.

◆ Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆ Day 2: Tbilisi Sightseeing tour; ◆ Day 3: Tbilisi - Telavi; Venturing east to Kakheti province famous for its wines. Visit medieval city of Signaghi; ◆ Day 4: Telavi - Omalo; Travel through unexplored villages of Tusheti; ◆ Day 5: Tusheti area; enjoying accordion music and lyric songs while sitting around fire; ◆ Day 6: Omalo - Telavi; We will sample fresh-baked bread and fresh milk for a breakfast, experience strict customs and countryside life. We will taste local vodka and cheese made by shepherds and enjoy natural hot baths on the way back to wine country; ◆ Day 7: Telavi - Borjomi; In the Spa town of Borjomi sample Borjomi mineral waters, meet old masters of wooden furniture and experience a company of fishermen; ◆ Day 8: Borjomi - Chokhatauri; Day ◆9: Guria area; We will be invited for a dinner at locals' house. Our hosts will serve fresh natural products and lead the feast with special toasts and the great sense of humor; ◆ Day 10: Chokhatauri - Becho; Our journey will follow Jason and the Argonauts into the ancient province of Svaneti; ◆ Day 11: Becho - Mestia; Day ◆12: Mestia - Ushguli; Day ◆13: Ushguli - Mestia; Day ◆14: Mestia - Tbilisi; In the end of our trip we will visit village of ceramic masters, where the technology of making ceramic vessels comes from ancient times; Day ◆15: Departure.



Georgian bagpipe – Called Gudastviri in Adjara province, Chibori in Racha, Chuniri in Svaneti, Tulumu in Meskheti & Stviri in Pshavi.

# Mountain provinces - Khevi, Khevsureti, Svaneti



*This tour involves travelling through two radically different highland regions of Georgia – Khevsureti and Svaneti. It will be especially attractive to those who are interested in ethnology, tower architecture, mountain nature and highland people's life.*

*Village Shatili  
Khevsureti province*

Turning off the Georgian Military Highway at a point 60 kilometres from Tbilisi and taking a mountain road, after a two to three hour drive we will find ourselves in a completely different world. This is the kingdom of towers: Khevsureti, where traditions and customs are as severe as the countryside itself. The people of Khevsuri were famous all over Georgia for their bravery and straightforwardness. No mercy was given to those who betrayed the tribe. Their poetry is unique and Khevsuri people often talk to each other in verse. During the summer the Khevsuri tend their cattle, spin wool and make cheese and butter. Traditionally they hunted bears and mountain goats. In days gone, hunters used to make ritual sacrifices to the gods who protect animals in order to ensure a successful hunt. During the long winter days the Khevsuri drink home-made beer and zhipitauri (a sort of vodka) in towers beautifully decorated with kilims, hides and wild goat horns whilst listening to Panduri (Georgian national musical instrument) music. Ladies dressed in home-made coloured stockings and wearing beads serve trays of hot khinkali. No other people in the Caucasus wear such finely embroidered clothes as the Khevsuri.

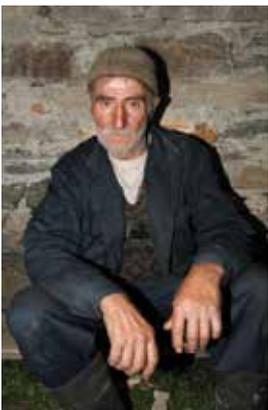
We will visit Shatili, a village in the heart of Khevsureti where we will climb one of the towers.



*Khevsureti is one among very few places left in Georgia, where you can still see people dressed in traditional costumes - all handmade, richly decorated by embroidery, appliqué and beads.*

◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi sightseeing tour; ◆Day 3: Tbilisi - Shatili; ◆Day 4: Shatili; ◆Day 5: Shatili - Gudauri; ◆Day 6: Gudauri - Kazbegi - Gudauri; ◆Day 7: Gudauri - Khada - Kutaisi; ◆Day 8: Kutaisi - Mestia; ◆Day 9: Mestia; ◆Day 10: Mestia - Ushguli; ◆Day 11: Ushguli; ◆Day 12: Ushguli - Mestia; ◆Day 13: Mestia - Kutaisi; ◆Day 14: Kutaisi - Tbilisi; ◆Day 15: Departure.

## *Places to visit*



*Pshav – Khevsureti: “Giants Settlement”: Khakhmati St. George Cross (it is said, that Khakhmati was a protector - deity of fertility, cattle and horses, and used to lead the Khevsuri people into battle in far off lands); Shatili fortress village; Anatori Cross – the deity who protects animals; Anatori vaults – where you can see the skeletons of people killed by plague lying on stone shelves.*

*Mtiuleti: Khada Gorge, mentioned in historical annals as the gorge of 60 towers.*

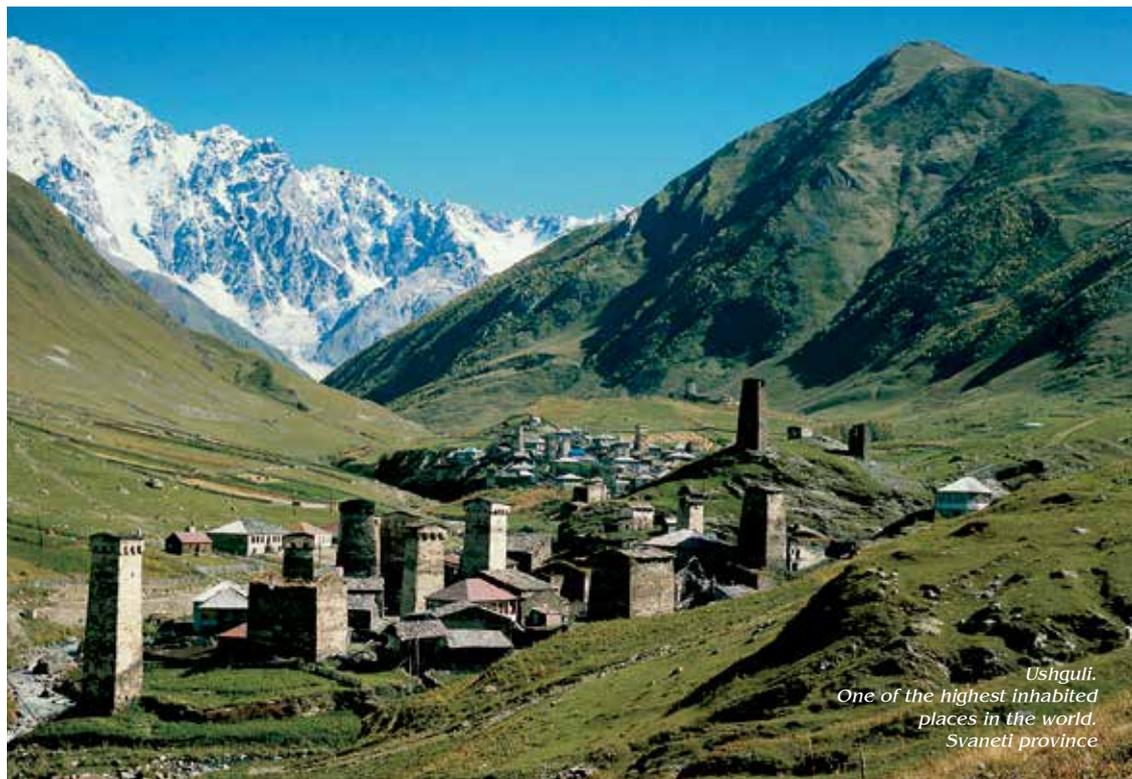
*Imereti: Ubisi church (9th -10th cc). painted by Damiane); Bagrati temple (11th cc.); Gelati Monastery (11th-12th cc).*



# The Kingdom of Towers

Cultural tour with 1 day hiking (15 days)

*Travelling through the high mountain villages of the Caucasus, the spirit of knighthood, preserved here for centuries comes alive. Deep river gorges, narrow paths, stone houses, tiny, swift Caucasian horses, wild horsemen, folk bards, mystical rituals, cults of fire and spirits and ancient fairy-tales here harmoniously blend. Secret festivals in winter time lead us to the far past of this unpredictable land. Access to Svaneti is available every season. The road remain opened even during coldest months of the year.*



*Ushguli.  
One of the highest inhabited  
places in the world.  
Svaneti province*

*Ushguli is a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



Having crossed several provinces, we arrive in Svaneti, once a part of the Kingdom of Colchis. Many travellers wrote about this part of the world. This land is unique in terms of its countryside, and its traditions which remain unchanged for centuries. The form and building principles of the Svan towers have retained the wisdom of their architects, with their trim small paned churches and hospitable people. The towers survived during the earthquakes, avalanches and landslides. These old towers still protect people from the severe climate and natural disasters.

Every visitor here is treated with hot khachapuri and a special dish called "kubdari" (bread with meat stuffing). While in Svaneti do not miss trying local dishes and "rakhi" (a sort of vodka).

Svan people have many semi-pagan rituals, which they observe with great care. Amongst their many gods are the principal ones who protect animals and human beings and which give them fertility and the minor gods who care for the soul and protect fire. Svan people have many polyphonic songs and their ancient lyrics and poetry tell us about their forefathers who were gold miners, cattle-breeders and farmers.

### *Places to visit*

*Svaneti: Mestia and Ushguli medieval churches painted in the 9th-12th cc by Michael Maglakeli and Tevdore. Mestia historic-ethnographical museum, where ancient manuscripts, metalwork icons and crosses, decorations and coins of the late antique period, and ethnographical utensils are kept.*

*Children from mountain village*



*Street in Ushguli  
Svaneti province*

**Caucasian Shepherd Dog,** powerful and massive, good with children and a best friend is truly a thinking dog, which relies primarily on its own instincts, has a very quick reaction and lightning-fast protection reflexes. Sometimes called a "loose cannon" is still a well-behaved and obedient family companion.



# Mountain province of Tusheti



*The Tushs lead quite a nomadic lifestyle. In the winter, most move to the lowland area of Kakheti. The Tushs were granted land in these parts by a Kakheti's king as a token of the great courage they displayed in repelling successive Persian invaders. The king knew of the diligence and perseverance of the Tushs and gave them the fertile marshlands in the hope that this hardworking people would turn these lands into productive valleys.*

*Village Dartlo  
Tusheti Province*

*Today the land is a source of sustenance for the Tushs. Of all the regions of Georgia, Tusheti is the most ecologically unspoilt, and the Tushs take pride in their natural home-grown food. A tribal system survived in Tusheti until the end of the 17th century. This social system best suited the lifestyle of these proud free-spirited mountain people. No means of coercion were necessary for this system to function; it worked purely on public cooperation. The strength of words and opinions still dominate Tushs life.*



*For five months a year, the only possible means of transportation for locals is a helicopter. Most pilots are local Tushs and have thousands of hours experience flying over the mountains.*

◆**Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi;** ◆**Day 2: Tbilisi - Alvani** By travelling through Kakheti we will arrive at the Tusheti village of Alvani. Tusheti villages are situated along the eastern bank of the River Alazani. To the north, they are bordered by the high Caucasian mountains. It is in Alvani, this magnificent site situated on the boundary of plentiful Kakheti and remote Tusheti that we will sojourn for the night and enjoy traditional Tusheti cuisine; ◆**Day 3: Alvani - Shtrolta** The distance between Alvani and Shtrolta is only 61 kilometers. But brace yourselves! We climb higher and higher up a winding dirt track on which no cars were seen until 1978. After a strenuous journey of two and a half hours and having crossed the Koja Pass, altitude 3,000m, we will leave civilization behind us for a week. The valleys of Kakheti disappear into the green behind us and ahead lies Tusheti, the shrouded mystery of Georgia, waiting to be discovered; ◆**Day 4: Shtrolta - Omalo - Shenako - Diklo** Omalo is the economic



*Sweet songs of Tushs tell storied of high mountains, brave hearts of the heroes, friendship and love.*



*As in the past, today festivals are held in Tusheti with ritual of sacrifice, brewing beer and preparation of the best traditional dishes*

*Sheep may interrupt your voyage for a while. Be careful when making pictures! Sheepdogs guard them and may misunderstand your love of photography...*



# Caucasus Mountain Life

Cultural tour with 3 days hiking (8 days)

*Breathing fresh mountain air, surrounded by cool springs and rivers and verdant valleys, nurtured by fairy-tales and mothers lullabies makes the local kid's life full of joy and excitement.*



centre of Tusheti where the only airport, boarding school and hospital in the region are located. On our way to Omalo, we see our first Tusheti tower. These towers used to function as fortifications as well as places of worship. From Omalo, we continue to the village of Shenako. The technique of building houses without foundations is unique to Tusheti. We continue our trip to the village of Diklo, where we stay overnight in the Campsite; **◆Day 5: Diklo - Chigho - Dartlo - (Pirikita Tusheti gorge)** This will be one of our busiest days. After 3-4 steady hours of climbing mountain paths, we will cross the Sonekhi Pass (2550 m.) and descend to the village of Chigho (2400 m.) renowned for its "Lasharoba" festival. Lashari was a fighting deity whose banner led the Tushs into war. From Chigho we will return to the village of Dartlo (1666 m.) where we will spend the night in the Camp; **◆Day 6: Dartlo - Jvarboseli - Tsovata - Shtrolta (Gometsri gorge)** This will be our last day in Tusheti. We will drive through the wooded Gometsari Gorge and have dinner in the village of Jvarboseli. Here, a contest is held annually where young men from different valleys meet and compete in horse riding, wrestling, dancing and singing. In the nearby Tsovati Gorge we will have a chance to explore tombs dating from the 1700s. An epidemic in this period completely wiped out some of the villages in the region. Many of those who contracted the plague voluntarily isolated themselves in these tombs. Allegedly some of the sick even recovered as a result of their enforced starvation. To the evening we will return to Shtrolta, where our journey into the past begins. Memories of velvety mountains, the towers perched on cliffs and the open-hearted Tushs will merge into the softness of the night to melodic accordion playing and mournful singing voices; **◆Day 7: Shtrolta - Tbilisi; ◆Day 8: Departure.**



*This is not "self-catering". This is how some of our guests integrate into the local environment in the mountains.*



*In Tusheti you will be served with "kotori" (bread with cheese & potato filling), "guda" (Tush's sheep cheese), and of course "zhipitauri" (local vodka) and homemade beer which is specially prepared for each festival.*



*Every village, every valley has its own holy place and festivals with traditional competitions and entertainments*



*Tusheti people have a unique sense of romance and poetry, which they express in folk poetry and songs accompanied by accordion.*

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**  
SINCE 1991

# Georgia in Objective

Photographical tour (15 Days)



*Through the lens of your camera explore the country of marvellous cluster of culture, land of legends and myth, ancient architecture and diversity of nature and landscape.*



*Prince of Svaneti  
The famous Italian traveller and photographer Vittorio Sella has visited Georgia in 1889 -1896 and depicted villager's everyday life and impressive landscapes of Caucasus Highlands.*

In the search of the best shot we invite you to explore the most ancient and intact areas of the Georgian ancient land; Follow the legendary trade routs and twisty roads of picturesque villages. Marvel of variety of landscapes from the high peaks of the Caucasus Mountain Ranges, severe and rocky passes littered by watch towers or immersed in white veil of clouds to arid areas of steppes and deserts, fertile lands and lush subtropics. Have a look at wooden houses of lowlands and dwelling towers of villages high in the mountains. Look into the eyes of locals, and through their portraits try to tell the story of this country and its people.

◆Day 1: Arrival In Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi sightseeing tour; explore old town, its inner yards, carved wooden balconies, and decorated gates; ◆Day 3: Day trip to Tetrtskaro Region; ◆Day 4: Tbilisi - Signnaghi - Telavi; Visit Signnaghi royal town and explore Kiziki site; ◆Day 5: Telavi - Gudauri; Visit vineyards and wine cellars; meet local people; ◆Day 6: Gudauri - Kazbegi; On the way to high peaks to the Caucasus Mountain Range explore villages of Bodorna and Khada Gorge; ◆Day 7: Kazbeg - Gudauri; Explore ancient villages of Sno Gorge, which impress the visitor with original architecture and largely unaffected landscapes by the modern civilization; ◆Day 8: Gudauri - Kutaisi; Today we will travel to the heart of Kartli province, agricultural centre of Georgia. Drive through the town Gori, birthplace of Joseph Stalin. In this area passed the Silk Road. Here we will explore local villages, rich with the ruins of century old fortresses; ◆Day 9: Kutaisi - Mestia visit local agricultural market and Kutaisi UNESCO sites. In afternoon drive north along Enguri Gorge; ◆Day 10: Mestia - Ushguli - Mestia; Explore Ushguli UNESCO site and its unique dwelling towers; ◆Day 11: Mestia - Batumi; Explore Mestia and drive to the Black Sea shore town Batumi; ◆Day 12: Batumi - Borjomi; ◆Day 13: Borjomi - Tabatskutri lake - Tbilisi; Pass the areas once crossed by Silk Road; ◆Day 14: Day trip to Bolnisi, Sightseeing of Dmanisi villages; ◆Day 15: Departure.



*It is not a piece of art but just a great memory of your trip in Georgia*



# Life in Colors and Ornaments

Craft & Art tour (8 days)

**G**eorgian Folk Art is a treasury and pride of Georgian people which serves as a bridge between the present and the past. Today the ancient traditions and techniques are reflected in the contemporary pieces of Art...



This program is designed to give an overview of the highlights of folk arts and crafts which form the essential part of Georgian culture and lifestyle. Traditional ornaments and the use of colors are revived in carpets, felt rugs, stockings and embroidery.

Huge jars and different shaped vessels are made in the village Shrosha, where pottery secrets are kept and known in every family. Black smith and metal work as well as wood carving have many centuries' traditions and history.

The cloisonné enamelwork has deep roots in Georgia. The collections of medieval cloisonné enamels, kept in the museums represent the high artistic standards of this particular art.

Today cloisonné enamelwork, as well as, felt and embroidery have a new development in Georgian contemporary art. This techniques has unlimited possibilities, in terms of following old traditions, but also in contributing to modern art.



We invite you to get acquainted to Georgian arts and crafts, visit numerous museums, workshops and artists' studios; meet craftsmen living in the remote areas, visit important architectural monuments and mural paintings.

◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi Sightseeing tour including museum treasures and cathedrals, Old town and sulphur bath-houses, artists studios and Museum of Folk and Applied Arts; ◆Day 3: Tbilisi - Kutaisi; Visit the ancient capital Mtskheta and its UNESCO heritage sites; en rout to Kutaisi glance at pottery market and meet local craftsmen; ◆Day 4: Kutaisi - Tbilisi; Explore UNESCO heritage sites of Kutaisi: Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Academy Complex with its impressive mosaics and mural painting; on the way back to Tbilisi meet local craftsmen; ◆Day 5: Tbilisi visit Tbilisi Silk Museum and Open Air Ethnographical Museum and its unique collection, meet textile artists, attend on workshops; ◆Day 6: Tbilisi - Telavi; Explore Kakheti wine producing region and visit its spectacular architectural and religious sites. Meet with local women who work to support each other in the exploration and recreation secrets of traditional textile arts; ◆Day 7: Telavi - Tbilisi; Visit cultural sites, be a guest in a local family and enjoy the company of "Tamada" - Toastmaster; ◆Day 8: Departure.



# In Love & Sorrow with Sounds of Music

Musical tour (10 Days)



*Singing has always been a part of life in all its different stages: work, celebrations and weddings, war time, passing away of someone dear... It's a bridge between the past and present; something very close to Georgian's heart and very much beloved by old and new generations.*



The songs, the dances and the faith have always been the essential part of Georgian life. From the polyphonic singing which predates Christianity and helps to discover and convey Georgia, the sound of traditional musical instruments - Salamuri (pipe), Chonguri and Panduri, the soul and culture of the romantic "city songs" about love and women, to the breathtaking notes of bag pipe, heart beating rhythms of Tam-tam and remote melodies of hurdy-gurdy player. Magnificence and beauty of Georgian songs and dances can not be forgotten by anyone who has ever seen or heard it.

◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi Sightseeing tour visiting important religious and cultural sites; Museum of Arts and Crafts and its rich collection of musical instruments. During the sightseeing enjoy religious songs sung by Children's Choir in one of the ancient churches. During lunch and dinner learn more about "Kalakuri singera"- early 20th century songs of Tbilisi town, and "Zurna Duduki" -bag pipe music, which will take you far in the past of the town; ◆Day 3: Tbilisi - Telavi Drive to the fertile lands of Kakheti, on the route attend "panduri" workshop and visit Tsinandali Family Estate. During the dinner, polyphony ensemble will join you to marvel with the phenomenon of Georgian traditional music and legendary "Mravaljamieri"- Hymn to long life; ◆Day 4: Telavi - Alvani - Tbilisi Drive to Alvani village - gates to Tusheti area and high peaks of Caucasus Mountain range. Here poetry and music accompanied by accordion will tell you stories of mountains. During dinner in Tbilisi hurdy-gurdy player will join you; ◆Day 5: Tbilisi - Mtkheta - Kutaisi Visit UNESCO sites of Mtskheta and drive to Kutaisi, capital of Colchis where Kutaisi State ensemble will be waiting for you; ◆Day 6: Kutaisi - Mestia Explore UNESCO sites of Kutaisi and drive to Svaneti remote areas; ◆Day 7: Mestia Visit Mestia Ethnographical Museum and have dinner in Svan Dwelling Tower; enjoy powerful and thrilling songs of Svans; ◆Day 8: Mestia - Batumi From mountains drive to Black Sea Shore; Enjoy exciting dances and songs of Adjara province; ◆Day 9: Batumi - Tbilisi; ◆Day 10: Departure.



Barrel organ players - the street musicians of Tbilisi



*You will never be able to convince the citizen of Tbilisi, Sighnaghi, Kutaisi or Batumi, that there is another place in the world nicer, closer to the heart or more beautiful than their dear town...*



**Sighnaghi** is a town of smiling faces and abundant variety of wines, wooden balconies overlooking the narrow streets and small benches near the gateways, the meeting place for the oldest generation.

**In Kutaisi** the sense of humor and tasty food is as important as the life itself! The sweet sounds of traditional melodies seem to come from every yard. The locals call their home town Kutaisi a "town of roses and love."

**Batumi** is famous for its hospitality, where you are welcomed in every house and specially made coffee is offered to every guest. Taking walk along the boulevard is almost a ritual here. The main port of the town serves as a favourite meeting place for all generations. In this coastal city even Khatchapuri (Adjarauli khatchapuri – Bread with cheese filling) has a shape of ship...

Exploring each town day and night you will surely find something of your taste and interest in each of them.

**Tbilisi** - Walking along Rustaveli Avenue, in the shadow of old cedar trees will make you feel the spirit of Tbilisi. You'll meet local artists and listen to street musicians, discover galleries and handcrafts of various tastes at flea markets and carpet shops, sample fresh baked bread and enjoy glass of wine in fashionable cafés along the narrow streets of the old town. Where else could you find people discussing politics, fashion, art and gossip as passionately as here?

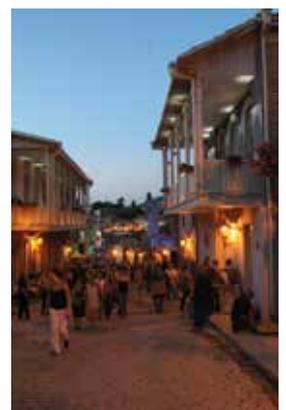
◆**Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi;** ◆**Day 2: Tbilisi** sightseeing tour visiting Opera house and Rustaveli Drama Theatre, galleries of the modern art and artists' studios; ◆**Day 3: Tbilisi - Sighnaghi - Tbilisi;** Day trip to 18th century royal town, today town of wine and festivals; ◆**Day 4: Tbilisi - Kutaisi;** Explore Kutaisi, former capital of western Georgia and the second biggest town of the country; ◆**Day 5: Kutaisi - Batumi;** ◆**Day 6: Batumi;** Visit Batumi Sea shore town, the favourite place to spend summer for all the citizens of Georgia; have a walk in Boulevard and in Port; ◆**Day 7: Batumi - Tbilisi;** ◆**Day 8: Tbilisi;** Explore Tbilisi museums and enjoy night life in local pubs and cafés; ◆**Day 9: Departure.**



*Sharden street in Tbilisi is the main attraction of Tbilisi always leading to special "finds", a place with variety of cafés, galleries, studios and gift shops.*



*Elene Akhvediani House Museum  
The studio of Elene Akhvediani, in one of Tbilisi twisting streets, was indeed a cultural center. The place where artists, actors, musicians, poets and her numerous friends often gathered. Elene Akhvediani, started her works in the early decades of the twentieth century. These masters' achievements, based on the legacy of national and European cultures, have largely determined the distinctive features of the Georgian art and have not lost their importance to this day.*





## Explore National Parks and protected areas spread from subtropics and wetlands to high peaks of The Caucasus Mountain Range, steeps and deserts.

**Tusheti Protected Area**, covering 76,004 hectares, is one of the greatest parks in Europe. Tusheti, with its pine-tree forests, alpine and sub-alpine meadows, untouched Rhododendron Caucasicum, inhabited with Caucasian goats, rich flora and fauna, is one of the most attractive places in the country and in the whole Caucasus Region. The variety of animals and birds, that inhabit the area, is considered very rare by the national and global scale. The endemic level of plants is amazingly high. Among the endemic animals, there have to be distinguished: Caucasian black grouse, Caucasian snow-cock and East Caucasian leopard. Other inhabitants of the area are: bezoar, deer, roe deer, chamois, bear, wolf, lynx and others.

**Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park** is the first National Park in the Caucasus. It is situated in the central part of Georgia at the border of three natural regions, which determines the difficult surface of the park's landscape. A humid climate of The Kolkheti Plain meets the dry mountain climate of the Anatoly-North Iran. The soil is mainly composed of tertiary sediments and volcanic materials and is exceedingly rich in tertiary period fossils. Lush gorges and canyons, volcanic plateaus, petrified lava flows, etc. rank the region among dream destinations for travellers.

**Lagodekhi Nature Reserve** was established almost 100 years ago. It represents the oldest well preserved natural landscape of the country. Almost one fourth of the flora of Georgia, up to 1500 species, can be found in this relatively small area – only 25 thousand hectares total. Extremely rich vegetation, landscape and favourable climate have created conditions for the incredibly diverse wildlife. This area is a habitat of the Caucasian red deer, European roe deer, Eurasian lynx, and brown bear, presenting Lagodekhi as a Caucasian Oasis.

**Kolkheti National Park** is distinguished by its thick hydrographical network of the rivers, lakes, bogs. The Paliastomy Lake is the biggest water collecting basin in Georgia. The whole area is characterized by relatively high humidity and warm damp climate. Coastal sand dunes along the Black Sea support a number of rare plants. Kolkheti wetlands hosts a variety of plants and animals adapted to yearly floods. It is a home for fish, reptiles and other amphibians.

**Vashlovani National Park** can be considered as an important reserve of cultural plants, wild predecessors and genetic pool of forms. There are many interesting paleontologic, cultural and historic places in the park. At the same time, this is a place of the highest concentration of reptiles and mammals in Georgia. Most of them are rare kinds of species which are at the verge of extinction globally. Description of the region relief, its geologic characterizers, hydrology, climate and soils differ greatly from other regions of Georgia. The height above the sea level of Vashlovani National Park is between 100, 800 and 900 meters. It is characterized by significant dryness of climate and overheat.

**Imereti Caves Protected Areas** is located in west Georgia, in Imereti region; It covers territory of around 504.6 ha and includes Sataplia Nature Reserve, Sataplia Managed Reserve, Prometheus Cave Natural Monuments and 17 other Natural Monuments.

## Biodiversity

Caucasus region has been identified by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) as a Global 200 ecoregion, based on selection criteria such as richness, levels of endemism, global rarity of major habitat types, etc.

Georgia is located at a biogeographical crossroads, and has high levels of biodiversity, about 400 endemic trees and bushes of various species grow in forests of different climatic zones. Georgia's ecosystems include alpine and sub-alpine meadows, lowland steppe grasslands, coast, mountain and inland wetlands

*Along the Georgian Military Highway, which connects The Northern Caucasus with The South Caucasus. Blue skies seem to join white blue tops of mountains. Landscapes are impressive and severe with alpine meadows dotted with yellow rhododendron, mountain passes and waterfalls.*



## Caucasian Shepherd Dog

Originating from Georgia, this ancient breed is mentioned in several historical annals. It is discerned with its size and physical strength; it has courageous nature and is the perfect guardian; At the same time, it's a faithful friend, full of effectiveness.



## Georgian Bee

*Apis Mellifera Caucasica* - The Caucasian honey bee originates from Georgia and is a large bee that often appears grey due to large amounts of hair; of particular interest is the gray mountain bees known for their gentleness and productivity.



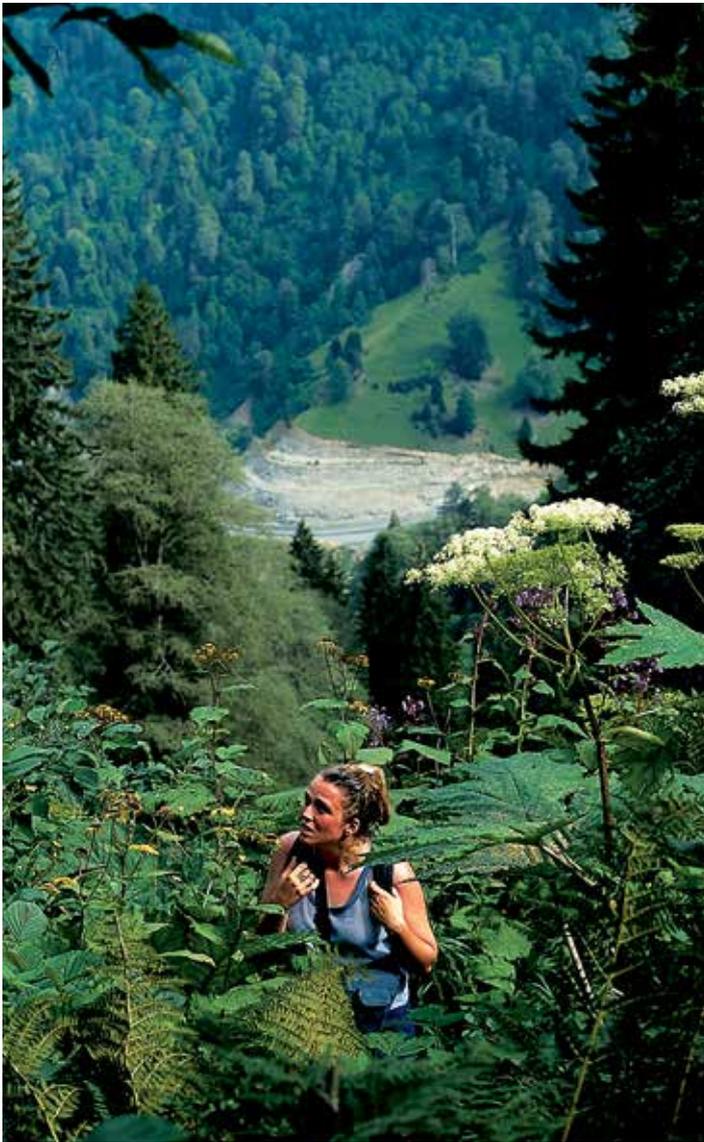
## Caucasian Tur

*Capra Cylindricornis* - Being endemic to Caucasus mountains, *Capra Cylindricornis* is very strong and beautiful animal living in subalpine and alpine meadows and rocky slopes of Caucasus, sometimes they even reach the height of 4000 m above sea level. It is included in the Georgian Red Data Book.

## ...explore Georgia's legacy

Georgia is an ancient country and it is obvious that it includes a large variety of historic and cultural landscapes that are centuries old. These harmonious landscapes represent only a part of Georgia's beautiful legacy. The uniqueness of the country is provided mainly by the diversity of Georgia's untouched natural heritage.

Georgia possesses a biodiversity of global significance. The principal landscapes of the Caucasus include foothill and mountain forests and the subalpine meadows of the Greater and Lesser Caucasus; treeless mountain upland plateaus of the Lesser Caucasus; humid lowland forests of Kolkheti in western Georgia, and the arid steppe and deserts of Iori Plateau. In East Georgia between the Caucasus Major and Minor ranges of central and eastern Georgia, the flora and fauna of at least three biogeographic provinces converge, resulting in high levels of biodiversity. In this region are found species typical to Europe (e.g., bear, lynx, chamois, red deer), to the Caucasus (e.g., Caucasian tur or mountain goat, leopard), and to the Middle East regions (e.g., hyena, gazelle). In addition to the increase in the number of species resulting from its biogeographic history, the varied terrain and climatic conditions contribute to a diversity of ecosystems.



Georgian forests contain over 200 plant community associations, and 120 species of trees, 250 bushes, and 4,500 species of vascular plants. Of the vascular plants, nine percent are endemic to Georgia and 14 percent are endemic to the Caucasus region. There are 572 vertebrate species (348 species of birds, 95 mammals, 52 reptiles, 13 amphibians, and 64 fish). The diverse and threatened large mammal fauna includes three species of wild goats, chamois, red and roe deer, and their predators, including wolf, lynx, wild cats and possibly even leopard. Some of these species (e.g., wild goats, deer, and wolf) undertake large-scale annual migrations, increasing their susceptibility to habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, poaching and competition with domestic sheep in order to find food.

The Georgian flora is characterized by its diversity and also the close relatives and progenitors of widely used domestic food plants. A partial list includes a fungus-resistant wheat species (*Triticum zhukovsky*), wild rye endemic, thousand-year old cultivars of rye and barley, wild pears, a domestic cherry ancestor, and over 200 varieties of grapes. A regional millet of exceptional seed production and protein content that was the dominant cereal hundreds of years ago but was replaced by New World corn under Soviet central planning, can still be found in 10-12 fields which now lie fallow.

### Caucasus Wildlife

Nature lovers will enjoy hiking in Kazbegi area and Lagodekhi Nature Reserve

#### Wildlife tour with hiking (15 days)

Jan Feb Mar Apr **May** Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Explore Caucasus Flora

Learn about the endemic variety of Georgian Flora

#### Botanical tour (8-14 days)

Jan Feb Mar **Apr** **May** Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Hiking in the National Parks

In search of adventure, venture in the National Parks

#### Eco Tour with hiking (15 days)

Jan Feb Mar **Apr** **May** Jun Jul Aug **Sep** Oct Nov Dec

### In Search of Rare Birds

Together with ornithologists you will observe unique breeds of birds

#### Bird watching tour (8-14 days)

Jan Feb Mar **Apr** **May** Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Wanders and Caprices of the Nature

Explore the natural monuments, caves and deep canyons

#### Culture and Nature tour (8 days)

Jan Feb Mar **Apr** **May** Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Seasons: Low Good Best

Detailed information on the programmes are available upon request

# Hiking in the National Parks

*Eco tour with hiking (15 days)*

*In search of adventure, venture into the national parks and explore diversity of landscapes from the high peaks of Caucasus Mountain Range to steeps and deserts, from lush forest and green fields to wetlands and Black Sea shore.*



If your choice is hiking in National parks you will traverse almost the whole country and visit all the main national parks of Georgia. You will explore arid steppe and deserts of Iori Plateau and its interesting paleontologic, cultural and historic places; enjoy fresh air of Borjomi-Kharagauli national park and have a walk in lush forests, picturesque gorges and canyons and taste local mineral waters. Explore variety of landscapes of Lagodekhi Nature Reserve and reach the highland of Kazbegi State Reserve; admire the beautiful views of high peaks of Caucasus Mountain Range and venture to the wetlands of Kolkheti National Park.



◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi - Lagodekhi; ◆Day 3: Lagodekhi Nature Reserve; ◆Day 5: Lagodekhi - Dedoplistskhatro; ◆Day 5: Vashlovani National Park - Tbilisi; ◆Day 6 Tbilisi - Kazbegi; ◆Day 7: Kazbegi State Reserve; ◆Day 8: Kazbegi - Borjomi; ◆Day 9: Borjom - Kharagauli National Park; ◆Day 10: Borjomi - Kharagauli National Park; ◆Day 11: Borjomi - Kharagauli National Park - Marelisi; ◆Day 12: Marelisi - Poti; ◆Day 13: Kolkheti National park; ◆Day 14: Poti - Tbilisi; ◆Day 15: Departure.

## *Bird watching tour (8-14 days)*

In Georgia there are approximately 350 bird species, of which over 250 different species are breeders. Georgia lies across a migration corridor between the Black and Caspian Seas, which makes its ornitho-fauna exceptionally diverse.

Our Birdwatching itineraries are expedition style tours, managed and logistically supported by Caucasus Travel, guided by professional ornithologists, if required. Before offering the programme, we look carefully into our guests' particular interests. The diverse landscape of the country offers a unique opportunity to observe different species in semi-desert, savanna-like landscapes, flood-plain forests, alpine meadows, glaciers and wetlands.

**Birds to observe:** Bearded Vultures (*Gypaetus Barbatus*), Egyptian Vultures (*Neophron Percnopterus*), Eurasian Black Vultures (*Aegypius Monachus*), Eurasian Griffons (*Gyps Fulvus*), Pallid Harriers (*Circus Macrourus*), Long-legged Buzzards (*Buteo Rufinus*), Imperial Eagles (*Aquila Hellaca*), Lesser Spotted Eagles (*Aquila Pomarina*), Chukars (*Alectoris Chukar*), Caucasian Snowcock (*Tetraogallus Caucasicus*), Caucasian Black Grouse (*Tetrao Mlokosiewiczzi*), White Pelicans (*Pelecanus Onocrotalus*), Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus Crispus*), Black Storks (*Ciconia Nigra*), Crimson-winged Finches (*Rhodopechys Sanguinea*), Radde's Accentors (*Prunella ocularis*) and a huge variety of raptors.

## In Search of Rare Birds

*The itineraries (as per season) to be provided upon request.*



**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**  
SINCE 1991

# Caucasus Wildlife

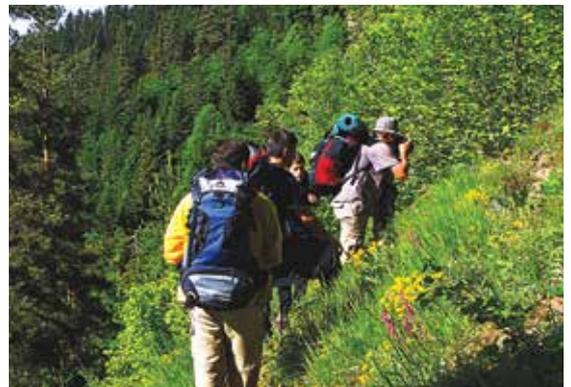
Wildlife tour with hiking (15 days)



*Like many mountain regions of the world, Georgia has a variety of topographical and biogeographical zones which create an environment of diverse and unspoilt habitats. This is reflected in the abundance and variety of wildlife that can be found in Georgia despite its relatively small area. In fact, Georgia has one of the highest levels of endemism in the world, including many protected species of flora and fauna.*



In this tour we combine visits to two very different ecological zones. First we travel to the mountain highlands of Kazbegi, where we will spend 4 days observing the wildlife of the region on a variety of low-level treks. The landscape is impressive and severe with alpine meadows dotted with yellow rhododendron, mountain passes and waterfalls, and the marvellous snow-capped Mount Kazbek -Mkinvartsveri - an inactive 5047 meter high volcano. From Kazbegi, we then travel to the east of Georgia, to Lagodekhi Nature Reserve , located in the Northeast of the country, on Alazany plain, under the Southern slope of Caucasus mountain range. Here we have ample opportunity to observe the wildlife and go trekking or horse riding. The reserve marvels visitors with impressive nature, abundance of streams and rivers, high waterfalls and sulfur springs.



◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi sightseeing tour; ◆Day 3: Tbilisi - Kazbegi; ◆Day 4: Kazbegi; ◆Day 5: Kazbegi - Truso valley; ◆Day 6: Truso valley - Kazbegi; ◆Day 7: Kazbegi - Tbilisi; ◆Day 8: Tbilisi - Lagodekhi; ◆Day 9, 10, 11 and 12: Lagodekhi Nature Reserve; ◆Day 13: Return to Tbilisi; ◆Day 14: Tbilisi; ◆Day 15: Departure.

## Explore Caucasus Flora

*The itineraries (as per season) to be provided upon request.*



Despite its small territory Georgia is covered with a large variety of vegetation, caused by a considerable difference between the Western and Eastern climates. The structure of the landscape as well as that of the mountain ranges has largely contributed to this geographical system, which has resulted in a high level of endemic variety. Georgian flora comprises around 4,200-4,500 species of vascular plants, 675 mosses, 1763 algae, 6337 fungi, 738 lichens. Out of all the vascular species distributed in Georgia 380 (9.0%) are endemic to the country and 600 (14.2%) endemic to the Caucasus. Almost 40% of Georgia's territory is covered with various types of forests. Approximately 5% of natural forests are virgin and 40% have kept their primary structure. There are unique formations and ecosystems in Georgia: sub-alpine forests, meadows, wetlands, peat bogs, coniferous and beech forests, oak-wood, narrow mountainous gorges, Mediterranean and semi-Mediterranean formations, steppes, arid light forests and flood-plain forests. Our botanical tours are expedition style tours, organized by Caucasus Travel and guided by professional botanist; it covers most of the formations described above. Choosing this trip you will become familiar with the beauty of Georgian nature.

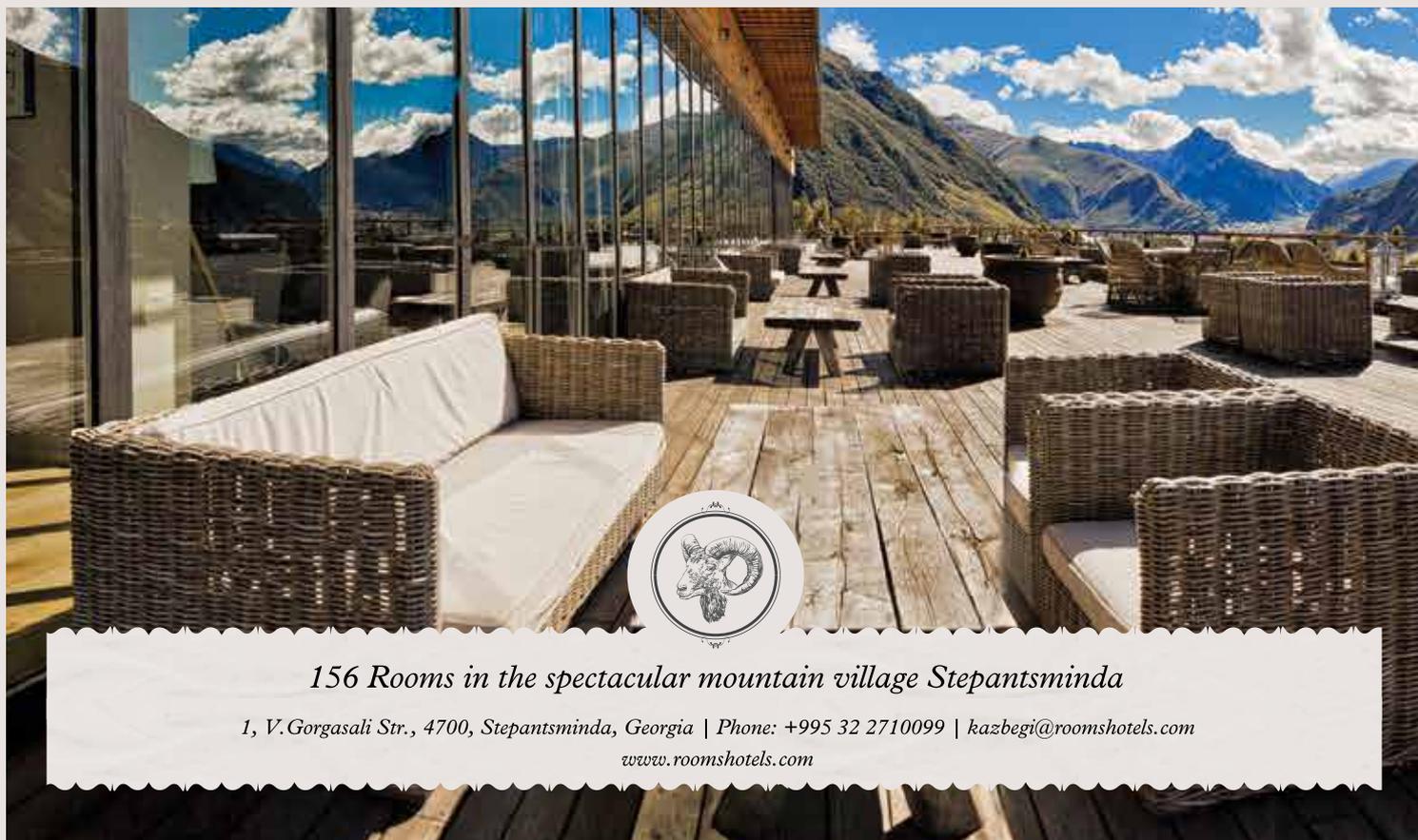
**Endemic species to Georgia and the Caucasus are:** Iris Iberica, Hypericum Thethrobicum, Senecio Rhombifolius and other.

*Botanical tour (8-14 days)*

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# Wanders and Caprices of the Nature

Culture and Nature tour (8 days)

**V**enture to West Georgia, where deep river gorges and canyons, grotto's and speleological caves marvel the visitor with unique forms and shapes. Where nature is the most talented sculptor and architect, creating masterpieces of unique shapes, While underground rivers murmur and deep underground lakes take thousands of colors under the lights of artificial illumination.



Katskhi Pillar, approximately 40 metres high, overlooks the Katskhura River Valley

We invite you to travel to Imereti and Samegrelo regions to visit some of the most important and impressive nature monuments of the country. Enjoy the view of Katskhi Pillar, a natural limestone monolith with a tiny church built on top. Have a walk in the Colchi's forest, visit Sataplia Caves and give a look to the footprints of Dinosaurs. Go in the underground world of Prometheus caves and take a boat tour in the underground lake. Walk and visit Martvili and Okatse canyons. Enjoy impressive views of fresh mountain streams, blue and deep lakes and waterfalls.

◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: full day Tbilisi sightseeing tour; ◆Day 3: Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Gori – Kutaisi; ◆Day 4: Kutaisi Sightseeing and visit to Sataplia caves; ◆Day 5: Day trip to Prometheus cave and Okatse Canyon; ◆Day 6: Day trip to Samegrelo Region- Martvili Canyon; ◆Day 7: Drive to Tbilisi via Sachkhere; give a look to Katskhi Pillar; Leisure evening in Tbilisi; ◆Day 8: Departure.



Prometheus Speleological caves offer 16 rooms sharply differing in terms of forms and fossil deposits. Artificial lighting and spectacular views of stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, drapes, petrified waterfalls, cave pearls, phyzolites, underground rivers, underground lakes and more, make the visit to the Prometheus cave unique and unforgettable.

Venture in Okatse Canyon, walk in a lush forest and along the 780m length hanging trail. Enjoy the views of astonishing waterfalls and streams creating small and deep lakes of impressive turquoise color. The noises of rushing water, sounds of wind and birds singing above all are mixed into one harmony.



Martvili Canyon located in Samegrelo region was named among eight best scuba diving sites in Europe. Taking boat or walking tours through the canyon and you can explore the mountain river gorge, limestone natural bridges, waterfalls, and unique nature.





### The First International Expedition of Disabled People on Mt.Kazbek (5047m).

On October 1995 four disabled people climbed Mt. Kazbek. The initiators and organizers of this unique expedition were Caucasus Travel and the Georgian Mountain Guides. The excellent coordination and the high level of professionalism of the team allowed the success of this highly risky expedition.



### Camel Trophy - *The restless adventure seekers explored the Caucasus*

In March 1998 the group of strong and brave people have tested the reliability of their vehicles, their own physical strength, their spiritual power and their friendship in many countries. Georgia's muddy and snowy off-roads to the remote villages and deserts were a new discovery.



### Queen of Desert *Off Road Adventurous Expedition for Ladies Only*

In the year 2002, the organizers of the "Queen of Desert" Expedition enamored with Georgia's beautiful nature and remote areas and successfully carried out their expedition together with Caucasus Travel.



### "Globe Riders" *International expedition by Motorbikes along the Great Silk Road*

From West Europe to China, avid outdoorsmen by motorbikes crossed Georgia in search of adventures. The expeditions took place in 2005, 2007, 2009 & 2011.



### International Expedition by Bikes *108 km day of total bliss, exhilaration, enjoyment and fun...*

Silk route race across the entire continent of Asia, from Istanbul to Tbilisi and farther to Beijing following footsteps of Marco Polo and depending only on muscles and on the strength of mind.



### "Man & Machine" 4WD Expedition from Malaysia to Great Britain

From Kuala Lumpur to London through unforgettable open spaces and truly empty roads. 50 participants overcame challenges to explore hidden corners and savor unknown countries. Column of Toyota Land Cruisers crossed Georgia from the Azerbaijan border to the Turkish border.

*British and German climbers were the first to come and conquer a number of peaks in the Caucasus and always assisted by local guides. The first Georgian mountain guides - villagers from Kazbegi, Svaneti and other mountain regions climbed many giants of the Caucasus - Mt. Elbrus, Mt. Kazbegi, Mt. Ushba and Mt. Shkara with their experienced guests. Gakha Tsiklauri, Iagor Kazalikhvili and many others are mentioned in the expeditions of Freshfield, Merzbacher, Sella, etc.*

*The Mountain Guide Diploma, issued by the Geographical Society of Georgia in 1925, shows that the profession of Mountain Guide was appreciated in Georgia even at the beginning of the 20th century.*



### BETHLEMI HUT

*the place where climbing of the most beautiful peak of KAZBEGI begins*

Located on the Southern slopes of Mt. Kazbegi, at an altitude of 3653 meters, the hut is the most convenient starting point either for acclimatization ascents, or for climbing the classic route up the icy South face (3+UIAA) of Mt. Kazbegi (5047 m).

Bethlemi Hut annually hosts thousands of Georgian and foreign climbers and tourists.

Welcome to the highest located building in the Caucasus Mountains

Coordinates: X 46.17.88.85; Y 47.25.382.01

Bookings and Reservation

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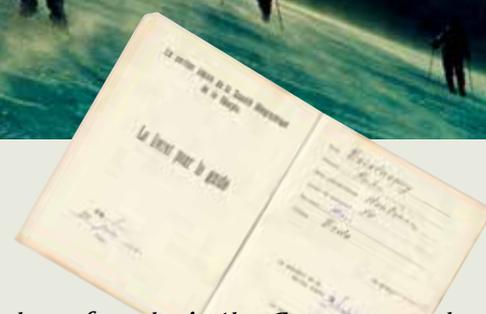
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[bethlemihut.ge](http://bethlemihut.ge)



### Georgian Mountain Guides





## Join us on the road of discovery and excitement

Imagine that you find yourself somewhere far away, surrounded by mountains that rise to the skies. Imagine there are no ski lifts, no huts, and no restaurants; no traffic signs or guidebooks with precise descriptions. Imagine you are highly unlikely to meet another traveller like yourself, but that instead you'll see thousands of sheep, and be watched closely by shepherds in felt coats known as "nabadi" surrounded by bushy Caucasian sheepdogs.

Imagine seeing medieval towers and century old houses. Imagine that along the way everybody who lives in the traditional villages, young and old meets you as friends. They watch you, shake hands with you and welcome you. They invite you to their houses to stay the night, to an improvised feast, where they treat you with delicious fresh cheese, homemade butter, bread and "arakhi" (local vodka). Is all this an adventure that makes it worth coming to Georgia? Yes or no? Don't hurry your decision, more good things are yet to come!

We have experienced many aspects of mountain life and outdoor activities - trekking, skiing, mountaineering, rock climbing, horse riding, mountain biking, rafting, paragliding and canyoning and other.

In this brochure we have selected only a few trips. Please feel free to contact us for further information or if you have any other suggestions.

WALKER

### Across Georgia on Mountain Bike

Venture in Caucasus highlands on mountain bike

*Cycling tour (15 days)*

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Off Road Adventure in Georgia

Take up a challenge and follow off-roads of Georgia

*4 WD tour (8 days)*

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Horseback in the Caucasus Highlands

Experience horse riding along the mountain paths of Tusheti

*Horse riding tour in Tusheti area (10 days)*

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Traverse the Caucasus

Journey through the highlands of Mtiuleti, Khevi, Khevsureti and Tusheti provinces

*Trekking tour (15 days)*

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### The Bride of Khevi - Mt. Kazbek

Climb Kazbek – Third highest and one of the best known peaks in the Caucasus

*Mountaineering (8 days)*

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Ski Tour Challenge - Mt. Kazbek

2500 m of exiting descent from the plateau of the Mount Kazbek

*Ski tour (8 days)*

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Seasons: Low Good Best

*Detailed information on the programmes are available upon request*

# Across Georgia on Mountain Bike

Cycling tour (15 days)



*Those, fond of travelling and adventure, are welcomed to explore Georgia on mountain bike. Georgia promises to amaze not just the beginners but also experienced riders.*



*One of technology's greatest gifts - the mountain bike offers great scope for activity in Georgia. A mountain bike's size, speed, practicality and robustness allow you to start your journey in the Alpine zone, visit different picturesque parts of Georgia, mountain villages, Alpine grasslands, historical and architectural monuments and finally bask in the sun on the warm Black Sea coast.*



◆**Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi** Transfer from airport to the city; ◆**Day 2: Tbilisi** Mountain biking around Tbilisi; ◆**Day 3: Tbilisi - Rkoni** (1100 m) Drive to the village Partskhisi (60km, 1.5 - 2h). Cycle to the village of Rkoni (km, 1.5 h). Cycling around the nature reserve. Camp; ◆**Day 4: Rkoni reserve - Tbilisi** Cycle across the Trialeti range (1800 m) to the village of Manglisi (1200 m, 25 km, 5-6 h). Visit the Kldekari fortress. Drive/cycle to Tbilisi (65 km); ◆**Day 5: Tbilisi - Gudauri** (2000 m) Drive along the Georgian Military Highway to the ski resort of Gudauri (120km, 2 - 3 h). Stopovers at Shio Mgvime Monastery and Ananuri Complex. Cycling in the area; ◆**Day 6: Gudauri - Truso gorge** Cycle across the Cross Pass (2300 m) to the village Kobi (1780 m, 22 km, 1.5 h). Cycle alongside river Tergi to the camping site in Truso Gorge (10 km, 1h). Cycle to old villages in the valley (3km). Return to the camp; ◆**Day 7: Truso Gorge - Gudauri** Cycle / drive via snowy Gorge to the village of Juta (2200 m, 35km ). Cycle to the town of Kazbegi (1700 m), centre of Khevi province (25 km, 1 h). Cycle downhill via Dariali Gorge to the Georgian-Russian border (14 km). Drive to Gudauri (50 km, 1 h); ◆**Day 8: Gudauri - Tbilisi** Cycle via Khada Gorge to the Jinali dam (4-5 h). Drive to Tbilisi (56 km, 1.5 h); ◆**Day 9: Tbilisi Rest.** Cultural and architectural sights; ◆**Day 10: Tbilisi - Borjomi** (740 m) Drive to the resort of Borjomi (160 km, 4-5 h). Visit en route Mtskheta. Cycling in the Borjomi National Park area; ◆**Day 11: Borjomi - Goderdzi pass** (2050 m) Drive to the village of Adigeni (1300 m, 92 km, 2.5 h). Cycle to the Goderdzi pass (20 km, 4-5 h). Camp; ◆**Day 12: Goderdzi pass - Batumi** (sea level) Cycle along the Keda Gorge to the Black-Sea resort Batumi (115 km, 3-4 h); ◆**Day 13: Batumi** Sightseeing and rest; ◆**Day 14: Batumi - Tbilisi** Drive to Tbilisi (400 km, 5 h); ◆**Day 15: Departure.**



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Culture, Nature, Adventure and more...

# Off Road Adventure in Georgia

4 WD tour (8 days)

**E**xciting off-road tours through the Central Caucasus Mountain passes and valleys, lush forests, Borjomi canyons, steppes of Javakheti and roaring rivers of Truso gorge are never simple. Crossing challenging barriers on off-road trip is as important as the destination; it is a way of life... Mixing with people all along the route, seeing some of the remotest scenery, trying things that you can not even pronounce and above all sharing these adventures with your fellow traveller.



The voyage starts from Tbilisi, capital of Georgia and continues over the desert slopes and lunar landscapes of Gareja area and fertile land of Kakheti province. Off road traversing over the stunning passes of the Great and Lesser Caucasus shows extraordinary scenery of Trialety Valley. Explore the pure nature of the beautiful gorges of the Caucasus – Ksani & Aragvi and Snow capped Mount Kazbek and its surroundings. Rough roads, clean air, fascinating nature, your 4 x 4 friend and exciting adventures are waiting for you!

◆**Day 1: Arrive in Tbilisi Airport; Tbilisi - David Gareja - Signaghi;** Meet with your guide. Drive through the hills of David Gareja desert to visit rock cut monasteries and pass through amazing rock formations. Visit Signaghi, surrounded by defense wall and 23 towers; enjoy views of the Alazani valley and vineyards and spend evening at nicely decorated hotel; ◆**Day 2: Signaghi - Chachuna area - Signaghi;** Drive to one of the most attractive sites of the Chachuna area and visit Khornabuji castle of the medieval period. On the way back taste local cheese, snacks, pickled vegetables and fresh baked bread in town of Dedoplistskhara; ◆**Day 3: Signaghi - Gremi - Akhmeta - Jinvall - Gudauri;** Leave Signaghi and drive through picturesque valleys of Kakheti & Tianet. In the evening reach 2000 m and enjoy mountain views in alpine resort Gudauri. En route visit Gremi Architectural Complex. Overnight in cozy hotel with chimney & sauna; ◆**Day 4: Gudauri - Kazbegi - Gudauri;** continue journey up and north through alpine meadows of yellow Rhododendron and mountain passes littered with medieval watchtowers, reach Dariali Gorge - 15 km gash in the earth. Explore Gergety Trinity Church & Truso valley with mineral water springs, old villages & ancient fortresses; ◆**Day 5: Gudauri - Ananuri - Dzalisi - Mtskheta - Tbilisi;** During descent glance at Ananuri - the incredible 16<sup>th</sup> century fortress built by the warring dukes of Aragvi in an attempt to control the main road. Continue trip to the untouched magical valleys where only a 4 x 4 can explore; ◆**Day 6: Tbilisi - Akhalkalaki - Vardzia - Akhaltsikhe;** Venture further into the southwestern region of Georgia. The road to Vardzia leads past arid and stone-terraced landscapes, past the famed the 10<sup>th</sup> c Khertvisi Castle. After 4-5 hours driving & passing along Paravani & Sagamo lakes explore rock cut town Vardzia linked to Queen Tamar royal who reigned during the 12<sup>th</sup>c & became the first woman to ascend to the throne of feudal Georgia; ◆**Day 7: Akhaltsikhe - Gori - Tbilisi** Pass through picturesque Borjomi canyon & arrive in the town of Gori. After visiting Stalin's museum, continue to Uplis-Tsikhe cave town, dating from the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC; ◆**Day 8: Departure.**



We have accumulated great experience in organizing 4WD tours as well as rallies, starting from late 90's, when couple of Camel Trophy expeditions were hosted.

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Culture, nature, adventure and more

# Horseback in the Caucasus Highland

Horse riding tour in Tusheti area (10 days)

*Life in the Caucasus Mountains is unimaginable without a horse. The Caucasian Mountains are the homeland of such breeds of great endurance and beauty as the Kabardo, Tusheti, etc.. Riding a horse through the mountain villages you immediately feel not merely a guest or a visitor but a participant in that chivalrous life that used to be led up here and traces of which are still in the air today.*



For those who don't care to ride on any given day, there are numerous adventures they can participate.

Our tours are designed for a pleasure to enjoy horseback riding, beautiful views, delicious food, wine and a good company. We travel with a staff whose purpose is to make your trip as carefree and enjoyable as possible. Rides are from 2 to 6 hours a day. The horses are brought to us saddled and ready to go.

You may participate in this programme even if you are not an experienced horse-rider. Skilled instructors and guides will ensure your safety while you are riding.



*A photo of you mounted on a horse wearing a Caucasian "Nabadi" (a woolen shepherd's coat) and a shepherd's hat with a Georgian mountain village in the background will adorn your album.*



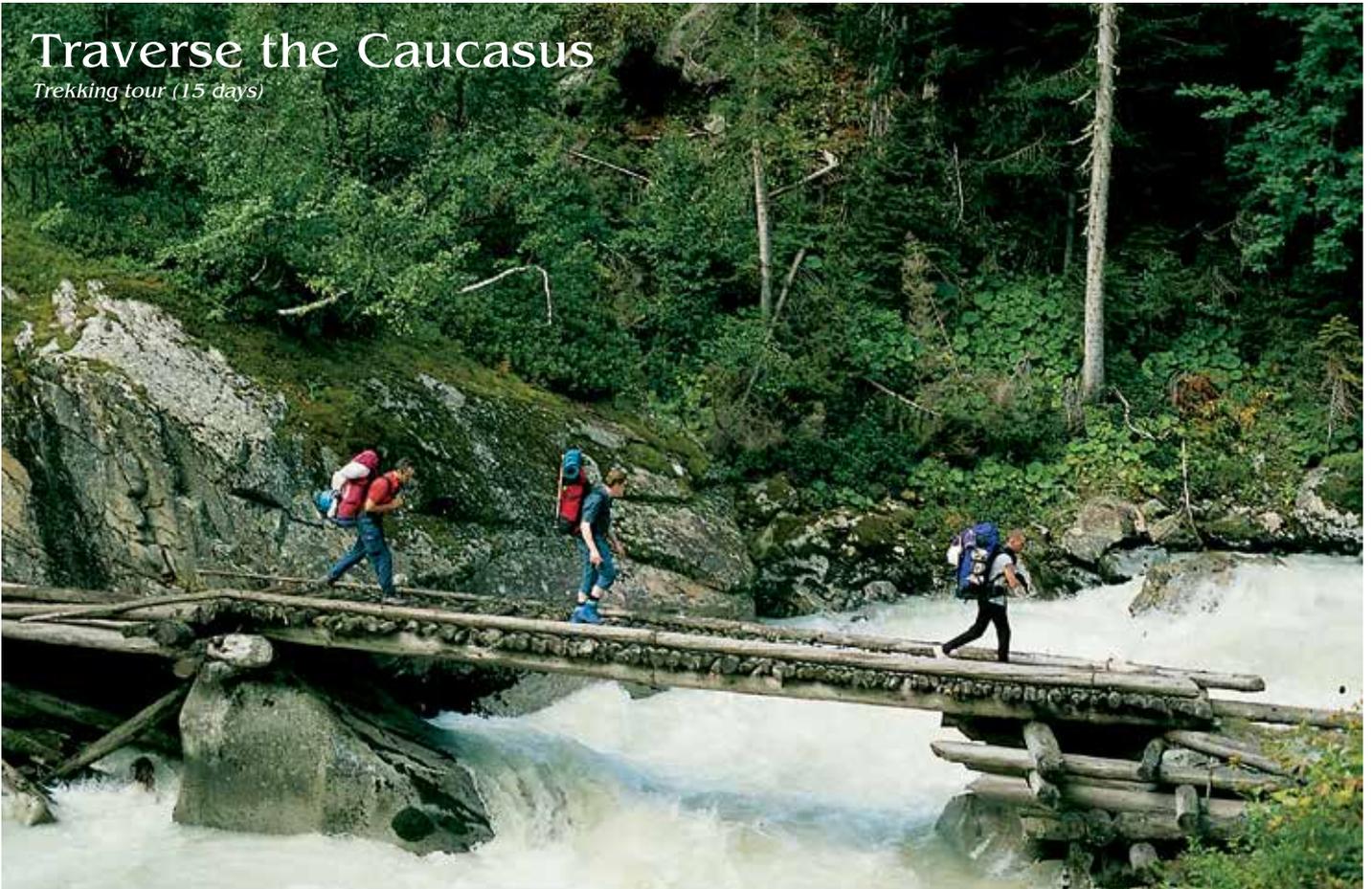
◆Day 1: Arrive in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Half day sightseeing tour of Tbilisi & transfer to Kakheti area to taste delicious food and wines; ◆Day 3: Tusheti After breakfast journey over the Abano Pass by 4WD vehicles towards Tusheti Valley; After refreshment hour visit to stables to become acquainted with the horses and ride 2 hours into hills; Enjoy barbeque party and accordion music around the bonfire. Dinner & overnight at the farmhouse; ◆Day 4: Tusheti Today's ride proceeds into the hilly country to Omalo & Shenako (6 hours); ◆Day 5: This day's ride starts out through a peaceful valley and continues on to a Diklo fortress. Fishing on trout is available in pure rivers of the Alazani River; ◆Day 6: Tusheti After 4 steady hours climbing mountain paths, ride across the Sonekhi Pass and descend to Chigho village. Then down through villages of Dartlo to Chesho; ◆Day 7: Follow up the Pirikita Alazani River to the last populated village Girevi. Stop to visit village Parsma, then return to Chesho for overnight; ◆Day 8: Ride through wooded path to upper Omalo village, then continue to Shtrolta; ◆Day 9: Return to Telavi by 4WD vehicles, then on to Tbilisi. Farewell dinner at one of Tbilisi 's traditional restaurant; ◆Day 10: Departure.

*Impressive landscapes spread around, fresh air, chattering of rivers and chirp of bird will make even a simple picnic unforgettable meal*



# Traverse the Caucasus

Trekking tour (15 days)



Brave day and night, Caucasian sheepdogs take care of our camps. Despite being busy enough with their duties, they don't mind relaxing in a friendly atmosphere.

Our trekking tours are distinguished by the diversity of relief, the different cultures and the range of monuments and architecture we encounter despite the relatively short route. One also has to bear in mind that due to the intense folding of the Caucasus massif, it is hard work for trekkers in these mountains. The difference in altitude between the valleys and the passes is quite significant, so that even though linear distances covered may be quite small, trekking in Georgia is quite a serious matter.

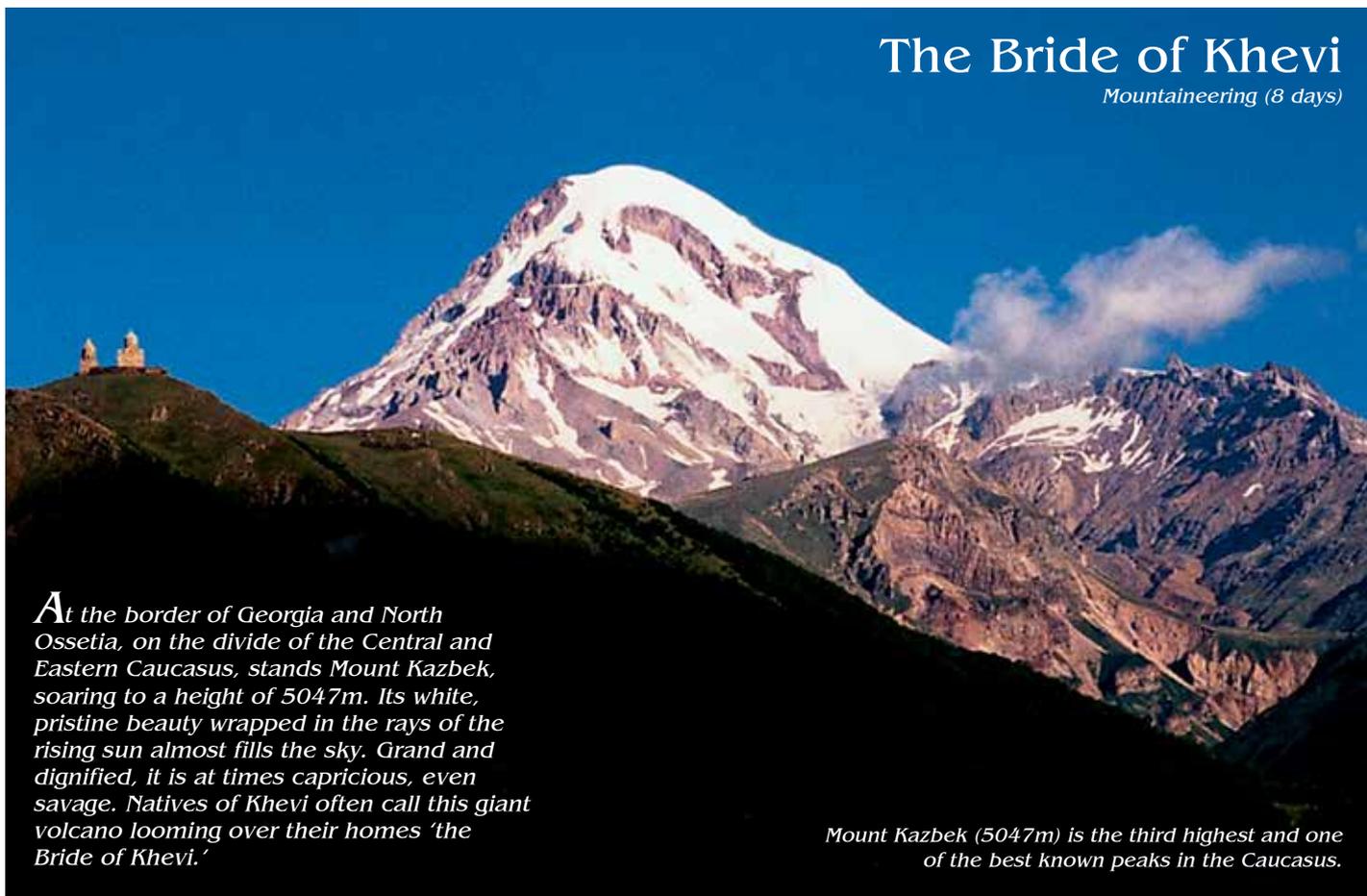
With this program you will have the opportunity to travel from the mountainous province of Mtiuleti, through Khevi and Khevsureti to Tusheti over the passes, which used to be the main means of communication between these regions. After walking these paths, you will understand more about Georgia's development and how it has managed to preserve its great range of ethnographic diversity. Warm encounters with local inhabitants, traditional Georgian meals, Georgian history and legends await you on your journey through the mountains.

◆**Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi;** ◆**Day 2: Tbilisi - Khada Hut** (2700m) Drive to Khada village, Mtiuleti province (alt. 1600 m. 95 km, 2.5 h). Trek through Khada gorge to the Khada Hut (alt. 2700m. 3-4h); ◆**Day 3: Khada Hut - Kazbegi** Descent to the village of Gudauri (1.2 h). Drive to the town of Kazbegi, (45 km, 1h); ◆**Day 4: Kazbegi - Chaukhi mountains** (2600 m) Drive to the village of Juta (25 km, 1 h). Trek to the foot of the Chaukhi mountains. Camp; ◆**Day 5: Chaukhi mountains - Roshka village** (2500m) Trek over Roshka pass to the village (5-6 h). Camp; ◆**Day 6: Roshka village - Shatili** (1395 m) Trek to the road (2h). Drive to Shatili village, the historical center of Khevsureti province (50 km, 2-3 h). Camp; ◆**Day 7: Shatili - Ardoti village** (1790m) Visit Shatili towers. Drive to Mutso village (alt. 1590m, 11km). Trek to the village of Ardoti (2 h). Camp; ◆**Day 8: Ardoti village - Atsunta pass** (2780 m) Trek to the foot of the Atsunta pass (5-6 h). Camp; ◆**Day 9: Atsunta pass - Pirikita Alazani Gorge** (2550 m) Trek over the Atsunta pass (alt. 3431 m) to Pirikita Tusheti gorge (6-7 h). Camp; ◆**Day 10: Pirikita Alazani Gorge - Parsma village** (1960 m) Trek along Pirikita Alazani gorge. Stopover at towers in villages (5-6 h). Camp in Parsma village; ◆**Day 11: Parsma village - Omalo village** (2050 m) Trek to Omalo, the center of Tusheti province; ◆**Day 12: Omalo - Telavi** Drive to the town of Telavi, the center of Kakheti province (120 km, 6h); ◆**Day 13: Sightseeing in Telavi;** ◆**Day 14: Telavi - Tbilisi** Drive to Tbilisi (150 km, 2,5-3h); ◆**Day 15: Departure.**



# The Bride of Khevi

Mountaineering (8 days)



**A**t the border of Georgia and North Ossetia, on the divide of the Central and Eastern Caucasus, stands Mount Kazbek, soaring to a height of 5047m. Its white, pristine beauty wrapped in the rays of the rising sun almost fills the sky. Grand and dignified, it is at times capricious, even savage. Natives of Khevi often call this giant volcano looming over their homes 'the Bride of Khevi.'

Mount Kazbek (5047m) is the third highest and one of the best known peaks in the Caucasus.

Its Georgian name is "Mkinvartsveri" meaning "ice-top" in English. (One of our guests, having stopped several times along the way to rest, said that he now understood why the Georgians call this mountain "I stop"). Stories say that Amirani, the Georgian Prometheus, defier of the gods, was the first to conquer Mkinvartsveri; a Georgian historian refers to "one Ioseb from Khevi" who during the reign of King Erekle II (17th century) scaled Mkinvartsveri. Officially however, the first man to conquer Kazbek was the Englishman, Douglas Freshfield, with guides from the village of Kazbegi in the end of 19th century.

◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi - Kazbegi; ◆Day 3: Kazbegi - the Bethlemi Hut (Former meteorological station) Get ready for a long, hard day. The difference in altitude between Kazbegi village (1700 m) and the Bethlemi Hut (3675m) is great; ◆Day 4: The Bethlemi Hut - Peak Ortsveri (4300m, II UIAA) Today's route is a warm-up before climbing Kazbek. We will practice ice and rope techniques in order to prepare for the big climb; ◆Day 5: The Bethlemi Hut - Peak Kazbek (5047m) Rising at 4 a.m., we will traverse the base of the mountain for one hour from the Hut and move onto the glacier. The sun rises as we reach the Maili Plateau (4500m). From the plateau we will ascend to the saddle (5000m) up a 700m, 20-25 degree slope. A 120 m, 35 degree ice slope is the last obstacle and will lead us to the summit, after a total of 5-7 hours climbing. We look down to the plains of Southern Russia and the sweep of the Caucasus range. We then reverse our route and descend to the Hut. In all, the route will take 9-10 hours; ◆Day 6: The Bethlemi Hut - Tbilisi; ◆Day 7: Tbilisi sightseeing; ◆Day 8: Departure.



**Gergeti Trinity Church**  
Perched on the top of the Holy Trinity hill at 2170 meters above sea level Gergeti Trinity Church (13-14cc) is something of a symbol of Georgia and protector of mountaineers passing along on the way to the peak Kazbek.

## Ski-Tour challenge - Mount Kazbek

Ski-Tour (8 days)

**I**n the spring, Mt. Kazbek makes an excellent ski-touring summit for experienced skiers. Take in 2500m of mountain descent from the plateau to the valley.



◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi ◆Day 2: Tbilisi - Kazbegi ◆Day 3: Kazbegi - Bethlemi Hut (3675 m) Ski-tour to meteo station (6-7 h). ◆Day 4: The Bethlemi Hut - Mt. Ortsveri (4360 m) Ski-tour to the north saddle of Mt. Ortsveri (1.5-2 h). Ascent to the summit via northern ridge (II UIAA. 350 m, 1 h). Descent to meteo station (1-1.5 h). ◆Day 5: The Bethlemi Hut -Mt. Kazbek (5047 m, II UIAA) Ski-tour to Mt. Kazbek north slope (4600-4800 m), Ascent to the summit via ice-snow slope (6-7 h). Descent to meteo station (2-3 h). ◆Day 6: The Bethlemi Hut - Kazbegi Descent to Kazbegi (3-4 h). ◆Day 7: Kazbegi - Tbilisi ◆Day 8: Departure

Trekking, Mountaineering and  
Ski-Mountaineering programmes  
provided by Caucasus Travel Ltd.  
are guided by  
CERTIFIED MOUNTAIN GUIDES.



**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**  
SINCE 1991



## Georgia: Cradle of Wine

Vine-growing has an ancient history in Georgia. Fossilized grape leaves, stems and seeds have been unearthed from Miocene deposits in the Akhaltsikhe district of Georgia and in Bronze-age tombs. Other paleo-botanical and archaeological data attest to the long existence and wide distribution of the vine in Georgia. In some of the oldest human settlements archaeologists have unearthed wine presses cut from stone and a vast array of clay and metal wine vessels, all of which indicate that wine-making has been practised in Georgia from 6000 years BC.

Georgians were originally sun worshippers and believed that the sun has its chosen creatures on earth. Among the animals was the lion, and among plants was the vine. The vine was thought to be brimming with solar energy, its growth reflecting the power of the sun. The vine represented the feminine spirit, and the sun, the masculine. This is why wine has strength, reflecting the power given to it by the sun. Georgians even call the vine the sun's daughter. St. Nino, who brought Christianity to Georgia, made a cross from vine stems and tied them together with her hair, symbolising the sun's rays. The winding characters of the Georgian alphabet reflect the trailing growth of the vine; it is found as a decorative motif in Georgian architecture and as an ornamental device it is interwoven with capital letters in old Georgian manuscripts.

Local wine-making techniques were developed in Kakheti, Imereti and Kartli. Special vessels for wine storage and maturation were designed along with implements for cleaning the wine vessels. The range of wines expanded over the centuries as wine makers developed sweeter, stronger wines, and new techniques for blending different wines.



**Nadgora** cemetery of wine pitchers (Qvevri). Vessels for wine were made with particular love and respect. Even broken into pieces, these almost holy objects weren't thrown away, but brought to the special place where to have been left for centuries.



## Harvest Time

"Rtveli" is the time of grape harvesting in Georgia. During rtveli, all able-bodied people in the region spend their days in the vineyards. Only grandmothers and their grandchildren are left behind to cook food, including "churchkhela", a favourite sweet for adults and children alike. Usually, all churchkhelas are consumed within one year as each new rtveli brings a fresh churchkhela harvest, and a new occasion for celebration.



Making 'Churchkhela'

## Qvevri

Qvevri wine-making Technique is unique to Georgia and is on the List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. The Qvevri is an earthenware vessel used for making, ageing and storing the wine. Its earliest samples discovered so far, date to the early Iron Age (6th Millenium B.C.)



Qvevri wine-making is declared as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity



## Wine Therapy

The totally unique direction of spa therapy "Wine Therapy" is available in Kakheti – the famous wine region of Georgia. More than 500 grape varieties are found in Georgia; most of them are endemic for this region and have health giving properties. Grapes, their seeds and vines, contain some of nature's most powerful antioxidants. Wine treatments are believed to firm the skin and slow down the aging process due to wine's high antioxidant content.



## A Selection of Georgian Cuisine

Georgian cuisine offers an abundance of elaborate dishes with all possible kinds of meat, fish, vegetables with garlic, walnuts and various herbs and spices; differnt sorts of cheeses, all kinds of pickles and pignunt spices - all of which are very fresh natural products.

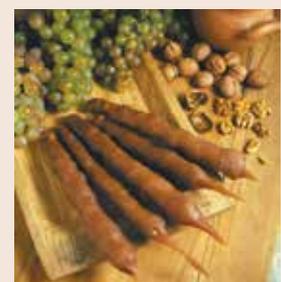
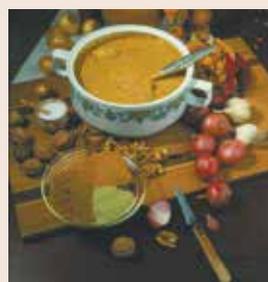
**Khachapuri** – bread with cheese filling, described by foreigners as "Georgian pizza". Each part of Georgia has its own unique khachapuri with its own special flavor, composition and shape. In most regions of west Georgia guests are treated with hot khachapuri.

**Chakhokhbili** – the original chakhokhbili was prepared with "Khokhobi" (Pheasant) and was a popular festive dish with the nobility in all of Georgia. At present it is difficult to find a restaurant where you can order the original chakhokhbili, but chicken with these spices tastes almost as good.

**Satsivi** – it takes a long time to prepare satsivi – a traditional dish for the New Year feast. It is turkey or chicken with a lot of oriental and local spices and walnuts. The procedure of preparing satsivi is accompanied by a fun and festive mood. You are supposed to have a lucky and successful year if satsivi is on the New Year table.

**Khinkali** – the delicious food of the people in the east and north mountainous regions. It is a boiled dumpling filled with minced meat in dough. In the mountain regions people mix in special spices. All sacrificial rituals are finalized by preparing khinkali. During the feast hosts serve trays of hot khinkali for the guests.

**Churchkhela** – a yummy and wholesome delicacy of nuts or raisins threaded onto a string. The string is then dipped repeatedly in simmering grape juice and wheat flour and then hung out on ropes to dry. Churchkhela from Kakheti is the best.





## Entertainment, Pleasure & Leisure

While being in Georgia find pleasure in visiting numerous theatres, attend folk shows and performances, visit galleries and be emerged in night-life of Tbilisi and Batumi.

... And don't forget about Georgian wine and food

Georgian Supra is an essential part of Georgian life style. It doesn't matter are you in the mountains or lowlands, in large cities or remote villages, the flavour of local dishes will lead you through the different regions of Georgia and offer the possibility to feel the whole taste of distinctive and unforgettable Georgian cuisine and enjoy the variety and abundance of Georgian wines.

Georgians display passion in both, the preparation and consumption of a meal. Maybe that's why Russian poet A. Pushkin commented, that every Georgian dish is a poem.

But still, Georgian "Supra" won't be completed without the head of the table or toastmaster "Tamada". He is elected and proposed by the host. The "Tamada" must be a man of humor with ability for improvisation and a philosopher's wisdom. "Merikhipe" will make sure that wine glasses are filled at all times. End the dinner party will go on...

The real dinner party will be accompanied by the thousand years old traditional polyphonic songs and Georgian fiery dances. You aren't supposed to be professional dancer; burning rhythms of tam-tams and finest wine will fill you with joy and make you be involved in "perkhuly dance".

### The Route of Flavours

The land of elaborated cuisine and great variety of exquisite wines

*Gourmet tour (8 days)*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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### The Wine Route

Tour in "Tamada's" – Toastmaster's country

*Wine tour (8 days)*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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### Caucasus Ski Paradise

Enjoy deep, soft and fresh snow, variety of slopes, ideal valley and alpine hills

*Ski holiday (14 days)*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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### From Snowy Peaks to Sunny Sea Shore

Ski, spa & leisure

*Winter/Spring Vacation t (8 days)*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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### Health & Beauty

Spa holidays, Leisure & More

*Spa holidays, leisure and more (15 days)*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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### Fun and Joy at Black Sea Coast

Blue-green waters of Black Sea, hot sun and fun

*Vacation tour (8 days)*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Seasons:                      Low                      Good                      Best

Detailed information on the programmes are available upon request

WINE

# The Route of Flavours

Gourmet tour (8 days)



*The Route of Flavours leads through the different regions of Georgia offering the opportunity to savor the wide-ranging and unmistakably distinctive tastes of the unforgettable Georgian Cuisine.*

*During the tour we will admire dishes of various regions of Georgia.*

**Kartli** – the heart of Georgia, rich with vegetables and fruits. In the old capital of Georgia, Mtskheta, we'll enjoy Georgian dumplings called khinkali and a creamy soup of red beans - lobio - served in a clay pot. **Imereti** with its cool springs, green fields, and delicate, manicured gardens will offer a special kind of "khachapuri", the cheese-bread unique to Georgia. In this part of Georgia, food and a traditional Georgian table have a superior importance. A great variety of dishes will be served with Imereti's hospitality. **Svaneti** – For centuries the Svan ethnic group evolved there, their culture and cuisine preserved almost intact. Here are reserved some of the oldest and most unique examples of traditional Georgian recipes: breads with different fillings, blood sausages, and numerous dishes with fresh meat. In Mestia we can watch the cheese making process and take part in cooking traditional dishes. **Samegrelo** – with its own strong identity and hot, humid climate is famous for its cuisine. Lot of chili pepper makes Megreli's dishes spicier than elsewhere in Georgia. Here you will be offered maize porridge – gomi with sulguni cheese, and other dishes of meat and vegetables with nuts. **Adjara** – situated at the Black Sea coast with a subtropical climate, exotic plants and all shades of green will open the doors of its rich kitchen. Delicious cakes with nuts, nava shaped "khachapuri", "achma" and other dishes will be served. **Tbilisi** – starting the day with "khashi", a broth cooked from beef and lavishly seasoned with garlic. This strange breakfast is usually eaten very early morning to cure a hangover and usually is accompanied by 100 grams of "Chacha" – Georgian vodka of grappa. The rest of the day we will spend in Tbilisi. Here you will find the restaurants serving the cuisine of every region of Georgia.



*It doesn't matter are you high in mountains, in a wood or anywhere else, the reason for "supra" – Georgian dinner party is easy to find; but the best reason are you "The guest" being around!*

◆**Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi;** ◆**Day 2: Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Kutaisi.** Lunch in Mtskheta, dinner in a local guesthouse with traditional Imereti dishes; ◆**Day 3: Kutaisi - Mestia.** Lunch en route, dinner in guesthouse in Mestia - first meeting with Svaneti's local cuisine; ◆**Day 4: Mestia** You will see how Georgian cheese is prepared and we can take part in cooking; ◆**Day 5: Mestia - Zugdidi - Batumi** Lunch in Zugdidi with Samegrelo spicy dishes. Visit the tea and citrus plantations in local villages. Dinner in a local home in Adjara; ◆**Day 6: Batumi - Tbilisi** Adjaruli khachapuri and local cakes will be served for breakfast. Lunch en route. Dinner in a restaurant of Tbilisi with a variety of Caucasian dishes; ◆**Day 7: Tbilisi** Early breakfast with khashi and vodka. Lunch and dinner in one of the city's famous restaurants; ◆**Day 8: Departure.**

*Georgian bread "Dedas Puri" is so tasty, that it's hard to say is it just an addition to the main dishes or itself most important thing on table and all the rest just underlines its rich taste.*



*Preparing Khinkali is not an easy job ...*

*...eating neither*



# The Wine Route

Wine tour (8 days)

*The bouquet of wine, the toasts of the Tamada, the beautiful Georgian songs, the romantic atmosphere and as we say in Georgia - "Bread, cheese and a kind heart"... What else do we need?*

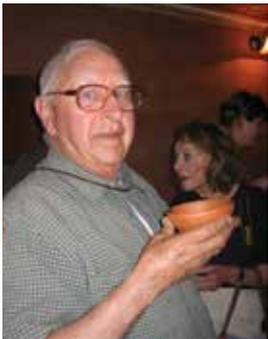


Chelti Vineyard, Kakheti

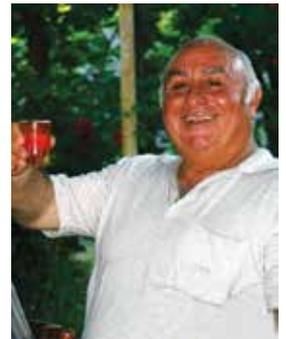
The wine route leads us to Kakheti – the main wine producing province of Georgia. This program aims to give you an eight day Georgian wine tasting experience and to introduce you to the traditions, history and the attitude of Georgians to the wine they produce.

Visit motherland of wine with abundance of endemic species. Meet local wine producers and learn about archaic wine making skills first mentioned in pre-Christian Greek and Roman historical annals. Local wine-makers will share their experience in wine nursing. Have a look at "Marani" - a special house for making wine and visit churches lavishly decorated with vine tree ornaments.

The reach land, burning sun and hard work have developed about 500 varieties of vine in Georgia. The history, culture and lifestyle of Georgians are embodied in Georgian wine. The Wine tour gives an opportunity to experience such a life style.



So if you are chosen by tamada for "alaverdi" (means passing the rights to make the next toast) don't miss this opportunity... make your best for toasting and enjoy the wine, like this gentleman is surprisingly to do



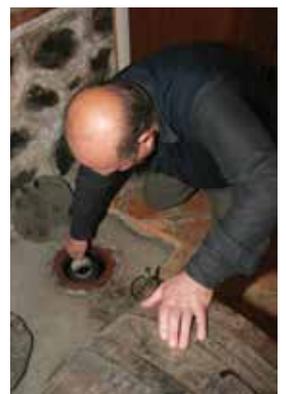
There is no meal without wine and accordingly no wine without TAMADA toast-master...

◆Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi sightseeing tour including visit of winery, wine tasting and wine shops; ◆Day 3: Tbilisi – Signnaghi – Telavi drive to the wine producing region of Kakheti; Explore Signnaghi Royal Town, where wine festivals take place; ◆Day 4: Telavi and surroundings, Explore Nadgora- cemetery of wine pitchers, visit Tsinandali Family Estate and wine cellar, vineyards, hundred years old family wine cellars and the leading wine producers; ◆Day 5: Telavi -David Gareja – Tbilisi on the way to Tbilisi visit David Gareja Monastery Complex, its refectory and wine cellar located on the very top of hill in arid area of Semi Desert; ◆Day 6: Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Ananuri – Tbilisi Trip to Mskheta, visit local cognac production; ◆Day 7: Tbilisi – Gori – Tbilisi drive across the fertile land of Kartli province to explore Uplistsikhe cave town (1st Millennium BC) and visit its ancient wine presses carved in stone; ◆Day 8 Departure.

...only singers have the "right" to ignore the Tamada's rules.



"Chacha" (Georgian Grappa) making machine



Enjoy special wine from special ceramic vessel - Qvevri (wine pitcher)



# Going places together

Every moment of your time together is precious. That's why we're dedicated to providing a premium service from the minute you check-in, to the moment you land in any of the more than 150 places we fly to worldwide. Together we can create experiences to cherish and memories that last a lifetime.



GOING PLACES TOGETHER

# CHÂTEAU MUKHRANI

YOUR WINE EXPERIENCE AND MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME!



If you are a wine enthusiast, a couple looking for a romantic getaway, or a group in search of outdoor adventure, or all of the above, this is the only place to go!

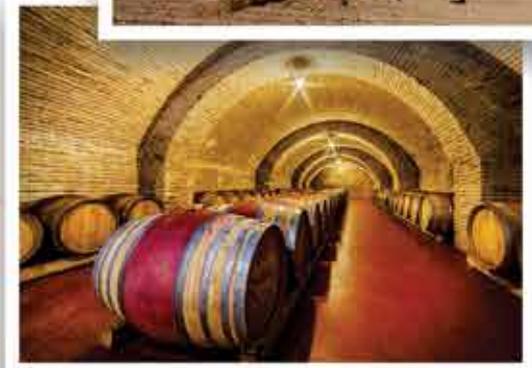
We invite you to discover the Georgian Royal Family history and breath-taking legends, a flavor of antiquity and enchanting wines.

## **EXCEPTIONAL LOCATION**

Situated 25 minutes away from Tbilisi it is the first Georgian Château. Fabulous castle and cellars, wonderful gardens and vineyards made Château Mukhrani famous.

## **THE RESTAURANT “ROYAL MARANI 1878”**

Château Mukhrani award-winning culinary team invites you to try an original selection of Georgian and European dishes, which are made from natural products produced in Mukhrani.



*Our experience and expertise enables us to turn every successful event into an unforgettable memory.*

*If you love snow, high peaks and skiing, vacationing in Georgia is what you are looking for. Everyone, professional skier or amateur, will find something to his/her liking.*

*Magic winter colours and unspoiled landscapes, wrapped in a white mantle of snow, create a special atmosphere for a holiday to remember. You will experience winter fantasy which will long remain vivid in your memory.*

## Caucasus Ski Paradise

*Ski holiday (14 days, 10 days skiing)*



**Gudauri Ski Resort** is located along the Georgian Military Highway within two hours drive from Tbilisi. With great views and plenty of sun & snow, Gudauri's gentle slopes are ideal for beginners and intermediate skiers. Gudauri provides a wide range of choice for off-piste skiing. The three-and-four seated chair lifts get skiers to the top (3006m).

Elev. 1990-3279 m	Diff. 1249 m	Slopes 60 km	Ski Lifts 11
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**Bakuriani Ski Resort** is the place for year-round fun and adventure. Bakuriani is a favourite destination for everyone in the family alike-young, old & the children. Especially for those who are experiencing snow for the first time, Bakuriani welcomes them with sparkling snow, crisp invigorating air and multiple ski-tracks. Natural conditions here are ideal for active recreation and winter vacation.

Elev. 1740-2672 m	Diff. 932 m	Slopes 26 km	Ski Lifts 15
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*Gudauri is an ideal skiing and snowboarding area for beginners and ski experts. Bakuriani offers fluffy snow for off-piste amateurs, steep dazzling slopes for downhill fans, ideal sunny valleys for cross country tours and alpine hills for ski-tourers. Skiing in Svaneti is an adventure in itself. Here you are in the heart of the mountains, and the feeling of skiing in a shadow of two peaked mount Ushba is truly indescribable.*

◆Day 1: Arrival in Georgia; ◆Day 2: Tbilisi Sightseeing tour- Drive to Gudauri via Mtsketa (UNESCO site), former Capital of Georgia; Overnight in Gudauri; ◆Day 3: Leisure day for skiing in Gudauri; ◆Day 4: Leisure day for Skiing in Gudauri; ◆Day 5: Leisure day for Skiing in Gudauri; ◆Day 6: Gudauri – Bakuriani with optional visits to Ananuri Architecture Complex and Uplistsikhe Cave town; Overnight in Bakuriani; ◆Day 7: Leisure day for skiing in Bakuriani; ◆Day 8: Leisure day for skiing in Bakuriani; ◆Day 9: Drive to Mestia, with optional visits to Gelati Accademi Copmlex (UNESCO site) and Bagrati Cathedral (UNESCO site); Overnight in Mestia; ◆Day 10 - 12: Leisure day for skiing in Mestia or Tetnuldi; ◆Day 13: Mestia – Tbilisi; ◆Day 14: Departure.



# From Snowy Peaks to Sunny Sea Shore

Winter/Spring vacation tour (8 days, 3 days skiing)



*Plan your late winter/spring holidays in Georgia, experience skiing in the shadow of high peaks of the Caucasus Mountain Range of Svaneti remote area, rest and relax at Tskaltubo Spa resort and enjoy subtropical views of Adjara region and the Black Sea shore.*

*Extended natural snow skiing season, variety of slopes, deep, soft and fresh snow make Georgia one of the best destinations for ski tours.*

**Svaneti Ski Resorts (Mestia and Tetnuldi)** are located in the remote Svaneti area cut off from the outside world by the high and inaccessible mountains. Three ski routes have been built in Svaneti complying with the highest international standards. Beautiful landscapes reveal impressive views of the highest peaks of The Caucasus Mountains.



Mestia	Elev. 1800-2450 m	Diff. 650 m	Slopes 4.4 km	Ski Lifts 1
Tetnuldi	Elev. 2260-3165 m	Diff. 905 m	Slopes 25 km	Ski Lifts 4

The newly opened **Goderdzi ski resort**, in mountainous Adjara, is great place for those who wants to combine sea and skiing in the winter vacation.

The resort is not big yet.

Developed on nearby Goderdzi pass, on the road connecting Adjara to Samtskhe-Javakheti region, the resort is remarkable for its beautiful landscape, woods and dwelling architecture.



Elev. 1724-2366 m	Diff. 642 m	Slopes 8 km	Ski Lifts 2
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Sunny mountain slopes, soft snow, beauty of pristine nature, spa treatments, warm offshore breeze of the Black Sea, rich Georgian cuisine as well as traditional Georgian hospitality is expecting you. We will drive up the Enguri canyon where the Svan ethnic group evolved, cut off from the outside world by the high and inaccessible mountains, their culture preserved almost intact with the ritual of worshipping spirits and the fertility cults. Original architecture, ancient customs and artisanship combine to impress the visitor with the wealth of Svaneti culture.

- ◆ Day 1: Arrive in Tbilisi; ◆ Day 2: Tbilisi sightseeing tour; ◆ Day 3: Tbilisi – Tskaltubo Spa Resort;
- ◆ Day 4: Tskaltubo – Mestia; ◆ Day 5: Full day for skiing ; ◆ Day 6: Mestia – Batumi;
- ◆ Day 7: Batumi sightseeing tour; ◆ Day 8: Batumi – Tbilisi; ◆ Day 9: Departure.

## Highlights:

Old and New Tbilisi; the town of Mtskheta (UNESCO site); Gelati Academy and Bagrati Cathedral Monasteries (UNESCO sites); Sataplia caves; churches and towers of medieval ages of Svaneti; fascinating nature and the highest mountains of Georgia; the Black Sea shore and the town of Batumi; delicious food and wine. Spa treatments in Tskaltubo Spa Resort.



# Health & Beauty

Spa holidays, leisure & more (15 days)



*Due to its geographical characteristics, Georgia is a treasure trove of hot and mineral springs.*

*Rich in spa resorts, Georgia is a paradise for those who wish to relax, refresh and recreate. Visiting a spa resort can help you to improve your health, bring your entire being into balance and also admire beautiful landscapes, intact nature, fresh air and the nearest cultural sites.*



**Tbilisi** – the Capital has also been famous for its warm sulphur baths for millennia. Indeed the city created itself around these relaxing pools of water located under the Narikala fortress in the old town. Tbilisi bathhouses and spa centers are ready to welcome the visitor either for relaxation or various health treatments with mud and minerals.

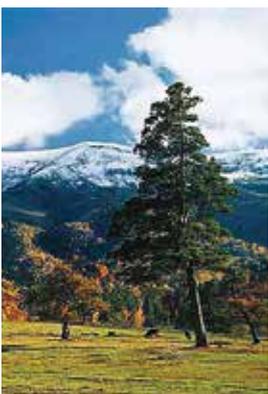


**BORJOMI** spa resort is situated at 810-850m above the sea level and is surrounded by verdant nature and lush pine forests. Resort is famous for its celebrated mineral waters. The natural high purity and healthy chemical components of Borjomi water make it not only pleasant to drink but also a perfect preventive and curative means against a number of diseases. The Borjomi water is rich in the most vital microelements for a human organism. The water's curative effects had been well known to the people since ancient times. Nowadays Borjomi Mineral Water is world-famous as one of the best table waters which gained a number of gold medals and diplomas in different international exhibitions.

**TSKHALTUBO:** If there is some real and fantastic spring of immortality then it is in Tskhaltubo, coming from the heart of the earth. The radon carbonate water of Tskhaltubo has become symbol of healthy life for a long time. The resort is focused on balneo-therapy for circulatory, nervous, muscular-skeletal, gynecological and skin diseases. The nearby hills of the resort are overgrown with rich subtropical vegetation, evergreen bushes and leaf-bearing woods (oak, beech, hornbeam).

**SAIRME:** The word 'Sairme' means 'a place of deers'. As per legend, deers and wild goats used to come from nearby forests to the resort. They used to assemble near mineral water sources. Hence, hunters named the place Sairme. It attracts guests due to the distinguished medical properties of its mineral and thermal waters and curative action against diseases of kidney and urinary tracts; treatment is also provided for patients suffering from diseases of liver and biliary tracts, gastro enteric tract and metabolism.

**UREKI** is famous for its unique and amazing sandy beaches, which contain a large amount of magnetite particles. The beneficial health properties of magnetic energy have been known since ancient times and were used by Egyptians, Greeks and Indian Yogis for treatment of different diseases. Magnetic energy has anti-inflammatory and painkilling properties; it stimulates the regeneration of tissues, strengthens the immune system, and improves conditions from several diseases.



◆Day 1. Arrival in Tbilisi; ◆Day 2. Tbilisi Sightseeing tour with visit to Sulfur bath houses; ◆Day 3. Tbilisi – Borjomi. Overnight in Borjomi; ◆Day 4. Borjomi. Walking in Borjomi Mineral Park; ◆Day 5. Borjomi. Optional visit to Rabati and Vardzia Cave town; ◆Day 6. Borjomi – Tskhaltubo; ◆Day 7. Kutaisi Sightseeing tour. Overnight in Tskaltubo; ◆Day 8. Tskaltubo. Optional visit to speleological caves; ◆Day 9. Tskaltubo – Sairme. Overnight in Sairme; ◆Day 10. Sairme. Leisure day for stroll and walking; ◆Day 11. Sairme. Leisure day; ◆Day 12. Sairme – Batumi (or Ureki); ◆Day 13. Leisure day on the Black Sea Shore; ◆Day 14. Leisure day on the Black Sea Shore. Batumi Sightseeing tour; ◆Day 15. Departure



© Caucasus Travel - Catalogue 2017

Culture, Nature, Adventure and more...

# Fun and Joy at the Black Sea Coast

Vacation tour (8 days)

*Beautiful and unique with its narrow streets, mixture of old and new Batumi is immersed in subtropical vegetation and is overlooked by green hills and the distant white peaks of the Caucasus Mountains.*

*Batumi is rapidly increasing modern city with a great variety of newly built hotels, seaside cafés, restaurants, bars and pubs. Many local and international cultural events make Batumi a great place for business and leisure.*



*Batumi - "The Pearl of the Black Sea" is a regional hub of conferences, events and festivals.*

*Enjoy leisure holidays along the pristine Black Sea coast. Nothing is better in hot summer than fascinating sounds of waves, mixture of mountains and sea air, sub-tropical landscapes of the "Green Cape", beautiful views of citrus and tea plantations, rocky cliffs of Tsikhidsiry, Batumi boulevard and variety of restaurants, cafes and bars and night clubs along the seaside.*



◆Day:1 Arrival in Batumi; ◆ Day 2: Batumi Sightseeing tour; ◆Day 3: Leisure day. Optional day trip to upper Adjara; ◆Day 4: Leisure day. Optional adventure in Mtirala National Park; ◆Day 5: Leisure day. Optional trip to Kutaisi to visit its UNESCO sites; ◆Day 6: Leisure day. Optional trip to the wetlands of Colchis; ◆Day 7: Leisure day. Botanical Garden and Batumi Dolphinarium; ◆Day 8: Departure.

*Batumi Dolphinarium attracts guest of all generations by presenting the new interactive show with dancing dolphins, playing with rings and balls, balancing on the tails and many other new and old stunning moments. Here you have the opportunity to swim with dolphins and be filled by positive emotions coming from these friendly creatures.*



- While you're in Batumi don't forget to taste fresh melted coffee and traditional nava shaped "Khachapuri".
- Be a guest of local pubs and bars; enjoy seaside disco's and attend open air concerts.
- Visit plantations of citrus and tea.
- Don't miss to visit Adjara wine house and taste Georgian wines;
- Be hosted by the local family in a remote village and spend the whole day in the farm; enjoy village life and taste organic food.

#### Sites to visit in Batumi:

Batumi Fine Arts Gallery; Adjara History Museum; Nobel's Museum; Gonio Fortress; Batumi Botanical Garden; St. Mary Cathedral; Tamar's Bridge; Batumi Old town with Sea Side Park, Saint Barbara Church, Piazza Square, Batumi Sea Port, Catholic Church, the Mosque, streets of Old Batumi, decorated with chimeras, lions, nameless mythical creatures; Square of Europe; The Statue of Ali and Nino.

*The Statue of Love sculpture is inspired by the love story of "Ali and Nino" by Kurban Said. The story tells of an Azerbaijani youth who falls in love with a Georgian princess. A 7 meter high steel sculpture of a man and a woman stands on the seashore boulevard of Batumi. The figures move toward each other and merge into one piece every 10 minutes.*



**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**  
SINCE 1991

# Other Travel Services & Operations



## Events Management

*Full MICE Services and logistic support*

Having the strong background and great experience in the MICE business, we are organizing Meetings and Conferences, Conventions, Special and Corporate Events, Cultural and Sports events, and etc. Our corporate events are always set at most appropriate locations, offering smart & creative scenario, variety of activities, delicious food and entertainment.



## Incentive Programs

*Tailored itineraries and services*

Our incentive programs are tailored to satisfy most demanding guests' desires from all over the world. Our fascinating itineraries provide the best of Georgia's sites and infrastructure. Programs usually are enriched by specially designed sessions of team building, training, entertainment, etc.



## Cultural Events

*Travel service and logistic support*

Thousands of years of history has created unlimited possibilities to design fantastic cultural events. Cultural and architectural sites inspire such events as "village corners", "toast competitions", performances, folk shows and Champaign parties in remote areas or fashionable interiors.



## Family Holidays

*Enjoy leisure holidays in Georgia*

We invite you and your family to join us to discover Georgia, enjoy beautiful landscapes, intact nature, fresh mountain air and pleasant beaches of the Black Sea. Have a fun in National Parks and Speleo Caves. Follow unbeaten paths in remote areas, enjoy local hospitality, and visit amusement parks and Aqua parks.



## Rural Tours

*Responsible Tourism*

Travel from region to region, from one remote village to another. Enjoy pristine nature and a great variety of landscapes from the peaks of Caucasus highlands, to fertile lands and wine making areas, subtropics, wetlands and alpine meadows... Visit farms upholding centuries-old traditions, meet the locals, taste organic home-made dishes and support locals by staying at farm houses and taking part in everyday village life.



## Get away tours

*1 Day Trips, or 2 - 5 day trips available from Tbilisi*

Lucky enough to be in Georgia on a business trip or by yourself? Don't let the noisy city take up all your time here! If you want to be more active and get away – for a short break, a weekend, or even just a day trip, Caucasus Travel is here to assist you. We offer regular and tailored programs to all of the most beautiful places in Georgia.





## Shore Excursions & Tours

*Services for Cruise passengers*

We provide inland services and guided shore excursions to cruise ships from the ports of Batumi and Poti. In very limited frames of time we are confident to offer the best of Georgia: important and valuable cultural sights including churches, monasteries and museums, specially organized concert - entertainment, exquisite food and wines.



## Sport Events

*Logistics and technical Support*

We have years of experience in assistance of international sport Events – Football, Rugby matches and other competitions by providing technical assistance, hotel reservations, logistics, transportation etc.



## Rally's and Caravans

*Travel service and logistic support*

We have years of experience in organizing Rally & Caravans. Among them was **Classic Car Endurance Rally 2006** Amsterdam to Beijing along the Great Silk Road. 200 hundred participants of Rally by classic cars covered 17.500 kilometers from Amsterdam to Beijing in summer 2006. They passed 14 countries among them Georgia and crossed 2 continents to see all the exotic places of Alexander the Great's famous Silk Route.



## Filming & TV Assistance

*Logistics, technical and thematic assistance for filming*

We have experience of working with BBC Travel Show, Discovery Channel, Lonely Planet, NHK Japan and several other TV and film studios and productions. Thousand years old history, beautiful landscapes, unique culture and lifestyle make Georgia attractive for filming.



## Inland Services for Charter Flights

*Travel service and logistic support*

We host charter flights by providing inland services from/to airport. All hotel categories as well as interesting day trips give the opportunity to see the highlights of the country and enjoy time in Georgia.



*Once you are in Tbilisi, please feel free to drop by our Office where we will be glad to provide all travel services and free consultancy regarding your holiday in Georgia.*

*We can supply you with appropriate transport, the most experienced guides, interpreters, we will also book your hotel for the best available rate and reserve a table free-of-charge in the restaurant of your choice.*

*Thanks to our reliable network of experienced partners we offer high quality services in Armenia and Azerbaijan as well.*



# GEORGIA

Scale: 1:1 500 000



**1** Mt. Ushba – symbol of the Caucasus and the sovereign of Svaneti. Mount Ushba is the southern spur of the main range of the central Caucasus.



**2** Ushguli (Chazhashi) – at about 2200 m. above sea level, is the highest village in Europe. Architecturally unique Middle Age village-fortifications in Svaneti, represent a junction of watchtowers, dwelling complexes and basilicas decorated with the murals.



**3** Bagrati church was built by King Bagrat III in Kutaisi, in 1003 AD. It is a marvellous example of domed-church architecture from the high Medieval period, noted with impressive examples of stone carving.



**GEOLAND**

© GeoLand Ltd 2007



Settlements	Tourist sites
Capital	Church
Autonomy capital	Fortress
Region center	Cave town
State importance city	Museum
District center	Tower - dwelling houses
Village	Historical bridge
<b>Boundaries</b>	Archaeological site
International boundary	Nature park, reserve
Autonomous republic boundary	Speleocave
<b>Roads</b>	Observatory
International road	Mountain peak
State importance road	Pass
Provincial road	Tunnel
Local Road	Airport
Other road	Seaport
Track footpath	Custom
Main railway	Occupation zones
Secondary railway	



**22** Batumi - beautiful and unique with its narrow streets, mixture of old and new; Batumi is rapidly increasing modern city with a great variety of newly built hotels, seaside cafés, restaurants, bars and pubs. Visit in Batumi and it's surroundings: Gonio Fortress, Botanical Garden, Tamara's bridges, Remote villages of upper Ajara.



**21** Rabati Castle – the historical center of Akhaltsikhe was mainly built in the 13th cc and developed under the influence of different cultures. On the territory of the complex there is a Church, Mosque, Minaret and a Synagogue. The renovated Santskhe-Javakheti museum is also part of the complex.



**20** Vardzia – the rock-cut town, was built in the 12-13th cc by Queen Tamar. Later on the complex turned into a well-defended monastery and important political, cultural, educational and spiritual center of the country. It represents the culmination of cave architecture.



**19** Khertvisi Fortress – exact date of its construction is unknown. The fortress with high walls and watchtowers already existed in the 10th c. The legend says that Alexander the Great visited the site during his campaign against the East in the 4th c BC.



**4** Gelati – the architectural complex, founded by King David the Builder in the 12th c. includes the main church of the Virgin, St. George's church, St. Nicolas' church and Gelati Academy - a significant center of culture, religion and philosophy.

**5** Sataplia Cave – have a look in a speleological cave, visit the footprint of Dinosaurs and imagine the far past of this land. Nearby visit: Prometheus Cave, Tskaltubo Spa Resort.

**6** Antique city of Vani – one of the administrative centers of the kingdom of Colchis. Excavations revealed the traces of rich city life with public buildings, sanctuary and sacrificial grounds.

**7** Uplistsikhe (Fortress of God) – ancient cave town of the 1st half of the 1st millennium BC. This is a complex of rock-cut halls, caves, altars, pagan temples, water-supply system, secret tunnel, passages, streets, market and the oldest theatre in Georgia.

**8** Svetitskhoveli – which may be translated as "The Life-giving pillar", is the main church of Mtskheta and a sacred place where the robe of Christ is being kept. It is a bright example of Georgian renaissance architecture erected by architect Arsukidze in 11th c. in the place where the first church in Georgia once stood in the 4th c.

**9** Tbilisi – the bridge between East and West, past and present; today Tbilisi is a modern city with well-known museums and theatres, art galleries, churches and archaeological excavations, Sulphur bath-houses, narrow streets with inner courts, surrounded with balconies decorated with laces, which overhang over abysses.



**10** Ananuri – 16th-17th cc fortress and church was built by violent rulers of Aragvi. The complex comprises fortification, cult and civic buildings. Located on the Georgian Military Highway, it was a kind of guardian of the north Georgian border. The facade of the main church is decorated with beautiful engravings.



**11** Gergeti Trinity Church – the 14th c. altar and bell tower, situated on the slopes of Mt. Kazbek at 2170 m. is the most important church of Rkhevi province. The stone decorations represented on the facade of the church help us to understand the ancient rituals and beliefs.



**12** Shatli – a medieval, unique impregnable fortified village surrounded by impressive deep gorges, rocky hills, lovely forests and still isolated communities. Its tower-dwellings are interconnected with bridges to allow neighbours to cross one to another without going out in the streets.



**13** Dartlo – a typical Tusheti village surrounded by the spectacular beauty of mountains, gorges and valleys with various towers, narrow streets, stone houses, mysterious semi-pagan altars and proud people with ancient traditions.



**14** Alaverdi – is one of the tallest churches in Georgia built in a valley of the Alazani River - holy place since pagan times. This elegant church of the 11th c with representations of grape vines and the sun on the facade is noted by its simplicity, majesty and monumentality.

**15** Tsinandaly Family Estate – house museum of poet and public figure A. Chavchavadze, its English style park and centuries old wine cellar. Here, Georgian wine was first produced and bottled according to European methods. Nearby visit: town of Telavi, old and new Shuamta Monastery Complexes, Ikalto Academy Complex, Alaverdi Cathedral, Kvetera Church.



**18** Dmanisi – here are the ruins of middle age town with an interesting three-church basilica dating to the 6th c AC and the remains of royal palace. While excavating the site, archaeologists unexpectedly came across the remains of ancient man in Eurasia.



**17** David Gareja – is the overall name for 13 monasteries. The most important are: Lavra and Udabno. The complex is unique for its wild nature, mural masterpieces and rock-cut monasteries, the most ancient of which were founded in the first half of the 6th c AD.



**16** Signaghi – a Royal town surrounded by the defensive walls with 23 towers. The town was mainly inhabited by merchants and artisans. It had many gates through which numerous Silk Road travellers from Asia and Europe passed on their way. Today Signagi is a picturesque town with twisty streets, wooden balconies, lots of Cafés and restaurants.



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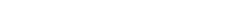
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**351** Akhalkalaki

**286** Akhaltsikhe

**208** Ambrolauri

**147** Batumi

**402** Bolnisi

**237** Borjomi

**255** Gori

**452** Gurjaani

**446** Kazbegi

**210** Khashuri

**108** Kutaisi

**528** Lagodekhi

**170** Ozurgeti

**77** Poti

**72** Samtredia

**44** Senaki

**340** Tbilisi

**181** Tchiatura

**495** Telavi

**143** Zestaponi

**271** Tbilisi

**206** Batumi

**384** Borjomi

**62** Gori

**85** Gurjaani

**112** Kazbegi

**156** Khashuri

**130** Lagodekhi

**232** Ozurgeti

**188** Poti

**296** Samtredia

**188** Senaki

**334** Tbilisi

**268** Tchiatura

**296** Telavi

**188** Zestaponi

**343** Akhalkalaki

**343** Akhaltsikhe

**395** Ambrolauri

**340** Batumi

**114** Bolnisi

**186** Borjomi

**383** Gori

**377** Gurjaani

**141** Kazbegi

**243** Khashuri

**459** Kutaisi

**332** Lagodekhi

**345** Ozurgeti

**279** Poti

**307** Samtredia

**214** Senaki

**242** Tbilisi

**184** Tchiatura

**426** Telavi

**208** Zestaponi

**351** Zugdidi

**278** Akhalkalaki

**330** Akhaltsikhe

**275** Ambrolauri

**49** Batumi

**229** Bolnisi

**247** Borjomi

**444** Gori

**438** Gurjaani

**202** Kazbegi

**178** Khashuri

**524** Kutaisi

**572** Lagodekhi

**51** Ozurgeti

**70** Poti

**108** Samtredia

**164** Senaki

**332** Tbilisi

**173** Tchiatura

**487** Telavi

**252** Zestaponi

**208** Zugdidi

**147** Akhalkalaki

**394** Akhaltsikhe

**100** Ambrolauri

**254** Batumi

**152** Bolnisi

**294** Borjomi

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**396** Gurjaani

**218** Kazbegi

**219** Khashuri

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## What makes CAUCASUS TRAVEL different?

### ● Experience & Leadership

Back in 1991, Caucasus Travel was pioneer and at the same time the only company focused on incoming tourism of newly independent country of Georgia. Over the past years we irreplaceably were leading the industry and today, when the number of incoming tourism organizations is increasing dramatically, we still share major part of the market. We are the company of choice for up to 200 tour operators, travel agencies, Incentive houses, conference organizers and professional associations from all of the world.

### ● Professional Staff with 'Field Experience'

Company Managers and staff have had special training in tourism management in various leading institutions of Europe, USA and Japan. Caucasus Travel employs and contracts people with diverse professional backgrounds. This enables us competently and successfully plan, design and carry various tours in many fields of interest: archaeology, history, culture, art, ethnology, mountaineering, trekking .... So, programs in our catalogue are not templates taken from somewhere, but became samples of "how to do" for many newcomers and competitors.

Most of the office staff, including top company managers, have worked as guides and tour managers. This gave us the experience and competence to monitor and control the quality of services provided by guides and other service staff.

### ● Backup

We have 30 people in the office and employing over 60 temporary workers. However we always have backup teams on standby. It is unlikely, but in case of emergency, whether in the field or the cities, the backup teams will react immediately to solve any problem, if such arise.

### ● Large Supply Network and Partnership

We bat on our loyal partners in cities and rural areas of Georgia and the Caucasus.

One can guess, that during years of mutually successful business and sincere relationship, we have earned huge network of partnership in accommodation, catering, transportation or in any needed field of supply. This is our wealth and the strongest point.

### ● Quality Product

We carefully select and assess the product before we introduce it to the market. We always send reconnaissance expeditions, complete with tour-manager, guides, technical personnel and contracted specialist, to the new spots. We participate in all the steps in the chain of product development – from generating ideas to designing logistical schemes of day-to-day operations. We constantly monitor and control our suppliers (hotels, restaurants, transportation, etc.).

When developing a product, should this be for individuals or groups, we consider four major parameters: content, safety, quality and price. Final shape of the product is defined according to the order of these priorities. We are flexible to change the order of these priorities in accordance to our customer's wishes, however, safety always remains first with us.

### ● Good Prices for High Value

We are extremely flexible in meeting our customer's needs and priorities. Thanks to the strong buying power we can offer to our partners and consumers exclusive rates at quality hotels and for other services. We try to avoid making deals which would require us to compromise the quality of our product against its value.

So, welcome to Georgia,

Let us be your hosts and experience unforgettable moments of genuine hospitality.



Caucasus Travel Team

... we take pleasure in our business



# CAUCASUS TRAVEL

SINCE 1991

expertise

experience

training

partnership

commitment

confidence

team spirit

friendship

enthusiasm

and more...

Caucasus Travel  
is member of:



SINCE 1991



*So, a place awaits you  
at the Georgian table*

*გ ა უ მ ა ნ ჯ ო ს !*

*Welcome!*

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL LTD**

Member of Georgian Hospitality Group

22 Peritsvaleba Str., 0103, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel.: +995 32 2987400, 2987399, 2931175, 2931692

E-mail: [georgia@caucasustravel.com](mailto:georgia@caucasustravel.com)

<http://www.caucasustravel.com>



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