



# Cultural tour

A land of endless wonders, unspoiled by modern tourism and still retaining its authentic character – Georgia. Once experienced, it will stay with you forever. In this mystical land you will be captivated by a thrilling blend of eastern enigma and western elegance. The traditions of the East and West meet in Georgia to form a culture unlike any other in the world.

Duration: 7days/ 8nights;

## PROGRAM:

### Arrival in Tbilisi transfer to the hotel

#### Day 1: Tbilisi

Today you'll have Tbilisi sightseeing tour. During the tour we take you to the places that will show you old city. The city offers a great variety of sights, most of them very ancient. All the places of interest in the Old Town are very close to each other, within a few minutes' walk. We start our visit to Old Tbilisi from Metekhi Church, and then walk to the Synagogue, Sioni Cathedral and Anchiskhati Church. Then we drive up to Mother Georgia statue and walk down to Narikala Fortress and Sulphur Baths, en route enjoying views of the Old Town. Afterwards we visit the stunning treasury of the Georgian National Museum of History, before taking a stroll along Rustaveli Avenue – the main street in Tbilisi.

Overnight in Tbilisi

#### Day 2: Tbilisi – Signaghi – Telavi

In the morning we drive to enjoy super views of Great Caucasus Mountains and valleys of Kakheti; acknowledge traditions and culture of the country and region, taste wines and delicious food. First we drive to the 18<sup>th</sup> century fortified town of Signaghi and enjoy walking in its beautiful streets. Afterwards we visit 300 years old wine cellar. You get acquainted with the Georgian way of wine-making, quite different from the European one and drink typical Georgian wines. Later we will visit Tsinandali, noted for the estate and its historic winery which once belonged to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century aristocratic poet Alexander Chavchavadze (1786–1846). Visit Gremi Architectural Complex and Nekresi monastery; arrival and overnight in Telavi or in Kvareli.





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## Day 3: Telavi –Mtskheta – Gudauri

We visit the ancient capital and religious centre of Georgia – Mtskheta and its historic Jvari Monastery and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral – both UNESCO World Heritage sites. Afterwards drive up the Georgian military highway and arrive in Gudauri.

Dinner and overnight in Gudauri in a hotel.

## Day 4: Gudauri – Kazbegi – Gudauri

A stunning drive from Gudauri along the Tergi River will bring us to Kazbegi – the main town in the region. From Kazbegi a leisurely 2 hours walk up through beautiful valleys and woodland leads us to Gergeti Trinity Church located at 2170m. Weather permitting you may catch a glimpse of one of the highest glaciers in the Caucasus – Mt Kazbegi (5047m). Return to Gudauri.

Dinner and overnight in Gudauri in a hotel.

## Day 5: Gudauri – Uplistsikhe – Bakuriani

Today we drive to the town of Gori – the heart of Kartli region and visit its historical place: Uplistsikhe Cave Town (1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC), that's the place where the Great Silk Road used to pass. This is an old and interesting complex with dwelling quarters, wine-cellars, bakeries, a three-nave basilica church hewn out in rock and even an antic theatre. Photo stop near Stalin's house. Afterwards continue driving to the town of Bakuriani via Borjomi spa town.

Dinner and overnight in Bakuriani in a hotel.

## Day 6: Bakuriani – Vardzia – Akhaltsikhe

Today we drive to visit Vardzia – the magnificent cave town of the Golden Age. The cave complex stretching over half a kilometre once consisted of some 3000 caves and was one of the best examples of Georgia's renaissance. It's got a church hewn out in rock with amazing 12<sup>th</sup> century frescos. The complex also includes dwellings quarters, small hall-type churches, refectories, wine cellars, etc. On the way to Vardzia we will also visit Khertvisi fortress and also we are going to see newly reconstructed Akhaltsikhe "fortress"

Dinner and overnight in Akhaltsikhe;

## Day 7: Akhaltsikhe – Tbilisi

In the morning drive to Tbilisi and afternoon free time to enjoy time on your own and do some shopping.

Overnight in Tbilisi in a hotel. Transfer to the Airport

