

# TOUR DOSSIER

Aspirational Travel to Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan Tel: +44 (0) 20 30 51 76 40 info@best-of-caucasus.co.uk www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk

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



Embark on an unforgettable journey through Georgia, a land where ancient history, breathtaking natural beauty, and vibrant traditions come together. This comprehensive 16-day itinerary takes you across Georgia's diverse landscapes, from the bustling streets of Tbilisi to the tranquil vineyards of Kakheti, and from the towering peaks of the Caucasus to the serene coastline of the Black Sea. Explore UNESCO-listed monasteries, ancient cave towns, and medieval fortresses that echo the stories of Georgia's rich heritage. Trek through lush forests, alpine meadows, and dramatic mountain passes, discovering some of the country's most spectacular natural landmarks. Along the way, immerse yourself in Georgia's legendary hospitality, savouring traditional cuisine, local wines, and heartfelt cultural experiences. This tour offers the perfect balance of culture, adventure, and relaxation.

#### **DEPARTURE DATES:**

05.04.2025; 12.04.2025; 19.04.2025; 26.04.2025; 03.05.2025; 10.05.2025; 17.05.2025; 24.05.2025; 31.05.2025; 07.06.2025; 14.06.2025; 21.06.2025; 28.06.2025; 05.07.2025; 12.07.2025; 19.07.2025; 26.07.2025; 02.08.2025; 09.08.2025; 16.08.2025; 23.08.2025; 30.08.2025; 06.09.2025; 13.09.2025; 20.09.2025; 27.09.2025; 04.10.2025.

#### **ITINERARY**

# Day 1 - Tbilisi

Welcome to Georgia! Upon arrival at Tbilisi International Airport, you will be greeted by our representative and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy a relaxing evening after your journey, preparing for the adventure ahead. Overnight in Tbilisi. (D)

#### Day 2 - Tbilisi

Begin your day with a traditional Georgian breakfast at the hotel before diving into the history and charm of Tbilisi. Start with the Metekhi Church, perched on a cliff overlooking the Mtkvari River. Continue to Narikala Fortress, a 4th-century fortification offering panoramic views of the city. Wander through the old streets to visit Anchiskhati Church, the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi, and Sioni Cathedral, a stunning 12th-century masterpiece. Explore the Synagogue and learn about the city's multicultural heritage. The journey continues with a visit to the Georgian National Museum, home to an impressive treasury of artifacts, followed by browsing the colourful flea market for unique souvenirs. Conclude your day with a stroll along Rustaveli Avenue, the vibrant cultural artery of Tbilisi. In the evening, savor a welcome dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant, complete with folk music and dancing. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

# Day 3 - Tbilisi - Bodbe - Signaghi

Depart for the Kakheti wine region, renowned for its rolling vineyards and ancient winemaking traditions. Visit Signagi, a charming hilltop town surrounded by defensive walls and 29 watchtowers. Walk through the cobblestone streets of this "City of Love," taking in the views of the Alazani Valley. Visit Bodbe Monastery, a serene site dedicated to Saint Nino, who introduced Christianity to Georgia in the 4th century. Experience true Georgian hospitality with wine tasting and a homemade dinner at a local family's home. Overnight in Signagi. (B, D)

# Day 4 - Signagi - Lagodekhi National Park - Telavi

After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive to Lagodekhi National Park, a renowned destination for hiking enthusiasts, offering several well-marked trails through its lush and diverse landscapes. Begin your hike on a trail leading to a picturesque 6-metre Rocho Waterfall, located 5 kilometres from the Lagodekhi Protected Areas Visitor Centre. The hike typically takes 3-5 hours to complete and is suitable for most fitness levels. The guide will always adapt the tempo and distance to suit the group's preferences and fitness levels, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone. Along the way, you'll be captivated by the natural beauty of the park, encountering fascinating plants and possibly spotting some wildlife. The trail is not overly strenuous, with plenty of opportunities to pause and enjoy the surroundings. One of the memorable moments of the journey is crossing a river, adding a sense of adventure to the trek. At the end of the trail, you'll be rewarded with the sight of a stunning waterfall, nestled amidst the verdant forest - a perfect spot to take in the tranquillity and beauty of nature. After completing your hike, continue to Telavi, the heart of Kakheti's wine region, where a

delicious dinner and a comfortable evening await. Overnight in Telavi. (B, D)

# Day 5 - Telavi - Tianeti - Kazbegi

Begin the day with a visit to Telavi Bazaar, where local farmers and artisans display an array of fresh produce, homemade goods, and regional specialties. After experiencing the vibrant market atmosphere, set out on the Georgian Military Highway, a historic route winding through the majestic landscapes of the Caucasus Mountains. Make your first stop at the Ananuri architectural complex, a 17th-century fortress overlooking the turquoise waters of the Aragvi Reservoir. Continue the journey, pausing at the Gudauri Friendship Monument, constructed in 1983 to commemorate Georgian-Russian relations. The monument's semi-circular design and cliffside location provide stunning panoramic views of the dramatic mountain scenery. As the day unfolds, pass through the scenic ski resort town of Gudauri and arrive in Kazbegi, a village nestled in the heart of the Great Caucasus. From there, take a thrilling jeep ride up to Gergeti Trinity Church, a 14th-century gem situated at 2170 meters, where awe-inspiring vistas of Mount Kazbek await. Overnight in Kazbegi. (B, D)

# Day 6 - Kazbegi - Juta Valley - Kazbegi

After breakfast, drive to the picturesque village of Juta, one of the highest settlements in Europe, nestled in the dramatic Chaukhi Massif. Set out on a five-hour trek through this breathtaking alpine landscape, often referred to as the "Dolomites of Georgia." The trail features stunning views of rugged peaks, vibrant wildflowers, and tranquil mountain streams. The guide will adapt the trekking pace and distance to match the group's fitness level, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone. Whether you reach the farthest point or simply take in the serene beauty along the way, the journey is sure to leave lasting memories. After the trek, return to Kazbegi to relax, enjoy dinner, and rest for the night. Overnight in Kazbegi. (B, D)

# Day 7 - Kazbegi - Mtskheta - Gori

Depart for Mtskheta, the ancient capital and spiritual heart of Georgia. Visit Jvari Monastery, a 6th-century masterpiece perched on a hilltop, and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its sacred history and stunning architecture. Enjoy wine tasting and dinner at a local winery in the nearby Ateni Valley. Overnight in Gori. (B, D)

# Day 8 - Gori - Uplistsikhe - Borjomi - Akhaltsikhe

In Gori, explore Uplistsikhe Cave Town, an ancient Silk Road hub with rock-carved dwellings and temples. Visit the Stalin Museum, showcasing the life of one of history's most controversial figures. Continue to Borjomi, famous for its mineral water springs and lush park. Enjoy a peaceful walk through Borjomi Central Park before heading to Akhaltsikhe for dinner and overnight. Overnight in Akhaltsikhe. (B, D)

## Day 9 - Akhaltsikhe - Vardzia - Akhaltsikhe

Discover Vardzia, a sprawling cave monastery from Georgia's Golden Age. With over 300 chambers carved into cliffs, the site is a testament to medieval engineering. Return to Akhaltsikhe and visit Rabati Fortress, a restored complex housing a museum, mosque, and castle. Dinner and overnight in Akhaltsikhe. (B, D)

# Day 10 - Akhaltsikhe - Kutaisi

After breakfast, depart from Akhaltsikhe and head towards Kutaisi, Georgia's second-largest city and a cultural hub in the western part of the country. En route, make a fascinating stop at Prometheus Cave, one of Georgia's most stunning natural landmarks. This vast cave system, formed over millions of years, features spectacular stalactites, stalagmites, and underground rivers. Continuing on, you will arrive in Kutaisi, a city known for its historical significance and architectural beauty. Visit Gelati Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Georgia's most important spiritual centers. Founded in the 12th century, Gelati is renowned for its intricate frescoes and its role in the Golden Age of Georgia. Nearby, explore Bagrati Cathedral, another UNESCO-listed monument, which once served as the seat of the king of Georgia. The cathedral offers magnificent views over the city and the surrounding area. Overnight in Kutaisi. (B, D)

#### Day 11 - Kutaisi - Mestia

Travel to Mestia, the gateway to the Svaneti region. Along the way, visit Enguri Dam, Europe's largest arch dam, and marvel at its scale and surroundings. Upon arrival in Mestia, enjoy the serene mountain atmosphere. Overnight in Mestia. (B, D)

# Day 12 - Mestia

Start your day with a visit to the Mestia Museum, where you'll immerse yourself in the rich culture and history of the Svaneti region. Afterward, explore one of the iconic Svanetian Towers, traditional structures that have stood for centuries in the region's rugged landscape. Take a cable car ride to Hatsvali Mountain, offering breathtaking panoramic views of Mestia and the surrounding peaks of the Caucasus range. For those who are fit and seeking more adventure, the day includes a trek to the Tchalaadi Glacier. After a jeep ride to Tchalaadi Village, you will

embark on a scenic walk to the glacier. The trek takes about 3 hours in total and provides stunning views of the Chaukhi Massif and the impressive ice formations of the glacier. The guide will tailor the pace and distance to match the group's fitness level, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable experience for all. Overnight in Mestia. (B, D)

# Day 13 - Mestia - Ushguli - Mestia

After breakfast, set out for Ushguli, one of the highest continuously inhabited villages in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Nestled at the base of Mount Shkhara, Georgia's tallest peak, Ushguli is celebrated for its spectacular landscapes and ancient Svanetian towers, which stand as timeless symbols of the region's resilience and heritage. Upon arrival, explore the village's winding paths and visit Lamaria Church, a historic chapel steeped in local legend, surrounded by dramatic mountain views. For the adventurous, the day offers a memorable trek near Mount Shkhara. This scenic hike, lasting approximately five hours, takes you across rolling meadows dotted with wildflowers and through pristine alpine terrain. The trail provides breathtaking vistas of the surrounding glaciers and rugged mountain peaks. The guide as always will tailor the trek to the group's energy and preferences, ensuring an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all participants. Return to Mestia by jeep. Overnight in Mestia. (B, D)

# Day 14 - Mestia - Batumi

Depart for Batumi on the Black Sea coast. Arrive in the vibrant city known for its modern architecture, botanical gardens, and seaside charm. Overnight in Batumi. (B, D)

# Day 15 - Batumi

Start your day with breakfast before delving into the vibrant city of Batumi, Georgia's coastal jewel on the Black Sea. Renowned for its mix of modern architecture and historic charm, Batumi offers an eclectic blend of experiences. Begin with a visit to the Gonio Fortress, a historic Roman fortification dating back to the 1st century AD. Explore its ancient walls and learn about its role as a key defensive and trade point throughout history. Continue your tour with stops at Piazza Square and Era Square, where you can admire the city's European-inspired architecture, lively atmosphere, and colourful murals. Stroll along Batumi Boulevard, a beautifully landscaped promenade stretching along the coastline. In the afternoon, visit the Batumi Botanical Garden, a sprawling paradise of lush greenery overlooking the Black Sea. Known for its diverse collection of plants from around the world, the garden offers scenic walking paths and stunning viewpoints, perfect for unwinding in nature. Overnight in Batumi. (B, D)

#### Day 16 - Batumi

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

For those wishing to extend their journey, Batumi offers the perfect setting for additional days by the seaside. Relax on the beaches, explore more of the city's attractions, or venture into the surrounding areas for further adventures.

Alternatively, you can travel back to Tbilisi by train, a scenic and comfortable journey that takes approximately 5 hours. Spend the night in Tbilisi, giving you more time to enjoy the capital's charm, before departing for your next destination from Tbilisi International Airport.

# TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

#### **Included**

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

#### Not included

Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions

#### **Practical information**

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

# **AVAILABLE PACKAGES**

#### **COMFORT - 3\* PACKAGE**

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
05/04/2025 - 20/04/2025	£2895	£3295	£295

12/04/2025 - 27/04/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
19/04/2025 - 04/05/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
26/04/2025 - 11/05/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
03/05/2025 - 18/05/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
10/05/2025 - 25/05/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
17/05/2025 - 01/06/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
24/05/2025 - 08/06/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
31/05/2025 - 15/06/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
07/06/2025 - 22/06/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
14/06/2025 - 29/06/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
21/06/2025 - 06/07/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
28/06/2025 - 13/07/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
05/07/2025 - 20/07/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
12/07/2025 - 27/07/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
19/07/2025 - 03/08/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
26/07/2025 - 10/08/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
02/08/2025 - 17/08/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
09/08/2025 - 24/08/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
16/08/2025 - 31/08/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
23/08/2025 - 07/09/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
30/08/2025 - 14/09/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
06/09/2025 - 21/09/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
13/09/2025 - 28/09/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
20/09/2025 - 05/10/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
27/09/2025 - 12/10/2025	£2895	£3295	£295
04/10/2025 - 19/10/2025	£2895	£3295	£295

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

Dates	Evel flights	Incl flights*	Cingle cuppl
Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
05/04/2025 - 20/04/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
12/04/2025 - 27/04/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
19/04/2025 - 04/05/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
26/04/2025 - 11/05/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
03/05/2025 - 18/05/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
10/05/2025 - 25/05/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
17/05/2025 - 01/06/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
24/05/2025 - 08/06/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
31/05/2025 - 15/06/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
07/06/2025 - 22/06/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
14/06/2025 - 29/06/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
21/06/2025 - 06/07/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
28/06/2025 - 13/07/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
05/07/2025 - 20/07/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
12/07/2025 - 27/07/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
19/07/2025 - 03/08/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
26/07/2025 - 10/08/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
02/08/2025 - 17/08/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
09/08/2025 - 24/08/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
16/08/2025 - 31/08/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
23/08/2025 - 07/09/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
30/08/2025 - 14/09/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
06/09/2025 - 21/09/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
13/09/2025 - 28/09/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
20/09/2025 - 05/10/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
27/09/2025 - 12/10/2025	£3195	£3595	£475
04/10/2025 - 19/10/2025	£3195	£3595	£475

# ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for

either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please <u>contact us for a quote</u>.

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

- > Discover Unknown Georgia Svaneti 7 days (GE-08), Price from £1,595, 7 days
- > Great Georgian Discovery with Trekking Extension 13 days (GE-11), Price from £2,295, 13 days
- > Trekking in Georgia Kazbegi Region 8 days (GE-06), Price from £1,495, 8 days
- > Hiking in Armenia 10 Days (AM-05), Price from £1,495, 10 days

#### **HOW TO BOOK**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **Step 4 - Payment**

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum £100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

# YOUR NOTES

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

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