



Kazbegi, Tsminda Sameba monastery

Wonders of Georgia

Privately escorted tour - 9 days/8 nights

Bordered by Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey, Georgia is situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, its culture reflecting the influence of diverse ancient civilisations. Georgia is one of the most beautiful countries on Earth, with spectacular natural beauty and dramatic mountain ranges and its inhabitants are renowned for their warmth and hospitality.

Inclusions

- 8 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - 2 lunches, 5 dinners, bottled water daily
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by A/C vehicle
- Escorted throughout by **English speaking** guide
- Sightseeing as specified

Your hotels

- **Tbilisi** - Tiflis Palace
- **Kvareli** - Royal Batoni
- **Gudauri** - Marco Polo
- **Akhaltsikhe** - Lomsia

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Tbilisi

Arrival in Tbilisi, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tbilisi.

Day 2 Tbilisi

After breakfast, you commence your sightseeing tour of this ancient city in the

charming Old Town with its winding lanes overhung by wooden balconies and leafy courtyards. You'll see the 13th century Metekhi Church, the Synagogue, Sioni Cathedral (built during the 6th and 7th centuries) and 6th century Anchiskhati Church. Then you'll be driven to the



Mother Georgia statue and walk down to the 4th century Narikala Fortress and the exotic brick-domed Sulphur Baths. Continue with a visit to the stunning treasury of the Georgian State Museum (closed Mondays), before taking a stroll along Rustaveli Avenue, Tbilisi's main street. Overnight Tbilisi. **B**

Day 3 Tbilisi to Sighnaghi, Velistsikhe & Kvareli

Today you explore the Kakheti wine region, offering superb views of the Great Caucasus Mountains. After visiting the fortified town of Sighnaghi, tour a 300-year-old wine cellar to learn about the Georgian method of wine-making - quite different from the European one. Then enjoy a traditional rural lunch and homemade wine with a local village family. Continue to the Khareba winery to sample some Kakhetian wines. Dinner and overnight Kvareli. **BLD**

Day 4 Kvareli to Mtskheta & Gudauri

Morning drive to Georgia's ancient capital and religious centre, Mtskheta, to see the UNESCO-listed World Heritage sites of Jvari and Svetitskhoveli. Jvari is an Orthodox monastery of the 6th century; Svetitskhoveli, the royal cathedral of Georgia, was used for centuries as the coronation and burial place of Georgian Monarchs. Continue on to Gudauri, stopping to visit the 17th century Ananuri architectural complex. Dinner and overnight Gudauri. **BD**

Day 5 Gudauri & Kazbegi

A scenic drive from Gudauri along the Tergi River brings you to the iconic valley town of Kazbegi. From Kazbegi, you have a 2-hour walk to the 14th century Gergeti Trinity Church, 21,170m above sea-level. Walk back to town and visit a local family for lunch and a cooking demonstration of the popular Georgian dish 'Khinkali' (dumplings filled with minced pork or beef). Afterward, visit a local art studio to see how traditional felt is made and try some home-made jams with tea. Dinner and overnight Gudauri. **BLD**

Day 6 Gudauri to Gori, Uplistsikhe & Akhaltsikhe

Today you drive to the town of Gori, the heart of the Kartli region and birthplace of Joseph Stalin. Visit the Stalin Museum and the amazing cave town of Uplistsikhe. The oldest cave town in Georgia, Uplistsikhe was once a flourishing city as one of the major stops along the Great Silk Road. Continue to the town of Akhaltsikhe via the spa town of Borjomi, famous for its mineral water of the same name. Dinner and overnight Akhaltsikhe. **BD**

Day 7 Akhaltsikhe & Vardzia

After breakfast, drive to Vardzia - the magnificent 12th century cave town of the Golden Age and a cultural symbol for Georgians. The cave town, with over 19 tiers which once housed over 50,000 inhabitants in 3000 dwellings carved from the rock, stretches over half a kilometre along the Mtkvari River. Before returning to Akhaltsikhe, visit the Khertvisi Fortress and the multicultural complex of Rabat. Dinner and overnight Akhaltsikhe. **BD**

Day 8 Akhaltsikhe to Tbilisi

Morning drive to Tbilisi, with the remainder of the day to relax and explore on your own. Overnight Tbilisi. **B**

Day 9 Tbilisi

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport. **B**

Tour price & departures

*Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures May-Oct 2017.*

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 May-31 Oct	2323	3822

Tbilisi stopover

We also offer a variety of stopovers in Tbilisi. Ask for details.