

TOUR DOSSIER

ASPIRATIONAL TRAVEL TO GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN

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Luxury Georgia Tour: Tbilisi, Signagi, Borjomi – 8 days

GE-09



This 8 day cultural tour distils the best of Georgia and encompasses Tbilisi, Signagi and Borjomi. It's the ideal combination if you wish to experience Georgia's rich cultural heritage and exquisite natural beauty. We've selected a couple of the country's top hotels for your stay, which enables you to relax in luxurious surroundings at the end of each day and wake up fully refreshed. Tour highlights include the charming Old Town of Tbilisi, the delightful winemaking town of Signagi, historic Bodbe Monastery and the splendid scenery of Borjomi Ckharagauli National Park.

DEPARTURE DATES:

25.05.2024; 01.06.2024; 08.06.2024; 15.06.2024; 22.06.2024; 29.06.2024; 06.07.2024; 13.07.2024; 20.07.2024; 27.07.2024; 03.08.2024; 10.08.2024; 17.08.2024; 24.08.2024; 31.08.2024; 07.09.2024; 14.09.2024; 21.09.2024; 28.09.2024; 05.10.2024; 12.10.2024; 19.10.2024; 26.10.2024; 02.11.2024; 09.11.2024; 16.11.2024; 23.11.2024; 30.11.2024; 07.12.2024; 14.12.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Tbilisi

Our guide will be waiting at the airport in Tbilisi today to welcome you to the Georgian capital and transfer you to your city centre hotel. The time is yours to settle in and explore your immediate surroundings from the conveniently situated Wyndham Grand property. This upscale hotel is located a stone's throw from Rustaveli Avenue, which is Tbilisi's modern commercial thoroughfare, where you'll find an abundance of shops, cafés, bars and restaurants.

Day 2 - Tbilisi

The Georgian capital is where you'll start your adventure. We'll get our first look close to the Old Town from the 8th century Methekhi Church, situated beside the River Kura which winds through the city. Characterful buildings cling to the steep slopes that rise up from its banks. A cable car connects the lower part of the city to Narikala Fortress and we'll climb to this impressive 4th century castle and enjoy the panoramic views from its terraces. The Old Town boasts many ancient religious buildings, so we'll tour a few of these to help you appreciate Tbilisi's long history: the 6th century Antchiskhati church, the 7th century Sioni Cathedral and the city's synagogue. Closer to the hotel, we'll visit the treasures on display at the Georgian National Museum. There's just time to stroll along Rustaveli Avenue before dinner. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 3 - Tbilisi - Signagi - Tbilisi

Georgia has been a winemaking nation for thousands of years and in the Kakheti region, that tradition is alive and well. One of the prettiest of the wine-making towns is undoubtedly Signagi. We'll walk its fortifications from tower to tower - there are 29 of them in total. From the wall the views of the surrounding countryside are breathtaking and so make sure you have your camera handy. There are several wineries in the centre of town and you'll have the opportunity to taste Georgian wine in the company of a local family. Just a couple of kilometres outside Signagi is Bodbe. There, we'll tour the Monastery of St Nino, a Georgian Orthodox monastic complex built in the 9th century and extensively renovated and altered since then. It's dedicated to St Nino, a 4th century female evangelist whose relics are kept here. Surrounded by cypress trees and overlooking the Alazani Valley, its bucolic setting makes this a popular tourist destination. Late in the afternoon, we'll drive you back to Tbilisi. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 4 - Tbilisi - Borjomi

Today, it's time to see something of the Georgian countryside; a two and a half hour drive gets us to Borjomi. This is a well-established resort town known for its mineral water, which is Georgia's top export. These mineral springs have also encouraged the development of health and wellness tourism, with many spas littered throughout the town. You'll check in to the Crowne Plaza, a high end hotel which offers treatments in its own spa. Located close to the Borjomi Central Park, you might prefer to head straight out and explore some of the surrounding area, strolling along the park's tree-lined paths or beside the River Mtkvari. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Borjomi.

Day 5 - Borjomi

Today we've scheduled a hike in the magnificent Borjomi Ckharagauli National Park. Its forested slopes provide the verdant backdrop to a super walk that leads to Alpine meadows, steep sided river gorges, craggy peaks and scenic overlooks. There are a number of trails that criss-cross the national park and we'll choose one that's appropriate for the group and the weather conditions. Rest assured, your guide will lead you somewhere beautiful. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Borjomi.

Day 6 - Borjomi

Borjomi's such a pretty place that it would be a shame to rush a visit, so we've built in a free day today so that you can explore at your own pace. One of the things we recommend is riding the cable car up the hill. There's an old Ferris wheel up here and also a great view back down to the town. Train buffs won't be able to resist a jaunt on the Kukushka train. This scenic narrow gauge railway links Borjomi to the ski resort village of Bakuriani and passes through gorgeous countryside along the way. Of course, you might prefer to make the most of the natural springs and book a spa treatment or visit a mineral-rich pool for a soak. We'll leave it up to you but our guide is happy to make suggestions if you'd like. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Borjomi.

Day 7 - Borjomi - Tbilisi

Today we retrace our steps back to the Georgian capital. There's still plenty to see and do in Tbilisi. One of the essential experiences we recommend is to soak in one of the city's thermal baths. One of the most impressive is Chreli Abano, easy to find once you reach the Abanotubani because of its colourful tiled façade - even if you don't plan to take a dip it's worth detouring to this place to grab a photo. The Old Town is also full of café terraces that are the ideal place to unwind and let your mind wander back to your personal highlights of the past few days or socialise with the new friends with whom you've shared this memorable journey. In the evening we have arranged a dinner in a traditional restaurant accompanied by folk dancing and singing performance. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 8 - Tbilisi

It's been a pleasure showing you what Georgia has to offer but now it's time for you to return home. Our representative will get you to the airport in good time for your flight. Bon voyage and see you again soon.

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

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

Not included

Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions

Practical information

About Best of Caucasus company
Book with confidence - covid FAQs
How our tours are run
Contact our travel consultants

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

LUXURY - 5* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
25/05/2024 - 01/06/2024	£1995	£2395	£395
01/06/2024 - 08/06/2024	£1995	£2395	£395
08/06/2024 - 15/06/2024	£1995	£2395	£395
15/06/2024 - 22/06/2024	£1995	£2395	£395
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ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please contact us for a quote.

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

- > <u>Luxury Georgia Tour: Tbilisi, Gori, Kazbegi 7 days (GE-12)</u>, Price from £1,795, 7 days
- > Luxury Armenia Tour 8 days (AM-06), Price from £1,795, 8 days
- > Great Georgian Discovery 11 days (GE-03), Price from £1,795, 11 days
- > A Holiday in Georgia: from the Mountains to the Black Sea Batumi 10 days (GE-10), 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.				