

# 2 Day to Samtskhe-Javakheti from Kutaisi

## City Breaks

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### Overview

Starts from: Kutaisi

Available: All year through Rikoti pass (through Zekari pass May-OCT)

Type: Private city break 2 days

Total Distance: 376 km

Two-day private [Samtskhe-Javakheti](#) tour from Kutaisi is available to run in all seasons. In summer, we offer round trip through two passes: Rikoti (995 m) on the Likhi range and Zekari (2,182 m) on Meskheti Range. In winter, when Zekari pass is not passable, we conduct this tour through Rikoti in and out without skipping any attractions (except Zekari pass).

Tour covers main cultural highlights of [Samtskhe-Javakheti](#) region: [Borjomi](#) Park, [Akhaltsikhe](#) Castel in Rabati, Astrophysical Observatory in Abastumani and [Vardzia](#) caves. Visit two wineries – Valodia’s cottage on the first day and [Vartsikhe Marani](#) in Bagdadi on the second day.

Have a great trip!

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### Tour details

- Code: GH-55
- Starts from: Kutaisi
- Max. Group Size: 15 Adults
- Duration: 2 Days

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### Prices

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## Sights to Visit

- [Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park](#)
  - [Vardzia rock-cut caves](#)
  - [Khertvisi Fortress](#)
  - [Akhaltzikhe Castle, Rabati](#)
  - [Samtskhe - Javakheti Museum](#)
  - [Valodia's Cottage](#)
  - [Vardzia-Khertvisi](#)
  - [Imereti](#)
  - [Abastumani Observatory](#)
  - [Samtskhe-Javakheti](#)
  - [Borjomi](#)
  - [Akhaltzikhe](#)
  - [Abastumani Resort](#)
  - [Ubisa Monastery](#)
  - [Vartsikhe Marani](#)
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## Itinerary

### **DAY 1: KUTAISI -UBISA- BORJOMI- AKHALTSIKHE-VARDZIA**

Driving Distance: 210 km (3 h 52 min)

The tour starts at 09:00

The guide will pick you up from the lobby of **Kutaisi** hotel.

Drive east through the picturesque **Rikoti Pass** between the Likhi Range, a natural watershed of river basins of the Black and Caspian seas. On the way, we can make a short stop at the honey, mushroom and pottery market in the village of Shrosha. Within a few minutes from the pottery market, visit the **Ubisa** Basilica (9th c), painted by the great local master Damian in the 14th century. These gorgeous frescoes are the best and rare example of Palaeologus art in Georgia.

The ride to the Rikoti Pass takes about an hour and ends through a 1,772 m long tunnel. After tunnel, locals call the area East Georgia. Drive along the river **Mtkvari** to the spa town **Borjomi**. Borjomi is famous for **Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park** and its mineral waters. Take a walk in the Central Park, taste bubbling mineral waters coming right from the springs.

Continue the trip to **Akhaltzikhe**, the main town in **Samtskhe-Javakheti** municipality. Visit historical district **Rabati**, Castle and fortress. **Samtskhe-Javakheti** History Museum is located inside the fortress and has wonderful collection of manuscripts, archaeological, numismatic and ethnographic artifacts. The tour will take about forty-five minutes.

Follow the road along the river **Mtkvari**. We can see ruined mediaeval fortresses on the way - Atskuri and Tmogvi. Make a stop for pictures at well preserved **Khertvisi Fortress**.

The next site to visit today is **Vardzia caves**. Established in the 12th century, **Vardzia** cave monastery represents the culmination of spiritual inspiration during the reign of lady King Tamar, Golden Age of Georgia. The frescoes from that time depicts her together with her father, king George III

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## **DAY 2: VARDZIA - ABASTUMANI - ZEKARI PASS - VARTSIKHE -KUTAISI**

Driving Distance: 166 km (4 h 50 min)

Breakfast at the guesthouse. Check out and leave for **Abastumani**.

The health resort and spa town Abastumani (1,340 m altitude) is surrounded by forested mountains. This place was chosen for construction of first observatory in early Soviet times because of the clear sky and stable weather conditions. Guided tour will take about 30 minutes.

If **Zekari Pass** is open, start the gravel, unpaved serpentine through the Meskheti Range, Lesser Caucasus, bordering the [Imereti](#) and [Samtskhe-Javakheti](#) regions. From October to late May, this road is generally impassable. The highest point of the path is 2182 m above sea level, from where a fantastic panorama of the whole Georgia opens up to the Greater Caucasus Mountains.

Next stop is [Vartsikhe Marani](#) in Bagdadi municipality. This wine cellar is prominent for Organic, high-quality wines, which are based on traditional technology, fermented and aged in qvevri (the pitcher buried underground).

In the evening drive back to **Kutaisi**.

Drop off to the hotel.

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## **Inclusions**

## **Included**

### **Transportation:**

- Private transportation with comfortable A/C car

### **Staff:**

- Professional private guide/driver service

### **Accommodation:**

- 1 x overnight in Vardzia, Valodia's cottage or Chachkari guesthouse

### **Meals:**

- 1 x breakfast
- 1 x dinner

### **Wine tasting:**

- Valodia's Wine Cellar
- Vartsikhe Marani in Baghdati

### **Other:**

- 2 x bottles water per person daily
- All local taxes

## **Excluded**

- Personal expenses and services, not mentioned in this program
  - Lunches and dinners unless mentioned
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## More Info

## Additional Info

### OPTIONAL SERVICES:

- Lunch: 15 \$
- Dinner: 20 \$
- Kutaisi airport private pick up service: 31 \$
- Kutaisi airport private drop off service: 55 \$
- Kutaisi airport private transfer double way: 76 \$

To arrange airport transfers and hotel overnights, contact us at info [at] georgianholidays.com

1 person from the group will be FREE of charge if 10 and more adults are traveling together

### **Cancellation Policy**

Cancellation is free of charge prior to 5 days of the starting day.

- The booking deposit 30 USD is non-refundable.

If the Tourist cancels the booked tour for some reasons not depending on Tour Operator, the following sums are kept back as a fine:

- 50% of the total cost of tourist product in case of tour cancellation 5 days or less prior to the tour;
- 100% of the total cost of the tourist product due to the Tourist's failure to appear.

### **[Terms & Conditions PDF](#)**

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# Gallery

