

# 15 Day Georgian Holidays Cultural & Sightseeing Tours

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## Overview

Starts from: Tbilisi

Available: April - October

Type: Private cultural tour

Total driving distance: 2272 km

Duration: 15 days/14 Nights

"Georgian Holidays" is a 15-day private tour to Georgia, starting from Tbilisi. This route covers almost all regions between the highlands of the Greater and Lesser Caucasus and the shores of the Black Sea. Explore natural wonders, traditional wine-growing regions and all major historical and cultural monuments of Tbilisi, [Telavi](#), [Mtskheta](#), Kazbegi, Kutaisi, [Zugdidi](#), [Mestia](#) and Batumi.

Have a great trip!

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## Tour details

- Code: GH-49
- Starts from: Tbilisi
- Max. Group Size: 15 Adults
- Duration: 15 Days

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## Prices

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## Sights to Visit

- [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#)
- [Ushguli Community](#)
- [Bagrati Cathedral](#)
- [Gelati Monastery](#)
- [Jvari Monastery](#)
- [Sataplia Managed Reserve and Karst Caves](#)
- [Uplistsikhe Caves](#)
- [Vardzia rock-cut caves](#)
- [David Gareja](#)
- [Khertvisi Fortress](#)
- [Narikala Fortress](#)
- [Gori Fortress](#)
- [Akhaltsikhe Castle, Rabati](#)
- [Holy Trinity Cathedral](#)
- [Metekhi Church](#)
- [National Museum](#)
- [Vardzia Museum](#)
- [Bodbe Monastery](#)
- [Gonio Museum-Reserve](#)
- [Ioseb Stalin State Museum](#)
- [Mestia Museum](#)
- [Tsinandali Museum](#)
- [Samtskhe - Javakheti Museum](#)
- [Dadiani Palace](#)
- [Ananuri Fortress](#)
- [Gergeti Trinity Church](#)
- [Gremi Church](#)
- [Numisi Winery](#)
- [Twins Wine Cellar](#)
- [Valodia's Cottage](#)
- [Bridge of Peace](#)
- [Tbilisi Historic District](#)
- [Vardzia-Khertvisi](#)
- [Batumi Botanical Garden](#)
- [Ethnographic Museum](#)
- [Sighnaghi](#)
- [Gori](#)
- [Telavi](#)
- [Batumi Piazza](#)
- [Kakheti](#)
- [Mtskheta](#)
- [Stepantsminda](#)
- [Gurjaani](#)

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## Itinerary

### **DAY 1: TBILISI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - TBILISI**

Driving distance: 25 km (30 min)

Meeting in the arrival hall of Tbilisi International airport.  
Transfer to Tbilisi hotel.

Check in time 15:00

Free evening. Overnight at the hotel in Tbilisi.

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## DAY 2: TBILISI CITY TOUR

(image) [Tbilisi Historic District](#)

10:00 guide will meet you at the hotel lobby and invite you to start full day sightseeing of **Tbilisi historical district**.

The first stop is **Sameba**, the **Holy Trinity Cathedral**, one of the splendid and tallest churches in the orthodox world. The grandiose staircase leads from the entrance and bell tower to the cathedral; the gorgeous panoramic view of the city is opening. Go around the yard and the main hall of the cathedral. Excursion will take about 30 minutes.

Tour continues to **Metekhi Plateau**, the residential area of Georgian Kings. Equestrian Statue of the King Vakhtang Gorgasali - founder of the capital city - overlooks the river [Mtkvari](#) and colorful medieval houses with carved wooden balconies hanging above it. From here walk downhill to the Europe Square and Rike Park, picturesque area.

Lower station of the aerial cable way is located in Rike Park. Ride up to the **Narikala** Fortress built in 4th c, The site overlooks Tbilisi. From the fort Narikala we stroll down to the old districts of Tbilisi and visit several interesting sites: **Legvta**[Khevi](#) **canyon**, natural waterfall, the thermal **Sulfur Bathhouse District**, Shardeni street, **Meidan square** and the surrounding area that is full with outdoor cafes, art galleries and souvenir shops.

Today we explore two museums: **Tbilisi History Museum** and [National Museum of Georgia](#) on Rustaveli Avenue.

In the evening arrive to the hotel.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

Overnight in **Tbilisi**.

## **DAY 3: TBILISI - DAVID GAREJA - BODBE-SIGNAGHI**

Total driving: 205 km (3h 17 min)

Days 3 and 4 are devoted to explore [Kakheti](#) - the major wine-growing region and the former kingdom of Eastern Georgia.

After breakfast in Tbilisi hotel, check out and drive to [David Gareja](#) semi-desert hills to explore [David Gareja](#) lavra cave monastery. Established in the 6th century, complex developed on a huge territory among 13 monasteries in the early middle ages; hundreds of cave cells, living areas, churches and chapels now became part of Azerbaijan territory.

From **Gareja** desert continue the way to **Bodbe** and **Signagi**.

Stop at the Bodbe nunnery and see beautiful wall paintings and wooden iconostas of 19th c. Monastery is closely associated with St. Nino - the Enlightener of Georgia; her relics are buried there. Basilica originally was built in 9th c. and was renovated in 17th c., 19th c and 21st c., Monastery nowadays is a popular pilgrimage site.

After 2 kilometers drive, arrive in [Signaghi](#) - a small charming town on the eastern foothills of Gombori mountain range, overlooking the valley of Alazani and surrounded by the defensive medieval curtain walls.

Overnight in **Signagi**.

## **DAY 4: SIGHNAGI - VELISTSIKHE - TSINANDALI - NAPAREULI - GREMI - TELAVI**

Total driving: 127 km (2h 19 min)

After breakfast drive to the village **Velistsikhe** and visit **Numisi Wine Cellar** - one of the oldest wineries in [Kakheti](#). The cellar and dining hall, ethnographic yard and bread bakery, are constructed in order of traditional heavy field stones without stucco, and represent the best examples of domestic lifestyle and dwelling of 16th c. \*Optional Wine tasting is available here.

After Velistsikhe head to the village **Tsinandali** and visit **House Museum of Alexander Chavchavadze**. Prince Chavchavadze was Georgian nobleman, military figure of Russian Imperial army, poet and a public figure of 19th century. Nowadays, Chavchavadze's residence, mixed English-French style garden, enoteca and wine cellar operates as a museum. Tour includes a glass of **Tsinandali white wine**.

Next stop is **Twins' Wine Museum** located on the left bank of Alazani river in the village **Napareuli**. This private museum describes whole process of traditional - inner [Kakhetian](#) wine making method in the transparent 500-liter pitchers: fermenting, natural filtering and aging wines in inner [Kakheti](#).

Continue the tour to [Gremi](#) - the remnant of a medieval city that functioned as the capital of the former Kingdom of [Kakheti](#) in the 16th-17th centuries. Currently, the architectural monument of the **Royal Citadel of Gremi** consists of the **Church of the Archangels**, a three-story **residential castle of King Levan I**, a bell tower, a wine cellar, an evacuation tunnel and is surrounded by a medieval wall with turrets and towers.

At the end of the day, drive to [Telavi town](#) for overnight.

**\*Optional** Wine tasting is available in all above mentioned villages.

## **DAY 5: TELAVI - MTSKHETA - ANANURI - GUDAURI**

Total driving: 216 km (4h)

After breakfast leave [Telavi](#) and depart for [Mtskheta](#).

Located at the confluence of the Aragvi and [Mtkvari](#) rivers, the city of [Mtskheta](#) was once the capital of **Iberia** (3rd century BC - 4th century AD), the ancient kingdom of Eastern Georgia. [Mtskheta](#) and its medieval architectural monuments: [Jvari Monastery](#), **Samtavro** and [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#) are recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. Enjoy the scenery, panoramic views and take time to walk around.

Continue the trip to the north, towards the ski resort [Gudauri](#). Drive on Georgian Military Road to the Great Caucasus mountains. On the way we make a stop near [Zhinvali Reservoir](#) and visit **Ananuri Architectural Complex** (16th-17th c.c.); The fort integrates medieval fortification with churches and Aragvi Eristavi s' (local feudal) residence.

In the evening continue to the north and get to **Gudauri** (2196 m).

Two overnights and dinners are arranged in [Gudauri](#) hotel.

## **DAY 6: GUDAURI - KAZBEGI - GERGETI - DARIALI - GUDAURI**

Total driving: 98 km (2h 20 min)

Start full-day exploration of Caucasus mountains, **Kazbegi** municipality. Drive to **Stephantsminda** town – the administrative center of **Khevi** area. The road goes through **Jvari Pass** (2395 m) - impressive stops are available on the way: Friendship monument of observation platform, the watershed on a pass, travertine mount and try to taste bobbling mineral water from the alpine spring.

Arrival in Kazbegi and take a walk (approx. 2 hours, grade easy) to **Mount Gergeti**. **Gergeti Trinity Church** (14th century) is situated on the top of mountain. From there we can enjoy panoramic views of Kazbegi town and Kazbegi Glacier (5047 m).

Return to the town, and head to **Dariali Gorge**. One-hour hike to **Gveleti** waterfalls.

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



## **DAY 7: GUDAURI - GORI - UPLISTSIKHE - KUTAISI**

Total driving 334 km (5h 42 min)

After breakfast check out and leave [Gudauri](#). Drive to [Gori](#) - administrative town of Shida (Inner) [Kartli](#) region. Visit **House Museum of Joseph Stalin**, the Soviet dictator-leader of the 20th. The guided tour will take about 30 minutes.

**Uplistsikhe Cave Complex** is about 12 km away from [Gori](#). Comprised of cave dwellings, chambers, tunnels, and streets, Uplistsikhe is an ancient rock-hewn town dated as early as 1st millennium BC and served as an important political, trade and religious center of the pre-Christian times.

After Uplistsikhe, we continue our way to the west of Georgia through the **Lesser Caucasus Tunnel** and arrive in the city of **Kutaisi**, the administrative center of [Imereti](#). Along the way, make a few stops at **Rikoti Pass**, visit pottery workshops, a farmer's market, and the charming 9th-century **Ubisa Basilica** with an unique Paleologos-style mural in the interior.

In the evening arrive in **Kutaisi** and take historical-cultural tour of **Gelati Academy** and [Bagrati Cathedral](#). Both of these monuments were built during the Georgian Golden Age and nowadays are included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list.

Overnight in Kutaisi.

## **DAY 8: KUTAISI - ZUGDIDI - MESTIA**

Driving distance: 250km (5h 51 min)

After breakfast \*optional visit of **Kutaisi farmers market** selling fruits and vegetables, as well as local [Imeretian](#) cheese.

Head to **Sataplia Natural Reserve** and Caves, located in 10 km from Kutaisi. Sataplia attracts for its unique relict deciduous forests, karst caves, subtropical vegetation, glass observation panorama, and well-preserved footprints of dinosaurs. The tour will take about an hour.

Continue to [Samegrelo lowlands](#) and drive to its capital city **Zugdidi**, an administrative center of [Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region](#). Visit Palace of Prince **Dadiani**, the last ruler of the West Georgia. The royal residence was turned into the **History and Architectural Museum** and [Zugdidi Botanical Garden](#) in 20th c. Complex comprises of two palaces, church, yard and a garden spread on 67 ha. Museum houses various ethnographic and archaeological collections.

Drive to the north, to the high Caucasus mountains of **Upper Svaneti**. Make a stop at the [Enguri Dam](#), one of the highest (274.5m) concrete arch dams in the world (constructed in 1961-78 years on the river Enguri).

In the evening arrive in [Mestia](#) – administrative center of [Svaneti](#), the most isolated, well preserved and exotic place in Europe.

Two overnights in [Mestia](#).

## **DAY 9: MESTIA - USHGULI - MESTIA**

Driving distance: 93 km (3h 15 min)

The day starts with discovery of the mountainous region of **Upper [Svaneti](#)**, surrounded by peaks and glaciers of the **Greater Caucasus: [Shkhara](#)** (5201 m), **[Ushba](#)** (double peak 4710 m and 4690 m) and **Tetnuldi** (4858 m) can be seen if it is not cloudy. The province has become a popular destination for its beautiful wildlife, hiking and skiing trails, climbing opportunities, authentic medieval architecture, traditional cuisine and well-preserved local lifestyle.

After breakfast drive to **Ushguli community** – one of the highest continuously inhabited places in Europe. Ushguli comprises 4 villages and is included in UNESCO World Heritage Sites List. On the way we make few stops at the villages of Ipari and Kala and take a look at village churches with medieval frescos.

Visit local family, taste homemade tea of alpine flowers and speak with host. People are very friendly and hard working. Make easy hike towards the foothills of **[Shkhara Glacier](#)** (5201 m) – the highest mountain peak in Georgia.

In the evening return back to **[Mestia](#)** and visit **house-Museum** of mountain climber **Mikheil Khargiani**. Located in an ancient housing estate, **Khargiani Museum** presents authentic Svan lifestyle and dwelling of middle ages.

Overnight in **[Mestia](#)**.

## **DAY 10: MESTIA - BATUMI**

Driving distance: 290 km (5h 43min)

Breakfast in [Mestia](#) hotel. Check out and leave for the Black Sea.

If the weather permits, start a day by visiting **Hatsvali cable car**. In calm day it is possible to ride all the way from [Mestia](#) to the top of **Zuruldi ridge (2 336m)**. The splendid panoramic views of **Caucasus** mountains, **Tetnuldi** and [Ushba](#) peaks are opening around. If it rains or windy, cable car can't work; **Svaneti Museum of History and Ethnography** is the best re-placement for Hatsvali cable car. Collection of museum includes various ethnographic and archaeological artifacts, old Georgian manuscripts, Georgian Orthodox icons painted in the Svan style etc.

On midday leave [Svaneti](#) mountains and drive to the lowlands of the Black Sea, towards Batumi – the capital of the Autonomous Republic of [Adjara](#) and second largest city of Georgia.

In the evening take **Batumi walking tour**, visit Piazza square and enjoy a leisure sunset on the boulevards of the city.

Overnight in Batumi.

## **DAY 11: BATUMI BOTANICAL GARDEN - GONIO- MUSEUM BORJGALO**

Driving distance: 44 km (1h 26 min)

Relaxing day. After breakfast drive to the **Green Cape**, where [Batumi Botanical Garden](#) is located. Officially opened in 1912 and later expanded during Soviet times, the Garden has a vast variety of trails, plants and trees from different climate zones. Easy walk for an hour will make your day.

Next site is 10 km away from Batumi to the direction of Turkish border; visit [Gonio Fortress](#) - a well-fortified Roman city in former kingdom of Colchis in 2nd c. AD. and an archaeological site dating from 1st c. AD. **Gonio** later came under Byzantine rule.

Five more kilometers out of **Batumi** and visit [Ethnographic Museum Borjgalo](#) - a must see for any visitor interested in local traditions and ordinary lifestyle of Adjarian villages. A prominent master of wood carving Mr. Turmanidze, create this open area crafts museum, telling the story through the models of Adjarian village people.

In the evening return back to **Batumi** city.

Overnight in Batumi hotel.

## **DAY 12: BATUMI - BORJOMI - AKHALTSIKHE**

Driving distance: 326 km (5h 36 min)

Long driving day. After breakfast leave Batumi and drive to [Borjomi](#) spa-resort.

After arrival take a walk in the [Borjomi Park](#) and taste bobbling mineral water from the main spring. Mineral waters of [Borjomi](#) have been famous for the curative effect since the early 19th c., and are exported to more than 40 countries of the world. The park has an ecological theme and it features: a green pavilion with a transparent dome and mineral water fountain where all can fill up own bottle, a peculiar statue of Prometheus which stands at the base of a small waterfall, a cable car leading up to a scenic overlook, children's amusement rides, pavilion of models "**Georgia in Miniatures**" and an outdoor swimming pool deep in the forest.

In the evening continue to [Akhaltzikhe](#), a historical town and administrative center of [Samtskhe-Javakheti](#) region, South Georgia.

Overnight in [Akhaltzikhe](#) hotel.

## **DAY 13: AKHALTSIKHE - VARDZIA**

Driving distance: 61 km (1h 11 min)

On Day 13 tour of Akhaltsikhe and its surroundings: visit **Rabati** district and **Castle**. The castle houses beautiful courtyard, amphitheater, **Akhaktsikhe History Museum**, several churches, a mosque, souvenir shop, restaurant and hotel. The museum collection includes manuscripts and books, photo, archaeological and numismatic collections.

Continue exploration of **Samtskhe - Javakheti** area, bordering Turkey. Drive along **Mtkvari** river and see uncounted quantity of ruined medieval fortresses on the way to **Vardzia monastery**. Make some short photo stops at ancient **Khertvisi** and **Tmogvi** Fortresses.

**Vardzia** is a medieval cave monastery, founded in the 12th century during the reign of lady king Tamar of Georgia and her father king George III. The complex is cut in volcanic ashes on thirteen levels and consists of multiple chambers, cave dwellings, painted churches and chapels interconnected through narrow corridors and tunnels situated on different floors and tiers. Guided tour will take about one hour.

NOTE: Electric car will deliver passengers to the starting point only.

Relaxing evening. Dinner and overnight in **Vardzia**.

## **DAY 14: VARDZIA - TBILISI**

Distance: 227 km (2h 18 min)

After breakfast depart for **Tbilisi**.

We are going to pass through **Javakheti** volcanic plateau and make a few stops at the alpine lakes of **Sagamo** and **ParaVani**, as well as the largest artificial lake of Georgia – **Tsalka** reservoir. Don't miss to visit small fish-farms on **ParaVani** river and **Phoka Monastery** artisan shop, where you can find exclusive cheese and handicraft chocolates made by local nuns.

Free evening in Tbilisi.

Overnight in **Tbilisi** hotel.



## **DAY 15: TBILISI - TBILISI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Distance: 25 km (30 min)

Breakfast. Hotel check-out time is 12:00. Transfer to the Tbilisi International Airport.

Have a light flight back home!

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## Inclusions

## Included

### Private Staff:

- Professional private guide service during the tour
- Private vehicle service during the tour

### Transport:

- 2 x transfers: Tbilisi airport arrival & departure to/from Tbilisi hotel by a comfortable A/C vehicle
- Private transportation with a comfortable Climate Controlled vehicle
- 4 x 4 WD Jeep Delica to Ushguli-on day 9

### Accommodation in the hotels:

- 3 x nights in Tbilisi 4\* hotel Citrus (or similar)
- 1 x night in Signaghi 3\* hotel Brigitte (or similar)
- 1 x night in Telavi 3\* hotel Chateau Mere, Leni (or similar)
- 2 x nights in Gudauri 4\* hotel Gudauri Inn (or similar)
- 1 x night in Kutaisi 3\* hotel Green Rooms (or similar)
- 2 x nights in Mestia 3\* hotel Patrioti, Shgedi, Mountain Mestia (or similar)
- 2 x nights in Batumi 3\* hotel Bloom or Salvador (or similar)
- 1 x overnight in Akhaltsikhe 4\* hotel Akhaltsikhe Inn(or similar)
- 1 x night in Vardzia Valodia's Cottage

### Meals:

- 14 x Breakfasts-on days 2-15
- 4 x Dinners-on days 5, 6, 8, 9, 13
- 2 x bottles of water per person daily

### Entertainment and other:

- Excursions in accordance with the program

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## More Info

## Additional Info

To arrange airport transfers and pre-(post) tour hotel overnights, contact us [info\[at\]georgianholidays.com](mailto:info[at]georgianholidays.com)

NOTE: Legal drinking age in Georgia is 18 years.

[Dress code](#) applies for visiting churches and monasteries

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 7 days of the starting day.

- The booking deposit 60 USD is non-refundable.

If 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 7 days or less prior to the tour;
  - 100% of the total cost of the tourist product due to the Tourist's failure to appear.
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# Gallery

