

9 Day Ancient Georgia Cultural & Sightseeing Tours

Overview

9-day private tour Ancient Georgia

Starts from: TBILISI

Available: MAY-OCT

Distance: 1668 km

Duration: 9 DAYS

Ancient Georgia is a private multiday tour that reveals an exotic corner of East Europe, its remote and authentic villages dotted on the Great Caucasus mountainous. The UNESCO World heritage village Ushguli in Svaneti is the highest permanently settled village in Europe. Jeep adventure starts in Mestia and takes to the unique rural settlements along the river Enguri, to the alpine valleys, medieval self-defense towers.

The trip covers five historic regions of Georgia: Kartli, Imereti, Svaneti, Samegrelo and Samtske-Javakheti; Visit seven cities and towns: Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Gori, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Mestia and Akhaltsikhe. The tour is designed for travelers' who enjoy the new discovery and adventure travel.

Welcome to Georgia!

Tour details

- Code: GH-42
- Starts from: Tbilisi
- Max. Group Size: 15 Adults
- Duration: 9 Days

Prices

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Sights to Visit

- [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#)
 - [Ushguli Community](#)
 - [Bagrati Cathedral](#)
 - [Gelati Monastery](#)
 - [Jvari Monastery](#)
 - [Prometheus Cave](#)
 - [Vardzia rock-cut caves](#)
 - [Narikala Fortress](#)
 - [Akhaltsikhe Castle, Rabati](#)
 - [Holy Trinity Cathedral](#)
 - [Nokalakevi](#)
 - [Vani](#)
 - [National Museum](#)
 - [Vardzia Museum](#)
 - [Mestia Museum](#)
 - [Samtskhe - Javakheti Museum](#)
 - [Dadiani Palace](#)
 - [Bridge of Peace](#)
 - [Tbilisi Historic District](#)
 - [The Chronicle of Georgia](#)
 - [Bakuriani Ski Resort](#)
 - [Rike Park & Cableway](#)
 - [Anaklia Black Sea resort](#)
 - [Mestia](#)
 - [Lamaria](#)
 - [Svaneti](#)
 - [Samegrelo](#)
 - [Vani Archaeological Site](#)
 - [Enguri Dam](#)
 - [Imereti](#)
 - [Zugdidi](#)
 - [Samtskhe-Javakheti](#)
 - [Borjomi](#)
 - [Tbilisi Funicular](#)
 - [Akhaltsikhe](#)
 - [The Antioch Monastery](#)
 - [Ubisa Monastery](#)
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Itinerary

DAY 1: TBILISI ARRIVAL. HALF DAY CITY TOUR

Arrival at Tbilisi International Airport. Meet and greet, transfer to the hotel. Hotel check in time is 15:00.

Start Tbilisi city tour from Mtatsminda Park – the highest point of the city can be reached from the old Tbilisi by the funicular train. Evening walk in the town.

Overnight in **Tbilisi**.

DAY 2: TBILISI - KUTAISI

After breakfast at the hotel begin a half-day Tbilisi city tour.

The Holy Trinity Cathedral (Sameba) is seen from the left bank of the river. This largest orthodox cathedral was constructed in the late 20th c and was dedicated to the unity of the nation. A beautiful garden surrounds the main cathedral, belfry entrance, and Lagidze water café.

Continue the sightseeing to Rustaveli Avenue, visit the Georgian [National Museum](#) and its various collections, which includes the archaeological golden treasures.

Finish Tbilisi sightseeing and head to western Georgia, to the [Imereti](#) region. This transfer will take about four hours.

Visit [Gelati Monastery](#) and Academy. The monastic complex of Gelati was established in the 12th century by the King David IV of Georgia (David the Builder), the most prominent king from the Georgian history. Don't skip the sunset from the window of the academy building – astronomy professors of medieval times set the perfect point for observation here.

Arrive in Kutaisi city – the administrative center of [Imereti](#), capital of Georgian kingdoms in different historical periods and nowadays, the third largest city. Easy walk in the central park.

Overnight in **Kutaisi**.

DAY 3: KUTAISI - PROMETHEUS - NOKALAKEVI - ENGURI DAM - MESTIA

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and head to the [Prometheus Cave](#) (Kumistavi) – one of the largest karst caves of Georgia. Located near town [Tskaltubo](#), [Prometheus Cave](#) has a 1.8 km long trail open for tourists that pass through different halls. The boat trip is available at the very end of the exit (if the water level is navigable).

Continue the journey to [Nokalakevi](#) village. Located by the transparent, green river Tekhuri, [Nokalakevi](#) is well-known for its excavations that occupy about 20 ha. Here, the archaeologists have discovered numerous ancient artifacts and remnants of the Archaeopolis. The excursion will take about 45 minutes. Electric vehicles are available at the site.

After [Nokalakevi](#), drive to the North passing through the Enguri river gorge, and stop by the Enguri hydroelectric dam, which is among the highest concrete arch dams in the world with a height of 271.5 meters (891 ft).

Continue to the Caucasus Mountains along the roaring Inguri River and a narrow winding road with an endless serpentine up to the Zemo [Svaneti](#) region. In the evening arrive in the town of [Mestia](#) – the administrative center of [Svaneti](#) and the largest settlement. The whole area is famous for its traditional authentic medieval defensive buildings – Svan towers.

Overnight in [Mestia](#).

DAY 4: MESTIA - USHGULI - MESTIA

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to [Ushguli Community](#) by local 4 x 4 WD jeeps. On the way make several stops to observe shining picks of [Ushba](#) and Tetnuldi glaciers, medieval villages Mulakhi, Ipari and Kala.

Ushguli is comprised of four villages that have a well-preserved traditional lifestyle and architecture. Because of its remote location, difficult road and harsh climate, the area was cut from the world 8-9 months a year. This settlement is special as it keeps rural traditions and is one of the highest inhabited places in entire Europe (2200 m). Ushguli is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Visit Zhibiani, one of the villages of the [Ushguli Community](#), that has a little chapel – La Maria, named after the goddess of fertility in Svan belief. The picturesque [Shkhara](#) glacier is in the background. Take a walk in the village, meet locals, taste tea, cheese, honey, and return back to [Mestia](#).

Overnight in [Mestia](#).

DAY 5: MESTIA - ZUGDIDI - KUTAISI

Following breakfast, embark on a brief morning tour of Mestia.

- ***Optional:** Explore the [Mestia museum](#) or the Margiani Tower Museum, where the local traditional dwelling "Machubi," household items, and ethnographic displays depict the Svans' traditional way of life.

Later, journey towards Kutaisi with a stop in Zugdidi, the administrative center of Samegrelo region.

- ***Optional:** [Dadiani Palace](#) History Museum, the former residence of the Samegrelo dukes. Discover the splendid palaces of Queen Ekaterine Chavchavadze-Dadiani and Prince Niko Dadiani, the court church, and the mesmerizing [botanical garden](#).
- ***Optional:** a relaxing visit to the [Anaklia Black Sea resort](#), easily accessible from Zugdidi with a driving time of approximately 40 minutes each way.

Upon returning to Kutaisi, delve into an evening sightseeing tour of the city and its environs.

Don't miss the iconic [Bagrati Cathedral](#), a symbol of Kutaisi dating back to the 11th century. Both [Bagrati Cathedral](#) and the Gelati monastic complex are esteemed UNESCO World Heritage Sites, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of the region.

DAY 6: KUTAISI - BORJOMI - BAKURIANI

After breakfast at the hotel we drive to **Motsameta Monastic Complex**, 6 kilometers from **Kutaisi**.

Established in the 11th century, monastery is remarkable for its location.

From **Motsameta**, we depart from [Imereti](#) and drive towards [Borjomi](#) town, where we can have a walk inside the [Borjomi](#) **National Park** and taste the famous local mineral water '[Borjomi](#)'. From [Borjomi](#) we leave for [Bakuriani](#) – a skiing resort located on the northern slope of Trialeti mountain range, at an elevation of 1700 meters and 26 kilometers away from [Borjomi](#).

Overnight in [Bakuriani](#).

DAY 7: BAKURIANI - AKHALTSIKHE - VARDZIA - BAKURIANI

On day 7 after breakfast at the hotel we head to explore [Samtskhe-Javakheti](#) region. We get to [Akhaltsikhe](#) – the administrative center of the province, and visit **Rabati Castle**, located in the heart of the town. The complex includes the fortress from the 14th c., fortress church from late medieval period, 18th century palace and the Church of Saint Marine (1865) with built-in relief works, as well as mosque, synagogue and a catholic church.

From **Rabati** tour we drive to [Vardzia](#) **Cave Monastery** – a unique monument from the medieval **Georgia**. Hewn in the rocks of Erusheti mountains, [Vardzia](#) was established during the Georgian Golden Era in the 12th-13th centuries. After excursion in [Vardzia](#) we drive back to [Bakuriani](#).

Overnight in [Bakuriani](#).

DAY 8: BAKURIANI - MTSKHETA - TBILISI

After breakfast at the hotel drive back to **Tbilisi**. On day 8 we make sightseeing tours of [Mtskheta](#) and **Tbilisi**.

First we stop at [Mtskheta](#) town, the ancient capital of early Georgian Kingdom of Iberia, located at the confluence of the rivers [Mtkvari](#) and **Aragvi**. In [Mtskheta](#) we are going to visit two monuments: [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#), built in the 11th century, and [Jvari Monastery](#) from 7th century overlooking the town and the two rivers from the mountain. Both **Svetitskhoveli** and **Jvari** represent Georgian church architecture and are recognized by the UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

From [Mtskheta](#) we arrive in the capital and the largest city of **Georgia - Tbilisi**. On day 8 we are going to have a half-day **Tbilisi** city tour. We take a cable car from **Rike park** in the old town and go up to the [Narikala Fortress](#), which stands on the cliff overlooking **Tbilisi**. The fortress consists of two walled sections and is situated between the **Sulfur bathhouses** and [Tbilisi Botanical Garden](#).

From **Narikala** we stroll down and continue our sightseeing tour in **Tbilisi** old town. We are going to visit Legvtakhevi canyon and waterfall, continue to the **Sulfur Bathhouse District**, and **Maidan Square**.

Overnight in **Tbilisi**.

DAY 9: DEPARTURE

Transfer to Tbilisi International Airport for departure.

Inclusions

Included

Transportation:

- 2 x Tbilisi Airport Private transfers to/from Tbilisi hotel by a comfortable vehicle
- Private transportation with a comfortable vehicle all days
- 4x4WD Mitsubishi Delica to Ushguli village on day 4

Staff:

- Private Professional guide service during the tour

Accommodation:

- 2 x overnights in Tbilisi 3* hotel Brigitte (or similar)
- 2 x overnights in Kutaisi 3* hotel Green Rooms (or similar)
- 2 x overnights in Mestia 3* hotel Patrioti, Shgedi (or similar)
- 2 x overnights in Bakuriani 4* hotel Villa Palace (or similar)

Meals:

- 8 x Breakfasts-on days 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- 2 x Dinners-on days 6, 7

Other:

- 2 x bottles of water per person daily
- Entrance fees
- Excursions in accordance with the program
- All local taxes

Excluded

- Visa Fees (when needed), Insurance & Flight tickets
 - Early Check Ins/Late Check outs
 - Alcoholic beverages
 - Meals, which are not listed above
 - *Optional services
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More Info

Additional Info

***Optional services:**

- Single Supplement: 216 \$
- Lunch: 15 \$
- Dinner at a Georgian restaurant with the folk show: 30 \$

***Optional:** Enjoy a leisurely visit to the [Anaklia Black Sea resort](#), easily accessible from Zugdidi with a driving time of approximately 40 minutes each way: 30 \$ double way

To arrange extra services and pre-tour (post-tour) hotel overnights, contact us [info\[at\]georgianholidays.com](mailto: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 7 days of the starting day.

- The booking deposit 60 \$ 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

