

Unforgettable Georgia

08 Days / 07 Nights



★ Anglo Indiago Travels (P) Limited ★

Day 1: Arrival

Pick up from Tbilisi international airport. Transfer to the hotel. Hotel accommodation and overnight in Tbilisi. (-/-/-)

Day 2: Tbilisi City Tour

After breakfast at the hotel, start a few unforgettable hours of familiarization with the capital. All the places of interest are very close to each other, within a few minutes' walk. Start our excursion from **Metekhi** (13th century) plateau, before reaching **Narikala Fortress** (4th century) which dominates the skyline of the Old Town. Continue to explore brick-domed underground **sulphur baths** (17th century) – the district of naturally hot mineral waters, cafe street **Shardeni**, **Sioni Cathedral** and the most ancient Basilica in Tbilisi **Anchiskhati** (6th century). Walk across **the Bridge of Peace** which is a stunning design as well as convenient crossing between the newly constructed Rike Park and the Old Town. It also provides superb views over the city. Afterwards visit **The National museum of Georgia** that displays the country's principal archaeological findings. The Museum houses hundreds of thousands of artefacts of Georgia's and the Caucasus' archaeology and ethnography. Hotel accommodation and overnight in Tbilisi. (B/-/-)

Day 3: Tbilisi – Bodbe – Signaghi – Gremi – Akhalsopeli – Telavi

After breakfast at the hotel start our drive to **Kakheti** region - Georgia's premier wine-producing area as well as home to hundreds of historical and architectural monuments. Visit **Monastery of Bodbe** final resting place of Saint Nino, "Enlightener of Georgians", who preached Christianity in Georgia with a vine cross in her hand. Afterwards head to **Signaghi** – a small beautiful town that opens to visitors the magnificent views of the Great Caucasus Range. Then head to **Gremi** architectural complex. Gremi was the Capital of Kakheti Kingdom (1466–1616 years). It had booming cultural life but because of internal strife and the invasion of Shah Abbas, the town was destroyed. Proceed to **Akhalsopeli**. Enjoy degustation of 2 types of Georgian wine. You will have an opportunity to take part in the culinary masterclass of making Mtsvadi – Georgian barbeque, and Georgian traditional sweet Churchkhela – a sausage-shaped candy originating from the Caucasus region. It is an exceedingly popular food, combining two of Georgia's favourites – grapes and nuts. Afterwards we have possibility enjoy dinner at the local family winery. Then drive to Telavi. Hotel accommodation and overnight in Telavi. (B/-/D)

Day 4: Telavi – Vardisubani – Alaverdi – Tsinandali – Shumi – Tbilisi

After breakfast at the hotel visit **Telavi** – the capital of Kakheti region once was famous for trade and handicraft. Now it is the perfect base for exploring the region's viticulture, historical and architectural riches. Proceed to food market here where stalls are loaded with fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, spices, and drinks. Afterwards drive to village and attend Qvevri making process. Meet the local craftsman who is a fourth generation Qvevri maker, and his son continues the tradition. The visitors can observe the whole process of making a traditional Qvevri (egg-shaped earthenware vessel in which wine is fermented and stored in villages and towns throughout Georgia. UNESCO Intangible Heritage since 2013). Then visit **Alaverdi monastery**. It was built in 11th century and was one of the tallest structures of the time. The surrounding courtyard is home to vineyards from which local monks make their own wine. Then head to **Tsinandali** – a village noted for the surrounding estate and its historic winery that belonged to the 19th century aristocratic poet Alexander Chavchavadze. Afterwards visit winery **Shumi** in Kvareli and enjoy lunch and degustation of 2 types of Georgian wine. In the evening drive back to Tbilisi. Hotel accommodation and overnight in Tbilisi (B/L/-)

Day 5: Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Kazbegi – Gergeti Trinity Church – Gudauri

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to **Mtskheta** – an ancient capital of Georgia, important religious centre and city-museum which is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Along the way, we will stop to visit the **Jvari Monastery** (6th century). This well-known monastery is located on the top of the mountain, at the confluence of the Mtkvari and Aragvi rivers. Then head to **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral** (11th century) which is known as a place where Christ's robe was buried. Walk along the narrow streets of Mtskheta with souvenir shopping possibility. Then start our very scenic drive up through the High Caucasus Mountains along the Georgian Military Highway towards Kazbegi region.

On the way we will drive across the Cross Pass (2 395m.) and along the Tergi River that brings us to **Kazbegi** – a main town in this region and located in the middle of glorious & breath-taking beauty of the Caucasus, at the bottom of Mount Kazbegi (5 047m.). From the centre of Kazbegi on 4x4 drive through beautiful valleys and woodland that leads us to **Gergeti Holy Trinity church** (14th century), stunningly located on a hilltop (2170 m.) both overlooking the surrounding snowy peaks of the Greater Caucasus Mountains. Hotel accommodation and overnight in Gudauri. (B/-/D)

Day 6: Gudauri – Ananuri – Gori – Uplistsikhe – Borjomi – Akhaltsikhe

After breakfast at the hotel drive to visit **Ananuri architectural complex** (17th century) overlooking a reservoir on the Aragvi River. Then proceed to **Gori** – a little town situated along the famous Silk Road is also famous as the birthplace of the Soviet Leader Joseph Stalin. Photo stop at the **museum of Stalin** and then head to the cave town **Uplistsikhe** (1st millennium BC) – one of the first cities in Georgia carved into the rock. The caves were the site of pagan rituals, before Georgia became a Christian country. Afterwards drive to **Borjomi** – a small resort town famous for its salty-sour and fizzy mineral water. Quick stroll in Borjomi mineral water Park that has its own splendour and beauty in all seasons. Savour the famous water of Borjomi. Arrive in Akhaltsikhe. Hotel accommodation, dinner and overnight in Akhaltsikhe. (B/-/D)

Day 7: Akhaltsikhe – Vardzia – Poka – Tbilisi

After breakfast drive to Vardzia – the magnificent cave town of the Golden Age. En route photo-stop at **Khertvisi Fortress** (10th century). Arrive in **Vardzia** (12th century). The cave complex stretching over half a kilometre once was a hiding place for 50 000 people. It has got a church hewn out in rock with unique 12th century frescos. The complex also includes dwellings quarters, small hall – type churches, refectories, wine cellars, etc. Lunch and **honey degustation** in the local farmer's family. Drive back to Tbilisi though the magnificent road with unusual villages and huge lakes. On the way we visit beautiful **Poka Convent** – the establishment of Poka Monastery is credited to St. Nino of Cappadocia who is said to have brought Christianity into Georgia. As a result of invasions in the 17th century, cathedral was destroyed but you can still see the remains of the original stone church, including fragments of the original frescos. Arrive in Tbilisi. Hotel accommodation and overnight in Tbilisi. (B/L/-)

Day 8: Departure

Check out from the hotel. Transfer to the airport and departure. (-/-/-)

End of the services...

NOTE. This tour can be modified as per your requirements.