


ITINERARY

AMAZING GEORGIA (family vacations)

Take the family and your friends to specially selected places in Georgia. Give them a holiday that lasts a lifetime and discover together the country of legends, ancient history, great cultural heritage and amazing feasting traditions. Come and discover AMAZING GEORGIA!

<p>Day 01</p> 	<p>ARRIVAL IN TBILISI Meeting at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Time to rest or to start exploring the Georgian capital. Tbilisi is the capital of Georgia. It was founded in the 5th century by Vakhtang Gorgasali, the Georgian King of Kartli (Iberia), and made into a capital in the 6th century. Located strategically at the crossroads between Europe and Asia and lying along the historic Silk Road routes, Tbilisi has often been a point of contention between various rival powers and empires. The history of the city can be seen by its architecture, where the Rustaveli Avenue and downtown are blended with the narrower streets of old Tbilisi district. Despite being overwhelmingly Orthodox Christian, Tbilisi is one of the few places in the world where a synagogue and a mosque are located next to each other in the ancient Bath district, several hundred meters from Metekhi.</p>
<p>Day 02</p> 	<p>TBILISI – MTSKHETA – TBILISI Breakfast at the hotel. Tbilisi and Mtskheta full day tour. A moderate combination of sightseeing and walking tour of Tbilisi will start by visiting an important historic part of the city – Abanot-ubani, the place, where according to a legend the King Vakhtang Gorgasali's pheasant fell, leading to a discovery of the hot springs and, subsequently, to founding of a new capital. Continue with excursion in old Tbilisi and visit Narikala Fortress, Sioni Cathedral, Anchiskhati Basilica, Metekhi church and Sameba Cathedral; after a short coffee-break at café-streets of Shardeni and Erekle with their fascinating atmosphere and souvenir shopping possibility, a walk along the Rustaveli Avenue (downtown) will give visitors the opportunity to experience fully the rhythm and the beauty of the capital of Georgia. Visit to Georgian National Museum. Proceed to Mtskheta – the ancient capital of Georgia, the important religious centre and a museum city that is on the list of the world sights of UNESCO. It is situated at the convergence of the Mtkvari and Aragvi Rivers. There are a number of very significant archaeological and religious monuments in and around the town: Svetitskhoveli (11th c.)-a grandiose cathedral of cross-dome design, known as the burial site of Christ's mantle and a masterpiece built by architect Konstantine Arsakidze; Jvari Monastery (6th c.)-standing on the rocky mountaintop, with its architectural forms and decorative elements, Jvari is harmoniously connected with the landscape and overlooks Mtskheta. Return to Tbilisi and overnight.</p>
<p>Day 03</p> 	<p>TBILISI – TELAVI (Kakheti Region) Breakfast at the hotel. Sightseeing tour of Kakheti region. Kakheti is synonymous with wine. Drive through the beautiful landscape of vineyards and wine-producing villages of this region and arrive in Telavi - one of the oldest cities of Georgia, located in the most beautiful Alazani valley and famous for its numerous monuments of historic and archaeological significance that are found in and outskirts of the city. After the city tour, visits to: Alaverdi Cathedral (11th c.) –the second tallest religious building in Georgia with a height of over 55 meters and the outstanding example of medieval Georgian architecture, located on the Alazani Valley, 20 km from Telavi; and Tsinandali – a village noted for the estate and its historic winery which once belonged to the 19th-century aristocratic poet Alexander Chavchavadze. An excursion in the family museum and a walk in the park beautifully laid out in an English style with fine views will leave unforgettable memories to the visitors. Proceed to the rest complex and hotel “Lopota” located at the lake Lopota, under the slopes of Caucasus Mountains, famous for its beautiful surroundings and views and ideal place for a family and friends to spend a pleasant time on a fresh air. Accommodation and overnight.</p>
<p>Day 04</p> 	<p>LAKE LOPOTA – SIGNAGI – TBILISI Breakfast at the hotel. Proceed to Signagi - a rare example of historic city which kept its style during the centuries with open traditional balconies, unique fortress with churches and towers built in it and narrow beautiful streets to walk along. Signagi, also known as “a city of love”, overlooks the Alazani valley and opens to visitors the magnificent views of the Great Caucasus Range. The other important site to visit here is the Monastery of Bodbe – the final resting place of Saint Nino,</p>

	<p>“Enlightener of Georgians”. As Legend tells, St. Nino from Cappadocia came to Georgia carrying a cross of vine branches bound together with strands of her own hair. As a result of her mission in 337 king Mirian declared Christianity as an official religion of Georgia. Return to Tbilisi. Overnight.</p>
<p>Day 05</p>    	<p>TBILISI – GORI – KUTAISI Breakfast at the hotel. Drive towards Kutaisi (Imereti Region). On the way to Kutaisi we will make a stop and sightseeing tour in Gori - an ancient city which is also linked to being the birthplace of Joseph Stalin where he lived until the age of 15. After passing rich agricultural lowlands of Kartli and beautiful landscapes of Rikoti Pass which divides East and West parts of Georgia, arrive to Kutaisi - of the most beautiful and ancient Georgian cities situated on both banks of the picturesque Rioni river. The river Rioni is mentioned in the myths of the Golden Fleece as local residents used to extract gold there. The symbol of a sheep skin covered with gold was later named the Golden Fleece. Unique masterpieces of Georgian architecture are located in and around Kutaisi – Bagrati Cathedral (the cross-domed, tri-conch Cathedral located on the top of Ukimerioni Hill, built in the 11th century. The cathedral is distinguished for its elegant proportions, grand size, facade composition, ornaments and relief carvings); Gelati Monastery Complex (once a major centre of enlightenment in Georgia, founded by King Davit Aghmashenebeli (his tomb is located in the porch to the south of the precinct wall) in 1106 that represents the flourishing medieval architecture in Georgia); both of these monuments are protected by UNESCO. Not far from Kutaisi there is a unique Sataplia Reserve skillfully hidden in the mountains. It is a rare monument with complex character and famous by its most beautiful caves. The karstic cave of Sataplia features spectacular stalactites and stalagmites and is 890 meters long, 10 m high and 12 m wide. The real traces of ancient reptiles printed in huge stones are clearly visible on the Dinosaur Plateau nearby. Overnight in Kutaisi.</p>
<p>Day 06</p>   	<p>KUTAISI - BATUMI (Adjara Region) Breakfast at the hotel. Proceed to Batumi. Batumi city tour. Adjara is the southernmost coastline region of Georgia, once part of the Kolkheti Kingdom, which had close relations with Ancient Greece and Rome. Batumi is an administrative center of Adjara and is situated by the Black Sea and is the land and marine gateway to Georgia with its largest sea port. The main sights of modern Batumi are the oldest historic-architectural monuments, places of rest and culture and great variety of subtropical plants. A favorite rest and entertainment place is the famous Seaside Park (Boulevard) that is stretched along the beaches, occupying 5 km of area with its infrastructure. On the north of the city of Batumi, along the Black Sea, is situated the Batumi Botanical Gardens – Unique among the gardens of the world. Another site to visit in Batumi is Gonio-Apsaros Fortress, situated 12 km north from the city. The fortress was once a very strategic, political and economic centre belonging to the eastern part of the Roman Empire. It is mentioned in the ancient Greek and Roman documents; the chronicles provide an argument that the Gonio fortress has a close connection with Greek antique Myth of Argonauts. Adjara is also famous for its folklore and for Adjarian Khachapuri with baked eggs and cheese and Achma, a delightful layered cheese pie – these meals should certainly be tasted, as they are most unique and delicious. Hotel accommodation and overnight in Batumi.</p>
<p>Day 07 Day 08</p>	<p>BATUMI Free time. Two overnights.</p>
<p>Day 09</p>  	<p>BATUMI – BORJOMI Breakfast at the hotel. Proceed to Borjomi. Borjomi is a resort town and one of the districts of the Samtskhe-Javakheti region and is situated in the northwestern part of the region in the picturesque Borjomi Gorge on the eastern edge of the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. The town is famous for its mineral water industry, the Romanov summer palace in Likani, and the WWF-site Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. Borjomi is also home to the most extensive Ecologically-themed amusement park in the Caucasus. The Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park is located in central Georgia and is part of the lesser Caucasus. The park is one of the largest in Europe - it covers more than 85,000 hectares of native forest and sub-alpine and alpine meadows, home to rare species of flora and fauna. A network of trails invites you to experience the stunning variety of blossoming plants, breathtaking views and a magical atmosphere. In addition to the untouched beauty of the National Park, the surrounding villages are rich with medieval history, and legendary Georgian hospitality. Borjomi tour & National Park Info Trail. Hotel accommodation and overnight in Borjomi.</p>

<p>Day 10</p> 	<p>BORJOMI - UPLISTSIKHE - TBILISI</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel. Proceed to Tbilisi. Excursion to Uplistsikhe cave-town en route.</p> <p>Uplistsikhe cave town is one of the oldest places of settlement in the Caucasus. It was founded in the late Bronze Age, (around 900 BC), but developed mainly from the 5th century to the 1st centuries BC. The main caravan road from Asia to Europe used to run just 2km northern of the city, which became a very important trade centre. Built on a high rocky left bank of the Mtkvari River, it contains different structures and is notable for the unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures from Anatolia and Iran, as well as the co-existence of pagan and Christian architecture, as Uplistsikhe was also a special site for pagan rituals before Georgia became a Christian country. With the Christianization of Kartli early in the 4th century, Uplistsikhe declined in its importance and lost its position to the new centers of Christian culture – Mtskheta and, later Tbilisi. Free evening in Tbilisi. Overnight.</p>
<p>Day 11</p>	<p>DEPARTURE FROM TBILISI</p>