



# WORLD DISCOVERY

HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE

## Images of Georgia



Metechi Church, Tbilisi

### DAY 1 - Arrival in Tbilisi.

On arrival (in the early hours of DAY 2) you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs. You will then be taken by private car direct to your hotel.

### DAY 2 – Tbilisi.

After a leisurely breakfast you will meet your World Discovery guide who will take you on a walking tour of Georgia's capital city, founded in the 5th century by King Gorgasili. Highlights will include the 12th century **Metechi Church**, the ancient **Sulphur Bath Houses**, **Sioni Cathedral**, symbol of the city, the **Narikala Fortress** and the **State Museum of Fine Arts**.  
**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

### DAY 3 - Mtskheta. Uplistsikhe. Gori. Continue to Kutaisi.

A short distance to the northwest of Tbilisi lies the former capital **Mtskheta**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which has been populated since the second millennium BC and is regarded as the cultural and religious heart of Georgia. Drive through the fertile Kartli province to the impressive site of **Uplistsikhe**, literally 'The Fortress of God', an ancient cave town with rock-cut halls, pagan temples and the oldest theatre in the country. Passing through the town of **Gori**, birthplace of Joseph Stalin, continue to **Kutaisi**, Georgia's second largest city.  
**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

### DAY 4 - Kutaisi to Batumi on the Black Sea coast.

After breakfast take a walk in Kutaisi before driving to visit two nearby UNESCO World Heritage sites - the monastery of **Gelati**, set in beautiful countryside and renowned for its great 12th century Cathedral of the Virgin; and the cathedral of **Bagrati** (11th century), coronation and burial place of Georgian kings. Afterwards drive to Batumi on the shores of the Black Sea. In the evening enjoy a walking tour in Batumi's Old Town.  
**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 5 - Gonio Fortress. Drive via Ubisi to Bakuriani.

A day of contrasts as you ascend from sea level to the mountain town of Bakuriani, a ski resort during the winter and an area of great natural beauty all year round. Begin with a visit to the Roman fortress at **Gonio** (3rd century BC), where archaeological excavations are still ongoing. En route to Bakuriani stop briefly in **Ubisi** to visit the 9th century cathedral with its excellently preserved 14th century murals. You will also stop in the village of **Shrosha** to visit a pottery workshop and see how the huge jars and other wine vessels are made.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 6 - Bakuriani to Gudauri.

The 13<sup>th</sup> century mural paintings at the Church of the Virgin in **Timotesubani** are among the best examples of Georgian medieval art. You will visit these this morning before heading through the fertile lands of Kartli Province on your return journey eastwards through Central Georgia. A stop will also be made in the spa town of **Borjomi** to taste the local mineral waters. The afternoon drive brings you to the magnificent 16th and 17th century fortress and church of **Ananuri**. The complex commands wide-reaching views and was an important strategic stronghold near the northern border. Next travel along one of the country's oldest roads in order to see the high peaks, roaring rivers and mountain lifestyle of Georgia's northern borderlands. Arrive in Gudauri in the late afternoon.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 7 - The Kakheti Region. Signagi.

More superb mountain scenery this morning as you travel through the Kakheti region which borders the Great Caucasus range, containing summits of more than 3,000 metres. This region is known as the birthplace of viticulture and wine-making. Wine is a symbol of Georgian hospitality, friendship and tolerance, and also regarded as a key to the mystery of Georgian longevity! In the afternoon you will arrive at the picturesque Royal Town of **Signagi**, an important stopover on the ancient Silk Road. Take a walk through the narrow streets in the shadow of wooden balconies richly decorated with carvings.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 8 - Gremi. Alaverdi. Tsinandali Winery. Return to Tbilisi.

This morning you will visit some interesting sites close to the town of Telavi - the **Gremi** Architectural Complex, which includes the 16th century castle and the Church of the Archangels, and the elegant 11th century **Alaverdi Cathedral**, built on what has been a holy place since pagan times. Continue to the **Tsinandali Family Estate**, a 19th century winery which produces some of Georgia's best wines, and have lunch as a guest of a local family. Return in the afternoon to Tbilisi, where in the evening you will enjoy a farewell dinner at a selected local restaurant.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 9 - Depart for home.

Private transfer to the airport for your homeward flight.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**