



TAMADA *tour*

## Georgia – a fairy-tale country, 12 days

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### Additional information

Tour rates include: **accommodation** in comfortable \*\*\* hotels with **twin rooms and bathrooms**. **Additional accommodation** in the nights of arrival and departure. **Board:** two meals a day – **hotel breakfasts and substantial dinners in restaurants** serving Georgian and European cuisine. **Transfer** to hotel and from hotel to airport, **sightseeing in a small group** of 16 people, **care under** an English-speaking resident guide, who is available for you the whole staying, **care under** the Management of Tamada Tour in Georgia, **wine and chacha tasting, entrance to each and every chargeable places and more other attractions** like **Georgian feast Supra, shopping on local bazaars and marketplaces**, culinary workshops and visiting places tourists usually don't go to.

### DAY 1. DEPARTURE

Participants gather at the airport. Check-in. Flight to Georgia.

### DAY 2. TBILISI (distance: 20 km)

Arrival in Tbilisi where we'll be welcomed by Tamada Tour guide, transfer from the airport to hotel. Rest. Breakfast. Sightseeing the beautiful capital city of Georgia: Tsminda Sameba (20<sup>th</sup> cent.), fortress of Narikala (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> cent.), tserkov Anchiskhati Basilica of St. Mary (5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> cent.), tserkov Metekhi (13<sup>th</sup> cent.), Tbilisi Sioni Cathedral (11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> cent.), and the Tbilisi sulfur baths including the world famous Orbeliani Baths (19<sup>th</sup> cent.). Taking a gondola lift to see the monument of the Mother of a Georgian (20<sup>th</sup> cent.). Sightseeing the Tbilisi old town and monuments on Rustaveli Avenue: The Freedom Monument, the house of the former Parliament, theater, opera erected in oriental style, philharmonic hall, the Kashveti tserkov (19<sup>th</sup> cent.), and old-time Palace of Caucasus Viceroy. Free

time and dinner restaurant with live music and dancing. Accommodation in hotel.

### DAY 3. TBILISI – ANANURI – GUDAURI – STEPANTSMINDA - TBILISI (distance: 306 km)

Breakfast. We go north through the Georgian Military Road to Stepantsminda (Kazbegi) to see an inactive volcano Mount Kazbek (5,033 m over the sea level). We'll admire a magnificent fortress of Ananuri (16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> cent.) which is located on the large water reservoir Zhinvali and by off-road cars we'll go to the world famous Gergeti Trinity Church (2,170 m above the sea level), from which the snow-capped peak of the Kazbek can be spotted. Return to Tbilisi. Dinner on the go. Accommodation in hotel.



### DAY 4. TBILISI-MTSKHETA-GORI- UPLISTSIKHE-KUTAISI (distance: 230 km)

Breakfast. We head to Mtskheta - the former capital of the Kingdom of Iberia, where we can admire monuments enlisted in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List. We go up to the Jvari tserkov (6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> cent.) with a breathtaking view on the city and two main rivers Mtkvari and Aragvi. The next place is the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (11<sup>th</sup> cent.) famous for religious artifacts and impressive frescoes. Free time. Another destination is nunnery Samtavro (4<sup>th</sup> cent.) in which Georgian rulers who converted to Christianity in 337 on behalf of the whole country are buried. The plan is also to visit a rocky city of Uplistsikhe (5<sup>th</sup> cent.) a former home for rulers and a center of pre-Christian cult. We'll go to Gori a city famous for being a birthplace of Joseph Stalin. We go further through the Surami Pass in order to get to one of the oldest

urban complexes in the world – Kutaisi (17<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> cent. B.C.) to recognizable for legends about Jason and Prometheus. Dinner. Free time. Volunteers can take a walk to the city center to see theater and opera house and a fountain with reproduced sculptures which were found in Georgia 5,000 years ago. Accommodation in hotel.

**DAY 5. KUTAISI-GELATI-CAVE OF PROMETHEUS-BATUMI (distance: 179 km)**

Breakfast. We go to Kutaisi attractions: a present-day headquarters of the Georgian Parliament (since 2012) and the Bagrati Cathedral (6<sup>th</sup> cent., reconstructed in the 20<sup>th</sup> cent.), three tserkovs and Gelati Academy in which studied prolific Georgian and Greek philosophers. Moreover, the king David IV of Georgia (known as David the Builder) was also buried there. The last attractions include: the Cave of Prometheus and Batumi - a seaside city located on the Black Sea coast. We'll take a walk across Batumi Botanical Garden (19<sup>th</sup> cent.) Dinner in restaurant in Batumi. Free time. We recommend an evening bath or cafes and restaurants with live music. Accommodation in hotel.

**DAY 6. BATUMI-SARPI-GONIO (distance: 20 km)**

Breakfast. Free time for sun bath and swimming. We will take a walk on seaside boulevard to the harbor and the Alphabet Tower which is an impressive sculpture depicting Georgian alphabet. Coffee break and free time. We go off to Sarpi, the westernmost point of Georgia located near the border with Turkey overlooking the mosque with minaret. On the way back, we can admire the Roman fortress from the 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. B.C. (fortress of Gonio - formerly Apsaros) where according to the legend Saint Matthias is buried. Dinner in Batumi. Accommodation.

**DAY 7. BATUMI-BORJOMI-AKHALTSIKHE (distance: 326 km)**

Breakfast. We head to Akhaltsikhe, which used to be headquarters for Russian army in tsarist times. Another attraction is the SPA resort town of Borjomi. Then, we take a walk across Borjomi Central Park (20<sup>th</sup> cent.) to taste this exquisite, sanative water directly from the spring. Dinner in restaurant. Accommodation in hotel in Akhaltsikhe.



**DAY 8. AKHALTSIKHE-VARDZIA-TBILISI (distance: 327 km)**

Breakfast. The first destination is the medieval architectural phenomenon: the excavated in mountains town of Vardzia (12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> cent.) and a great Khertvisi fortress (2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> cent.) which was said to be destroyed by Alexander the Great. A

small coffee break and return to Tbilisi. Dinner. Accommodation.

**DAY 9. TBILISI-DAVID GAREJA-SIGNAGHI-TELAVI (distance: 270 km)**

Breakfast. We go Kakheti, one of the oldest regions of Georgia and the cradle of winemaking. Attractions include: David Gareja monestary complex (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> cent.) located on a semi-desert near the border with Azerbaijan, spectacular city of Signaghi (18<sup>th</sup> cent.), known as Georgian Carcassonne and Bodbe Monastery (9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> cent.), a nunnery town with a tomb of Saint Nino from Cappadocia who introduced Christianity in Georgia. We'll also visit Georgia National Museum and the exhibit of the works of Niko Pirosmani and a collection of sculptures from 5,000 years ago. Dinner in a fancy restaurant in Signaghi. Accommodation in Telavi, the capital of the region.



**DAY 10. KAKHETIAN MONUMENTS AND WINE MANUFACTORY (distance: 70 km)**

Breakfast. The Kakhetian architectural sacred and secular pearls include: Alaverdi Monastery (19<sup>th</sup> cent.), Gremi (15<sup>th</sup> cent.) - a medieval town and former capital of Kakheti and the monastery complex Nekresi (4<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> cent.). Another attraction Wine House Kindzmarauli Corporation in Kvareli where we'll learn about the processes of distinctive Georgian art of winemaking. You have the opportunity to purchase wine for a good price. Dinner. Accommodation in Telavi.

**DAY 11. TELAVI-TSINANDALI-TBILISI (distance: 95 km)**

Breakfast. Shopping on the oriental marketplace and we say goodbye to Telavi. On the way back to Tbilisi, we visit Tsinandali (19<sup>th</sup> cent.) with the garden and palace belonging to Alexandre Chavchavadze, Dry Bridge Market – a local flea market where you can buy hand-made works and antiques. Last chance to take a walk across the Tbilisi old town. Farewell dinner in a fancy restaurant. Free time. Accommodation in hotel.

**DAY 12. DEPARTURE**

Preparation for departure. Dry provisions for breakfast. Transfer to airport.