



TAMADA *tour*

## Georgia with Svaneti, 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 through the Georgian Military Road to Stepantsminda (Kazbegi) to see an inactive volcano Mount Kazbek (5,033 m over the sea level). On the way to the destination point 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 (2170 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 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 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-THE CAVE OF PROMETHEUS-MESTIA (distance: 279 km)**

Breakfast. Sightseeing 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.), the Gelati Monastery (12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> cent.) with its three tserkvs and Gelati Academy known as “a second Athos” or “a new Jerusalem in which studied prolific Georgian and Greek philosophers. Moreover, the king David IV of Georgia (known as David the Builder) was buried in that place. The last attraction is the astonishing Cave of Prometheus We’ll go to Mestia - the charming heart of Svaneti – famous for medieval defensive towers enlisted in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Dinner in restaurant. Free time. Accommodation in Mestia.

**DAY 6. MESTIA-USHGULI-MESTIA (distance: 94 km)**

Breakfast. We’ll take jeeps to reach the spectacular Ushguli - a community of villages used to be one of the highest continuously inhabited settlements in Europe (2,200 m above the sea level) overlooking the highest peak in Georgia: Shkhara (5, 193 m above the sea level) and we’ll visit folkloric museum and Tower of Love. Return to Mestia. Dinner in restaurant. Free time. Accommodation.



**DAY 7. MESTIA-ZUGDIDI-BATUMI (distance: 264 km)**

After breakfast, we’ll drive to the Black Sea and visit a palace-museum in Zugdidi in which one of Bonaparte’s masks is stored. Attractions also include the charming Botanical Garden

(19<sup>th</sup> cent.) in Batumi, a walk across the seaside boulevard where you can see harbor and the impressive Alphabetic Tower – an impressive sculpture depicting 33 letters of Georgian alphabet. Free time. Dinner in Batumi. Accommodation.

**DAY 8. BATUMI-SARPI-GONIO-BATUMI (distance: 20 km)**

Breakfast. 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. Evening concert accompanied by dancing fountains. Accommodation.

**DAY 9. BATUMI-BORJOMI-AKHALTSIKHE (distance: 326 km)**

Breakfast. We head to Akhaltsikhe, which used to be headquarters for Russian army at 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 Akhaltsikhe.

**DAY 10. AKHALTSIKHE-VARDZIA-TBILISI (distance: 327 km)**

Breakfast. Attractions include: the medieval architectural phenomenon: the town of Vardzia (12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> cent.), Khertvisi fortress (2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> cent.) and a medieval slave market. A small coffee break and return to Tbilisi. Dinner in restaurant. Accommodation in hotel in Tbilisi.

**DAY 11. TBILISI-SIGNAGHI-TBILISI (distance: 220 km)**

Breakfast. We go Kakheti, the cradle of winemaking, where 70% of domestic wine production is made. Another attraction is spectacular Signaghi (18<sup>th</sup> cent.), known as Georgian Carcassonne, a perfect observation point which is situated atop a high mountain and surrounded by a fortified wall and numerous bastilles. Then, we’ll go to Bodbe Monastery (9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> cent.), a nunnery town, where a tomb of Saint Nino from Cappadocia (who introduced Christianity in Georgia) can be visited. We also go to a branch of Georgia National Museum, which presents the exhibition of the works of primitivist artist Niko Pirosmani and a collection of sculptures which date back to 5,000 years ago! Wine tasting in a traditional winery. Return to Tbilisi. Dinner. Accommodation in hotel.

**DAY 12. DEPARTURE**

Preparation for return. Dry provisions for breakfast. transfer to airport. Departure.