



STEP in
GEORGIA



TRAVEL ITINERARY 14 DAYS (MAY 15-28 / 2018)

FLOWER WATCHING TOUR IN GEORGIA

For a small country, Georgia has a breathtaking floral diversity, there's a wide variety of plant communities, with examples of almost all the main habitat types found in Europe and some of those in Asia; Endemic species comprise about 9% of Georgia's flora, a surprisingly high proportion for so small country. Georgia can be split into two main bio-geographic regions: firstly the Colchic and Caucasian districts, forest landscapes with plenty of autochthonous animals and plants, and others related to middle and eastern European species. Mixed zones, notably the Borjomi Gorge and the Trialeti Ridge, as well as the southern slopes of the High Caucasus in eastern Georgia are spread between these two main regions, you will have the possibility to explore both of them. Below the snows lie slopes covered in the yellow, purple, white and pink of *Primula macrocalyx*, *cordifolia*, *amoena* and *algida*. The thirteen species of *Primula* also include velvety purple *meyeri*, tiny *darialica*, *azalea* (*Rhododendron luteum*) and the fields of poppy flowers. Hillsides of purple *Pulsatilla violacea* sway in the breeze, open woodlands are covered in pink and white *Corydalis* and alpine meadows are a pastiche of pink *Primula auriculata*, yellow *Trollius* and brilliant blue *Scilla caucasica* so thick the grass cannot be seen. Vinous-peachy *Fritillaria orientalis* and abundant yellow *Fritillaria collina* are sure to be a highlight along with *Iris furcata*, *Puschkinias*, delicate *Muscari pallens*, and white and pink *Anemone fasciculata*.



Number of Visitors: Minimum is 3 and the maximum is 12. Only one leader will accompany a group of 6 or less.

Price of the tour: \$ P/P

Price includes:

Full services of a IRC Tour Leader with local guides and drivers

- Meal plan FB
- All transport and transfers
- All accommodation
- English speaker tour guide assistance |

English speaker tour coordinator assistance

Price doesn't include: Flights, drinks, tips, insurance

Highlights:

- Hundreds of species of flowers around Georgia.
- Wild flowers beneath your hooves
- Explore 2 botanical Gardens in Tbilisi and in Batumi
- 2 National Parks: "Borjom-Khragauli" and "Mtirala"
- The historic old town of Tbilisi
- Take a part of culinary master classes at Atskuri "Barbale" / honey degustation
- Homestay with Georgian family



TOUR SUMMARY

- Day 1: Arrival / transfer to the hotel
- Day 2: Tbilisi / Botanical Garden
- Day 3: Tbilisi – David Gareja Monastery – Signaghi
- Day 4: Signaghi – Tbilisi
- Day 5: Tbilisi– Paravani Lake (Tsalka) - Vardzia - Akhaltsikhe
- Day 6: Akhaltsikhe – Atskuri – Borjomi
- Day 7: Borjom- Kharagauli National Park
- Day 8: Borjomi – Khulo- Batumi
- Day 9: Batumi Botanical Garden
- Day 10: Mtirala National Park
- Day 11: Batumi – Kutaisi
- Day 13: Kutaisi – Chiatura (Katskhi Pillar) – Sachkhere – Tbilisi
- Day 14: Transfer / Departure



Accommodation: As an overall ethos, wherever possible we aim to use characterful accommodation that enhances the overall travel experience. On this particular trip we will be in a good 3* hotel in Tbilisi and for the rest of the tour we will be in guesthouses; where the facilities may be basic and shared. Please note that the accommodation mentioned in the itinerary is always subject to availability.

Climate: The relatively small territory covers different climatic zones, which are determined by the distance from the Black Sea and by altitude.

Walking: Usually quite easy with three or four miles a day the norm, a little more on some days, though always at a relaxed pace. There are some steep slopes and the ground can be rocky and uneven.

Is this trip for me? It may sound obvious but this tour is not always for everyone and it is important to us that the tour you choose is the most suitable. Ideally suited to those who are interested in ecology, wild nature, sustainable living / development, photography and so on. Please therefore take time to read the dossier carefully.



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