



STEP in
GEORGIA



TRAVEL ITINERARY

DURATION: 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

PILGRIM TOUR IN GEORGIA

Georgia since ancient times is a deeply religious country. Despite the enormous reverence for Christianity, people in Georgia are very tolerant and with due respect refer for other religions, Tbilisi is the city, where you can find Georgian Orthodox, Roman Catholic churches, a synagogue, a mosque and a Zoroastrian temple all within a 5-minute walk of each other. In Georgia, there is a huge number of monasteries, churches and holy places that tourists can visit. After the ascension of Christ, the Holy Spirit instructed the apostles to spread the message of Christianity around the world. The apostle Andrew preached in Georgia and tradition holds that Simon the Zealot and Matthias were also active here. In 320 AD St Nino of Cappadocia caused the conversion of the country to Christianity. The thirteen Assyrian Fathers founded monasteries and hermitages in Georgia in the 6th century and initiated the ascetic movement.



DAY 1

Arrival at Tbilisi international airport. Meeting and greeting by our representative, transfer to your hotel in Tbilisi. Check-in at the hotel and overnight



DAY 2: TBILISI - MTSKHETA - GORI - TBILISI (B,D)

After early breakfast drive to the area of Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia and the centre of Christianity in the country (the town-museum, included to the UNESCO World Heritage Site List). It was here that St Nino converted the royal family to Christianity in the 4th century, visit the hill top Jvari church dating from the 4th century and the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (1010-1029) at the bottom of which is buried one of the major Christian relics Lords chiton, one of the most important sacred artifacts of the New Testament that after the crucifixion of Christ was brought to Mtskheta by Elioiz - one of the witnesses of his death on the cross, and it is also the burial place of many of the Georgian kings. Here is also the part of life-giving pillar. Drive on to the town of Gori in the heart of Kartli region. Gori is the birthplace of Stalin and there is a museum about his life to visit. Drive on to Uplistsikhe Cave Town (from the 6th century BC) - lying on the route of the Great Silk Road.



DAY 3 : TBILISI - ANANURI - KAZBEGI - TBILISI (B,D)

A stunning drive from Mtskheta along the Military highway will bring you to Kazbegi. On the way you pass Ananuri Castle and Jinaly water reservoir of amazing beauty. From Kazbegi a leisurely 1.5 hour walk up through beautiful valleys and woodland leads us to Gergeti Trinity Church located at 2170 m. Drive back to Tbilisi and overnight



DAY 4: KAKHETI REGION (B,L)

After early breakfast drive to Kakheti Region, where Syrian fathers built many monasteries. We will visit Alaverdi Cathedral (11th century), Ikalto monastery (6 century), then walking up to Nekresi Monastery (4th century). Most of these churches hold the graves of St. Fathers. As Kakheti is wine growing region and is famous for its food and wine we will take you to a farmer's house for lunch to enjoy the hospitality of the local people and sample some delicious home-made food. Overnight in Telavi



DAY 5: TELAVI - DAVID GAREJA MONASTERY - TBILISI (B, L)

In the morning we drive to David Gareja cave complex located in a stark, semi-desert landscape. This monastery was founded in 6th century by one of the Syrian fathers David. Later on it grew and consisted of 19 monasteries. It was one of the major spiritual centers which used to house even 6000 monks on special religious days. After seeing Lavra Monastery we walk up for about 50 minutes to Udabno Monastery to enjoy its wonderful painted caves and dramatic views across to Azerbaijan. In the evening we return to Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi

DAY 6: TBILISI - BORJOMI - VARDZIA - TBILISI (B,L,D)

Breakfast. On the way to Vardzia, visiting to Borjomi city and tasting of Borjomi Mineral water, Afterwards drive to Vardzia cave monastery complex (XII- XIII c.) - 19 stepped rock town. For 900 m along the left bank of Kura river, in the plumb wall of the mountain, around 600 buildings are cut out - churches, chapels, parrocks, pantries, baths, libraries. There preserved secret passages, remains of plumbing, and irrigation system. Vardzia- is the site of the era of Golden Age. More than thousands of monks lived there, and when being attacked, to 20 thousand of people could shelter there. Drive to Borjomi. On the way to it, excursion to Rabath Castle. Back to Tbilisi, dinner and overnight.



DAY 7: TBILISI (B)

You'll enjoy a sightseeing tour of old Tbilisi, a charming town built along the twisting valley of the Mtkvari River. Your journey of discovering will take in the Sioni Cathedral and the 6th century Anchiskhati Basilica, the oldest church in the city, before continuing on to see the city's history museum and the imposing 4th century ruins of the Narikala Fortress, which once dominated the city from its hilltop setting. You will visit to Tbilisi Sulphur bathes as well, (17th and 19th centuries) – The history of the Sulphur baths in Tbilisi is related to the formation of the city itself. Late evening transfer to the airport.



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