

## Tour to Georgia (6 days, 5 nights)

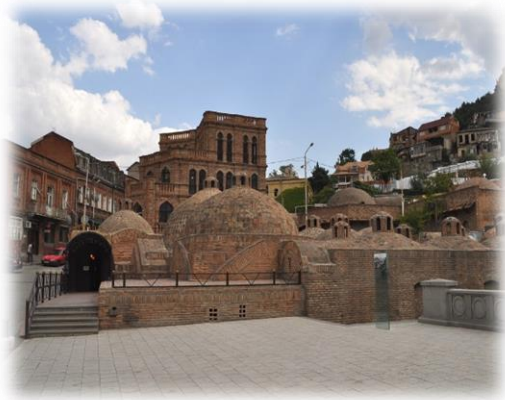
### Option 1 ( Tbilisi 1 night; Kakheti 2 nights; Batumi 2 nights)

Group will visit:

#### Tbilisi:

- **Sameba** - The Holy Trinity Cathedral - The Holy Trinity Cathedral commonly known as Sameba is the main Georgian Orthodox Christian cathedral. Constructed between 1995 and 2004, it is the largest religious buildings in Georgia and the South Caucasus. The Sameba Cathedral is erected on the Elia Hill, which rises above the left bank of the Kura River (Mtkvari) in the historic neighborhood of Avlabari in Old Tbilisi.

- **Metekhi church** - resting upon the top of the hill, was built by the Georgian king St Demetrius II in 1278–1284 and is somewhat an unusual example of domed Georgian Orthodox church. It was later damaged and restored several times. Tradition holds that it was also a site where the 5th-century martyr lady Saint Shushanik was buried.



- **Old baths** - all the

celebrities arriving in Tbilisi first of all were taken to the sulphur bathhouses and everybody felt like a newborn baby after visiting it. Sulphur water are characterized with having the constant temperature of 38-40 C. ;

- **Botanical garden** - The botanical garden is nice to see on every season of the year. It , with its plants creates a kind of oasis in the middle of the city enabling the population to enjoy going out into the nature without leaving the city. 3500 sorts of flora exist in the garden.

- **Chardin** - It is one of the most fashionable points of Tbilisi. Various sorts of events often take place here. It is the spot where the fancy restaurants, café-bars are located. This spot features the best galleries and souvenir shops, where something interesting is always found for

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- **Museum Of Fine Arts** - The museum preserves approximately 900 hundred thousand exhibits from the medieval period up to the XX c. and few materials of the pre-Christian period. The Museum is distinguished for its Georgian goldsmith pieces dated back to the VIII-XIX Centuries.

- **Narikala Fortress** - The fortress was established in the 4th century as Shuris-tsikhe (i.e., "Invidious Fort"). It was considerably expanded by the Umayyads in the 7th century and later, by king David the Builder (1089-1125). The Mongols renamed it "Narin Qala" (i.e., "Little Fortress"). Most of extant fortifications date from the 16th and 17th centuries.



#### Mtskheta:



- **Mtskheta** - the ancient capital of Georgia situated 20km from Tbilisi. Here Georgians accepted Christianity in the beginning of the 4th century. The town and its architectural monuments are included in the UNESCO World Heritage.:

- **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral** - The current cathedral was built in the 11th century by the Georgian architect Arsakisdze. It is the second largest church building in the country, after the Tbilisi Sameba Cathedral.

- Jvari Monastery was built between 586 and 605 by Erismtavari Stepanoz I. The importance of Jvari complex increased over time and attracted many pilgrims. In the late middle Ages, the complex was fortified by a stone wall and gate, remnants of which still survive.

- Uplistsikhe - A large ancient complex of natural caves of Uplistsikhe city is located 10km away from Gori, on the right bank of Mtkvari river. Rooms of various sizes and functions, including dwelling halls are carved in the rock. Especially impressive are the pagan temples and Christian churches, the theatre, dungeons and wine cellars of the complex;

- Gori: Stalin Museum - Besides the exposition of the museum, you will have the opportunity to visit a small wooden house, where the Russian politician Joseph Stalin spent his childhood, for that time being a little Georgian boy Soso Jugashvili, son of a laundress.;



### Kakheti :



- Signaghi - town in Kakheti is enclosed by a large defensive wall built by King Erekle II in the second half of the 18th century replacing the ruins of an old fortress. Each of the 23 towers within the wall were named after nearby villages and respective families and served as a refuge in case of danger. The town, which also has preserved urban-type dwellings of the 19th century, is located on the top of the hill and presents splendid views to the Alazani Valley and the Kakhetian Caucasus.;

- Bodbe Monastery - The Monastery of St. George at Bodbe is a Georgian Orthodox monastic complex , located 2 km from the town of Signagi. Originally built in the 9th century, it has been significantly remodeled, especially in the 17th century. The

monastery now functions as a nunnery and is one of the major pilgrimage sites in Georgia, due to its association with St. Nino, the 4th-century female evangelist of Georgians, whose relics are shrined there.

- Nafareuli - Village of Nafareuli is under the slopes of Caucasus Mountains, in Napareuli you can visit the wine facotry, where you can: taste wine, dagustate Traditional Georgian food and take part in: making bread, barbeque, churchkhela and khinkali.

- Telavi- Tsinandali;

- Gremi Monastery - Gremi, built by Levan, King of Kakhetians, in the 16th century, is the old capital of Kakheti. Gremi, cross-domed church of the Archangel and a royal tower, erected on a high hill, presented picturesque views of the Great Caucasus. The church is adorned with paintings contemporary to the building. Like other churches in Kakheti, Gremi Church of the Archangel is characterized by simplicity and light proportions.;



- Alaverdi cathedral - This impressive cross-domed church of St. George in Alazani Valley was founded in the 6th century by Ioseb Alaverdeli (one of the Assyrian Fathers). The existing church was built in the first half of the 11th century. Within the circuit wall of the church, there are other buildings - Peikar Khan's Palace (12th c), a barrack, a refectory and a wine-cellar.

- Ikhalto Academy - medieval monastic ensemble of Ikalto is most notable for the ruins of the old academy, a religious and educational center during the middle ages. The building dates from the 8th-9th centuries with its most noteworthy Church of the Transfiguration (8th-9th centuries). The

prominent Georgian philosopher Arsen Ikaltoeli worked at the Academy in the period between the 11th and the 12th



centuries. According to legend, the famous Georgian poet Shota Rustaveli, author of the 12th century epic Knight in the Panther Skin, studied here.

#### **Batumi (Adjara):**

- Batumi Tour;  
- Gonio Fortress - The oldest reference to the fortress is by Pliny the Elder[1] in the Natural History (1st century AD). There is also a reference to the ancient name of the site in Appian's Mithridatic Wars[2] (2nd century AD). In the 2nd century AD it was a well-fortified Roman city within Colchis. The town was also known for its theatre and hippodrome. It later came under Byzantine influence. The name "Gonio" is first attested in Michael Panaretos in the 14th century. In addition, there was a short-lived Genoese trade factory at the site.



#### **Mtiral National**

Park - Park situated in western Lesser Caucasus and covers 15,698 hectares. Located between Black Sea and Adjara Mountain Range Mt. Mtirala is one of the most humid areas in Georgia with average precipitation of 1,200— 2,000 mm (sometimes exceeding 4 000 mm). Rich with chestnut and beech woods Mtirala was established to preserve Colchic type of forests outstanding with its sub-forests: cherry laurel shrubs, Colchic box trees and variety of lianas. Mtirala is home to Roe deer, Wild boar and Brown bear. Booted eagle, Eagle owl and Golden oriole could be found from avifauna in the park. ; Batumi tour.

Minimal number in group 10 pax.

Cost of tour = USD 745

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*(cost of tour in US dollars per adult in a DBL room)*

#### **Cost of tour includes:**

1 night accommodation at the Holliday Inn hotel, Tbilisi

2 night accommodation at Era Palace hotel, Batumi

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Meals on HB basis

6 days transfers in an AC coach

6 days guiding fees

Standard itinerary entrance fees

Mtatsminda and Narikala cable cars

2 traditional Georgian lunches

Wine degustation

#### **Cost of tour does NOT include:**

Lunches

Drinks

Additional sites visits

Med insurance

Tips

Airfare

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### Option 2 ( Tbilisi 3 night; Kakheti 2 nights;)

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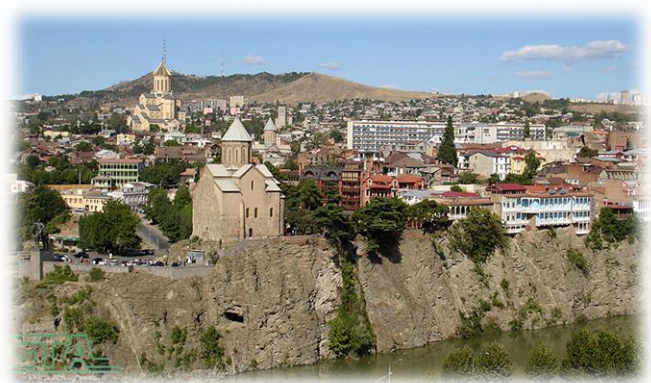
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- Botanical garden - The botanical garden is nice to see on every season of the year. It , with its plants creates a kind of oasis in the middle of the city enabling the population to enjoy going out into the nature without leaving the city. 3500 sorts of flora exist in the garden.



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## Gori:

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## Georgian Military Highway – Ananuri:



- Visiting Ananuri fortress - Ananuri ensemble, dating back to 17th century, is situated on the left bank of the Aragvi River, along the famous original Georgian military highway, 66km from Tbilisi. It incorporates a circuit wall with turrets, a porch, a large church, a minor Church of Gvtaeba (Divinity), a tower with a stepped pyramidal roof of Svanetian type, a single-nave Church Mkurnali (Healer) , Tower Sheupovari (Indomitable), a bell-tower, a spring and a reservoir. The facade is richly adorned with the fine relief carvings featuring human, animal and floral images.

- Gudauri Ski Resort - Visiting Kazbegi and sightseeing Gergeti Trinity Church - The complex of Gergeti Trinity church, beautifully situated on the top of the hill nearby the township of Kazbegi, overlooking the area, is the main chapel of the Khevi region. The bell-tower standing nearby is

contemporary with the cross-domed Church of the Mother of God and creates a uniform complex together with it. Its impressive location, set before the stunning backdrop of the snow capped, 5033m high Mt. Kazbek (Mkinvartsveri), makes it a unique place to experience.

## Kakheti :

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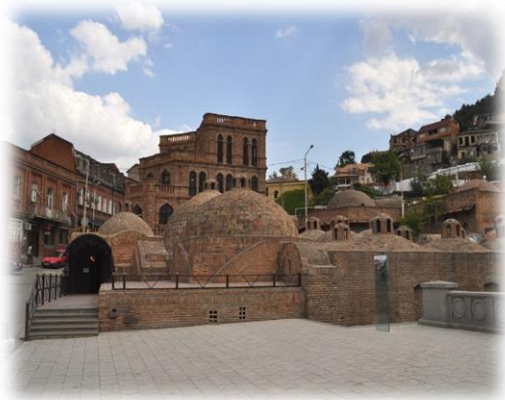
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## Borjomi

Borjomi is a resort town in south-central Georgia and is situated in the northwestern part of the region in the picturesque Borjomi Gorge on the eastern edge of the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. The town is famous for its mineral water industry, the Romanov summer palace in Likani, and the World Wide Fund for Nature-site Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park.

- Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park is located in central Georgia and is part of the lesser Caucasus.

The park is one of the largest in Europe - it covers more than 76,000 hectares of native forest and sub-alpine and alpine meadows, home to rare species of flora and fauna.

- Atskuri Fortress - fortress was built in early medieval centuries. By first historical notes about Atskuri it was built in 5-6th centuries by Georgian king Vakhtang Gorgasali. In 9-10th centuries, fortress was widened and became a town. In 16th century in Atskuri was Turks garnizone and until 1829 they owned it. Atskuri is one of the strongest fortress in Georgia. It stands on the high, rocky mountain and by that it was very easy to defense it from enemies.



- Vardzia - rock-hewn monastery is located on the left bank of the Mtkvari River, 30km away from Aspindza, in southern Georgia. It is cut in steep cliff along thirteen tiers. The monastery has preserved around 250 caves. The royal complex was founded in the reign of Queen Tamar, between 1184 and 1213. The monastery is distinguished for its main church adorned with the portraits of Giorgi III and Queen Tamar. The complex includes cells, a stable, a refectory, chapels, a bell-tower, tunnels and shelter rooms. The monastery used to be supplied with water.





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