

## RELIGIOUS JOURNEY ACROSS GEORGIA

Georgia

Visit the important pilgrimage sites and religious treasures of Georgia

At the beginning of the 4th century AD, St. Nino of Cappadocia brought Christianity to Georgia. In the year 337, Christianity was proclaimed as the state religion of Georgia. Over these next 15 days, you will travel the path of the Holy Syrian Fathers. You will visit many architectural monuments in Kartli, Kakheti, Imereti, Samegrelo, Racha, and Samtskhe-Javakheti, which trace the history of Georgian Christianity.

- Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi;** met and assisted at the airport.
- Day 2: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore numerous churches of Tbilisi, as well as museum treasures.
- Day 3: Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Tbilisi;** visit Mtskheta (UNESCO site) where St. Nino erected the first Christian cross and the first churches were built including Jvari church (6th c), Svetitskhoveli cathedral, monasteries of Shiomghvime and Zedazeni, built on former pagan sites.
- Day 4: Tbilisi - Kutaisi;** venture to the former capital of western Georgia and its cultural center.
- Day 5: Kutaisi - Martvili - Kutaisi;** proceed to Samegrelo region and visit Martvili (7th - 10th cc).
- Day 6: Kutaisi - Nikortsminda - Kutaisi;** drive to highlands of Racha. The highlight of the day is Nikortsminda church (11th c) and its fine stone carving.
- Day 7: Kutaisi - Borjomi;** visit Gelati Accademy complex (11th c) and Motsameta church (8th -10th cc). On Rikoti Pass visit Ubisi monastery and its important mural painting.
- Day 8: Borjomi - Vardzia - Borjomi;** explore Vardzia cave town (12th c) transformed in well defended monastery complex.
- Day 9: Borjomi - Tbilisi;** visit Timotesubani cathedral (13th c) and religious highlights of Shida Kartli: Kintsvisi (13th c), Ateni Sioni (7th c), Samtavisi (11th c).
- Day 10: Tbilisi - Bolnisi - Tbilisi;** visit Bolnisi Sioni basilica (5th c) with its impressive stone carvings.
- Day 11: Tbilisi - David Gareja - Telavi;** built in the desert by the St. father David, it is the holiest place in Georgia. It is said that visiting the David Gareja three times is equivalent to one visit to Jerusalem.
- Day 12: Telavi and surroundings;** discover the most important religious sites of Kakheti region: Alaverdi cathedral (11th c); Ikalto academy (9th - 11th cc); Shuamta monastery (5th - 7th cc).
- Day 13: Telavi - Tbilisi;** en route to Tbilisi visit Nekresi monastery (6th - 9th cc) and Gremi architectural site (16th - 17th cc).
- Day 14: Tbilisi - Betania - Tbilisi;** visit Betania monastery (12th - 13th cc) and its mural paintings depicting Queen Tamar.
- Day 15: Departure;** transfer to the airport.



Purpose of this PDF is to give you general information about provided program.  
**As always, we design and tailor tours to ensure that they are perfect fit for our customers.**  
**Please contact us to design tailored tour for you.**

Program details, including transportation, accommodation, catering, events, and experiences, will be shared upon completing the request form and through ongoing communication to tailor to visitors' specific needs and wishes.

BEST SEASON FOR THE TOUR BY MONTH



### TOUR TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Total Touring Distance ≈ 1985 km	Total driving time ≈ 38,5 hours
Longest driving distance per day ≈ 320 km	Longest driving time per day ≈ 6 hours
O/N by locations: 3+3+2+2+2+2 = 8	Walking total ≈ 10 hours
Adopted conditions for disabled person*	No      Partly      Fully

\* Caucasus Travel takes special care of disabled persons, doing the best to adopt and improve conditions for disabled persons, when/where it is possible



For planning, reservations, management, monitoring and control of tour operations Caucasus Travel is using **TourBuilder™** Travel Management Software

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# About the Programs, Services and More...

**The Sample Programs** shown on this site, are based on customers frequent requests and points of interests, however as usual, we design and tailor tours for our customers to meet their best interests.

Provided programs give an opportunity to travel and enjoy the hospitality of the Caucasus Countries; experience traditions of these countries, geographically so close to each other but still so different; taste local cuisine and get in touch with local people; get acquainted with their life-style, visit museums, important architectural monuments and enjoy diversity of the landscapes by visiting lowlands and the Caucasus Mountains.

Even though programs are mainly focused on excursions and cultural experiences some elements of active leisure can be organically incorporated in the program without much changes. Opportunities of short hiking, early morning short biking or horse riding, ballooning, etc., are very common and desired options for visitors.

**Sightseeing** - Our programs are combinations of the most interesting and thematically different visits to cultural, architectural, historical, archaeological sites, museums, galleries, nature sites and National Parks; at most sites brief written information is given in English and guided tours are available in English and other European languages. In places where local guides are not available or do not speak the language requested by our guests Caucasus Travel guides are there to assist with guiding and translation.

**Experience** - Along the cultural programs we offer unique experiences: meet locals, enjoy craft workshops, culinary master classes, thematic meetings. Book events and receptions in the most unexpected places, meet outstanding interesting people, speakers, artists, experts.

Enjoy short and easy hiking in some programs, also use an opportunity to book horseback, white water easy rafting & other activities or relaxing boat tours and ballooning opening fascinating views.

Travel from country to country and create your own unforgettable memories.

**Supply & Network** - We are strengthened by professional, reliable, loyal suppliers and partners in cities and rural areas of Georgia and the Caucasus. One can guess, that during years of mutually successful business and sincere relationship, we have earned huge network of partnership in accommodation, catering, transportation or in any needed field of supply. This is our wealth and the strongest point.

**Accommodation** - In all three countries we have a wide choice of international and local hotels offering high standard hospitality services. We couple the tradition with the comfort. Our visitors choosing accommodation places from big variety of properties, from beautiful Guest Houses to Superior Hotels. Providing hotels of all categories, we are working with best of them and having great deals for our customers.

**Food & Catering** - We serve our guests in the best local restaurants, providing big variety of National and European food. There are also many Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Thai and other exotic food restaurants available in all three countries. When and where it is needed we provide picnic, snacks, fruits, drinks, and of course unlimited bottled water while transportation.

**Transportation** - Depending on group size we provide appropriate types of comfortable vehicles: for large groups medium or full size busses (30-45 seats); for smaller groups minibuses (15 seats) and minivans; for individual travellers we offer sedan type cars or SUV. Vehicles will usually be changed while crossing land borders between the countries, as well as drivers, to guarantee local expertise.

**Professional Staff** with "Field Experience" - Company Managers and staff have had special training in tourism management in various leading institutions of Europe, USA and Japan. Caucasus Travel employs and contracts people with diverse professional backgrounds. This enables us competently and successfully plan, design and carry various tours in many fields of interest: archaeology, history, culture, art, ethnology, etc. ....

**Guides** - In each country we employ top professional, well-trained and experienced guides. Having wide knowledge and interests, they are very enthusiastic to show the best of the country, its life, moderate communication with locals and always will be glad to assist guests best interest.

**Languages** - Our managers, office staff, guides are fluent in 3-4 languages. We speak and guiding tours in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Korean languages.

## How to get there...

**Flights** - Direct flights to Tbilisi, Yerevan, Baku also Kutaisi and Batumi are available from the main European and Asian cities. Flights are operated by: Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines, Qatar Airways, Air France, Condor, LOT, Air Baltic, Wizz Air, FlyDubai, Eurowings, Pegasus, Air Arabia, many more.., and of course Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani national carriers.

**Visa** is not required for Georgia for the citizens of the USA, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, Israel, Turkey, citizens of EU member countries and CIS - full list is available on [www.mfa.gov.ge](http://www.mfa.gov.ge). Those, who require visa for Georgia will be able to obtain e-visa through [www.evisa.gov.ge](http://www.evisa.gov.ge).

Please find information about visa requirements in Armenia on [www.mfa.am](http://www.mfa.am). Visa can be obtained at Armenian border upon arrival. The citizens of some countries need invitation letter in order to get visa at the consulate of Armenia in their country of residence. The list of the countries can be found on [www.mfa.am](http://www.mfa.am).

Visa for Azerbaijan has to be arranged before arrival. You can find information about visa requirements on [www.mfa.gov.az](http://www.mfa.gov.az). Please note, that e-visa for Azerbaijan can be provided by Caucasus Travel and on supplementary basis.

**Passport** must be valid for at least six months (required for all three countries).

## Please contact us for questions or enquiries...

We are open for collaboration and keen to develop new product and projects to satisfy the most demanding customers. Having decades of experience in operating in South Caucasus, we have hosted travellers from many countries and nationalities, gaining great understanding of their cultural, practical customs and expectations.

We carefully select the product and all its components. We participate in all the steps in the product development - from generating ideas to designing logistical schemes of day-to-day operations. We constantly monitor and control our suppliers (hotels, restaurants, transportation, etc.). When developing a product, should this be for individuals or groups, we consider four major parameters: content, safety, quality and price. Of course, final shape of the product is defined according to the priorities settled by the customer.

**So, welcome to South Caucasus - have a great Cultural Experience and Lifelong Impression.**

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**

**The first choice Tour Operator and DMC in South Caucasus**