

GORGEOUS GEORGIA



SATURDAY MAY 13th - MONDAY MAY 22nd

Join us for an amazing journey that will take you to a fascinating country. A land of wine and gold, delightful monasteries, castles and cathedrals and spectacular mountain scenery. From the Gardens of the Romanovs to Stalin's birth place; from the magical Saro Fortress to the statue of Medea and the Golden fleece in the land of Kolkhis; this will be an epic adventure.

This rich itinerary will introduce you to the vast diversity of this country: from the warm Black Sea, to perpetually snow-covered peaks of the Greater Caucasus; from fertile valleys full of vineyards, to rocky canyons and the vibrant city of Tbilisi, barren plateaus to futuristic skyscrapers and primeval rock-hewn towns and picturesque monasteries.

Georgia, however, does not consist only of marvellous nature and historical treasures – it is the motherland of wine and delicious cuisine. Georgian feasts, enriched with poetic toasts, are legendary, the itinerary includes copious dinners, which will allow you to experience the flavours of Caucasian feasts and hospitality.

Day 1, Saturday May 13th Depart London

Day 2, Sunday May 14th : TBILISI CITY TOUR

Arrival in Tbilisi early morning. Transfer from airport to hotel and rest after the flight.



In the afternoon we visit the **National Museum** which holds a striking collection of ancient gold treasures. We then go on a walking tour of Tbilisi's historical centre with its winding narrow streets, ancient shrines, oriental-style sulphur baths, historical houses with wooden, carved balconies. A cable car ride above the old town to the Narikala castle hill.



საწერი მონოტილობა. მცხეთა (სვეტიცხოვლის ეზო), სამარხი № 14, ახ.წ. III საუკუნის დასასრული-IV საუკუნის დასაწყისი

Writing set. Mtskheta (Svetitskhoveli yard), burial 14, end of the 3rd century-early 4th century A.D.

კალმები მოთავსებული იყო კოლოფში, რომელსაც და ოქროს ქვირული ფირფიტა ბერძნული წარწერით. ოფის ზურგზე ცხრა მუზაა გამოსახული. სახურავზე მარჯვნივ იყო ბუდე, რომელშიც ოქროს სამეღწევე

The pens were placed in a box bound with a gold open-work with a Greek inscription. The nine muses are depicted on the lid of the box. Fixed to the lid was the case in which a gold ink was placed.

Dinner with live music and ethnic dance show.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 3 Monday May 15th : RABAT CASTLE VARDZIA CAVE CITY SARO FORTRESS

We drive to the south of Georgia and visit the rocky canyon of the Kura river and visit:

The Georgian-Turkish **castle of Rabat** with recently renovated gardens, walls, and golden-domed mosque.



The medieval cave city of Vardzia, which consists of 500 chambers carved into the vertical wall of the canyon.



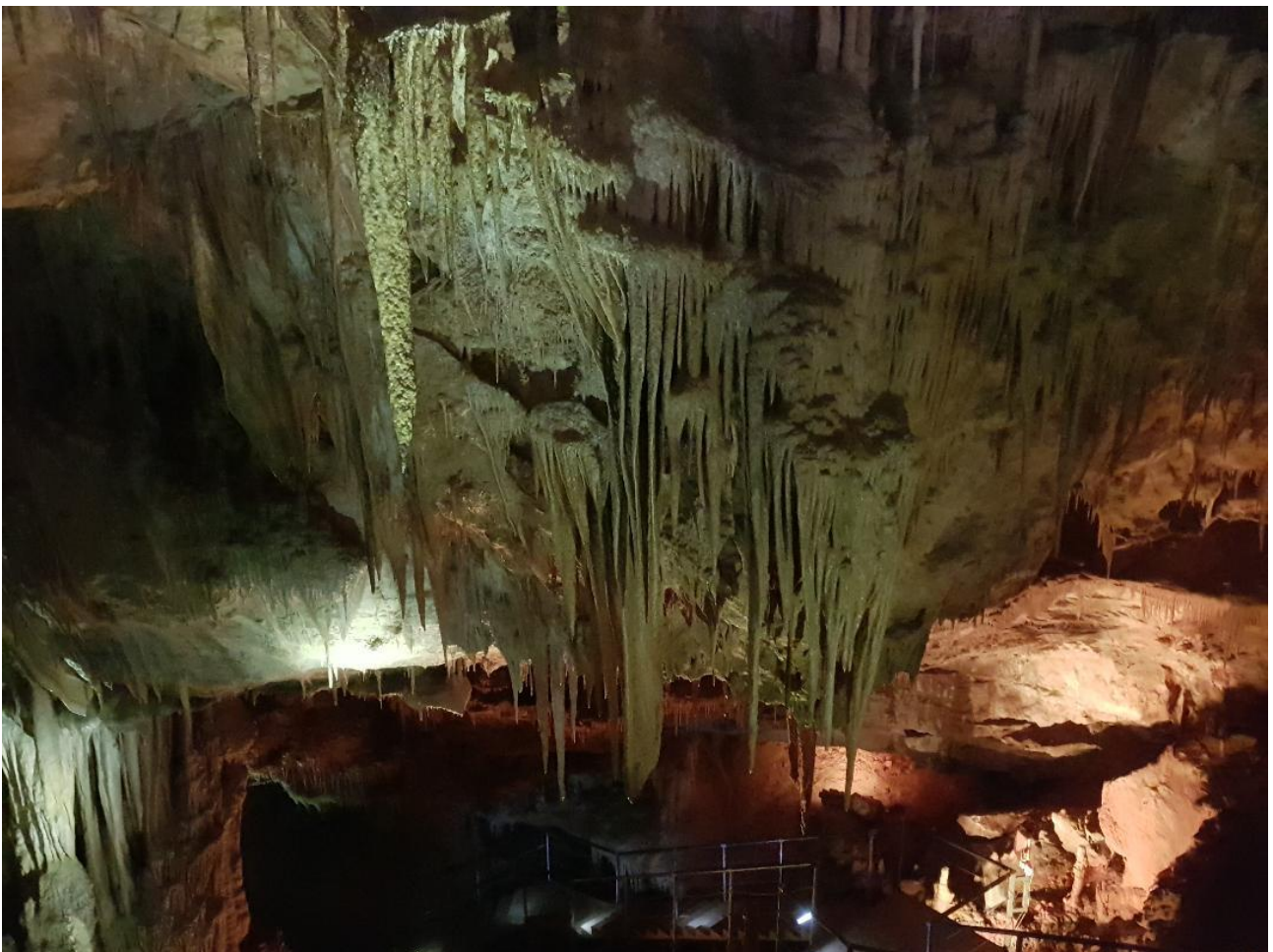
The prehistoric fortress of Saro. A fortress as old as the legendary Troy or Mycenae, a monument from the very beginnings of human civilisation and the time when Georgian tribes were forming their first states. Built directly at the top of the Kura canyon it allows visitors to admire the spectacular 500-metre deep gorge.

Travel to the city of Akhaltsikhe, dinner and overnight in a hotel.

Day 4 Tuesday May 16th BORJOMI PROMETHEUS CAVE GELATI MONASTERY

We visit the amazing resort of Borjomi famous for its sulphur springs. It developed during the 19th century as a residence of the House of the Romanovs, the ruling dynasty of the Russian Empire. A short walk in the spa park followed by a chance to try the healing waters from its springs. We then drive to the region of Imereti and visit:

The Prometheus karst cave: a kilometre-long walk inside the cave through impressive chambers, one of each exceeds 20 metres in height.



Sightseeing of Gelati monastery (on the UNESCO heritage list). Built more than 900 years ago the site includes a huge basilica with magnificent frescoes and a 12th-century mosaic, reconstructed building of a medieval academy and royal tombs.

Overnight in the city of Kutaisi & dinner

Day 5 Wednesday May 17th MARTVILI CANYON WINERY & WINE TASTING ETHNO VILLAGE BOAT TRIP

We travel around the region of Samegrelo (Mingrelia) and visit the Martvili karst canyon together with a short boat trip.



Excursion to a tea factory, introduction to the tea production process and an afternoon visit to one the leading local winemakers & wine tasting.



The evening we spend in a reconstructed ethno-village that serves traditional megrelian dishes, familiarization with local customs, traditional Georgian dinner with toasts.



Overnight in the city of Zugdidi & dinner.

Day 6 Thursday May 18th BATUMI BOTANICAL GARDENS BLACK SEA

Travel to the picturesque sub tropical resort of Batumi on the shores of the Black Sea.

Visit the 100-year-old botanical gardens which hold an impressive collection of exotic plants, bamboos, palms, and great sequoias.



Walk around the city center with its newly built skyscrapers and coastal promenade followed by a **Dolphins' acrobatics show** at the local dolphinarium.

We'll then visit the statue of Medea holding the Golden Fleece. This part of Georgia in ancient time was called Kolchis – The Land of the Golden Fleece. Overnight in Batumi

Day 7 Friday May 19th GORI STALIN'S HOUSE UPLISTSKHE

We travel to central Georgia. Visit the city of Gori, the birthplace of Stalin and the museum dedicated to his life. Sightseeing at the ancient cave city of Uplistskhe, carved in yellow sandstone above the Kura river banks. Overnight in Tbilisi & dinner

Day 8 Saturday May 20th MTSKHETA ANANURI CASTLE SVETITSKHOVELI CATHEDRAL JVARI MONASTERY

Depart for the city of Mtskheta a former capital of Georgia during antiquity and early middle ages and a place where the country was baptized – as early as the 4th century.

We'll see the magnificent Svetitskhoveli cathedral church, a spiritual heart of Georgia, containing a royal necropolis and important Christian relics. After sightseeing in the town, we drive to the 6th-century Jvari monastery built at the top of a nearby hill where we'll see the old capital lying in the fork of the Kura & Aragvi rivers.



We pass through the Georgian Military Road passing over the top of the Great Caucasus
We'll visit Ananuri castle standing on the shore of the blue Zhinvali reservoir. At the viewing platform just below the Jvari Pass we'll get magnificent panoramic views



Short walk on the travertine formation, "Georgian Pamukkale". In the afternoon we'll reach the town of Stepantsminda, lying at the foot of the glacial mount Kazbek.



Overnight in the Great Caucasus & dinner

Day9 Sunday May 21st TSMINDA SAMEBA MONASTERY MOUNT KAZBEK

Early start (so we get the best possible views) and a short drive to the Tsminda Sameba (Holy Trinity) monastery. The spectacular view from the monastery is one the most renowned in the whole of Georgia. We'll see a crown of rocky peaks of the Dariali Gorge, snowy Kazbek and the green gentle alpine meadows below.



Drive back to the hotel for breakfast and then transfer to Tbilisi. With stopovers on the so-called Dry Bridge, then to biggest flea market in the country and from there to semi-desert to visit the rock-hewn VI-century monastery of David Gareja.



Dinner in the “Oasis Club” restaurant in the middle of steppes.

Over night in the city of Telavi.

Day 10 Monday May 22nd KAKHETI VALLEY WINE TASTING SIGHNAGHI

Excursion to the valley of Kakheti called the cradle of wine. It is here where the oldest finds of viniculture were found dating back 8000 years! The region produces the majority of Georgian wine and is a home to more than 300 endemic species of vine. Wine producers still follow an ancient technology of aging wine by keeping it in large clay pots dug into the ground called Kvevri. This way of winemaking is listed as an intangible world heritage by UNESCO.



We'll visit Tsinandali Estate, a former seat of a local noble family. Sightseeing of 19th century residence, art collection and wine cellar. Travel to Kvareli to visit one of the oldest wine producers in the region - Kindzmarauli Marani, indulge in a 5 wine tasting session. Then to Khareba where we'll see a 7 km long tunnel where thousands of bottles and barrels are kept.



Short visit to a local monastery built on the mountain slopes to admire a panorama of the fertile Kakheti Valley and a walk around Signaghi, a beautifully renovated 17th century town.

In the evening we'll participate in a farewell traditional Georgian feast – the Supra – with long, poetic toasts, live music, copious amounts of food, wine and other drinks.



Around midnight we depart straight to Tbilisi Airport for early morning flights. If your flight does not leave early morning Tuesday May 23rd you can pay for an extra night stay in Tbilisi

KIT LIST

- Good walking shoes and socks
- Personal First aid Kit
- Lightweight waterproof trousers and top

- Sunglasses & Sunscreen

COST:

£1095 For payment upto Nov 30th 2022 (Special early bird rate)

£1195 For payment upto Jan 31st 2023

£1295 Upto Feb 28th 2023

£1395 After Feb 28th 2023

Single room supplement available £250

Kats Adventures Limited

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Ref: name / Georgia

INCLUDES :

- Expert English-speaking guide throughout the trip
- ALL Breakfasts and Dinners with Wine and drinks
- Entry fees to ALL museums and other places
- Transport across Georgia by minibus
- All hotel accommodation throughout
- Airport transfers for designated flights

- **NOT INCLUDE :**

- Lunches

REFUND POLICY

Full refund if for any reason the trip is cancelled by organisers

Full refund upto Jan 31st 2023

Thereafter 75% Refund upto Feb 28th 2023

Thereafter 50% Refund upto March 28th 2023

No refund after March 28th 2023

