

GORGEOUS GEORGIA



SATURDAY MAY 14 - TUESDAY MAY 24TH

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 14th Depart London

Day 2, Sunday May 15th : 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.



Dinner with live music and ethnic dance show.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 3 Monday May 16th : 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.



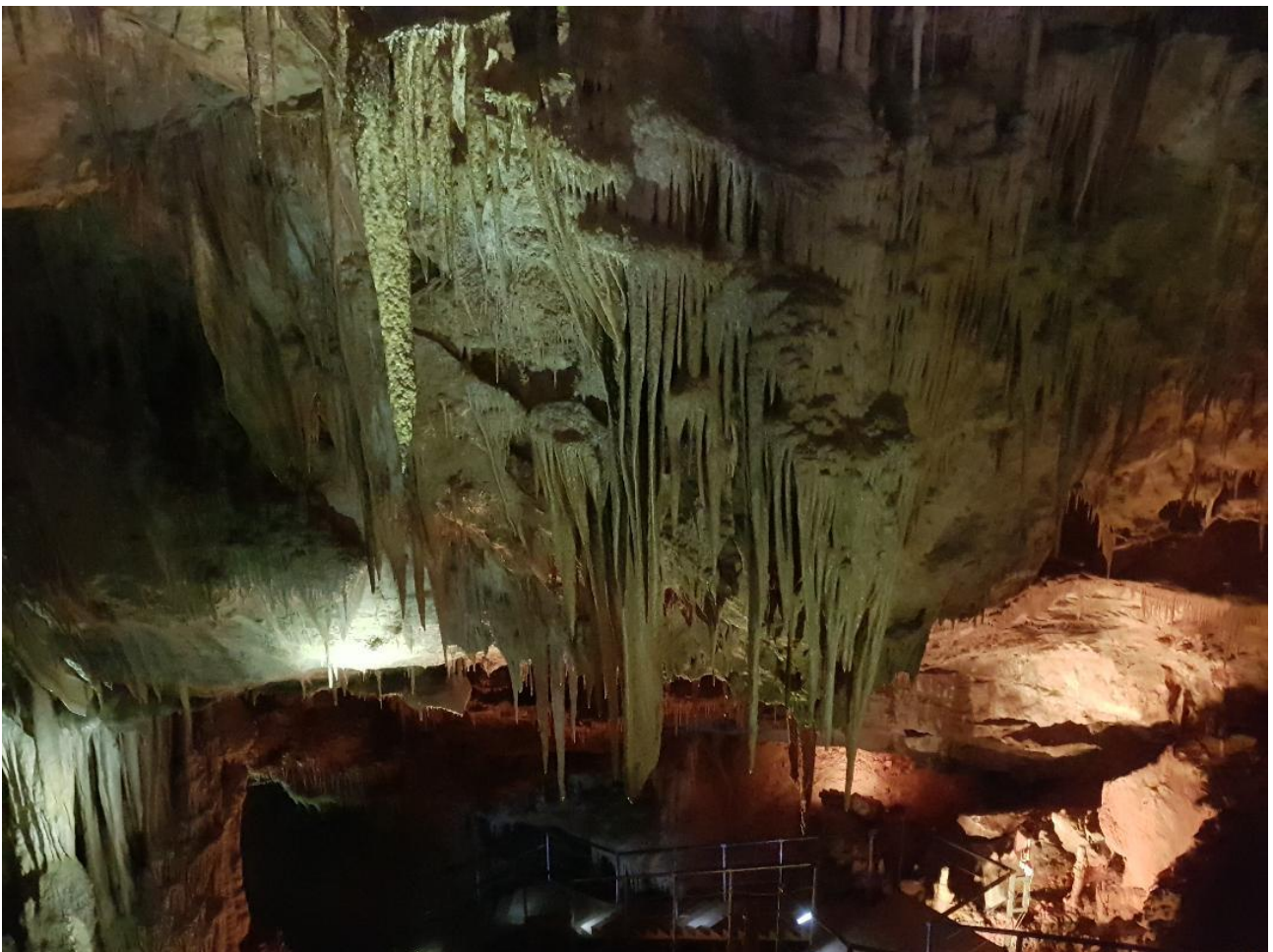
The prehistoric fortress of Saro. A fortress as old as the legendary Troy or Mycenae, a monument from the very beginnings of human civilisation and the time when Georgian tribes were forming their first states. Built directly at the top of the Kura canyon it allows visitors to admire the spectacular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

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

Day 4 Tuesday May 17th 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.

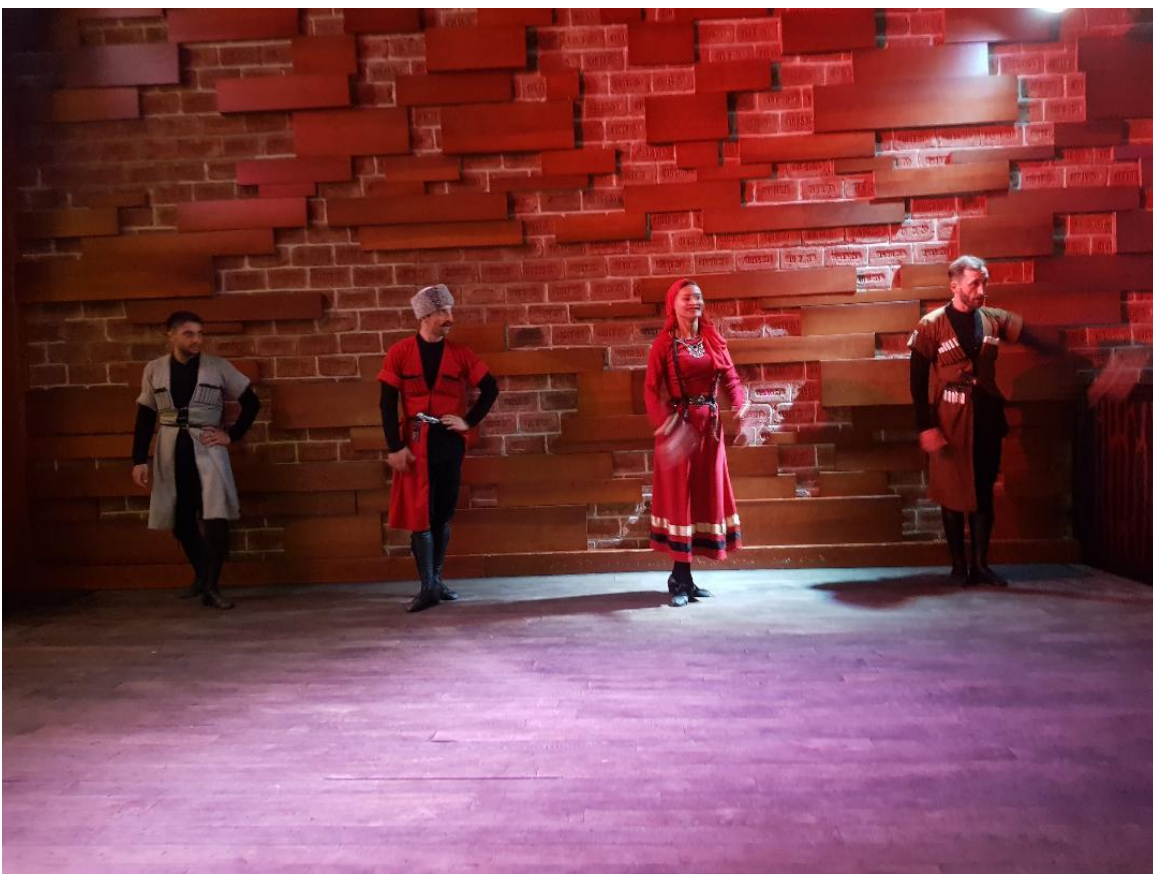
Overnight in the city of Kutaisi & dinner

Day 5 Wednesday May 18th 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 delightful 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 19th 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 & dinner

Day 7 Friday May 20th 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 21st MTSKHETA ANANURI CASTLE
SVETITSKHOVELI CATHEDRAL JVARI MONASTERY**

Depart for the city of Mtskheta a former capital of the Georgian Kingdom 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 22nd 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 23rd 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 depart straight to Tbilisi Airport.

FLIGHTS

LUFTHANSA AIR FRANCE TURKISH AIRLINES LOT

Recommended flight LUFTHANSA

Leave London Heathrow 16.25 Saturday May 14th

Arrive Tbilisi 04.05 + 1 Tuesday early morning May 15th

Depart Tbilisi 05.10 Tuesday early morning May 24th

Arrive London Heathrow 10.10 am Tuesday May 24th

OTHER INFO

Daily travel during the trip averages 200 km

The weather in Georgia in May is pleasant and varies between 15c to 20c in June averages are higher 20c – 25c +

Dinner every evening is “banquet style” with a large number of dishes being laid out in front of you to choose from.

We’ll be walking a lot every day so good walking shoes are essential

COST

£995 (Payment after Jan 25th and before Feb 25th)

£1095 (Payment after Feb 25th)

INCLUDES:

Pick up and drop off at the airport for recommended flight(s)

9 nights stay in hotels (twin share) Single room supplement available

9 Breakfasts and 9 Dinners

Transport (minibus / bus) across Georgia

With each dinner half a litre of table wine per person

Entry tickets for all visited sites including all wine tastings, dolphinarium, caves, ropeway, boat trip and other attractions

English-speaking tour guide

EXCLUDES:

Airfare

Lunch

Travel insurance

Any other items not listed in the section “Includes”

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REFUNDS

If you decide to cancel 2 months or more prior to trip date then 80% refund.

1-2 months before 50% refund.

Less than a month 25% refund.

Less than 2 weeks No refund

If the tour is cancelled due to lockdown announced in the UK or Georgia we'll refund you 90% of the trip fee (as there will be some costs that we will need to bear)

If interested in joining the May or June trip message me on emrgind@yahoo.co.uk or amit@curiouskatsadventures.com

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (PLEASE CHECK THEM)

[Entry requirements - Georgia travel advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)