



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

Georgia: Land of Wine

Private Journey – 11 days/10 nights



Meals: 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 5 dinners

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| Tbilisi | Courtyard by Marriott | 2 nights |
| Kvareli | Guesthouse/3 Star Hotel | 1 night |
| Tbilisi | Courtyard by Marriott | 1 night |
| Kutaisi | Guesthouse/3 Star Hotel | 1 night |
| Ambrolauri | Silovani Hotel | 1 night |
| Batumi | President Plaza | 2 nights |
| Tbilisi | Courtyard by Marriott | 1 night |

DAY 1 - Arrival in Tbilisi.

On arrival in Tbilisi you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs. You will then be taken by private car direct to your hotel.

DAY 2 – Tbilisi.

The morning has been left free for you to relax or sleep in after your late arrival the night before. Your World Discovery Georgia holiday begins after lunch when you meet your private guide and set off on a walking tour of Georgia's capital city, founded in the 5th century

by King Gorgasili. Highlights will include the 12th century Metechi Church, the ancient Sulphur Bath Houses, Sioni Cathedral, symbol of the city, the Narikala Fortress and the State Museum of Fine Arts.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch.

DAY 3 - The 'Wine Route'. Kvareli.

Drive along the 'Wine Route', through a beautiful landscape of wine-producing villages. This is the Kakheti region of Georgia and is synonymous with wine. Visit Bodbe Convent (8th–9th century), then continue to the Royal Town of Signagi, one of the crossroads of the famous Silk Road, surrounded by defensive walls with 23 towers. Visit the 'Marani' (wine house) at Gurjaani, which produces its own vintage wine. You will enjoy lunch here. A local wine maker will host some wine tasting, and you will also see traditional Georgian bread baking. After lunch visit the double-cupola 9th century Kvelatsminda Church in Gurjaani. Next visit the Tsinandali Estate with its beautiful botanical garden, museum and wine cellar which belonged to prince Chavchavadze - an eminent public figure and poet of 19th century. Drive to the picturesque lakeside town of Kvareli for dinner and overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 4 - Gremi. Telavi. Alaverdi.

After breakfast visit the Architectural Complex of Gremi, which includes the 16th century castle and the Church of the Archangels. Enjoy lunch and wine tasting in Napareuli – where twin brothers will lead you to their vineyards and “Marani”. Wine making here is based on family traditions, and began many generations ago; the wine has natural filtering for 4 months and is not chemically processed. Napareuli produces some of Georgia's most interesting wines. In the afternoon drive to Telavi to visit the museum, the elegant 11th century Alaverdi Cathedral and the 12th century Ikalto Monastery. Before dinner visit Kindzmarauli Winery and taste wines from the Kindzmarauli micro-zone. Dinner and overnight in Kvareli.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 5 - Davit Gareja. Return to Tbilisi.

This morning visit the important rock-cut monastery complex of Davit Gareja, located in a virtual desert close to the border with Azerbaijan. Founded in the 6th century by St David (one of the 13 Holy Syrian Fathers), the complex once boasted as many as 20 monasteries carved into the sandstone cliffs. Frescoes still adorn many of the caves. The tour involves 2-3 hours of walking. Picnic lunch will be provided. In the evening return to Tbilisi for overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, picnic lunch.

DAY 6 - Mtskheta. Jvari. Svetitskhoveli. Gelati. Kutaisi.

A short distance to the northwest of Tbilisi lies the former capital Mtskheta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which has been populated since the second millennium BC and is regarded as the cultural and religious heart of Georgia. Visit the stunning 6th century Jvari Monastery built on a hill overlooking the old capital, and the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Georgia's most sacred religious site. Next drive to the historical village of Koreti, where the Sharvadze family have made wine in the traditional Georgian way for generations. The old methods and wine traditions described in pre-Christian Greek and Roman historical annals are still followed. Enjoy lunch in the village in one of the 'Maranis'. In the evening visit the monastery of Gelati, set in beautiful countryside and renowned for its great 12th century Cathedral of the Virgin. Reach Kutaisi for dinner and overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 7 - Khvanchkara. Nikortsminda. Continue to Ambrolauri.

Drive to picturesque mountain region of Racha-Lechkhumi to see vineyards, taste the famous Khvanchkara, a naturally semi-sweet wine of local production, and the white semi dry wine, Tetra. Lunch in the village. In the afternoon visit the 12th century Nikortsminda church with its excellent wall paintings, and the 18th century Barakoni church located in a pleasant spot beside the Rioni River. Dinner and overnight in the town of Ambrolauri.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 8 - Lechkhumi. Batumi on the Black Sea coast.

Drive to one of Georgia's oldest wine-producing regions - Lechkhumi. Visit the villages of Lailashi and Orbeli, where you will taste special wines from Lechkhumi micro zone. After a lunch in one of the villages, drive to Batumi on the shores of the Black Sea. Before dinner (not included) take a short walking tour to explore the city. Overnight in Batumi.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch.

DAY 9 - Batumi. Gonio.

Batumi existed as a small town as far back as the time of the Greeks, and then under the Ottomans, but under the Russians it grew in size and importance, and was the Black Sea outlet for oil from the Caspian. This morning visit the nearby Roman fortress at **Gonio** (3rd century BC), where archaeological excavations are still ongoing. Also visit Batumi's Botanical Garden, founded in 1912 by the famous Russian botanist Andrey Krasnov. Afternoon free.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 10 - Batumi. Return to Tbilisi.

The morning is at leisure in Batumi. In the afternoon return to Tbilisi, where in the evening you will enjoy a farewell dinner at a selected local restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 11 - Depart for home.

Private transfer to the airport for your homeward flight.

Meals included: Breakfast.