

# **Glorious Cave Towns and Monasteries**

Have you ever imagined enjoying mysterious caves of beautiful Georgia in just a week? If yes, this Cave Towns Tour of Georgia is the perfect way to experience a miracle of ancient Uplistsikhe, Vardzia and the rock-hewn Davit-Gareja Monastery complex. Be captivated by the stunning view of semi-desert landscapes and delve into the magical atmosphere as you discover the most famous sights and picturesque parts of Georgia.

# **Key information**

Duration: 7 days / 6 nights

Tour type: Small group / individual (starting from 2 persons)

#### What's included:

Private airport transfers according to your arrival time, Accommodation in 3\* hotels for 6 nights (in double rooms), Meals: breakfast, All transfers in air-conditioned/heated cars/buses, English speaking guide service for all days, All admission fees

#### What's not included:

Flights, Visa fee, Medical insurance, Lunch and dinner

# Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival

Day 2 - Tbilisi City Tour

Day 3 - David Gareja - Sighnaghi - Tbilisi

Day 4 - Paravani - Khertvisi - Vardzia - Akhaltsikhe

Day 5 - Akhaltsikhe - Borjomi - Tbilisi

Day 6 - Mtskheta - Uplistsikhe - Tbilisi

Day 7 - Departure





# **Detailed itinerary**

#### Day 1

Arrival at the airport and transfer to the hotel. From this very moment, your acquaintance with Georgia will start. In recent years, more and more tourists from around the world are choosing Georgia as an attractive tourist destination. Its fantastic mountain landscapes, unique culture and mouth-watering national cuisine don't leave anyone indifferent. With the help of our professional guide, you will plunge into the local culture and reveal lots of secrets. After your check-in at the hotel, you can stroll around the city centre, have a cup of coffee in the cosy cafes and feel the hospitality of Tbilisi.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

### Day 2

Our exploration starts with city tour around Tbilisi. First we visit open air Museum of Ethnography located on the territory of Turtle Lake. Here we explore models of traditional houses and farm buildings collected from 14 regions of Georgia. After strolling around Meidani Square, which was the part of famous caravanserai, we continue to the historical district of Metekhi to explore the Assumption Church and the monument to Vakhtang Gorgasali – the founder of Tbilisi. The cable car takes us to one of the most ancient sight - Narikala Fortress to enjoy the stunning views of Tbilisi from the fortress walls. Walking through Botanical Garden we admire the beautiful waterfall and continue to Abanotubani – royal bath complex (XVII-XIX centuries) standing on the natural sulfur springs. Our city tour ends with the visit to Mtatsminda Mount by funicular.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

# Day 3

In the morning we depart Tbilisi and visit David Gareja cave monastery complex. This unique complex consists of 20 monasteries of the VI century founded by Assyrian monk David of Gareja. Here we explore the caves and monasteries and marvel at the scenic beauty of the semi-desert and continue to beautiful Sighnaghi – "town of love". Overlooking the Alazani Valley and Caucasian Mountains, Sighnaghi is a charming walled town with narrow streets and terracotta tileroofed houses with colorfully carved balconies.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

#### Day 4

After breakfast we drive to Vardzia to explore the diverse cultural heritage of Javakheti region. Our first stop is at Paravani Lake. Surrounded by the spectacular scenery, Paravani Lake is the biggest in Georgia. Near the lake we visit the monastery of St. Nino, at the territory of which there is a small dairy managed by local nuns. Here we can find various unique kinds of cheeses that cannot be found anywhere else in Georgia. After taking incredible photos in Khertvisi Fortress (X century), we continue to Vardzia – a unique cave complex of the Golden Age (XII -XIII centuries), the first cave of which was created during the reign of Queen Tamar's father, George III. In ancient times, the complex served as a refuge for civilians.

Overnight: Hotel in Akhaltsikhe

Meals: Breakfast

#### Day 5

The day starts with the visit to Rabati Castle – a medieval structure in Akhaltsikhe which dates back to the XIII. Recently renovated Rabati Castle was reopened in Akhaltsikhe in August 2012 and now is the main attraction of the town. This





amazing complex consists of many historical castles, towers and churches. After exploring the ancient Georgian architecture, we drive to Borjomi. This cozy and green resort town has an international reputation for its geothermal spring mineral water resources. Here we enjoy walking in Central Park and taste the award-winning local mineral water "Borjomi".

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

#### Day 6

Today we discover the fascinating heritage of Georgia and visit some of the most iconic landmarks including ancient Mtskheta town. This beautifully renovated town belonging to the 2nd half of the I millennium BC was the first capital of Georgia. First we explore a sacred Svetitskhoveli Temple – the cathedral of XI century and the main cathedral of Georgia. Then, we go up the mountain to the monastery of Jvari to enjoy the breathtaking view to the confluence of Aragvi and Kura (Mtkvari) rivers. On our way to Tbilisi we visit the cave town of Uplistsikhe. This ancient cave town, carved into the volcanic rock of Kvernaki ridge is one of the most important monuments of Georgian culture and is famous for its three-thousand-year history. After driving back to Tbilisi, we have a chance to visit Tbilisi flea market and buy Georgian souvenirs.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

### Day 7

Transfer to the airport, departure.





### **Booking conditions**

The contract between you and MyGeo is considered confirmed once we received your application, discuss all the details and receive your deposit of € 50 (per person). Immediately after that, you will receive a tour voucher confirming all the details.

#### Payment terms

As noted above, first you need to make a non-refundable deposit of € 50. That will provide our managers with the opportunity to start the tour organization. The final payment can be made after your arrival in Georgia in cash or by credit card.

### Cancellation of the tour by the clients

If you or one of the group members has to cancel the tour for any reason, please let us know in written form. Please, keep in mind that in this case, the deposit of 50 euros cannot be refunded.

# Cancellation of the tour by the company itself

Our organizers start to plan the tour many months before its beginning, and from our side the tour cannot be changed or canceled. However, due to the unforeseen circumstances such as weather conditions, we can make some adjustments to the route. But everything else will remain unchanged.

Please, note that the minimum number of participants in our tours is 2 people. If the tour does not have the minimum number of people, we will have to cancel the tour. In this case, we will notify you of the cancellation no later than 30 days before your tour beginning, and will refund the full amount, including the prepayment.

### **Rights and obligations**

In case of unavoidable force majeure circumstances, both parties are released from the obligations and responsibilities. If during the tour you have any complaints and dissatisfaction, please immediately inform us about that. We will do our best to solve the problem. If you do not inform us about that, then at the end of the tour, we will not provide the compensation. We also are not responsible for anything that does a tourist in his/her free time outside of the tour program.

