



TRAVEL THE UNKNOWN

TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

GEORGIA EXPLORER

9 days

Countries visited

Georgia

Tour Highlights

- Old Tbilisi's magical warren of period streets and Oda-style balconies.
- Travel back in time while visiting the well-preserved “town museum” of Signaghi
- Visit Tsinandali, famous for its historic winery that belonged to aristocratic poet Alexander Chavchavadze in the 19th century.
- Telavi, one of Georgia's most ancient cities.
- Intricate Georgian architecture of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral
- Soviet history displayed at the Stalin Museum
- Panoramic views of Mount Kazbek just south of the Russian border
- Iconic mountaintop Gergeti Trinity Church

Places visited

Tbilisi • Signaghi • Tsinandali • Telavi • Mtskheta • Uplistsikhe • Kutaisi • Martvili • Gori • Kazbegi

What's included

- Arrival & departure transfers
- Ground transport with driver
- Accommodation
- Meals (refer to itinerary for meal plan)
- English-speaking guides
- Entrance fees to sites & parks

What's not included



- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks
- Visa fees
- Tipping
- Camera / video camera fees
- Personal items (laundry, telephone, etc.)
- Medical expenses
- Any services not mentioned in itinerary

All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.

Your Itinerary Explained

Date	Place visited	Meals
	<p>The first part of the text in each day is the itinerary schedule and will explain what you will normally see/do during this day of your itinerary.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>The part of the day's text in italics (and comes after the three dashes "---") is background information on the places or sites on that day of your itinerary. It is not part of your itinerary and may mention places that will not be visited on your itinerary. If you have any questions please ask us. Travel times where noted are only meant as a guideline.</i></p>	<p>B: Breakfast</p> <p>L: Lunch</p> <p>D: Dinner</p>

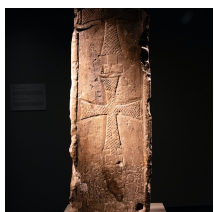
Tour Itinerary

Day 1	Arrival in Tbilisi	Meals
	<p>Arrive into Tbilisi airport where you will be met by a Travel The Unknown representative and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day and evening is free to enjoy the sights and sounds of old Tbilisi.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>Tbilisi, formerly known as 'Tiflis', is Georgia's capital and the largest city of Georgia. It lays on the banks of the Mtkvari River and has a population of roughly 1.5 million people. Founded in the 5th century by the monarch of Georgia's ancient precursor, the Kingdom of Iberia, over the centuries the city was taken by successive invaders. Historically diverse, an increase in the Armenian population was noticed in the 19th century. Tbilisi has many narrow streets and a mixture of religious and secular architecture. The old city features many churches, synagogues, mosques and 19th-century houses with multi-coloured wooden balconies. For outright weirdness Tbilisi also has a street named in honour of ex-president, George W Bush.</i></p> <p><i>Overnight in Strofi Boutique Hotel, Tbilisi</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>After breakfast take a walking tour of the old city, including Narikala Fortress and the Mother of Georgia statue, the Peace Bridge, Metekhi Church, Synagogue, and Rike Park. Later, take a stroll along the famous Rustaveli Avenue.</p> <p>Return at length to your hotel to plan ahead for the evening.</p> <p>---</p>	<p>B</p>
<p>Tbilisi - Old town</p>		

Tbilisi's old town stands in the shadow of Mother Georgia's silvery statue, perched on a hill overlooking a mosaic of multi-coloured houses constructed in the 19th century. Nestled together on narrow streets, the homes feature wooden balconies that allow residents to revel in the fresh air. Established in the 4th century and fortified over hundreds of years, the ruins of Narikala Fortress also tower over Georgia's capital, offering visitors spectacular panoramic views.

Overnight in Strofi Boutique Hotel, Tbilisi

Day 3	Tbilisi	Meals
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Enjoy a free day in Tbilisi to explore more of its bountiful offerings on your own. Why not wander around Sololaki, admiring its beautiful fin-de-siècle architecture, the Academy of Arts and its magnificent halls, the National Museum of History with its golden treasury, or why not the National Gallery. At the end of your wanderings, consider soaking in Sulphur Baths, followed by an invigorating Kisa scrub.

B

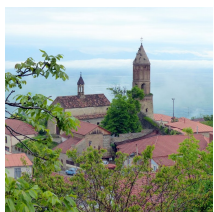
Tbilisi - National Museum

Evening at leisure to enjoy Tbilisi.

40 million years of sweeping history all under one roof.

Overnight in Strofi Boutique Hotel, Tbilisi

Day 4	Tbilisi - Signaghi - Tsinandali - Telavi - Tbilisi	Meals
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Signaghi

In the morning, begin your explorations of Georgia's scenic Kakheti region, enjoying superb views of the Great Caucasus Mountains and valleys. Let Signaghi wow you with its pretty charms. Drop into the Tsinandali estate. Visit a local farmer's wine cellar and learn how Georgian wine-making differs from that of other parts. Enjoy the cream with a spot of degustation of these home-made wines. Travel onward to Telavi to participate in a short walking tour in the central part of the town, and through its colourful agricultural market.

B

Later in the day, return to Tbilisi to prepare for a pleasant evening at complete leisure.

Signaghi was once the cultural centre of Eastern Georgia and, following extensive renovation, has reclaimed its heritage as a hub of workmanship and trade. This town is famous for wine and carpet-making. Known as a 'town museum', its unique architecture has been either preserved or recreated. Enjoy walking through Signaghi's narrow streets in the shade of balconies richly decorated with lacey-carved ornamentation. Signaghi was instrumental in defending King Erekle II from the Lekis in the 18th century due to its geographic location and its city wall, whose 23 towers span nearly 5 kilometres. A short climb up the restored portion of the wall provides a sweeping panorama of the Alazani Valley and the Caucasus Mountains.

The **Tsinandali** family estate and wine cellar once belonged to the 19th-century aristocratic poet Alexandre Chavchavadze (1786-1846), who was one of the most important figures of his time. He dedicated his life to promoting and developing Georgian culture, and was the first nobleman to produce and bottle Georgian wine. Chavchavadze's residence consists of a summer home, garden and winery, and now operates as a House-Museum. It has been welcoming visitors since 1947 and periodically hosts exhibitions by prominent Georgian and foreign artists.

Telavi is a historical city in Kakheti, an eastern region of Georgia and is considered to be one of Georgia's most ancient cities. With fascinating museums, well-preserved religious buildings and a castle, Telavi offers visitors a unique insight into Georgian history and culture.

Overnight in Strofi Boutique Hotel, Tbilisi

Day 5	Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Uplistsikhe - Kutaisi	Meals
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Mtskheta

After breakfast drive to Mtskheta and visit Jvari Monastery and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral - both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Later we drive to Uplistsikhe for a visit and transfer to Kutaisi. Evening relaxing and considering dinner options in Kutaisi.

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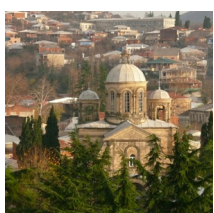
Mtskheta is one of Georgia's oldest cities, located roughly 20 km north of Tbilisi at the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers. Within the city (which is itself a UNESCO World Heritage Site) is the **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral**, one of Georgia's largest places of worship. The site, surrounded by a defensive wall, has housed churches since the 4th century, but the standing building was constructed in the early 11th century and artfully restored in the 1970s. According to Biblical canon, Christ's robe was carried to Mtskheta after his crucifixion and buried beneath the cathedral. Inside, a painting illustrates the buried garment and the miracle of a pillar rising into the air during the church's construction.

Uplistsikhe (meaning 'Fortress of the Ruler') is a rock-hewn town that dates back to 1000 BC and covers an area of approximately 8 hectares. The town is divided over three levels that are connected by a series of narrow tunnels. Uplistsikhe used to be a main point on the Silk Road, but was abandoned in the 17th century.

Kutaisi is Georgia's second largest city and has a history that dates back to 2000 BC, when it served as the capital city of the Kingdom of Colchis. Ottoman forces conquered the city in the early 16th century, but it was reclaimed by the Georgian king in 1770. The city possesses two UNESCO World Heritage sites and sits on the banks of the Rioni river.

Overnight in Solomon, Kutaisi

Day 6	Kutaisi - Gelati - Martvili - Kutaisi	Meals
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Explore West Georgia (Imereti and Samegrelo provinces) today. Morning tour to Kutaisi agricultural market and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Gelati Monastery. Travel to Martvili to enjoy the canyon (closed on Mondays) named after the local royal family, Dadiani. Weather permitting take a boat tour along the canyon. Transfer to Kutaisi.

B

Kutaisi

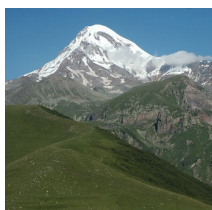
The **Gelati Monastery**, founded by beloved Georgian ruler David IV (also referred to as "David the Builder"), consists of the main Church of the Virgin, the Church of St. George, the Church of St. Nicholas and a bell tower. The Academy building recalls the monastery's history as a cultural centre of ancient Georgia, attracting great scientific and philosophical minds. Murals and mosaics, some of which date back to the 12th century, cover the spacious interior of the buildings, arching over windows, pressing backwards into alcoves and reaching the highest stretches of the vaulted ceiling. Despite damage from invasion and feuds, visitors can still admire detailed enamel and metal work from a bygone era.

Overnight in Solomon, Kutaisi

Day 7

Kutaisi - Gori - Kazbegi

Meals



Kazbegi

After breakfast drive East to stop at the Stalin Museum in Gori. Afterwards continue along the Georgian Military Highway, stopping to visit Ananuri Fort and enjoying breathtaking views of the Great Caucasus Mountains up to Mount Kazbegi, and beyond that the Russian frontier.

 The city of **Gori** is famously known as the birthplace of Joseph Stalin. The city's Stalin Museum was originally built in 1951 as a local history museum, later, following his death in 1953, becoming a memorial museum to the Soviet dictator. Visitors to the museum can delve into the life of the young Josef Djugashvili, seeing the house where he spent the first few years of his life. On display, are also artefacts of his later life as the cruel, indomitable Stalin: his personal armoured train carriage and many items that once belonged to him - including hand-written texts, office furniture and a bronze cast of his death mask.

Kazbegi, officially known as "**Stepantsminda**", is a small town located just 10 kilometres south of the Russian border. The town is 1,750 metres above sea level and owns outstanding mountain views, including Georgia's third highest peak, the 5,000m Mount Kazbek (or 'Glacier Mountain'). Interestingly, Kazbek is associated with the myth of Prometheus, who is said to have been chained to the mountain as punishment for stealing fire from the gods and giving it to mortals.

Overnight in Hotel Stancia Kazbegi, Kazbegi

Day 8

Kazbegi - Gergeti - Tbilisi

Meals



Kazbegi - Gergeti Trinity Church

In the morning hike up to Gergeti Church for superb views over the settlement (a vehicle is available for those who prefer not to walk). Enjoy a visual masterpiece of a road trip back to Georgia's capital for a final evening strolling through the old town, dining in one of many great little eateries, and café bars, where you can also enjoy a carafe or two of the country's greatest export.

 Facing Mt. Kazbek is the isolated **Gergeti Trinity Church**. Constructed in the 14th century, it sits at a elevation of 2,170m over the Chkheri riverbank. The church holds important religious relics which were brought from Mtskheta during the 18th-century Persian invasion. Even when religious services were outlawed during the Soviet era, tourists were still drawn to the church to admire the small town of Kazbegi.

Total travel time : 3 hours
Overnight in Strofi Boutique Hotel, Tbilisi

Day 9

Departure

Meals



Flight

Transfer to airport at the appropriate time for your return flight home.
You can also extend your stay in Georgia, or elsewhere in the Caucasus and neighbouring Turkey.

B

Accommodation

Tbilisi : Strofi Boutique Hotel (Heritage Property)

5 nights



Hotel Strofi is nestled in the heart of Tbilisi. Our hotel is a beautiful heritage building from the 19th century that has been carefully restored to preserve its original charm and character.

Located on the same street where Georgian poet Lado Asatiani once lived, our hotel is steeped in history and culture. From the moment you step through our doors, you will be transported back in time to a bygone era of elegance and sophistication.

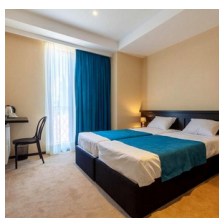
Phone : +995 558 990110

Address : 8/9 Belgar Akhospireli, Tbilisi 0105

Website : <https://strofihotel.com/>

Kutaisi : Solomon (Hotel)

2 nights



A new hotel in the heart of Kutaisi, Solomon offers a comfortable stay within close proximity of Kutaisi's key attractions. All rooms boast a flat-screen TV with satellite channels, air conditioning, a table and chair, and a private bathroom. Some rooms in the Deluxe category feature a terrace so you can take advantage of the mountain views. A continental breakfast is served daily in the hotel's on-site restaurant.

Phone : +995 555 74 79 80

Address : Khakhanashvili 10, 4600 Kutaisi

Website : [N/A](#)

Kazbegi : Hotel Stancia Kazbegi (Hotel)

1 night



Hotel Stancia Kazbegi is a homely property in the centre of Kazbegi, surrounded by beautiful mountain scenery. The hotel offers 20 guest rooms, each with wooden floors, stylish décor and a balcony. Facilities at the hotel include an on-site restaurant serving Georgian and international cuisine, a ski storage room and an outdoor terrace with magnificent views. There is complimentary Wi-Fi available throughout the property and a 24-hour reception desk.

Phone : +995 551 94 88 00

Address : Alexandr Kazbegi Square 23a 4700 Kazbegi

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/stanciakazbegi/>

All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.