

Trip to Georgia with St Gregory's Foundation, May 2024

8 days/7 nights, Dates: 16-24 May (tbc).

Until we have a better idea of the number of people in the party (maximum 15 people) it is difficult to give an exact price but our provisional price is £1600 (tbc), single occupancy.

If you would like more details please email Julia - julia@stgregorysfoundation.org.uk

Day 1: Early arrival at Tbilisi airport • Transfer to the hotel • 12:00 Tbilisi City Tour • Overnight in Tbilisi



Our excursion begins from **Maidan**, then continues up to **Narikala fortress** via rope way from where you have a remarkable view of the city. Then we continue to **Abanotubani**, walk to the waterfall, then to **Samghebro, Shardeni, King Erekle Street** and **Freedom Square**. Then we move on to the **Bridge of Peace** and **Rike Park**. Visit historic underground – **Maidan bazar** where you can buy souvenirs and Georgian Products. Visit **Mtatsminda**, the mountain topped by the 210m-high TV mast that overlooks central Tbilisi. Located 800-metres above the city spreads over more than 1 sq km and has been a popular fun spot for generations. **Transfer and dinner at Mkurnali**

Day 2: Kazbegi; Ananuri, Gudauri Tour • Overnight in Tbilisi



Trip on Georgian Military Highway unique for its beauty to Jinali reservoir. Visit the ancient fortress **Ananuri**, (14th century) a picturesque **UNESCO** site. Then drive to **Gudauri**, mountain ski resort, on the slopes of the Great Caucasus Range, 2379 metres above sea level. From the Arch of Friendship, you will see amazing views of the mountains. Next point is the village **Stepatsminda**, in the mountain region of **Kazbegi**. Change transport to four-by-fours to mount **Gergeti** (2200 metres), and go to St Trinity monastery, (14th Century **UNESCO** site). You will see Kazbegi peak, 5047 metres high, the second highest peak in Georgia.

Day 3: Trip to Mtskheta and Uplistsikhe tour • Overnight in Tbilisi



Drive to the first capital, **Mtskheta** (the city is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites). Visit **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral** (XI century; **UNESCO** site), where the robe of Jesus Christ is buried. The cathedral is the burial place of royal family Bagrationi and patriarchs of Georgia. Visit **Jvari** monastery (VII century; **UNESCO** site), there is an unforgettable view of two rivers meeting: the Mtkvari and Aragvi. Drive to **Uplistsikhe** - the most ancient city hewn from rock, from II-I centuries B.C. (**UNESCO** site). Very important pagan and cultural centre.

Day 4: Rabati and Borjom Tour • Overnight in Tbilisi



Drive to Borjomi, a well-known balneoclimatic resort with exceptionally diverse nature and unique mineral water. We will visit the National Park and taste the mineral water from the spring. Go up by the cable car and enjoy amazing views of Borjomi canyon. Then drive to Rabati. Built in the 13th century, Rabati castle developed under the influence of different cultures over subsequent centuries, and this is reflected in its architecture.

Day 5: Signagi - City of Love and Bodbe Tour • Overnight in Kakheti



Drive to **Signagi**. The City of wine and love is very appealing to those who are tired of rush and hustle, and like everything lovely, cute and small. Walking through **Signagi**, you might feel you are in Italy - the architecture is similar to small Italian towns. Romantic cobbled streets, carved balconies, 24/7 marriage registration! There is a beautiful view of **Alazani valley**, the motherland of wine. Walk on Signagi's impressive **fortress wall**, for spectacular views. Visit **Bodbe**, The Monastery of St. Nino, built in the 9th century.

Day 6: Telavi tour • Overnight in Tbilisi



ideal for storing and maturing wine. **Tasting of wines and Georgian vodka. Culinary masterclass: baking Georgian bread and churchkhela.**

Telavi is at the centre of Kakheti, which is distinguished by the cultural monuments and history of an ancient time. Here you will find the relics of the Bronze Age, medieval temples of great cultural significance, the ruins of palaces and castles that are home to many fascinating legends and heroes. Drive to a unique wine cellar – a **tunnel**. The tunnel is set in the cliffs of the Caucasus, opened in 1962 specifically for the **World Congress of Wine** and is currently the “Khareba Winery” wine preserve. The best wines of the Kakheti region have been stored here for several decades. It maintains a natural temperature of 12-14 C throughout the year, with a humidity of 70%, which makes it

Day 7: Free Day • Overnight in Tbilisi

Day 8: Transfer to Airport

Tour Price includes:

- Flights • Accommodation • Transfers • Excursions with comfortable transport on private basis
- All meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner. May include one Gala dinner with Georgian folk songs on Day 7)
- English speaking driver and guide • All entrance fees as per programme
- Donation to our partner charity Mkurnali

Extras:

- Visit the famous Sulphur Bath, Tbilisi, £60 (room for 1-6 persons. Pools with Cold and hot sulphur water, Finnish sauna, resting corner, WC, shower). Traditional peeling (KISA), about £6 (10-15 min).
- Opera or ballet at the National Opera (tickets up to £28)