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meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Hiking in Georgia – Tailormade Tour

Tour Duration – 15 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●●○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●●○ | Culture ●●●●○ | History ●●●●○ | Wildlife ●○○○○

Tour Pace

Moderate

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Truly head off the beaten track and hike in wonderfully wild and scenic province of Tusheti
- ✓ Walks and village visits in the shadow of the High Caucasus mountains
- ✓ Explore the imposing watchtowers that guard centuries old villages
- ✓ Visit the magnificent cathedral of Alaverdi and the wine region of Kakheti
- ✓ Wander through the delightful old town of Tbilisi
- ✓ Enjoy the friendly local hospitality of Georgian family run guesthouses and local houses





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Hiking in Georgia - Tour Map



Tour Essentials

- Accommodation:** Mix of comfortable hotels and a simple locally run guesthouses (private bathroom and village houses (private bathroom may not be possible).
- Included Meals:** Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary
- Group Size:** Private Tailormade tour
- Start Point:** Tbilisi
- End Point:** Batumi
- Transport:** Private air conditioned transport. 4WD is necessary in parts
- Country visited:** Georgia



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Hiking in Georgia – Tailormade Tour

Georgia is one of the least known nations of Europe – in fact most people aren't entirely sure whether it is actually in Europe. Hidden away and often eclipsed by its monumental neighbour it hides a wealth of diverse secrets. This tailormade tour focuses on spectacular hiking amongst some of the most alluring mountain scenery but also allows travellers to appreciate the depth of historical interest and to experience the renowned Georgian hospitality by staying in local run guesthouses. We start in charming Tbilisi and marvel at the numerous and diverse cultures that have left their mark on this city, from Ancient Persia and Medieval European crusaders to Imperial Russia and Ottoman Turkey and explore its delightful old city. For lovers of wine we continue to the ancient wine region of Kakheti, arguably the original home of all viticulture and taste the exquisite wines produced there. We then snake into the High Caucasus crossing the vertiginous Abano Pass and enjoy hiking in the wild and untamed province of Tusheti. Here age-old traditions are still entrenched into the culture and the villages are surely some of the most isolated in Europe, home to truly resilient herdsman and their families. The second half of the tour sees us travel to the Western reaches of Georgia via Kutaisi, once a capital of several historical kingdoms, and then once again up into the High Caucasus range to the mythical region of Svaneti known as the land of the Golden Fleece. From the regional centre of Mestia, immerse yourself in spectacular hikes to the backdrop of some of Europe's most awe inspiring scenery and finish each day staying in village houses and guesthouses where you can be sure of a warm local welcome. Leaving the mountains behind, the tour winds up on the balmy shores of the Black Sea at the second city of Batumi. For lovers of outdoor adventure, this tour takes you to the furthest reaches of this intriguing and stunning country where few outsiders are yet to tread.

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not merely passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies, it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK: we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. Where possible you will have the same guide throughout your trip, but on occasions it may be advantageous to change the guide at one or more points during the tour.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi

Arrive in Tbilisi and transfer to hotel accommodation located near the charming old town. Depending upon flight schedules there may be time to explore independently. Overnight Hotel Kalasi. No meals or guided activities included today.

Tbilisi

Surrounded by mountains on three sides, Georgia's capital feels neither European nor Asian, but rather an invigorating fusion of both. Founded in the 4th century by King Vakhtang Gorgasali on the site of its warm mineral-water springs, it rapidly developed into the principal city of the Caucasus. By the 12th century Tbilisi was one of the most important political, economic and cultural centres of the region. It stood as a key station on the famous Silk Road – right on the border between Europe and Asia.



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The city has a vaguely southern feel to it, with a relaxed atmosphere and an easy charm. In the old town, known as the Maidan, wooden houses with a distinctly Balkan feel overlook the stately Mtkvari River which dissects the city, at times through a deep gorge, and in the city centre there are imposing neo-classical and Art Nouveau buildings mingling incongruously with the inevitable Soviet-era concrete blocks. Gorgasali Square, on the opposite bank of the river to the Metekhi Church, was once the site of the old bazaar, and is an ideal place to start a walk taking in the sights of the city. A road from the Armenian Church on the south side of the square leads to the Narikala Citadel, built in 360 AD by the Persians, indicating the significant Middle Eastern influences here; it was severely hit by an earthquake in the 19th century. You can walk along the battlements of the citadel which offer rewarding views across the city. Tbilisi has a good range of restaurants and cafes strung out along both the left and right banks of the river where you can sample some of the local delicacies and watch the life of the city pass you by.

Day 2: Tbilisi

Today we take a guided walking tour around Old Tbilisi. Highlights include the National Museum, home to treasures that inspired the legend of the Golden Fleece, the Narikala citadel, Metekhi Temple and the Sioni Cathedral. In the afternoon there will be some leisure time for you to explore Tbilisi's atmospheric streets independently. Your guide today will be able to make great recommendations for dinner this evening. Overnight Hotel Kalasi. (B)

Day 3: Tbilisi – Signaghi – Kakheti – Telavi (Approximate overall driving time today is 3.5 hours)

There's an early start today for the drive to Signaghi where we explore its immense defensive walls dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. There will be time to wander in the streets of this charming town. Afterwards we continue into Kakheti, Georgia's famous wine region, which lies due east from Tbilisi in a landscape characterised by grandiose old churches and vineyard after vineyard. This afternoon visit a local winery and taste some of Georgia's best wine. Continue to the town of Telavi. Overnight Old Telavi Hotel. (BD)

Wine in Georgia

Even for those who regard their wine knowledge as broad and inclusive, the vines of Georgia will, in all probability, have largely escaped them. Incredibly, there is much evidence to suggest that Transcaucasian wine making may date back over 8,000 years, making it the probable home of the cultivation of grapes and production of wine – in fact the Georgian word 'gvino' gives us our modern name for the drink. Families widely produce wine on a small scale and the original Georgian method of underground fermentation in 'kvevri' – large earthenware storage vessels is having a renaissance. Georgia now annually produces 150 million litres of wine in 18 specified areas, of which Kakheti is by far the largest and boasts the most celebrated and prized bottlings, including the excellent Kindzmarauli. Both whites and reds have traditionally veered towards the sweet, but this is evolving as the wine industry grows in influence and a wide range of styles and preferences are now catered for. International interest in Georgian wines is burgeoning, but you will certainly have access to a range of tastings which have yet to emerge beyond the region's borders.

Day 4: Telavi – Alaverdi – Omalo (Tusheti) (Approximate overall driving time today is 5 hours)

This morning we drive into the spectacular Greater Caucasus range. Before climbing into the mountains, we visit the magnificent 11th century Alaverdi Cathedral, noted for its glorious high dome. Continuing into the foothills, the route to Tusheti quickly becomes incredibly scenic, passing first through lush forests, via waterfalls, then through gorges and canyons carved by raging torrents. We'll stop at various points to stretch our legs, soak up the views and enjoy a picnic lunch. In spring the landscape is covered by endless carpets of wildflower species. After crossing the spectacular and vertiginous 2,927m Abano Pass we continue down into Tusheti. Approaching Omalo, the sheer beauty of this wild region is overwhelming. On arrival in Upper Omalo we check-in to our local guesthouse and then take time to explore the imposing medieval watchtowers standing sentinel over the valley. Later, we enjoy an evening meal of traditional Georgian fare prepared by our hosts. Overnight local guesthouse. (BLD)



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Tusheti National Park

Only accessible since the 1980s and a relatively new national park covering over 16,000 Hectares, Tusheti has to be one of the most remote and wild places in Europe. The region is only accessible during the late spring and summer, and by late September snow once again redoubtably closes the door on the Abano Pass. The villages of Tusheti are home to the Tush people, an extremely resilient and hospitable people who live off the land herding sheep and cows. You will see them often herding their livestock on horseback flanked to the front and rear by a number of protective Caucasus dogs. Don't be surprised at some point during your visit if you are welcomed into a Tush home. The scenery in Tusheti is quite magnificent with outstanding vistas of 4000m plus peaks around every corner. Birdlife here is also very compelling so bring your binoculars. Exploring the enchanting and mystical isolation of the valleys and villages of Tusheti is an experience one is unlikely to ever forget.

Note – *The road into Tusheti is not sealed and in places is rough. We will be using suitable 4WD vehicles for this terrain and experienced drivers. The road in places has sheer drops and so may not be suitable for those with vertigo.*

Omalo

Comprising of a lower and upper part, Omalo is the main gateway to exploring the valleys of Tusheti. Approaching the village, wide open meadows predominate, often sumptuously spread with wildflowers in June. On the approach to Upper Omalo, atmospheric medieval watchtowers loom over the village. Sunset is a particularly good time to take the invigoratingly steep but short walk up to towers. Good footwear is required. From the towers, one is treated to breath-taking sweeping 360-degree panoramas.

Day 5: Omalo - Shenako and Diklo - Omalo (*Approximate trekking time today is 4 hours. Approximate overall driving time is 1 hour*)

Today we start to explore this incredibly beautiful and wild region on foot. Our walk from Omalo to Diklo will be around 11 kilometres and will encompass the remote villages of Shenako. Here we appreciate the traditional architecture and the astonishing views of the High Caucasus. From Diklo we continue for a short distance to the old fortress, about as close as we can approach the Russian border. Later we return to Omalo by car. Overnight simple but comfortable local guesthouse. (BLD)

Note – *Total trekking ascent is around 600 metres and trekking descent is 400 metres.*

Shenako and Diklo

Situated at 2050 metres, Shenako is a diminutive village most notable for a beautiful 16th century church. Diklo is magnificently overlooked by 4285m peak of Diklo to the north and is only a few kilometres from the border with its huge neighbour, Russia. The approach to Diklo is through yet another wonderful alpine-style meadow which in June is often a blanket of floral colour.

Day 6: Omalo – Trek to Dartlo and Parsma – Omalo (*Approximate trekking time today is 8 hours. Approximate overall driving time 1.5 hours*)

We have an early start this morning for our long trekking day of around 18 kilometres. This morning we trek to a different valley and the attractive village of Dartlo, situated at 1,900 metres, again characterised by unique architecture of the local houses and watchtowers. Next to a stream there's a small café where it's possible to drink tea and coffee and have lunch amid the mountains' natural splendour. Continue to the next settlement of Chesho and then through the valley to the neighbouring village of Parsma. The walk follows a clear mountain river and affords memorable views of many medieval watchtowers built to warn of invaders from the Northern Caucasus. At Parsma the car will be waiting to return to Omalo.



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If time allows and you have the energy we can stop again in Dartlo on the way back and take the short but steep climb above Dartlo to an abandoned village, clinging tenaciously to the mountainside, where a forgotten watchtower teeters precariously over an abyss. The views from here are tremendous. Return to Omalo by car. Overnight simple but comfortable local guesthouse. (BLD)

Day 7: Tusheti National Park – Tbilisi (*Approximate overall driving time today: 7 – 8 hours*)

This morning we take a leisurely drive back to Tbilisi, once again traversing the Abano Pass. Depending upon the road conditions, we expect to arrive back in the Alazani Valley by 1.00pm. Lunch will be taken at a local restaurant overlooking the valley, before continuing through fine scenery and over the Gorombi Pass back to Tbilisi. Tonight is at your leisure in old Tbilisi to reflect on the wild magnificence of Tusheti before the next leg of your adventure. Overnight Kalasi Hotel. (BL)

Day 8: Tbilisi – Uplistsikhe - Gelati Monastery (UNESCO) - Kutaisi (*Approximate overall driving time today is 5 hours*)

Today we start then next stage of your adventure in Georgia, heading out west towards the city of Kutaisi. En route we can stop at the ancient cave town of Uplistsikhe dating from the 7th century BC and we will also pass by Gori, the birthplace of the notorious dictator Josef Stalin. On arrival in Kutaisi check in to your accommodation before this afternoon visiting the impressive Gelati Monastery (UNESCO) dating from the 11th Century, built by King David IV and widely considered an architectural masterpiece. Overnight local guesthouse with private bathroom. (B)

Kutaisi

Kutaisi, dating back to around the 13th century BC, was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Colchis, and it is believed that this was the final destination of the Argonauts on their quest for the Golden Fleece. The town today is home to a number of outstanding monuments. The Gelati Monastery was founded in the 12th century by the most famous Georgian King David the IV, the Builder (1073 – 1125). Here he founded an academy and monastery, which became the foremost centre of education in Georgia. Sacked by various invaders over the centuries, it was closed under communist rule but re-opened in 1988. The monastery contains some excellent murals of saints and Georgian monarchs and an incredible mosaic, and the site is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 9: Kutaisi – Martvili Canyon – Mazeri (*Approximate overall driving time today is 5 hours*)

This morning we continue to nearly Martvili Canyon (closed on Monday and on public holidays), a beautiful nature area with lovely cascades and waterfalls and take a shot boat ride in the canyon to appreciate its beauty from the emerald green water of the River Abasha. After the excursion, continue via Zugdidi and back into the Caucasus range following the Enguri river valley and finally arriving in Mazeri and a local guesthouse for the evening. This is your gateway to some magnificent trekking in the mountains over the next few days. Overnight in a local guesthouse with private bathroom. (B)

Day 10: Mazeri – Trek the Guli Pass (2961 metres) – Mestia

Today involves an early start at around 6:30am for a tough but rewarding day trek over the Guli pass to the provincial capital of Svaneti, Mestia. The trek today is around 22 kilometres and so starting early allows you to be able to complete the trek to enjoy the stupendous views of prominent Caucasus peaks such as Mt. Ushba (4710m) and Mt. Tetnuldi (4858m). The first 9 kilometres are up hill and then a gradual descent followed by a steeper descent into Mestia itself located at around 1400 metres. On arrival rest weary legs and enjoy a warm welcome and hearty local food at the guesthouse. Overnight local guesthouse with private bathroom. (BLD)

Note – Total trekking ascent today is approx. 1400 metres and trekking descent approx. 1600 metres.



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Svaneti

Svaneti, the mythological western province of Georgia, land of the 'Golden Fleece' (where locals still sift for gold through sheepskins) lies high up in the Greater Caucasus. Several 5000 metre plus peaks thrust glaciers down into this beautiful and remote region, where amazing stone towers rise up beside homesteads, some dating back to the 12th century. Never far away is one of Svaneti's numerous, richly frescoed churches, focal points for lively communities where traditions have been preserved for two thousand years. Unique icons and manuscripts are on display in Mestia's museum, overlooked by huge hanging peaks. Mestia is a well-known climber's launch point and the dramatic trekking trails will appeal more to the adventure traveller. The village of Ushguli, the highest permanently inhabited settlement in Europe, gives a stunning view of Mt. Shkhara (5201m) the highest peak in Georgia. Its ragged stone towers and the ongoing resilience of its population have led it to being declared a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The Svans

The inhabitants of Svaneti make up their own distinct ethnic group, the Svans, with indigenous religious beliefs intertwining with Christianity to give them a very separate identity. The Svans have traditionally been fiercely independent, to such an extent that they expelled the local governor under the Tsar and functioned as an autonomous state for many years prior to Soviet rule. They have their own complex set of traditions and customs, and in the past have been known as an aggressive and hostile group, suspicious of outsiders. This is reflected in typical Svanetian architecture – huge watchtowers to watch for signs of intruders dot the landscape, most of which are 800-1000 years old. Svanetian hospitality is legendary within Georgia and while staying in local houses we can be sure to be treated to excellent food, and obtain a real glimpse into a lifestyle that is seldom seen by visitors.

Day 11: Mestia – Trek to Zhabeshi

Before starting the trek today, this morning take a walk around Mestia and admire the defensive dwellings of the Svan watchtowers and also visit a Svanetian house (closed Mondays and public holidays). Thereafter, a lighter trekking day awaits you, around 16 kilometres through beautiful meadows with superb vistas to enjoy throughout the day. You will also pass through some interesting Svan villages including the charming and authentic village of Lakhiri. The day concludes in the village of Zhabeshi (1680m). Tonight you will stay in a local village house – may not have private bathroom. (BLD)

Note – Total trekking ascent today is approx. 750 metres and trekking descent approx. 550 metres.

Day 12: Zhabeshi – Trek to Adishi

Spend another glorious day in the mountains hiking from Zhabeshi Adishi. The hike today is a relatively short distance of some 11 kilometres. The trek today involves some steep ascent to a pass at around 2500 metres affording excellent views on a clear day. We recommend setting off still reasonably early and arriving in Adishi village beautifully located at the foot of Mt. Tetnaldi to spend some time at leisure enjoying the atmosphere of the village and the views with a cold drink. Overnight in a village house may not have private bathroom (BLD)

Note – Total trekking ascent today is approx. 900 metres and trekking descent approx. 560 metres.

Day 13: Adishi – Chkhunderi Pass - Khalde – Ushguli – Mestia (Approximate overall driving time today is 2 hours)

Today we journey towards one of the highest continually inhabited villages in Europe. Start the day by crossing the Adishi River (depending on river levels, this may be done on horseback). Then ascend for a couple of hours through pastures and rhododendrons until reaching the Chkhunderi pass (2655 metres) where in clear conditions you will enjoy excellent views of the mountains and also to the Adishi glacier. If you are making good time from the pass there is a small detour of around 30 minutes where the views are even more spectacular.



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Following the Khaldechala River you will then descend for around an hour to the abandoned village of Khalde where your car will meet you and then drive to Ushguli located in a magnificent setting at the foot of Mt. Shkhara (5200 metres). Have a well-earned drink and a stroll around the village before travelling by a dirt track to Mestia, arriving by sunset. The walk today will be around 10 kilometres. Overnight in a local guesthouse with private bathroom (BLD)

Note – Total trekking ascent today is approx. 850 metres.

Day 14: Mestia – Zugdidi – Batumi (Approximate overall driving time today is 5 hours)

Spend some time at leisure in Mestia this morning before the drive to the Black Sea Coast and the city of Batumi. On arrival check in to your hotel and enjoy some time at leisure strolling on the sea front boulevard contemplating your adventure in the mountains. Overnight Best Western Batumi. (B)

Day 15: Depart Batumi

At the appropriate time you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight. (B)

Tour inclusions/exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers
All accommodation as per the itinerary (different properties can be booked outside of the mountains)
Services of English-speaking guide / tour leader
Trekking guide in the Caucasus Mountains
Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary

Excluded:

International flights
Travel Insurance
Visas if applicable
Drinks
Items of a personal nature
Tips (Discretionary)

Important Information

Foreign Travel Advice Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At this time there are no warnings in place for areas we travel to on our small group tour to Georgia.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.



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Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore, please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.

Accommodation Rating

On this tailor-made tour you will be staying in comfortable hotels in the cities of Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi. In the mountains of Tusheti and Svaneti you will be staying in local guesthouses or village houses. All accommodation has private bathrooms except for the village houses in Svaneti. Hot water in the remote mountains cannot always be guaranteed.

Food & Drink

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D). Please note that in the mountains lunch will often be a picnic. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch - £5

Dinner - £7

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general, you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Bottle of Beer £1 - £2

Bottle of Water £0.30 - £0.50

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is commonly recognised as a way of rewarding local staff for good service. For a driver/guide we would recommend a daily amount of USD 10 – 15 per day.

Waiters and bar staff in the region are generally low paid and it is common practice to leave a small tip – around 10% of the bill.



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Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: Tbilisi and larger towns are well equipped with ATMs for obtaining money

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are widely accepted in the main cities in larger restaurants and hotels

Local Currency: Lari (GEL)

Recommended Currency for Exchange: GBP or US Dollar

Where to Exchange: Tbilisi airport, Tbilisi city. Our local staff will assist

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

Our advertised prices do not include the cost of international flights. Please contact us if you would like a quotation to book a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Joining Tour Abroad

You will receive an arrival and departure transfer. If you have booked your own flights, please provide us with the details at least 4 weeks prior to departure. Around this time we will send you details of the arrival transfer procedures.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday. Please ensure your insurance covers you for trekking up to an altitude of 3000 metres.

Visa Information

UK, EU and US visitors do not require a visa for entry to Georgia. We recommend that you check with your nearest embassy for the most up to date details.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to your country.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages for each country, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition, certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively, UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Vaccinations & Protection

There are no compulsory vaccinations required for travel to Georgia. However, we recommend that you speak with your doctor for the most up to date advice regarding any vaccinations that may be recommended.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries.



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If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

Travelling with medicines in Georgia

You should carry a doctor's prescription if you intend to travel with prescription medicine and declare the items on your Customs Declaration Form. Possession of these items, even with a doctor's prescription could, if not declared, or if the quantity held exceeds legal limits, lead to administrative or even criminal proceedings. Check legal quantities of medicines before you travel with the [Georgian Embassy London](#).

Preparing for your tour

Climate

On this hiking focused tour it may not be able to cross the mountain passes until mid to late June due to snowfall. It is usual possible to cross the passes then until early to mid-October when snowfall starts again. Therefore late June to late September is the optimum time for this tour. Note in July and August temperatures can be very hot at the lower elevations such as Tbilisi and Batumi. In the mountains it should be very pleasant by day but of course temperatures do still drop markedly at night so please be prepared. Rainfall can occur any time in the mountains.

Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and warmer ones at night. In Tusheti the weather is unpredictable and a layered approach is best. A hat is also advised to be worn through the day to protect from the sun, along with at least one piece of waterproof clothing for any days that the weather may be wet or windy. Light waterproofs are recommended in the summer months. Sunglasses should be worn to guard against high UV levels in the mountains.

Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared: adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must as well as sunglasses. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have. It is usually advisable to bring a torch/head torch in case of any electricity outages. Trekkers may wish to take their own hiking poles which are recommended to ease stress on joints.

Road conditions and driving times

The road into Tusheti is not sealed and in places is rough. We will be using suitable 4WD vehicles for this terrain and experienced drivers. The road in places has sheer drops and so may not be suitable for those with vertigo. Approximate driving times are given in the best of faith but may differ due to uncontrollable situations such as bad weather and associated poor road conditions. We ask for your understanding as Tusheti is still a very isolated and off the beaten track location.

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on this tour. Comfortable walking shoes/boots are recommended for the trekking sections with ankle support. When we are travelling between places sandals or other comfortable footwear is fine.





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Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 20kgs (44lbs). One large suitcase/rucksack, and one small hand luggage rucksack is acceptable.

Electric Supply & Plugs

Electrical supply is 220V/50 Hz and plugs have two round pins.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were updated 06th July 2020.

