



# 11D8N HIDDEN GEMS OF GEORGIA

GEO11

TBILISI – SIGNAGI – GURJAANI – TSINANDALI – MTSKHETA – GUDAURI –  
KAZBEGI – GORI – BORJOMI – AKHALTSIKHE – KHERTIVISI – VARDZIA CAVE  
TOWN – KUTAISI – BATUMI



Scan and Book now!

Meal Plan:

08 Breakfasts | 08 Lunches | 08 Dinners

## DAY 1

# SINGAPORE ✈️ ISTANBUL ✈️ TBILISI

Welcome to a unique experience!

- Assemble at airport for departure to Georgia via Istanbul.

## DAY 2

### TBILISI

- Embark on a city tour of Tbilisi.
- Wind through Tbilisi's narrow streets and inner courtyards, and stroll down **Rustaveli Avenue** - the main thoroughfare running east through the city.
- Visit **Metekhi Church of the Virgin**; this cross-cupola church dates from the 12th and 13th centuries and replaced the original 6th century structure which was destroyed by the Mongols in 1235. Part of the Royal residential complex, it houses the grave of St. Shushanik, one of Georgia's most beloved saints who was tortured by her husband for refusing to convert to Zoroastrianism in the 6th century. If we are lucky, we might see a service.
- Drive back to the **town center** and visit **Sioni Cathedral**; the cathedral is dedicated to the Virgin Mary (now main cathedral is Sameba). It claims to fame for its sacred cross of St. Nino which, according to legend, is made from vine branches bound with the saint's own hair. It also serves as the seat of the Catholicos (Patriarch) of the Georgian Orthodox Church.
- See the **Synagogue** and the **bath houses** which have been a favorite place of Tbilisi residents and visitors for over a century.
- Visit History Museum.
- Visit Sameba - Tbilisi Holy Trinity Cathedral; listed among the largest Orthodox churches in the world and is the biggest cathedral in Georgia.
- Enjoy a **wine-and-song filled Georgian dinner** at a traditional restaurant.

Lunch | Dinner

## DAY 3

### TBILISI 🚌 SIGNAGI 🚌 GURJAANI 🚌 TSINANDALI 🚌 TBILISI

- Drive to the Eastern part of Georgia to explore **Signagi**, located on a hilltop and overlooking the **Alazani Valley**. This Royal Town with beautiful architecture from the 18th century was built by King Heraclius II. Its circuit wall is the longest throughout Georgia (4.5 km) and is gracefully intertwined into the urban structure of Signagi, with the superb view of the snow-covered and glistening Caucasus Range as the background.

- Visit **Bodbe Nunnery** with their tranquil cloister garden, which is located approximately 2 km from the Town of Signagi. It was founded on the grave of St. Nino, the Illuminator of Georgia (4th c). Therefore, the whole area is regarded sacred by all the devout Christians in Georgia.
- Proceed to **Chumlaki village** in Gurjani region. Visit a local 'farmstead' where we arrange lunch with wine sampling and 'churchkhela' (Georgian sweets) making experience.
- After lunch, visit **Tsinandali Estate**, which once belonged to the 19th century aristocratic poet Alexander Chavchavadze. Explore the museum and the lovely grounds that boast a beautiful English-style park filled with roses and exotic plants, which also houses one of the oldest wine cellars in existence with wine dating from 1814.
- Return to Tbilisi for dinner in a traditional restaurant.

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## DAY 4

### TBILISI 🚌 MTSKHETA 🚌 GUDAURI 🚌 KAZBEGI (STEPANTSMINDA)

- Drive north along the famed **Georgian Military Highway**. Completed in 1817 it is the main transport artery linking Georgia with Russia into the mountainous provinces of the Greater Caucasus. Over the years, it has been an inspiration to the many poets and writers including Pushkin, Tolstoy, and Chekhov, who found them travelling this oft-trodden route.
- Our first stop is sacred **Mtskheta**, the ancient capital of eastern Georgia, at the southern end of the highway. Georgia's conversion to Christianity occurred in Mtskheta in 337 AD and it is considered one of Georgia's most important religious centers.
- Visit several of its historic monuments including the beautiful **Church of Jvari** perched on a cliff overlooking the city, **Sveti-Tskhoveli Cathedral**, the first Christian church to be built in Georgia and its largest functioning cathedral.
- Continue on for another hour's drive to **Gudauri**; at 2,196m the highest location of any village along the route and a popular winter mountain resort.
- Enjoy lunch at **Gudauri**.
- Continue a few miles north of **Gudauri**; we drive over Jvari Pass, which at 2,395m is the highest point on the Military Highway.
- Arrive at **Kazbegi**, now officially named **Stepantsminda**, a valley town at about 1750m altitude, just 15km short of the Russian border.
- Check-in hotel. Rest and relax in this beautiful mountain village environment.

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Holy Trinity Church



Colchis Fountain



Tbilisi

## DAY 5

### KAZBEGI (STEPANTSMINDA) 🚌 GORI 🚌 BORJOMI

- In the morning, our 4WD vehicles await you and take you to **Gergety Village** and drive up to visit **Tsminda Sameba Church**. This little church is located in a beautiful and solitary spot on top the mountain.
- Enjoy home cook lunch prepared by the local ladies in a local house.
- Continue our journey (approximately 5 hours' drive) to **Borjomi**, a resort town in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region famous for its mineral water industry (which is the number one export of Georgia).
- Several scenic picture stops along the way and a visit at **Gori**, the birthplace of Joseph Stalin.
- Visit **the museum** which traces his life from his humble beginnings to his death. The house where he was born and raised (in front of the museum itself) and Stalin's private train carriages.
- Arrive **Borjomi** for dinner and the night

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

During winter months (end November to end March) due to snow and obstructed road condition, day 4 itinerary return to Tbilisi for the night after visiting Mtskheta. On the next day, we will proceed to Uplistsikhe from Tbilisi.

## DAY 4

### TBILISI 🚌 MTSKHETA 🚌 TBILISI

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- Our first stop is sacred **Mtskheta**, the ancient capital of eastern Georgia, at the southern end of the highway. Georgia's conversion to Christianity occurred in Mtskheta in 337 AD and it is considered one of Georgia's most important religious centers.
- Visit several of its historic monuments including the beautiful **Church of Jvari** perched on a cliff overlooking the city, **Sveti-Tskhoveli Cathedral**, the first Christian church to be built in Georgia and its largest functioning cathedral. After lunch at Mtskheta, return to Tbilisi for some free time to explore the capital or go on a shopping spree.
- Dinner and overnight in Tbilisi.

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## DAY 5

### TBILISI 🚌 UPLISTSIKHE 🚌 GORI 🚌 BORJOMI

- Depart for city of **Uplistsikhe**
- Visit the **Cave Town** which is hewn out of the rock, surrounded by moats and protected on the south side by the **River Mtkvari**. The entire town is a complex of rock-cut streets, residences, churches, secret tunnels, water passages, markets and the oldest theatre in **Georgia**. Domestic dwellings & churches lay in the centre, while the craftsmen's workshops and trading centre were at the southern end.
- Proceed to **Gori**, the birthplace of Joseph Stalin.
- Visit the museum which traces his life from his humble beginnings to his death. The house where he was born and raised (in front of the museum itself) and Stalin's private train carriages
- Drive on to **Borjomi** for dinner and the night

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Gergeti Church - Kazbegi



Joseph Stalin Museum



Leaning Tower of Tbilisi

## DAY 6

### BORJOMI AKHALTSIKHE

### KHERTIVISI VARDZIA CAVE TOWN

### BORJOMI

- Depart for a full day excursion; arriving firstly at **Akhaltzikhe**, the capital of Samtskhe-Javakheti region.
- Visit **Rabati (old town) Castle Complex**, with its multicultural architecture. Rare examples of *darbazebi* (traditional Georgian houses) cluster around the castle, which was built in the 12th century and houses a Mosque, the ruins of a Medrese, a Synagogue, an Armenian Church and a Catholic Church.
- Drive on to **Khertvisi** for a photo-stop at the Khertvisi Fortress which was built on a rocky mountain.
- Enjoy lunch in a private house restaurant farm house restaurant by the river Mtkvari.
- Continue to visit **Vardzia Cave Monasteries Complex**, one of the most impressive historic monuments in Georgia. The Cave town of Vardzia was founded by Queen Tamar, the first woman to ascend to the throne of feudal Georgia. At 1300m above sea level, the complex is carved into the slopes of the Erusheti Mountain with caves stretch along the cliff for some 500m and used to have as many as 13 stories. The floors were connected by a complex system of tunnels and there were over 3000 caves that could accommodate up to 50,000 people at a time.

\*Note: Climbing of mountain path, steps and stairways required. Walking stick is advisable for elderly tourists).

- Return to **Borjomi** for dinner and the night.

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## DAY 7

### BORJOMI KUTAISI

- In the morning, drive to view the **Romanov Palace** (exterior only), designed by Leopold Bilfeldt as a summer mansion for Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich of Russia.
- Continue to **Kutaisi** – the capital of ancient Colchis where the epic legend of the Argonauts was acted out and where the Golden Fleece was kept. Ancient Colchis held the secret of how to obtain gold; the discovery of this secret and the acquisition of the Golden Fleece was the Argonauts' quest.
- Visit **Gelati Monastery** (UNESCO World Heritage site), a medieval monastic complex which is also a masterpiece of the Georgian Golden Age founded in 1106 by King David IV of Georgia.
- In the evening, take a walking tour in **old part of Kutaisi** and see the interesting city fountain.
- Dinner and overnight in Kutaisi.

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## DAY 8

### KUTAISI BATUMI

- Proceed to **Kumistavi village**.
- Visit **Prometheus Cave**, one of Georgia's natural wonders and one of Europe's richest caves, providing tourists with breathtaking examples of stalactites, stalagmites, curtains, petrified waterfalls, cave pearls, underground rivers, and lakes. In Greek mythology, Zeus ordered Prometheus to be chained to a rock with unbreakable adamantite chains and tormented him day and night by a giant eagle tearing at his liver. There are 15 halls with a maximum height of 21m and average temperature of 15 degree celcius. The walking route for tourists is about 1km (comfortable walking shoe is needed) with a short boat ride in the underground lake (280m).

\*Opens from 10am till 5pm in winter and 6pm in summer. Closed on Mondays. Please note that boat ride is strictly subject to availability.



Prometheus Cave



Vardzia Cave City



Gelati Monastery

- Continue our journey to the beautiful **Black Sea coast region of Adjara**.
- After dinner, enjoy a **panoramic tour** of **Batumi Boulevard** and **Musical Fountains**, striking parks and breathtaking monuments, of one which is the famous “Statue of Love”, a 7m steel sculpture of a man and a woman at the seashore boulevard of Batumi. The figures move toward each other and merge into one piece every 10 minutes.
- Overnight in Batumi.

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## DAY 9

### BATUMI

- After breakfast, proceed with **Batumi** sightseeing tour, starting from the seaside park and the old city district with lots of cafes, shop, churches, and old streets decorated with ornaments of nameless mythical creatures. Continue to see Batumi Sea Port, Piazza Square, churches, mosque and many interesting statues and monuments in the city.
- Visit the ruins at **Gonio** - known as “Asparunt” in early century BC, meaning “the place of water”, which held one of Georgia’s ancient and most significant archaeological discoveries.
- Enjoy lunch at local restaurant with **traditional Adjarian cuisine**.
- Visit **Adjarian National Museum**.
- Some free time in the afternoon for shopping and self exploration.

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## DAY 10

### BATUMI ✈️ ISTANBUL ✈️ SINGAPORE

- Morning at leisure.
- Meet and transfer to Batumi Airport for your onwards flight.

#### Breakfast

*Recommended Optional Tour: Batumi Botanical Garden – Enjoy spending a half-day at this 100 year old garden set on cliffs overlooking the Black Sea. Located 9 km north of Batumi, the garden is a 113-hectare paradise containing over 2 114 species of flowers and plants.*

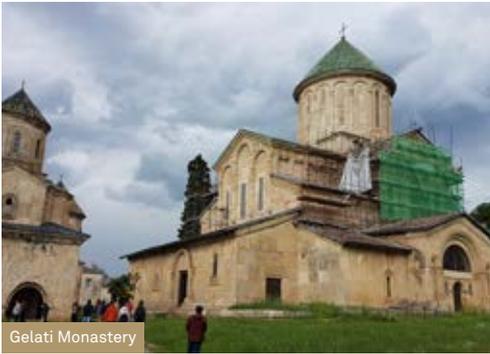
## DAY 11

### ARRIVAL IN SINGAPORE

We hope that you had an enjoyable vacation with Dynasty Travel, and we look forward to bringing you to your next holiday destination!

#### Note:

- The sequence of the itinerary is subject to change without prior notice. During major conferences, fairs and festivals accommodation may be located outside the city or in an alternate city without prior notice.



Gelati Monastery



Traditional Georgian Candy



Tbilisi

**DURING SEPTEMBER TO MARCH, THE ITINERARY MAY BE AFFECTED BY RE-SCHEDULING OF FLIGHT. IF YOUR TRAVEL IS AFFECTED, THE ITINERARY WILL BE AS FOLLOWS : (GEO12)**

| DAY    | ITINERARY  | MEALS                       |
|--------|--|-----------------------------|
| Day 1  | <b>SINGAPORE - ISTANBUL</b>  | -                           |
| Day 2  | <b>ISTANBUL - TBILISI</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival in Istanbul. Pick up and proceed for a short Istanbul city tour.</li> <li>• Return to airport for onwards flight to Tbilisi.</li> <li>• Tbilisi Orientation tour.</li> </ul> | Lunch   Dinner              |
| Day 3  | <b>TBILISI FULL DAY TOUR</b>   | Breakfast<br>Lunch   Dinner |
| Day 4  | <b>TBILISI – SIGNAGI – GURJAANI – TSINANDALI – TBILISI</b>   | Breakfast<br>Lunch   Dinner |
| Day 5  | <b>TBILISI – MTSKHETA – TBILISI</b>  | Breakfast<br>Lunch   Dinner |
| Day 6  | <b>TBILISI – UPLISTSIKHE – GORI – BORJOMI</b>  | Breakfast<br>Lunch   Dinner |
| Day 7  | <b>BORJOMI – AKHALTSIKHE – KHERTIVISI – VARDZIA CAVE TOWN – BORJOMI</b>  | Breakfast<br>Lunch   Dinner |
| Day 8  | <b>BORJOMI – KUTAISI</b>   | Breakfast<br>Lunch   Dinner |
| Day 9  | <b>KUTAISI - BATUMI</b>  | Breakfast<br>Lunch   Dinner |
| Day 10 | <b>BATUMI</b>  | Breakfast                   |
| Day 11 | <b>BATUMI – ISTANBUL</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pick up from airport and proceed for Istanbul city tour.</li> <li>• After dinner, return to airport for homebound flight.</li> </ul>  | Breakfast<br>Lunch   Dinner |
| Day 12 | <b>ISTANBUL – SINGAPORE</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrive in Singapore.</li> </ul>  | -                           |

