

Georgia and Armenia

INŽURU: Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Uplistikhe, Borjom, Rabati, Vardzia, Bakuriani, Bavra, Amberd, Saghmsovank, Yerevan, Sevan, Dilijan

25 AUGUST-07 SEPTEMBER

25 AUGUST

Meet the tour leader at Malta International Airport at 17:00 to check in for our flight by Turkish Airlines TK1372 departs at 19.45 and arrive Istanbul at 23.05

26 AUGUST

01.25 we will fly by TK376 to Tbilisi-Arrive 04.45 (Local time) Transfer to the hotel, check in and have a rest. Breakfast at the hotel. Tbilisi (literally "Warm Spring") is the capital and the largest city of Georgia, lying on the banks of the Mt'k'vari River, founded in the 5th century by Vakhtang Gorgasali. Tbilisi is a significant industrial, social and cultural centre of Georgia. Located strategically at the crossroads between Europe and Asia and lying along the historic Silk Road routes, Tbilisi has often been a point of contention between various rival powers and empires. Tbilisi sightseeing tour includes: Old town: **Metechi church** and the statue of king Vakhtang Gorgasali; **Sharden street and Mshrali Khidi** (dry bridge). Visit to **Trinity Cathedral, Metekhi Church**. Ride by cable way from **Rike Park to Narilaka fortress**, walk down from **Narikala fortress to Abanotubani**, the ancient district of Tbilisi, known for its **sulfuric baths**. Walking tour along the **Rustaveli Avenue**-the main street in Tbilisi.

27 AUGUST

Tbilisi-Mtskheta-Uplistikhe-Borjomi/Akhalsikhe

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to **Mtskheta**, one of the oldest cities of Georgia, the capital of the early Georgian kingdom of Iberia during the 3rd century BC-5th century AD and site of early Christianity. Drive to **Uplistikhe** (literally, "the lord's fortress"), the ancient rock-hewn in eastern Georgia.

Drive to **Borjomi** the resort town in south-central Georgia. The town is famous for its mineral water industry (which is presently the number one export of Georgia). Walking in Borjomi Park till



natural pond. Mineral water tasting. Drive to our Hotel in Borjomi / Akhalsikhe. Dinner at the hotel.

28 AUGUST

Borjomi Akh-Rabati-Vardzia-Borjomi Akh

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit **Akhalsikhe fortress Rabati** (XII century) that combined orthodox church, mosque, Catholic Church, Armenian Church and Synagogue. On the way visit **Vardzia** (XII century), a cave town, one of the most important and impressive historic monuments in Georgia. Vardzia is located at the altitude of 1300 meters above sea level. Dinner at the hotel

29 AUGUST

Bakuriani-Bavra-Gyumri city tour

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Bavra, to the Armenian- Georgia border, passing boarder formalities. Continue trip to the second largest city in Armenia-**Gyumri**, located 130 km from Yerevan, Shirak Marz. Gyumri is distinguished by its unique folk traditions. It is one of the most hospitable cities of Armenia. Walk in historical district of **Kumayri**, important art centre here are many cultural buildings with unique architectural style of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, that creates cosy atmosphere of a typical Armenian city of those times. Dinner in a local restaurant

30 AUGUST

Gyumri-Amberd-Saghmsovank- Yerevan

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to the **Amberd fortress** (11th-13th cc.), the residence of Pahlavuni princess built on the slopes of Mt. Aragats at 2,300 meters above the sea level. **Lunch** in a local restaurant .Visit to the monastery complex of Saghmsovank. **The Church of Zion** in Saghmsovank (1215 y.), the main temple, was erected by Prince Vache Vachutyan. The book depository

of Saghmsovank located on the territory of the Monastery was built in 1255 A.D. under Prince Kurd Vachutyan. Many ornamented stone crosses have been preserved on the territory of the monasteries. Check in in our hotel in Yerevan.

31 AUGUST

Yerevan-City Tour

Breakfast at the hotel. City tour- Yerevan sightseeing including **City center, Republic square, State University, City panorama, Mother Armenia Monument, Parliament, President's Palace, Opera, Sports & Concert Complex**. Visit to the **Genocide Memorial**, dedicated to the Victims of 1915 and the Genocide Museum. **Lunch** in folk atmosphere in Megeryan Carpet fabric with tour around the factory, watching handmade waiving process, introducing coloring technics with natural materials, visit to the small museum of ancient carpets Visit to **Cascade complex**, which is considered the modern art center of Yerevan, with art pieces displayed throughout the whole area: the boulevard and up the stairs, from top of which you can enjoy the panoramic view on the city and Mountain Ararat. You will enjoy spending time in one of the cozy open-air cafes surrounded by beautiful sculptures, redolent flowers shining brightly with magic colors. It is also a popular place for open air concerts at summer season. Visit also the **Armenian central market**.

01 SEPTEMBER

Yerevan-Garni- Gegard-Etchmiadzin- Yerevan

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to the only remaining pagan temple in Armenia devoted to the God of Sun-Myrth, in **Garni**, built in 77 AD by King Trdat (Arshakid Dynasty). Photo stop at **Charentc Arc**. The temple is Greco-Roman style with characteristic pillars. It stands proudly on a rocky ridge with a deep canyon presenting a beautiful view. Visit to the ruins of **Royal Palace** and **Royal bath**-house nearby. We take the 4x4 cars to reach **Canyon of Garni**-magnificent and outstanding scene which creates the image of falling crags. The fantastic landscape of Garni canyon shakes the human imagination. **Family hosted lunch in village house** with watching of "Lavash" (Armenian traditional flat bread baked in stone-make oven) making process, testing authentic Armenian food, get acquainted with local village life and degustation of homemade wine. Then we drive to the unique caved **temple St. Geghard (12th-13th cc.)**, the name of which means "holy spear" in the honour of the long-preserved spear, the same spear that pierced the body of crucified Christ. It is now exhibited in the museum of Etchmiadzin Cathedral. Geghard Monastery is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list (2000). Proceed to Yerevan by driving to Etchmiadzin City, which is used to be the ancient capital of Armenia. Etchmiadzin cathedral is one of the ancient churches in the Christian world,

included in the UNESCO World Heritage List (2000). Drive back to Yerevan. Free time to explore the city.

02 SEPTEMBER

Yerevan-Ararat valley-Khor Virap-Noravank-Yerevan

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to **Ararat valley**. Visit to **Khor Virap Church**-the place of imprisonment of St. Gregory the Illuminator, who stayed here in the small dungeon for 13 years without any food, accused by the Armenian King of preaching Christianity. Khor Virap Church was built on the dungeon and now people have a chance to go down into the dark pit themselves. It is one of the holy places for the Christian world. It is also the best point to enjoy the most spectacular view of the gorgeous biblical mountain Ararat shining with its two white peaks. The hills adjoining Khor Virap were the site of the early Armenian capital-ancient Artashat built by King Artashes I, founder of the Artashesid dynasty, around 180 B.C. It is one of the few ancient towns, built by the special design of the famous Carthaginian general Hannibal. After the defeat in a war against Rome, he found shelter in Armenia. Then we will have a *Small performance of Armenian national musical instrument Duduk* (Tsiranapogh-means Tsiran- abricot, pogh- trumpet) in front of the panorama

of Ararat mountain. After the local musician will describe the origin, nature, symbolism of Duduk and fully experience its rich and versatile music. One of the most famous performance of it was in the movie "Gladiator". **Lunch** in a local restaurant. Drive through the spectacular canyon between the red rocks toward **Noravank Monastery** (13th c.) and back to Yerevan

03 SEPTEMBER

Yerevan-Sevan-Dilijan

Breakfast. Drive to **Sevan Lake** one of the greatest high mountainous freshwater lakes of Eurasia, climbing on the peninsula from where the fascinating view on the Lake is open. Visit **Sevanavank** monastery, which stands in its greatness on the peninsula overlooking the lake for centuries. Drive through the mountainous resort **Dilijan**, or so called "Armenian Switzerland", which is well-known for its forests as well as for its mysterious flora and fauna. During the drive one can enjoy the unbelievable change of the surrounding environment and land shaft from the mountainous lake to the green and rich forest mountains. Small walking city tour in Dilijan, visit to **handicrafts' street**, where one can watch the preparation of different national souvenirs from wood, stone and ceramics. Check in our hotel in Dilijan for dinner and overnight

04 SEPTEMBER

Dilijan-Haghartsin monastery-Border Sadakhlo-Tbilisi

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit to **Haghartsin Monastery complex**, located in the secluded place of the forest. Haghartsin dates back to 11-13th century and represent a magnificent piece of history, culture and architecture. The place is so unique and the scenery with the nature surrounding it is so breathtaking that most of visitors are in awe. Appearing unexpectedly, out of the dense forests, in front of the visitors, the Monastery creates a magical impression of a lost world. Complex includes Church St. Stepanos, St. Mary and St. Gregory's Church, as well as famous refectory. Drive to the Georgian-Armenian border **Sadakhlo**. Passing the border formalities and proceed to **Tbilisi for dinner**

05 SEPTEMBER

Tbilisi-Sighnaghi-Bodbe-Tbilisi

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to eastern part of Georgia **Kakheti** region, known almost exclusively for its vineyards and wineries. Wine degustation. Visit **Signagi**, ancient city, also known as the City of Love, with stone-paved streets and the balconies in old-Georgian style. It is one of the beautiful towns of Kakheti region. At the elevation of about 790 m above sea level, the town overlooks the Alazani valley and faces the Greater Caucasus Mountains. The town is walled with the remnants of 18th century fortifications. Visit **Bodbe Monastery**. Originally built in the 9th



14
DAYS

MINN €
1720
KULL PERSONA

PRICE PER PERSON INCLUDES

EXCURSIONS, HALF BOARD, ENTRANCE FEES & TAX

	Normal	Discounted
Triple room	€1770	€1720
Double room	€1770	€1720
Single room	€2085	€2035

PRICE INCLUDES

- Flights with Turkish Airlines
- Malta /Tbilisi / Malta via Istanbul
- All Transfers and excursions as per program
- All entrance fees
- 4 Star Hotels
- Daily Buffet Breakfast
- Half board per program
- Local guides during all excursions
- Experienced Tour Leader
- Airport Tax, city tax and service charge

century, it has been significantly remodeled in the 17th century. The monastery now functions as a nunnery and is one of the major pilgrimage sites in Georgia. Dinner in a local restaurant

06 SEPTEMBER

Tbilisi-Ananuri-Kazbegi-Tbilisi

After breakfast we drive to **Ananuri**. Visit Ananuri (17th century), the castle complex on the Aragvi River. Drive to **Kazbegi** by crossing the "Jvari Pass" (2379 m. above the sea level). Explore the area beautifully situated on the hill. Visit the local family. Master class of cooking one of the national Georgian dishes „Khinkali'. **Lunch** at the family. Then we take the **4X4 vehicles** to get to **Gergeti Holy Trinity Church**, the remarkable monument of Georgian architecture, near the village of Gergeti, situated at an elevation of 2170 meters under Mount Kazbegi (elevation 5033). Drive back to Tbilisi and dinner in a local restaurant

07 SEPTEMBER

12:30 check out. 01:00 Transfer to Tbilisi airport. Departure by flight TK 387 at 0425