RANDOLPH COLLEGE

CREATOUR



PREPARED FOR RANDOLPH COLLEGE · JUNE 2028

The Crossroads of Civilizations

Georgia, The Cradle of Culture

11 days / 10 nights Tbilisi · Kakheti · Mtskheta · Imereti · Svaneti Scholar-led





THE JOURNEY

From Tbilisi to the high villages of Svaneti

Eleven days across Georgia (Caucasus): Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Kakheti (Telavi & Sighnaghi), Imereti (Tskaltubo & Kutaisi), Samegrelo and Svaneti (Mestia & Ushguli). All programming is delivered in English by a lead scholar-guide and local expert speakers.

ALONG THE JOURNEY, YOU WILL

- Ride the cable car to Narikala Fortress and walk Old Tbilisi, where a mosque, a synagogue and churches stand in one district.
- See Colchian gold from Vani in the Archaeological Treasury of the Georgian National Museum.
- Meet a qvevri maker and taste wine in family cellars across Kakheti.
- Visit three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Mtskheta, Gelati Monastery and Upper Svaneti.
- Hear Georgian polyphonic singing at Gelati and on the Hatsvali summit, and a private concert by the Kutaisi Women's Chamber Choir.
- Make churchkhela, Megrelian khachapuri and Svan kubdari in hands-on masterclasses.
- Travel by 4WD to Ushguli, one of the highest continuously inhabited settlements in Europe.
- Close the journey with a farewell dinner on Mtatsminda, above Tbilisi.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

DURATION
11 days / 10 nights

SUGGESTED DATES
June 2028 (TBC)

GROUP SIZE
Minimum 20 participants + 1 complimentary place (FOC); final group size TBC

LEAD SCHOLAR-GUIDE
To be confirmed (12 months prior to departure)

LOCAL EXPERT SPEAKERS
To be confirmed (12 months prior to departure)

ACCOMMODATION
Boutique and 4–5 star hotels

LANGUAGE
English (all programming delivered in English)



DAY 1 · TBILISI

01 Arrival

Arrival & Transfer ARRIVAL / TRANSFER

Arrival at Tbilisi International Airport (TBS). Group transfer to Hotel Qarvasla in Tbilisi and check-in.

Welcome Dinner DINNER

Dinner included

Welcome dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant.





OVERNIGHT Tbilisi — Hotel Qarvasla



DAY 2 · TBILISI

02 City Orientation & Cultural Immersion

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Narikala Fortress SITE VISIT

Cable car ride included

Cable car ascent from Rike Park (approx. 10 min ride). Exploration of the fortress complex, founded in the 4th century, with views over the Old City.

Abanotubani District WALKING TOUR

Sulfur bath district: the city's name derives from the Georgian tbili, 'warm', after these hot springs. Architectural context of the dome-topped bathhouses.

Religious Sites — Old Tbilisi GUIDED WALK

A mosque, a synagogue, Armenian and Catholic churches, and Orthodox churches (6th–15th c.) stand within a single district — a living record of Georgia's long history of religious coexistence.

Georgian National Museum MUSEUM VISIT

Museum entry included

Approx. 15 min drive from the Old City. Guided walk through Georgia's history as a continental crossroads, including the Archaeological Treasury with Colchian gold from Vani (5th–4th c. BC), and collections covering ancient civilizations, trade routes and cultural exchange.

Anchiskhati Basilica SITE VISIT

Tbilisi's oldest surviving church (6th century), with an unrestored interior. Context: early Christian Georgia.

Dinner DINNER

Dinner included

Dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant (Masterchef Tekuna, The “Godmother of Georgian Fusion Cuisine” - The Economist).

OVERNIGHT Tbilisi — Hotel Qarvasla





DAY 3 · KAKHETI

03 Tsinandali Estate & Wine Tasting

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Transfer to Kakheti TRAVEL

Approx. 2-hour drive from Tbilisi to the Telavi area of Kakheti, Georgia's principal wine region.

Tsinandali Estate ESTATE VISIT

Ticket included

Approx. 25 min drive from Telavi. Historic estate of Prince Alexander Chavchavadze (1786–1846), poet and statesman, who introduced European-style winemaking to Georgia here. Context: Georgian noble culture and modern winemaking history.

Vardisubani & Alaverdi Monastery SITE VISIT

Visit a traditional qvevri maker in Vardisubani and see how these large clay wine vessels are crafted by hand. Georgia's ancient qvevri winemaking method is inscribed on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2013). Later, visit Alaverdi Monastery, whose 11th-century cathedral remained the tallest church in Georgia for nearly a millennium.

Kondoli WINE CELLAR

Tasting included

Meet a local winemaker in the village of Kondoli, visit their traditional wine cellar, explore the vineyards, and taste authentic Georgian wines.

Transfer to Kisiskhevi TRAVEL

Approx. 20 min drive from Kondoli to Kisiskhevi, near Telavi.

OVERNIGHT Kisiskhevi — Schuchmann Wines Château & Spa



DAY 4 · KAKHETI

04 Wine Heritage & Sighnaghi

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Sighnaghi CITY VISIT

Approx. 1 hr 10 min drive from Kisiskhevi (approx. 55 km). Explore Sighnaghi, the “City of Love,” fortified by King Erekle II in the 1770s, with cobblestone streets, historic town walls and views over the Alazani Valley.

Vellino Winery, Sagarejo WINERY VISIT / TASTING

Tasting included

Approx. 1-hour drive from Sighnaghi. Visit the Vellino wine cellar, meet the winemaker and taste local wines, followed by hands-on masterclasses in churchkhela making and traditional Georgian bread baking.

Transfer to Tbilisi TRAVEL

Approx. 1-hour drive from Sagarejo to Tbilisi.

Dinner DINNER

Dinner included

Dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant in Tbilisi.





OVERNIGHT Tbilisi — Hotel Qarvasla





DAY 5 · MTSKHETA

05 UNESCO World Heritage & Early Georgian Christianity

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Transfer to Mtskheta TRAVEL

Approx. 30-40 min drive northwest of Tbilisi (approx. 20 km).

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Mtskheta SITE VISIT

Built in 1010–1029 by the architect Arsukisdze, Svetitskhoveli is the spiritual heart of Georgian Orthodoxy and, by tradition, the burial place of the robe of Christ. Part of the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Jvari Monastery SITE VISIT

Late 6th-century monastery above the confluence of the Mtkvari and Aragvi rivers; its tetraconch plan became a model for later church architecture across Georgia and Armenia.

Tsiskvili Restaurant, Mtskheta LUNCH / CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Lunch included

Approx. 10 min drive. Traditional Georgian dishes. Live folk music and polyphonic singing performance.

Transfer to Tskaltubo TRAVEL

Approx. 3 hour drive from Mtskheta to Tskaltubo (approx. 225 km).

Kutaisi Women's Chamber Choir EVENING PERFORMANCE

Included

Private evening concert by the Kutaisi Women's Chamber Choir, featuring classical and operatic repertoire. Arranged exclusively for the group.

Dinner DINNER

Dinner included

Dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT Tskaltubo — Legends Tskaltubo Spa Resort



DAY 6 · KUTAISI

06 Folk Culture & UNESCO Heritage

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Free time / Optional Spa WELLNESS / LEISURE

Not included

Optional treatment in Historic spa resort, renowned since the Soviet era for its radon-carbonate mineral waters, which emerge at a constant natural temperature of 33–35°C. Treatments available; free time at leisure.

Lunch LUNCH

Lunch included

Lunch at the Hotel

Transfer to Kutaisi TRAVEL · 12:30 PM

Approx. 25 min drive from Tskaltubo to Kutaisi city center.

Gelati Monastery (alternative: Bagrati Cathedral) SITE VISIT / PERFORMANCE

Approx. 20 min drive from Kutaisi center. Founded in 1106 by King David IV the Builder, Gelati was home to one of medieval Georgia's leading academies and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Live Georgian polyphonic singing within the monastery.

Kutaisi Folk Center CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

Approx. 20 min drive back to the city. Live performance of traditional Georgian dance and music.

Dinner DINNER

Dinner included

Dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant in Kutaisi.

Return to Tskaltubo TRAVEL

Approx. 25 min drive back to Tskaltubo.

OVERNIGHT Tskaltubo — Legends Tskaltubo Spa Resort



DAY 7 · SAMEGRELO & SVANETI

07 Sisatura Ethno Village to Mestia

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Transfer to Sisatura TRAVEL

Drive from Tskaltubo to Sisatura Ethno Village in Samegrelo.

Lunch & Masterclass — Sisatura Ethno Village LUNCH / CUISINE EXPERIENCE

Lunch included

Lunch at Sisatura Ethno Village, with hands-on masterclasses in Megrelian cuisine — elarji, gebzhalia and cheese-filled Megrelian khachapuri — prepared with local ingredients and traditional techniques.

Transfer to Mestia TRAVEL

Drive from Sisatura to Mestia, the historic center of Upper Svaneti, whose medieval tower-houses and villages are a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1996).





OVERNIGHT Mestia — Hotel Gistola





DAY 8 · MESTIA

08 Hatsvali, Museum & Exclusive Mimodrama Performance

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Hatsvali Cable Car Ascent ACTIVITY

Lunch included

Drive from Mestia center to the cable car station, then an approx. 15 min ride to the Hatsvali summit. Lunch at altitude.

Summit: Svan Polyphony Performance PERFORMANCE

On-site at Hatsvali summit. Live performance by senior Svan singers of a polyphonic tradition with pre-Christian roots, passed down orally across generations. Georgian polyphonic singing was proclaimed a UNESCO Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2001.

Return to Mestia TRAVEL

Approx. 15 min cable car descent + 15-20 min to Mestia

Svaneti Museum of History & Ethnography MUSEUM VISIT

Central Mestia. The collection includes medieval icons brought to Svaneti for safekeeping from lowland Georgia during periods of invasion. Context: Svaneti as a historic refuge for Georgian cultural heritage.

Mestia Theatre — Mimodrama EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE

Central Mestia. Non-verbal performance (mimodrama) drawing on Svan mythology. Exclusively arranged for this group.

Kubdari Masterclass — Ratiani Machubi CUISINE EXPERIENCE / DINNER

Dinner included

Central Mestia. Approx. 5 min walk. Hands-on preparation of kubdari (traditional Svan spiced meat bread). Dinner follows.

OVERNIGHT Mestia — Hotel Gistola



DAY 9 · SVANETI & IMERETI

09 Mestia to Kutaisi via Ushguli & Lentekhi

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Ushguli & Transfer to Kutaisi TRAVEL / SITE VISIT

Full-day journey by 4WD vehicles from Mestia to Ushguli, then over the Zagari Pass via Lentekhi to Kutaisi. Visit Ushguli: at over 2,000 m, one of the highest continuously inhabited settlements in Europe and part of the Upper Svaneti UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Sisters Restaurant, Kutaisi DINNER

Dinner included

Central Kutaisi. Dinner at a well-regarded local restaurant featuring regional Imeretian cuisine.





OVERNIGHT Kutaisi — Best Western Kutaisi



DAY 10 · TBILISI

10 Return to Tbilisi & Farewell Dinner

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Transfer from Kutaisi to Tbilisi TRAVEL

Approx. 3-hour drive from Kutaisi to Tbilisi (approx. 230 km). Free time in Tbilisi.

Funicular Train Ride — Mtatsminda EXPERIENCE

Funicular ride included

Approx. 15-25 min drive to the lower funicular station. Ascent of Mtatsminda on the historic funicular railway (opened 1905), approx. 5 min ride, with panoramic views over Tbilisi.

Farewell Dinner — Funicular Complex FAREWELL DINNER

Dinner included

On-site at Mtatsminda. Final group dinner at the Funicular Complex. Panoramic city views. Celebratory format.

OVERNIGHT Tbilisi — Hotel Qarvasla

DAY 11 · TBILISI

11 Departure

Hotel Breakfast BREAKFAST

Breakfast included

Breakfast served at hotel.

Check-out & Transfer to Airport LOGISTICS / TRAVEL

Approx. 30-50 min drive to Tbilisi International Airport (TBS). Group transfer to the airport.

ACCOMMODATION

Five hotels, ten nights

Accommodation listed is indicative and subject to availability at time of booking. Where a listed property is unavailable, CreaTour will propose an alternative of equivalent standard.



Hotel Qarvasla

Tbilisi · 4-star boutique

Nights 1, 2, 4, 10



Schuchmann Wines Château & Spa

Kisiskhevi, Kakheti · 4-star winery estate

Night 3



Legends Tskaltubo Spa Resort

Tskaltubo, Imereti · 4-star spa hotel

Nights 5, 6



Hotel Gistola

Mestia, Svaneti · 5-star hotel

Nights 7, 8



Best Western Kutaisi

Kutaisi, Imereti · 4-star hotel

Night 9

ROUTE

Tbilisi · Kakheti · Tbilisi · Tskaltubo · Mestia · Kutaisi · Tbilisi

PRICING

TWIN / DOUBLE ROOM (SHARED)

USD 3,950

Per person, based on two people sharing

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

USD 1,220

Additional charge for single occupancy

NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT

USD 800

Required to confirm booking

Prices shown are indicative guide prices based on current supplier costs and exchange rates. Final confirmed pricing will be provided no later than 12 months prior to the departure date. Tour price is calculated based on a minimum group size of 20 participants.

INCLUDED

- 10 nights' accommodation in the hotels listed above
- 10 breakfasts
- 4 lunches (Days 5, 6, 7 and 8)
- 8 dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners
- All ground transportation by private vehicle, including 4WD vehicles on Day 9
- Group airport transfers on arrival (Day 1) and departure (Day 11)
- All entrance fees, tastings, masterclasses and private performances listed
- English-speaking local guide throughout
- All specialist expert speakers
- Farewell keepsake gift per guest

Note: Private airport transfers for guests arriving outside the group's scheduled arrival time are subject to additional pricing and confirmed on a case-by-case basis.

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights (flight booking support is available on request via CreaTour's dedicated travel representative)
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Optional excursions not listed
- Meals not listed as included
- Additional beverages beyond included meals
- Early check-in or additional nights before/after the program dates
- Gratuities / tipping
- Full-time tour coordinator



TALK TO US

Questions about this program

aaron@creatour.com

(617) 812-6618

www.creatour.com

810 Memorial Drive, STE 103, Cambridge, MA 02139

RANDOLPH COLLEGE

CREATOUR