

The Crossroads of Civilizations: Georgia, The Cradle of Culture

Life changing Journey WITH

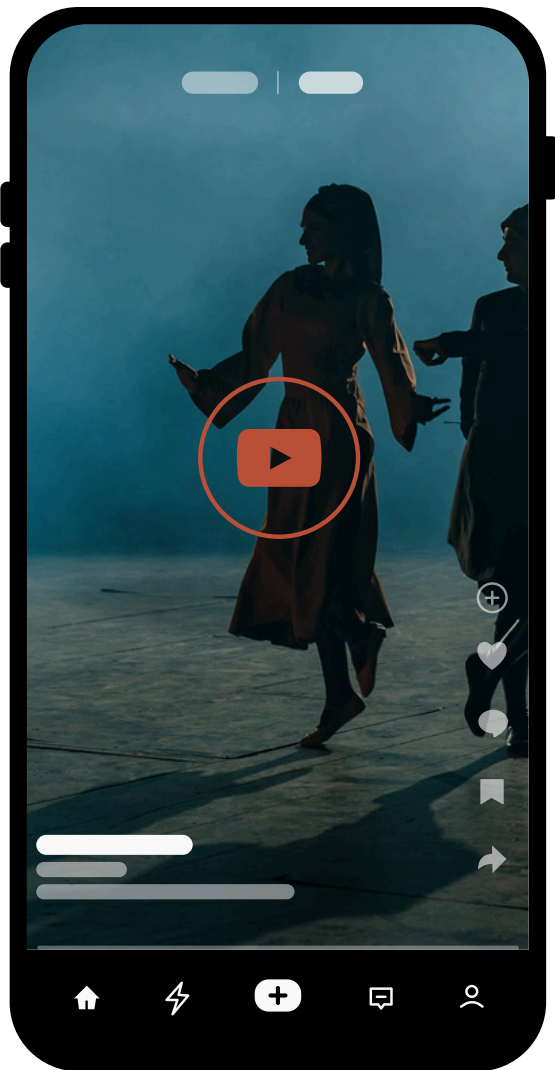


CREATOUR



What Awaits You

Don't be surprised—you're traveling through a land where civilizations have met, clashed, and blended for thousands of years.



Click the play button to watch the tour promotional video

For the past 17 centuries, Georgia has been a Christian country, yet it remains home to diverse religions and echoes of ancient pagan traditions.

Walk through the rock-carved monasteries of Vardzia, where monks once sought refuge, or explore the grand churches that stand as symbols of Georgia's deep spiritual roots. From Persians and Romans to Byzantines and Ottomans, each left a mark on Georgia's architecture, cuisine, and traditions.

So, keep your eyes open—every step you take here is a journey through the crossroads of history.

Welcome to Georgia, one of the oldest nations in the world, where history isn't just told—it's lived.

Meet a nation whose name was first recorded in the 12th–11th centuries BC. Long before written history, humans settled here—just look at Grakliani Hill, a site dating back 3000 years. Every empire, every faith has passed through this land, leaving behind traces of their presence.

The Path We Travel



Day 1

Unveiling Georgia's Legacy



Immersive Exploration

We open at **Narikala Fortress**, taking the cable car up from **Rike Park**. we will explore the **religious diversity** of Tbilisi by visiting the Ashtega Zoroastrian temple, the mosque, the synagogue, and Armenian and Catholic churches, Orthodox churches built 15 centuries ago—all **standing in one district** as a testament to centuries of coexistence. Pass through **Abanotubani** — the **sulfur bath district** whose dome-topped bathhouses and rising steam explain **why the city's name derives from the Georgian word for "warm."**

We continue at the **Georgian National Museum**, tracing the country's emergence as a bridge between continents. silently and brilliantly, for **Georgia's central place in ancient civilization**. We then descend into the old quarters. **At Anchiskhati Basilica**, Tbilisi's oldest surviving church (6th century), the walls are unrestored and the atmosphere is genuinely ancient.

Lunch break and Free time in Tbilisi



Immersive Exploration



Cuisine Highlight

For dinner, we enter the culinary world of Chef Tekuna, **The Mother of Georgian Fusion Cuisine** and a defining figure in contemporary Georgian gastronomy. hands-on masterclass is set within one of **the World's 50 Best Restaurants**, we explore the craft behind iconic dishes such as khachapuri and khinkali. Guided by her expertise, we engage with the techniques, traditions, and evolving language of Georgian cuisine.

Overnight - Tbilisi

Day 2

Mtskheta

Immersive Exploration

Today's journey leads us into the deep historical layers of Georgia, where sacred tradition, early civilization, and modern memory converge. We begin in **Mtskheta**, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral**, we explore the spiritual heart of Georgian Christianity, while also reflecting on earlier belief systems that shaped the region's religious landscape. We then ascend to **Jvari Monastery**, set high above the confluence of rivers, where architecture, geography, and faith intersect within a commanding panorama.



Immersive Exploration

we shift to the complexities of modern history with a visit to the **Stalin Museum**, examining the life and legacy of **one of the 20th century's most consequential figures** within the context of his Georgian origins.

Culture Experience

The day concludes with dinner at Margalita, in the Old City, where the setting is relaxed and intimate. A guitarist performs a selection of romansi—Tbilisian urban songs that emerged in the 19th century. Shaped by Persian lyricism, Georgian melody, and the social life of courtyards and taverns, these songs reflect the cultural mix that defined the city at the time.



Overnight - Tbilisi

Day 3

KAKHETI

Today, we journey east into **Kakheti**, the **heartland of Georgian wine** culture, where landscape, tradition, and identity are inseparably intertwined. This region, with over 8,000 years of continuous winemaking, offers not simply a destination, but one of the oldest living viticultural traditions in the world.

Wine Experience

We begin at a **traditional family-owned estate, Dimitri's family cellar and museum**, where winemaking is practiced according to ancient methods **preserved across centuries**. Here, we are introduced to **the qvevri technique**—large clay vessels buried underground, in which wine ferments and matures in a process **recognized by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage**. Through guided tasting, we explore the distinctive textures and expressions that define Georgian wine, shaped by soil, climate, and tradition.



Immersive Exploration



We leave the city behind and travel north into **the Alazani Valley**, where the **Caucasus begin their rise** and the landscape opens into something older and quieter. At **Alaverdi Monastery**, one of the great religious monuments of the Christian world, the scale is immediately disorienting — the cathedral, **built in the 11th century**, stands among the tallest medieval structures in Georgia, its mass rising from the valley floor with an authority that feels less architectural than geological.

Wine Experience



From Alaverdi, the journey continues to **Schuchmann Winery & Château**, set against the backdrop of the Caucasus Mountains. Depending on the season, guests may take part in the **grape harvest**, gaining direct insight into the rhythms and practices that shape **Georgian winemaking**. For those who choose, the experience can extend into the wine spa, a quiet, sensory connection to the landscape and its traditions.

Overnight - Telavi

Day 4

Kakheti



We descend back into the valley and continue to **Tsinandali**, where the day shifts into a different register. The Radisson Collection Hotel is set within the **historic Tsinandali Estate**, once the residence of the **Chavchavadze family**—one of Georgia’s most influential aristocratic dynasties. In the **19th century**, the estate became a centre of cultural life and a key site in the development of **modern Georgian winemaking**.

Culture Experience

We visit the estate’s historical enoteca and wine cellar,

descending into a space where centuries-old stone walls and vaulted passages preserve the depth of Georgia’s winemaking tradition. Here, we explore a wine culture that stretches back over 8,000 years—tracing the methods, materials, and continuity that define one of the world’s oldest viticultural histories.

The afternoon is devoted to **a blind wine tasting** — a structured exercise in pure attention. Stripped of labels, appellations, and the assumptions they carry, the wines speak only through the glass. A guide leads the tasting across a selection of Georgian varieties, drawing out the distinctions between regions, vessels, and vintages.



Lunch follows at the estate, where the table extends the morning’s themes — refinement, provenance, and the pleasure of things made with care.

Overnight - Tbilisi

Day 5

Akhaltzikhe and Cave monasteries

Immersive Exploration

Today's journey brings us into **southern Georgia**, where monumental landscapes and layered histories reveal a dialogue between faith, power, and daily life.

We begin at **Vardzia**, the great 12th-century cave monastery carved into the cliffs of the Erusheti Mountain during the reign of Queen Tamar.



Culture Experience

The experience deepens through a hands-on culinary masterclass—either in **khinkali making** or **kada baking**—where craft and hospitality become a living expression of cultural continuity.

Culture Experience

In the evening, we return to Akhaltsikhe to visit the Rabati Fortress, a medieval complex whose layered architecture reflects centuries of cultural exchange.



Overnight - Akhaltsikhe

Day 6 – Tskaltubo

We leave Tbilisi and travel west, crossing into Imereti, where the landscape softens and the pace of the journey shifts deliberately. Today is not structured around monuments or museums. It is structured around rest. **Tskaltubo was once one of the great spa destinations of the Soviet world** — a resort town built around the extraordinary natural phenomenon of its **radon-carbon dioxide thermal waters**, which emerge from the earth at a constant temperature, **neither requiring heating nor cooling**.

Wellness Experience

The Tskaltubo Spa Resort offers the afternoon as an open invitation. Once a well-known Soviet-era spa destination, the resort still retains elements of its original architecture and atmosphere. At its centre are the thermal waters, long valued for their therapeutic properties—warm, mineral-rich, and restorative. Guests can relax in the baths, enjoy spa treatments rooted in local traditions, or simply unwind in the quiet surroundings after an active journey.



Optional visit to a nearby Soviet-era sanatorium, now in ruins—offering a striking glimpse into the scale and atmosphere of Tskaltubo's past as a major spa destination.

Exclusive Experience

Exclusive Classical Opera Choir performance

The day concludes with a performance by the Kutaisi Women's Chamber Choir, presenting renowned pieces from Georgian opera. Here, voice becomes the medium through which emotion, history, and cultural continuity are expressed, offering a powerful and refined close to the day.



Overnight - Tskaltubo

Day 7

Kutaisi

Today, we turn to Kutaisi, long regarded as one of the **cultural and spiritual centers of Georgia**, where folklore endures as a living expression of collective memory and identity.

Culture Experience

We begin at the **Gelati Monastery**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most significant intellectual and spiritual centers of medieval Georgia. Within its sacred space, we experience a **Georgian folk performance**, where polyphonic singing resonates beneath ancient frescoes—revealing a tradition in which music, faith, and history are deeply intertwined.



Exclusive Experience



From here, we continue into the city to the **Kutaisi Folk Center**, where the richness of Georgian intangible heritage comes into full expression. Through a **live performance of traditional dance and music**, we encounter the dynamism, rhythm, and narrative power that define the country's folkloric traditions.

In the evening, we arrive **at Sisters restaurant Kutaisi for a dinner**, a place that embodies the particular warmth of Imeretian hospitality with an ease that feels entirely unforced.

Overnight - Tskaltubo

Day 8

USHGULI

The following morning, we depart toward the **high Caucasus**, journeying to **Ushguli**—one of the highest continuously inhabited settlements in Europe, set beneath the dramatic peaks of Mount Shkhara.

Immersive Exploration



Along the way, we are introduced to **Svan traditions—customs and ways of life that have been preserved over centuries** due to the region's geographical isolation in the high Caucasus. Protected by its remoteness, **Svaneti has retained practices, social structures, and rituals that have largely disappeared elsewhere**, making it feel like **a living museum** of Georgian heritage. Through a guided encounter, we gain insight into these enduring traditions and witness elements of daily life that continue to shape local identity today.

Culture Experience



The surrounding terrain becomes part of the experience. **On horseback, we move through the dramatic alpine setting**, and—conditions permitting—continue toward **historic gold mining areas**, where local knowledge and legend intersect. Here, a hands-on introduction offers a tangible connection to practices that echo both livelihood and myth.

Culture Experience



Throughout the day, **meals are prepared by local hosts**, offering an authentic encounter with **Svan cuisine** and hospitality. Set against the backdrop of medieval towers and open mountain landscapes, **Ushguli reveals a way of life shaped by endurance, isolation, and deep cultural continuity**.

Overnight - Mestia

Mestia

Day 9

Overnight - Mestia

Culture Experience

We ascend to Hatsvali by cable car, rising above the treeline into the open alpine world above Mestia. Lunch is taken at the summit, accompanied by a performance of senior Svan singers. Their polyphony predates the Christian era — not composed but accumulated, passed from voice to voice across generations in villages the outside world could not reach for half the year.

Culture Experience

We descend into town and visit the **Mestia History and Ethnography Museum**, where Svaneti's layered identity comes into focus through its objects. The collection holds **medieval icons evacuated here from lowland Georgia during periods of invasion** — Svaneti served for centuries as the country's high-altitude vault, **preserving what the plains could not protect**.

Exclusive Performance

As night approaches, we gather at the **Mestia Theatre** for an experience **exclusively for our group**. The performance is a mimodrama — entirely non-verbal, spoken in the universal language of movement, image, and music — drawn from the mythological world of Svan culture.

Awakening living traditions

The evening concludes at Ratiani Machubi, where the table grounds the day's transcendence in the most immediate of pleasures. Before dinner is served, guests are invited into **a kubdari masterclass** — learning to prepare **Svaneti's defining dish**: a bread filled with spiced meat, sealed and baked in the traditional manner, its recipe as old as the towers that surround the town.



Day 10: Back to Tbilisi & Farewell Dinner



We leave Svaneti by air, the small plane lifting from Mestia as the towers, the glaciers, and the high world of the Caucasus recede beneath the clouds.

We land either in Tbilisi or Kutaisi, returning to the warmth of the lowlands and the familiar rhythms of the city.

Farewell Dinner

The contrast, after Svaneti, is felt in the body before it is processed by the mind. We land in Tbilisi — where the journey began and enjoy a farewell dinner **at iconic Funicular Complex offering a breathtaking panorama of Tbilisi, combining cultural celebration, fine dining, and unforgettable experiences.**



Special Train Ride: The evening will commence with a **special train ride on the historic funicular railway**. This scenic journey up Mtatsminda Mountain offers stunning panoramic views of Tbilisi, providing a captivating introduction to the evening's festivities.



Overnight - Tbilisi

Day 11 – Departure

As we depart from Tbilisi, the journey concludes geographically, but its reflections remain.

Across landscapes and centuries, Georgia reveals itself as a crossroads of cultures—where identity is shaped through continuity and change.

As you leave, consider:

- How does landscape shape identity?
- What sustains culture across time?
- Where do tradition and modernity meet?

The journey ends—but its questions travel with you.

A PIECE OF GEORGIA, CARRIED HOME

Each guest will receive a specially selected Georgian keepsake—such as a handcrafted wine box—offered as a lasting memento of the journey, to be taken home as a reminder of the country's enduring traditions and craftsmanship.

Safe travels. Until the next chapter.

Expert Guide



Carla Capalbo



Award-winning food and travel writer, photographer, and author. Author of *Tasting Georgia* — named by *Newsweek* one of the best travel books of the decade and called by *Saveur* "the best book ever written in English about Georgian food and wine." A regular contributor to *Decanter*, the *Financial Times*, and NPR, Carla travels with the group from the first day to the last — your constant guide, narrator, and cultural companion throughout the entire journey.

Each location has its own invited specialist — a scholar or cultural authority whose expertise belongs entirely to that place. No generalists. Every chapter led by the right voice.



Dato Turashvili

Tbilisi

Georgia's most beloved writers — a novelist and student protest leader who studied literature and film in Tbilisi, London, and Madrid, spoke at the Oxford Literary Festival and on BBC Radio 4, and whose internationally translated masterpiece *Flight from the USSR* has made him the defining voice of a generation that dared to dream of freedom.



Davit Lordkipanidze

Tbilisi

One of the men who changed the history of the world — and your guide to the deep past of one of the oldest nations on earth, from the 1.8-million-year-old ancestors he uncovered at Dmanisi to the extraordinary civilisations that shaped Georgia long before history had a name for them.



Zoé Perret

Kutaisi

French ethnomusicologist and singer who has lived in Georgia for sixteen years — your guide to the living soul of the country, its ancient polyphonic traditions, the mountain villages of Svaneti and the historic heart of Kutaisi



Lasha Bakradze

Kakheti

Former Director of the Georgian National Museum of Literature, one of Georgia's most celebrated researchers and writers — educated across Tbilisi, Jena, Bern, and Berlin, whose profound scholarship on Georgian history, literature, and identity has made him one of the most authoritative and captivating intellectual voices in the Caucasus.



Levan Berdzenishvili

Svaneti

The most towering intellectual— a classical philologist, parliament member, former Director of the National Parliamentary Library, translator of Homer's Iliad into Georgian, and Soviet-era dissident whose extraordinary life has moved from the Gulag to the highest halls of Georgian public life, leaving behind a body of work that is as vast as it is unforgettable.



Aka Morchiladze

Svaneti

Georgia's most beloved and most-read contemporary novelist — the man chosen to open the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2018 alongside Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie when Georgia took the world stage as Guest of Honour, and a 2024 Nobel Prize nominee whose twenty-plus novels have made him the defining literary voice of his generation.

This is what sets the journey apart. Not just where you go — but who takes you there. Each of these voices has spent a lifetime becoming irreplaceable. Now, they're yours.

HOTELS

QARVASLA HOTEL
TBILISI 5*



SCHUCHMANN WINERY
AND CHATEAU 5*



AKHALTSIKHE INN 5*



LEGENDS TSKALTUBO
SPA RESORT 5*



GISTOLA MESTIA 5*



Every hotel we choose for you has an authentic soul. We care about your comfort, your experience, and your immersion in the spirit of Georgia, ensuring that each stay feels as unique and inspiring as the destinations themselves.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY

Pricing

Tour Dates 2028

Suggested Date

June 2028

Inclusions

- 10 nights' accommodation
- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 6 dinners.
- all ground transport, experiences, entrance fees and tipping
- Tour coordinator, tour guide, expert speaker

Tour Price

Room	Price
Twin Room Share	\$4500
Single Supplement	\$1220
Non-refundable Deposit	\$800

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