



David Gareja In ancient Georgian, the word "udabno" meant both a monastery and a remote, unpopulated place. Both terms apply equally well to this Georgian treasure, which was founded by St. David, one of the Syriac Fathers, in the middle of a vast wilderness. For centuries the Gareja monastery has been a significant religious and cultural centre, most famous for its school of painting, whose frescoes are on display throughout the entire complex.



- Day 1 **Arrival in Tbilisi**
- Day 2 **Tbilisi city tour**
- Day 3 **Transfer to Kazbegi, observation**
- Day 4 **Observation around Kazbegi**
- Day 5 **Observation in Kazbegi, transfer to Poti**
- Day 6 **Observation in Kolkheti National Park**
- Day 7 **Transfer to David Gareja, observation**
- Day 8 **Observation around David Gareja**
- Day 9 **Excursion to Sighnaghi, observation**
- Day 10 **Transfer to Tbilisi, excursion to Mtskheta**
- Day 11 **Departure from Tbilisi**

The Caucasus region forms a land bridge between the very different regions of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. When crossing the zone between the two regions from north to south, one encounters remarkable topographical shifts, incredible varieties of habitats and tremendous biodiversity.

So rich are the flora and fauna of the region that the Caucasus has been declared a world biodiversity hotspot. The vast array of both migrant and indigenous birds that can be found in the region provide a perfect microcosm of this abundance.

On Georgian territory alone there are more than 350 birds species throughout the year. A bird-watching adventure in Georgia will be a complete delight, with sights and sounds to thrill everyone from the most amateur to

the most dedicated of birdwatchers. Besides three endemic species – the Caucasian Snowcock (*Tetraogallus caucasicus*), the Caucasian Black Grouse (*Tetrao mlokosiewiczzi*), and *Phylloscopus lorenzii*, – several other varieties of birds that are on the verge of extinction in Europe thrive and are relatively easily observable in Georgia.

During this bird-watching tour, you will experience bird life in three different habitats. Around Kazbegi, you will encounter the typical alpine species, such as Red-billed and Yellow-billed Coughs, Caucasian Chaffinches, Bearded and Griffon Vultures, Great and Scarlet Rosefinches, Gldenstdt's Redstarts, Golden Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Chukars, Red-fronted Serins, Horned Larks, Rufous-tailed Scrubrobins, Alpine Accentors, White-winged Snowfinches, and Wallcreepers, not to mention two of the above-mentioned

endemic species.

The next stage of the tour will take you into a completely different landscape. In the semi-desert region of Gareja, you will have the chance to see species such as European Griffons, European Vultures, Imperial Eagles, Rollers, Hoopoes, Blue Rock Thrushes, Rose-Coloured Starlings, Long-legged Buzzards, Cinereous Vultures, Short-toed Snake Eagles, Saker Falcons, and a large population of Bee Eaters. As an added bonus, a wide variety of Passerines are also present in this area.

As is clearly apparent, Georgia has joined the must-see list of places to visit for bird-watchers in the know. With its reliable cars, experienced drivers, and expert guides, Georgian Discovery Tours will allow you to pursue your hobby uninterrupted while we expertly handle all the logistical details. We will make sure you cover all the highlights, yet we will be



Photo: Ian-Michael Bedford

flexible enough to allow you to focus on the birds you most want to see. Join us to enjoy an unforgettable stay in the unspoilt natural environment that bridges Europe and Asia.