

A JIGSAW OF LANDSCAPES

The ultimate discovery ...



The Caucasus doesn't only bring together an incredible mix of people and cultures, it also has a wide variety of landscapes that will both dazzle and impress you.

These fascinating landscapes are reflected in the varying styles of their houses, local traditions, and cuisine. On this tour we will give you a taste of the cultures, people, and landscapes of the most scenic regions of the country. You will be truly amazed by the diversity present in such a small country.

We will start exploring these contrasts by moving from the semi-deserts of Garedja, located in the border zone between Georgia and Azerbaijan, to the fertile and lush Alazani Valley in the Kakheti region. The next part of the journey will focus on the remarkable shifts in elevation within the country. Starting from the

plains, we will make our way up the foothills to reach the jagged, snowcapped peaks of the Greater Caucasus. In so doing, we will leave the heat of the Kakhetian valleys behind us and once again witness magnificent geographical, cultural, and biological shifts as we approach the cool and windy mountain gorges of Kazbegi and its surroundings.

Then we move from the alpine zones of the northern mountains, through the green hills of the Lesser Caucasus, where mineral springs and numerous rivers irrigate extensive woods, to the seemingly boundless plains of Samtskhe-Javakheti. Here we will find a landscape that is dominated by dry and sparse vegetation and rough cliffs. The tour will then continue across the Goderdzi Pass into the rolling hills of Adjara. In the villages that line the road down to the coastal town of Batumi, the bountiful gardens and orchards will strike you with their freshness

Nicortsminda Church Nicortsminda, located on the edge of the Racha region, is a huge and magnificently decorated church that overlooks a small peasant village. Dating from the reign of King Bagrat III in the eleventh century AD, this church contains magnificent examples of fine carvings and relief compositions on its outer walls, while beautiful frescoes adorn the interior.



- Day 1 **Arrival in Tbilisi**
- Day 2 **Tbilisi city tour**
- Day 3 **Excursion to David Gareja**
- Day 4 **Excursion to the Kakheti region**
- Day 5 **Excursion to Kazbegi**
- Day 6 **Transfer via Ananuri to Gori, sightseeing**
- Day 7 **Excursion from Borjomi to Vardzia**
- Day 8 **Transfer via Goderdzi Pass to Adjara**
- Day 9 **Batumi city tour, sightseeing**
- Day 10 **Excursion in the Imereti region**
- Day 11 **Transfer via Lechkumi and Racha to Tbilisi**
- Day 12 **Departure from Tbilisi**

and beauty. In the damp climate of the coastal regions, the tea and citrus plantations present a striking contrast to the arid and desolate regions further east. On the last part of our journey we will take you from the wetlands of the Colchic plains up into the western section of the Greater Caucasus, where snowcapped heights beautifully contrast with the red earth of the valleys and the soft, wooded hills below.

The wide topographical diversity has served to nourish lifestyles and traditions that are uniquely adapted to every region of the country. In the Tusheti region, the rough climate of the mountains has meant that houses are made of stone and huddle together for protection from the elements. In the Guria region, the ground is wet, and houses are built on stilts; in Adjara, near the Turkish border, every village has its mosque and minaret; while the Kazbegi and Kakheti regions are full of fortified churches and

monasteries. This tour will give you the feeling that you are crossing from East to West – and back again – as you explore a wide variety of landscapes.