

IN THE WILD EAST

An adventure on horseback ...



Horseback riding has a long tradition in the Caucasus, and throughout the ages the horse has been one of the most valuable and prestigious belongings of all Caucasians.

As they were the most useful and practical mode of transport in days gone by, horses became central to Georgian daily life. Children were taught riding skills at an early age, horses were often given as the dowry for young maidens, and the horsemanship of Caucasian warriors was a spectacle to behold. Several Gurian riders achieved international fame and recognition thanks to their skills on horseback, thrilling the American public as part of Buffalo Bill's "Wild West Show". Memorabilia from these times are still visible today in the ethnographical museum in Tbilisi.

This tour will not transform you into a Gurian rider, but invites you to experience the charm and beauty of the eastern mountain region of Tusheti, with its amazing landscape, flowery meadows, steep slopes, and shadowy forests in the way that most Georgians in the past have: from the saddle of a horse. Your trustworthy steed for this adventure will be the comparatively short and very strong Tusheti horse. Having had centuries to adapt to their environment, these horses will give you a calm, smooth, safe, and relaxed journey, allowing you to break free from the noise of cars and the city, and to once again feel the joy of being in harmony with nature.

Besides allowing you to enjoy the natural beauty of the terrain, this tour will also give you insight into local culture and traditions. Tusheti is famous for its unique and outstanding architecture. Low houses made out of schistose

Alaverdi Until very recently the tallest church in the country, Alaverdi is a sight to behold. Overlooking the Alazani Valley throughout most of the tumultuous history of the Kakheti region, it has withstood the invasions of hostile powers and has seen numerous battles. Enclosed by a strong defensive wall, it contains baths and separate barracks for soldiers. Every year the people of the region honour their local source of pride in one of their greatest religious celebrations, the "alaverdoba".



- Day 1 **Arrival in Tbilisi**
- Day 2 **Tbilisi city tour**
- Day 3 **Transfer to Telavi, excursion in the Kakheti region**
- Day 4 **Horseback excursion in the Tusheti region**
- Day 5 **Horseback excursion in the Tusheti region**
- Day 6 **Horseback excursion in the Tusheti region**
- Day 7 **Excursion in the Kakheti region**
- Day 8 **Excursion in the Kakheti region, transfer to Tbilisi**
- Day 9 **Departure from Tbilisi**

stones huddle together in villages on the edges of the rocky slopes, providing warmth and security in this remote and forbidding landscape. The first thing that will catch your eye as you approach many of the villages will be the old tower-houses that overlook them and blend in perfectly with the local surroundings, once again displaying the harmony with nature that exists here. In one of these villages, Omalo, you will have the opportunity to visit an ethnographic museum with various displays of treasures, textiles, weapons, Tusheti "paragi" (kilims), and felt hangings from this mountainous region.

You will be accompanied on your adventure by local tour guides who know the area like the back of their hands. You will wander off the well-beaten trails and come into close contact with the natural environment of the region. The highlight of your trip will be the chances you have to interact with the local people of

the area. By experiencing their warmth and hospitality you will soon come to feel at home in this remote region. The whole experience will leave you feeling that you would like to stay and live in the wild east ...!