



Towers of Svaneti The enigmatic profiles of these medieval tower-houses immediately capture the traveler's eye. In former times when blood feuds were common, they served as defensive strongholds and places of refuge. Today, their architectural and historical value has earned the region an entry in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.



- Day 1 **Arrival in Tbilisi**
- Day 2 **Tbilisi city tour**
- Day 3 **Transfer on the military highway to Gudauri**
- Day 4 **Excursion to Kazbegi, transfer to Borjomi**
- Day 5 **Excursion to Bakuriani, transfer to Kutaisi**
- Day 6 **Transfer via Zugdidi to Mestia**
- Day 7 **Excursion to Ushguli**
- Day 8 **Transfer to Kutaisi**
- Day 9 **Excursion in the Imereti region, transfer to Tbilisi**
- Day 10 **Departure from Tbilisi**

Mountains have captured the imagination of people since time began. The Caucasus is no exception.

On this tour, you will get the chance to be awed by the grandeur of snowy peaks and witness how they connect and divide people, all the while learning what influence they have had on the communities that have lived among them throughout the ages. Finally, you will see how the people of the mountains have capitalized on their location to turn the area into a travellers' paradise.

During the first part of this tour, you will journey to the Kazbegi region along the military highway that has long been Georgia's link with Russia. The highlight of this portion of the country is undoubtedly Georgia's highest peak, Mount Kazbegi. Often shrouded in clouds, this majestic summit towers above the village of Kazbegi and the famed church of Gergeti, and when the clouds part and the peak appears, you will witness a sight that you will remember for the rest of your life. This tantalizing view

prompted Pushkin to write his poem, "Monastery on Kazbegi".

Further south along the same highway, we will make stops at Georgia's premier ski resort, Gudauri, and at the fortified church of Ananuri. The tour will then head into the rolling hills of the Lesser Caucasus in the direction of Borjomi. This village reached its pinnacle of fame and fortune in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, after the healing properties of the local springs were discovered. Soon the water was exported to the whole Russian Empire, and Borjomi became a famous spa resort. So famous was the area that even the Russian czar constructed a summer house here. Bakuriani, a nearby resort, is to this day famous for its healthy air, which attracts numerous visitors year-round.

Another highlight of this tour will be the visit to Svaneti, a beautiful valley in the eastern section of the Greater Caucasus with jagged



outcrops, steep walls, rough peaks, and a unique local culture. The Svans are a unique people with their own language and traditions. Their villages have their own particular architectural styles, and ancient customs are still a real factor in the Svans' everyday lives. Here the guest is treated like a king. In the past, the Svans were great warriors, and despite the innumerable invasions that afflicted the territory of Georgia, their region has never been occupied. The mountains, their local knowledge, and their own courage have always protected them.