

## Botanical Tour

**Day 1:** Depart for Tbilisi

**Day 2:** Tbilisi Mtskheta Tbilisi

Arrival to Tbilisi and transfer to a hotel.

After late breakfast we start sightseeing program of Tbilisi.

In the afternoon well visit ancient capital of Georgia Mtskheta and its UNESCO world heritage sights. Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 3:** Tbilisi David Gareja Tbilisi

Today we visit David Gareja cave monastery (6th century) located on semi-desert slopes. Well see the plants spread in the area.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

Plant list: *Iris iberica*, *Salvia garedji*, *Juno caucasica*, *Tulipe eichleri* , *Halimodendron halodendron*.

**Day 4:** Tbilisi Kazbegi Gergeti Kazbegi

In the morning we start for Kazbegi along the Military Highway of Georgia. Stop at Ananuri Fortification (17th century) and cuntinue to Cross Pass (2395 m). Well see plants characteristic for Alpine zone in Kazbegi and its surroundings. Well take a stroll up to Gergeti Trinity Church (14th century) along beautiful valleys and forests, later we walk towards Gveleti village.

Overnight in Kazbegi. Plant list: *Primula algida*, *Swertia iberica*, *Daphne glomerata*, *Macrotomia echioides*, *Pulsatilla violacea* (in fruit), *Gentiana angulosa*, *G. jimilensis*, *Gentianella caucasea*, *Minuartia ssp.*, *Vaccinium vitis-idea*, *Betula raddeana*

**Day 5:** Kazbegi Juta Mt. Chaukhebi Juta Qvesheti

We drive up the narrow driving-path along the river Juta to reach the village of Juta (2165 m). From here we start our pleasant walk towards rocky mountains of Chaukhebi (3842 m). Later we come back to Juta and drive to Qvesheti village.

Overnight in Qvesheti.

**Day 6:** Qvesheti Uplistsikhe Bakuriani

In the morning we drive to see Uplistsikhe a very unique cave town and one of the oldest settlements in Caucasus dating from I millenium B.C. After lunch we continue towards Bakuriani winter and summer resort.

Overnight in Bakuriani.

**Day 7:** Bakuriani Tskhratkaro Kutaisi

In the morning well drive to Tskhratkaro Pass and see vegetation of the area.

Plant list: *Impatiens noli-tangere*, *Geum rivale*, *Lilium szovitsianum*, *Corydalis marshalliana*, *Paeonia steveniana*, *Pinus sosnowskyi*, *Alnus barbata*, *Acer ssp.*, *Cadellia lactiflora*, *Campanula ssp.*, *Betonica macrantha*, *Geranium ssp.*, *Rhododendron caucasicum*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Primula ssp.*, *Delphinium flexuosum*, *Aconitum nasutum*, *A. orientale*, *Grossheimia macrocephala*, *Centaurea fisherii*, *Scabiosa caucasica*, *Gentiana ssp.*, *Aethyopappus pulcherimus*, *Dianthus crinitus*, *Sedum tenellum*, *Tripleurosperum transcaucasicum*, *Senecio ssp.*

Afterwards we drive to Kutaisi administrative center of Imereti region.

Overnight for next 2 days in Kutaisi.

**Day 8:** Kutaisi Batumi Kutaisi

In the morning we drive to sea-side town of Batumi. Visit to Botanical Gardens housing 5000 plants. Here you can see endemic and imported plants divided into 9 geographic zones. Later we'll visit Gonio Fortress (1st AD) first known as Roman-Byzantine settlement. At the end of the day we go back to Kutaisi.

**Day 9:** Kutaisi - Tbilisi

In the morning we'll visit symbol of uniting of Georgia ? Bagrati Cathedral (11th century) and Gelati monastic complex (12th century) - UNESCO world heritage sights. Later we drive to Tbilisi.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 10:** Departure