

# Wine and Gourmet Tour

**Day 1:** Depart for Tbilisi

**Day 2:** Tbilisi

Arrive in Tbilisi, meet in the airport and transfer to a hotel.

In the morning we will have Tbilisi city tour: founded on a mixed eastern and western cultures Tbilisi will undoubtedly enchant any visitor. Narrow streets of Old Tbilisi will be here your companion to the picturesque districts, early Christian churches and the bath district where the city history starts. And panoramic view from Narikhala fortress overlooking all the districts of the city will simply increase your admiration. We will also visit Georgian national art museum and its gold fund with the unique artifacts of Georgian chased art and some rare enamel samples on display.

In the late afternoon we will have a lecture about Georgian wine, which will be continued with wine tasting. Diner in the traditional Georgian restaurant with delicious Georgian dishes and wine.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 3:** Tbilisi – Signaghi – Telavi

Next two days we will travel to the most popular wine growing region in Georgia – Kakheti. In the morning visit the fortified town of Signaghi lying on the slopes of the mountains. Taking a stroll in the streets of the town and enjoy the views of the Caucasus Mountains and Alazani valley. After lunch continue the way to the town of Kvareli and visit a vine yard and a wine factory where we taste some of the best Georgian wines – Saperavi and Kindzmarauli.

In the evening we arrive in Telavi – administrative center of Kakheti region. We will have a dinner-feast in a Georgian style with Tamada (toast-master) that will charm us with his traditional toasts. Overnight in Telavi.

**Day 4:** Telavi – Tbilisi

Breakfast will be served in the traditional Kakhetian style with Chacha (Georgian vodka – 67O).

After breakfast we drive to visit Alaverdi Cathedral (11th century) and century's old Alaverdi wine cellar. Later on we will visit wine factory and taste more Georgian wines.

Lunch in the local village where we will see (and participate as well) how Georgian national dish Mtsvadi on vine branches is prepared, we will also taste Georgian bread and famous sweet – Churchkhela. After lunch transfer to Tbilisi, en-rout visit centuries old private wine cellar and taste wine produced in a Georgian traditional way. Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 5:** Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Gori – Kutaisi

In the morning drive to the ancient capital of Georgia – Mtskheta. Here we will visit Jvari monastery (6th century) and Svetitskhoveli cathedral which houses the robe of Christ (11th century). They are both UNESCO World heritage sights. Later we drive to the town of Gori – the birthplace of Stalin and Uplistsikhe cave town (1st millennium BC) which preserves various interesting pagan and early Christian architectural complexes. Afterwards drive to Kutaisi. Next 2 overnights in Kutaisi.

**Day 6:** Kutaisi – Samegrelo region – Kutaisi

Kutaisi has the history of many centuries. It is mentioned in the myth about the Argonauts. Medea – this famous Kolkhis woman and history of the Golden Fleece start right here. In the

morning visit Gelati monastery (12th century) – UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Afterwards we continue to Samegrelo region which is indeed famous for its hospitality and delicious and spicy dishes. We will visit farmer's family; this will give us a chance to get acknowledged with the local traditions and every day life style of locals. We will participate in the process of preparation Megrelian dishes. After lunch we return to Kutaisi and visit Bagrati cathedral (11th century) – UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Day 7:** Kutaisi – Tbilisi

In the morning visit traditional farmers market and continue in the mountainous villages of Imereti, where we will visit family wine cellar and will taste Imeretian wines, that are different from Kakhetian ones. We will participate in the process of Imeretian dish making and will taste truly unique dishes: chicken on a clay pan, piglet roasted in a bakery and etc. In the evening we arrive in Tbilisi.

Farwell diner in a traditional Georgian restaurant with folklore show.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 8:** Departure