

## 12 Days in Georgia: People, Culture and Nature (M-ID: 2970)

<https://www.motourismo.com/en/listings/2970-12-days-in-georgia-people-culture-and-nature>



**from €2,990.00**

Dates and duration (days)

### Experience all facets of this amazing country on a guided Enduro motorcycle tour through Georgia!

Georgia is located in the Eurasian Caucasus between the Black Sea to the west, Russia to the north and Azerbaijan to the south. The country, which was also known as Grussia in Soviet times, covers an area of 69,700 km<sup>2</sup>, comparable to Ireland, and has a total population of 4.3 million people, most of whom are ethnic Georgians.

Georgia, the cradle of viticulture, is a Christian country and prides itself on its sincere, warm hospitality and one of the most beautiful natural landscapes in the world, perfect for motorbike riding.

Georgia lies at the crossroads of caravan and trade routes, which in the Middle Ages were important transport routes between Europe and Asia. The medieval traditions, which date back to the time of the famous Silk Road, can be felt everywhere. For a long time, Georgia was considered a strategically important hub for the world's trade routes, especially in its role as an important base of the famous Silk Road, which is steeped in history and today provides a wonderful backdrop for adventurous motorcycle tours in Georgia.

Georgian hospitality is legendary. The conviction that guests are gifts of God and must be treated with appropriate reverence is firmly anchored in the national thinking of Georgians. The Georgian tradition of toasts (Georgians pride themselves on having invented them) combines poetry and philosophy.

Try the famous Georgian wines, delicious specialties lovingly prepared by hand, such as Khachapuri, Hinkali, homemade sheep cheese and the hearty traditional mutton shashlik. Not only love goes through the stomach, but also the national spirit of a country can be better understood and taken to the heart through its variety of dishes.

Itinerary:

#### Day 1: Arrival at Tbilisi airport.

Upon arrival at the airport of Tbilisi, also known as Tbilisi Airport, the transfer to the hotel will take place. As soon as the whole group is present, a briefing will take place with all the necessary information about the itinerary as well as a briefing about the proper use of the assigned motorcycle. Depending on the model, any special features will be explained in detail, followed by a test ride to ensure that the vehicle matches your riding skills and suits you completely. A competent mechanic is always at your disposal.

#### The old and modern city of Tbilisi/Tbilisi

A walk through history: After the rule of the Byzantines came the Persian kingdom, the Arab caliphate, the Khorosm kingdom and then the Ottoman Empire. The small country in the Caucasus was also shaped by the invasion of the Mongols and Tamerlans, the birth of Christianity and, last but not least, the communist era of the Russian rulers. Each of these epochs has left its legacy in Tbilisi, which can be seen in the oriental palaces, the magnificent orthodox churches, the madrasas (Koran schools) and the famous sulphur baths. Since its foundation in 458, the history of today's Tbilisi, the former Tbilisi, has been marked by constant change and turbulent historical events such as wars, economic uprisings, destruction and revival. Overnight stay in Tbilisi.

#### Day 2: Tbilisi - Davit Garetscha - Signaghi 140 km (85 miles)

On our first day we ride an unforgettable 140km along the steppe landscape and the typical savannah-like grassland of this area towards the east to the old-established wine region of Kacheto. On the way we will visit one of the most

important religious monuments of Georgia, the oldest orthodox monastery complex in the country, Dawit Garedscha, which dates back to the 6th century AD and was built on the mountain Udabno, directly on the border to Azerbaijan. The monastery is of particular importance for Christianity in Georgia, as it is considered the place of origin of the religion and is therefore strongly mystified. Dawit Garedscha (also known under the spelling Davit Gareja) is a legitimate candidate for the title of UNESCO World Heritage Site.

At around 3 pm we finally arrive in Signaghi, one of the most idyllic and, from a tourist point of view, one of the most popular cities in Georgia with a spectacular hilly location offering a fabulous view of the Alasani Valley and the Caucasus Mountains in the background. Only 2 km from Signaghi is the Bodbe Convent with its beautiful frescoes, built in the 4th century over the tomb of Saint Nino, a healer and convert of Georgians to Christianity.

When visiting a wine-growing region, the most important thing should not be missing: the wine tasting! In the evening we raise our glasses and enjoy a delicious Georgian drop at a picturesque sunset with a view of the Caucasus. There is certainly no better way to end this eventful day! Overnight stay in Signaghi.

Day 3: Signaghi - Telawi - Mtskheta 180 km (110 miles)

We continue through one of the oldest wine regions in the world, Kakheti, where the first vines were cultivated 7000 years ago. The countless wineries extend in the fertile valley along the picturesque Alasani River, framed by the white peaks of the Caucasus. Culturally, there is plenty on the programme: an excursion to the Gremi architectural complex dating from the 16th century, a visit to the house-museum and park of the Georgian prince Aleksandre Chavchavadze and a tour of the Alawerdi Cathedral (11th century) and the Schuamta Monastery (7th-16th century). In the early afternoon we leave Kakheti and ride towards Mtskheta, the ancient capital, which is still considered the religious centre of the country. The cultural monuments of Mtskheta have been part of the UNESCO World Heritage since 1994 and are under protection.

Arrival at the hotel at around 5 pm. Overnight stay in Mtskheta

Day 4: Mtskheta - Stepantsminda 160km (100 miles)

Before we set off for the Caucasus, we first visit the Djvari Monastery, which means "monastery of the cross" in translation and is also part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Djvari Monastery rises on a hill above the confluence of the Aragwi and Kura rivers and offers an exceptionally beautiful panoramic view of the city of Mtskheta. Afterwards we ride along the old Georgian military road into the heart of the Caucasus up to an altitude of 2382m. In Stepantsminda we will visit the famous Gergeti Trinity Church (Gergetis Sameba) with its spectacular location at 2150m altitude.

At 3 pm we check into our hotel and can enjoy the rest of the evening with a beautiful view of the Kazbegi mountains. Additional info: For the ride up to the Gergetis Sameba Church by car, 4x4 off-road vehicles can be rented for an extra charge. This transport service waits for the guests after the outward journey at the sight and brings them back to their accommodation.

Overnight stay in Stepantsminda.

Day 5: Stepantsminda - Prometheus Cave - Kutaisi 380 km (230 miles)

The longest stretch of our motorcycle tour takes us to Kutaisi, the second largest city in Georgia, the capital of the ancient region of Colchis, venue of the Argonaut saga, in search of the Golden Fleece. The city tour follows with a visit to the completely renovated Bagrati Cathedral, another UNESCO World Heritage Site from the 11th century and the Prometheus Cave. This breathtaking stalactite cave is a true wonder of nature that was only discovered in 1984 and is located near Kutaisi in Tskaltubo.

Overnight stay in Kutaisi.

Day 6: Kutaisi - Mestia 240 km (150 miles)

The motorcycle tour through Georgia takes us further to Svanetia, one of the most isolated and inaccessible mountain regions of the Great Caucasus. Svanetia is considered the most beautiful and pristine region of the country, with untouched nature, glaciers and the highest mountain villages in Europe. After a 200km ride through the impressive Georgian mountain landscape we reach our day's destination Mestia at about 5 pm.

Overnight stay in Mestia.

Day 7: Mestia - Ushguli - Mestia 100 km (60 miles)

Round trip: we spend a full day in Svanetia and visit Ushguli, the highest village in Europe at 2200m above sea level. The imposing fortified towers of Ushguli are also part of the UNESCO World Heritage. From here we will have a picturesque view of the highest mountain in Georgia, the Shchara peak (5068 m). After lunch there is the possibility to visit the local museum, where historical church relics are exhibited. The museum also boasts a collection of late 19th century Vittorio Sella photographs depicting the hard life of the locals at that time.

Overnight stay in Mestia

Day 8: Mestia - Batumi 270 km (170 miles)

After breakfast we ride to Batumi. The ride to the modern port city on the Black Sea coast takes about 6 hours. Batumi was founded in ancient Greece under the name "Batis", from the Greek for deep port. In the 16th century the Ottoman Empire took over and from 1878 Batumi was part of Russia. The centuries-old influence of Europe and Asia is reflected in the city's architecture and multi-faceted culture. At approximately 5 pm we check into our hotel. In the evening, we can immerse ourselves in the nightlife of Batumi with a clear conscience, because the following day, leisure time is on the program, which can be arranged completely freely, according to individual wishes and preferences. Overnight stay in Batumi.

Day 9: Batumi

The day is at your free disposal. Overnight stay in Batumi  
Tips on places of interest:

Botanical Gardens

The Botanical Garden displays plants from several vegetation zones, from the humid subtropics of Transcaucasia, New Zealand, Australia, Himalayas, East Asia, North America, South America, Mexico to the Mediterranean.

#### Citadel Gonio-Apsaros

The old colonial kingdom, today's West Georgia, was closely linked to ancient Greece and the Roman Empire. In West Georgia there are still monuments from Greek, Roman and Byzantine times. One of these monuments is the ancient Roman citadel of Gonio-Apsaros.

#### Day 10: Batumi - Akhaltcikhe 170 km (100 miles)

Our Enduro tour in Georgia leads us further over the 2000m high Goderdzi Pass to Akhaltcikhe. Today we alternate between gravel road, forest landscape and asphalt. In the past centuries the Georgian, Russian and Ottoman troops fought bitter battles for this city. The influence of all these cultures is particularly evident in Akhaltsikhe, for example in the Rabati Fortress with its architectural features from numerous eras. At around 5 pm we arrive at the hotel in Akhaltcikhe. Overnight stay in Akhaltcikhe

#### Day 11: Akhaltcikhe - Tbilisi 260 km (160 miles)

On the last day of our motorcycle tour through Georgia we set course for the Georgian capital Tbilisi (Tbilisi), the starting point of our Enduro Tour. On the way we make a stopover in a cave town Wardsia. The city was built as a border fortress against the Ottomans and Persians. Originally, 3,000 apartments were built for the inhabitants on up to seven floors, providing space for 50,000 people. After a severe earthquake, only 750 of them are still standing today on an area of about 900 square meters. After the tour through the cave town, we continue our journey. Our tour ends with the arrival in the capital at around 5 pm. In Tbilisi we will stay overnight in a centrally located hotel. For complete relaxation on the last day of the tour, we recommend a sulphur bath followed by a professional massage, only 5 minutes walk from the hotel. In the evening you can end the tour with a pleasant restaurant visit in one of the many top restaurants in the city. Overnight stay in Tbilisi.

#### Day 12: Departure

Countries	Georgia
Category	Motorcycle Tour
Terrain	Combo On-/Offroad
Vehicle	motorcycle rent incl.
Tourguide / Coach	yes (guided)
Accommodation	Hotel / B&B or similar
	2 star hotel
	3 star hotel
Flight to / from	no, not incl.
Ferry	no, not incl.
Support vehicle (luggage/service)	no
Level of difficulty	easy
Customer payment protection	no
* PRICING	Minimal without optional extras, see pricing

## Pricing

per rider in a shared twin/double room incl. rental motorcycle Nomade 500 ADV or Royal Enfield Himalyan 500	€2,990.00
per rider in a shared twin/double room incl. rental motorcycle KTM 690 Enduro R	€3,390.00
Single room (surcharge)	€250.00

## Included

12 days road trip in Georgia

10 riding days

Airport Transfers

11 nights in a shared twin/double room

Breakfasts and lunches

Rental motorcycle (model depending on booking)

German speaking tour guide (English on request)

For 2020 tours: No 30% advance payment for reservations required. The tour price is only due immediately before the tour starts, when the tour can take place.

## Not included

International flights

Gasoline (approx. €120)

Dinners

International Health Insurance

Everything not listed under features

## **More details**

Airport: Arrival and departure / Airport Tbilisi, Georgia

Total distance: about 1950 km (1200 miles)

Daily stages: 80 - 350 km (50 - 217 miles)

Maximum height: 2379 m

Off-road asphalt Ratio of total distance (%): 10/90

Motorcycles incl. windscreen and luggage carrier system

Riding skills: Beginner - route with difficulty level 1 on an ascending 2 - point scale

Accommodation: From simple pension to three-star hotel

Minimum number of participants: 4 persons (VIP tour limited to up to 4 persons)