

Culture and Wine Heritage of Armenia and Georgia in 15 days

Key information

Duration: 15 days / 14 nights

Best season: April – October

Tour type: Individual / starting from 2 pax

What's included:

Airport and border transfers, Accommodation for 14 nights at 3* hotels (double rooms, free Wi-Fi), Meals: breakfast, All transfers in air-conditioned vehicles, English speaking guide/driver service for all days, All admission fees, Wine tasting, Tatev cable car ticket, 3 bottles (0,5 liter) of water per day per person

What's not included:

Flights, Visa fee, Medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival in Tbilisi

Day 2 - Kakheti - Sighnaghi - Bodbe - Telavi

Day 3 - Telavi - Tsinandali - Batonis Tsikhe - Nekresi - Kvareli Tunnel

Day 4 - Tbilisi City Tour

Day 5 - Ananuri - Gudauri - Gergeti - Dariali Gorge

Day 6 - Mtskheta - Jvari - Svetitskhoveli - Gori - Kutaisi

Day 7 - Bagrati Cathedral - Prometheus Cave - Gelati - Motsameta

Day 8 - Sadakhlo border - Haghartsin - Goshavank - Sevan

Day 9 - Hayravank - Selim Pass - Karahunj - Goris

Day 10 - Tatev - Areni - Noravank - Khor Virap - Yerevan

Day 11 - Yerevan City Tour

Day 12 - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

Day 13 - Echmiadzin - Zvartnots - Yerevan

Day 14 - Free day

Day 15 - Departure



Detailed itinerary

Day 1

Transfer from the airport to the hotel.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*

Day 2

After breakfast at the hotel, you will have a drive to Kakheti – the picturesque region famous for producing excellent Georgian wines. Your tour will continue to Signaghi - “the town of love”, which is famous for its architecture in the style of southern Italian classicism. Here you will visit the famous monastery of Bodbe where St. Nino – the founder of Christianity in Georgia, is buried.

Overnight: *Hotel in Kakheti / Telavi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *7-8 hours*

Length: *230 km*

Day 3

On this day you will be able to stroll around Telavi – the center of Kakheti region. Telavi is well-known for its delightful landscapes. Here you can see a 9-hundred-year-old tree. Your tour will continue to Tsinandali village – the patrimony of a famous Georgian family – Chavchavadze. The estate is known for its amazing labyrinth planted with exotic trees in it and cellars, where the unique collection of Georgian and European wine is preserved. You will also visit Batonis Tsikhe – the fortress museum of favourable Georgian King Erekle the II. You will also have an excursion around the famous winery Khareba. Here you will taste local wines, and will have a master class on baking Georgian bread shoti and national sweet churchkhela. In the evening you will drive to Tbilisi.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *7-8 hours*

Length: *300 km*

Day 4

The day will start with an exploration of Tbilisi, the vibrant and welcoming capital of Georgia. Your journey will begin with a city tour, immersing you in the rich tapestry of this urban landscape. You'll first visit Tsminda Sameba, the principal church of the Georgian Orthodox Church and the loftiest sanctuary in the country. The historical district of Metekhi follows, home to the Assumption Church gracing a picturesque hill. Meandering onwards, you'll encounter the Bridge of Peace, an architectural masterpiece crafted by a renowned Italian architect and a celebrated emblem of the city. A cable car ride awaits, transporting you up to the Narikala Fortress, perched atop a hill. From this vantage point, the city's panorama unfolds before you in all its splendor. Continuing on, you'll venture to the sulfuric baths, a royal bath complex dating back to the 17th to 19th centuries, gracefully positioned upon the comforting embrace of natural sulfur springs. This venerable site stands as a hallmark of the Old Town's allure. A leisurely stroll along Shardeni Street, aptly named after



the intrepid French traveller Jean Chardin, will captivate you with its architecture reminiscent of Parisian charm. The street is adorned with quaint cafes, captivating boutiques, and captivating galleries, creating an inviting ambiance. Your path then leads to the Juma Mosque, located on Botanical Street, where you'll also be enchanted by the Botanical Garden and a mesmerizing waterfall. A visit to Meydan Square, a central enclave within the Old Town, will offer insight into the heart of the city's history. As your journey nears its end, a visit to the elevated Mtatsminda Mount awaits, facilitated by the charming funicular railway. From this elevated perch, you'll take in the final vistas of a day rich in exploration and discovery.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *5-6 hours*

Length: *70 km*

Day 5

After breakfast, you will drive to Ananuri Fortress – a well-preserved castle on the shore of the Zhinvali Reservoir, the former defensive fortress of the feudal era. The next place that you will visit is Gudauri – a popular ski resort which is beautiful in any season. Here you will see the Balcony dedicated to the Treaty of Georgievsk and enjoy the amazing views of the mountains that open from here. Then you will head to the Trinity Church (Gergeti) situated at an altitude of 2170 m at the foot of Mount Kazbek. The church was built in the XIV century and is the only cross-domed church in the historic Georgian province Khevi. From the top of the hill opens the incredibly beautiful scenery. In the evening you will drive back to Tbilisi.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *7-8 hours*

Length: *250 km*

Day 6

Your day's journey will commence with a drive to Mtskheta, a cozy town that holds the distinction of being one of the oldest in Georgia, revered as the nation's religious nucleus. Upon arrival, you'll ascend the hill to the Jvari Monastery, an architectural marvel that stands as a resplendent symbol of Georgian church design. According to the legend, at the site of the monastery St. Nino established one of her three crosses. Then you will visit to the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. As your journey unfurls, you'll proceed to the town of Gori, recognized as the heart of eastern Georgia and the birthplace of Joseph Stalin. Here, history and contemporary significance intersect, offering a glimpse into the region's diverse facets. As day transitions into evening, you'll embark on a drive to Kutaisi, a destination beckoning with tranquillity and rest, where you'll spend the night, recharging for the experiences that wait in the days to come.

Overnight: *Hotel in Kutaisi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *7-8 hours*

Length: *280 km*

Day 7



On this day, your exploration unfolds with a city tour in Kutaisi, promising a tapestry of captivating experiences. First, you will visit Bagrat Temple, a monumental Georgian church that attracts attention due to its sheer size and historical significance. From there, your journey leads you to the enigmatic Prometheus Cave, an attraction that stands as one of Europe's most distinctive. Inside, you'll marvel at the intricate reliefs formed by stalactites and stalagmites, as well as the meandering subterranean rivers that add to the allure of this remarkable place. The next destination is the Gelati Monastery, a living embodiment of Georgia's Golden Age, boasting recognition and protection from UNESCO. The trip will continue to the Motsameta Monastery, perched atop a hill that resonates with legends of courage. The story whispers of Georgian princes David and Konstantin Mkheidze, who steadfastly resisted conversion to Islam and met their fates on this very hill, their legacy remembered through the monastery. As the day draws to a close, you'll return to Tbilisi, the heart of your journey, enriched by the experiences and stories that have woven together to shape this day of exploration and discovery.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *7-8 hours*

Length: *260 km*

Day 8

In the morning you will head to the Georgia Armenia border, meet your Armenian representatives and start the tour in Armenia. Here the first stop we'll have is at the cozy resort town of Dilijan known for its arts and crafts as well as picturesque lush nature and healing air. After an excursion to the medieval monasteries of Haghartsin and Goshavank the tour will continue to Gegharkunik province best known for its amazing Lake Sevan. It is one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world located at an altitude of 1900 meters above the sea level. Overnight will be organized near Lake Sevan.

Overnight: *Hotel in Sevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *7-8 hours*

Length: *260 km*

Day 9

As the morning sun graces the horizon, your day commences with a visit to the Hayravank Monastery and then will start your trip. First stop will be at the segment of the Great Silk Road, a historical route of immense significance. Here, you'll visit the 14th-century Selim Caravansary, a gem among the well-preserved hostels that once served travelers along the Great Silk Road. As you continue your voyage, the road unveils breathtaking vistas, guiding you towards the azure expanse of Lake Sevan, a shimmering jewel cradled at an elevation of 2000 meters above sea level. This natural wonder not only captivates with its beauty but also offers a tangible connection to the historical routes that once crisscrossed this land. You will stop in cozy Goris town for an overnight.

Overnight: *Hotel in Goris*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *8-9 hours*



Length: 280 km

Day 10

The trip will continue to the pearl of Armenian medieval architecture, the Monastery and the University of Tatev. The monastery can be reached by the longest cable car in the world which stretches over the 320 meter-deep Vorotan River Canyon. Stop at a natural bridge named “Devil’s Bridge” at the bottom of the deep canyon. The tour will continue through a narrow canyon to the valley of red rocks where Noravank Monastery is located. En route you will visit a wine factory to taste local wine made of the unique grape sort “Areni”. Trip to the south of Armenia to Khor Virap Monastery located at the foot of Biblical Mount Ararat. In the evening you will be in Yerevan for an overnight.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 7-8 hours

Length: 260 km

Day 11

Your morning will start with a city tour in Yerevan, the historic capital of Armenia, steeped in a legacy that dates back to 782 B.C. An interesting point of pride is that Yerevan holds the distinction of being 29 years older than Rome, a piece of history Armenians holds dear. The city tour will take you through the heart of Yerevan, inviting you to explore its vibrant center. Your footsteps will lead you to notable landmarks such as the Cascade, the Opera and Ballet Theater and Republic Square. A stroll along Mashtots Avenue offers insights into the contemporary rhythm of the city, reflecting the harmonious blend of tradition and modernity. The tour will also extend to the History Museum, where you'll delve into the rich tapestry of Armenia's past, discovering the threads that have woven the nation's story.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 5-6 hours

Length: 40 km

Day 12

On this day, your journey will take you on a scenic 1-hour drive to the canyon of the Azat River. Your destination is the Geghard Monastery, a remarkable testament to human ingenuity. This unique monastery is carved into the nearby rocks, with the surrounding cliffs forming an integral part of its architectural marvel. In 2000, it was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. As you navigate through the landscape, you'll be drawn into the aura of spiritual devotion and architectural brilliance that define Geghard Monastery. Your journey will lead you to the village of Garni. Here, you'll discover the renowned Garni Temple, an embodiment of Hellenistic architecture. This temple stands as the sole surviving example of this architectural style in the area.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 6-7 hours

Length: 90 km



Day 13

A short morning drive will take you to Echmiadzin town – the religious center of all Armenians around the world. Here – after the adoption of Christianity in 301 AD – was built the first Christian temple in the world – Echmiadzin Cathedral. It is the seat of the Supreme Patriarch of the Catholicos of all Armenians. The cathedral keeps an important religious relic – the Holy Lance spear. In 2000 Echmiadzin Cathedral was listed as an UNESCO site. You'll see the ruins of Zvartnots temple (7th century, UNESCO World Heritage Site), which was a miracle of its time. The trip will continue to the Genocide Memorial – a solemn reminder of the first genocide of the 20th century.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *5-6 hours*

Length: *40 km*

Day 14

You will have a free day in Yerevan.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 15

Transfer to the airport, departure.



Booking terms and conditions

Once we received your application, confirmed all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 200 USD per person (depending on the tour price) is received, we will start your hotel reservation and other service booking and will send your Tour Voucher with all the trip details.

Payment Terms

After you have booked the tour, it is necessary to make a non-refundable deposit of 200 USD, which will provide our coordinators with the possibility to start organizing a trip (hotel reservation, food, transportation, etc.). Final payment could be made after your arrival on the spot. We reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply the relevant cancellation charges (detailed below) if we do not receive all payments at the due time.

Cancellation of the tour

If you or a member of your group wants to cancel the tour, please, inform our company as soon as possible in writing form. Please, note that the prepayment 200 USD is non-refundable, however, you can use it throughout the year and book another tour. In this case, our company will have to charge an extra 200 USD for re-booking the hotel.

Rights and obligations

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before its inception and are not the subject of change or cancellation. Under the obligation of forced circumstances (weather, holidays) we can make some changes in the itinerary, however, all that relates to services and attractions will remain unchanged.

Please note, that our tours require a minimum number of participants – 2 persons. We reserve the right to cancel the trip, if any tour will not have the minimum number of participants. We will inform you about the cancellation of the tour no later than 30 days before the start and will do the full refund of the amount paid, including the prepayment.

We also request immediately and promptly report all complaints and any claims during the tour. If possible, all problems will be solved. If the tourist does not report any complaint, the compensation will not be implemented.

Please, also note that the company AraraTour is not liable for services not included in the tour price. Our responsibility is limited only to the extent provided by our tour.

Force majeure or any other event which is beyond our control and which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part frees both parties from liability or obligation. In case of Force majeure, we don't issue any refund.

Insolvency or bankruptcy insurance

Tour operator Arara guarantees the refund of clients' money for unfulfilled services even in the case of company's own insolvency or bankruptcy.

