

FULLY ESCORTED WEST COAST CRUISE AND TRAVEL

11 DAY

WONDERS OF GEORGIA

The stunning nation of Georgia has never been on the beaten tourist track but these small nooks of ravishing beauty are much more rewarding to a discerning traveller.

On a world map these gorgeous villages and towns are marked only by the teeniest print, that is if they appear at all. They've managed to stay small despite their stunning beauty, None are secret exactly, but their very size (held in check, often, by their remoteness) makes them all tricky to reach in their own ways. The journey is worth the effort. Travel through jaw dropping beautiful mountain scenery to charming medieval villages while exploring the country's rich cultural heritage.

Bordering on Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey, Georgia is situated on the crossroads of Europe and Asia, its culture reflecting the influence of diverse ancient civilizations. Georgia is described as one of the most beautiful countries on Earth, made up of spectacular natural beauty, dramatic mountain ranges and inhabitants renowned for their warmth and hospitality

18 September **DAY 1 - ArriveTbilisi**

Arrive in Tbilisi. Individual cars transfers will be organised depending on flight arrivals. Overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi.

19 September **DAY 2 –**

Tbilisi

After breakfast, begin your sightseeing tour of this ancient city from the Old Town with its winding lanes and leafy courtyards, overhung by wooden balconies. See the 13th century Metekhi Church, the Synagogue, Sioni Cathedral (6th-7th centuries) and 6th century Anchiskhati Church. Then you'll be driven to the Mother Georgia statue and walk down to the 4th century Narikala Fortress and exotic brick-domed Sulphur Baths. Continue with a visit to the stunning treasury of the Georgian State Museum . Overnight Tbilisi. (B)

20 September ** DAY 3 –**

Tbilisi – Gombori Pass – Vardisubani - Kondoli - Tsinandali – Akhasheni

In the morning you are driven to enjoy super views of Great Caucasus Mountains and valleys of Kakheti; acknowledge traditions and culture of the country and region, taste wines and delicious food.

First you visit Vardisubanui village where we will visit a local master to show you the “Qvevri” (Clay jars, where Georgians keep wines under the ground, UNESCO intangible heritage list) making specifics. Later visit a local wine cellar, where you taste different kind of Georgian wines. Continue to Tsinandali and visit local duke`s estate from the 19th century, home of one of Georgia`s most popular white wines. Prince Alexander Chavchavazde was the son of Georgia`s first ambassador to Russia and the godson of Catherine the Great. Dinner and overnight at a hotel in Akhasheni (B,D)

21 September **DAY 4 –**

Akhasheni – Sighaghi – Kvarelli – Gremi - Akhasheni

In the morning visit the small town of Sighnaghi which will impress you with its old fences and small houses with tile roves and decorated balconies. From here you can see the picturesque views of Alazani valley and Great Caucasus mountains.

Visit Bodbe Monastery (4th century) that holds the tomb of St.Nino, the Cappadocian maiden who converted Georgian people to Christianity as early as 337 AD.

After lunch with a local family, visit Khareba winery for a wine degustation. Here 7.7km of wine tunnels were dug out of a hillside in the early 1960s for storing and ageing wine at constant temperatures. Today the tunnels store over 25,000 bottles of the Khareba company's European and qvevri wines

Later, visit Gremi Complex, the old capital of the Kingdom of Kakheti in the 16th and 17th centuries. It functioned as a lively trading town on the Silk Road and royal residence until being razed to the ground by the Persian armies in 1615. The town never regained its past prosperity and the kings of Kakheti transferred their capital to Telavi in the mid-17th century. Dinner in your hotel. (B , L, D)

22 September **DAY 5**

Akhashemi – Stepantsminda

Drive to Northern part of Georgia and visit the Ananuri architectural complex (17th century), the two churches and the fortress overlook the Zhinvali water reservoir. The carvings on the churches are one of the best samples of the Georgian art. The drive is very scenic through high Caucasus Mountains. Arrive in Stepantsminda. Overnight at a hotel in Stepantsminda. (B)

23 September **DAY 6**

Stepantsminda

Today you don your walking shoes for a trek through scenic valleys and woodlands to the 14th century Gergeti Trinity Monastery, located at 2170m. Depending on your level of fitness and pace, the walk can take from

90 mins to 3 hrs. The spectacular views from the remote Church are well worth the effort. Alternatively, you can travel by car, then walk back down to the town for a traditional lunch of khinkali (traditional meat dumplings) followed by a visit

to an artist's studio, where felt is hand-made from the wool of local sheep. You will also sample some delicious home-made preserves. Overnight Stepantsminda. (B, L)

24 September **DAY 7**

Stepantsminda – Gori – Uplistsikhe

- Borjomi

This morning, you drive to the town of Gori, the heart of the Kartli region and birthplace of Josef Stalin. Visit the Stalin Museum and explore the ancient cave town of Uplistsikhe – the oldest cave town in Georgia, once a flourishing city as one of the major stops along the Silk Road. Continue your journey to the spa-town of Borjomi, famous for its mineral springs. Visit Borjomi Park and a mineral spa.

Dinner and overnight in Borjomi. (B,D)

25 September **DAY 8**

Borjomi

After breakfast, day at leisure to explore this Mineral Springs Town. You may like to visit the local estate parks and local history museum. Overnight Borjomi. (B)

26 September **DAY 9**

Borjomi & Vardzia

Today you drive to Vardzia, the magnificent cave town of the Golden Age. This awe-inspiring cave complex stretches over half a kilometre and consists of 3000 caves over 19 tiers. It's up to you how much of the complex you wish to explore.

The tiny church hewn from the rock features some beautiful 12th century frescoes.

During your trip you will also see the Khertvisi fortress and visit the fortress of Rabat (closed on Mondays). Rabat was occupied and liberated by Turks, Mongols, Arabs and Russians during its chequered history, resulting in a fascinating combination of different architectural styles. Dinner and overnight Borjomi. (B,D)

27 September**DAY 10**

Borjomi – Mtskheta – Tbilisi

Depart this morning for Georgia's ancient capital and religious centre of Mtskheta to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Jvari and Svetitskhoveli. The 6th century Jvari monastery is perched on a rocky mountain top overlooking Mtskheta. Svetitskhoveli, the royal cathedral of Georgia, was used for centuries as the coronation and burial place of the Georgian monarchs. It is considered one of the holiest places in Georgia. Overnight Tbilisi (B)

28 September ** DAY 11**

Tbilisi

Tour services end after breakfast and your transfer to the airport. (B)

INCLUSIONS AND COSTS

- * 11 days / 10 nights
- * 4 - 4.5* hotels
- * Transportation by air-conditioned minibus exclusively for our group
- * Porterage of one suitcase per person
- * All entrance fees.
- * Meals: breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- * Bottled water daily
- * Sightseeing as specified with English Speaking Guide

\$3276.00 per person, twin share Land Only

\$4392.00 single Land Only

BOOKING CONDITIONS

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

A non-refundable deposit of \$750.00 per person together with a signed booking form is required at the time of booking.
Deposits are non transferable and non refundable.
Final payment is required on or before 10 June 2020
Credit card payments attract a merchant fee.

PRICES

All Prices are subject to change and must be recalculated at the time of final payment. West Coast Cruise and Travel Service will re-invoice for any unpaid retrospective increases in air taxes or increases caused by currency fluctuations. .

CANCELLATION POLICY

If cancelled on or prior to 10 June 2020 a cancellation fee of the \$750.00 deposit applies.
If cancelled on or after 10 June 2020 the cancellation penalty is 100% of tour cost. Travel insurance for cancellation protection is strongly recommended.
No refunds can be given to any passenger who joins the tour after its commencement, or for early departure from the tour.
Refunds are not available for any meals, accommodation or excursions not partaken during the tour.
No refund is given where pre-booked accommodation is partially or wholly unused. No overseas supplier or associate is authorised to promise a refund on behalf of West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre

TOUR BROCHURE

Every care has been taken to ensure that the contents of this brochure are correct and accurate at the time of printing, however some details may have changed since the brochure was published. Please check this with your consultant prior to departure. All possible effort will be made to adhere to the published touring itinerary. Occasionally circumstances beyond our control will force changes, amendments or modifications to the itinerary and its inclusions. West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre cannot be held responsible for any omissions or modifications to the itinerary or the inclusions made as a consequence of these changes.

FORCEMAJEURE

If the tour can not proceed due to flood, earthquake, war or civil strife, acts of terrorism, hurricane, cyclone, industrial disturbance, strike, fire, lock out, epidemic, failure or delays of scheduled transportation facilities, or other Acts of God, or any law, order, decree, rule or regulation of any government authority or for any reason whether of a similar or dissimilar nature beyond the control of West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre, this agreement shall terminate and there shall be no claim for damages by either party against the other.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that each passenger is adequately covered by a proper insurance cover. Please also check the contingencies of your prospective insurance cover and ensure you are aware of its conditions and omissions. We strongly advise travel insurance from time of booking to provide full cover. In the event that Travel insurance is arranged independently a copy of the travel insurance policy is required at the time of final payment

GUARANTEED GROUP DEPARTURES

The Group programme offered in this brochure are group touring programmes. The term 'group tour' is defined as having a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 passengers travelling. Once West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre confirms 10 deposited passengers travelling, it guarantees that the group tour will depart. In the event of only 9 passengers or less book and travel on that specific departure we are unable to operate that departure as a group tour and that departure will be withdrawn or offered at a revised cost. . In rare instances such as this, West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre guarantees to advise all parties concerned of the withdrawal of the tour at least 60 days prior to its scheduled departure date.

UNSUITABILITY

If the operators consider any passenger as an unsuitable person for any tour it may in its absolute discretion cancel that passenger's booking or decline to carry that passenger further, if at all.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

Unless otherwise indicated we have not included Airfares, Visas, Tips, or items of a personal nature such as , laundry, drinks and consumables.

COMPLAINTS

- a) In the unlikely event of a complaint, the client is obliged to make West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre and the local supplier aware of such problems immediately.
- b) West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre will only consider claims made against it in those circumstances where a complaint has been made pursuant to sub paragraph (a) above and where the claim has been received by it within 30 days from the end of the services provided by it, otherwise, the client will have no right to make any claim against it.

RESPONSIBILITIES

West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre acts only as a booking agent making reservations with the companies or associates offering the services contained in this brochure. Whilst acting in good faith, West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre does not accept any responsibility for default causing loss or injury to person or property whether by negligence or otherwise on the part of the operator or accommodation managers/owners or its employees. West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre has made every effort to ensure the quality of accommodation and the accuracy of the brochure but shall not be liable for any dissatisfaction the passenger may have with the accommodation and touring or any injury, damage or loss caused by the change or withdrawal of any price, detail or other item or service. In addition, West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre shall not be held responsible for any loss of quality of goods or services supplied or any changes in an itinerary beyond our control made by third parties. This agreement shall be governed and controlled in accordance with the laws of Western Australia. Lic 9TA988

BOOKING AND INFORMATION

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