REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA IN THE CAUCASUS: "A CARAVAN Journey to the Crossroads of Cultures and Creativity"

September 11 – 20, 2028
(8 days & 9 nights)

Join us on a caravan into the wonder of the Republic of Georgia in the Caucasus - a land of ancient kingdoms, artistic creativity and breathtaking beauty.



All expenses covered except international travel and personal expenses.

Double occupancy *(one or two beds): Costs coming soon*
Single occupancy: *Costing coming soon*

www.oncaravan.org/tours/georgia

ITINERARY



Looking down on the old city of Tbilisi

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA IN THE CAUCASUS
"A Journey to the Crossroads of Cultures and Creativity"
CARAVAN Curated Journey
8 Days / 9 Nights (September 11–20, 2028)
Culture • Art • Spirituality • History • Meaningful Encounters

A curated journey through the Republic of Georgia, where East and West have met for centuries, exploring ancient origins, living traditions, artistic creativity, spiritual heritage, extraordinary landscapes, and contemporary culture—designed around meaningful encounters with people, places, and ideas.

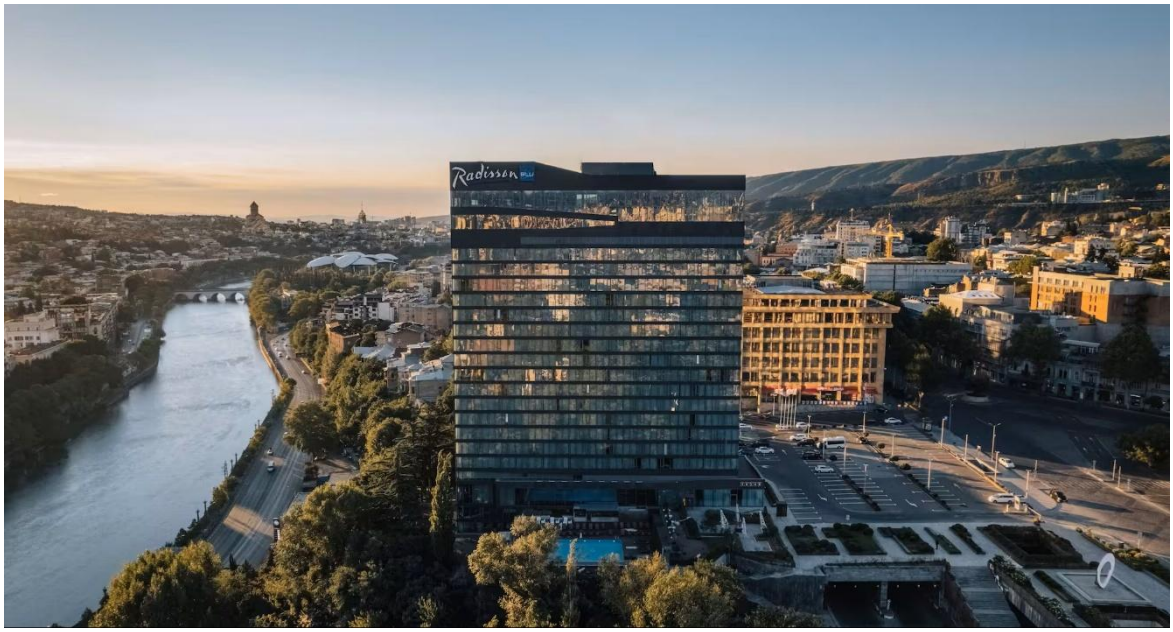
ARRIVAL DAY — MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 | TBILISI

- Arrive in Tbilisi and transfer to Radisson Blu Hotel, Tbilisi.
- Time to settle in and rest.

Late Afternoon Option – for travelers who have already arrived by this time
Visit Metekhi Plateau, a dramatic overlook above the Mtkvari River, with views across Old Tbilisi toward Kartlis Deda (Mother of Georgia), the iconic hilltop monument symbolizing a welcoming and protective spirit.

Enjoy dinner together at a restaurant overlooking Tbilisi.

Dinner: Restaurant Kopala
Overnight: Tbilisi — Radisson Blu Hotel



Radisson Blu Hotel

DAY 1 — TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 | TBILISI

Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia
Part of the Georgian National Museum network, with collections focused on archaeology and ancient Georgian history. The Archaeological Treasury showcases exquisite gold and silver artifacts dating from the third millennium BC through the medieval era, along with ancient human skulls discovered at Dmanisi.

Old Tbilisi Walking Tour

- Meidan Square — historic gathering place and gateway to Old Tbilisi
- Abanotubani — historic sulfur-bath district and traditional architecture
- Zoroastrian Shrine — a reminder of Tbilisi's multicultural past
- Tbilisi Great Synagogue — historic center of Jewish life
- Tbilisi Mosque — representation of the city's Muslim community
- Sioni Cathedral — Georgian Orthodox cathedral
- Anchiskhati Basilica — one of Tbilisi's oldest surviving churches
- Historic streets, courtyards and neighborhoods revealing traditional architecture and everyday life

Tbilisi was an important trading hub along a branch of the historic Silk Road, where merchants, travelers, and ideas moved between Asia and Europe. The walking tour reveals the remarkable cultural and religious tapestry of Old Tbilisi, where Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Zoroastrian traditions have lived alongside one another for centuries, reflected in the city's sacred spaces, historic streets and distinctive architecture.

Breakfast: Hotel
Lunch: Ninia’s Garden, Old Tbilisi
Dinner: At Hotel
Overnight: Tbilisi — Radisson Blu Hotel



Old Tbilisi (photograph by Aaron Huey)

DAY 2 — WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 | TBILISI

Peace Cathedral
Visit the Peace Cathedral, the only sacred space in the world where a church, mosque and synagogue are all under the same roof, creating a space for worship, dialogue and cooperation among Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities.

Hosted by Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili, hear from representatives of each faith tradition about peacebuilding initiatives, interfaith work and charitable activities.

Lunch at the Peace Cathedral.

Afternoon — Artist Studio Encounter
Visit the studio of contemporary Georgian painter and iconographer Dato Sulakauri at a historic Tbilisi villa, exploring his paintings, religious art and creative practice.

Georgian Museum of Fine Arts
Explore Georgian modern and contemporary art, providing a broader view of the country's evolving artistic expression.

Breakfast: Hotel
Lunch: Peace Cathedral (provided by the Cathedral)
Dinner: Tbilisi — Alubali Restaurant
Overnight: Tbilisi — Radisson Blu Hotel



Peace Cathedral

DAY 3 — THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 | MTSKHETA

Travel to Mtskheta, Georgia's ancient capital and spiritual center, strategically situated at the convergence of historic trade routes connecting the Black Sea, Caspian region, Armenia and the North Caucasus. These routes formed part of the wider Silk Road network linking East and West.

Religious & Cultural Sites
Explore the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including:

- Jvari Monastery — hilltop monastery above the confluence of the Mtkvari and Aragvi Rivers, with sweeping views of the surrounding landscape.
- Svetitskhoveli Cathedral — revered religious landmark in the heart of Mtskheta.
- Samtavro Monastery — Orthodox monastery complex where St. Nino resided for a time, and an important site in Georgia's early Christian heritage.
- Antioch Church of St. Stephen the First Martyr — small church near the river confluence, traditionally linked to early Christian history.

Explore the historic town before returning to Tbilisi.

Breakfast: Hotel
Lunch: Mtskheta — Hotel 8 Room Restaurant
Dinner: Tbilisi — At Hotel
Overnight: Tbilisi — Radisson Blu Hotel



Jvari Monastery, Mtskheta

DAY 4 — FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 | KAKHETI

Travel east to Kakheti, Georgia's celebrated wine region and a center of the country's ancient winemaking traditions.

Bodbe's St. Nino's Convent
Visit Bodbe's St. Nino's Convent, one of Georgia's most revered spiritual sites, associated with St. Nino, whose mission in the 4th century helped bring Christianity to Georgia. Explore her tomb and the peaceful monastery grounds, surrounded by the rolling landscapes of Kakheti.

Georgian Wine Traditions
Visit a vineyard and traditional qvevri winery, learning about the large clay vessels buried underground to ferment and age wine, as well as Georgian grape varieties and customs. Enjoy traditional Georgian food and wine hosted by a Georgian family.



Breakfast: Hotel
Lunch: Georgian meal at the Nakhutsrishvili family winery in the village of Ozhio.
Dinner: Château Mere
Overnight: Telavi — Hotel Qvevrebi, a distinctive boutique retreat



Hotel Qvevrebi

DAY 5 — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | TELAVI / KAKHETI

Telavi
Explore Telavi, the historic heart and administrative capital of Kakheti, with its winding streets, traditional homes and rich cultural heritage. Located along an important branch of the historic Silk Road, Telavi was a regional center where merchants, artisans and travelers gathered.

Batonis Tsikhe — Royal Fortress & Museum
Explore the historic royal fortress and palace complex of the kings of Kakheti, including its walls, royal palace and grounds. The Telavi Historical Museum within the complex presents the history, archaeology, art and ethnography of Kakheti and is associated with King Erekle II.

Alaverdi Monastery & Cathedral
Visit this medieval landmark, whose present cathedral dates to the 11th century. Set above the Alazani Valley amid vineyards, Alaverdi reflects the longstanding connection between Georgian Orthodox tradition and ancient winemaking.

Gremi — Former Capital of Kakheti
Explore Gremi, the former capital and medieval trading center, including the Church of the Archangels, royal fortress and tower. Located along the Gilan–Shamakhi branch of the Great Silk Road, Gremi flourished as an international trading center connecting Georgia with Persia and the wider East. Archaeological discoveries include Persian and Chinese goods. The city was largely destroyed in the early 17th century.

Breakfast: Hotel
Lunch: Lunisi, a welcoming family wine cellar and restaurant in Kvareli.
Dinner: Tbilisi — At Hotel
Overnight: Tbilisi — Radisson Blu Hotel



Alaverdi Monastery

DAY 6 — SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | TBILISI
Morning — Two Options

Option 1 — Peace Cathedral Sunday Service — 10:00–11:00 AM
Attend Sunday service and experience the community's worship and spiritual life, followed by lunch with the congregation.

Option 2 — Giorgi Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography — Opens at 10:00 AM
Near Turtle Lake, explore traditional Georgian homes, architecture, crafts, textiles, ceramics, clothing and other expressions of everyday life from across the country.

Afternoon — Yazidi Temple
Meet with the Yazidi high priest for a personal conversation about Yazidism, one of the most persecuted religions in the world, and visit their small museum.



Yazidi Temple

Chronicles of Georgia
Visit the monumental sculptural complex by Zurab Tsereteli overlooking the Tbilisi Sea, sometimes known as the "Stonehenge of Georgia," whose towering sculptures explore Georgia's history, identity, and cultural memory.

Breakfast: Hotel
Lunch: At the Peace Cathedral — both groups reunite to share lunch with the congregation.
Dinner: Tbilisi — At Hotel
Overnight: Tbilisi — Radisson Blu Hotel







Chronicles of Georgia

DAY 7 — MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | UPLISTSIKHE / GORI / ATENI

Travel west from Tbilisi to Uplistsikhe, an ancient rock-cut settlement overlooking the Mtkvari River. Once an important trading center along a major caravan route connecting Asia and Europe, Uplistsikhe offers a remarkable glimpse into Georgia's ancient commercial and cultural history. Explore its rock-carved streets, chambers and halls, ancient wine presses and other architectural remains revealing layers of Georgia's early civilization.

Continue to Gori, birthplace of Joseph Stalin, and visit the main exhibition, his childhood home, and the railway carriage associated with him.

Continue to Ateni Sioni Church, a remarkable 7th-century church known for its medieval frescoes.

Enjoy lunch at a wine vineyard, providing another experience of Georgian wine traditions and the surrounding landscape.

Return to Tbilisi in the evening.



Fresco at Ateni Sioni Church

Breakfast: Hotel
Lunch: Andro Barnovi's winery and wine cellar
Dinner: Tbilisi — At Hotel
Overnight: Tbilisi — Radisson Blu Hotel



Ancient Cave City of Uplistsikhe with Medieval Basilica

DAY 8 — TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 | SAMSHVILDE / BOLNISI / TBILISI

Option 1 - Samshvilde Ancient Archaeological Site



Head south from Tbilisi to Samshvilde, one of Georgia's oldest fortified settlements, whose origins date to the 3rd century BC. Once an important stronghold of the ancient Georgian kingdom of Iberia, its dramatic setting of river gorges, rolling hills and ancient ruins reveals layers of Georgia's rich archaeological and historical past. Explore remnants of ancient fortifications, churches and other structures that tell the story of this once-important settlement.

Note: This visit involves considerable walking over uneven terrain.

Option 2 — Dmanisi Archaeological Site & Bolnisi Museum

Visit the Dmanisi Archaeological Site, where some of the earliest hominin remains discovered outside Africa were found, offering remarkable insights into early human origins and migration. Continue to the Bolnisi Museum, exploring Georgia's archaeological and cultural heritage through discoveries from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages and the region's early Christian history. The area also preserves one of the world's oldest winemaking traditions, with Neolithic evidence of grape wine dating to approximately 6000–5800 BC. Dmanisi also has a medieval history as a trading center, with archaeological discoveries including Chinese porcelain fragments that provide evidence of Georgia's far-reaching commercial connections during the Silk Road era.



Farewell Dinner

We will conclude our Georgian journey with a relaxed dinner, enjoying good conversation, reflecting on our experiences, and savoring the memories of our time together.

Breakfast: Hotel
Lunch: To be determined
Dinner: To be determined
Overnight: Tbilisi — Radisson Blu Hotel

DEPARTURE DAY — WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Transfer to Tbilisi International Airport for onward travel.