

Georgia & Armenia: Mountains & Monasteries

OVERLAND THROUGH CAPITALS, CAVE TOWNS AND WATCHTOWERS



Tower architecture of Svaneti, Georgia

These warm, green countries full of fruitful valleys and saw-toothed mountains are rich with unexpected treasures. Walk through river-cut canyons, explore magnificent cave towns, enter medieval fortress towers of stacked stone and visit the mountain homes of the Svan people.

Days 1-3: Yerevan, Garni, Geghard, Echmiadzin, Lake Sevan Assemble in Yerevan, once the cross-roads of historic trade routes plied by spice and rug merchants. Visit the pagan Temple of Garni, and the Christian monastery of Geghard carved into the mountainside nearby. Explore beautiful Lake Sevan, one of the world's largest alpine lakes, and Echmiadzin, the country's religious center.

Day 4: Amberd, Gyumri Pay a visit to the remains of the 7th century Amberd Fortress en route to Gyumri, the country's second largest city.

Days 5-7: Vardzia, Bakuriani, Borjomi, Kutaisi Traveling north across the Georgian border to Bakuriani, a popular winter resort, pause at the imposing cave town of Vardzia. Visit the spa town of Borjomi and spend an evening with locals in Kutaisi, home to the UNESCO-listed Gelati Monastery.

Days 8-11: Mestia, Svaneti Venture to the remote Svaneti region, known for its massive tower architecture and its proud mountain people, with their white and black wool hats dense enough to drink from. Hike and enjoy the hospitality of local villagers.

Days 12-15: Tbilisi Tbilisi is an exciting city known for its lively and sophisticated inhabitants. Its museums display fine chased gold work from the 3rd century and medieval art dating from the 9th to the 14th centuries.

SMALL GROUP TOUR



15 Days

1 departure in 2010
July 12-26

Land Tour Cost

5-12 travelers \$4,895
Single Supplement \$750

Stay a little longer... A post-tour is available to neighboring Azerbaijan. Contact us for details.



Proud Svan in traditional dress

MIR Signature Features

- Explore Armenia's dramatic Amberd Fortress, surrounded by sheer cliffs
- Climb to the cave-dwellings of Vardzia
- Visit Ushguli Village, the highest village in Europe



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