



Caucasus Silk Road

Explore the natural, cultural, and religious heritage of the Caucasus region.

Join us on this touring style journey as we attempt to untangle the tempestuous history of Georgia and Armenia. Scenically stunning, culturally diverse, historically interesting and just a tad perverse in relationships with bigger, noisier neighbours the Caucasus occupy a key position at the boundary between Asia and Europe.

In June we are off to follow the back roads across Georgia and Armenia, poke about in the high Caucasus and around Lake Sevan.

Commencing at Tbilisi and concluding in Yerevan our itinerary will trace the trade routes and explore the natural, cultural and religious heritage of this little known region.

US\$ 5200

Price is all inclusive and based on twin share and minimum of 2 travellers.
Single Room Supplement available (US\$430)

Escorted by SRA tour leader for more than 6 travellers.
Local English speaking escort for 6 or less travellers



Trip Details

DURATION - 18 days

AVERAGE TEMP - 15°C - 25°C

ACCOMMODATION STYLE
- Hotels, guesthouses

SIGHTSEEING STYLE
- Included

GROUP SIZE STYLE
- 12

DATES OF TRIPS
Commences Tbilisi
06 June 2019
Concludes Yerevan
23 June 2018

MEALS
included

TRAVEL STYLE
Tourist mini bus, 4X4 cars in Svaneti region

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrive Tbilisi

Our representative will meet you on arrival at Tbilisi and transfer you to the hotel. There are no activities planned for the rest of the day. Dinner included

Day 2 - Tbilisi

Today we explore the city and its key monuments. There are a number of important sites to visit including the Anchiskhati basilica and bell tower (6th -18th cc), Metechi church (12th -13th cc) and the Sulphur bath houses and to finish up at the Old Town.

Day 3 - to Telavi via Gombari Pass

This morning depart to Kakheti region - the land of Wine. Visit Alaverdi Cathedral, Ikalto Accademi, New Shuamta

nunnery and a walking tour in Telavi. Also visit Old Shuamta complex.

Day 4 - Excursion to Gremi and Nekresi

After breakfast drive to picturesque Nekresi monastery beautifully located on top of hill and Gremi architectural complex, museum and archaeological site. After lunch visit Khareba winery and the tunnel cut into the rocky hill. Time for wine tasting.

Day 5 - to Signagi

After breakfast explore the city market and late AM visit Tsinandaly Family Estate before departing for Gurjaani to visit a traditional Georgian cellar to see how the traditional "Quevri wine" is fermented in huge wine pitchers buried under the ground. At Gurjaani visit a family house to see how traditional breads and sweet Churchkhela are made. Expect to arrive in Signaghi late afternoon.

Day 6 - to David Gareja and Tbilisi

Today head off to Tbilisi by way of the David Gareja Complex perched on the semi arid slopes of Mount Gareja, some 60-70 km southeast of Georgia's capital Tbilisi. The complex includes hundreds of cells, churches, chapels, refectories and living quarters hollowed out of the rock face.

Day 7 - to Kutasi

After breakfast we head off by road into the Kartli region, known for its agriculture and architectural monuments. First stop today is Mtskheta, the ancient capital of eastern Georgia.

Day 8 - to Mestia

AM visit local UNESCO sites: Gelati academy complex and Bagrati Cathedral then onto the Svaneti region of the legendary Colchis Gold. The Svan ethnic group evolved here, cut off from the outside world by the high and inaccessible mountains the Svan culture remains almost undisturbed in the high valleys.

Day 9 - to Ushguli

Today we take a 4X4 vehicle for the drive to Ushguli, one of the highest villages in Europe and an architecturally unique Middle Age fortification.

Day 10 - Mestia

Walk to visit Swan Dwelling tower and Laghami church, also visit the Ethnographical Museum.

Day 11 - Mestia to Akhaltsikhe

Today back track out of the Caucasus Mountains towards Kashguri and the Karakaja Mountains. Break the journey with a stop at Ubisi Basilica. Bakuriana our overnight destination is a popular winter resort. Dinner and overnight in Akhaltsikhe.

Day 12 - Akhaltsikhe to Varzia

Explore Akhaltsikhe and its surroundings. Visit Rabati, Historical centre and museum of Akhaltsikhe town. Proceed to Sapara. The day end with dinner and overnight at Varzia guesthouse. The road to Varzia ducks and dives between exposed stone-terraced landscapes and green valleys littered with centuries old fortresses.

Day 13 - To Giumri Armenia

Today explore Vardzia - the rock-cut town, built in the 12-13th cc by Queen Tamar. Proceed to Bavra. Complete border formalities and overnight in Giumri.

Day 14 - To Yerevan

Today head for Yerevan. Along the way stop off Marmashen monastery, Mastarah church and the Hovhannavank

monastery complex

Day 15 - To Sevan

This morning get away early to visit Khor-Virap on the Armenia/Turkey border then continue to the Noravank Monastery and ancient Gladzor university. We take the historic Selim Pass caravan route to Lake Sevan, Noroduz Cemetery and Sevan Monastery.

Day 16 - to Sevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

to Yerevan via Garni and Geghard Today head back to Yerevan. Lunch will be Garni followed by a visit the Geghard monastery complex. Late PM return to Yerevan.

Day 17 - Echmiadzin, Matenadaran

In the morning visit Echmiadzine cathedral. We will be out and about around the city today to visit some key public buildings, museums and monuments. In particular the UNESCO listed Matenadaran Museum, one of the richest book-depositories in the world with a collection of about 17000 manuscripts.

Day 18 - Conclude

This morning transfer to the airport for your departure flight and conclude our services.



p +64 3 762 6673

p +612 9810 9486

e info@silkroad.co.nz - New Zealand

e silk_rd@bigpond.net.au - Australia

silkroad.co.nz