

See Georgia – from a woman’s perspective.

To truly see inside a country, you need to be able to see the culture from all perspectives. We created this Women’s tour of Georgia, so you can do exactly that.

Meet the incredible, inspiring, strong women who hold onto culture and preserve ancient traditions, in cosmopolitan cities to small villages. Take part in exclusive experiences that are off-the-beaten-path of regular tours. Make connections with locals, be immersed in culture, while also taking some down time to soak up the sights and smells of this beautiful country.

Our Women’s tours are Women only, and guided by women.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Female artisans:** meet the women who have preserved crafts and folk customs for centuries
- **Ancient meets modern:** discover eclectic Tbilisi, where you can feel the history in this city as you wander its colourful streets
- **Wine Tasting:** discover Georgia’s ancient wine tradition at Georgia’s best Wineries in Kakheti
- **Folk songs:** enjoy traditional Georgian Polyphonic singing
- **Finest silk:** meet a local woman running her own silkworm farm
- **Local dishes:** take cooking classes with local women to make Georgian dishes
- **Royal Town:** explore the charming old town of Signaghi, and visit the home of Christianity in Georgia
- **Breathtaking views:** marvel at the towering Caucasus mountains
- **Time Travel:** be transported through history at various UNESCO World Heritage sites
- **Black Sea:** visit the stunning coastal city of Batumi
- **Cobblestone Exclusives:** attend private concerts, cultural events, and workshops exclusively for Cobblestone Freeway Travellers.



Day 1 TOUR START DATE | Tbilisi (-/-/D)

Welcome to Georgia, welcome to its beautiful capital – Tbilisi!

Upon arrival, you'll be picked up from the airport and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Once you've checked in, take some time to rest and freshened up to then start discover Tbilisi on our **guided city orientation**, where we will show you around the local neighborhood and help familiarize yourself with this historic capital city. We will introduce you to local places to eat, small hideaways to grab a cup of coffee, and we'll make sure you know where to find ATMs, bottled water and all the things you might need.

Later on, we will enjoy a delicious **dinner** in one of our favorite restaurants with traditional Georgian food!

Day 2 | Tbilisi (B/-/D)

This morning after breakfast we will take you on **Tbilisi Sightseeing tour**.

Tbilisi is an eclectic city. A mix of ancient, Soviet and modern, you can really feel the history in this city as you wander its colorful streets. As you walk the Old Town's cobbled streets, past the brick bathhouses and faded pastel facades, you can discover secret cafes and hidden alleyways, leading to decadent courtyards with intricate balconies. Wandering further, you can find Soviet blocks alongside modern glass buildings, this city is truly a mix of contrasts, and manages to both be old and charming, but modern and upcoming at the same time.

Take a **city tour** around the old town, and breathe in the living past. We will visit the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi - **Anchiskhati Basilica** from the 6th century. Take a cable car up to the main citadel of the city, where you can enjoy the wonderful views of Tbilisi – the **Narikhala Fortress**. See the statue of Mother Georgia– “Kartlis Deda” –erected on a hill overlooking the old town of Tbilisi.

After a stop for lunch, we will meet a **modern textile artist**, Nino Kvavilashvili, at her own studio. This woman-owned and woman-run Art Gallery features artists from all over Georgia, aswell as Nino's own batik artworks. Enjoy a visit to this welcoming gallery and admire the works of local artists. Continuing on this theme, we'll visit the **State Silk Museum** of Georgia, famous for its unique collection that displays more than five thousand breeds and variations of cocoons, silkworms and butterflies. The curator of the museum will meet you to show you some of their favourite exhibits.

After an exciting day, this evening you are invited to a **Welcome Dinner party**, or “Supra,” as it is called in Georgian. This is an essential part of the local culture and life style - the dinner table isn't complete without an abundance of delicious dishes and of course - there is no meal without wine! With the wine comes toasts, from the “Tamada” or toastmaster, and chief of the dinner party. As you enjoy your dinner, revel in the sounds of **Georgian polyphonic singing** from a local group – an ancient style of music that that was declared protected by UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel 'Rooms' or similar | Tbilisi

<https://roomshotels.com/tbilisi/>

3 Nights



The Destination

Tbilisi -Kvareli

Day 3 | Tbilisi (B/L/-)

Today, after breakfast, we will continue our exploration of Tbilisi. We'll take a walking tour along the recently renovated Agmashenebeli avenue. This street was and is the core of Tbilisi's Old Town – this pedestrianised area features renovated ancient facades and leaning old buildings, a charming crooked street that will take you back in time! We'll pay a visit to the **National Museum of Georgia**, where you can enjoy the stunning exhibitions of artefacts that go back centuries.

After a stop for lunch, we'll drop into the **Georgian State Museum of Folk and Applied Art**. The gold and silver artefacts here are a sight to behold, formed into all kinds of intricate jewellery and adornments. Admire the finely woven Caucasian rugs and carpets, ancient clothing from Khevsureti (East Georgia, mountainous region), and the various collections of folk craft objects.

Evening at your leisure. Take the chance to wander this beautiful city at night – cross the “Peace Bridge”, a new architectural marvel which is illuminated in the evening.

Day 4 | Tbilisi – Nukriani – Bodbe – Signaghi – Kvareli (B/L/-)

After breakfast at the hotel, we will check out. Today we are heading to the most famous wine region of Georgia – **Kakheti**. This region is known as a birthplace of wine-making in Georgia – and possibly in the world! Georgian wine culture goes back over 8000 years! The history, culture and lifestyle of Georgians are embodied in Georgian wine. It is a symbol of Georgian hospitality, friendship, tolerance and a key to the mystery of Georgian longevity.

First on the way we will visit **Bodbe Nunnery**. This ancient site is one of the most important religious sites in Georgia – **St. Nino**, the 4th.c female evangelist who brought Christianity to Georgia, is buried here!

After we will explore the beautiful **Signaghi** – a fortified town famous for its delicious wine and carpet making culture. Walk the narrow streets of the Royal town, in the shadow of intricate wooden balconies, while shopping for unique souvenirs, and meeting the friendly locals. Trust us – Georgians are some of the friendliest people you'll ever meet!

After we will head to one of Signaghi's famous wineries, for snacks and a **wine tasting!** Then, an exclusive visit – we will have a lunch with a local lady, Lamara, who will show us around her very own **silkworm farm** and medicinal herb garden! Learn about her way of life, and ask her anything about this fascinating lifestyle! In the evening we'll check into Kvareli Lake Resort where you can rest and relax.

Day 5 | Kvareli – Gremi - Kvareli (B/L/-)

After breakfast, we will head to the **Gremi architectural complex**. This collection of ancient churches and accompanying castle dates back to the 16th century, founded by the King of Kakheti - Levan. Explore the tower, marvel at Archangel's Cathedral, and enjoy views out over Kakheti.

After, we'll have an exclusive experience at a local winery – a **Georgian cooking class with local women!** First, take a tour of the winery & gardens, and learn how the Georgians make their wine in “qvevri” – huge clay pots. Then we'll take a class to learn how to make their delicious cheesy breads, or “khachapuri”, before dessert – “Churchkhela” - traditional Georgian sweets, made from walnuts and grape juice. And of course afterwards, you get to taste all the fruits of your labour! Enjoy a dinner of your handmade dishes with delicious wine.

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel 'Kvareli Lake Resort' or similar | Kvareli
<http://kvarelilakeresort.ge/>
2 nights



The Destination

Tbilisi – Kazbegi

Day 6 | Kvareli – Tsinandali – Alvani - Tbilisi (B/L/-)

This morning we will visit **Tsinandali Family Estate** and wine cellar, one of Georgia’s best known wine producers. Explore the summer home, garden and winery, with notes from the sommelier. You will have the opportunity to buy wine after an optional tasting.

Then, we have something exciting in store! We’ll visit the **private craft studio** of an artist making hand-knitted Alvani socks. Meet local felt makers, and take a **workshop** in these traditional knitted socks of the Caucasus Highlands. After lunch at a local family house, we will travel back to Tbilisi driving through breathtaking Gombori Range.

Upon arrival to Tbilisi and check in – relax and enjoy the **Tbilisi Sulfur Baths**, where you will be treated with an excellent scrub, and be offered tea and jam. The perfect way to end the day!

Day 7 | Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Ananuri – Kazbegi (B/L/-)

In order to truly see the breathtaking high peaks, roaring rivers and mountain lifestyle of Georgia’s Northern Caucasus Mountains, we will travel towards Mtiuleti and Khevi provinces via one of the oldest roads in Georgia - the Military Highway.

In the morning we’ll take this highway to drive to **Mtskheta** - the ancient capital of Georgia. This ancient city sits on the meeting point of two major rivers: Kura and Aragvi rivers, just northwest of Tbilisi. The incredible view over the meeting point of the two rivers and the ancient city of Mtskheta is one of the most iconic views in all of Georgia! We’ll visit the **Jvari Monastery** to see this very view. Jvari means cross and derives from a huge wooden cross erected on the site by St.Nino, a female evangelist. In Mtskheta, we’ll visit the famous **Svetitskhoveli** – a fortified cathedral dating back to the 11th century, and a sacred place, where the Robe of Christ is buried.

Next we will visit **Ananuri** architectural complex – a beautiful old fortress and church which overlooks the Jinali reservoir. Arriving in Kazbegi, a beautiful mountainous town, we’ll check in, and enjoy incredible views of the surrounding scenery.

Day 8 | Kazbegi (B/L/-)

After breakfast it’s time to explore Kazbegi. This small town is named after the famous Kazbek mountain – one of the highest peaks in the Caucasus Mountains. Look up and you can see it’s towering peak and bright white glacier! This mountain is associated with myth of Prometheus - according to the legend he was chained on this very mountain as punishment for having stolen fire from the gods and having given it to mortals.

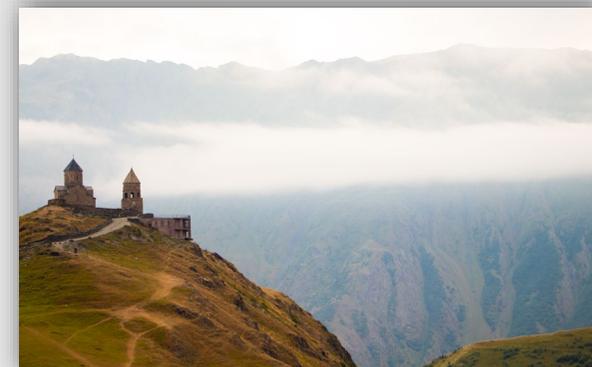
We will drive up to 14th century **Gergeti Holy Trinity Church** located at an elevation of 2170 m under Kazbegi mountain. This small church is more famous for it’s setting than anything else!

After, enjoy a heartwarming lunch with a **local family**, where you can taste local beer made in the traditional way. The hostess will also show you how people from the Khevi region prepare Georgian Dumplings or “Khinkali” – you can even have a go at **making some!**

After, we’ll head back to Kazbegi where you have an evening at your leisure.

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel ‘Rooms’ or similar | Kazbegi
<https://roomshotels.com/kazbegi/>
2 nights



The Destination

Day 9 | Kazbegi – Uplistskhe – Akhaltsikhe (B/L/-)

Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

This morning we'll visit a **private felting studio** in Kazbegi, where you can meet local female artists, and taste herbal tea with homemade jams.

After, we'll drive to the center of Shida Kartli region - Gori, known as the birthplace of the Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin. We'll visit **Uplistsikhe** ("Fortress of God"), a rock-hewn town from 2nd Millennium BC. Uplistsikhe is notable for its' unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures and the co-existence of pagan and Christian architecture. Here you can see ancient wine presses, carved from stone!

In the evening we'll arrive to Akhaltsikhe. Check in and enjoy evening at your leisure.

Day 10 | Akhaltsikhe – Vardzia – Poka – Akhaltsikhe (B/L/-)

Today we will explore Samtskhe - Javakheti region. The region is named after two of the original Georgian tribes - the Meskh and Javakhs. It is considered as the cradle of Georgian culture. The road leads past arid and stone-terraced landscapes, green valleys littered with centuries old fortresses. The climate and cool water springs are healthy here and landscapes are impressive.

We'll visit **Rabati castle**, a stunning complex that has been razed and rebuilt many times, meaning it has the influence of many different cultures - the castle complex includes a Church, a Mosque, a Minaret and a Synagogue!

Continue our trip and visit the impressive **Vardzia Cave Monastery** – an entire city carved within the very side of the Erusheti Mountain in Georgia. Founded, in the 12th century, this labyrinthian cave complex has 19 levels, and thousands of rooms, built as a fortress-city-monastery for Queen Tamar, Hidden in the cliff face, this complex was virtually undetectable, and was protected from Mongol hoards. Today, a small group of monks maintain the complex for visitors.

After, we'll visit the **Poka nunnery** complex, where the nuns produce their own local cheeses on the territory of monastery. Enjoy a **cheese tasting** of various local cheeses. Cheese, jams, and chocolates are all produced by nuns on the territory of monastery.

In the evening we'll return to Akhaltsikhe.

Day 11 | Akhaltsikhe – Kutaisi (B/L/-)

After breakfast we will travel to Kutaisi – the ancient Kingdom of Colchis and the second largest city of modern Georgia.

First on our way we will visit the **Bagrati Cathedral**, originally built during the reign of King Bagrat III in the 11th century. The Cathedral was rebuilt in 2012.

From here, discover the **Gelati Monastery** built in the 11th century by the famous king of Georgia, Davit the Builder. The Gelati Complex includes an academy, and for many years has been one of the main cultural and enlightenment centers in Georgia. Here, they have preserved a great number of manuscripts dating back to the 12th century, and as a result, Gelato is listed in as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Arriving to Kutaisi, check in to your hotel and enjoy evening at your leisure.

Akhaltzikhe – Kutaisi

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel Gino Rabat or similar | Akhaltsikhe
<https://gino.ge/?lang=en>
2 Nights

Hotel Best Western or similar | Kutaisi
<https://www.bestwestern.com>
1 Night



The Destination

Kutaisi – Batumi

Day 12 | Kutaisi - Batumi (B/L/-)

After breakfast we will visit the famous **Prometheus Caves** – this 1.2km-long cave complex provides breathtaking examples of stalactites, stalagmites, petrified waterfalls, cave pearls, underground rivers, and lakes. Enjoy a 280-meter **boat tour** on the underground lake in the cavern.

Then we'll continue our journey towards Batumi.

Batumi is one of the oldest cities in Georgia and inhabited from as early as the third century BC. Batumi is mentioned by Greek and Roman sources as one of the Black Sea's principal ports.

Arriving to **Batumi**, check-in to your hotel. Enjoy an evening at your leisure – your guide will point out some of the best café's and bars to try local wines, and a Batumi & Adjara region special – the **Adjarian Khachapuri**! You won't want to miss trying this delicious bread filled with molten suluguni cheese. Mouthwatering!

Day 13 | Batumi (B/L/-)

This seaside town is laid back and hospitable, with grape vines growing above its picturesque streets. Home to a charming old town, lazy beaches, and cosy cafes, but also is home to a vibrant modern feel. We will explore the streets of **Old Batumi**, decorated with statues of mythical creatures.

We'll visit the **Gonio-Apsaros Fortress**, located 12 km south to Batumi, on the place where Colchian Bronze culture and first Georgian statehood found its birthplace. This mystical place is closely connected to the Myth of the Argonauts - according to the legend this is where king Ayet buried his son Apsaros, who was killed by the escaped Jason.

After a stop for lunch, we'll visit the famous **Batumi Botanical Garden** located on the outskirts of the city. The garden occupies 111 hectares of hilly land, and is home to a whole variety of plants. See the beauty of flora from all over the world while enjoying an amazing view of the Black Sea. Enjoy an evening at your leisure – your guide will point out some of the best café's and bars to try local wines, and a Batumi & Adjara region special – the **Adjarian Khachapuri**! You won't want to miss trying this delicious bread filled with molten suluguni cheese. Mouthwatering!

Day 14 | Batumi (B/-/D)

Free Day in Batumi for your own exploration and relaxation by the sea. You'll find plenty to see and do in this charming seaside town!

In the evening we'll get together for a farewell dinner. Enjoy a **traditional Adjarian folk show** over a delicious dinner of local dishes. Feel the atmosphere of a Georgian dinner party, with traditional songs and dances and delicious wine, while you reminisce on your past adventures!

Day 15 TOUR END DATE | Batumi (B/-/-)

After a free morning to stock up on souvenirs we will transfer you to the airport where, sadly, we will have to say our goodbyes!

SUGGESTED HOTEL:

Hotel World Palace or similar | Batumi

3 Nights



Tour Details

SUGGESTED INCLUSIONS:

- Airport Transfers
- All land transportation
- Escorted tour with full time Tour Leader
- Tour in English
- 2 meals a day
- 14 nights in hand-Selected hotels
- All Events included in the Itinerary
- Internet in hotels when possible
- Interaction with local artists, craftsmen, and performers
- Special events exclusively for Cobblestone travellers



NOT INCLUDED:

- Extra days before/after the tour
- Events and Services not included in the itinerary or marked as **Optional**
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals not listed in Itinerary
- Flights not listed in Itinerary
- Tips for guides / drivers/ maids
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry & Telephone Services

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

- Extend your trip
- Upgrade your room / Get a single room

On our Cobblestone Freeway Tour, enjoy:

Delicious, hand chosen local food, and more inclusions than most other tour operators



Enjoy exclusive Folk dance/ music performances



You will be escorted by a full-time Cobblestone Freeway Tour Leader



GEORGIA FOR WOMEN 15 Days / 14 Nights

BESPOKE TOUR

Your tour – your way! Let us customize this tour for you. [Contact us](#) to get started.



(780) 436-7482



www.cobblestonefreeway.ca



info@cobblestonefreeway.ca



10515 - 111 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5H 3E8

