

## The Caucasus - The Crossroads of Cultures itinerary (12 Days, 11 Nights) Summer Itinerary (April – October)

Day	Start Place (City, Country)	Morning plan	Afternoon plan	Evening plan	End Place (City, Country)	Accommodation	Transportation	
1	Tbilisi Georgia	8 am - Start of trip Travel to Batumi by train (5hours)	<b>Arrival in Batumi</b> <b>BATUMI WALKING TOUR</b> Walk along Batumi Boulevard, and enjoy the scenic waterfront promenade Walk to Europe Square, home to stunning architecture, fountains, and the statue of Medea holding the Golden Fleece Visit to the <b>Batumi Botanical Garden</b> , a beautiful space overlooking the Black Sea		Batumi Georgia	Guesthouse	Train City Public Transportation	
2	Batumi Georgia	Depart Batumi for Kutaisi by train (2 hours) Travel from Kutaisi by private-hire van to Chiatura (1 hour) Arrival in Chitura	Explore de-populated and abandoned ex-Soviet mining city of Chiatura Ride Chiatura's extensive cable car networks in Chiatura	Depart Chiatura for Baghdati Homestay with local vineyard owners in Baghdati village	Baghdati Georgia	Homestay	Train Private-hire Van	
3	Baghdati Georgia	<b>HOMESTAY WITH LOCAL VINEYARD OWNERS IN BAGHDATI VILLAGE</b> Visit the town of Baghdati Visit to local vineyards and wineries Participate in local grape harvesting & winemaking (during winemaking season) Hike up hills & along rivers in the Imereti river				Baghdati Georgia	Homestay	Private-hire Van
4	Baghdati Georgia	<b>HOMESTAY WITH LOCAL VINEYARD OWNERS IN BAGHDATI VILLAGE</b> Visit to hot springs at Sairme and local centuries-old church			Travel from Baghdati to Kutaisi by van (1 hour) Travel from Kutaisi to Tbilisi by train (4 hours)	Tbilisi Georgia	Guesthouse	Private-hire Van Train
5	Tbilisi Georgia	8 am - Start of trip Drive to Kazbegi on a private-hire van (3 hours)	<b>Arrival in Kazbegi</b> Explore Ananuri Fortress Complex Explore Russia-Georgia Friendship Monument Explore Gergeti Trinity Church		Hike at Gveleti Big Waterfall	Kazbegi Georgia	Guesthouse	Private-hire Van
6	Kazbegi Georgia	Explore Tavertine Mineral Springs Explore Abano Lake	Visit to Sno Castle	Drive to Tbilisi on a private-hire van Arrival in Tbilisi	Tbilisi Georgia	Guesthouse	Private-hire Van	
7	Tbilisi Georgia	<b>TBILISI WALKING TOUR</b> Visit to Dezerter Bazaar Visit to the semi-built and unfinished sculpture of Chronicles of Georgia and the neighbouring Annunciation Church Visit the Leghvtakhevi Waterfall located in a Tbilisi suburb Visit the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi Visit and walk the Bridge of Peace, a modern bridge spanning the Kura River			Overnight train to Yerevan, Armenia (10 hours)	TRAIN	TRAIN	Overnight Train City Public Transportation
8	TRAIN	06:00 - Immigration onboard train at Georgia - Armenia border Morning arrival in Yerevan, Armenia	<b>YEREVAN WALKING TOUR</b> Visit to Lenin Square, previously known as Lenin Square, Yerevan's main public space Visit and walk up the Cascade Complex, a series of stairs, landscaped gardens, sculptures and fountains Visit the Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex Visit the Saint Gregory The Illuminator Cathedral, the largest Armenian Apostolic Cathedral Visit the Kond Graffiti Area, a historical neighbourhood turned into an open-air art gallery			Yerevan Armenia	Guesthouse	Overnight Train City Public Transportation
9	Guesthouse	Departure from Yerevan on a private-hire van to Sevan Lake (4 hours) Arrival at Sevan Lake	Hike along and swim in Sevan Lake Explore Sevanavak Church Drive from Sevan Lake to Old Khot village on a private-hire van	Arrival in Old Khot village Setting Up of camping equipment, campfire dinner, and overnight camping.	Old Khot Armenia	Camping	Private-hire Van	
10	Old Khot Armenia	Departure from Old Khot towards Byurakan on a private-hire van Stop at Tatev Monastery	Continue to drive towards Byurakan on a private-hire van while enjoying scenic views of the landscape	Arrival in Byurakan village  <b>HOMESTAY WITH A LOCAL FAMILY IN BYURAKAN</b>	Byurakan Armenia	Homestay	Private-hire Van	
11	Byurakan Armenia	<b>HOMESTAY WITH LOCAL FAMILY IN BYURAKAN REGION</b> Visit to an abandoned ROT-54 Soviet Space Observatory (Dependant on political situation in the region) Visit to Kari Lake, on the foots hills of Mount Agarats, and hike around the lake (2-4 hours) and visit abandoned structures (weather stations, Space observatory) Experience rural life in a local Armenian village Visit the 7 <sup>th</sup> century ruins of Amberd Fortress and the neighbouring 11 <sup>th</sup> century bathouse				Byurakan Armenia	Homestay	Private-hire Van
12	Byurakan Armenia	Drive from Byurakan to Yerevan on a private-hire van	12 pm - Arrival in Yerevan and end of tour		Yerevan Armenia		Private-hire Van	

We will make every effort to keep itineraries as described and to find suitable replacements if needed. However, we reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary without prior notice in response to unforeseeable events and safety concerns. We also reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary should we deem that a certain activity is beyond the capability of any of our travelers.

**The Caucasus - The Crossroads of Cultures itinerary (12 Days, 11 Nights)  
Winter Itinerary (November – March)**

Day	Start Place (City, Country)	Morning plan	Afternoon plan	Evening plan	End Place (City, Country)	Accommodation	Transportation
1	Tbilisi Georgia	8 am - Start of trip Travel to Batumi by train (5hours)	<b>Arrival in Batumi</b> <b>BATUMI WALKING TOUR</b> Walk along Batumi Boulevard, and enjoy the scenic waterfront promenade Walk to Europe Square, home to stunning architecture, fountains, and the statue of Medea holding the Golden Fleece Visit to the <b>Batumi Botanical Garden</b> , a beautiful space overlooking the Black Sea		Batumi Georgia	Guesthouse	Train City Public Transportation
2	Batumi Georgia	Depart Batumi for Kutaisi by train (2 hours) Travel from Kutaisi by private-hire van to Chiatura (1 hour) Arrival in Chitura	Explore de-populated and abandoned ex-Soviet mining city of Chiatura Ride Chiatura's extensive cable car networks in Chiatura	Depart Chiatura for Baghdati Homestay with local vineyard owners in Baghdati village	Baghdati Georgia	Homestay	Train Private-hire Van
3	Baghdati Georgia	<b>HOMESTAY WITH LOCAL VINEYARD OWNERS IN BAGHDATI VILLAGE</b> Visit the town of Baghdati Visit to local vineyards and wineries Participate in local grape harvesting & winemaking (during winemaking season) Hike up hills & along rivers in the Imereti river			Baghdati Georgia	Homestay	Private-hire Van
4	Baghdati Georgia	<b>HOMESTAY WITH LOCAL VINEYARD OWNERS IN BAGHDATI VILLAGE</b> Visit to hot springs at Sairme and local centuries-old church		Travel from Baghdati to Kutaisi by van (1 hour) Travel from Kutaisi to Tbilisi by train (4 hours)	Tbilisi Georgia	Guesthouse	Private-hire Van Train
5	Tbilisi Georgia	8 am - Start of trip Drive to Kazbegi on a private-hire van (3 hours)	<b>Arrival in Kazbegi</b> Explore Ananuri Fortress Complex Explore Russia-Georgia Friendship Monument Explore Gergeti Trinity Church	Hike at Gveleti Big Waterfall	Kazbegi Georgia	Guesthouse	Private-hire Van
6	Kazbegi Georgia	Explore Tavertine Mineral Springs Explore Jvari Monastery, an early medieval Georgian church dating to the 6 <sup>th</sup> -century	Visit to Zhinvali Water Reservoir	Drive to Tbilisi on a private-hire van Arrival in Tbilisi	Tbilisi Georgia	Guesthouse	Private-hire Van
7	Tbilisi Georgia	<b>TBILISI WALKING TOUR</b> Visit to Dezerter Bazaar Visit to the semi-built and unfinished sculpture of Chronicles of Georgia and the neighbouring Annunciation Church Visit the Leghvtakhevi Waterfall located in a Tbilisi suburb Visit the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi Visit and walk the Bridge of Peace, a modern bridge spanning the Kura River		Overnight train to Yerevan, Armenia (10 hours)	TRAIN	TRAIN	Overnight Train City Public Transportation
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9	Guesthouse	Departure from Yerevan on a private-hire van to Sevan Lake (4 hours) Arrival at Sevan Lake	Hike along and swim in Sevan Lake Explore Sevanavak Church Drive from Sevan Lake to Tatev on a private-hire van	Visit Tatev Monastery Visit to Devil's Bridge (Satani Kamurdj), a 500 metre gorge along the Vorotan River Visit to Noravank, a 14 <sup>th</sup> -century medieval cantilever-style church	Tatev Armenia	Guesthouse	Private-hire Van
10	Old Khot Armenia	Departure from Old Khot towards Byurakan on a private-hire van	Continue to drive towards Byurakan on a private-hire van while enjoying scenic views of the landscape	Arrival in Byurakan village <b>HOMESTAY WITH A LOCAL FAMILY IN BYURAKAN</b>	Byurakan Armenia	Homestay	Private-hire Van
11	Byurakan Armenia	<b>HOMESTAY WITH LOCAL FAMILY IN BYURAKAN REGION</b> Visit to an abandoned ROT-54 Soviet Space Observatory (Dependant on political situation in the region) Visit to Kari Lake, on the foots hills of Mount Agarats, and hike around the lake (2-4 hours) and visit abandoned structures (weather stations, Space observatory) Experience rural life in a local Armenian village Visit the 7 <sup>th</sup> century ruins of Amberd Fortress and the neighbouring 11 <sup>th</sup> century bathouse			Byurakan Armenia	Homestay	Private-hire Van
12	Byurakan Armenia	Drive from Byurakan to Yerevan on a private-hire van	12 pm - Arrival in Yerevan and end of tour		Yerevan Armenia		Private-hire Van

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# The Caucasus – Armenia & Georgia Itinerary

## Day 1: Tbilisi – Batumi, Georgia

Start your journey with a relaxing train ride from Tbilisi to the beautiful coastal city of Batumi, where culture and nature come together.

**Day:**

**Travel from Tbilisi to Batumi by train (5 hours)**

**Activities:**

- **Batumi Walking Tour**, strolling along the **Batumi Boulevard with** its scenic waterfront views.
- Visit **Europe Square**, where stunning architecture and the **statue of Medea**, holding the Golden Fleece.
- Visit the **Batumi Botanical Garden**, where the Black Sea's beauty meets lush greenery.

**Transportation:** Taxi, Train

**Accommodation:** Guesthouse in Batumi



## Day 2: Batumi – Chiatura, Georgia

Depart from Batumi and head towards the hidden gem of Chiatura, a once-thriving Soviet mining city now largely abandoned. End the day at a homestay in Baghdati village.

**Day:**

**Travel from Batumi to Kutaisi by train (2 hours)**

**Travel from Kutaisi to Batumi by private-hire van (1 hour)**

**Activities:**

- Explore the **depopulated streets and neighbourhoods of Chiatura**.
- Ride on **Chiatura's extensive cable car system**, which was once a lifeline for the city's miners.
- End the day with a **homestay in Baghdati village**.

**Transportation:** Taxi, Train, Private-hire van

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Baghdati





### Day 3: Baghdati, Georgia

Experience local life in the Georgian countryside with a homestay. Enjoy a hands-on experience in grape harvesting and winemaking in the heart of Georgia's wine country.

#### Activities:

- Homestay experience with a family of winery owners on their property.
- Experience rural life in the Georgian mountains.
- Visit local vineyards and wineries
- Participate in grape harvesting and winemaking (season-dependent)
- Hike along the Imereti River

**Transportation:** Private-hire van

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Batumi



### Day 4: Baghdati – Tbilisi, Georgia

Discover the healing waters of Sairme and experience more of Baghdati's serene countryside before heading back to Tbilisi.

#### Day activities:

- Visit the Sairme hot springs, and soak in its warm waters known for their healing properties.
- Explore a local centuries-old church

#### Evening:

**Van ride from Baghdati to Kutaisi (1 hour)**

**Train ride from Kutaisi to Tbilisi (4 hours)**

**Accommodation:** Guesthouse in Tbilisi

**Transportation:** Private-hire Van, Train, Taxi





## Day 5: Kazbegi Region, Georgia

Explore the historic fortresses and stunning natural beauty of the mountainous Kazbegi region, with hikes and visits to cultural sites.

### Morning:

Drive from Tbilisi to Kazbegi (3 hours)

### Day activities:

- Visit **Ananuri Fortress**
- Visit the **Russia-Georgia Friendship Monument**
- Explore the **Gergeti Trinity Church**, a 14th-century church perched on the edge of a cliff
- Hike to **Gveleti Big Waterfall (2-hour hike)**

**Transportation:** Private-hire van

**Accommodation:** Guesthouse in Kazbegi



## Day 6: Kazbegi Region, Georgia

Experience the peaceful beauty of Kazbegi's mineral springs and ancient castles before returning to Tbilisi.

### Activities:

- Visit the **Tavertine Mineral Springs**, a beautiful spring of many different hues.
- Discover **Jvari Monastery and Church** 6<sup>th</sup>-century medieval Georgian church and monastery
- Visit **Zhinvali Lake**, created by a Soviet dam in the 1980s, and Tbilisi's main water source

### Evening:

**Return to Tbilisi by van (3 hours)**

**Accommodation:** Guesthouse in Tbilisi

**Transportation:** Private-hire Van, Train, Taxi





## Day 7: Tbilisi, Georgia

Immerse in Tbilisi's vibrant mix of culture, history, and scenic beauty. From bustling markets to stunning landmarks.

### Activities:

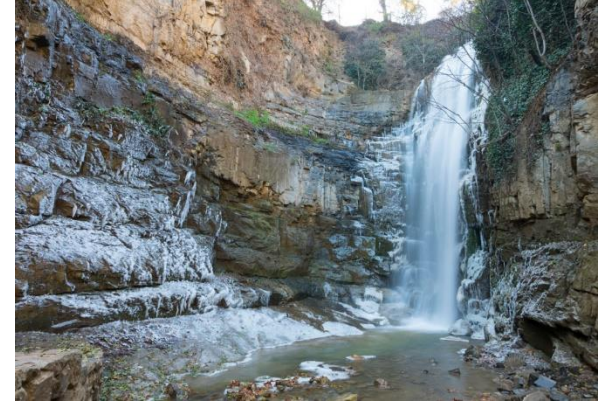
- Visit **Dezserter Bazaar**, Tbilisi's largest and liveliest market
- Visit the **Chronicles of Georgia** and the nearby **Annunciation Church**
- Visit **Leghvtakhevi Waterfall**, a serene waterfall nestled in the heart of a Tbilisi suburb
- Visit the **Holy Trinity Cathedral**, one of the largest and most iconic churches in Georgia
- Walk across the **Bridge of Peace**, a modern glass bridge, offering stunning views of the Kura River

### Evening:

**Overnight train to Yerevan, Armenia (10 hours)**

**Accommodation:** Guesthouse in Tbilisi

**Transportation:** Metro, Taxi, Bus, Overnight Train



## Day 8: Yerevan, Armenia

Explore Yerevan's rich historical landmarks, cultural sites, and artistic neighborhoods as you dive into the heart of Armenia's vibrant capital.

### Morning:

**Arrival in Yerevan, Armenia on an overnight train**

### Activities:

- Visit **Republic Square**, formerly known as Lenin Square
- Walk up the **Cascade Complex**, an impressive series of stairs, featuring landscaped gardens, sculptures, and fountains, with panoramic city views at the top
- **Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Memorial**, a memorial to the victims of the Armenian Genocide
- Visit the **Saint Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral**, the largest Armenian Apostolic Cathedral,
- Explore the **Kond Graffiti Area**, a historical neighborhood, transformed into an open-air gallery.

**Accommodation:** Guesthouse in Yerevan

**Transportation:** Train, Taxi, Metro, Bus





## Summer Day 9:

### Sevan Lake & Old Khot, Armenia

Enjoy the beauty of Sevan Lake, followed by a night under the stars in the village of Old Khot.

#### Morning:

Travel by private-hire van to Sevan Lake & Old Khot (4 hours)

#### Activities:

- Hike along and swim in **Sevan Lake**, a high-altitude lake (1900m) that is the Caucasus region's largest
- Visit **Sevanavank Church**, a 9th-century monastery overlooking Sevan Lake
- Explore **Old Khot Village**, an abandoned village where we will set up camp, enjoy a campfire dinner and stay the night.

**Accommodation:** Camping in Old Khot Village

**Transportation:** Private-hire van



## Winter Day 9:

### Sevan Lake & Old Khot, Armenia

Enjoy the beauty of Sevan Lake, followed by a night under the stars in the village of Old Khot.

#### Morning:

Travel by private-hire van to Sevan Lake & Old Khot (4 hours)

#### Activities:

- Hike along and swim in **Sevan Lake**, a high-altitude lake (1900m) that is the Caucasus region's largest
- Visit **Sevanavank Church**, a 9th-century monastery overlooking Sevan Lake
- Visit **Tatev Monastery**, a 9th-century Armenian Apostolic Christian monastery perched at the edge of a large basalt plateau.

**Accommodation:** Guesthouse in Tatev Village

**Transportation:** Private-hire van





## Summer Day 10: Tatev & Byurakan, Armenia

Visit the historic Tatev Monastery and hike on Mount Aragats, finishing the day with a homestay in Byurakan Village.

**Day:**

**Travel by private-hire van to Byurakan, stopping at famous sites along the way. (6 hours)**

**Activities:**

- Visit **Tatev Monastery**, a 9th-century Armenian Apostolic Christian monastery perched at the edge of a large basalt plateau.
- Visit to **Devil's Bridge (Satani Kamurdj)**, a 500 metre gorge along the Vorotan River
- Visit to **Noravank**, a 14th-century medieval cantilever-style church
- **Homestay with a local Armenian family** in Byurakan village in rural Armenia.

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Byurakan Village

**Transportation:** Private-hire van



## Winter Day 10: Tatev – Byurakan, Armenia

Drive the length of the country and enjoy breathtaking views of mountains, lakes, green pastures, and the picturesque countryside along the way.

**Day:**

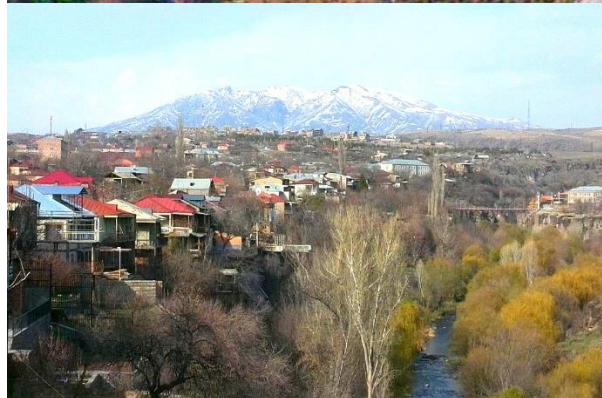
Travel by private-hire van to Byurakan, stopping at famous sites along the way. (6 hours)

**Activities:**

- Visit to **Devil's Bridge (Satani Kamurdj)**, a 500 metre gorge along the Vorotan River
- Visit to **Noravank**, a 14th-century medieval cantilever-style church
- **Homestay with a local Armenian family** in Byurakan village in rural Armenia.

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Byurakan Village

**Transportation:** Private-hire van





## Day 11: Byurakan, Armenia

Discover an abandoned Soviet observatory, the scenic Kari Lake, and ancient ruins, all while experiencing life in a traditional Armenian village.

### Activities:

- **Homestay with a local family** in Byurakan Region and experience life in rural Armenia
- Visit the **ROT-54 Soviet Space Observatory** an abandoned observatory that is a relic of Soviet-era space exploration  
*(visit dependent on political situation)*
- Visit to **Kari Lake** and take a **scenic hike** (2-4 hours) around the beautiful Kari Lake, located at the foothills of Mount Aragats. Along the way, **visit abandoned structures** such as **old weather stations** and a **space observatory**
- Visit the 7th-century ruins of **Amberd Fortress** and its neighboring 11th-century bathhouse, set against a backdrop of stunning mountain views.

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Byurakan

**Transportation:** Private-hire Van



## Day 12: Byurakan - Yerevan, Armenia

Return to Yerevan, marking the end of your 12-day journey through Georgia and Armenia.

### Morning:

**Drive from Byurakan to Yerevan (2 hours)**

**12 PM - End of the tour**

**Transportation:** Private-hire van

