



Adventure



Georgia



Georgia is perfectly designed for the ultimate adventure holiday.

- Stride through some of the highest, most dramatic mountain scenery in Europe;
- hang glide off high cliffs;
- white-water raft down glacier fed wild rivers;
- bike along barely used tracks;
- ride horses across plains untouched since the early days of the Silk Road.

To all hikers, climbers and adventure seekers, welcome to the country of Adventure: *welcome to Georgia.*

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Walking through the mountains all morning was hard going at times, but the view was totally worth it!

Walking and Trekking

Getting away from busy life is easy in Georgia. Whether you're following ancient trails along lush river valleys, past ancient stone towers and castles or catching your breath on high altitude mountain paths, it is likely that you will be the only person for miles around.

Many paths have been maintained over the centuries by locals dedicated to looking after their cattle and livestock, and with so many trails to choose from, your walk can be as challenging or as easy-going as you like.

And what an experience. Marvel at the magnificent snowy peaks of the Caucasus mountains, full of hidden valleys and glaciers. Lower down you come across more varieties of animals, birds and flowers than in any other European country.

Wherever you decide to walk, you'll be sure of a warm welcome. Whether you choose to sit and drink some local wine, sample the delicious locally produced food or even stay overnight in the villagers home, you'll always be treated like a guest.





Paragliding

Filled with high cliffs, hot sun, and icy peaks, opportunities to catch thermals in Georgia is overwhelming. Why not come and find that perfect spot for yourself.

Horse Riding

And if walking becomes too tiring you can always ride. Breathe in the pure sweet air as you gallop across the green plateaus of southern Georgia; gasp as your horse pulls you up and over the high passes in Khevsureti or Tusheti. And at the end of the day, camp in the remotest, most idyllic



of places or find your own home-stay for the night.

Allowing you to travel into areas beyond the reach of even today's 4x4s, you'll



understand why a horse is a ride perfectly suited to explore more of this incredible country.

4x4 Adventure

Because Georgia is a compact and diverse country, there is a very small distance between completely contrasting landscapes. All can be seen within a day or so, when travelling by 4x4 vehicle: deserts, sea, subtropics, tea plantations and high mountains. Experience the breathtaking scenery change moment by moment and

capture the essence of what it is to be in Georgia.

Mountaineering

With twelve mountains higher than Mt Blanc and some of the most spectacular peaks in Europe, Georgia is becoming the mountaineers new favourite country. While the bravest can anticipate scaling over 5,000 metres at Mt Kazbek or Georgia's highest mountain, Mt Shkhara, there are also a huge number of easier, lower climbs for every level of mountaineer.



Mountain Biking

With so many fabulous mountains, countryside and well established paths, Georgia is a perfect place to fulfil your mountain bike ambitions. Race along high ridges or stroll down elegant valleys; the choice is limitless and invigorating.

Rafting

Georgia is full of wild, fast flowing rivers, fed from glaciers in the surrounding mountains, as the water races from its 5,000 metre peaks to the sea in just a short distance. Many offer superb white water opportunities, and you can take advantage of many carefully organised tours to experience this incredible adventure for yourself.



Caving

Georgia and especially its Western part contain an amazing array of cave systems, from underground rivers and lakes to enormous caverns and limestone scenery. Trek, or ride to some of the many canyons that dot the landscape and at Sataplia, experience the thrill of seeing actual 300 million year old dinosaur footprints set into the rock ground.

The Tskaltubo Cavern system has not yet been fully explored but even now it offers adventurers the chance to go over a kilometre underground and take a boat across its enchanted lake.

Bird Watching

With over 360 endemic species of birds, Georgia is a bird-watcher's dream. Principal migration routes through the high Caucasus and along the Black Sea corridor provide superb viewing opportunities in stunning settings.

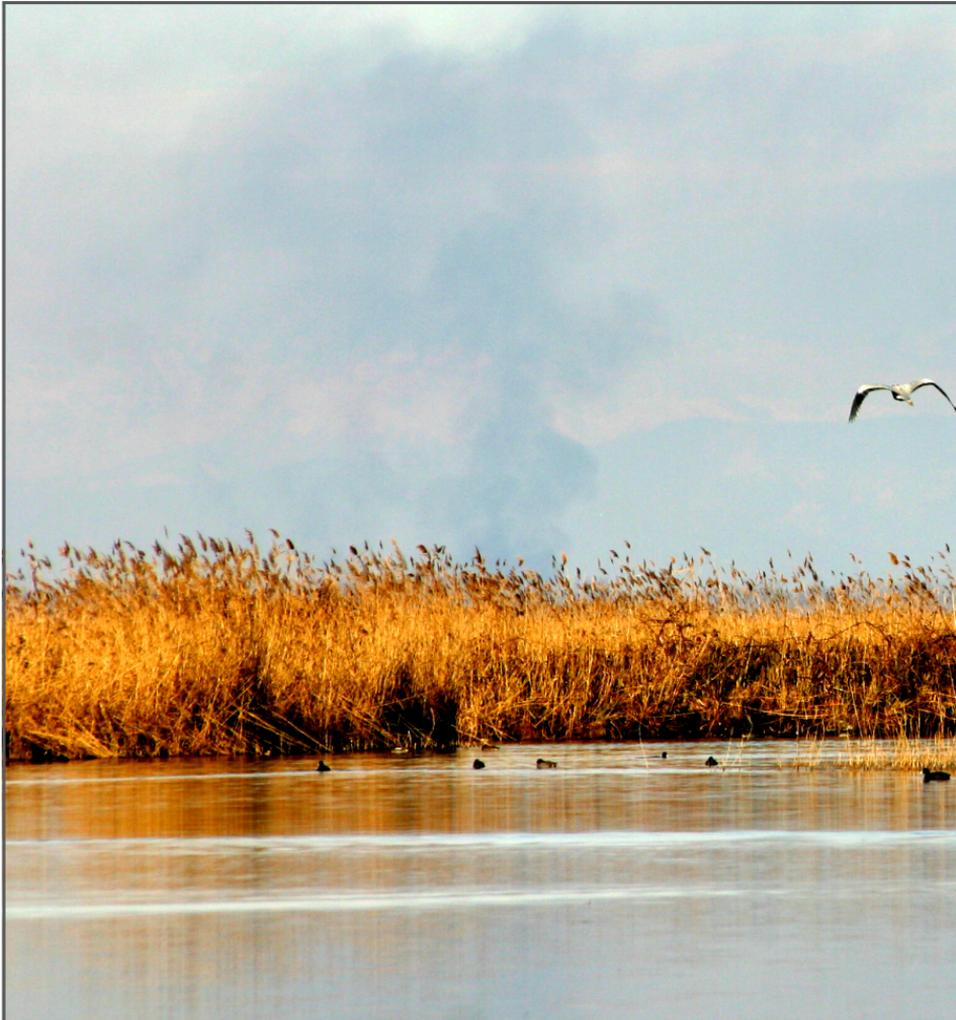
Ballooning

Hot air balloons have unrestricted use of the air space in Georgia, and the weather conditions allow flying almost all year round. Some say that a hot air balloon is the perfect way to see the scenery, valleys and mountains of Georgia with Kartli Valley in Shida Kartli and Alazani Valley in Kakheti of the particular appeal due to the stunning and unique scenery.

The Natural World and National Parks

Georgia's natural environment is one of the most special in the world. Geologically its' surface is more diverse, than that of much larger countries and the stunning landscape ranks among the world's top twelve. In a mere 67,000 square kilometres (the size of Ireland) you can

find 5000 metre-plus peaks; glaciers; alpine meadows; sub-tropical coastline; high desert; semi-desert; fertile valleys; wetlands and of course a large swathes of virgin forest. The rich natural resources found in our country are exceptional. National parks and protected areas

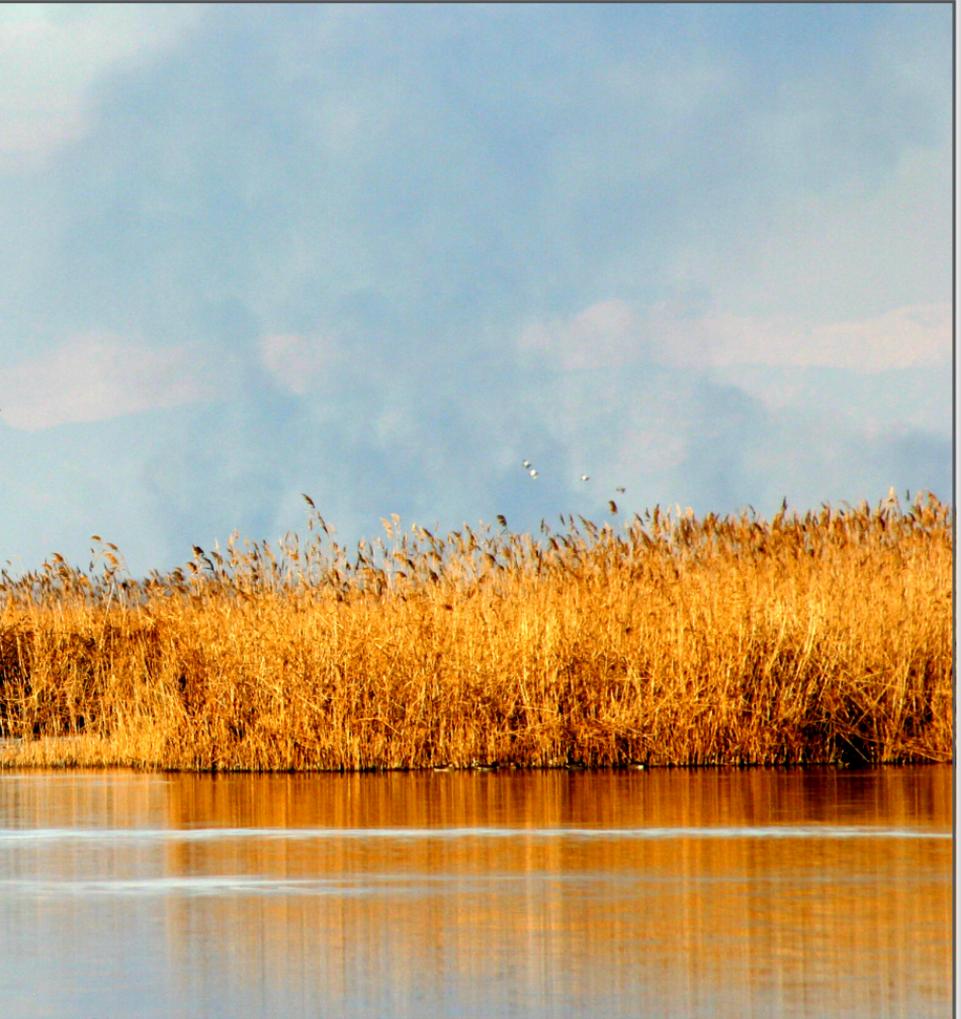


cover more than 7% of Georgia. 75% of the all protected areas are covered with woods. There are 14 national reserves, 9 national parks, 17 suppressed, 14 natural monuments and 2 protected landscapes in Georgia.



No country in Europe possesses such rich flora and fauna as Georgia, nor such a diversity of landscape.

Prof. Michael Succow | World Wide Fund for Nature





I couldn't believe how much wildlife there was to see as we walked through the valley - it really was a special day!



Wildlife

Due to its large areas of uninhabited forest and remote high alpine zones, Georgia has more species of animals, than any country in Europe. This includes a number of endemic species – perhaps the most notable being the Caucasian aurochs ('jikhvi' in Georgian), unique for its splendid laterally curved horns. Besides this, Georgia has many animals now no longer found in western European countries. It has brown bear, lynx, wild boar, bezoar goats, chamois, wolves, jackal, wild cats, a number of endemic butterflies, lizards, snakes and numerous tortoises. Recently the endangered Anatolian Leopard has been caught on remote cameras in the Vashlovani National park – although it has yet to be seen by the naked eye.



For adventure like this, join us for the best moments of your life...

Travel information

Visa Requirements

Valid passports are required for visitors of all nationalities. Georgia has a liberal visa regime; with visa waiver for the citizens of 94 countries for short-term visits (Not exceeding 90 calendar days in any 180-day period).

For more information please visit the website of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia:

www.geoconsul.gov.ge

Getting There

By air

Direct flights to Tbilisi are available from Batumi and Kutaisi, as well as from many European and Asian cities. Non-stop flights can be taken from Amsterdam, Munich, Riga, Vienna, Paris, Warsaw, Istanbul, Dubai, Tel-Aviv, Baku, Moscow, Yekaterinburg, Kiev, Minsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Alma-Ata, Aktau, Urumqi, Doha, Erbil, Baghdad, Sulaymaniyah, Sharm el-Sheikh, Sharjah and Najaf.

Batumi International Airport

Direct flights to Batumi are available from Tbilisi, Moscow, Kiev, Istanbul, Minsk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.

Kutaisi International Airport

Direct flights to Kutaisi are available from Tbilisi, Kiev, Warsaw, Moscow, Minsk, Budapest and Vilnius.

By land

Daily buses mainly to Tbilisi depart from Baku, Istanbul, Ankara, Trabzon, Yerevan and Athens.

By Train

Georgia is connected to Armenia and Azerbaijan. Trains from Baku are available every day and for more information and timetables, please visit: www.railway.ge

By Sea

Georgia can be accessed by weekly ferries from Ukrainian ports of Ilychevsk and Odessa.

Accommodation

Major cities like Tbilisi and Batumi offer hotels of all categories from international four-star, to home-stays. In rural regions accommodation is primarily three-star family hotels, bed and breakfast and home-stays.

Cuisine

There are many excellent restaurants in Tbilisi serving both traditional Georgian and international cuisine, while restaurants in different regions of the country mainly offer traditional dishes.

Climate

The climate of the country is extremely diverse, considering the nation's small size. The Greater Caucasus Mountain Range plays an important role in moderating Georgia's climate, protecting the nation against cold air from the north, while the Lesser Caucasus Mountains protect against from the very dry, hot air from the south. Average temperatures in summer range from 19 °C to 22 °C, and in winter from 1.5 °C to 3 °C.

Currency

The official currency in Georgia is the Georgian Lari usually indicated as GEL. Lari is subdivided into 100 Tetri. Major hotels accept credit cards, but please check outside the main cities. Cash point machines are available throughout major towns and cities.

Electricity

Electrical current - 220 Volts, 50 Hz. EU standard plugs work throughout Georgia.

Communications

The country code is +995 and the area code for Tbilisi is 322. Georgian mobile operators (Geocell, Magticom and Beeline) cover almost the whole territory of the country and there are many WI-FI zones that enable visitors to use the internet for free.

Health

For the emergency services please call 112 - the Emergency Management Department.

For more information please visit: www.georgia.travel



www.georgia.travel

Hotline (24 hrs.)

☎ 0 800 800 909

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