

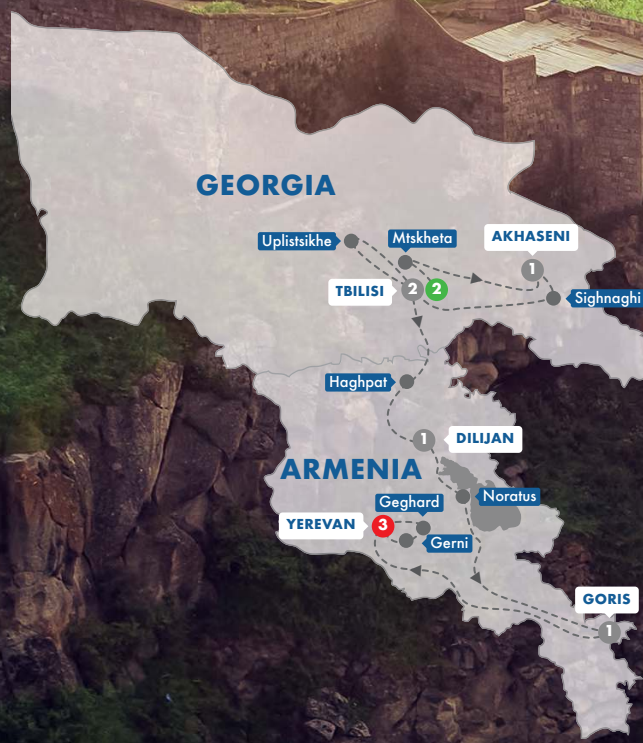
# GEORGIA AND ARMENIA UNCOVERED

11 DAYS


2 COUNTRIES

20 MEALS

EXPLORE DRAMATIC LANDSCAPES AND THE COLOURFUL HISTORY OF THE SNOW-CAPPED CAUCASUS AS YOU JOURNEY ACROSS THE EURASIAN CROSSROADS OF GEORGIA AND ARMENIA AND DISCOVER EUROPE'S BEST KEPT SECRET.



GUEST  
REVIEW  
RATED:

feefo   
NEW FOR 2020  
NOT YET RATED

## ICONIC HIGHLIGHTS

- **SIGHTSEEING TOUR** with a Local Specialist in Tbilisi and Yerevan
- **VISIT** Bodbe Monastery and Uplistsikhe Cave Town
- **VIEW** Metekhi Church, Narikala Fortress, four UNESCO World Heritage sites including the Jvari Monastery, the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and the monastic complex of Haghpat, Lake Sevan, the cross-stones in Noratus, the Wings of Tatev ropeway, Khor Virap Monastery, Mount Ararat, the Cascade Complex in Yerevan and the UNESCO-listed Geghard Monastery



## DAY

**1 ARRIVE TBILISI (2 NIGHTS)** A smorgasbord of architectural marvels overlook the cobbled streets of Georgia's capital. On arrival in Tbilisi, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel where you'll meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception with drinks and Georgian-style fare this evening. **(WR) Hotel: Wyndham Grand**

**2 TBILISI SIGHTSEEING** Your sightseeing tour begins at the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Metekhi Church, from there you'll wind your way along narrow streets and stroll past the patterned balconies and colourful façades that are so characteristic of this city. Ascend to the ancient Narikala Fortress by cable car next, before delving into the legend of the Golden Fleece at the Georgian National Museum. **(B)**

**3 TBILISI – MTSKHETA – AKHASENI** Leave Tbilisi behind as you head to the ancient capital of Mtskheta. Known as the religious centre of Georgia, you'll revel in the twin UNESCO World Heritage sites – the 6<sup>th</sup>-century Jvari Monastery and 11<sup>th</sup>-century Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. Delve into the city's Christian history which saw it granted the status of a 'Holy City', then retire to your hotel where you'll enjoy dinner. **(B, L, D) Hotel: Wine Resort**

**4 AKHASHENI – SIGHNAGHI – SAGAREDJO – TBILISI (2 NIGHTS)** Travel to the fortified town of Signaghi in the heart of Georgia's wine region. Visit Bodbe Monastery, one of the country's most prominent pilgrimage sites, then head to Kakabeti village in Sagaredjo where you'll 'Connect With Locals' and enjoy an exclusive 'Be My Guest' lunch and wine tasting. Your host will treat you to some of the local wines, followed by a master class in Georgian bread baking and *churchkhela* sweets. Return to your hotel later for an evening at leisure. **(B, BMG, 🍷) Hotel: Wyndham Grand**

**5 TBILISI – UPLISTSIKHE – CHARDAKHI – TBILISI** Trace the ancient Silk Route and visit Uplistsikhe Cave Town where you'll find an ancient theatre, church and dwellings hewn directly out of the rocky hillside. Later, 'Connect With Locals' at Iago's wine cellar where you'll sample some of the local wines produced using a traditional method which has been inscribed as a UNESCO heritage. Iago and his wife Marina regale guests with colourful stories of their life as wine producers in the area before you return to Tbilisi. **(B, 🍷)**

**6 TBILISI – HAGHPAT – FIOLETOVO VILLAGE – DILIJAN** Bid farewell to Georgia and cross the border into Armenia. Your first taste of this ancient land is the UNESCO-listed monastic complex of Haghpata featuring incredible works of medieval Armenian architecture. Enjoy lunch in Dzoraget village, then 'Dive Into Culture' by tasting Russian pancakes and homemade tea with a local in Fioletovo village, before heading to Dilijan for your overnight stay. **(B, L, D, 🍷) Hotel: Best Western Plus Paradise**

**7 DILIJAN – SEVAN LAKE – NORADUZ VILLAGE – GORIS** A day of tranquil beauty awaits at Lake Sevan – your reward for an early start to the day. You'll see first-hand why it is deserving of its nickname 'The Blue Pearl of Armenia' before stopping in the lakeside village of Noratus, with its impressive collection of Armenian cross-stones. Head to Yeghegnadzor, where you'll savour a homemade lunch of local specialties. Then, enjoy a quick photo stop in Karahunge, known as 'Armenia's Stonehenge'. Tonight you'll enjoy dinner at your hotel in Goris. **(B, L, D) Hotel: Goris**

**8 TATEV COMPLEX – ARARAT VALLEY AND KHOR VIRAP – YEREVAN (3 NIGHTS)** A thrilling start to the day sees us take a trip across the Wings of Tatev ropeway to the 'monastery on the edge of nothing'. Watch the epic scenery unfold as the world's longest aerial tramway delivers you to the 9<sup>th</sup>-century Apostolic monastery. Then, continue to Shinuhayr village where you'll 'Make A Difference' to the local community which makes a living from crafting traditional wool carpets. Enjoy lunch in a local family's home nearby before continuing to your final stop for the day, Khor Virap Monastery. Admire the views of Mount Ararat, Armenia's national symbol, then head to Yerevan, the country's capital. **(B, L, 🍷) Hotel: Ramada by Wyndham**

**9 YEREVAN SIGHTSEEING AND FREE TIME** Your sightseeing tour will start in Republic Square and continue to the Cascade Complex, home to the Gafesjian Centre which houses some of Armenia's most important works of art. Take the Great Cascade to Victory Park for incredible views of the heart of the city. The rest of the day is free to explore the city your way. Consider spending your afternoon on an Optional Experience to visit the Ruins of Zvartnots, or perhaps enjoy dinner in the former home of a famous Armenian painter. **(B)**

**10 CAVE MONASTERY EXCURSION** Today's excursion takes us to the UNESCO-listed Geghard Monastery. Hewn partly from the surrounding rock, Geghard is most famous for its incredible acoustics and spectacular natural beauty. You'll 'Dive Into Culture' during a moving performance of Armenian spiritual songs, or *sharakans*, performed by a live quintet, before a scenic drive brings you to Garni. Here you'll meet a local family who will teach you how to make Armenia's national flatbread *lavash* paired with cheese and greens. 'Connect With Locals' as you sample the *brduj* snack you've just made yourself and take a walk around your host's garden and orchard, learning about the different fruits grown in the area. On your return to Yerevan, enjoy delicious flavours of the legendary Armenian brandy during a local distillery visit. Tonight, you'll end your epic adventure through Georgia and Armenia with a Farewell Dinner in a traditional Armenian tavern, paired with folk songs and dance. **(B, FD, 🍷, 🍷)**

**11 DEPART YEREVAN** After a whirlwind journey to two lands with dramatic pasts and vibrant multi-cultural legacies, it's time to say a fond farewell to new friends and prepare for your journey home. A transfer will take you to the airport for your return flight. **(B)**

## MORE ABOUT YOUR TRIP

\* All prices are per person, twin share.

**Shared Rooming:** Room Share is not available on this trip.

**Airport Transfers:** Complimentary transfers will be available for guests who have provided Trafalgar with their flight details and are staying in Tbilisi and Yerevan hotels booked by Trafalgar.

**Important Visa Information:** Visas may be required for this trip. Please speak with your travel agent at the time of booking to assess your specific requirements.

**Trip code:** GAAR

Single Supplement (add to price above): US\$720 PP



**PAY EARLY SAVINGS  
SAVE UP TO US\$255 PP**

## OTHER GREAT SAVINGS

1. Young Traveller Savings	SAVE US\$250
2. Multi Trip Savings	SAVE UP TO US\$64
3. Triple Share Savings	SAVE UP TO US\$50 PP
4. VIT (Very Important Traveller)	Benefits for past guests

## HANDCRAFTED HIGHLIGHTS

Here's just a sample of the many special Trafalgar highlights included in your trip.



## CONNECT WITH LOCALS

Enjoy a master class in Georgian bread making and *churchkhela* sweets at a 'Be My Guest' lunch and wine tasting in Kakabet village. **(Day 4)**

Visit Iago's wine cellar in Chardakhi and sample local wines as Iago and his wife Marina regale you with tales of their lives as wine producers. **(Day 5)**

Meet a local family in Garni who will teach you how to make *lavash*, paired with cheese and greens. **(Day 10)**



## DIVE INTO CULTURE

Indulge in Russian pancakes and homemade tea with a local in Fioletovo village. **(Day 6)**

Explore the UNESCO-listed Geghard Monastery and settle in for a moving performance of Armenian spiritual songs. **(Day 10)**



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Shinuhayr village your visit helps to fund the local community who make their living through the crafting of traditional wool carpets. **(Day 8)**



Connect With Locals



Stays With Stories



Dive Into Culture



Make A Difference

**WR** Welcome Reception

**L** Lunch

**RD** Regional Dinner

**BMG** Be My Guest

**B** Breakfast

**D** Dinner

**FD** Farewell Dinner

GET INSPIRED

# TTGEORGIAARMENIA