



AMELIA STEWART TRAVEL

*Journeys for the curious*

WALKING ADVENTURE IN TUSHETI

WITH AMELIA

30 JUNE – 9 JULY 2024

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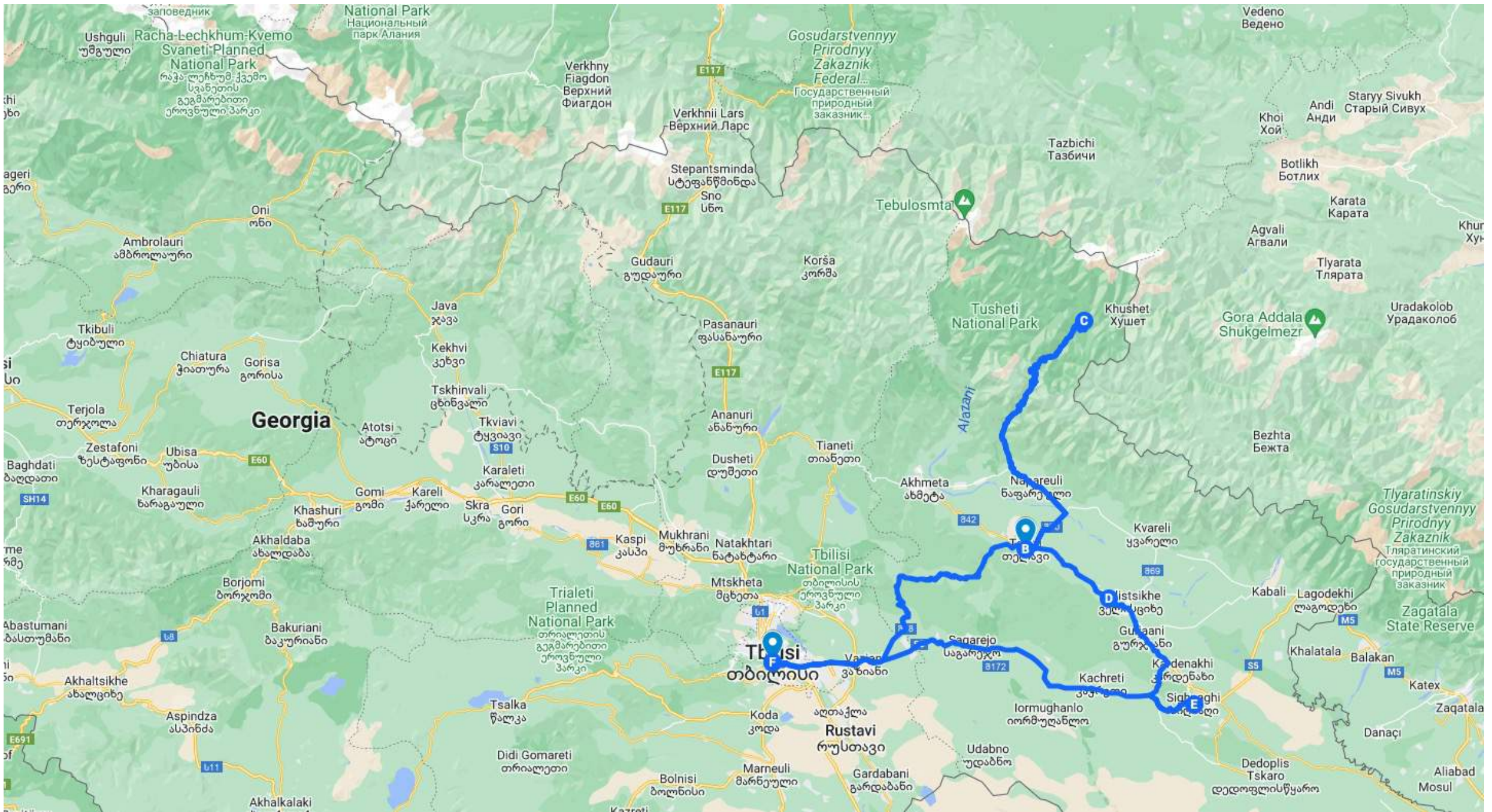
# Itinerary Overview

Date	Location	Accommodation & Room Type	Basis
Days 1 - 2	Tbilisi	<a href="#">Old House Hotel</a> 1 x Twin/DBL	B/B
Days 2 - 8	Tusheti	Village Guesthouses 1 x Twin/DBL	B/B
Day 8 - 10	Kakheti	<a href="#">Vazisubani Estate</a> 1 x Twin/DBL	B/B

Please note hotels in Tbilisi and Kakheti are not confirmed. Should they not be available, hotels of a suitable alternative will be found.

Guesthouses in Tusheti are basic – most have private bathrooms.







# Tour Introduction


‘WHEREVER WE HAD BEEN in Russia, in Moscow, in the Ukraine, in Stalingrad, the magical name of Georgia came up constantly. People who had never been there, and who possibly never could go there, spoke of Georgia with a kind of longing and a great admiration. They spoke of Georgians as supermen, as great drinkers, great dancers, great musicians, great workers and lovers. And they spoke of the country in the Caucasus and around the Black Sea as a kind of second heaven. Indeed, we began to believe that most Russians hope that if they live very good and virtuous lives, they will go not to heaven, but to Georgia, when they die. It is a country favored in climate, very rich in soil, and it has its own little ocean. Great service to the state is rewarded by a trip to Georgia.’

*John Steinbeck: A Russian Journal*

This private 10 day tour of Georgia is indeed a little slice of heaven, the majority of which will be spent in the heavens - the Tusheti region is often aptly described thus. Our five day walk will take us into the most spectacular landscapes: crossing rivers, exploring ancient villages, forests, climbing ridges and becoming acquainted with local folklore. This region is only accessible during the summer months and remains untouched by any of the trappings of mass tourism. Descending from the region we stop in the wine growing region of Kakheti with options for exploring a nearby beautiful national park as well as enjoying the nectar of an ancient viniculture. The late great chef Anthony Bourdain was particularly taken with Georgia which he described as ‘... Hauntingly beautiful and otherworldly.’




# Detailed Itinerary


 Day 1 – Sun 30 June


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**Arrive Tbilisi (Meals incl: B/-/D)**

 Flights TBC - a suitable flight from Istanbul to Tbilisi arrives in the early afternoon.

Met by Amelia and transfer to the hotel on arrival. Time to relax before heading to a nearby lovely restaurant for supper to welcome you all to Georgia.

 Accommodation: Old House Hotel Tbilisi

 Day 2 – Mon 1 July

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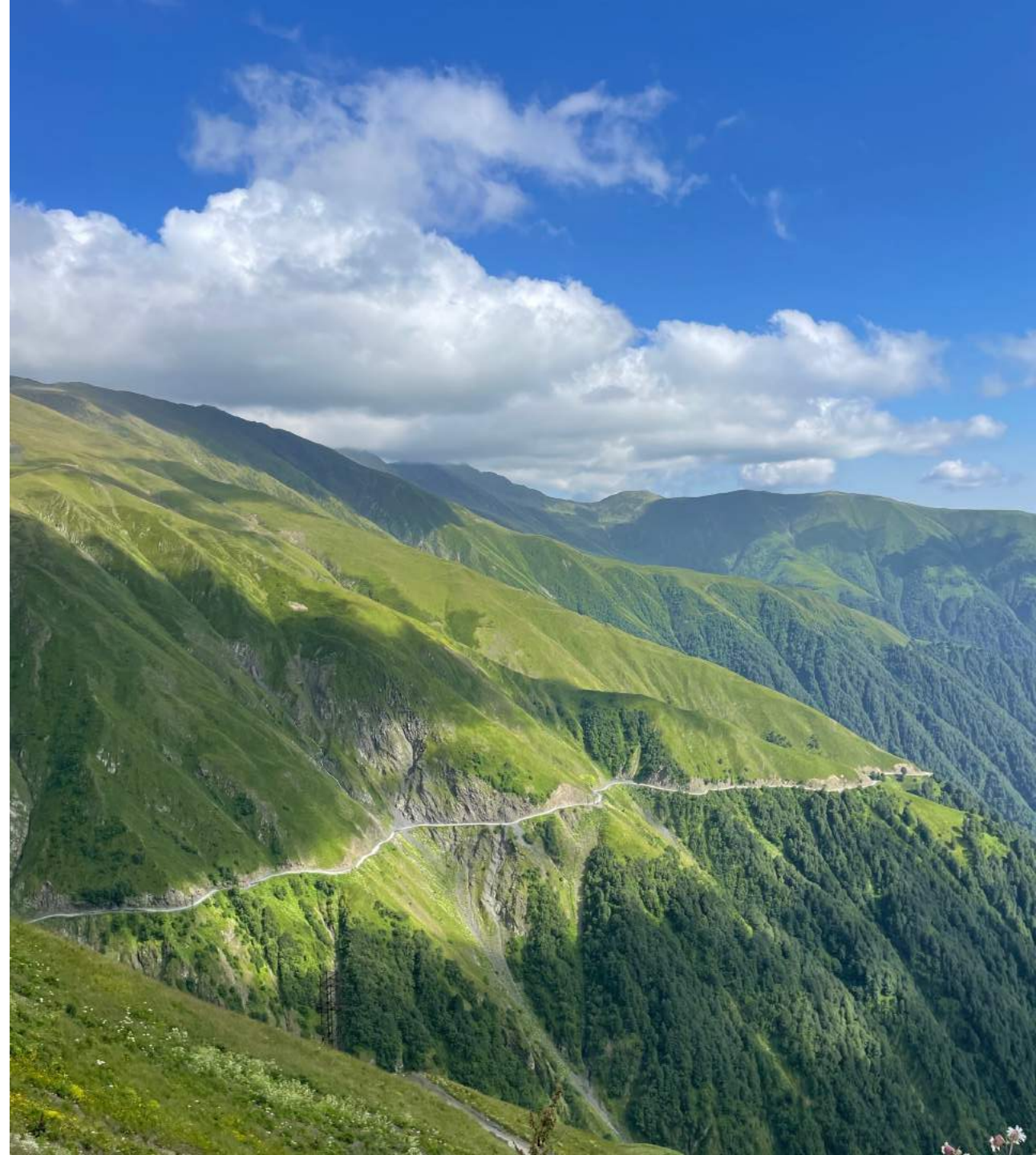
**Tbilisi – Omalo (Meals incl: B/PL/D)**

Meet up with our local guide and drivers for a prompt departure from Tbilisi to start the long journey to Omalo in the Tusheti region.

We will stop en route – to see a Monastery in the Kakheti region and stock up in the Telavi market. A picnic lunch in a lovely spot on the way as the road starts to climb into the heavens with spectacular 360 degree scenery. We arrive into Omalo approx. 5pm and check into our guesthouse for two nights. An evening stroll to admire the views up at Kesselo before supper at the guesthouse.


*Transfer time: Approx : 8hrs*

 Guesthouse in Omalo, Tusheti






# Detailed Itinerary

 Day 3 – Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> July

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## Omalo – Oreti Lake – Omalo hike (Meals incl: B/PL/D)

A short drive to the start of our walk today – a good acclimatisation walk to get us in the mood ☺. The walk takes us along narrow dirt tracks passed shepherds huts and through pine forests to Oreti lake, nestled on the mountain slopes south of Omalo. From the lake, there are great panoramic views of the whole region and it's a lovely spot for a picnic lunch. There is some elevation today and a tough climb to the ridge but everything gets easier once you make it to the top ☺  
Return to our guesthouse for a second night and a hearty meal to finish the day. *Dist: 12.5kms Approx/5 hrs Up: 920m/Down 15m*

 Accommodation: Guesthouse in Omalo, Tusheti

 Day 4 – Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> July

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## Omalo – Shenako – Diklo (Meals incl: B/L/D)

Today's walk takes us to the handsome village of Shenako perched on a promitory overlooking a valley and with a striking 13<sup>th</sup> C Russian built church. There are some gorgeous houses here and we stop for lunch before pressing onto to Diklo. The walk today takes us over wooden bridges, and into forests, through fields of grazing cows until we reach Diklo for the night. There are some wonderful moss covered ruins nearby to explore before settling into our guesthouse and enjoying a hearty supper

*Dist: 13kms Approx/5 hrs Up: 660m/Down 541m*

 Accommodation: Guesthouse in Diklo, Tusheti



# Detailed Itinerary

## Day 5 – Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> July

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### Diklo – Tutareki gorge – Chigo (Meals incl: B/PL/D)

A long day's walk today across mountain slopes to the village of Chigo. We picnic en route and for those with tired feet, a vehicle will be available to drive the latter part of the afternoon to arrive into Dartlo. Dartlo is one of the most picturesque villages clinging onto the side of the mountain and has been extensively restored allowing some of the residents to reside all year round. The views from this village are quite stunning, and it's wonderful to explore the tiny alleyways, stopping for a mountain tea or local beer with a resident.

*Dist: 15kms Approx/6 hrs Up: 950m/Down 1000m*



Accommodation: Guesthouse in Dartlo, Tusheti



## Day 6 – Fri 5<sup>th</sup> July

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### Dartlo – Kvavlo – Dano – Dartlo OR Free day (Meals incl: B/L/D)

This is a day with two options – for walking or enjoying wonderful Dartlo and admiring the views, reading, relaxing and exploring the village. Those who walk, today starts with an uphill hike to explore ruins and an old fortress before continuing on to the pretty hamlet of Dano. Return in the afternoon for our second night in Dartlo.

*Dist: 7.5kms Approx/5 hrs Up: 380m/Down 372m*




Accommodation: Guesthouse in Dartlo, Tusheti







# Detailed Itinerary


 Day 7 – Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July


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**Darto – Parsma – Girevi (Meals incl: B/PL/D)**

Today is our last full day of walking and we're heading for Girevi via the middle age village of Parsma with its imposing towers. Here we enjoy a picnic lunch before continuing to Girevi. There's an atmospheric fortress to explore before a further round hike to Chontio and back to Girevi in the late afternoon for our last night in the mountains. Tonight we settle in with our hosts and sample khinkali washed down with Aludi the local Tushetian beer.

*Dist: 15.4kms Approx/5 hrs Up: 427m/Down 503m (+4kms if doing afternoon walk).*

 **Accommodation: Guesthouse in Girevi, Tusheti**

 Day 8 – Sun 7<sup>th</sup> July

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**Tusheti – Kakheti (Meals incl: B/L/- )**

Today we start our descent from the Tusheti region returning along the same incredible road into the Kakheti region – the well known wine growing territory of the country. We'll stop for lunch and a wine tasting at a family winery in Alvani before continuing onto our hotel to reach it in the afternoon and check in for two nights.


The rest of the day to relax, swim in the gorgeous pool and enjoy the splendid views of the Alazani valley around us.

*Transfer time: Approx 6 hrs*

 **Accommodation: Vazisubani Estate, Kakheti**



# Detailed Itinerary

 Day 9 – Mon 8<sup>th</sup> July


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**Kakheti (Meals incl: B/-/D)**

Today is yours to either enjoy relaxing at the beautiful hotel reading and enjoying the pool and surroundings. Alternatively there is an option to go to the national park of Lagodeki approx. 1hr one way transfer from the hotel. This is a pristine forest filled with endemic flora and fauna with trails that lead through it to magical waterfalls.

In the afternoon return to the hotel and we visit the Tsinandali Estate to enjoy a fantastic farewell dinner with wine-tasting in the local family wine cellar.

 Accommodation: Vazisubani Estate, Kakheti

 Day 10 – Tues 9<sup>th</sup> July

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**Kakheti – Depart (Meals incl: B/L/-)**

We depart this morning to Signaghi for a tour of the pretty town before heading to Lost Ridge Ranch for a tasty lunch at the ranch café with beautiful views and enjoy local craft beer tasting. After lunch we transfer straight to the airport for afternoon flights out of Tbilisi.  
Transfer time:

\*Please note there are options to extend this tour and return to Tbilisi to enjoy the sights etc.

 Suggested Flight TK383 Departs Tbilisi 17:30, Arr LHR 22:00





# Itinerary Cost

Price: £2380 per person (based on 6 people)

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## Includes

- All airport transfers in a minibus (one for arrival/one depart)
- 4WD Delica vehicle with professional drivers for Tbilisi – Omalo – Kakheti (3 guests in each car)
- 1 x support vehicle in Tusheti (to transport luggage and/or guests)
- All accommodation as described
- Experienced local guide to accompany our Tusheti walk
- All activities, sightseeing, excursions etc as described
- All meals (B/L/D as detailed each day)
- Enough water pp for the trek each day
- 3 x wine tastings (Alvani, Tsinandali, Sighnaghi)
- Optional activity to Lagodeki (Day 9)
- Amelia to accompany the tour

## Excludes

- International flights
- Single Supplement £400 per person
- Drinks during meals
- Meals not included (please see B/L/D by each day)
- Room upgrades
- Additional guides (payable on site)
- Additional activities (horse riding, spa, etc)
- Gratuities (an amount per person will be suggested in final documents)
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance
- PCR tests if required



# Practical Information



## How to Book & Pay

Please complete and return the Booking Form together with a 20% deposit amount transferred to our account. Please there are additional fees to pay by credit card (detailed on the booking form).



## Getting there

If you need help with flights please let us know – we can suggest the best flights and book them for you, alternatively point you to an excellent flight agent.



## Accommodation

See details to accommodation chosen to linked hotels on P.3. The hotels chosen in this itinerary are all good – a characterful 4\* boutique hotel in Tbilisi and a wine estate in Kakheti. Guesthouses in Tusheti are simple and basic but comfortable. There may be one or two where bathrooms are shared.



## Guides & support

Excellent professional local Tusheti guide for our walk. A local Kakheti guide otherwise.



## Food & Drink

Plenty! Picnics will be carried during our walk.



# Practical Information



## Insurance

It's vital that you take out adequate travel insurance to cover this trip to incl Covid cover as well. [Campbell Irvine](#) are good as are [Allianz Direct](#) but you must be a UK resident to apply.



## Visa requirements

At the time of writing there are currently no visa requirements for UK passport holders. Please check the information on Covid entry restrictions for Georgia through the [GOV.UK website](#).



## Inoculation requirements

Further information on Georgia stats for Covid can be found through the [WHO website](#).



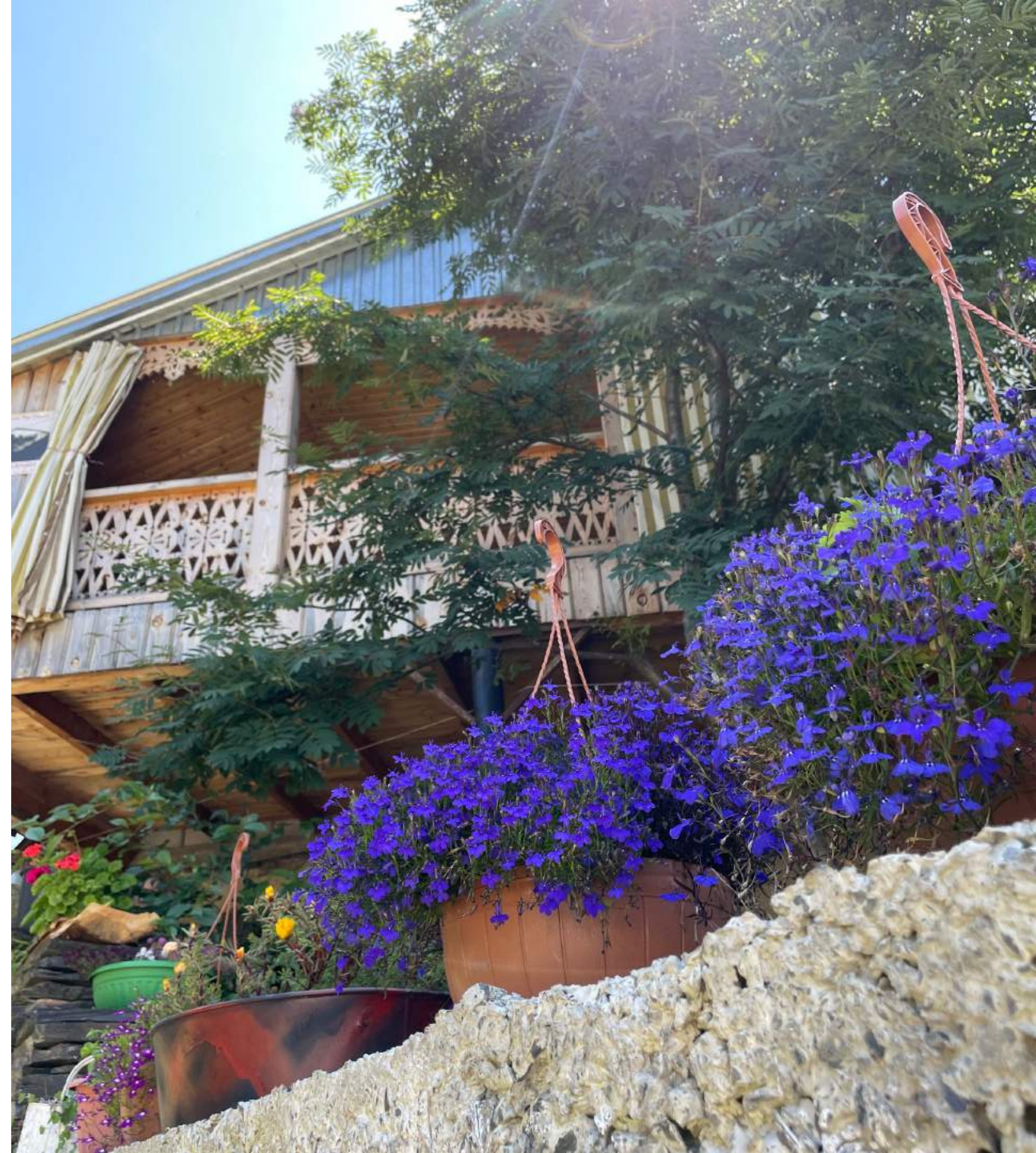
## Weather

Early summer and Autumn are the best times to visit Georgia. The Tusheti region is only accessible from June to early September.



## Tipping

Further information will be provided on the final documents sent out prior to departure.



[www.ameliastewarttravel.com](http://www.ameliastewarttravel.com)

