

# GEORGIA

## 'Shadow of the Caucasus'



Firstly, we are thankful for your interest in one of our motorcycle adventures! We hope that riding with us, either in Georgia, Iceland, Nepal, Uganda or elsewhere will fuel your taste for many more adventures. We do this tour in cooperation with Mototravel Tbilisi. Here is some information that you should know before starting your tour.

### **Itinerary.**

This tour will show you some of the best offroad passes of Georgia including the famous *Abano* pass! Filled with stunning views of the *Caucasus* mountains. As well some of the must-see cultural sites like *Vardzia*, Georgia's famous wine planes of *Kakheti* (stay at a local winehouse!), ride the less known *Khevshureti* valley and of course *Tusheti*! A mystical place in Georgian folklore. An unbeatable mixture of great on and off-road riding, amazing sceneries and a rich cultural experience!

Besides this we will indulge in the local Georgian cuisine. It's influenced by the country's location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Taste the *Khachapuri*, a famous cheese-filled bread. Or *Khinkalo*, juicy dumplings filled with spiced meat or mushrooms, potatoes, or cheese. Georgia one of the world's oldest wine-producing regions known for its *qvevri*, making wine in clay pots under the ground. Or *Chacha*, a strong grape brandy, which is also very popular.

We'll stay in local guesthouses and sometimes dwell in well-earned luxury. A nice mixture of unique places that will enhance the whole experience!





## TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Day:	From:	To:	Distance:
1	Home	Tbilisi	-
2	Tbilisi	Vardzia	220 km
3	Vardzia	Khulo	180 km
4	Khulo	Bakhmaro	150 km
5	Bakhmaro	Akhaltsikhe	200 km
6	Akhaltsikhe	Gori	120 km (half rest day)
7	Gori	Khevshureti	230 km
8	Khevshureti	Kakheti	200 km
9	Kakheti	Tusheti	100 km
10	Tusheti	Tusheti	0 - 80 km (day-trip)
11	Tusheti	Tbilisi	100 km
12	Tbilisi	Home	-

*(depending on riders experience level, weather forecast2, and/or a combination the itinerary can be changed)*



**Package price:**

Tour package (on a Suzuki V-ström DL650 XT*):	€ 3790
Upgrade Honda Transalp XL 750*	€ 300
Upgrade Honda CRF 1100 Africa Twin*	€ 400
Supplement single room:	€ 410 per person

*\* the rental price included 3rd party insurance and there is a self-risk of € 600/900/1200 (depending on type of motorcycle).*



**The price is including:**

- ✓12 days holiday, 10 days riding
- ✓All accommodation (based on twin bed rooms)
- ✓All breakfast and dinners
- ✓Motorcycle rent including 3<sup>rd</sup> part insurance
- ✓Support vehicle (so no luggage on the bike!)
- ✓Experienced guide (and sweeper when > 7 participants)
- ✓Garmin inReach GPS-tracker
- ✓Welcome gifts from Explore360°

**Not included:**

- ❖Flight tickets to and from Tbilisi, Georgia
- ❖Medical insurance (including repatriation), travel insurance and cancelation insurance
- ❖Full coverage insurance for the rental motorbike\*
- ❖(Alcoholic) drinks / lunch and refreshments.
- ❖Single room supplement
- ❖Gasoline
- ❖Personal expenses



### **Riding abilities.**

First of all, you don't need to be an off-road expert to join our tours. You'll need a minimum of 1-2 year experience on your motorcycle and for each tour we have specified which experience you'll need.

The Georgia tour is a level 3 all-road tour (out of 5), and is for riders who are experienced with off-roading and/or who have joined a (2 days) offroad training on *medium* level. The ratio on - offroad is like 35 – 65% on this tour.

The days can be long, depending on many factors (punctures, weather etc.). The pace is relaxed, it is not a competition. We are traveling, not racing and will take a break frequently. There will be time enough to take pictures, movies, rest etc. On the longer tours (>7 days) we have resting days to enjoy all the local cultural highlights and to refuel of energy. We do want to emphasise that for our off-road tours that you need to be healthy and in a good physical condition. The riding, in combination with the weather can make it challenging en strenuous.



### **Geography - Climate Georgia.**

The climate of Georgia is mild and rainy on the coast and in the western plain, while it is more continental and arid in the central and eastern inland areas (during summer it can be hot). In the mountains, it is obviously colder.

Georgia is a country located between Europe and Asia and overlooking the eastern coasts of the Black Sea. The mountains of the Caucasus to the north separate it from Russia.

The Caucasus Mountains (Greater Caucasus in the north and Lesser Caucasus in the south) and the secondary chains have an Alpine climate, more or less cold depending on altitude, with heavy snowfalls in winter; there are vast glaciers above 3,500 meters (11,500 ft), especially along the watershed of the Greater Caucasus, which is higher.

The highest peak in Georgia is Mount *Shkhara*, 5,193 meters (17,037 ft) high.





## Practical information

- ✓ Currency - Georgian Lari. You will have the possibility to change money or upon arrival at the airport or take money from an ATM (bring your credit card). We will have several possibilities more during our tour. Exchange rate (Jan 2025) 1 € = 3 GEL / 1 \$ = 2,87 GEL.
- ✓ ATM. There are ATM's in the bigger towns. Make sure you'll have a 4 digits PIN code and money either in Saving or Checking account.
- ✓ Credit Card. Most of them are accepted, but preferable is VISA or Mastercard..
- ✓ Phone. Make sure you have an international (roaming) package, otherwise it could become expensive. You can also buy a local sim-card including data. It's cheap and there is a network available almost everywhere.
- ✓ Electricity. In Georgia, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type C and type F are used. The standard voltage is 220 V at a frequency of 50 Hz.
- ✓ Internet. We will have often access to WiFi/internet in the hotels, but it can be slow. You can buy a local (e)simcard and be online with your phone all week (when reception).
- ✓ Food. The food is very good in Georgia! We will eat in known restaurants with a good reputation. Sometimes we eat a basic pick-nick lunch out in the middle of nowhere.
- ✓ Water. We recommend to drink only bottled water, especially when in bigger cities.
- ✓ Bringing an rehydration powder/solution (often it contains sugar, salt and minerals) could help you preventing dehydration.
- ✓ Allergies/medications. Let us know on before hand if you have any allergies, a special dietary food need, or are using special medication.



## What to bring?

### For riding

- Boots. These are very important, especially for the off-road tours. Boots with a good hard sole (for standing up) and a **hard plastic ankle protection** are a **must** have.
- Helmet. Road, system, full face or cross helmet are all fine. Just make sure you'll have a clear visor and sunglasses/dark visor. We advise you to bring your helmet with you in the airplane as hand luggage.
- Base-layer. Some thin cooling down like a thin Merino shirt. Mid-layer: fleece or similar.
- Rain gear in case of a chilli start in the morning or that possible shower. Accessible at all time on the bike (back-pack or tail-bag)

- Riding gear. Jacket and pants with protection on back, shoulder, elbows and knees. Make sure that it has **good** ventilation! It can be (very) warm, especially when in the low lands.
- Gloves. Bring at least one pair of thin warm-weather gloves and a pair all weather (Gore-Tex) gloves.
- We strongly recommend to bring a small backpack with hydration bladder like the Kriega, Camelback, etc. Drinking during the day keeps you hydrated. You can use the back-pack also for bringing you camera and other small stuff.



### **What to bring on you?**

- Passport and drivers license, money (cash Dollars/Euro's as back-up)
- Bank card (debit/credit).
- Phone / small camera
- Buff / bandana. To protect the neck or cold or in case of dust
- Lip balm, Sunglasses, sunscreen

### **Clothing and other:**

- Most of the time you will be riding and wearing you riding gear, so don't bring too much clothing.
- Non-riding clothing. Bring light and thin clothes and beside a pair of shorts, at least a pair of long trousers.
- Warm sweater (for the possible chilly evenings)
- Swimming clothes (we'll stay in a hotel with spa & sauna etc.).
- Pair of walking shoes / sandals.
- Personal toiletry items.

### **Documents to bring:**

- ✓ Valid passport (**at least 3 months valid upon entry**).
- ✓ Drivers license (international drivers is not required but suggested for some countries).
- ✓ (travel/medical) Insurance papers.
- ✓ Medical insurance information (emergency and policy number).
- ✓ A vaccination carnet is not needed. Check your own medical health organisation which vaccinations are recommended for travelling to Georgia.



### **What to do upon arrival at the airport?**

- Make sure you have all your luggage before leaving the terminal. When luggage is missing, advise the airline and let us know too. You have to pick this up in person (hopefully) the day after.
- Take out money from the ATM or exchange money.
- Buy a local (e)simcard
- Take a taxi (Bolt, reliable and cheap!) to the hotel.
- If you arrive earlier or later, please give us a call or text to let us know your whereabouts.

### **Insurance motorcycles**

The motorcycles have 3<sup>rd</sup> part insurance. So basically what you damage is what you'll pay. There is a deposit for damage that ranges from € 600, € 900 to € 1200 (depending on bike). An additional (travel) insurance that includes cover of the self-risk for the rental bike is recommended (in Sweden ERV has one that covers up to SEK 25 000 / € 2500 self-risk).

### **Luggage**

You can bring a big hard suit case for you riding gear. If so, please bring a smaller soft-bag to bring your personal clothes in during the tour in the support vehicle.

### **Extend your stay**

If you'd like to arrive earlier or stay longer to explore *Tbilisi*, you can stay in the same hotel as we start or finish our tour (depending on availability). Or you can book something yourself of course. Just let us know what you prefer.

### **Our contact information**

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