

Ancient Landscapes: A Pilgrimage to

THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

June 5 – 19, 2025



Illuminated Journeys invites you to
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WELCOME!

You are invited to join us not as a tourist, but as a pilgrim. Along the way you will be encouraged to approach each experience with contemplative awareness and each sacred site with care. Time will be given for learning, integration, meditation and interaction. As we journey together, we will focus on major themes in the Georgian spiritual tradition. Time will be spent exploring how those themes can be integrated into our lives.

Optional meditative sessions will include the music of the Taizé community, Georgian music, journaling, small group interaction, discussions with our leaders, Georgian music and prayer.

Because registration is limited to 15 participants, group size will encourage personal interaction in style and content.

When we are joined by local specialists, mythologists, archaeologists, artisans, musicians and storytellers to share experiences and offer guidance to us, there will be opportunities for interaction.

We are confident that your journey will be a fulfilling one. We have gone before you, having traveled to Georgia many times to meet with those who will join us as we go.

Accessibility: Many of the places we visit and explore reflect the rugged isolation of early Georgian hermits. In order to reach these sacred prayer cells, ritual sites and monasteries, we will often travel by foot. This pilgrimage is not recommended for those who have severe health problems or limited mobility.

June 3, 2025 – Tuesday – Fly to Tbilisi.

June 5, 2025 – Thursday

Following a pre-dawn arrival in Tbilisi and an early check-in at our hotel, we'll cross the Threshold into the evocative history and landscape of Georgia with an excursion to the ancient capital city of Mtskheta and the 6th century church of Jvari. Lunch will be followed by a visit to St. Nino's cell and the Royal Garden of Samtavro. A brief group gathering before dinner at the hotel will provide a reflective time of welcome to this two-week pilgrimage.

STAY: Tbilisi • B, L, D

June 6, 2025 – Friday

Tbilisi has long been at the cross-roads of continents and civilizations. Set on the silk road, it is an ancient place of convergence. Today we'll explore the spiritual mosaic of this capital city with visits to the 6th century Anichiskhati Church, the Jewish Synagogue, the Armenian Cathedral and the Mosque. After lunch you'll see the baths that give Tbilisi its name and we'll have time to wander back to the hotel with some interesting stops along the way. A group gathering and dinner at a nearby restaurant complete this day.

STAY: Tbilisi • B, D

June 7, 2025 – Saturday

Many monasteries in modern Georgia are named after 13 Assyrian monks active in Georgia in the 6th century. David Gareja was one of those early monks who established a 6th century monastic cave complex in the desert of Southeastern Georgia. Today's excursion takes us to this beautiful and unique monastic site where we will make the short hike up the hill and into the fresco-lined caves.

STAY: Tbilisi • B, D

June 8, 2025 – Sunday

Sunday morning, we'll be welcomed to worship at the Peace Cathedral of Tbilisi, home to a unique Georgian congregation with extraordinary music. Following a traditional Georgian lunch, we'll make our way by bus to Kakheti, Georgia's famous and ancient wine region.

We'll enjoy an evening meal and tasting at a winery in the hilltop town or Signaghi.

STAY: Kakheti • B, L, D

June 9, 2025 – Monday

For centuries, the church of Bodbe, the burial place of St. Nino, the patron saint of Georgia, has been a pilgrimage site. We begin our day with a visit to this lovely hill-top shrine. A drive through the beautiful vineyards of Kakheti takes us to a local winery where we will enjoy lunch and a tasting. We'll arrive back at our hotel in time for you to enjoy a free evening in Signaghi and dinner on your own.

STAY: Kakheti • B, L

June 10, 2025 – Tuesday

Signaghi is home to an important museum featuring archeological treasures and the work of Georgia's National folk artist, Neko Pirosmiani. Following a relaxed morning and visit to the museum, we'll make our way West to Bazaleti Lake stopping for lunch along the way.

STAY: Mtskheta • B, D

June 11, 2025 – Wednesday

Today we make our way North into a dramatic and rugged range of mountains known as the Caucasus. In the shadow of Mt. Kazbegi, at 16,500 ft. one the highest peaks in Georgia, we'll visit the isolated splendor of the 14th century Trinity Church. Following a traditional Georgian lunch, we make our way back down to our hotel, passing through the popular ski resort of Gudauri.

STAY: Mtskheta • B, L, D

June 12, 2025 – Thursday

As we begin our journey west toward the Black Sea, we'll stop in the city of Gori, birthplace of Joseph Stalin. A visit to his museum gives a unique perspective on this devastatingly influential world leader. A stop at Uplistsikhe, a marvelous UNESCO world heritage cave city gives us a glimpse into Georgia's rich cultural heritage. Then we'll enjoy lunch at a boutique, family winery on our way to an evening and overnight in the Western Georgia city of Borjomi.

STAY: Borjomi • B, L

June 13, 2025 – Friday

The cave city of Vardzia, just 8 miles north of the Turkish border, is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the country. A UNESCO World Heritage site, it contains chapels, a monastery, ancient living quarters and practicing monks. Occupying most of the day, this journey will include a stop at the beautiful monastery and church of Sapara. Following a picnic lunch we'll make our way back to Borjomi.

STAY: Borjomi • B, L, D

June 14, 2025 – Saturday

Today we venture to the Black Sea where we will relax for lunch on the black-sand beach near Ureki. Southwestern Georgia, with its modern playground city of Batumi, is also home to a fascinating 14th Century Ottoman culture and is the setting for the even more ancient mythic story of Jason and the golden fleece.

STAY: Batumi • B

June 15, 2025 – Sunday

This morning we enjoy a walking tour of the old city of Batumi exploring Turkish influence and meeting a guide at the Batumi Mosque. Then we'll drive to Kutaisi stopping along the way to explore the spiritual riches of Gremi, burial place of "David the Builder," one of the most iconic figures in Georgian history.

STAY: Kutaisi • B, D

June 16, 2025 – Monday

This morning we make a unique exploration to the Georgian underworld at the Kumistavi cave. Also known as the cave of Prometheus, this is the largest cave in Georgia. Then, we'll drive back to Tbilisi. Before our arrival at the hotel, we'll enjoy a traditional song-filled Georgian Dinner called the Supra at a welcoming and hospitable outdoor riverside restaurant in the countryside.

STAY: Tbilisi • B, D

June 17, 2025 – Tuesday

Known for centuries as a place of religious convergence, Tbilisi is home to a large Yazidi community. For those who would like to explore this unique tradition, a morning option will take you to the Yazidi temple. The rest of the day is yours to explore Tbilisi with a late afternoon option to discover Georgia's ancient Qvevri wine tradition with a tasting at a wine cave near our hotel.

STAY: Tbilisi • B

June 18, 2025 – Wednesday

For many years, Tbilisi has been the home of a robust arts community. A morning option is a guided visit the National Art Museum to explore Georgian artists and sculptors. The afternoon is free followed by a late afternoon group gathering to reflect and bid farewell to this land of contrasts and diversity.

STAY: Tbilisi • B, D

June 19, 2025 – Thursday

Pre-dawn transfer and departure from the airport.

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Tour Price:

Basic Tour Price: \$4295 US

Single Occupancy Supplement:

Add \$795 US to basic price

(This pilgrimage does not include transportation to and from Georgia)

Payment schedule:

- \$495 non-refundable deposit due upon receipt of application. If this trip is canceled due to insufficient numbers, your deposit will be returned.
- Send early to ensure your place: \$495 deposit
- November 1, 2024 – \$2000 due
- February 1, 2025 – Balance due

All payments payable to:

Illuminated Journeys and mailed to:

8273 E. Davies Ave., Centennial, CO 80112

A pre-pilgrimage travel kit will be shipped to you approximately 25 days prior to departure provided final payment has been received.

Cancellation Schedule:

- Deposit of \$495 is non-refundable.
- 59 days to 49 days 75% non-refundable.
- 48 days to 0 days 100% non-refundable.

In addition, charges incurred to cancel arrangements will be added to above cancellation penalties.

Refund for unused arrangements:

Unused arrangements, services or features of any tour are not refundable or exchangeable unless agreed upon prior to departure.

Tour price includes:

- Comfortable accommodations
- Good food
- Deluxe motor coach
- All scheduled sightseeing, entrance fees, and guides
- Meals as follows: Day 1 – B,L,D; Day 2 – B,D; Day 3 – B,D; Day 4 – B,L,D; Day 5 – B,L; Day 6 – B,D; Day 7 – B,L,D; Day 8 – B,L; Day 9 – B,L,D; Day 10 – B; Day 11 – B,D; Day 12 – B,D; Day 13 – B; Day 14 – B,D

(B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

Tour price does not include:

- Your transportation to and from Georgia.
- Travel/medical insurance (supplement recommended)
- Tips for items of a personal nature (such as room service, beverages, meals, telephone and valet charges, etc.) are not included in the tour cost and are left to your own discretion.
- Group Tip for bus driver – 80 to 100 Lari per person. (suggested)
- Your transportation cost to meet the group if you arrive later than 5 am on Thursday, June 5, 2025 and miss the group departure from the airport.
- Fees for passports and visas; laundry; telephone calls; wine, liquor, mineral water; sightseeing and services other than those specifically mentioned; personal items; excess baggage; foreign airport taxes
- Some meals : Day 1 – B, L; Day 2 – L; Day 3 – L; Day 4 – L; Day 6 – L; Day 7 – L; Day 8 – L; Day 9 – L, D; Day 10 – L, D; Day 11 – L; Day 12 – L; Day 13 – L; Day 14 – L; Day 15 – L, D

(B= breakfast, L= lunch, D= dinner)

For More Information:

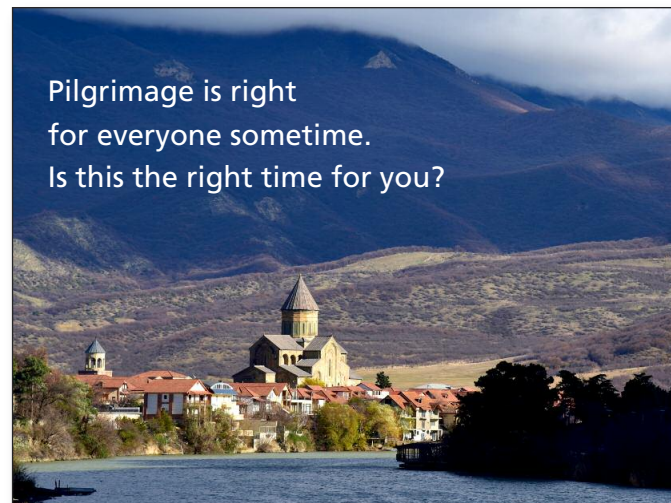
720.489.8073 (Denver Metro)

1.877.489.8500 (Toll Free)

email: brad@illuminatedjourneys.com

web: www.illuminatedjourneys.com

Pilgrimage is right
for everyone sometime.
Is this the right time for you?



Your guides

Brad Berglund will facilitate this pilgrimage. Brad is an author, pastoral musician and spiritual director. He is an experienced tour guide and has special skill in the spirituality of pilgrimage. **Alexander Kavtaradze PhD** was born in Tbilisi and studied in the UK as well as the United States. He is an anthropologist, historian and author who is passionate about sharing the depth of Georgian culture with international guests and pilgrims.

In addition, other knowledgeable Georgian guides enhance and deepen your experience by joining you along the way. Your guides in Georgia are specialists from many disciplines. They include:

- Artists and woodcarvers who interpret Georgia's mythology and culture in creative ways
- Musicians who've played traditional Georgian music all their lives
- Archeologists who bring Georgia's past to life
- Committed leaders, who unwrap the mysteries of monastic cave cities

Each of these friends will impact your life in surprising and unforgettable ways.

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Reservation Confirmation Form

Please print this page and mail completed form with your deposit made payable to:

Illuminated Journeys
8273 E. Davies Ave.
Centennial, CO 80112

Questions about the tour itinerary? Contact Brad Berglund:

Phone: **720-489-8073**

1-877-489-8500 toll free

E-mail: **brad@illuminatedjourneys.com**

Please reserve _____ space(s) for the Ancient Landscapes Pilgrimage. A check for a non-refundable deposit of \$495 per person is enclosed. Cancellation policy is outlined in this brochure.

Reserve soon—this tour is limited to 15 participants.

Name: _____
(as it appears on your passport)

Name: _____
(as it appears on your passport)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: () _____

Email 1 _____

Email 2 _____

Tour cost Please mark appropriate box(es)

(Note: prices do NOT include transportation to and from Georgia)

☐ Basic Tour Price PP: \$4295 US (sharing twin/double room)

☐ Sharing—I need a roommate
(single supplement applies if no roommate is available)

☐ Sharing—I have a roommate
Roommate's name _____

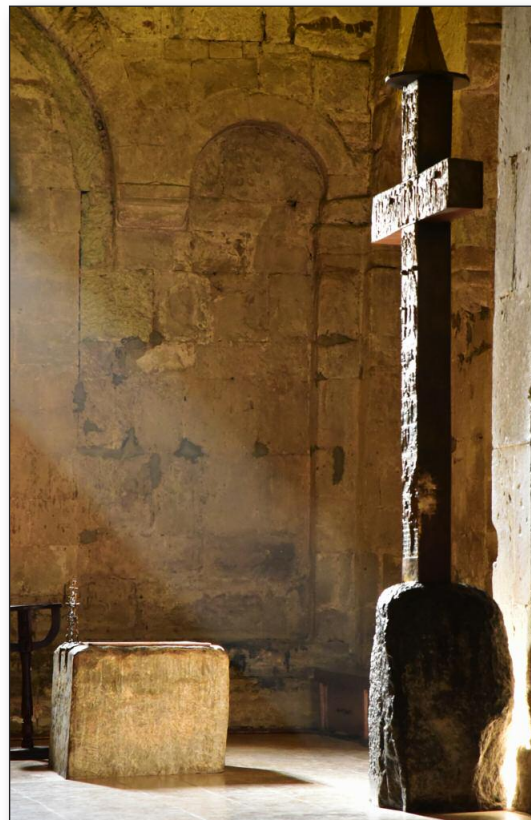
☐ Single Occupancy Supplement: Add \$795 US to basic price

Declaration: I/We have read, understand and accept the *Fine Print* section in the accompanying brochure. I further understand and accept that Rita and/or Brad Berglund and Illuminated Journeys are not responsible for the specific incidents mentioned in the *Fine Print* section.

Signature _____

Signature _____

Date: _____



The Fine Print - Ancient Landscapes 2025

Illuminated Journeys, Inc., 8273 East Davies Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112-1889 is not responsible for any personal injury, property damage or other loss you may suffer or incur on this tour arising from acts or failure to act on the part of any Air Carrier, Public Transport Company, Hotel, Car Rental Company, sub-contractor or other person or organization, whether or not such air carrier, public transport company, hotel, car rental company, subcontractor or other person or organization is rendering any of the services or accommodations offered or supplied on the tour. All tickets, coupons and orders are furnished and issued subject, in all respects to the foregoing and to any and all terms and conditions under which the transportation and other services and accommodation provided thereby are offered and supplied. Illuminated Journeys, Inc. accepts no responsibility for losses or expenses due to delay or changes in schedules, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the passengers. Baggage is at owner's risk throughout the tour unless insured. Small articles, (coats, wraps, umbrellas, etc.) are entirely in the care of the passengers. The right is reserved to decline or accept or return any person as a member of any tour or to cancel or alter the tour.

Accommodation: Land arrangements will be provided as described in each tour. The right is reserved to substitute hotels and sightseeing features listed herein for accommodations in similar categories.

Baggage: Airline baggage allowance and fee structure is unique to each airline. You are responsible for those fees. We encourage you to fit everything into one small bag and one carry on.

Children: Children (under 10 years of age cannot be accommodated on escorted tours) are charged the full adult fare and must be accompanied by an adult.

No Smoking: Smoking is not allowed on the escorted tours while on board the motorcoach. Frequent sightseeing and rest stops will be made at which time there will be an opportunity to smoke.

Currency Exchange: All prices in this program are shown in U.S. Dollars and are based on currency rates existing on November 1, 2023. Prices are per person based on sharing a twin room. Illuminated Journeys, Inc. reserves the right to alter prices at any time prior to your departure and without prior notice if, in this opinion, circumstances so warrant. Any devaluation or revaluation of currencies will affect the printed prices.

Insurance: Information regarding travel insurance will be made available to all participants. Travel insurance covers losses in the event of cancellation of the tour, loss or damage to baggage, and medical expenses in the event of accident, injury or illness. Its most valuable feature is coverage for "medical evacuation" in the event that you need special travel arrangements or assistance to return home.