

## ONE DAY TRIP TO UPLISTSIKHE, ATENIS SIONI & GORI

Duration of program 8 - 9 hours

The Georgian lands are ancient crossroads and remember many ancient civilizations and great peoples. Town-dwelling began in Georgia around the 8th-7th cc BC. The trade route from India led through the lowlands of the Mtkvari and Rioni valleys to the Black Sea & further westwards. The towns, such as Mtskheta, Gori, Uplistsikhe, developed as centers of trade and manufacture, grew up along this route; one of these towns was Uplistsikhe, the administrative & political centre of Kartli, built over several centuries of the 1st millennium BC and continued expand in the early centuries AD.



### Sites to visit:

- **Uplistsikhe** - meaning "The Fortress of God", an ancient cave town from the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC, situated on the crossroads of important trade routs. It was the main centre of paganism, and represents a complex of halls, caves, theatres, altars, pagan temples, secret tunnels, prisons, pharmacy, passages-streets all carved out of stone over an area of 4 hectares. At its peak of prosperity, the city had a population of 20 000. In 9th -10th cc AD a three-nave basilica was added to the complex (\*walking tour required, wich takes apox.1.3h)
- **Atenis Sioni** - is a masterpiece of monumental architectural art. It stands on a cliff side on the outskirts of a small village. The church dates back to the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century. It is built of carved greenish-grey sandstone which turns red when it gets old. It has two entrances: southern and northern ones. The walls of the church display unique Georgian writings of different periods. The murals, completed in the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, follow the old Georgian traditional iconographical style. Most of the splendid frescoes are still visible today
- **Stalin's Museum** - The town of Gori is Stalin's birthplace. The museum exhibits re-create surreal and revealing scenes from the life of the dictator and include unique photos, gifts and furniture. The house where Stalin was born is preserved under a stone canopy nearby, also is preserved Stalin's train wagon

Lunch at local restaurant / or winery

### RATES:

1 pax	230 USD per person
2 pax	145 USD per person
3 pax	125 USD per person
4-5 pax	110 USD per person
6-7 pax	100 USD per person
8-12 pax	85 USD per person

### Prices include:

- Transportation by comfortable vehicle according the program
- English speaking tour guide according the program
- Entrance fees according the program
- Lunch at a local restaurant or winery
- Pick up& drop-off

**Prices exclude:**

- Catering not mentioned
- Visits not mentioned
- Other expenses not mentioned

**What to bring with:** Appropriate footwear, water, raincoat, torch, suntan lotion & hat

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**NOTES:**

\* All rates are based on contracts subscribed with our providers in 2015 and are subject to minor changes in 2016; we preserve the right to revise given rates in 2016

\* Most of museums are closed on Mondays and official holidays

\* Sightseeing order can be modified due to weather and time conditions

\* Suggested restaurant is upon availability