

# Maison Marani

## Package 2

### **DAY 1: ARRIVAL/KUTAISI (-/-/-)**

Arrival in Kutaisi International Airport, Meetings and Greetings, transfer to the hotel and check in.

Overnight in Kutaisi.

### **DAY 2: KUTAISI –THE CAPITAL OF WEST GEORGIA (B/-/D)**

After breakfast start city tour –Kutaisi, oldest city of Georgia, it was the capital of ancient kingdom of Colhis, 6-5thC. BC. Nowadays it is the second main city of Georgia. First visit Gelati Monastery and Academy complex, which is a masterpiece of the Golden Age, it is in the list of UNESCO world heritage sites. Survey the territory and continue to beautiful Bagrati Cathedral, built in 11thC., a masterpiece of medieval architecture.

Our trip continues to Kumistavi cave, also known as the cave of Prometheus cave, The cave was discovered in 1984 and was almost immediately developed as a show cave. Prometheus is the biggest cave in Georgia. Although only one tenth of it is open for tourists, it takes about an hour to explore it. Inside there are underground lakes and rivers; rather high humidity and a lot of bats, which, however, do not bother tourists, as they fly very high. Today, surrounded by a 3km long specifically designed landscape area, Prometheus cave is one of the most visited by tourists spots of Georgia. It is a unique experience to feel the underworld atmosphere in all its glory and colors. Tourists may choose between walking tours along the 1600 meters route, and the boat ride along the underground river. Visitors are amazed with breathtaking views of stalactites, stalagmites, petrifying waterfalls, underground rivers, and lakes of the cave. At the end of the tour transfer to the hotel.

Dinner and overnight in Kutaisi.



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### DAY 3: RACHA – GREATER CAUCASUS (B/-/D)

After breakfast drive to Racha – the region is famous for its mountainous nature and producing one of the finest wines, Khvanchkara. The first landmark when entering in lower Racha is all season beautiful lake – Shaori. Its the largest lake of the region with its special micro-climate – always cooler in summer, while in winter covered with snow and often frozen. Thanks to the mixed forests, its very impressive especially in autumn, when the surrounding colorful trees are reflected in the lake, and in winter after fresh snow, stunning at the moments of enhanced visibility in winter/autumn periods when you can see the reflection of the snowed Caucasus summits on the surface of the lake. A perfect stop for a barbeque/picnic, relaxation in summer, fishing, as well as camping.

In addition, after having visited the famous nine crosses hike and Dzewri cave which are on the way, continue to Nikortsminda Cathedral (built in 1010-1014) which is a symbol of the Golden Age of Georgian architecture, with its unique facade decorations, bareliefs from the 11th century and 15th century paintings depicting noblemen of Racha and Imereti from those times. Nikortsminda is just minutes' drive from Shaori lake. From Nikortsminda we reach the next destination which require a little effort. Udabno (Chelishi) Ruins and Shareula River source – is a pleasant walk from Nikortsminda (just few kilometers 2-3) in wonderful nature surroundings. Cold mountain river in deep forest, place for picnic and just a heavenly rest in summer, there is also a water dam where you can swim. Besides ruins of old monastery you can see the source of Shareula river as it disappears in the cave. In addition to all these wonders, within 300m radius you can visit one more cave called Sakinule („fridge”) with a considerably lower temperature than outside. So it's a nice destination for summer.

**Overnight and dinner in Kutaisi.**



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### **DAY 4: SAMEGRELO AND HIGH CAUCASUS (B/-/D)**

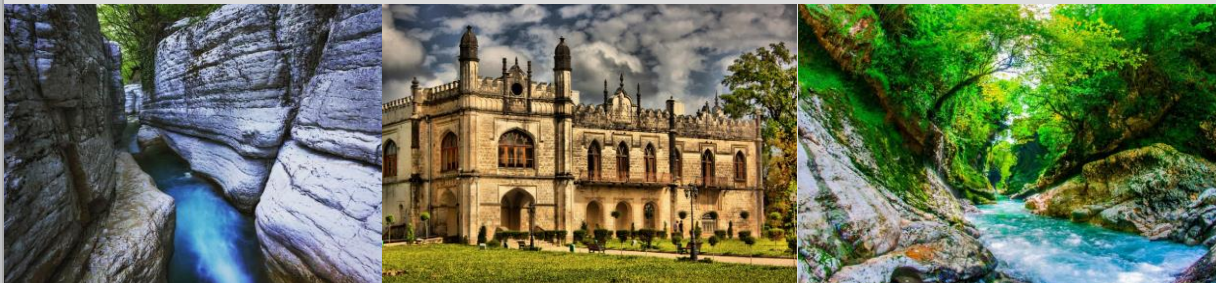
After breakfast drive to Samegrelo region and visit Martvili Canyon, enjoy the scenery with its waterfalls and take a boat trip along the river to enjoy its deep green color. Then drive further to visit Martvili Monastery, the site upon the hill where the monastery stands today was used in ancient times as a pagan cultural center and was a sacred site. There once stood an ancient and enormous oak tree that was worshipped as an idol of fertility and prosperity.

After the conversion of the native population to Christianity, the ancient tree was cut down so as not to worship it anymore. A church was originally constructed in the late 7th century upon the roots of the old oak tree and was named in honor of Saint Andrew who preached Christianity and converted the pagans across the Samegrelo region.

Continue the tour to the main city of Samegrelo region – Zugdidi, visit local ruler's - Dadiani's Palace Museum, The Dadiani Palaces History and Architecture Museum houses some exhibits of natural cultural heritage of Georgia – Tagiloni treasure materials, Mother of God holy vesture, the icon of queen Bordokhan – mother of queen Tamar of Georgia, manuscripts from 13th – 14th centuries, miniatures, memorial relics of Dadiani dynasty, and objects connected to emperor of France Napoleon Bonaparte, brought to the palace by the husband of David Dadiani's daughter, prince Achille Murat, the grandson of Napoleon's sister, Carolina.

After that visit the Dam on Enguri reservoir, one of the biggest dams in the world, finish the tour and drive to the High Caucasus region – Svaneti.

Dinner and overnight in Mestia.



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### **DAY 5: HIGHEST SETTLEMENT IN EUROPE – USHGULI (B/-/D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Take the way, by 4X4 jeeps, to Ushguli, the Europe's highest permanent settlement (2060- 2200m) is located in Svaneti, Georgia, 50km from Mestia at the foot of Shkhara summit (5193), one of the highest in Georgia. On the way we will pass local villages amidst beautiful nature, mountains, springs, and waterfalls. The Ushguli villages contain old Svan towers and buildings that are part of the UNESCO Heritage site of Upper Svaneti. Visit Lamaria church for great views of Shkhara known for its old frescoes (LA MARIA, this church named after Virgin Mary). At the end visit a hospitable local family to have lunch and taste traditional Svanetian meat pie – Kubdari. Return to the hotel in Mestia full of emotions, insatiably breathe the fresh air and enjoy the views of mysterious mountains of the Caucasus.

*Dinner and overnight in Mestia.*



### **DAY 6: BATUMI – BLACK SEA SHORE (B/-/D)**

After breakfast drive further to Batumi - the seaside. Arrive to the city and have some rest at the hotel, afterwards start an evening city tour, visit the downtown of Batumi with Piazza Square, walk into narrow streets and the boulevard amongst the modern statues, dancing fountains, beautiful architecture. At the end visit a local restaurant to have dinner and taste famous Adjarian Khachapuri. Back to the hotel. Overnight in Batumi



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### DAY 7: LEISURE ON BLEAK SEA SHORE (B/-/D)

Morning visit **Batumi Botanical Garden**. The garden consists of nine floristic sectors, those of the Caucasian humid subtropics, East Asia, New Zealand, South America, the Himalayas, Mexico, 104 of Caucasian origin. Continue to the **Gonio Fortress**, In the 2nd century AD it was a well-fortified Roman city within Colchis. The town was also known for its theatre and hippodrome. End of the tour and drive to the hotel for some rest, 20:00 Gala dinner in Georgian restaurant with a folk show.

**Overnight in Batumi.**



### DAY 8: TRANSFER AND DEPARTURE (B/-/-)

After breakfast transfer to Kutaisi airport for departure.



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### OPTION 1: 4\* PACKAGE HOTELS OR SIMILAR

- ✚ Kutaisi: 4\* hotel  
Radius, 3 nights,
- ✚ Mestia: 3\* hotel  
Mestia Inn, 2 nights,
- ✚ Batumi: 4\* hotel  
Bloom, 2 nights

### RATES (PER PERSON) NO OF GUESTS PRICE (CHF)

NO OF GUESTS	PRICE (CHF)
2-3	1,530
4-6	1,150
7-10	960
11-14	850
Single room supplement	300

### PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- ✚ Accommodations as per the list;
- ✚ Transportation during all transfers and excursions;
- ✚ English speaking guide during all trips;
- ✚ Full day Jeep tour in Svanety;
- ✚ Breakfasts included in the hotels;
- ✚ Dinners at the hotels in Kutaisi and in Mestia;
- ✚ Dinner at Georgian restaurant with wine in Batumi;
- ✚ Gala dinner at Georgian restaurant in Batumi;
- ✚ Masterclass to make Churchkhela;
- ✚ Masterclass to bake Georgian bread;
- ✚ Wine tasting in Racha wine cellar;
- ✚ Folk show;
- ✚ Entrance fees: Prometheus cave, Martvili canyon, Batumi botanical garden, Gonio Fortress,
- ✚ A bottle of water daily per person;

### OPTION 2: 5\* PACKAGE HOTELS OR SIMILAR

- ✚ Kutaisi: 5\* hotel  
Kutaisi Inn, 3 nights,
- ✚ Mestia: 4\* hotel  
Gistola, 2 nights,
- ✚ Batumi: 5\* hotel  
Sheraton, 2 nights,

NO OF GUESTS	PRICE (CHF)
2-3	1,950
4-6	1,550
7-10	1,350
11-14	1,200
Single room supplement	500

