

EXCLUSIVE ESCORTED TOUR

GEORGIA & ARMENIA



THE
COMPASS
SOCIETY
OTM



A CAUCASIAN EXPERIENCE

The Bridge Between Europe & Asia

Premium
ESCORTED
Tour

WITH EXPERIENCED TOUR ESCORT

CATHI BURNETT-COSGROVE

22 DAYS • DEPARTING 15 SEPT 2026



home
travel company

DISCOVER what others say about their experience on tours with The Compass Society and Cathi Burnett-Cosgrove...



Thank you Cathi for taking me to a country I have not visited before. **I have enjoyed every moment**; the people, the culture and taking us out of our comfort zone. **An experience not to be missed.**

– Irene

“The Planning. The Places. The People. **Pure Perfection.**”

– Glenn and Wendy

“P.S.: And the Pub!”

“So many thanks for a wonderfully crafted tour. What a magnificent mix of history and scenery plus stunning food and wine stops. **So many memorable experiences** and you even managed the weather gods for our surprise helicopter ride over the NE vineyards, what a day that was. **Cathi, you are such a fabulous facilitator**, leaving us with amazing memories and fantastic friendships, thank you!”

– Rob P.J.

“Thank you Travel Goddess for a great trip. **Loved Ireland! St Kilda in Scotland was special** and you even managed a wonderful weather!

– Robert & Jan

“Cathi, **what a great trip!** Really appreciate all your planning **and surprises.**”

– Sincere thanks, Sally

“Thankyou for **another wonderful adventure, lots of fun and good people.** Looking forward to more.”

– Wendy

“My first and, hopefully not my last trip with the indomitable Cathi.

Thank you for **all your hard work prior to travel and special care.** Thank you for all the **delightful surprises.**”

– Robyn N

“To our very dear friend Cathi, thank you so much for putting together such an amazing trip. **We couldn't think of a nicer person to spend a month with exploring some of the most beautiful places on earth.** Looking forward to many more travels with you.”

– Love and best wishes, Lyn & Laurie.

“Thank you Cathi for a wonderful tour through the ages in Ireland, the Scottish Isles and Iceland. **Amazing places, fantastic experiences and great company.** This trip has **exceeded our expectations once again.**”

– Gen and Robert

“**Another magical trip** to Laos where **all the details are taken care of.** We just sit back and enjoy. Thank you so much for a great trip.

– Barb & Steve

“So full of contrasts – **am loving this next adventure/ magical tour.**”

– Rosie

“To Cathi, thank you so much for creating this memory of Mongolia and **a great adventure.** The people, the culture, and the country provided us with **lasting memories.**”

– Annie & David

“Thank you Cathi for organising this amazing trip – we have done **so many different things and seen so much.**”

– David & Christine

“This week-long tour **certainly lived up to its name.**

Our group was so fortunate to visit scenic sensations. Places we saw in a new light due to our assiduous, inventive leader, Cathi. We shared gastronomic delights, often in totally unique venues... gourmet heaven!

Each day brought **super, superior surprises** yet we always had our restful, contemplatory times. It was a wonderful experience. **We were SO lucky.**

We were safe & spoilt. Next trip... hopefully soon!!”

– Gae

“A typical of a tour organised by Cathi – **a thoughtful and well-planned itinerary which goes beyond the superficial,** but still leaves room for spontaneity, like finding a good cup of coffee, having a drink with the locals at a country pub or checking out the Little Blue Lake!

As is always the case with Cathi's tours, the emphasis was on enjoying local produce and the quality of the included meals was exceptional.

The tour included **a number of unique offerings which could not otherwise be experienced.**”

– Wendy



INTRODUCTION

It's my privilege to invite you to join me on a Compass Society inaugural journey to the ancient and storied lands of Georgia and Armenia.

As part of the fabled Silk Road, Georgia and Armenia are a living kaleidoscope of east and west. As we explore through the Caucasus we'll be immersed in technicolour cultures so different from our own.

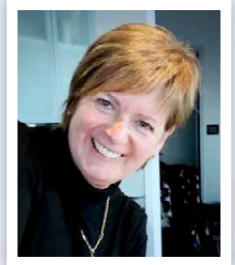
As modern nomads, we'll traverse landscapes that have seen the rise and fall of countless empires which form the tapestry of 21st century Georgia and Armenia. As with every

Compass Society tour, each element has been meticulously planned to provide you with a truthful and authentic journey.

With an emphasis on comfortable and low-impact exploration, we'll be afforded a comprehensive insight into two of the world's last undiscovered gems.

I hope you'll join me in what promises to be a breathtaking adventure.

Cathi
Burnett-Cosgrove
Travel Designer and founder
of The Compass Society[™]



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the vibrant capital of **Tbilisi**, with visits to Narikhala Fortress, Sioni Cathedral, Anchiskhati Basilica, sulphur baths, Rustaveli Avenue and more
- Hands-on **culinary experiences**: learn to cook Georgian dumplings (khinkali), bake traditional breads, make cheeses including rare Tenili, and take part in Armenian lavash and gata masterclasses
- Private wine tastings at biodynamic and family-run wineries, with immersive visits to **artisan producers** including regenerative farms, tea plantations, cheese makers, and a clay amphora brewery
- Discover **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** including Mtskheta, Jvari Monastery, Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Upper Svaneti, Haghpate Monastery and the cave monastery of Geghard
- Take a spectacular drive along the **Georgian Military Highway**, visiting Ananuri Fortress and the high mountain town of Kazbegi with views of Mt. Kazbek
- Visit the **remote mountain villages** of Ushguli and Svaneti, home to ancient defensive towers and breathtaking Caucasus landscapes
- Visit **Dadiani Palace in Zugdidi**, home to one of Napoleon Bonaparte's three bronze death masks.
- Enjoy **unique cultural encounters**: a felt-making workshop, enamel jewellery masterclass, tolma cooking at the Megerian Carpet Factory, and meaningful time with minority Molokan families in Armenia
- Experience **Megrelian and Svan feasts** with polyphonic folk performances, and authentic home-hosted meals that bring you into the heart of local life
- Explore **Armenia's treasures**: Lake Sevan and Sevanavank Monastery, Garni Temple, Holy Echmiadzin, Zvartnots ruins, and Yerevan with its vibrant old town, museums, carpets, and crafts
- Discover **remarkable sites off the beaten path**, including the monumental Enguri Dam, multicultural Rabati Castle, Vardzia cave complex, Poka Monastery, and the picturesque Martvili Canyon
- Return international flights and much more

BENEFITS OF AN ESCORTED GROUP

Being part of our premium, escorted group means you leave home with an experienced, personal tour escort. Not only this but you will be with someone who understands the travel industry, as Cathi has worked in retail travel for more than 40 years. You will travel with a local group of like-minded people (who you meet before we go, at our pre-tour get together(s)), who are great company and

understandably excited about the adventure ahead. Along the way you will meet new friends and enjoy the peace of mind of travelling in a professionally organised group.

Best of all, you will want to come back for more! Your holiday memories will last a lifetime and you will benefit from Cathi's expertise in crafting a unique experience that avoids the obvious and goes "above and beyond".



"Really enjoyable and such good company" "Lots of fun and good people."

"You connect us, giving us extraordinary experiences which remain as special friendships & unique memories."



OUR TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1

TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2026: DEPART HOBART

We travel from Hobart as we make our way to Georgia. **AIR**

Day 2

WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER: ARRIVE TBILISI, GEORGIA

Welcome to Georgia, known for its varied culture and traditions. The city's Old Town, paved with cobblestones, is a testament to its long and complex history, including periods under both Russian and Persian rule.

Day 3

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER: TBILISI

Meet your Tour Director in the hotel lobby this morning. Today, hear the myth, history, culture and traditions, diverse nature and hospitable people; all intermingle with one another, inspired poetry, polyphonic songs and elegant dancing. A blend of cultures, a smell of spices, different nations meeting on street corners, different faiths sharing the same courtyards... this is Tbilisi, the city that has been dominated by traders, warriors, tyrants and dictators in turn. Today Tbilisi is a modern city with

well-known museums and theatres, art galleries, churches, sulphur bathhouses and narrow streets with inner courts.

Sights visited:

- Metekhi Church of Assumption (13th c.) built by the king Demetre II. Resting upon the top of the hill, the church is a good example of cross-domed Georgian orthodox churches
- Georgian Synagogue – Jewish prayer house built from 1895 to 1903
- Sioni Cathedral (6th-19th centuries). The cathedral was the seat of the ruling Catholicos-Patriarchs and is commonly referred to as the “Tbilisi Sioni”, following an old Georgian custom of naming churches after places in the Holy Land
- Anchiskhati Basilica (6th c.) – the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi
- Narikhala Fortress – the main citadel of the city where you can enjoy the wonderful views of Tbilisi
- Sulphur Baths (outside view) – high in sulphur and other minerals, with a constant temperature of 38°C to 40°C, the waters have long been used as a therapeutic aid for a range of ailments
- Rustaveli Avenue – the central avenue in Tbilisi named after the medieval Georgian poet, Shota Rustaveli.

During lunch, you will be joined by a local culinary expert who will share

insights into Georgia's rich gastronomic traditions. The speaker will introduce the history, ingredients, and regional variations of Georgian cuisine, highlighting iconic dishes such as traditional Georgian supra culture. This engaging talk offers a deeper appreciation of the flavors, rituals and stories behind the country's beloved food. **B,L,D**

Day 4

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER: TBILISI – DAVID GAREJA/UDABNO – SIGNAGHI – TELAVI

Today, explore picturesque and the most fertile part of Georgia – Kakheti, which borders the Great Caucasus range from the north Alazani Valley, summits of which are over 3,000m. This region is known as a birthplace of viticulture and wine-making. The rich land, burning sun and hard work have developed about 500 varieties of vine in Georgia.

Visit Udabno, a remote village in Kakheti known for its striking desert landscapes and its proximity to the ancient David Gareja Monastery. It's a unique and peaceful escape into Georgia's wild side.

Explore Georgia's largest regenerative agricultural project, developed by Adjara Group in the heart of the Udabno semi-desert. The Regenerative Farming Experience is an innovative farm





which spans thousands of hectares, and everything is cultivated using sustainable, soil-restoring practices. Visit key farm locations and learn about eco-innovations and zero-waste systems. The experience is enriched with a farm-to-table lunch featuring fresh, additive-free products grown and produced on-site, a true taste of Udabno's land and vision.

Later, continue to Telavi. **B,L**

Day 5

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER: TELAVI – ALAVERDI – GREMI – TELAVI

Visit local farmers market in Telavi, where you can enjoy the large variety of fruits and vegetable, meat, cheese, etc. Here you can find all ingredients Georgians use for cooking.

Visit "Tsivis Kvili" Cheese Production near Telavi which produces different kinds of smoked *Sulguni*, Old Georgian Traditional varieties of cheeses as well as different kinds of modern produced cheese. Here you will have the chance to taste some of the cheeses.

Later, visit Ruispiri Biodynamic Winery which offers a unique insight into Georgia's ancient winemaking traditions through the lens of sustainable and biodynamic farming. You will enjoy a guided tour of the vineyard and cellar, learning about the natural methods used to cultivate the vines and produce *qvevri* wines without chemicals or additives. The visit includes a tasting of several natural wines made from indigenous Georgian grape varieties, paired with

homemade local snacks and seasonal produce. This authentic experience provides a deeper understanding of Georgian wine culture in a serene, rural setting.

In Alazani valley visit elegant 11th c. Alaverdi Cathedral, founded by the Assyrian monk Joseph Alaverdeli, who settled in a former pagan village and converted people to Christianity.

Drive to Gremi architectural complex of 16th-17th centuries founded by the King of Kakheti Levan. The present complex used to be a citadel and consists of a tower, king's chambers, defensive walls and a central-dome Archangel's church built of square bricks.

Enjoy a relaxed lunch at Rtoni, a charming culinary space that blends traditional Georgian flavours with modern elegance. Set in a peaceful natural setting, the experience begins with a guided wine tasting featuring local varieties selected to reflect the region's character. Guests will then join a short hands-on cooking session, preparing one of the signature Georgian dishes under the guidance of Rtoni's chefs. Afterward, sit down to a beautifully served late lunch, featuring seasonal, locally sourced ingredients. This experience offers the perfect balance of taste, creativity, and authentic hospitality.

Visit "History of Kvevri", a unique cultural space dedicated to the iconic clay vessels used for fermenting and aging Georgian wine for over 8,000 years. Explore the fascinating history, symbolism, and craftsmanship behind the Kvevri, followed by a hands-on

masterclass in Kvevri-making led by local artisans. Learn about the natural materials, techniques, and spiritual meanings involved in shaping these UNESCO-recognised vessels. A rare opportunity to connect with Georgia's winemaking roots, through clay, culture, and craftsmanship.

End the day with a warm and authentic Georgian evening at Togonidze's Wine, a family-run winery known for its passion, tradition, and excellent natural wines. Guests will be welcomed into a cozy, rustic setting where they'll enjoy a guided tasting of handcrafted wines made from local grape varieties, using traditional *qvevri* methods. The wine tasting is followed by a homemade dinner featuring regional dishes, prepared with seasonal ingredients and served with heartfelt hospitality. Surrounded by vineyards and stories, this experience offers a true taste of Georgian winemaking culture. **B,L,D**

Day 6

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER: TELAVI – MTSKHETA – ANANURI – KAZBEGI

In the morning, drive to Mtskheta – the ancient capital of Georgia, located at the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers.

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Jvari, a 6th century cross-shaped monastery built on the top of a cliff, overlooking the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers. At this place St. Nino, a female evangelist, erected a large wooden cross on the site of a pagan temple; Svetitskhoveli, the fortified cathedral dating from the 11th century. Svetitskhoveli is a sacred place where the Robe of Christ is buried.

Drive along Georgian Military Highway and visit Ananuri Architectural complex- former residence of Dukes of Aragvi region. Complex featuring churches and towers dating back to the XVI-XVII centuries is beautifully overlooking Jinvali reservoir. **B,L**

Kazbegi is the highest point in elevation on this tour, a height of 2170m.

Day 7

MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER: KAZBEGI – TBILISI

Explore Kazbegi – a small town with the views of Mt. Kazbek – the seventh highest peak in the Caucasus Mountains. Mt. Kazbek is associated with myth of *Prometheus*, according to the legend he was chained on the mountain in punishment for having stolen fire from the gods and having given it to mortals. Hike up to XIV c. Gergeti Holy Trinity Church located at an elevation of 2170m under Mt. Kazbegi.

Visit to a local family home. This hands-on culinary experience begins with a traditional dumpling-making workshop – learn how to prepare Georgia's iconic *khinkali* from scratch, guided by the skilled hands of your host. After the cooking, sit down together to enjoy a hearty homemade lunch featuring the freshly prepared dumplings, along with seasonal dishes. This intimate encounter offers not just a taste of Georgian cuisine, but a meaningful connection to the culture and everyday life of the region.

Afterwards we drive towards Russian border, enjoying the views of dramatic Dariali gorge.

Join a local artisan for a hands-on felt-making workshop and discover one of Georgia's oldest crafts. Learn how to create your own felt piece using traditional techniques and natural wool. The experience includes a short introduction to the history of felting and

ends with a sweet tasting of homemade Murabas (fruit preserves) and herbal tea — a warm touch of Georgian hospitality. Following this hospitality, we continue to Tbilisi. **B,L**

Day 8

TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER: TBILISI – TSEROVANI – GORI – UPLISTSIKHE - KUTAI SI

Travel to the village of Tserovani to visit Ikorta, a unique enamel jewellery studio founded by internally displaced women from the 2008 August War. The experience begins with a moving presentation about the war and the community's journey of displacement and resilience, offering a deeply human perspective on recent Georgian history.

Guests will then take part in a hands-on cloisonné enamel (*minankari*) masterclass, learning how to craft their own piece of jewellery using ancient techniques with modern expression. Guided by skilled local artisans, participants will fill delicate designs with colourful enamel and witness the final firing process.

This creative and heartfelt visit ends with a chance to browse the studio's beautiful handmade collections. Participation directly supports the women of Ikorta, making this a meaningful cultural experience that blends art, history, and social impact.

Enjoy a warm and authentic experience at Iago's Winery, one of Georgia's most respected natural winemakers. Located

in the village of Chardakhi, just outside Tbilisi, Iago Bitarishvili produces limited quantities of exceptional *qvevri* wines using organic methods and centuries-old traditions.

Guests will be welcomed for a guided wine tasting featuring his signature Chinuri wine, followed by a homemade lunch in the peaceful courtyard or cellar.

Drive to the centre of Shida Kartli region – Gori, known as the birthplace of the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. Photo stop at Stalin's Museum in Gori where you can see the house where Stalin was born, and his personal railway carriage.

Visit Uplistsikhe ("Fortress of God") rock-hewn town (2nd Millennium BC). Uplistsikhe is located on the left bank of Mtkvari river and is notable for unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures and the co-existence of pagan and Christian architecture. Here you can see ancient wine presses carved in stone. **B,L**

Day 9

WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER: KUTAI SI – ZUGDIDI – MESTIA

Drive to Zugdidi to visit Dadiani Palace – a castle-like building from the 17th to 19th centuries. The museum houses one of Napoleon Bonaparte's three bronze death masks, acquired via a 19th-century marriage between a Dadiani and a descendant of Napoleon's sister.

Visit Sisatura Ethno Village. Located in the heart of Samegrelo, Sisatura is a





beautifully recreated Megrelian ethno-village offering an authentic glimpse into western Georgia's rural traditions. The experience includes a Megrelian feast with iconic dishes as well as the opportunity to take part in local cooking and farming activities. Surrounded by nature, with folk music and heartfelt toasts, this visit offers a rich cultural immersion and warm local hospitality.

In the late afternoon we set off for Svaneti, driving through the scenic Enguri Gorge, where the first inhabitants – mainly gold prospectors – settled in ancient times. This area was rich in Colchis gold, which was mined for centuries. The Svan ethnic group developed here in isolation, surrounded by towering, inaccessible mountains, and their unique culture remains largely intact. Historically, Svaneti was an important part of the Kingdom of Colchis. **B,L,D**

Day 10

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER: MESTIA

Enjoy sightseeing in Mestia, starting with a visit to the Margiani House-Museum, where you can explore a typical Svan house and its iconic tower. Take a walking tour of Mestia, and visit the Historical-Ethnographic Museum of Mestia, which houses invaluable artifacts, including manuscripts from the 10th-12th centuries, religious texts from the 9th-11th centuries, icons, metalwork, and gold coins from the antique and late antique periods, along with several Bronze Age treasures.

Enjoy an unforgettable meal in Svaneti,

where rich flavours and ancient traditions come together. Guests will be treated to a selection of authentic Svanetian dishes—hearty, mountain-inspired cuisine made with local ingredients and time-honoured recipes. As you dine, experience the soul of Svaneti through a live performance of traditional polyphonic folk songs, sung by local performers. The powerful harmonies and warm hospitality create a truly immersive cultural moment—one that celebrates the spirit, taste, and sound of the high Caucasus. **B,L**

Day 11

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER: MESTIA – USHGULI – MESTIA

Explore Ushguli – one of the highest villages in Europe and the architecturally unique Middle Age village-fortification, surrounded by the 5000m giants of the Caucasus Mountain Range. Ushguli and the whole Upper Svaneti is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Typical Svanetian protective towers are found throughout the village. According to the legend, it was in the Ushguli towers that the Georgian monarch and saint, Queen Tamar (12-13th c.) had her summer and winter residences. Visit Lamaria Church. **B,L,D**

Day 12

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER: MESTIA – MARTVILI – KUTAI SI

After leaving Mestia, we stop at Enguri Dam, currently the world's second-highest concrete arch dam, standing at a remarkable height of 271.5 meters

(891 feet). Get acquainted with the impressive views directly from the dam to the surrounding picturesque landscape and to the other integrated engineering structures; to briefly learn about the main principles of water circulation, as well as to see the water intake building.

Culinary experience at the House of Folklore in Zugdidi: step into the home of Besik (Beso) Chitanava, a passionate cultural ambassador and culinary expert, for an unforgettable introduction to Megrelian traditions. Set in a charming, handmade brick tower, this visit offers guests a chance to discover the deep flavours and traditions of Samegrelo. Beso welcomes guests into his home to prepare and taste regional specialties. The experience is accompanied by storytelling, traditional music and warm hospitality – making this not just a meal, but a rich cultural encounter rooted in taste, memory, and tradition.

Drive to Martvili Canyon located in Martvili municipality, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region. Martvili is truly one of the greatest places in Georgia – combining unique natural environment with historical monuments. Martvili Canyons used to be the bath place for Dadiani Family. The 700m long stone paved circular route starts from Martvili Canyon visitor centre and crosses the Dadiani historical trail. There are two bridges, three platform views and historical 30 steps stair constructed by large limestone boulders. Visitors can enjoy boat tour and enjoy beautiful views. **B,L**

Day 13

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER: KUTAI SI – BORJOMI

In the morning visit Bagrati Cathedral, the 11th century cathedral, built during the reign of King Bagrat III and known as “the symbol of united Georgia”. The Cathedral was officially rebuilt on September 16, 2012.

Join Baia, a passionate and welcoming host, at her family-run winery where she personally shares her deep knowledge of Georgian winemaking traditions. Nestled in a charming village, Baia invites guests to explore her vineyard and cellar, explaining the unique qvevri fermentation process passed down through generations. Experience a tasting of carefully selected local wines, each with a story to tell, followed by a hearty homemade lunch. Enjoy authentic regional dishes made from fresh, seasonal ingredients, served with Baia’s warm hospitality.

Visit Gezruli Tea Plantation. Explore the tea gardens and learn about the traditional methods of tea cultivation and processing that have been preserved for generations. Guests will enjoy a guided tour of the plantation, followed by a tasting session featuring a variety of freshly brewed local teas. Experience the rich flavours and aromas that make Georgian tea unique, accompanied by stories of the region’s tea heritage and its revival today.

On the way to Borjomi, stop at Ubisa, a quiet village in Imereti known for its 9th-century St. George Monastery. The site features unique 14th-century frescoes by Damiane, a historic tower, and a peaceful atmosphere that attracts both pilgrims and history lovers. Explore the clay market at shrosha, where you can find clay pots, jars and other artifacts which are used for making traditional Georgian dishes and wine.

Explore Borjomi, the town famous for its mineral water industry. Walk in Borjomi park, where you can taste famous Borjomi mineral water. **B,L**

Day 14

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER: BORJOMI – VARDZIA

Explore Samtskhe-Javakheti region. The region is named after two of the original Georgian tribes – the Meskh and Javakhs. It is considered as the cradle of Georgian culture. The road leads past arid and stone-terraced landscapes, green valleys littered with centuries old fortresses. The climate and cool water springs are healthy here and landscapes are impressive.

Visit Rabati Castle, developed under the influence of different cultures. The castle includes a Church, a Mosque, a Minaret and a Synagogue.

Experience the Heart of Meskhethi at “Meskhethian Stone Oven Ambari.” A few years ago, in the picturesque village of Ghreli, Zaza Ivanidze and his family embarked on a heartfelt mission: to introduce guests to the rich culture, cherished traditions, and delectable cuisine of Meskhethi.

At the heart of “Meskhethian Stone Oven Ambari” is their signature bread, lovingly baked with locally grown red Doli wheat. The bread harnesses the sun’s warmth to create an authentic Meskhethian aroma telling this remarkable region’s story. Here, every guest is greeted with love and warmth, as the Ivanidze family proudly shares the timeless tradition of Georgian hospitality.

Meskhethian Oda and Tenili Cheese-making Experience: step inside a centuries-old Meskhethian Oda – an authentic, historic family dwelling that has preserved the region’s rich culinary traditions for generations. In this warm and rustic setting, guests will learn the art of making Tenili cheese, a rare and prized Georgian delicacy known for its delicate flavour and unique stringy texture. Guided by local artisans, you’ll explore the time-honoured techniques and natural ingredients passed down through centuries. The experience includes tasting freshly made Tenili cheese and hearing stories about the heritage and culture of the Meskhethi region—a true journey into Georgia’s

deep-rooted dairy craftsmanship.

Discover one of Georgia’s most unique brewing experiences at Amphora Beer, a family-run microbrewery in the village of Aspindza. Founded by local brewer Zaza Zedgenidze, this innovative brewery crafts beer using traditional Georgian *qvevri* (clay amphoras) – a method more commonly used for winemaking.

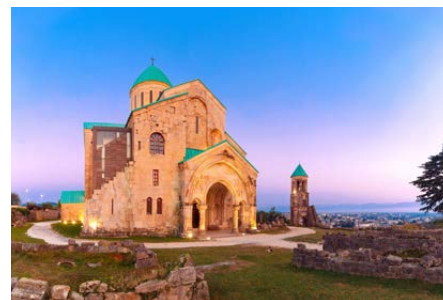
Learn about the distinctive brewing process and taste a variety of artisanal beers aged in clay vessels. Amphora Beer produces a wide selection of styles, including lager, dark beer, pale ale, porter, and even barleywine, each with its own rich character and earthy flavour. **B,L,D**

Day 15

TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER: VARDZIA – POKA – TBILISI

In the morning visit Vardzia Cave Complex, founded in the 12th-13th centuries during the reign of Giorgi III and Queen Tamar. The complex became a well-fortified monastery, which had a significant role in political, cultural, educational and spiritual life of Georgia.

Drive to Poka, a charming and tranquil village in Samtskhe-Javakheti, renowned for the historic 11th-century St. Nino Monastery. This beautifully restored monastery remains an active nunnery, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in its peaceful surroundings, admire local crafts, and experience a deeply spiritual atmosphere. Following the visit, guests are warmly welcomed by the nuns to enjoy a serene and heartfelt dining experience. This calm and reflective setting offers a unique opportunity to savour wholesome cuisine while absorbing the nunnery’s rich history and way of life. Continue to Tbilisi. **B,L,D**





Day 16

**WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER:
TBILISI – SADAKHLO – HAGHPAT
MONASTERY – COAF SMART
CENTRE – MOLOKAN'S VILLAGE –
DILIJAN**

Enter Armenia Today

Drive to the Sadakhlo Border, to visit the UNESCO protected Haghpats Monastery dating as far back as the 11th century. Overlooking the Debed River in the Lori region it was once one of the largest centres of science, with a rich collection of manuscript and texts until the Mongols arrived in the 13th century.

Visit COAF SMART campus situated in Debet village of the Lori region. A small info tour will be organized during which you will have a chance to see the learning process.

Drive to Molokan's village, where the community has largely preserved its traditions. Meet Molokan family and enjoy a light meal there. Continue to Dilijan. **B,L,D**

Please Note: Today you will cross the border into Armenia. Once you arrive at the border, you will need to exit the bus with your passport and walk through the checkpoint. Reboard the same bus and cross the bridge through the neutral zone. Once you arrive at the Armenian checkpoint, you will leave the bus and say goodbye to your Georgian Tour Director. You will need to carry your luggage through the indoor checkpoint. Our Armenian guide and bus will be ready to greet us at the exit. Your luggage may be checked and scanned by authorities at checkpoints.

Day 17

**THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER:
GOSHAVANK MONASTERY –
DILVADOS RANCHO & DISTILLERY
– UWC DILIJAN COLLEGE –
HAGHARTSIN MONASTERY –
DILIJAN**

Visit the 12–13th-century Monastery Goshavank, located in the village of Gosh in the Tavush Province of Armenia. The monastery which has remained in relatively good condition also houses one of the world's finest examples of a khachkar, a carved memorial stone featuring an ornamental cross, unique to Armenian culture and recognized by UNESCO as part of its intangible cultural heritage.

Continue to Dilvados Rancho and distillery. Tour through a small distillery to see the process of how fruit vodka is made, tasting of four types of vodka, homemade chocolate, tea and coffee.

Drive to UWC Dilijan College, which is the 14th member of the United World Colleges movement and the first international school in Armenia.

The monastery complex of Haghartsin is one of the wonders of Armenian medieval architecture. The exact date of construction of the monastery is unknown. According to historians, the monastery was gradually built from the 10th to 13th centuries. Due to numerous enemy raids, as well as earthquakes, monastic structures and churches were repeatedly destroyed and restored. It is only known that Haghartsin Monastery had been flourishing from the 12th to the 13th centuries. It was at this time that the monastery in various historical

sources was mentioned as one of the most important and leading scientific and cultural centers of Medieval Armenia. **B,L,D**

Day 18

**FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER:
SHARAMPEYAN STREET –
SEVANAVANK – TSAGHKUNQ –
YEREVAN**

Explore Dilijan Old Town. Visit Sharambeyan Street, where you will see a lot of art studios.

Here, you can see the process of woodcarving and purchase wooden khachkars, boxes, amulets and other craft work.

Drive to Lake Sevan, one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world, The Pearl, The Emerald of Armenia. Lake Sevan is situated in the central part of the Republic of Armenia, inside the Gegharkunik Province, at the altitude of 1,900m above sea level. Explore romantic Sevanavank Monastery.

Continue to Tsaghkunq Chef House for lunch which includes a pork/fish BBQ masterclass. Drive to Yerevan. **B,L,D**

Day 19

**SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER:
YEREVAN – GARNI – GEGHARD –
YEREVAN CITY TOUR – MEGERIAN
CARPET FACTORY – YEREVAN**

Drive to Garni via sightseeing of the picturesque Avan Canyon, skirting formidable cliffs and passing exotic-looking gorges until a green plateau by the Azat River comes into view. Here, in the harmony of the relief and the

virgin nature you will see the pagan Garni architectural complex of the 1st century and feel the spirit of ancient ages. Garni Temple lies on the road to Geghard, and both can be comfortably seen on the same day. When you get to Garni, it will remind you of a somewhat plain Parthenon. It was built in the first century A.D. by the Armenian King Tiridates with the money he received after visiting Emperor Nero in Rome. The temple was destroyed in 1679 in an earthquake but was reconstructed in Soviet times.

Continuing through the gorge to the cave monastery of Geghard (12th–13th centuries). The monastery of Geghard is a unique architectural construction in the Kotayk province of Armenia, being partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by cliffs. It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Witness a male choir performance (Gregorian chants), at Geghard Monastery.

Lunch at a private house with lavash baking masterclass. According to the American heritage dictionary, lavash is of Armenian origin. It is also known as lavash or cracker bread. It is the most widespread type of bread in Armenia. Lavash is included in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Return to Yerevan, for a walking tour of Yerevan exploring various layers of its history – medieval shrines hidden behind imposing Soviet-style façades, narrow streets of the old centre with sunlight playing on its pink walls, Closed Market and Blue Mosque on Mashtots Avenue, Republic Square, Cascade and Mother Armenia, Opera House and ambitious projects of independent Armenia – North Avenue and spacious Grigor Lusavorich (St. Gregory the Illuminator) Cathedral consecrated by His Holiness the Patriarch of All Armenians in the presence of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Since 2010, *khachkars*, their symbolism and craftsmanship are included in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Visit Megerian Carpet Factory and take part in the tolma making masterclass. **B,L,D**

Day 20

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER: YEREVAN – ECHMIADZIN – ZVARTNOTS – YEREVAN – GATA MASTERCLASS

Continue your exploration of the treasures of Armenia with a visit to the Vatican City of Armenia, Holy Echmiadzin. Experience a fascinating

journey through time, descend to the ruins of the pagan sanctuary beneath the altar and pay tribute to the Treasury of Mother Cathedral with striking collection of relics of Christianity. On to Zvartnots, a temple consecrated in the presence of Emperor Constantine of Byzantium, it stands out as one of the most prominent creations of medieval architecture.

Return to Yerevan and visit Aguletsi Museum and Art Café. Enjoy a *gata* (Armenian traditional pastry or sweet bread) making masterclass. **B,L,D**

Day 21

MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER: DEPART YEREVAN

We check out of our hotel this morning and transfer to the airport for our departure back to Australia. **B,AIR**

Day 22

TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2026: ARRIVE HOME IN AUSTRALIA

We arrive home and say goodbye to our new found friends, with whom we have experienced an adventure of a lifetime.

Included meals as shown in the itinerary:
B Breakfast; **L** Lunch; **D** Dinner; **AIR** In-flight meals

TOUR MAP



“Dear Cathi, ‘Same Country—Another World’ **What a revelation!**
We have travelled and conquered this, our world, through your vision and
creative tenacity. **Travelling with you to our great benefit and joy.**”

— *Your guests of The Compass Society*

“Yet another trip whereby **you have thought of everything.** We have absolutely enjoyed every second of it.” — Lauren & Hilton

“**Once again you have done it again!** Thank you for making our adventure **unforgettable** Cathi. Just love it.”
— Lyn & Laurie

“**Another wonderful trip!**”
Many thanks, Julie

“Thank you for a magical experience.
Memories for life.” — Helen

“Cathi, thankyou, **it has been truly magical!**”
— Heather

“**Magical, like the first time, but different!**
So many thanks.” — Rose

“Cathi, **another trip, fantastic places, sights and lots of fun** — thank you so much! A very big thankyou for my special day.” — Wendy

“Articulate... amusing... A+ research, all adds up to a **first class adventure.** Thank you Cathi you are **‘simply the best’.**” — Steph

“Thank you for yet another great trip! **So many memorable moments** but best of all you allowed us to ‘feel the moments’ in all areas.”
— A hug, Jill

“Cathi, another fabulous trip. **Second time around an even better experience.** Thank you.” — Wendy

“Dear Cathi, **another amazing adventure** with an amazing person! Many thanks, love Louise”

“**Top trip so far.**” — Garry

“Dearest Cathi, many, many thanks for another wonderful trip. **It was really enjoyable and such good company.**”
— Phil & Sue

“Dear Cathi, **Tour designer extraordinaire.** A unique tour of sights, sounds and tastes which will be **so treasured.** Thank you for your special care of me.”
— Love, Robyn

“So many thanks Cathi for all your hard work creating and escorting us on this unique journey. A privilege to be here. **Many memories forever** from the action-packed days.” — Anne C

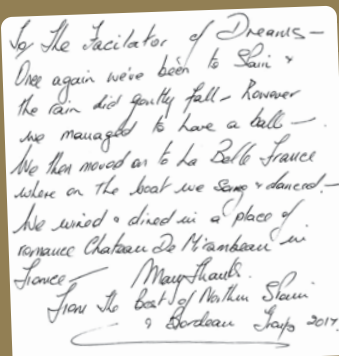
“To our dear friend Cathi, **can’t thank you enough for all your blood, sweat & tears.** Once again we are lucky enough to enjoy **an amazing and unforgettable trip.**”
— Lyn & Laurie

“Dear Cathi, another wonderful tour! **Thankyou for your friendship and your superb organising skills.**”
— Wendy & Glenn

“**Yet another fantastic trip!**” — Steve

Thankyou for an amazing adventure full of surprises.
Thanks for making everything extra special! — Louise & John

The brochure said it would be **peerless and life changing** — and it has been **totally successful in meeting this expectation.** — Barb



To the Facilitator of Dreams -
Once again we've been to Spain &
the rain did gently fall - however
we managed to have a ball -
We then moved on to La Belle France
where on the boat we sang & danced -
We wine & dined in a place of
romance Chateau de Mirambeau in
France
Many thanks
From the Best of Northern Spain
& Bordeaux Group 2017

“To the **Facilitator of Dreams** — Once again we’ve been to Spain and the rain did gently fall — however we managed to have a ball — We then moved on to La Belle France where on the boat we sang and danced — We wine and dined in a place of romance, Chateau de Mirambeau in France.”

— Many thanks from the ‘Best of Northern Spain and Bordeaux Group 2017’

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR PRICE

TWIN SHARE

\$20,980* per person

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

\$2890* per person (very limited availability).

OPTIONAL Airfare upgrades, stopovers and extensions are available on request

BOOKINGS

For bookings, contact Cathi (details below) or your preferred Home Travel Company Travel Advisor

Your Tour Escort: **Cathi Burnett-Cosgrove**

Phone: 0438 219 101 • Email: cathi@hotc.com.au or cathi@thecompassociety.com



Toll Free 1300 763 299
hometravelcompany.com.au



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TOUR PAYMENTS A non-refundable deposit of \$6,000 is due within 7 days of booking. An interim deposit of \$2,500 is due no later than Wednesday 29 April 2026. Full payment is due no later than Wednesday 1 July 2026.

CANCELLATIONS In the event of cancellation, all monies are non-refundable. Home Travel Company (ABN 54 310 480 325) is committed to securing credits for future travel and therefore the tour will be postponed to a future date. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Please request a copy of the Product Disclosure Statement provided by the insurer of your choice from your consultant.

Cancellation fees may also apply to any additional services, reserved prior to, during and after the tour. Notice of all cancellations must be made in writing to Home Travel Company on or before final payment due date. **Loss of payment.** After final payment due date: 100% of total price. Cancellation fees also apply to any additional services, reserved prior to, during and after the holiday.

Home Travel Company and the carriers, accommodations, and other suppliers providing tour services shall all be known as the 'Operators' and reserve the right to cancel or re-schedule any vacation departure. If cancellation is made prior to departure of the tour, the only responsibility of the Operators will be to refund to the passenger the amount we have received for the reservation. We will try to re-book the same holiday with a different departure date, or a similar tour. Where the Operators have confirmed flights, we will try to confirm air seats for the selected new dates, subject to availability. The Operators cannot assume responsibility for any additional costs or any fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets or other travel arrangements.

REVISION FEES A minimum fee of \$150 per transaction will be charged for any alteration or revision made to a reservation, plus any additional costs from Operators. Airline penalties may also apply. A change to traveller name, holiday date or tour itinerary at any time will be treated as a cancellation and new reservation; standard cancellation fees apply.

PARTICIPATION For the benefit of everyone on your holiday, the Operators reserve the right to accept or reject any person as a holiday participant, and to remove from the tour any participant whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interests of the other participants.

TRAVEL FITNESS All tour participants must be able to walk a minimum of 2km over uneven ground, handle their own luggage including carrying up and down flights of stairs if necessary, and be in a position to board and alight transportation without assistance. If guests are unable to fulfill these requirements individually, an accompanying travelling companion must accompany travellers to provide direct assistance with these requirements throughout the trip.

TRAVELLERS WHO NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE You must report any disability requiring special attention to Home Travel Company at the time the reservation is made. The Operators will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled travellers, but

INCLUSIONS

- Tour Escort: Cathi Burnett-Cosgrove;
- 19 breakfasts, 18 lunches and 11 dinners;
- English-speaking locally based tour directors and tour guides;
- Porterage where available;
- All admissions and inclusions as per itinerary;
- International airfares to/from Tasmania;

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Meals other than mentioned;
- Drinks with meals other than mentioned;
- Laundry, telephone calls, WiFi usage,



beverages not specified, and other expenditure of a personal nature;

- Any services other than those mentioned;
- Travel insurance;
- Tips for any service instigated by you.

is not responsible in the event it is unable to do so, nor is it responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, or other independent suppliers. Most transportation services, including the touring motor coach, are not equipped with wheelchair ramps. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a tour participant for walking, dining, getting on and off motor coaches and other vehicles, or other personal needs. A qualified and physically able companion must accompany travellers who need such assistance, and must assume total responsibility for the disabled participant's well-being. Motorised scooters are unsuitable for the tour described in this brochure.

SMOKING Smoking is not allowed on transportation or accommodations.

PRICE GUARANTEE Air tickets booked via Home Travel Company are guaranteed when we receive full payment. This does not include any Government/airport tax increases and currency fluctuations. Prices are per person, based on two persons sharing a room. Single room supplements are listed where applicable.

ACCOMMODATIONS The accommodations listed in this brochure are intended to be used on this departure; however, if a change becomes necessary for any reason, the accommodations substituted will be equivalent in standard to those shown. Every effort is made to reserve your preferred room request. It may occasionally happen that an accommodation provides some double-bedded or twin-bedded rooms, as room configuration is at the discretion of individual hotels. Please note that accommodation check-in times vary worldwide. Paying for a single supplement ensures own room, not necessarily a twin bedded room.

Accommodation throughout this tour will be variable in style and standards, however we have secured the best options available in the areas we will visit.

The Tour Escort's decision is final, and check-in to all hotels will be the responsibility of your Tour Escort.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE Porterage including airport porterage at beginning and end of the tour is not included. Due to limited coach capacity, this single bag should have dimensions not exceeding 76x53x28cm (30x21x11"). We regret we are unable to accept a second suitcase, or any luggage exceeding these limits. Please talk to your agent for baggage weight restrictions. We recommend you consult your air carrier as size and weight limitations vary from airline to airline and even according to destination, and are becoming more restrictive. The Operators are not responsible for additional fees imposed by air carriers. Regulations within most airports require that travellers handle their own luggage through customs.

Your carry-on bag should not exceed the dimensions of 30x28x14cm (12x11x6"). For safety reasons wheeled carry-on bags are not suitable as hand luggage on motor coaches and mini-buses.

No responsibility is accepted for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the tour participant's belongings. Baggage insurance is recommended.

DINING A restaurant or date of a dinner may be substituted at any time due to reasons beyond the Operators' control.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE Any airport taxes payable directly at an airport; items mentioned in these conditions and the "What's Not Included" Tour Information section.

This tour includes a Tour Escort subject to minimum numbers but not guided by a Tour Director. We will meet with local guides wherever possible.

HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTIONS During local or national holidays, or due to mandated restrictions or closures, certain itinerary features and facilities such as museums and restaurants, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited or not available. Alternatives will be offered whenever possible.

SAFETY Please be aware that during your participation in vacations operated by the Operators, certain risks and dangers may arise beyond our control including, but not limited to, the hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas; travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation; the forces of nature, political unrest and accident or illness in remote regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. The Operators will not have liability regarding provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered. It is understood that the Operators will use its best efforts to ensure that adequate measures are taken.

PASSPORTS AND VISA All passengers must have a valid passport with at least 6 months validity from return date. It is the responsibility of each passenger to ensure any applicable visas for all countries visited have been obtained prior to departure. Failure to obtain correct documentation will mean the passenger will be unable to participate in particular shore excursions and may be denied boarding and/or entry into certain countries. Meeting necessary passport and visa entry requirements and costs, including vaccinations, is the sole responsibility of passengers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE is compulsory and passengers must take out travel insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances which may arise (including, but not limited to cancellation fees, loss of luggage, early return following death of a relative as defined in the respective proposal forms). The Operators will not be held liable for any act of government, terrorism, revolution or other act. The Operators reserve the right to cancel the tour at any stage due to an act of government or terrorism.

*Conditions apply. Price is per person, twin share or as stated. Price is correct at time of publication (October 2025) but may fluctuate due to changes in taxes, charges, airfare, surcharges and currency. Price is ex Hobart and does not include airfares except as shown. Price does not include taxes imposed directly by third parties. Tour is subject to availability and terms and conditions as listed. Minimum tour numbers apply. A service fee and credit card surcharge will apply. Images used throughout this brochure are representative of the destinations only, and may not depict your precise tour experience.



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