Echoes of History: Monasteries, Caves & Stalin’s Legacy

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Join us for a fascinating day trip from Tbilisi! We will visit holy ancient churches, explore a 3,000-year-old city carved entirely into solid rock, and learn about the history of the Soviet Union at Joseph Stalin’s birthplace.

Open Full Route in Google Maps

Duration

Approx. 8-9 Hours (Full Day)

Driving Distance

~200 km Round Trip

Physical Rating

Moderate (Uneven stone walking in caves)

Languages

English, Georgian, Russian

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Starting the Trip: Easy Pickup

We will pick you up from your designated location or hotel in Tbilisi in the morning to start our journey into the past.

1

Stop 1: Jvari Monastery & Panoramic Views

Our first stop is Jvari Monastery, a holy church built in the 6th century. It sits perfectly on top of a high hill. From here, you get a beautiful, wide view of two rivers (the Mtkvari and Aragvi) meeting together below. It is an amazing place to take photos and feel the deep history of Georgia.

2

Stop 2: Ancient Mtskheta & The Great Cathedral

Next, we drive down to Mtskheta, the old capital of Georgia and the spiritual

heart of the country. We will walk through its cute cobblestone streets and visit the huge Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. Built in the 11th century, people believe the robe of Jesus Christ is buried here! You will also have time to look at local handmade souvenirs and taste our traditional sweet snack, Churchkhela.

3

Stop 3: The Stalin Museum in Gori

We will then drive to the city of Gori. This is where Joseph Stalin, the famous Soviet leader, was born. We will visit the Stalin Museum to learn about his controversial life. You will see his personal items, the tiny wooden house where he grew up, and even walk inside his real, heavy green private train carriage!

4

Stop 4: Uplistsikhe – The 3,000-Year-Old Cave City

Our last big adventure is Uplistsikhe, an incredible city carved entirely out of rocky mountains over 3,000 years ago! It was a very important trading stop on the ancient Silk Road. You will walk through the old stone streets, explore ancient wine cellars, go inside a pagan temple, and see an early Christian church built right into the cliffs. *(Tip: Make sure to wear comfortable shoes, as the ancient rocky paths can be uneven!)*

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Ending the Trip: Return to Tbilisi

After a full day of incredible history, exploring ancient caves, and taking beautiful photos, we will drive you safely back to Tbilisi so you can relax.