



KAZBEGI MARATHON

This adventure marathon in Kazbegi is the best chance to get involved in one of the most exciting races and experience the unspoiled beauty of Georgia. We invite you all, runners and their families and friends, to become part of this thrilling marathon together with getting to know the culture and traditions of Georgia. You will be accompanied by our guide over the whole tour.

ITIN 1 - Long Program: 29/8 – 5/9/2010

29 August – Day 1: arrival day

Welcome to Beautiful Georgia, home of the Caucasus Range and the great Kazbegi Mountain!

Arriving at the international airport of Tbilisi, the Capital City of Georgia, you will be met by a Marathon's staff member and will be taken to our hotel in Tbilisi.

No meals are included this day.

30 August – Day 2: Tbilisi

In the morning you meet the guide that will accompany you during the whole trip and start a Tbilisi sightseeing tour. The city offers a great variety of sights, most of them very ancient. All the places of interest are located in the Old Town, very close to each other, within a few minutes walk. You start your visit to Old Tbilisi at the Metekhi Church, then walk up to the brick-domed Sulphur Baths. From the Baths you head up the hill to visit Narikala Fortress – one of the oldest fortifications in the city. Afterwards continue to the Synagogue, Sioni Cathedral and Anchiskhati Church that marks the end of the Old Town. Then take a stroll along Rustaveli Avenue – the main street in Tbilisi, where most of the main institutional building stands. The rest of the day will be at leisure.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

Breakfast and dinner are included this day.

31 August – Day 3: Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Uplistsikhe – Bakuriani

This morning continue getting to know the highlights of Georgia.

Drive to Mtskheta, the ancient capital and religious centre of Georgia, where you visit the historical sites: Jvari Monastery and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, where the Robe of Christ is believed to be buried. Both Jvari and Svetitskhoveli are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Then drive on to visit the town of Gori – stop for a photo shoot near Stalin's house and his big statue that still stands in the city center.

Next stop is Uplistsikhe Cave Town (1st millennium BC), at the heart of Kartli region where the Great Silk Road used to pass. This is an old and interesting complex with dwelling quarters, wine-cellars, bakeries, a three-nave basilica church hewn out in rock and even an antic theatre.

Afterwards we drive to Meskheta and Javakheti region. We travel through forested hills and Rocky Mountains to Bakuriani ski resort via Borjomi spa town – famous for its mineral water "Borjomi".

Dinner and overnight in 3 stars hotels in Bakuriani.

All meals are included on this day.

1 September – Day 4: Bakuriani – Armenian Villages - Tabatskuri Lake – Bakuriani

This is a full day in the spectacular nature of the Meskheta and Javakheti region. In the morning drive by minibuses through Tskhratskaro pass (2450 m) to find yourself at the beautiful lake Tabatskuri. Further on to Tabatskuri village, a picturesque place perched on a 2,600 meter-High Mountain. There is another small village called Moliti not far, and you will also visit it. Then drive back to Bakuriani.

Dinner and overnight in will be in Bakuriani.

All meals are included on this day.

2 September – Day 5: Bakuriani – Vardzia – Bakuriani

Today you can either join the group and enjoy the fascinating rocky nature on the way to 'Vardzia' cave town or stay in Bakuriani and enjoy the day on your own walking along one of the many beautiful paths in the area. You can also walk up Mt. Kokhta.

For those who drive to Vardzia: Drive through Meskheta and Javakheti regions – the magnificent cave town of the Golden Age. The cave complex, stretching over half a kilometer, once consisted of some 3000 caves and was one of the best examples of Georgia's renaissance. There is a church hewn out in rock with amazing 12th century frescos. The complex also includes dwelling quarters, small hall-type churches, refectories, wine cellars, etc. On the way to Vardzia you will also visit Khertvisi fortress.

Overnight in Bakuriani in 3 stars hotel.

All meals are included on this day.

3 September – Day 6: Bakuriani – Gudauri

Today is preparation day for tomorrow's big event! Drive to Gudauri ski resort where our medical team will give a briefing about tomorrow's big event. This will also be the last chance to change your chosen distance of running.

After the info briefing, our guide will lead you to the friendship memorial, where the finish line will be tomorrow, from which you can see the beautiful scenery of the Great Caucasus.

Overnight in Gudauri for the next 2 days in 4 stars hotel.

All meals are included on this day.

4 September – Day 7: Marathon Race to Kazbegi

Today is the most exciting day of this trip! Wake up early in the morning and drive to the point in Kazbegi where the marathon starts. Remember! This is an unforgettable experience regardless of who wins.

This spectacular race starts at 1700 m and goes up along the stunning scenery finishes at 2400 m.

Enjoy the pleasant feeling of participating in this adventurous marathon, taking place for the very first time.

First aid stations will be available along the route.

A light breakfast, packed lunch at the Finish Line and Gala dinner are included today.

5 September – Day 8: Gudauri – Tbilisi – Departure

In the morning drive to Tbilisi, get some free time in the city and then you will be transferred to the airport and for your departure.