

Your Georgian Adventure

Travel Itinerary: Madrid   Kutaisi   Tbilisi   Gudauri 

Welcome to your exciting journey from the vibrant streets of Madrid to the breathtaking snowy peaks of Gudauri! This itinerary guides you through the highlights of Georgia, blending ancient culture with stunning mountain landscapes.

Note: This is a suggested itinerary. Flight times, travel durations, and personal interests may require adjustments. Always check current travel advisories and book accommodation and key transport in advance.

Trip Overview (Approx. 8 Days)

Day 1: ¡Adiós Madrid, Hello Kutaisi!

Morning/Afternoon: Depart from **Madrid Barajas Airport (MAD)**.

Flight: Look for direct flights (often Wizz Air) or connecting flights to **Kutaisi International Airport (KUT)**, Georgia. Flight duration varies (approx. 5+ hours direct).

Evening: Arrive at KUT. Transfer to your pre-booked accommodation in Kutaisi (taxi or pre-arranged shuttle). Settle in, perhaps enjoy a first taste of Georgian cuisine at a local restaurant.

Day 2: Kutaisi Charm & Journey to Tbilisi

Morning: Explore Kutaisi, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Visit the impressive **Bagrati Cathedral** (UNESCO site) overlooking the city and the Rioni River. Wander through the local market for a glimpse of daily life.

Optional (if time/interest): Consider a quick trip to the nearby Gelati Monastery (UNESCO) or Prometheus Cave.

Afternoon: Travel from Kutaisi to Tbilisi.

Option A (Faster): Take a **Marshrutka (minibus) or bus** from Kutaisi Bus Station. Journey time approx. 3.5-4 hours.

Option B (More Scenic): Take a **train** from Kutaisi I station (requires taxi to station). Journey time approx. 5-6 hours, but offers comfortable seating and views.

Evening: Arrive in **Tbilisi**, Georgia's vibrant capital. Transfer to your accommodation. Take an evening stroll through the charming streets and enjoy dinner.

Day 3: Discovering Tbilisi - Old & New

Full Day: Immerse yourself in Tbilisi!

Morning: Explore the **Old Town (Kala)** with its winding cobblestone streets, colourful balconies, and ancient churches (Sioni Cathedral, Anchiskhati Basilica).

Afternoon: Take the cable car up to **Narikala Fortress** for panoramic views of the city. Afterwards, consider relaxing at one of the historic **Sulphur Baths** in the Abanotubani district.

Evening: Walk along Rustaveli Avenue, the city's main artery, lined with important buildings, theatres, and shops. Enjoy dinner at a restaurant offering traditional Georgian food and wine.

Day 4: Tbilisi Culture / Day Trip Option

Option A (Tbilisi Focus): Visit the Georgian National Museum, explore the trendy Fabrika creative space, or delve deeper into specific neighbourhoods like Sololaki.

Option B (Day Trip): Take a popular day trip to **Mtskheta** (approx. 30 mins drive), the ancient capital and religious centre of Georgia. Visit Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Jvari Monastery (both UNESCO sites).

Evening: Enjoy a final Tbilisi dinner, perhaps experiencing a traditional Supra (feast) if possible.

Day 5: Journey to the Mountains - Hello Gudauri!

Morning: Travel from Tbilisi to Gudauri along the scenic Georgian Military Highway.

Option A (Budget): Take a **Marshrutka (minibus)** from Didube Bus Station in Tbilisi. Journey time approx. 2-3 hours. Can be crowded.

Option B (Comfort/Convenience): Hire a **private taxi or arrange a shared transfer**. More comfortable, allows for photo stops (e.g., Ananuri Fortress, Jinvali Reservoir).

Afternoon: Arrive in **Gudauri**, a popular ski resort nestled in the Greater Caucasus Mountains. Check into your hotel or apartment. Get acquainted with the resort layout.

Late Afternoon/Evening: Rent ski/snowboard equipment if needed. Relax and acclimatise to the altitude (Gudauri sits at around 2,200 meters / 7,200 feet).

Day 6: Gudauri - Slopes & Views

Full Day: Hit the slopes! Gudauri offers pistes for all levels, from beginners to advanced skiers and snowboarders. Enjoy the modern lifts and stunning mountain scenery.

Non-Skiers: Enjoy snowshoeing, paragliding (weather permitting for amazing views!), or simply relax at a mountain café soaking in the atmosphere.

Evening: Enjoy après-ski activities or a hearty dinner at one of the resort's restaurants.

Day 7: More Gudauri Fun / Relaxation

Full Day: Another day to enjoy Gudauri's offerings. Explore different ski areas, try off-piste skiing (with a guide if experienced), or repeat your favorite activities from yesterday.

Alternative: If conditions allow and you're adventurous, consider a trip towards Kazbegi (Stepantsminda) to see the Gergeti Trinity Church (may require specific transport/guide, especially in winter).

Evening: Pack and prepare for your departure journey. Enjoy a final Georgian mountain dinner.

Day 8: Departure Planning

Travel Day: This day involves starting your journey back.

Plan your route: You'll likely travel back from **Gudauri to Tbilisi** (Taxi/Marshrutka, ~2-3 hours).

From Tbilisi, you have two main options for your flight back to Madrid:

- Fly from **Tbilisi International Airport (TBS)**. This often involves connecting flights.
- Travel back from **Tbilisi to Kutaisi** (Train/Bus/Taxi, ~4-6 hours) and fly out of **Kutaisi International Airport (KUT)** if direct flights to Madrid or convenient connections are available.

Important: Allow ample travel time between Gudauri, Tbilisi, and your departure airport, especially considering potential weather delays on the mountain roads in winter.

Practical Tips for Your Trip

- **Currency:** Georgian Lari (GEL). ATMs are widely available in cities and Gudauri. Card payments are common in hotels, larger restaurants, and shops, but carry cash for smaller vendors, markets, and Marshrutkas.
- **Language:** Georgian is the official language. Russian is widely understood, especially by the older generation. English is increasingly spoken in tourist areas (Tbilisi, Gudauri) but less so in rural areas. Learning a few basic Georgian phrases (Gamarjoba - Hello, Madloba - Thank you) is appreciated.
- **SIM Card:** Get a local SIM card upon arrival at the airport (Kutaisi or Tbilisi) for affordable data. MagtiCom or Geocell are popular providers.
- **Power Adapter:** Georgia uses Type C and Type F sockets (standard European). Spain uses the same, so you likely won't need an adapter.
- **Transport:** Marshrutkas are cheap but can be crowded and follow loose schedules. Trains are scenic but slower. Taxis are available; agree on the fare beforehand or use ride-hailing apps like Bolt in Tbilisi.
- **Food & Drink:** Don't miss Khachapuri (cheese bread), Khinkali (dumplings), and Georgian wine! Tap water is generally considered safe in cities, but bottled water is readily available.
- **Altitude:** Gudauri is at high altitude. Stay hydrated and take it easy on your first day there.
- **Winter Travel:** If travelling in winter for skiing, pack appropriate warm clothing, waterproofs, sunscreen, and goggles. Check road conditions for the Georgian Military Highway as it can sometimes close due to heavy snow.
- **Insurance:** Ensure you have comprehensive travel insurance covering medical emergencies and winter sports if applicable.

Important Notes

Flexibility is Key: Weather (especially in the mountains) and transport schedules can change. Build some buffer time into your plans.

Book in Advance: Especially during peak ski season (Dec-Mar) or summer holidays, book flights, accommodation (especially in Gudauri), and potentially popular train routes well in advance.

Check Visa Requirements: As a Spanish citizen (EU), you typically enjoy visa-free entry to Georgia for short stays, but always double-check the latest official requirements before travelling.

Enjoy the Journey: Georgia is a country of incredible hospitality, stunning landscapes, and rich history. Embrace the experience!