

GORI EXCURSION

TOUR # 3

Destination:

UPLISTSIKHE

It is an ancient rock-hewn town in eastern Georgia, some 10 kilometers east of the town of Gori, Shida Kartli. Built on a high rocky left bank of the Mtkvari River, it contains various structures dating from the Early Iron Age to the Late Middle Ages, and is notable for the unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures from Anatolia and Iran, as well as the co-existence of pagan and Christian architecture.



Destination:

VIRGIN MARY CATHEDRAL

The temple was built as a Catholic church between 1806 and 1810. In 1920, it was heavily damaged by an earthquake. During Soviet times, Gori's Music School was situated in the church. The building was handed over to the Georgian Orthodox Church in the 1990s.



Destination:

GORI FORTRESS AND THE BROKEN WARRIORS

The fortress first appears in the 13th century records but archaeological evidence shows that the area had already been fortified in the last centuries BC. The fortress controlled major strategic and economic routes and accommodated a large garrison. In the 16th century the Ottomans captured it to overawe Tbilisi. In 1598 the Georgians besieged it to no avail; in 1599 they feigned a relaxation of the siege for Lent before launching a surprise attack at night to regain the citadel.



Destination:

STATE MUSEUM OF JOSEPH STALIN

Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's Museum was founded in 1937 and contains 60,000 exhibits. The museum includes the memorial house where Stalin is believed to have been born, an exhibition building, and Stalin's personal train car, in which he traveled to Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam. The museum also houses Stalin's personal belongings. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's Museum was founded in 1937 and contains 60,000 exhibits. The museum includes the memorial house where Stalin is believed to have been born, an exhibition building, and Stalin's personal train car, in which he traveled to Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam. The museum also houses Stalin's personal belongings.

