





ARMENIA & GEORGIA

"This is a tour that will not

only change the way you

photograph, but the way

you see the world."

journey into the heart of the great Caucasus and reveals to you a destination of unrivalled photographic potential. As if taking a step back in time, you'll discover a place where old-world European charm meets spectacular landscapes, where medieval architecture complements a culture born from a history that spans thousands of years.

Often overlooked, Georgia and Armenia present the passionate photographer with inspiration beyond the imagination; with dramatic hillsides that give way to majestic snow-capped mountains, pagan monuments that sit beside Christian monasteries, and picturesque rural communities that are home incredible characters you'll never forget.

natural and historic beauty of Georgia and Armenia, and Eastern Europe influences.

This is a tour that will not only change the way you photograph but the way you see the world.

Follow Ignacio as he leads you on a fascinating

Not only will you experience and photograph the but you'll be immersed in a rich culture of art and music infused with the magnetism of modern Europe while indulging in delicious cuisine that reflects the region's Mediterranean, Middle East,

Tour Highlights:

- Ride the "Wings of Tatev" to visit the jewel of Armenian architecture, the 9th-century Tatev Monastery.
- Stand at the birthplace of Christianity, as you photograph rare medieval religious architecture and marvel at a small church that balances precariously on a 40m high limestone monolith tower.
- Journey to the "Pearl of the Black Sea" and sample the delights of Georgia's summer holiday capital.
- Test your courage on the Okatse Canyon skywalk as you photograph the vibrant green forests, sparkling waterfalls and dramatic limestone canyon 100m below.
- Visit one of the highest inhabited settlements in Europe, to witness stunning snow-capped peaks, ancient Svan towers, and medieval villages.
- Ride jeeps to the base of the Tetnuldi Mountain to photograph some of Europe's most spectacular landscapes.
- Journey into the haunting vaulted antechamber of caravanserai built by a 13th-century prince.
- Photograph Armenian shepherds against a striking mountainous backdrop.
- Wander colourful markets, meet local artisans and indulge in cuisine unique influenced by the Mediterranean, Middle East, and Eastern Europe.
- Transform your photography skills with one-onone guidance and tutorials by an award-winning master photographer.
- · Experience one of Europe's best-kept secrets, a land of rich history, deeply hospitable people, quaint rural villages, cosmopolitan capitals, converging cultures, and breathtaking natural beauty.



ITINERARY

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Mark Twain



DAY 1 1 September: welcome to Georgia

After arriving at Tbilisi airport you'll be transferred to the Rooms Hotel in the historic centre of Tbilisi.

Don't let the name fool you, the Rooms Hotel is much more than a simple room. A former publishing house resting in the charming Vera neighbourhood, the Rooms Hotel Tbilisi is the epitome of industrial chic in a city more than 1,400 years old. Enjoy the evening at your leisure as you prepare for a 14-day Caucasus adventure you'll never forget.

DAY 2 | 2 September: the city of Tbilisi

Following a delicious breakfast, you'll embark on a private tour of Tbilisi.

Tbilisi is an enchanting city of cobblestone streets, dramatic settings, picturesque architecture, and lively arts. Offering countless moments of inspiration for the passionate photographer. The day begins with a walking tour of the old town, famous for its charming houses and cobblestone streets. We then visit the incredible Narikala Citadel, an ancient fortress that offers splendid views across the River Mtkvari gorge and Trialeti mountain ranges. In the evening, we'll celebrate the start of our photography journey together with a fun-filled dinner and folk show.

Enjoying another night at the Rooms Hotel.

DAY 3 | 3 September: visiting Mtskheta, Chiatura and Kutaisi

After a hearty breakfast, we travel to the World Heritage listed village of Mtskheta. The spiritual heart of Georgia, Mtskheta holds an almost mystical significant as Christianity was founded here in 327. In Mtskheta, you'll photograph extraordinary examples of medieval religious architecture including the Jvari Church – an awe-inspiring building that blends into elegantly into nature to create a powerful vista. As the day continues, you'll visit the small town of Chiataura. Celebrated as the city of cable cars and home to the magnificent Katskhi Pillar – an impressive limestone monolith tower topped with a tiny church.

To finish the day we travel to Kutaisi, enjoying a relaxing evening in the Kutaisi Best Western.

DAY 4 | 4 September: the Okatse Canyons and Mestia

We'll start the day exploring the beautiful old town of Kutaisi, before embarking on our journey to the Okatse Canyon. The Okatse Canyon is a deep, forested canyon peppered by rocky shards and glistening water. We'll set your heart racing as walk the 700m long skywalk to photograph the magnificent views of the 100m deep canyon and forest below. We'll also take you deep into the gorge to capture some of Georgia's most beautiful waterfalls. We then depart for Mestia. Stopping at the Enguri Hes, the region's largest hydroelectric power





plant, to see the 270m high damn and photograph the surrounding mountains. Arriving in Mestia, another World Heritage site, you'll discover a collection of 10 hamlets set against a backdrop of a breathtaking mountain-scape.

Retreating in the Chatel Mestia Hotel for the evening.

DAY 5 | 5 September: the village of Ushguli

Following breakfast, we'll journey 2200 metres above sea level to visit the ancient village of Ushguli. Nestled in the topmost reaches of the Enguri Valley, Ushguli is a place of almost unbelievable beauty. One of the highest continuously inhabited settlements in Europe, the village offers uninterrupted views of Mt Shkhara's snow-capped peaks and a vista across more than 20 ancient Svan towers and four medieval villages.

Returning to the Chatel Mestia for the night.

DAY 6 6 September: Tetnuldi and the village of Adishi

Prepare for a day of adventure that begins with a jeep tour to the base of the Tetnuldi Mountain. Resting 3250 metres above sea level, you'll enjoy a spectacular view across the town of Mestia and surrounding alpine peaks. Perfect for landscape photography. After Tetnuldi, we'll take you off the beaten track to visit the hauntingly beautiful village of Adishi.

Adishi will transport you back to the middle ages with stone houses, traditional frescoes, and churches from the 10th and 11th centuries.

Staying in the Chatel Mestia for one more night.

DAY 7 7 September: the city of Batumi

Set against a backdrop of mist-covered hills, today we visit Batumi. Known as the "Pearl of the Black Sea" you'll quickly understand why Batumi is Georgia's summer holiday capital. Batumi has a charm of its own with diverse architecture, beautiful beaches, and great restaurants. You'll enjoy a birds-eye-view of the city with a cable car ride to the top of Mountain Argo, a stroll along the seaside and time to explore the city at your leisure.

Enjoying a night in the elegant Divan Suites Hotel.

DAY 8 | 8 September: Upper Adchara, Green Lake and Akhaltsikhe

After breakfast we visit the town of Akhaltsikhe, journeying a picturesque rural road through Upper Adchara and the Goderdzi Pass to get there. Our first stop on the journey, the village of Vaio where you'll visit a local farmhouse and sample some of Georgia's famous wine from the family's wine cellar. We then continue onto Green Lake, aptly named for the stunning scenery that awaits you. Finally, reaching the city of Akhaltsikhe. Akhaltsikhe means "new castle" in Georgian and the towering Rabati Castle makes a striking

ITINERARY CONTINUED

"The traveller who journeys into the Caucasus will be immersed in a culture-filled adventure across two countries bursting with untouched nature, breathtaking views and an ancient heritage spanning centuries."



subject against a backdrop of shining mosques, charming palaces, and fountains.

That night, we rest in the Gino Wellness Hotel.

DAY 9 9 September: Journey into Armenia

We leave early morning to photograph the Sagamo and Faravani Lakes before traveling to the Georgia and Armenia border. Once in Armenia, we travel to Gyumri. Armenia's second largest city, the capital of Shirak Province, and one of the few places in the Republic of Armenia with an authentic historical urban Armenian architecture. It is a city filled with traditions and culture.

That evening we'll stay in one of Gyumri's premier hotels, the Hotel Plaza Viktoria.

DAY 10 | 10 September: Gyumri, Fioletovo and Dilijan

Enjoy a decadent Armenian breakfast before we travel to the Fioletovo Village. Home to a community of Russian Molokans, you'll be invited to experience a traditional Russian samovar tea ceremony and try the delicious pirozhki pastry. We then take you to a hidden gem in the woody mountains for Armenia, the stunning Haghartsin Monastery. The monastery is truly a sight to behold. As the day continues, we arrive in Dilijan. Dilijan is named the "Switzerland of Armenia" and you'll soon see why as you spend the afternoon strolling along picturesque streets, exploring stone and wooden traditional buildings, shops, restaurants, and workshops.

That evening enjoy a night at the Best Western Paradise in Dilijan.

DAY 11 | 11 September: Lake Sevan, Selim Pass, Gnishik, Noravank and Jermuk

After breakfast, we'll travel to Lake Sevan, the largest lake in the Caucasus. A spectacular destination to photograph, the colours of the lake change with the weather. There you'll enjoy a walk to the ancient monastery of Sevanavank, before continuing to the Noravank Monastery via the beautiful Selim Pass. We'll then stop at the Selim Caravanserai. Resting 2,410m above sea level, the caravanserai was built in 1332 and is the most well-preserved caravanserai in Armenia.

As the day continues, we'll visit the Vayots Dzor Province, Armenia's wine region where a fleet of local jeeps will take us to visit the Gnishik Protected Area to photograph the Noravank Monastery from the mountain lookout. Finally, arriving in the town of Jermuk, famous for its hot springs and mineral water.

Staying at the opulent Grand Hotel in Jermuk.



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DAY 12 | 12 September: Shaki Waterfall, Tatev Monastery and Goris

We begin the day photographing the Shaki Waterfall. Then, we travel to one of the most spectacular places in Armenia, the 9th-century Tatev Monastery. Perched on the edge of a rocky canyon, the monastery at Tatev offers jaw-dropping views across the peaks of Karabakh and endless inspiration for photography. To get there you'll ride the "Wings of Tatev", an incredible 5.7km cable car that has been named by the Guinness Book of Records as the longest non-stop double track cable car.

Staying the night at the Mirhav Hotel, one of Goris's finest hotels.

DAY 13 | 13 September: Zorats Karer, Khndzoresk, Areni and Yerevan

Following a delicious breakfast, we'll travel to one of the oldest observatories in the world. Zorats Karer is a megalithic composition of Bronze Age tombs and over 220 standing stones, giving it the title of "Armenian's Stonehenge". After Zorats Karer the tour will take you to Khndzoresk, a canyon of dramatic rock formations and ancient cave settlements. Test your courage on the 160-meter-long footbridge over the canyon to get the best vantage point – don't worry it's unshakeable. On our journey onto Yerevan, we'll stop at the Khor Virap Monastery to photography the snow-capped Mt Ararat.

That night, you'll enjoy a night at the Tufenkian Historic Hotel.

DAY 14 | 14 September: Geghard, Garni – Symphony Of The Stones and Yerevan

We begin the last day of our tour in the strikingly beautiful Kotayk Province to photograph one of the most beautiful monasteries in Armenia. Carved from the rock face of the Azat River Gorge, The World Heritage listed Geghard Monastery boasts a chapel that dates back to the 12th century. Our pilgrimage then takes us to the awe-inspiring Garni Temple. Shrouded in mystery, the Greco-Roman-style pagan temple was built in the 1st century and offers a rare glimpse into pre-Christian Caucasia.

Changing pace, we'll take 4x4 vehicles to the bottom of the Garni Gorge to photograph breathtaking vertical cliffs of octagonal basalt columns, called the "Symphony of the Stones". After which we return to Yerevan to explore the city's historic museum and open-air markets at your leisure. To celebrate the conclusion of our unforgettable Caucasia adventure, we'll indulge in a traditional feast in a signature Armenian restaurant.

Retiring to the Tufenkian Historic Hotel.

DAY 15 | 15 September: The journey home

After breakfast, we'll check out and take transfer you to Zvartnots International Airport for your journey home.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your Caucasus adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs you'll share with pride:

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Photography and Camera Skills

All skill levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise any equipment you chose to use; from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras. The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So, Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing his unique insight, expertise, and guidance as you shoot. Ensuring you don't just leave the tour with incredible photographs, but with skills that will transform the way you pursue your photography passion.

The Creative Process

Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One, and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique Session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Physical considerations

While you'll be experiencing Georgia and Armenia in style there will be times when the group needs to embark on a walk/hike to visit and photograph the best locations. As part of the pre-tour planning, we ask you to share any existing health conditions with us so we may plan for your comfort and safety.

Accommodation

On this tour, you'll discover adventure and five-star comfort can go hand-in-hand. At each destination, you'll indulge in the destination's finest accommodation. Please note that due to availability, the hotel featured in the itinerary may change. In this instance, rest assured we'll arrange a fabulous alternative. Ensuring every step of the way you'll experience the level of service you'll become accustomed to.



Grand Hotel, Jermuk



"Taking an image, freezing a moment, reveals how rich reality truly is."



THE TEAN



"Photography is a love affair with life." Burk Uzzle

IGNACIO PALACIOS



When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over 100

prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 100 countries in his 25 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

www.iptravelphotography.com.au





CHECKLIST

"Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything."

Aaron Siskind



Camera equipment

- DSLR. To bring a couple of bodies is always recommended. (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lense
- Plenty of batteries and a couple of chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One
- External backup drives (SSD recommended) and memory cards for storage.

We recommend to shrink-wrap your baggage at your departure airport. Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective packs designed for such lenses. We also recommend that you pack your camera equipment as your hand luggage as much as possible so that if the checked-in baggage is lost or delayed at least you can start photographing as soon as you arrive.

Note: Please contact me if you want to discuss equipment for this trip.

What to bring, clothing and other

Our accommodation is clean and comfortable with all bedding and towels provided. In terms of clothing you'll obviously need plenty of warm and weatherproof clothing. The following are very much recommended: A good pair of strong waterproof warm walking boots and ideally those offering some thermal lining or maybe even a pair of thermal overshoes such as those made by Neos to go over your walking boots. Keeping warm feet, hands and head should be your priorities. Good waterproof over trousers (lined ones are best as they keep you warmer especially with a normal pair of trousers and some thermal leggings underneath as well).

For the top half it's very much a question of having several layers – like a thermal type vest, t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and then a waterproof down coat that is built for keeping out the wind chill. You'll know your own cold thresholds but it really is a question of build it up in layers.

- Hiking boots (well-worn in) and good socks – Gore-Tex – mandatory
- A hat, sunblock, and sunglasses
- Comfortable hiking shoes
- We recommend you pack a combination of summer and winter clothing. The cities we visit can reach warm temperatures of 90F or 30C during the day. While the alpine regions on the tour can be very cool in the evenings, reaching temperatures that are close to freezing.

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. *In the event of this happening,* all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancelation insurance prior to paying the first deposit.

To reserve your place for 2027 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@ iptravelphotography.com.au

Note: A much more detailed list of equipment and what to bring to the trip will be provided to all participants closer to the time of departure.



TERMS CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: 1-15 September 2027

The tour commences in **Tbilisi** and finishes in **Zvartnots**

Tour price: **US\$12,990** per person, twin share Optional single supplement: US\$1,490

Maximum 8 participants

A deposit of US\$3,000 is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$3,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else
- Note: the workshop is quoted in US\$. To calculate the rate in AU\$, the currency exchange rate will be obtained from the Westpac website at the time of transferring the deposit and balance (https://www.westpac. com.au/personal-banking/ services/currency-converter/). If you are located outside Australia, payment can be paid to the nominated bank account
- The Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before 1 February 2027
- · Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- Important: the workshop requires a minimum of 6 participants to run so please don't book your flights until the trip has been confirmed.

What's included

- Full 15 days (14 nights) in Georgia & Armenia
- All meals
- All excursions
- English speaking guide throughout the tour
- All local taxes
- Entrance fees in the parks/ reserves.

What's not included

- Flights to/from Tbilisi
- Flights to/from Zvartnots
- Overnight accommodation prior to and following the expedition
- Travel and cancellation insurance. Please note that travel insurance with emergency evacuation is mandatory as a condition of booking
- Visas (if required)
- Camera/Equipment Insurance
- Optional personal activities
- · Alcohol consumption, extra beverages and souvenirs purchased during the tour
- Any other personal expenses
- Tips/gratuities.

Note on tips: gratuities for local guides, hotel staff, butlers etc. are not included on this tour. However, if you feel that any staff has given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them. We emphasize that such tips should be at your own discretion and based solely on the level of your service satisfaction.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled between 1 February and 30 May 2027, 60% of the workshop cost will be payable
- If cancelled between 1 lune and September 2027, a fee equal to 100% of the workshop cost will be payable

- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable
- · Bookings made after 1 February 2027 must be paid in full upon booking confirmation
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a land package (no airfares included)
- · Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take. Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it. Check the camera equipment checklist at the end of the brochure but if you want to discuss specific equipment for this trip, contact me.

Fitness and health considerations

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place. By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants.

Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Visas

Australian and U.S. citizens do not require a visa for travel to Armenia for says under 180 days. Australian and U.S. citizens do not require a visa for Georgia for stays under 365 days. For all other nationalities refer to www.travel.state.gov for more information.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/ accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware, however, that we will attempt

to stick as close to the original program as possible

- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as nonrefundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit
- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- · Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio

Palacios (IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd), having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.

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TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2027 OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU



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