



## Project Keshet's Georgia October 4 - 11, 2009

*Georgia's capital strikes the newcomer as improbably beautiful, a postcard-perfect lost kingdom set inside high hills surrounded by ancient forts and rock-steady fifteen-hundred-year-old Byzantine churches.*

- Melik Kaylan

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*Georgia's Jewish community largely allowed to practice its religion and connected to its Georgian roots, has resulted in people with warm relations with their non Jewish neighbors, a greater knowledge of Judaism and a more traditional practice than what is found in neighboring countries in the former Soviet states.*

### Overview

People have told us that traveling with Project Keshet is like no other experience and we have to agree. Our partnership with local communities provides an opportunity to make meaningful personal connections and experience the true flavor of the places we travel. In Georgia, we will connect with the Jewish community, emerging women activists, political leaders and others who will provide insight into the history, culture and politics of the region. Travelers will experience Georgia's spectacular scenery, charming cities and its renowned cuisine and wine. Project Keshet's leaders will provide home hospitality and you will have opportunities for one-on-one personal connections with the local community on several occasions including, Shabbat and Sukkot. We will participate in a local social justice project and visit the new ORT KeshetNet vocational computer center where women are becoming self-sufficient. This is a unique journey and we invite you to come along.

### Highlights:

- Shabbat walking tour of Tbilisi, Georgia's capital. *With its stone houses built around vine-draped courtyards, and winding streets, the capital, Tbilisi, is a beautiful city with a lively, Mediterranean atmosphere.*

- Meet with government representatives, Project Keshet Georgian activists, members of the Georgian Jewish community and leading advocates on issues important to women and girls.
- Join Project Keshet women and families in Georgia for Shabbat and Sukkot and experience Jewish Georgia at its warmest.
- Present Torah Scroll to Jewish Community.
- Visit the newest ORT Keshet Center.
- Jeep tour of Georgia's Alpine Zone and Tabatskuri Lake.
- Explore Bakuriani, a mountainside village and ski resort in winter
- Visit Vardzia Caves, a medieval cave city, built into the side of the rocks of Mt Erusheti above a river. It is located in a hanging valley in the Lesser Caucasus Mountains and includes a cave monastery which is in operation today.
- Study with Scholar-in-Residence.
- 6 nights accommodations Four star Georgian Hotels
- Fabulous cuisine, Georgian wines and - vegetarian and kosher options available upon request.
- All transfers and excursions

**Cost Per Person Land Package: (double occupancy): \$2,400**

### Important Information:

#### **What papers are necessary for travel to Georgia?**

A valid Passport (with an expiration date at least six months from date of travel) is needed. There are no visa requirements for U.S. or Canada citizens.

#### **What do I bring?**

While you will receive a packet of information which will include a suggested clothing list, we recommend that you pack lightly and leave jewelry and other valuables home. It is customary to bring small gifts to leave with host families and other people you meet.

#### **What is the weather in October?**

Georgia in October is comparable to New England in the fall. The temperature averages in the 60's.

#### **What flight arrangements should I make?**

For those traveling from the U.S., we recommend the following flights:

Departure - October 4, 2009  
 Turkish Airlines Flight TK2  
 Departs New York JFK Airport at 16:30 and  
 Arrives in Istanbul, Turkey Ataturk at 09:55

Turkish Airlines Flight TK1382  
Departs Istanbul, Turkey – Ataturk at 13:10  
Arrives in Tbilisi, Georgia at 16:25

Return - October 11, 2009  
Turkish Airlines Flight TK1387  
Departs Tbilisi, Georgia at 04:20  
Arrives in Istanbul, Turkey Ataturk at 05:50

Turkish Airlines Flight TK1  
Departs Istanbul, Turkey Ataturk at 10:20  
Arrives in New York JFK Airport at 14:20

Please check with your travel agent or contact the airline directly if you are using miles. For those arriving on the recommended flights, Project Keshet will meet you at the airport and escort you to the hotel. For those arriving or departing at other times, airport transfers are available for a small additional charge. *Because Georgia is an easy trip to make from Eastern Europe, Israel and other European destinations, some participants will choose to add on another travel destination prior to, or following, this trip. We suggest that you arrive in Tbilisi the afternoon of October 5<sup>th</sup> if you are traveling from another city (overnight flight from U.S. departs October 4<sup>th</sup>) and plan to leave the afternoon of October 11<sup>th</sup>.*

#### **What can I expect from Georgian accommodations and food?**

Accommodations will be at four star Georgian hotels. We have chosen hotels that meet Western standards and offer a real Georgian flavor. Georgian foods include an abundance of fresh fruits, vegetables and fish and are generally served family style. Georgian breads and sweets are delicious. Georgia is known for its wine which will be included in all dinners. There are 500 different types of grapes in Georgia and the traditions of wine-growing and wine-making have been passed down through the generations. The Georgian dinner table or Supra (dinner party – the literal translation is tablecloth) is a unique experience and includes a special welcome for guests, many toasts, a wide array of foods and traditional Georgian music and dance.

#### **How can I sign up?**

Fill out the attached application and return it with your deposit. The payment schedule and cancellation policy is listed on the back of the application.

#### **What if I cannot make this trip but want to travel with Project Keshet. Is there another trip planned?**

Yes. Project Keshet is offering an all women's trip to the Caucasus Mountain region of Russia from May 16 – 24, 2010.