

Kakheti tour

3rd of October

Tbilisi – Signaghi – Bodbe Monastery – Tsinandaly – Mosnieri – Tbilisi

09:00 Departure from TSU

11:00 – 12:45 Exploring Signaghi and visiting the local Ethnographic and Archaeological Museum

13:00 – 14:15 Lunch at Signaghi restaurant “Mtevani”

14:30 – 15:00 Visit of the Monastery of St. Nino at Bodbe

16:15 – 17:15 Visit Tsinandali Museum and garden

17:30 – 19:00 Wine degustation, churchkhela (traditional Georgian candy) making masterclass and bread baking in Chateau Mosmieri

19:00 – 20:30 Dinner at Chateau Mosmieri

20:30 – 23:00 Transfer to Tbilisi

Signaghi



Signagi or Sighnaghi (Georgian: სიღნაღი) is a town in Georgia's easternmost region of Kakheti and the administrative center of the Signagi Municipality. Although it is one of Georgia's smallest towns, Signagi serves as a popular tourist destination due to its location at the heart of Georgia's wine-growing regions, as well as its picturesque landscapes, pastel houses and narrow, cobblestone streets.

Located on a steep hill, Signagi overlooks the vast Alazani Valley, with the Caucasus Mountains visible at a distance.

Signagi is located in the Kakheti region of Georgia, settled since the Paleolithic period. Signagi as a settlement is first recorded in the early 18th century. In 1762, King Heraclius II of Georgia sponsored the construction of the town and erected a fortress to defend the area from marauding attacks by Dagestan tribesmen.

Signaghi Ethnographic and Archaeological Museum



The Signaghi Museum, located in the regional capital of Kakheti, was founded in 1947.

Today, the ethnographic collection features five thousand artifacts, including textiles, copper and wooden domestic items, agricultural instruments, materials corresponding to viticulture, goldsmith works, different types of working instruments, and musical instruments.

The museum also contains a rich numismatic collection of about two thousand coins, among them ancient Sasanid Persian coins, and coins minted by Georgian monarchs Tamar, Lasha-Giorgi, and Erekle.

Photo and documentary collections numbering around five thousand, and archeological exhibits are also represented in the museum reserves.

On the second floor, visitors can find the permanent exhibition of the greatest Georgian self-taught artist of the late 19th-early 20th century, Niko Pirosmanashvili, often known simply as Pirosmani. The second floor also hosts numerous temporary exhibitions throughout the year. This hall hosted a Picasso exhibition in 2009 and a Western European exhibition in 2010.

In contemporary Georgian history, the Signaghi Museum is the first museum to perfectly meet the international museum standards. Today, the museum represents a top-tier cultural, educational, and scientific institution.

The Monastery of St. Nino at Bodbe



The Monastery of St. Nino at Bodbe (Georgian: ბოდბის წმინდა ნინოს მონასტერი, *bodbis ts'minda Ninos monasteri*) is a Georgian Orthodox monastic complex and the seat of the Bishops of Bodbe located 2 km from the town of Sighnaghi, Kakheti, Georgia. Originally built in the 9th century, it has been significantly remodeled, especially in the 17th century. The monastery now functions as a nunnery and is one of the major pilgrimage sites in Georgia, due to its association with St. Nino, the 4th-century female evangelist of Georgians, whose relics are shrined there.

The Bodbe Monastery is nestled among tall Cypress trees on a steep hillside overlooking the Alazani Valley, where it commands views of the Greater Caucasus mountains.

The extant church – a three-nave basilica with three protruding apses – was originally built between the 9th and 11th centuries, but has been significantly modified since then. Both exterior and interior walls have been plastered and bear the traces of restoration carried out in the 17th and 19th centuries. It consists of a small hall church with an apse built over St. Nino's grave that is integrated into a larger aisled basilica. A free-standing three-storey bell-tower was erected between 1862 and 1885. Part of the 17th-century wall surrounding the basilica was demolished and the earlier original one restored in 2003.

Tsinandali Museum



Prince Alexander Chavchavadze, the founder of the Georgian romanticism turned the estate in the village of Tsinandali, which he inherited from his father into cultural and intellectual center of the country, the status it preserves to this day. The place regularly hosts exhibitions, concerts, literary events and master classes.

The complex in Tsinandali embraces the memorial house, a landscape garden, a historical winery, wine cellar, hotel and a café. The vineyards have been restored and wine production has resumed. We offer you a pleasurable and informative experience: you will look into the background of the noble Chavchavadze family, who played a significant part in the national history; enjoy the views of the garden, have a look at the winery and sample the “Tsinandali” (first produced by the Chavchavadzes) etc. Georgian wines and round off the visit at the historical hotel.

The landscape garden in Tsinandali is the first European-type recreation zone in Georgia. It was laid out by the landscape architects Alexander Chavchavadze invited from Europe. The garden is unique for its exotic plants and layout. In it, there is “the love lane”. The legend says that if lovers can walk though it with their eyes shut, their life together will be happy. It was in this garden that Nino Chavchavadze and Alexander Griboedov first met to be married soon.

It was in the Tsinandali winery that the wine was first bottled in Georgia. Al. Chavchavadze’s collection of vintage wines consists of over 15 000 bottles, with the oldest dated with 1814.

Chateau Mosmieri



'Mosmieri Kakheti Wine Centre is a chateau style winery which combines in itself contemporary and traditional winemaking facilities. Nicely located in Tsinandali microzone, surrounded by the vineyards, with the picturesque views of The Great Caucasus and Alazani valley this winery attracts more and more visitors for wine tastings, Georgian culinary masterclasses, Georgian cuisine. It is the right place for leisure, professional wine tours, corporate or special events.'

At Chateau Mosmieri a range of activities are waiting for us, such as wine degustation, participation in bread making and traditional Georgian candy churchkhela: almonds, walnuts, hazelnut and sometimes raisins are threaded onto a string, dipped in thickened grape juice or fruit juices and dried in the shape of a sausage. The traditional technology of churchkhela in the Kakheti region was inscribed on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Georgia list in 2015.

