Mount Kazbek Climb

Trip Code: KAZ

Version:

MOUNTAINEER	GUIDED GROUP	9 CHALLENGING



HIGHLIGHTS

- Climb to the summit of Mount Kazbek (5,054m) with IFMGA qualified guides (1:3 ratio)
- Explore Tbilisi's Old Town with its historic churches, colourful streets, and panoramic views from Narikala Fortress
- Drive the scenic Georgian Military Highway and hike to the Gveleti waterfalls
- Hike from the remote village of Juta to Mount Chaukhebi and Tetu Peak for stunning mountain views

- Stay overnight at AltiHut, a cosy high-altitude mountain lodge near the Gergeti Glacier
- Acclimatise with a hike to Bethlemhem Church, the highest church in Georgia

AT A GLANCE

- 7 days trekking
- Max altitude: 5054m
- Join at Tbilisi

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Join us on an unforgettable expedition to the summit of Mount Kazbek (5054m) a striking dormant volcano that rises above the deep valleys of Georgia's Kazbegi region. Straddling the border of Georgia and Russia, Kazbek is the country's third highest peak and one of the most accessible climbs over 5000 metres. No technical skills are required, making it ideal for beginner and experienced climbers alike.

Our adventure begins in Tbilisi, Georgia's vibrant capital, before heading deep into the Greater Caucasus range. We acclimatise gradually through scenic hikes in the alpine village of Juta and the rugged valleys around Stepantsminda and visit the Gergeti Trinity Church perched dramatically at 2170 metres. Along the way, we trek to remote waterfalls, cross remote valleys, and spend nights in mountain huts perched beneath glaciers and jagged peaks.

The push to Kazbek's summit involves glacial travel, roped sections, and a final steep ascent. Our efforts are rewarded with sweeping views over the high Caucasus including Ushba and Europe's highest peak, Mount Elbrus. Supported by an experienced mountain team and after careful acclimatisation, the ascent of Mount Kazbek is a considerable but achievable objective for those with a spirit for adventure.

Is this holiday for you?

Climbing Mount Kazbek is a rewarding adventure that doesn't require advanced technical skills, but it does demand strong physical fitness and stamina. Expect to walk for up to six hours a day, with a summit day of 10 - 12 hours. The terrain is varied –from easy trails to steep rocky paths, glacier crossings, and snow slopes–while tackling significant altitude gains. On summit day alone, you'll ascend 1400 metres at high altitude, so preparation through regular hiking, trail running, or long-distance walking in the months before your trip will make the climb more enjoyable and achievable.

While prior mountaineering experience is an advantage, it isn't essential–your guide will teach you all necessary techniques during the trip, including the safe use of crampons and an ice axe. You'll need suitable cold-weather gear, such as a -10 °C sleeping bag, windproof clothing, and sun protection. With the right fitness base and a willingness to push yourself, this journey offers a spectacular and memorable challenge.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

A professional and qualified English speaking tour leader

Professional IFMGA local climbing guides (1:3 ratio) for the ascent

Single timed Tbilisi Airport transfers at the beginning and end of the trip

Accommodation as described (includes a hotel 'night' for early morning arrivals on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary)

All land transport throughout the trip

Baggage transfer by horses on days 4 and 9

Entrance fees to tourist sites which are part of the itinerary

Meals as detailed in the itinerary and meal plan

What's not Included

Travel insurance

Tbilisi Airport transfers (other than the single group transfer at the beginning and end of the trip)

Tips for local staff

Entrance fees at tourist sites which are not part of the itinerary

Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at our hotel in Tbilisi on the morning of Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary. A transfer will be provided for those arriving on the preferred British Airways flight in the early hours of the morning of Day 1. You will also have access to a hotel room where you can take some rest before meeting the rest of the group for the sightseeing tour of Tbilisi in the afternoon. Then in the evening you will meet with your tour leader, followed by an evening meal. Anyone arriving into Tbilisi earlier than Day 1 can (by prior arrangement only) check into this hotel room on the afternoon of the previous day.

At the end of the holiday there will be a single timed group transfer back to Tbilisi Airport timed to meet the check in of the preferred British Airways flight departing early in the morning on Day 10.

Additional nights and transfers to/from Tbilisi Airport can be arranged at an additional cost.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals except two lunches are included in the holiday price.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as **Water-to-Go**, which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

Georgians have a great culinary tradition and national specialties include the following: walnuts used in all sorts of ways, bean salads, aubergines and spinach dishes, layered bread and melted cheese, cured meats, fresh and pickled vegetables. They also have 500 varieties of local wines. Breakfast are continental style, with cereals, bread and jam, tea, coffee and sometimes eggs. Packed lunches are provided and will consist of bread and a variety of meats, cheeses, tomatoes and cucumber. There will also be fruit and biscuits. Dinner at camps are usually a traditional soup followed by vegetable and meat dishes with potatoes, rice or pasta.

Accommodation

All accommodation in hotels is on a twin share basis. If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired with another single traveller of the same sex. Single rooms and/or single tents are available for a supplementary cost.

Accommodation at the mountain huts is in mixed dormitories. AltiHut (3014m) is newly built and offers simple but comfortable accommodation and good local food. There are a number of different sized shared dormitories, heating and running water. Meteo Hut is a very basic high-altitude hut with a large mixed dormitory and no running water.

If you are planning to extend your holiday, additional nights in Tbilisi are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified leader. Professional IFMGA local climbing guides, on a ratio of 1 guide to 3 clients, will lead the group whilst on the mountain (from Stepantsminda to Stepantsminda - Days 5 to 9).

Altitude

This holiday involves going to high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 3500 metres. This is not something that you should worry about; the human body is quite capable of adapting to a very wide range of altitudes, but it is important that we follow some simple rules in order to acclimatise successfully. Before coming on this holiday you should read the advice on trekking at high altitude. You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

Approximately £150 (or equivalent US dollars, Euros etc.) should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses including your bar bills and reasonable tips to the support crew. If you intend to buy expensive souvenirs, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). Georgia's unit of currency is the lari. By far the easiest way to obtain your travel cash is from ATM's using a credit card or a debit card. ATM's are available in Tbilisi close to the group hotel or at the airport. Credit cards can be used to purchase goods and services in some shops, hotels and restaurants in Tbilisi.

Guidance on Tipping

Tips do not form part of the wages of local staff but they are very much appreciated. It is important to remember that tipping is voluntary and should be dependent on good service. It is best if the tip is given at the end of the trip by the group as a whole. We recommend that each group member contributes around £30 and that tips are then distributed between the local guide and support staff as the group feels is appropriate.

Beat the Jet Lag

Our holidays are normally designed with minimal 'down time' at the start of the trip, but having a day or two at the beginning will have the additional benefit of allowing you time to get over the stress of a long journey or travelling across time zones, leaving you refreshed and ready for your holiday. We can easily arrange for you to have additional nights and airport transfers.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage, which should be a soft duffle bag and a day pack. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa Georgia

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on a trekking or climbing trip getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. This is a demanding trek and you need to be aerobically fit and also comfortable with walking up to 8 hours on some days, and possibly for 10 hours or more on the summit day. The best preparation for this trip is regular hiking in mountain or hill country. If this is not possible, we suggest that you adopt a weekly exercise regime and gradually increase your work rate as you get nearer to departure. Running, cycling and swimming are also good for developing better stamina. Whatever your preparation, before departure, we suggest that you try to fit in a number of long walks in hilly country. For this trip no technical mountaineering experience is required. Clients will be instructed in the basic techniques of glacier walking with crampons and ice axe prior to the ascent.

Climate

Daytime temperatures in the lower valleys will vary between 20°C/68°F and 25°C/77F at the times of year we operate this holiday. The weather in summer is generally excellent - with hot days, clear skies and little rain. In the mountain villages at around 2000 metres elevation, the night time temperature will fall to 10°C/50°F. However, at Altihut (3014 metres), summer days are cooler with temperatures between 5°C/41°F and 15°C/59°F. Nights are much colder and can drop close to 0°C/32°F. Higher up, at the Meteo Station (3650 metres), the climate is harsher, with daytime temperatures usually between 0°C/32°F and 5°C/41°F, and nights often falling to -5°C/23°F or lower. Weather can change quickly at both locations, with strong wind, cloud, or snowfall possible even in mid-summer.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Georgia: A Sovereign Country of the Caucasus - Roger Rosen
- Bread & Ashes - Tony Anderson

Maps

Georgia: Geoland 50K Trekking Maps 1:50,000. Sheets 2, 3 and 4

These maps have contours at 20m intervals, with additional relief shading and numerous spot heights, plus colouring and graphics to indicate different types of terrain. The road network distinguishes between local paved or unpaved roads, dirt tracks, forest roads and footpaths. Sheets 2 and 3 cover the main walking area, whilst sheet 4 covers Kazbegi. Note that it is possible to obtain good maps from the tourist information office in Tbilisi.

Private Groups Information

Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Clothing

Trekking Trousers (i.e. not cotton)
Waterproof over trousers - with long leg zip designed to put on whilst wearing boots
Underwear
Socks – walking socks are best (2/3 pairs)
Gaiters
Thermal Base Layer x 2 (one long sleeved for glacier travel)
Fleece jacket or pullover
Waterproof jacket (with hood)
Extra warm layer – (prima loft or lightweight down)
Thin gloves - thermal or leather
Very warm winter type gloves or mittens
Sunhat
Warm hat
Headscarf for ladies (for church visits)

Equipment

Duffel style bag 70 - 80 litre (baggage will be carried on horses for part of the trip)
Sleeping Bag (to -10 degrees c)
Sleeping bag liner/sheet sleeping bag (silk is lightest)
Trekking poles x 2 (with baskets)
30 - 40 litre rucksack with chest strap to carry personal items for each day
Head torch and spare battery
Sunglasses – category 3 or 4
Sun Protection (high factor for skin)
Lip salve – with sunscreen
Water bottle - 1 litre x2 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
Water purification tablets
Small, lightweight wash kit and pack towel
Dry bags(s) for daypack/kitbag contents (to ensure they keep dry)
Small hand sanitizer gel
Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters, blister treatment (zinc oxide tape and 'Compeed'), insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

Mountaineering Equipment

Mountain Boots* (see notes below)
Crampons – MUST be fitted with anti-balling plates*
Crampon bag* (when hiring crampons a bag is automatically included / can not be hired separately)
Ice Axe*
Mountaineering harness*
Screw gate karabiner x 1*
Helmet*

The following items are optional:

Change of shirt and trousers
Thermal base-layer - leggings
Shorts (for non-glacial travel) (shorts are not allowed in many church visits)
Rain cover for Rucksack
Earplugs (particularly if you are not the one snoring!)
Repair kit - (eg. Pocket knife, needle, thread, duct tape etc.)
Camera
Travel Clothes (can be left at your hotel)
Travel Shoes (can be left at your hotel)
Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes

Mountaineering Boots: Recommended boots should be comfortable, warm and sufficiently stiff to take a crampon securely. A B2 boot will be suitable, but NOT a B1. Plastic B3 boots are also not appropriate for this trip.

Crampons: Modern strap on crampons are perfectly acceptable for this trek and will fit any boot. All crampons MUST be fitted with anti-balling plates. Grivel Crampons - G10 or G12 with a strap system are excellent and they come fitted with anti-balling plates. Aluminium crampons are not suitable for this trip (they are not strong enough over mixed terrain).

Equipment hire: Equipment marked with a *can be hired locally in Georgia. This can be reserved when you book your trip or closer to your departure. Any hired equipment will need to be paid for and collected on arrival from your guide. Items available for hire are all Petzl with the exception of the Mountain Boots which are La Sportiva and Salewa. Note: Whilst Mountain boots can be hired locally we normally recommend that you take your own.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary, joining at the hotel in Tbilisi. A single transfer is included from/to Tbilisi Airport.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Tbilisi airport. The flight will depart the UK afternoon and arrive in the early hours of the following day (day 1 of the land only itinerary). The return flight will depart early morning on the last day and arrive morning of the same day.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

With more than 40 years' experience of running trekking and mountaineering trips all over the world, KE is your number one choice. This 10-day journey is designed for anyone seeking both physical challenge and natural beauty, combining cultural exploration with a demanding high-altitude ascent.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change