GEORGIA

LAND OF RICHES

May 5 to 14, 2018
A land of ancient history and 21st-century strategic importance, Georgia is a country of superlatives. Besides its 8,000-year-old winemaking legacy, its own distinctive alphabet and being the locale of the earliest hominid bones ever unearthed in Europe, Georgia also boasts a modern government receptive to western investment. Stanford Professor Stephen Krasner and local experts will enlighten us on the country’s challenging history and political development, its layers of architectural style, and its impressive contributions to the fields of archaeology, art, music, literature and faith. During meals, enjoy the fruits of Georgia’s time-honored winemaking processes and such dining traditions that have added its warmth, laughter and pleasure to life there for millennia. Join us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

ATTEND a “farm-to-table” fair at a Signagi-area winery and talk with growers about Georgia’s natural food and wine movement.

LEARN about the evolution of Georgian politics on visits to the Stalin Museum in Gori and the Occupation Museum and President’s Palace in Tbilisi.

JOIN a local architect for a walking tour of Tbilisi’s Old Town and view the city’s numerous art nouveau-style buildings on a coach tour.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY
Faculty Leader

STEPHEN D. KRASNER is the Graham H. Stuart Professor of International Relations and a senior fellow at Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and the Hoover Institution. He was senior associate dean for the social sciences and deputy director at the Freeman Spogli Institute from 2008 to 2013. Among his government positions, he has served as director of the Policy Planning staff at the U.S. Department of State and was the director for Governance and Development at the National Security Council. Professor Krasner’s research and writings have dealt primarily with the political determinants of international economic relations, American foreign policy, sovereignty and state building. During our program, Professor Krasner will talk about the challenges of achieving democracy or at least better governance in the Caucasus and the objectives of Putin’s Russia in creating frozen conflicts in Georgia and elsewhere.

— Graham H. Stuart Professor of International Relations, since 1991, and chair, 1984–1991, department of political science
— Senior associate dean, social sciences, School of Humanities and Sciences, 2010–2013
— Senior fellow, since 1991; deputy director, 2008–2013; and director, Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, 2002–2004—all Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
— Senior fellow, Hoover Institution, since 2008
— Director, Governance and Development, National Security Council, 2002
— BA, history, 1963, Cornell University
— MIA, international affairs, 1967, Columbia University
— PhD, political science, 1972, Harvard University

“Steve Krasner provided a very thoughtful overview to the history and was always available to further the conversation on the bus or at meals.”

CAROL MACCORKLE, ISRAEL, 2016

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?georgia2018
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 5 & 6
U.S. / TBILISI, GEORGIA
Board overnight flights to Georgia, arriving in Tbilisi on Sunday evening and checking in to our hotel. Georgia's central lowlands have long been an important link between East and West, and Tbilisi has retained the multiethnic atmosphere that King David the Builder fostered back in the 1100s after defeating the Muslim states.

TBILISI

MONDAY, MAY 7
TBILISI

Begin today riding a funicular up the wooded slope of Mtatsminda plateau for wonderful views of Tbilisi and lunch. Descend and join a local architect for a walking tour of the Old Town, followed by a coach tour of the city's modern neighborhoods to view the art nouveau-style architecture found there. Join fellow travelers this evening at a welcome reception.

TBILISI MARRIOTT (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MAY 8
TBILISI

Today, stop at a textile art studio founded 20 years ago by five Georgian women and meet with its founders and resident artists. At the Terrace Hotel, meet with members of the “Women for Tomorrow” organization for roundtable discussions before lunch. This afternoon visit the Georgian Arts and Culture Center, a local NGO founded by women and dedicated to fostering and promoting Georgian arts and culture, and view its collection of high-quality crafts. Visit a private dacha (summer cabin) outside Tbilisi before heading back to Tbilisi for dinner and a jazz performance at a local restaurant.

TBILISI MARRIOTT (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9
TBILISI / GORI / TBILISI

Travel today to the city of Gori, where Joseph Stalin was born in 1879. Visit the Stalin House Museum to view the family’s original wooden hut and Stalin’s private railway car. Stop for lunch at a private organic winery before returning to Tbilisi to visit the Museum of Soviet Occupation. The museum’s permanent exhibit commemorates the nearly 900,000 Georgians who were killed or deported during the Soviet occupation from 1921 to 1991. By special arrangement, tour the Presidential Palace, where we meet with one of the Georgia president’s advisors (schedule permitting). Dinner tonight features a special guest speaker from the local business community.

TBILISI MARRIOTT (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MAY 10
TBILISI / DMANISI / TBILISI

This morning, visit a remarkable archaeological site in the medieval town of Dmanisi, where Silk Road caravans used to pass through in ancient times. During the Middle Ages, townspeople dug their cellars and storage pits through layers of earth containing strange-looking bones and stone tools that in the 20th century were found to belong to some of the earliest hominids ever found outside of Africa. The discovery here of four 1.7 million-year-old Homo erectus skulls has made the Dmanisi site crucial to the study of human evolution. After lunch in Tbilisi, tour the Shalva Amiranashvili Museum of Fine Arts.
which displays thousands of pieces of Georgian art, including paintings, gold pieces dating from the 3rd century B.C.E., medieval icons and cloisonné enamel pieces. This evening attend a private reception at the Elene Akhvlediani House Museum. TBILISI MARRIOTT (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 11
TBILISI / TELAVI / SIGNAGI

Today, depart Tbilisi for the Kakheti wine region, the country’s most important wine-growing area. Georgia and this region are the locus of a movement to return to the natural winemaking methods of the past and to develop its nouvelle cuisine around local, seasonal and organic ingredients. After a stroll through the Chateau Mere vineyards, continue to Telavi, the administrative and cultural center of Kakheti, where we visit the only well-preserved palace in Georgia, the 17th-century castle of Herekle II, and stop at the Alaverdi Cathedral, one of the tallest churches in Georgia, and the Alaverdi Monastery Complex. At the monastery, sample natural wines the Alaverdi monks make by aging them in huge beeswax-lined clay jugs, called qvevri, that have been used for winemaking in this region for more than 6,000 years. After lunch, visit the estate of Alexander Chavchavadze in nearby Tsinandali before checking in to our hotel in Signagi. HOTEL KABADONI (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MAY 12
SIGNAGI / TIBAANI / SIGNAGI

This morning view Signagi’s famous wooden balconies, richly carved with lacy ornamentation, and its impressive defensive wall and towers, built in the 18th century. Later, drive to the Pheasant’s Tears Winery outside the village of Tibaani to tour the winery’s vineyards and wine cellars and sample its wines. Return to our hotel this afternoon to relax or explore the town independently before heading back to the winery to learn more about the “farm-to-table” movement. Meet with farmers at a small, winery-hosted agricultural fair and take part in hands-on bread making and barbequing demonstrations, helping to prepare the dinner we’ll enjoy later this evening at the winery. HOTEL KABADONI (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MAY 13
SIGNAGI / TBILISI

Today visit Bodbe Nunnery where St. Nino is said to have died and been buried after living as a hermit in the Bodbe Gorge. Here, we’ll learn about Georgia’s Orthodox Church and Georgia’s polyphonic vocal music. Having developed independently of Western European rules of harmony, Georgian vocal music has been passed down by ear for hundreds of years. Its tuning system, based on fifths rather than octaves, gives its choral music a rich, yet slightly discordant, sound (to western ears, at least!). Return to Tbilisi and spend the afternoon at the Dry Bridge Market, where vendors sell everything from tchotchkes and carpets to car parts and tools. Bid farewell to fellow travelers at a reception and dinner this evening. TBILISI MARRIOTT (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MAY 14
TBILISI / U.S.

After breakfast transfer to the airport for flights back to the U.S. (B)

Optional Post-trip Extension

MAY 14 TO 18
(4 ADDITIONAL DAYS)

BATUMI
Spend an additional four days traveling west across Georgia from Tbilisi to the lovely Black Sea resort city of Batumi, stopping along the way at the Phoka Nunnery of St. Nino, the ancient cut-rock town of Vardzia with its frescoed caves, the recently restored Rabati Castle in the Old Town of Akhaltsikhe, and the World Heritage-designated cathedral and monastery in the storied merchant town of Kutaisi.

Additional details will be sent to confirmed travelers.
Trip Information

D A T E S
May 5 to 14, 2018 (10 days)

S I Z E
36 participants (single accommodations limited—please call for availability)

C O S T *
$6,795 per person, double occupancy
$7,795 per person, single occupancy
*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add $300 per person

I N C L U D E D
8 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners, including beer and wine • Welcome and farewell receptions • Gratuities to guides, drivers for all group activities • All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

N O T I N C L U D E D
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

A I R A R R A N G E M E N T S
You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location of the program and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

W H A T T O E X P E C T
While this program is designed to be the most comfortable possible for travel in this region, this is an adventuresome tour as the overall tourism infrastructure is still developing. This itinerary features a significant amount of touring on foot. Some attractions are accessible only via steep staircases with tall uneven steps, some without handrails. Walking city tours are often over cobblestone. Visiting the archaeological site of Dmanisi, among other sites, calls for walking over grass, gravel and/or dirt. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk unaided at least a few miles a day, keeping up with fellow travelers. Flexibility, a sense of humor, and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services are essential components to the enjoyment of this trip. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. An additional $200-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the optional post-trip extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?georgia2018 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2017 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
"This was a well-executed, well-rounded, thoroughly enjoyable, drink-from-a-water-hose educational experience."

MARY AZCUENAGA, ’67, ARMENIA, GEORGIA AND AZERBAIJAN, 2012