

EXPLORE SOUTH CAUCASUS
10 DAY AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA & ARMENIA
Valid Till: 31 Dec 2020

ITINERARY

Day 01: Arrival in Baku – Baku and Absheron Tour
Day 02: Baku – Gobustan – Shemakha – Sheki
Day 03: Sheki – Lagodekhi Border –Kvareli
Day 04: Kvareli – Signaghi – Tbilisi Tour
Day 05: Mtskheta- Ananuri- Kazbegi- Tbilisi
Day 06: Tbilisi – Sadakhlo Border – Haghpas – Dilijan – Lake Sevan – Yerevan
Day 07: Yerevan City Tour - Echmiadzin - Zvartnots - Brandy Factory
Day 08: Yerevan – Khor Virap – Areni winery – Noravank – Yerevan
Day 09: Yerevan – Garni – Geghard – Matenadaran – Vernissage
Day 10: Departure

DAY 01: ARRIVAL IN BAKU – BAKU AND ABSHERON SIHTSEEING TOUR

Arrive at the airport. Meet Azerbaijan guide and transfer to the local restaurant for lunch. After lunch depart for Absheron peninsula sights located in 25 km from the city. Visit UNESCO World Heritage Site Ateshgyakh Fire-Worshippers' Temple and enjoy the view of Burning Mountain YanarDagh translated as Fire Mountain. Afterwards drive back to Baku and have a sightseeing tour of the city's historic and architectural monuments. Visit – ShehidlerKhiyabany, enjoy panoramic view of Baku from the Martyrs Lane. Visit medieval fortress of Old Baku - Ichari Shahar, Maiden Tower, Complex of, Medieval Caravansaray, market square. Walk along the central streets of the city. Dinner at the local restaurant. Transfer to the hotel for check inn. Overnight in Baku.

DAY 02: BAKU – GOBUSTAN – SHEMAKHA – SHEKI

After the breakfast depart to Gobustan - UNESCO Heritage Site famous for its archeological monuments. Travel 30 miles southwest of Baku along the Caspian shore to the volcanic desert, where rocks covered with drawings stand amidst chaos of stones and mountains. There are more than 4,000 rock drawings left by artists of the Neolithic period, depicting the customs and everyday life of ancient tribes. Continue journey to the town of Sheki. En route visit Diri Baba mausoleum in Maraza village. Visit historical mosque Juma (Friday) in Shemakha and mausoleum of YeddiGumbez(Seven Domes) – graveyard of Shirvan Shahs'. Have lunch at local restaurant in Shemakha. Continue trip to Sheki via Muganlypass. On the way visit to Basqal village to drink local mineral water Bado, Ven Dam village in Gabala province, ruins of the capital of ancient Caucasian Albania. Arrive in Sheki. Enjoy sightseeing tour of the city. Visit local palace, local history museum, mosque-madrassah, handicrafts workshop. Enjoy panoramic view of the town. Dinner and Overnight in Sheki.

DAY 03: SHEKI – LAGODEKHI BORDER – KVARELI

After breakfast depart to Lagodekhi border between Georgia and Azerbaijan. We enter Georgia in the region of Kakheti, the biggest and the most important winemaking region in Georgia, which is famous with its hospitality, delicious food and ancient Georgian technique of winemaking which dates back to the 8th century BC and is still used to produce unique organic Qvevri wine.visit Khareba Winery in Kvareli to **enjoy wine tasting (service supplementary) Optional : enjoy village corner in winery- service supplementary**. in Georgia's largest wine cellar (7.7 km of tunnels) on supplementary basis.Then drive to the hotel Royal Batoni Palace, located in a picturesque area on the bank of Ilia Lake, between Kvareli Mountains and Duruji River. Enjoy dinner at the hotel with traditional dishes and Georgian wine. Overnight at Royal Batoni Palace in Kvareli.

DAY 04: KVARELI –SIGNAGHI – TBILISI TOUR

After breakfast drive from Kvareli drive to the 18th century Royal town of Signaghi. Surrounded by the longest defensive wall in the region with 23 towers, Signaghi used to be an important strategic place on the East-West trade route, where the Silk Road travelers from Asia and Europe used to pass. After sightseeing drive to Tbilisi – the capital city of Georgia. First visit the third largest Eastern-Orthodox church in the world - Sameba Cathedral. Enjoy the sightseeing tour of old part of Tbilisi - the multicultural and multi religious city with 1500 years of history. Visit Metekhi Church, 12th-13th century cross-cupola church which used to be the part of Royal residential complex. Have a look at statue of Mother of Georgia. Visit Narikala Fortress, Sulfur Bath Area, Tbilisi Synagogue and Sioni Cathedral. Have a look at Tbilisi Mosque. Walk along the narrow streets of the old town, full with souvenir shops, cafes and art galleries. Visit Archaeological Treasury Hall in Georgian National Museum or Opel Air museum (MON closed), where you will see the examples of ancient gold and silver objects and jewelry made by early Georgian goldsmiths. Dinner at Georgian traditional restaurant. Overnight at the hotel in Tbilisi.

DAY 05: MTSKHETA -ANANURI- KAZBEGI-TBILISI

After Breakfast drive to the ancient town of Mtskheta which is the old capital of eastern Georgia and the most important religious center of the country. Visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Mtskheta: Jvari Monastery – the best example of 6th century Georgian architecture located at the top of the hill overlooking the city and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral – the

magnificent 11th century fortified church, referred as the most sacred place for Georgians. Continue journey to the north, along the Georgian Military Highway, main transport artery linking Georgia with Russia into the mountainous provinces of the Greater Caucasus which with its breathtaking sceneries has been the inspiration for many world-famous poets and writers. On the way visit 16th century fortress Ananuri, overlooking Jinali reservoir. Continue journey via the highest settlements in Europe - Gudauri (2,100m) and Cross Pass - the highest point on the Military Highway (2379 m). Arrive in Kazbegi and hike to the 14th century Holy Trinity Church, located at the beautiful solitary spot on the top of the hill, at an elevation of 2170 meters (walking takes approximately 2,5-3 hours round way).

OPTIONAL: drive by 4 WD (5seated) vehicles from the hotel to the Holy Trinity Church, on supplementary basis.

After excursion drive back to Tbilisi. Dinner. Overnight at the Hotel in Tbilisi.

DAY 06: Tbilisi – Sadakhlo Border – Haghpat – Dilijan – Lake Sevan – Yerevan

After Breakfast, drive to the border between Georgia and Armenia in Sadakhlo for border crossing. After border formalities start your acquaintances with Armenia. Road takes us to Lori region where we still have the chance to visit UNESCO World Heritage Site - Haghpat Monastic complex (976 AD). By its architectural value, Haghpat is one of the outstanding monasteries of Armenia, which is enlisted in "must-to-see" places. Lunch in a local restaurant. Continue our tour to the resort town of Dilijan, which is "Little Switzerland" of Armenia famous for its stunning nature landscapes. We are going to have some walk at the streets of Dilijan to explore the architectural solution from 19th c. Departure to Lake Sevan located which is about 70 km from the capital located in Gegharkunik region. Here, in Lake Sevan, which has a very beautiful peninsula, we are going to climb many stairs up to see the churches located in the peak, from where opens also a beautiful view to the "blue-eyed" lake. Drive to the capital of Armenia. Check-in at the hotel and rest. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

Day 07: Yerevan City Tour - Echmiadzin - Zvartnots - Brandy Factory

After breakfast start city tour around Yerevan the history of which dates back to 8th century B.C.

We will be strolling through the narrow streets of Yerevan, which are mixture of old and modern culture. Visiting of Republic Square, Northern Avenue, Opera House, Swam Lake and Cascade Monument where you can find unique art samples. Visit Tsitsernakaberd Memorial and the museum of victims of Armenian Genocide. Departure to Echmiadzin Cathedral (UNESCO World Heritage) which is located about 20km from the capital city. In this holy place, one will be impressed by the spiritual atmosphere around and can hit a candle just for his/her dreams.

Lunch in a local community tasting local dishes. Drive back to Yerevan with a stop at the ruins of Zvartnots Temple (7th c.). Our journey will continue to Brandy Factory where you will learn about the history of famous Armenian brandy and have some degustation. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

Day 08: Yerevan – Khor Virap - Garni - Geghard – Yerevan

Today we are going to learn more about the historical treasures of Armenia by driving to Ararat Valley to visit Khor Virap Monastery. The monastery of Khor Virap (3rd – 17th cc.) is located in the place of an ancient capital of Armenia – Artashat. The significance of the church is relatively connected with Grigor Illuminator who was spreading Christianity in Armenia. Continue our trip to one of the most important agricultural regions of Armenia – to Vayots Dzor region. Afterwards, visit one of the local wineries in Areni village for homemade wine degustation. Lunch in a local restaurant.

Today's cultural discovery will be Noravank Monastery - a spectacular monastic complex, surrounded with mountains, richly covered by red stones which give one the harmony of culture and nature. Return to Yerevan. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

Day 09: Yerevan – Garni – Geghard – Matenadaran – Vernissage

Departure to Geghard Monastery (13th c.) – a monastery which is hewn out from a cave. The monastery had been originally named Ayrivank meaning "the Monastery of the Cave". The name commonly used for the monastery today, Geghard, or more fully Geghardavank meaning "the Monastery of the Spear". The monastery is also included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Continue our journey to Garni Pagan Temple from 1st c. The temple was built by Armenian King Tiridates and was dedicated to the God of Sun Mithra. Garni is the only Hellenistic temple existing nowadays in Armenia. The stairs of the temple are made huge and high which means that every human being climbing up the stairs is condescending to God of Sun. Lunch in a local house with Armenian flat bread "lavash" baking ceremony. Drive back to Yerevan. Visit Matenadaran depository of manuscripts. Visit Vernissage Flea market. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant. Drive back to Yerevan. Overnight at the hotel in Yerevan.

Day 10: Departure

Transfer to the airport. Departure home!

Rates are mentioned in USD per person sharing DBL/TWIN room

PAX NUMBER	Hotel Corniche in Baku Ramada Horel in Tbilisi 3* Hotel Silachi in Yerevan	Hotel Corniche in Baku Ramada Horel in Tbilisi 4* Imperial Palace or Ani Plaza or similar in Yerevan	Hotel Corniche in Baku Ramada Horel in Tbilisi 5* Radisson Blu Hotel
2	1880	1935	2045
4	1525	1580	1690
6	1415	1465	1575
8	1305	1355	1465
10	1240	1290	1400
10+1 by sprinter	1465	1510	1685
16+1 by bus	1360	1455	1620
24+1 by bus	1250	1350	1505
Single room supplement	355	440	550

Rates include:

- ❖ 1 x overnights at hotel in in Baku upon request and availability
- ❖ 1 x overnights at hotel Sheki Palace or similar in Sheki
- ❖ 1 x overnights at EDEN Hotel in Kvareli upon request and availability
- ❖ 2 x overnights at hotel in Tbilisi upon request and availability
- ❖ 4 x overnights at hotel in Yerevan upon request and availability
- ❖ All transfers and transportation by comfortable vehicle as per program according to the group size
- ❖ An English-speaking guide as per program
- ❖ Catering: FB (All breakfasts at the hotel), 9 x lunches, 9 x dinners
- ❖ Entrance fees where needed
- ❖ 1 bottle of water per person per day

Rates do not include:

- ❖ Meals except mentioned above
- ❖ Alcohol beverages
- ❖ Airline tickets
- ❖ Travel insurance
- ❖ Visas
- ❖ Porters at the hotel
- ❖ Early Check in/Late Check out
- ❖ Services except described

ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS:

- ❖ Supplement for Wine Tasting at Khareba Tunnel Winery in Kvareli – 20 USD per person
- ❖ Supplement for Village Corner (Georgian Traditional sweet – ‘Churchkhela’ Making, Georgian bread ‘Shoti’ making, Georgian Grappa – ‘Chacha’ making) – 30 USD per person
- ❖ Supplement for 4x4 vehicles (4-5 seated) to Gergeti Trinity Church in Kazbegi on day 5 – 65 USD per vehicle

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

(TA - 17/09/2019)

