

### AZERBAIJAN GEORGIA ARMENIA

The more of our World we see

the richer we become

## HELLO THE CAUCASUS!

May 5 - 16, 2024

#### HELLO THE CALICASUS!

AZERBAIJAN GEORGIA ARMENIA May 5-16, 2024



#### INTRODUCTION

This thrillingly mountainous, scenically spectacular and culturally diverse region is where Asia and Europe rub up against each other, with often unpredictable and fascinating results.

#### THE GREAT CAUCASUS

The vast mountain range forming a natural border between the South Caucasus and Russia, the Great Caucasus runs from the Black Sea to the Caspian and provides the most astonishing scenery in the region, its sequence of dramatic peaks fronted by green river valleys and unbelievably picturesque villages. The mountain regions are strung with spectacular walking and riding trails where ruined fortresses, watchtowers and ancient churches are often perched in achingly picturesque locations.

#### **ASIA MEETS EUROPE**

South Caucasus is a relatively small region, it's made up of highly diverse countries, features ethnically distinct breakaway republics and a cultural crossroads where Europe meets Asia and where influences from Russia, Iran, Turkey and Central Asia have been absorbed over the centuries into proudly distinctive local cultures. Here social attitudes remain traditional and family networks rule supreme despite three decades of fast-paced change since the end of the Soviet Union.

#### **MULTIFACETED CULTURES**

Antique forts, monasteries, churches and ruins pepper the region. History buffs can disentangle their Bagratids from their Bolsheviks, while the region's bigger cities boast some excellent museums, splendid galleries and a rich theatrical heritage. Savour all this with deep-rooted hospitality, wonderfully varied food made from some of the best natural ingredients on earth and reinvigorated wines from the original home of viniculture. The ever-improving tourism infrastructure in the South Caucasus may seem modest by European standards, but come here soon, before these ancient lands lose their rough edges, and you'll discover what's been keeping visitors coming for centuries.

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#### **ENTRY VISA REQUIREMENTS**

	Australia	Canada	China	Germany	lceland	Italy	Mexico	Peru	Spain	Sweden	Qatar	Singapore	South Korea	South Africa	United Kingdom	United States
Armenia	F	E	F	F	F	F	E	E	F	F	F	F	F	E	F	F
Georgia	F	F	E	F	F	F	F	E	F	F	F	F	F	F	H.	F
Azerbaijan	E	E	E	Е	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	Е	E

Holders of valid Schengen, United States, United Kingdom visa may visit Georgia without visa F – visa free | E – Electronic visa

#### **WEATHER**

Three Caucasus countries are famous for their favorable temperate climate which attracts tourists year-round. Weather in Azerbaijan ranges from subtropical in the central, eastern and southern regions, to a tundra climate in the highest altitude areas, to continental in isolated Nakhchivan.

Climate in Georgia is affected by subtropical influences from the west, and Mediterranean influences from the east. The coastal areas present the warmest weather and the northern part the coldest. While the western part is hot and green, the central part of the country has few forests and steppes which often received dry winds from Azerbaijan, making it relatively cooler.

Climate of Armenia is very different and is markedly continental. Summer is dry and sunny, lasting from June to mid-September. Winter is short and quite cold with plenty of snow. More than 90% of Armenia lies on the height of 1000 meters above sea level. This fact forms these features of the climate. Therefore, the average temperature in Armenia, as in other mountainous countries, falls by one degree at every 200 meters of ascent.

#### **AVERAGE TEMPERATURE**

- +15C/60F + 24C/75F in a day time
- +10C/50F+15C/60F in a night time

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#### **TOUR FACTS**

Duration: 12 days

Starts and ends in: Baku, AZERBAIJAN / Yerevan, ARMENIA

Service Level: High
Travel Style: Classic
Physical Grading: Average

Accommodation: Comfortable tourist class

#### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

#### 20+ UNESCO World Heritage Sites

**Culinary:** Cognac, wine tasting in Armenia; bread baking, churchkhella making, wine, chacha tasting in Georgia; Dolma, kebab cooking master class in Azerbaijan

Responsible Travel: Connecting curious travelers with local communities in our region is an essential part of our identity at Uzbekistan Adventures. We are committed to respecting the rights, history, and culture of Indigenous people while ensuring that tourism supports their well-being

Art and Culture: Museum of Joseph Stalin

**Archeological sites:** Gobustan State Historical and Cultural Reserve in Azerbaijan, Uplistsikhe Cave town in Georgia

**Meal services:** You always get a carefully selected multicourse meal. Enjoy the main courses served along with fresh salads, as well as sweet treats. You can also pair your meal with our selection of complimentary soft and spirit drinks

#### **RELIGION**

Armenia: 97% Armenian Apostolic, others/none

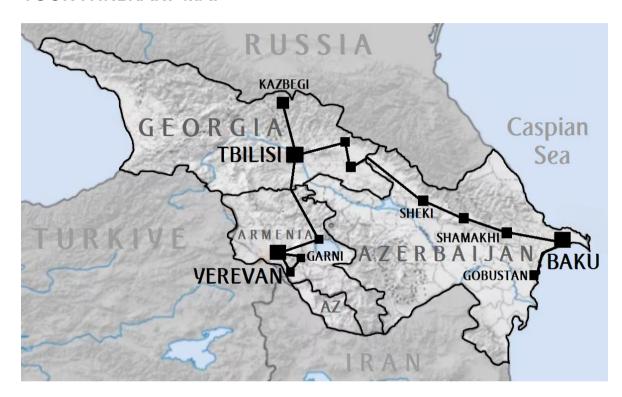
Georgia: 88% Christianity, 10% Islam, 2% others/none Azerbaijan: 96% Islam, 3% Christianity, 1% others/none

#### **HELLO THE CAUCASUS!**

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#### **TOUR ITINERARY MAP**



#### **ITINERARY**

Day 2 May 6, Monday Baku Day 3 May 7, Tuesday Baku to Shamakhi to Sheki
Day 3 May 7. Tuesday Baku to Shamakhi to Sheki
Day 5 may 1, 14000ay Data to Statistical to Storie
Day 4 May 8, Wednesday Sheki
Day 5 May 9, Thursday Sheki to Sighnaghi, Georgia to Kakheti to Tbilisi
Day 6 May 10, Friday Tbilisi
Day 7 May 11, Saturday Tbilisi to Ananuri to Kazbegi
Day 8 May 12, Sunday Kazbegi to Mtskheta to Jvari to Tbilisi
Day 9 May 13, Monday Tbilisi to Sevan lake, Armenia to Yerevan
Day10 May 14, Tuesday Yerevan
Day11 May 15, Wednesday Yerevan to Khor Virap to Garni to Geghard to Yerevan
Day12 May 16, Thursday International flight from Verevan

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#### **DETAILED ITINERARY**

#### DAY 1

**May 5, 2024** Sunday

#### International flight to Baku, Azerbaijan / Baku

Arrival in Baku.

Meet with guide and driver. Transfer to Baku (20km/12mi/25min).

Airport transfer is included for the travelers arriving on the following flights

QATAR AIRWAYS QR353/05MAY DOH GYD 0850 1235

EMIRATES AIRLINE EK2198/05MAY DXB GYD 0810 1105 (operated by FlyDubai)

FLYDUBAI FZ709/05MAY DXB GYD 0810 1105

Lunch.

Drive to Gobustan State Historical and Cultural Reserve (60km/41mi/1h05).

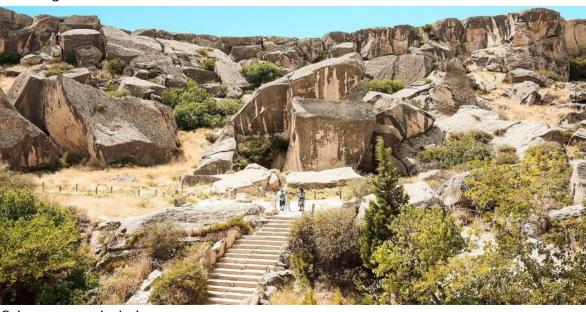
Excursion at Gobustan Museum and Petroglyphs sight.

Drive back to Baku.

Free time at hotel.

Welcome dinner at a restaurant.

Overnight at hotel in Baku.



Gobustan petroglyph site



Caspian Sea Bay, Baku (TV tower, Flame Towers, Hilton Baku hotel, House of Parliament)

#### May 6, 2024 Monday

#### **Baku**

Breakfast at hotel.

Baku city tour: Upland park, Panoramic square, Icheri Sheher - historical inner

town of Baku.

Walking tour: Sea Boulevard, Small Venice, NIzami street.

Lunch.

Sightseeing tour: Yanar dag (burning mountain), Zoroastrian Temple of Ateshgah.

Dinner at a restaurant.

Overnight at hotel in Baku.



Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center (Architect Zaha Hadid)





Black gold of Azerbaijan: black caviar and oil

#### May 7, 2024 Tuesday

#### Baku to Diri Baba to Shamakhi to Nohur Lake to Sheki

Breakfast at hotel.

Drive from Baku to Sheki (350km/220mi/4h20).

En-route sightseeing: Diri Baba Mausoleum.

Shamakhi Mosque.

Lunch.

Nohur lake.

Arrival in Sheki.

Dinner.

Overnight at hotel in Sheki.



Cooking master class at a local family in Azerbaijan

#### May 8, 2024 Wednesday

#### Sheki

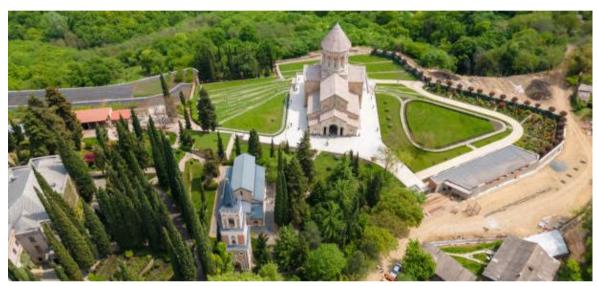
Breakfast at hotel.

Sheki city tour: Khan Palace, Caravanserai, Kish Monastery.

Cooking master class of dolma and chicken kebab at a local family house.

Afternoon tour: Sheki bazaar.

Dinner. Overnight at hotel in Sheki.



Bodbe Monastery in Sighnaghi

#### DAY 5

#### May 9, 2024 Thursday

#### Sheki to Sighnaghi, Georgia to Kakheti to Tbilisi

Breakfast at hotel.

Drive from Sheki to Azerbaijan-Georgia border (110km/70min/1h50).

Border cross. Welcome to Georgia!

Drive from Lagodekhi to Sighnaghi (55km/25mi/1h).

Lunch.

Sighnaghi city tour: Bodbe Monastery. Drive from Bodbe Monastery to Kakheti (60km/37mi/1h). Wine, chacha degustation, bread baking and churchkhela making master class at Khareba Winery tunnel. Drive to Tbilisi (140km/85mi/2h). Dinner. Overnight at hotel in Tbilisi.



Kvareli Tunnel Winery

#### May 10, 2024 Friday

#### **Tbilisi**

Breakfast at hotel.

Tbilisi city tour: Tbilisi Trinity Church, Vakhtang Gorgasali monument, cable car to Narikala fortress, botanical garden, Mosque, Tbilisi waterfall, sulphur baths, bridge of peace, Shardani street.

Lunch and dinner at restaurants.

Overnight at hotel in Tbilisi.



Narikala Fortress / Old town of Tbilisi

#### **May 11, 2024** Saturday

#### Tbilisi to Jvari to Ananuri to Kazbegi

Breakfast at hotel.

Drive to Kazbegi (150km/93mi/3h).

En-route sightseeing tour: Jvari Monastery (Monastery of Cross), Ananuri Fortress.

Arrival in Kazbegi. Lunch at a local family house with Khinkali and khachapuri master class.

Afternoon excursion: Gergeti Triniry Church.

Dinner at a restaurant.

Overnight at hotel in Kazbegi.



Gergeti Trinity Church in Kazbegi

#### DAY 8

#### **May 12, 2024** Sunday

#### Kazbegi to Mtskheta to Tbilisi

Breakfast at hotel.

Drive from Kazbegi to Tbilisi (150km/93mi/3h).

En-route sightseeing tour: Mtskheta town (first Capital city of Georgia).

Arrival in Tbilisi. Free time. Dinner at a restaurant.

Overnight at hotel in Tbilisi.

#### **May 13, 2024** Monday

#### Tbilisi to Sevan lake (Armenia) to Yerevan

Breakfast at hotel.

Drive from Tbilisi to Georgia-Armenia border of Sadakhlo (70km/45mi/20min).

Border cross. Welcome to Armenia!

Drive to Sevan lake (150km/90mi/3h).

Lunch at a restaurant.

Sightseeing tour: Sevanavank monastery.

Drive to Yerevan (70km/43mi/1h).

Free time.

Dinner at a restaurant.

Overnight at hotel in Yerevan.



Sevanavank Monastery on Sevan Lake

#### **DAY 10**

#### May 14, 2024 Tuesday

#### **Yerevan**

Breakfast at hotel.

Verevan city tour: Republic square, Memorial and Museum of Genocide,

Degustation of cognac at Noy brandy factory, Cascade Complex, Flea market,

House of Atasunts (Armenian painter).

Lunch and dinner at the restaurants.

Overnight at hotel in Yerevan.





Brandy degustation in Yerevan

#### May 15, 2024 Wednesday

#### **Yerevan**

Breakfast at hotel.

Drive from Yerevan to Khor Virap for a view of the Biblical Mount of Ararat (45km/28mi/50min). Excursion at Khor Virap Mountain.

Drive from Khor Virap to Garni Temple (50km/30mi/1h).

Lunch at a restaurant.

Excursion at Garni Temple and Gegard Monastery.

Drive to Yerevan (37km/23mi/1h).

Grand dinner.

Overnight at hotel in Yerevan.



View of the Biblical Mount of Ararat (situated in Turkiye) and Khor-Virap monastery





Garni Temple

**Geghard Monastery** 

**May 16, 2024** Thursday

#### **Yerevan**

Breakfast at hotel.

Transfer to airport for return flight.

Airport transfer is included for the travelers departing on the following flights

EMIRATES AIRLINE EK2207/16MAY EVN DXB 1210 1515 (operated by FlyDubai)

FLYDUBAI FZ718/16MAY EVN DXB 1210 1515 1105

# We'd be MOMOYED to have you in the Caucasus



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#### **TOUR COST**

US \$2,570 per person in DOUBLE or TWIN room US \$470 supplement for a SINGLE room occupancy

#### **INCLUDES**

- Accommodation
- Full board meals (B/L/D)
- Spirit beverages (during the dinners only)
- Escorted guide services (separated by country)
- Entrance fees to mentioned sights
- Tourist class transportation services (A/C)
- Daily water (0.5L x 2 per person / per day)
- Brandy, wine tasting in Armenia, wine, chacha tasting, bread baking, churchkhela making, khinkali cooking master classes in Georgia, master class of cooking dolma and kebab in Azerbaijan

#### **EXCLUDES**

- Any international flights
- Azerbaijan e-Visa (US \$35) **OBLIGATORY**
- Armenia (US \$25), Georgia (\$35) entry e-Visa if required
- Gratuities to a guide and driver (recommended US \$5-7 per day per pax to a guide, US \$4-5 to a driver)
- Personal expenses

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

Baku	Midtown Hotel	4*
Sheki	Macara Hotel	4*
Tbilisi	Best Western Tbilisi	4*
Kazbegi	Intourist Kazbegi	4*
Yerevan	Best Western Congress	4*