



**STEP** in  
**GEORGIA**



# TRAVEL ITINERARY

## DURATION: 12 DAYS

### HIGHLIGHTS OF AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA, AND ARMENIA

This if we say so ourselves, is an outstanding itinerary, capturing the best of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia, one of our favorite regions for cultural adventure. Taking you from the shores of the Caspian Sea and the splendid history of Baku, through the pretty wine fields of Kakheti and up to the spectacular High Caucasus mountains, you will be following in the footsteps of Silk Road traders, Crusader Knights and Ottoman Princes. This region, lying at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, is packed with the legends of the Golden Fleece, stunning scenery and warm and hospitable people. It also, amazingly, remains relatively unknown even to many experienced travelers and this is the perfect summer trip for those wanting a diverse experience in an often overlooked part of our world.



#### DAY 1

Arrive in Baku. Meet in the airport and transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Baku  
Accommodation: Central Park Hotel



#### DAY 2: BAKU

Start of excursion in Old Town - "Icheri Sheher". See the highlights of Icheri Sheher including the Palace of the Shirvans (the most striking example of the Medieval palace structures in Azerbaijan, dating to the middle of 15th century); the Maiden's Tower (the ancient, eight storey fortress originally built as a fire beacon); visit Dzhuma Mosque, shops of antiques and carpets, and the Carpet Museum (the impressive building located on the seafront)

Sightseeing tour in the city: Martyr's Cemetery, located on the higher slopes of the city's west-end, this is the best place for viewing the city and the Bay of Baku. You will have a walk in Naberezhny park (Boulevard) - the second largest one in the Europe. On Boulevard you can get a boat and make 30 minutes trip on it along Baku Bay of the Caspian Sea - largest lake in the world. Return to the hotel. Overnight.



## DAY 3 BAKU - SHEMAKHA - SHEKI

Breakfast at the hotel , drive on to the direction of Sheki. Drive to Sheki. (B)  
Accommodation: Issam Hotel



## DAY 4: SHEKI - AZERBAIJAN - GEORGIA BORDER (LAGODEKHI) TELAVI

Visit Sheky Khans' Palace, local history museum, Shebeke craft workshop, Sheki Bazaar, and the local sweet bakery. Next, we travel to Lagodekhi check-point and cross over into Georgia.

Drop off Georgian-Azerbaijan border, change the cars and guides) After a photo stop at Gremi Architectural Complex (16th century), we will walk for about an hour to visit the Nekresi Monastery (4th century) with its churches and the Palace of the Bishop. In the evening we arrive in Telavi. Overnight in Telavi at the guesthouse with shared facilities. (B,D)  
Accommodation: Hotel Zuzumbo



## DAY 5: TELAVI - SIGHNAGHI - TBILISI

In the morning we drive to a farmer's house to see a unique 300 year-old wine cellar. We get acquainted with the Georgian way of winemaking, quite different from the European one, and taste some of the typical wines of the region. Later we drive to the fortified town of Signaghi (18th century). The town preserves its original characteristics and now offers visitors stunning views of the surrounding Caucasus Mountains. After visiting the region's ethnographic museum we drive to Tbilisi. Free time upon arrival. Dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B)  
Accommodation: Hotel Tbilisi Inn

Levan Nioradze



## DAY 6: TBILISI - MTSKHETA - GORI - TBILISI

After breakfast we visit the ancient capital and religious center of Georgia, Mtskheta (300 years old), and see its historical places: Jvari Church (6th century) and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (11th century), where the Robe of Christ is buried. Both Jvari and Svetitskhoveli are UNESCO World Heritage sites. Later we visit the town of Gori, the heart of Kartli region and its historical places: Uplistsikhe Cave Town (1st millennium BC) and Stalin Museum. Uplistsikhe is the place where the Great Silk Road used to pass. This is an old and interesting complex with dwelling quarters, wine cellars, bakeries, and a basilica church hewn out in rock. Afterwards we drive back to Tbilisi. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi. (B)



## DAY 7: TBILISI- KAZBEGI-TBILISI

Travelling along the Georgian Military Highway. During this travel we'll see the Zhinvali reservoir. Further travel to the Georgian Military Highway – is a town of Stepantsminda situated at the foot of the Mount Kazbegi – the most famous and picturesque mountain of Georgia. Above the town like a fairy castle, rises Gergeti Trinity Church / Overnight in Tbilisi.



## DAY 8: TBILISI

Tbilisi sightseeing tour including Metekhi Church (13th century) overlooking the river Mtkvari; Sulphur Baths; Narikala Fortress, one of the oldest fortifications in the city (4th century); the Synagogue; Sioni Cathedral (6-7th century), which houses the cross of St. Nino, the woman who brought Christianity to Georgia, and; Anchiskhati Church (6th century). All these sights mark the end of the Old Town and they are in close proximity and pleasant walking distance. Afterwards we visit the stunning treasury of the Georgian National Museum before taking a stroll along Rustaveli Avenue, the main street in Tbilisi. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi. (B)



## **DAY 9: TBILISI - SADAKHLO - AKHTALA - HAGHPAT - SEVAN - HAGARTSIN - YEREVAN**

In the morning, we will drive to the Georgian-Armenian border (Sadakhlo), change transportation and guide, and after some border formalities continue the trip to Armenia. Drive to Lori region. Visit Akhtala fortress and monastery. Akhtala Monastery is one of the unique monuments of Christian history in the Caucasus. The main church is famous for its highly artistic frescoes. Visit Nurik Center in Akhtala. Nurik Center – guests' traditional hosting, with Armenian song, dance, reception. Nurik Center is a social enterprise, which promotes social and economic development of Lori region and provides workplaces for women from vulnerable groups. Master class on making Armenian traditional gata. Lunch at NURIK. Visit Haghpat Monastery (10-13th century), included in UNESCO World Heritage List. The excursion follows into Dilijan with charming nature and extraordinary architecture. Visit Haghartsin Monastery (10-13th century) and the Gegharkunik region. Visit Lake Sevan. Climb up Sevan Peninsula and see Sevanavank Monastery (9th century) atop the mountain. Drive to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan. Accommodation: Hotel Paris



## **DAY 10: YEREVAN - ECHMIATSIN - ZVARTNOTS - GARNI - GEGHARD - YEREVAN**

Yerevan city tour. Drive to Armavir region to visit Etchmiatsin Cathedral (303 AD), included in UNESCO World Heritage List, St. Hripsime Church, and Zvartnots Temple (643 AD). Return to Yerevan. Visit State History Museum of Armenia. Drive to Kotayk region. Excursion to Garni, the only pagan temple (1 AD) in Armenia. Nearby is the beautiful Christian Monastery of Geghard, carved out of solid rock (4-13th centuries). Overnight at a hotel in Yerevan.

## **DAY 11: YEREVAN - TATEV - YEREVAN**

Breakfast at the hotel. Start of the tour. TATEV MONASTERY (included in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage) is a masterpiece of confluence of ingenious medieval architecture and fabulous nature of Armenia. Tatev was also widely regarded as one of the most famous spiritual and educational centers of the Middle Ages. Tatev Monastery is located in the southern part of Armenia (Syunik region), on the edge of a giant gorge. The walls of the monastery Tatev seem a natural extension of the rock that raises it so high. Visitors can reach Tatev Monastery by bus through the gorge, or by the ROPEWAY, which is the longest in the world (5.7 km) and registered in the Guinness Book of World Records. The longest non-stop double track cable car is 5,752 m (18,871 ft). An incredible view - merge of heaven and earth opens from the cabin of cable car, from height of 320 m above the gorge. Armenian wine degustation on the way back to Yerevan. Back to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

## DAY 12: YEREVAN - TBILISI

After Breakfast drive back to Tbilisi  
Transfer to the Airport.



**CONTACT US TO CHECK IF THERE IS AVAILABILITY FOR THE NUMBER OF PLACES YOU REQUIRE. BUDGET AND PRECISE CALCULATION OF THE PRICE, WILL BE PLACED AFTER ORDERING THE ACTIVITY.**



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