

# SOUTH CAUCASUS



Georgia



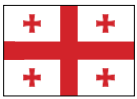
Armenia



Azerbaijan

*Destination*





# GEORGIA

**Territory:** 69,700 sq km  
**Population:** 4,646,000  
**Capital:** Tbilisi  
**Main cities:** Tbilisi 1,480,000  
 Kutaisi 197,000  
 Batumi 180,000

**Main International Airports:**  
 Tbilisi International Airport – TBS  
 Batumi International Airport – BUS  
 Kutaisi International Airport – KUT

**Official Language:** Georgian

**Climate:** A humid subtropical climate in western Georgia and

**Time zone:** GMT +4:00

**Main Religion:** Orthodox Christian

**Currency (code):** Lari (GEL – Georgian Lari)

**Telephone:** Country code: 995  
 Area code for Tbilisi: 32

**Electricity:** 220 volt, 50 Hz.

**Socket Type:** Europlug, Schuko

**Visa:** No visa is required for the citizens of USA, Canada, Japan, Israel, Turkey and all countries of the European Union



# ARMENIA

**Territory:** 29,800 sq km  
**Population:** 3,215,800  
**Capital:** Yerevan  
**Main cities:** Yerevan 1,107,800  
 Gyumri 168,918  
 Vanadzor 116,929

**Main International Airports:**  
 Zvartnots International Airport - EVN  
 Shirak International Airport: LWN

**Official Language:** Armenian

**Climate:** Highland continental

**Time zone:** GMT+4:00

**Main Religion:** Christian (Armenian Apostolic)

**Currency (code):** Armenian Dram (AMD)

**Telephone:** Country code: 374  
 Area code for Yerevan: 10

**Electricity:** 220 volt, 50 Hz. **Socket Type:**

Europlug, Schuko **Visa:** Entry visa is required



# AZERBAIJAN

**Territory:** 86,600 sq km  
**Population:** 8,347,300  
**Capital:** Baku  
**Main cities:** Baku: 2,046,000  
 Ganja: 313,000  
 Sumqayit: 310,000

**Main International Airports:**  
 Heydar Aliyev International Airport - GYD  
 Lankaran International Airport - LLK  
 Zaqatala International Airport - ZTU

**Official Language:** Azeri

**Climate:** Varies from subtropical and dry in central and eastern Azerbaijan to subtropical and humid in the southeast.

**Time zone:** GMT + 4:00

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Currency (code):** New Azerbaijani Manat (AZN)

**Telephone:** Country code: 994  
 Area code for Baku: 12

**Electricity:** 220 volt, 50 Hz. **Socket Type:**

Europlug, Schuko **Visa:** Entry visa is required





*The Unusual Journey of A. Dumas' (1858) to Caucasus starting from Russia and then to Dagestan and Chechnya to Azerbaijan and finally ending up in Georgia inspired him to write "Le Caucase"*

*In his travel notes Dumas describes the beauty of Caucasus, unforgettable encounters with locals, paying particular attention to the local cuisine. Some recipes of the local dishes found their way to his lengthy cookbook Grand*

## South Caucasus

The South Caucasus comprises three unique, yet interconnected Countries: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan.

Its position at the junction point of the east and west makes its culture the unique expression of the many worlds around it. The history of Orthodox Christian Georgia, Gregorian Christian Armenia and Muslim Azerbaijan is blend in centuries of friendship and battle for survival. Still each country is unique with its own distinct customs, traditions and religion.

The Great Silk road was stretched across all South Caucasus countries. Once upon a time ancient caravans passed here, carrying delicate jewels, precious stones and spices. Today the Great Silk Road sites can be visited while travelling in Caucasus Countries.

The Caucasus boasts the evidence of flourishing culture with impressive architectural monuments, archaeological and pagan sites, monastic jewels and centuries old mosques, nature sites, National parks as well as cities steeped in a long history of Soviet, Christian, pagan and Arab cultures.

The Caucasus is one of the most linguistically and culturally diverse regions of a great ecological importance. Its flora and fauna harbors a great variety of endemic plants and rare animals inhabiting different climate zones.

The three countries of the South Caucasus interlock like puzzle pieces on a strip of mountainous land wedged between the Black and Caspian seas. Each shares a border with the other two, yet they could hardly be more different. Three unrelated languages are spoken here, and two different religions hold sway. But the Muslim people of Azerbaijan and the Christians of Armenia and Georgia all have robust pagan roots, a love of life and a strong culture of hospitality, home and hearth.

The sample programs shown in this brochure are based on customer's frequent requests and points of interests. We have years of experience in operating in Caucasus countries; We carefully select the product and all its segments; we monitor and control quality service.

The programs give an opportunity to travel and enjoy the hospitality of the Caucasus Countries; experience traditions of these countries, geographically so close to each other but still so different; taste local cuisine and get in touch with local people; get acquainted with their life-style.

In each country we employ local guides and drivers. Guide as well as driver and vehicle will be changed while crossing land borders between countries.





Country of Georgia, located on the edge of Europe and Asia, boasts both Mediterranean and European culture. It is a small area of land to the south of the Great Caucasus Range, occupying the isthmus between the Black and Caspian Seas. Despite its relatively small size, (it occupies an area of only 69,700 sq/km) you can find steppes, semi deserts, subtropical forests and glaciers here. The Great Caucasus Range serves as Georgia's natural border with Russia. Its highest peak is Mt.Shkhara 5,068 m.

Today, 3.6 million Georgians, living in a country of 4.6 million people, call themselves Kartveli and their country Sakartvelo, i.e. the Georgians' place. The latter name has not been in use since the 11th century when ethnically and linguistically related kingdoms in the region united to form one nation.

Orthodox Christianity, the state religion since the fourth century, has played a major part in Georgian history and culture.

In geographic terms Georgia belongs to neither Europe nor Asia; in cultural terms it is neither East nor West. Georgian alphabet is among the 14 existing alphabets in the world and includes 33 symbols. It has a distinct language and distinct customs and traditions, found nowhere else in the world



The numerous UNESCO Sites, impressive rock cut monasteries and cave towns as well as millennia old archaeological sites and remote areas make Georgia an attractive destination. The color and richness typical for Georgian art are expressed in architectural monuments and splendid wall paintings, mosaics and handicrafts. Here you come across the



Set in the foothills of the Lesser Caucasus,

### A Selection of Georgian Cuisine

*It doesn't matter if you are in mountains or lowlands, in the large cities or remote villages, the flavour of local cuisine will lead you through the different regions of Georgia and offer the possibility to feel the whole taste of unmistakably distinctive and*

#### Khachapuri

bread with cheese filling, described by foreigners as "Georgian pizza". Each part of Georgia has its own unique khachapuri with its own special flavor,



#### Chakhokhbili

the original chakhokhbili was prepared with "Khokhobi"(Pheasant) and was a traditional dish for the New Year feast. It is popular festive dish with the nobility in turkey or chicken with a lot of oriental and all of Georgia. At present it is difficult to local spices and walnuts.



#### Satsivi

it takes a long time to prepare satsivi – a traditional dish for the New Year feast. It is popular festive dish with the nobility in turkey or chicken with a lot of oriental and all of Georgia. At present it is difficult to local spices and walnuts.



#### Khinkali

the delicious food of the people in the east and north mountainous regions. It is a boiled dumpling filled with minced meat in dough. In the mountain regions people mix in



#### Churchkhela

a yummy and wholesome delicacy of nuts or raisins threaded onto a string. The string is then dipped repeatedly in simmering



## *The Cradle of Wine*

Vine-growing has an ancient history in Georgia. Fossilized grape leaves, stems and seeds have been unearthed from Miocene deposits in the Akhaltsikhe district of Georgia and

in Bronze-age tombs. Other paleo-botanical and archaeological data attest to the long existence and wide distribution of the vine in Georgia. In some of the oldest human settlements archaeologists have unearthed wine presses cut from stone and a vast array of clay and metal wine vessels, all of which indicate that wine-making has been practiced in Georgia since 2000 years BC.

Local wine-making techniques were developed in Kakheti, Imereti and Kartli. Special vessels for wine storage and maturation were designed along with implements for cleaning the wine vessels. The range of wines made was expanded over the centuries as wine makers developed sweeter, stronger wines and new techniques for blending different wines.

Georgia has a long tradition of wine-making and vine culture. St. Nino, who brought Christianity to Georgia, made a cross from vine stems and tied them together with her hair, symbolizing the sun's rays. The winding characters of the Georgian alphabet reflect the trailing growth of the vine; it is found as a decorative motif in Georgian architecture and as an ornamental device it is interwoven with capital letters in the old Georgian manuscripts.

*There is no  
meal  
without wine  
and  
accordingly  
no wine  
without  
TAMADA  
toast-  
master...*

*We invite you for dinner at a  
'marani' -*

*CAUCASUS TRAVEL as a DMC with its reliable partners will be pleased to provide inland services and offer the best of Georgia:*

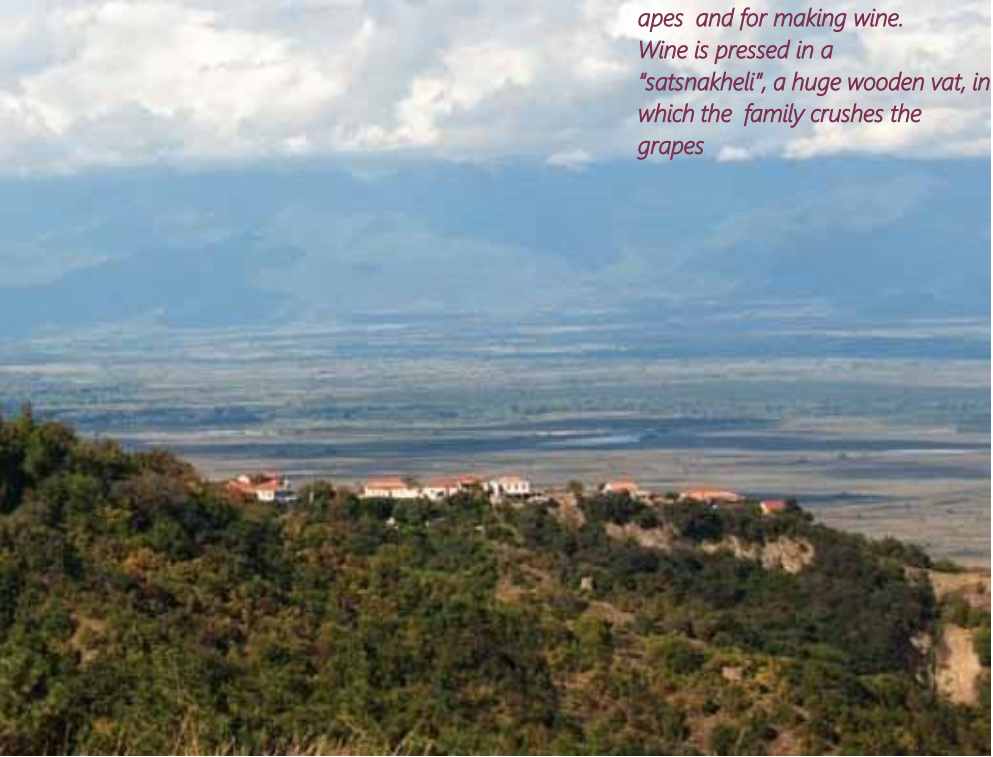
*The country with amazing cluster of cultures and traditions, ancient history, fascinating landscapes from snowy peaks of Caucasus mountains, fertile lowland, steeps and deserts to wetland and subtropics. The UNESCO sites, impressive rock-cut monasteries and cave towns as well as millennia old archaeological sites and remote areas.*

*Georgia, the combination of uniqueness and diversity.*

## Recommended Hotels in Georgia

Tbilisi Marriott \*\*\*\*\*





apes and for making wine. Wine is pressed in a "satsnakheli", a huge wooden vat, in which the family crushes the grapes

**Sheraton Metekhi Palace Tbilisi \*\*\*\*\*** Welcome to Georgia's first and most well-established international five-star hotel, the Sheraton Metekhi Palace Hotel, Tbilisi. We are ideally located in the heart of the city's historical area, only minutes away from the flourishing political business and entertainment center and 15 kilometers from Tbilisi International Airport.

**Radisson Blu Iveria Tbilisi \*\*\*\*\*** Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Tbilisi Enjoy magnificent views from this newly developed glass hotel overlooking the Mtkvari River and historic city centre. The amenities at Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Tbilisi include a spa, casino, international restaurants and a sky-top bar with a city view.

**Holiday Inn Tbilisi \*\*\*\*** Stylish Italian-designed furnishings and wooden floors make you feel at home in the Lobby of the high-rise, glass-fronted Holiday Inn Tbilisi. It's easy to hop to Old Tbilisi on the metro from Polytechnical subway station, opposite the hotel.



**Courtyard by Marriott Tbilisi \*\*\*\*** Courtyard by Marriott Tbilisi offers visitors a grand view into Georgian culture with its fabulous location at Freedom Square, right in the city center. From the hotel, stroll to galleries, gardens, museums and the Rustaveli Theatre and State Opera House, all within walking distance.



**Sheraton Batumi \*\*\*\*** Newly built Sheraton Batumi offers comfortable surroundings with direct beach access and friendly service. Located on the seafront of the Black Sea, the hotel is a local landmark, and only a 15 minute drive away from Batumi International Airport, the primary gateway to the Autonomous Region of Adjara.



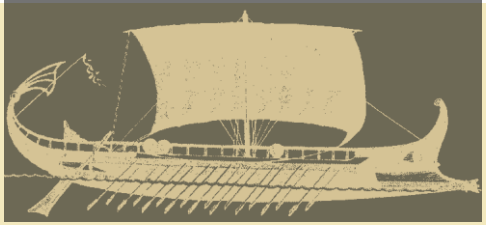
**Radisson Blu Hotel Batumi \*\*\*\*\*** Radisson Blu Hotel in Batumi, Georgia boasts 168 guest rooms layouts as a result of its unique, angular façade. Guests appreciate a location that is near historic and cultural attractions, the central business district and Batumi Seaside Boulevard.



**Rooms Kazbegi \*\*\*\*** Kazbegi Rooms is the first project of Rooms Hotel Chain, high up in the glorious breathtaking beauty of the Caucasus. This part of Georgia is famous throughout the world for its dramatic mountainous range and the second highest peak (5,047 meters).



## The Myth of Argonauts



Treasury of Ancient Colchis Templar pendant, IV c BC found in Vani, where extensive archaeological excavations have taken place over the past 100



33 centuries ago the Argonauts started their mythical Journey to capture The Golden Fleece; Jason's story predated Homer's Odyssey and describes events which have taken place in Golden Age.

"Here in Georgia the sacred place of the bull cult protected by its





# Armenia



Armenia, officially the Republic of Armenia, is a landlocked mountainous country in Eurasia between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, located in the Southern Caucasus. Culturally, historically and politically, Armenia is considered to be part of Europe. However, its location in the southern Caucasus means that it can also be considered to be at the arbitrary border between Europe and Asia: in other words, a transcontinental nation. However, both these classifications are entirely arbitrary, as there is no easily definable geographic difference between Asia and Europe. It shares borders with Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, Azerbaijan to the east and Iran. A former republic of the Soviet Union, Armenia is a unitary, democratic nation-state.

Armenia is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a rich cultural heritage, as well as the first nation to adopt Christianity as its official religion in 301.

Armenians have their own highly distinctive alphabet and language. The letters were invented by Saint Mesrop Mashtots in 405 and the alphabet consists of 39 letters.



Armenians consider themselves direct descendants of Noah, survivor of the Biblical flood. Ararat, located in the heart of Armenia, was a Holy Mountain for the people of the ancient world. Many ancient scriptures placed the Biblical Garden of Eden in the Land of Armenia also called the Land of Ararat. Armenia is included into the Lonely Planet's Top-Pick Countries 2008 Blue list

## Food & Armenian Brandy

Armenian cuisine is like a poem, each line of which has its own aroma and reminds you of innumerable dinners of shepherds and monks. Travel in Armenia, taste local dishes and

### Dolma

One of the main dishes of Armenian cuisine, which is made in the leaves of grape and served with steamed rice.



### Khorovats

It is good at any season of the year. In the summertime, khorovats is usually prepared with



### Armenian Lavash

Even when abroad, Armenians remember about their traditional bread- lavash. A very thin, lightly wrapped stripe of dough about one meter long, baked on the hot



### Armenian Basturma

Basturma is an air cured and spiced product made from topline of beef to *kyata and nazuk* - original *multilayered pies with* recipes dating back to pre-Christian times.



### kyata and nazuk

*The most known* product made from topline of beef to *kyata and nazuk* - original *multilayered pies with* recipes dating back to pre-Christian times. Each layer is stuffed with dough. Basturma is prepared by salting the







CAUCASUS TRAVEL as a DMC with its reliable partners will be pleased to provide inland services and offer the best of Armenia:

Modern Country with ancient history, rich culture, friendly and hospitable people, thousands of historical and architectural monuments, UNESCO sites, healthy and delicious Food.

Armenia, one of the oldest nations in the world.



## Armenian Brandy

Ararat is an Armenian brandy that has been produced by the Yerevan Brandy Company since 1887. It is made from Armenian white grapes and spring water, according to a traditional method.

"Ordinary Brandies" are aged for 3, 4, 5, or 6 years, the soft flavor of the Brandy being based on selected brands of wines and pure spring water, which help to create a unique taste for each type of Ararat Brandy. The "Aged Brandies" of 10, 15, 18, and 20 years each have their own unique taste and specific dark golden color.

Armenia brandy is the part of Armenian cultural and the historical heritage.

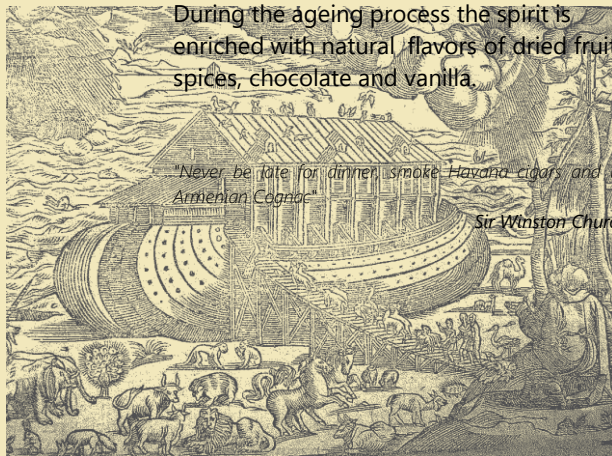
Only local varieties of grape with special properties are used in the production an authentic Armenian brandy, based on the unique microclimate of the Ararat Valley. The method of double distillation preserves the flavor and aroma of grapes, and transfers them into the brandy spirits. The ageing of the brandies is done exclusively in oak barrels.



During the ageing process the spirit is enriched with natural flavors of dried fruits, spices, chocolate and vanilla.

*"Never be late for dinner, smoke Havana cigars and drink Armenian Cognac"*

*Sir Winston Churchill*



Noah's Ark

## Recommended Hotels in Armenia

### Yerevan Marriott \*\*\*\*\*

The place to be in Yerevan... Yerevan is a vibrant blend of commerce, culture and antiquities dating back as far as 782 B.C. And framing a portion of its stately Republic Square is the Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan the most luxurious accommodations in Yerevan and a tribute to modern hospitality.



### Golden Tulip Yerevan \*\*\*\*\*

Golden Tulip Hotel Yerevan is a luxurious and charming hotel situated in the very center of Yerevan, only in 15 minutes drive (12 km) from the international airport "Zvartnots". It is within easy walking distance to the Republic Square, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Open house and the National Art Gallery.



### National Hotel Yerevan \*\*\*\*\*

In the very heart of the center of the capital of Armenia is nestled the hotel which gives the guests instantaneous access to the best that Yerevan has to offer in entertainment and shopping.



### Metropol Yerevan \*\*\*\*

Built in 2001 the 4 Star Metropol Hotel Yerevan Armenia is one of the Yerevan's premier addresses and a perfect venue from which to explore the sights of Armenia's majestic capital. Ideally located on Yerevan's most celebrated avenue, Mashtots, the Metropol Hotel stands proud as the most distinguished address.



### Ani Plaza Yerevan \*\*\*\*

Ani Plaza Hotel is a full 4 star hotel situated in the very heart of Yerevan facing Mount Ararat and overlooking the Opera House which is the core of capital. Hotel offers pure Armenian hospitality and decor served with international standards.



### Aviatrans Yerevan \*\*\*\*

Whether visiting Armenia for

business or pleasure you are invited to the Hotel Aviatrans located in the historic center of Yerevan on Abovyan street - one of the oldest and well-known streets of our capital. The hotel is well positioned both for business and tourism.

#### **Best Western Congress**

**Hotel \*\*\*\*** Best Western

Congress hotel is situated close to the center of Yerevan, only five minutes from the Republic Square with its attractive singing fountains by night. Best Western Congress Hotel is surrounded by beautiful parks which creates a calm and ecologically clear environment around the

#### **Ararat Hotel \*\*\*\***

Ararat Hotel is a 5 minute drive from city center and 10 minutes from the Zvartnots airport, in an area surrounded by green parks, theaters, and diplomatic representations (French, Russian and Italian Embassies).





# Azerbaijan



Azerbaijan is favourably located on the south - eastern border of Europe, on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, and has historically served as a bridge between the Western and Oriental traditions, having benefited from both.

The importance of Azerbaijan as a trade route is as strong today as in the past when it was one of the countries of the Great Silk Road.

Nowadays Azerbaijan takes part in the transcontinental tourist itinerary of the Silk Road. There is everything for which you can start your journey - ancient culture, more than 6000 historical and architectural monuments such as fortresses, palaces, mosques and churches, which always leave unforgettable memories in the hearts of visitors; colourful national arts & crafts; centuries-old customs and traditions; unique and delicious national cuisine; various and enchanting natural landscapes - majestic mountains, fast running rivers, woods full of oxygen rich air; mineral springs and a gentle warm sea.



The most ancient traces of a civilization are presented by the remains of the neanderthal man which has been found out in Azykh cave. More 300 000 years ago primitive people lived here. And in settlement Gobustan (60 km from Baku) there is the rare monument of the world culture, one of the first centers of a civilization of mankind.

No matter what corner of our country you are in, everywhere you will find a most

#### Lyulya kabab

a mixture of minced lamb, herbs and a part or saffron, cooked and served in rhombic, which barbecued, often served with lavas win (unleavened bread).

#### Piti

The name of this sweet derives from a chunk, whilst the word 'bozbash' individual earthenware pots. Spoon it out into your bowl, and mop up the juices

#### Parcha-Bozbash

a soupy stew of mutton, fat, chickpeas squeezed around a skewer and its external shape. It is translated symbolizes fire, which is called 'pakhla' by sheets of or a grey part because the

#### Pakhlava

The word 'parcha' means peas and its external shape. It is translated symbolizes fire, which is called 'pakhla' by sheets of or a grey part because the

to traditions of Caucasian and Central Asian people but has its distinctive features. It is remarkable by abundance of the every possible meat, fish and vegetable dishes dressed by fragrant greens and spices.







CAUCASUS TRAVEL as a DMC with its reliable partners will be pleased to provide inland services and offer the best of Azerbaijan

The rich historical and cultural heritage, untouched nature, mud volcanoes, the world's only oil field treatment - naphthalene, ancient architecture, unique culture, cuisine, and more.

Azerbaijan - the country full of colors.

## Carpet-making in Azerbaijan

Herodotus, Claudius Elian, Xenofontus and other ancient historians of the world had informed about development of carpet making in Azerbaijan. During Sasanids carpet art has developed even greater, and beautiful carpets were woven from silk, golden-silver threads. Albanian historian Musa Kalantarsky (VII century) had given information about carpets woven from

silk cloths, and motley carpets. Carpet making from golden-silver threads and adorned with precious stones had taken a traditional character in XVI-XVII centuries. Such pileless carpets were mostly made in Tabriz, Shamakhy and Barda towns. As it cost expensive such carpets were made for feudal and called "zarbaf".

There is an interesting information in written sources of the Middle Ages about Azerbaijani carpet items and its art features. The unknown author had informed in work named "Hudud-al-alam" ("Borders of the world") concerned to X century about the rugs and carpets of Mughan, zili carpets of Nakhichevan, and silk carpets were praised in "Kitabi-Dada Gorgud", pileless and piled carpets in works of Abul-Ula Ganjavi, Nizami, Khagani (XII century)

Till early of XX century Azerbaijani carpet had an important position in the world market.



Azerbaijani carpets is one of the most beautiful branch of the eastern carpet-making art. In 2010 it was included in the "Non-material Cultural Heritage" of the UNESCO.

## Recommended Hotels in Azerbaijan

### Hyatt Regency Baku \*\*\*\*\*

Retreat to an oasis of tranquility for business and leisure travelers, and enjoy the comforts of home at Hyatt Regency Baku. Our Baku 5 star



strategically located with just a 20-minute drive from International Heydar Aliyev Airport.



### Hilton Baku \*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to the sophisticated Hilton Baku hotel, situated just a short walk along the Caspian Sea Boulevard from the famous 12th-century city walls of Icheri Sheher. Set in the heart of Baku's business district, this modern Baku, Azerbaijan hotel is the ideal base to explore the historic city center, Baku attractions and vibrant nightlife.



### Four Seasons Baku \*\*\*\*\*

Our Baku luxury hotel accommodations are among the city's most spacious, with almost all opening to a balcony with views of the Caspian Sea or the Old City. Find relaxation in the penthouse spa, or swim within a glass-roofed atrium.



### Crown Hotel Baku \*\*\*\*\*

Hotel welcomes you with its unique blend of the latest technology together through every possible traditional comfort expected of a luxury five star hotel. We also outstanding accommodations for the business traveler or for the visitor coming to enjoy Baku's pleasures, all from its convenient location in the heart of the city in Bayil.



### Kempinski Hotel Badamdar \*\*\*\*\*

Kempinski Hotel Badamdar is located in the heart of Badamdar district in Baku, a short drive away from the international airport of Baku "Heydar Aliyev", convenient driving distance to city center, old down, sea side, to all landmarks and the Financial as



well Governmental District and a short walk to the Botanic Garden.

**Marriott Hotel Absheron Baku \*\*\*\*** JW Marriott Hotel Absheron Baku is an upscale Baku hotel ideally located among the city center's futuristic skyline and historic buildings. This stylish hotel offers exceptional comfort and amenities for business and leisure travelers alike.

**Azerbaijan - Land of Fire**  
*Azerbaijan has been called "The Land of Fire" due to the phenomena of "burning hillsides" caused by gas seeping through fissures in the earth.*

**"Diplomat" Hotel Baku \*\*\*\***  
The Diplomat offers 24 spacious and tastefully decorated guest rooms, including 3 suites and 2 connecting rooms. The hotel's mid-century modern style is contemporary in design, are decorated in soft, neutral colors creating a calm and relaxing haven.

**"Sun Rise" Hotel Baku \*\*\*\***  
It is considered one of the wonders of the world. Before the religion of Islam Yanardag was a place of religious faith and a shrine for fire worshippers. There are a lot of legends and rumours about this monument.

Not far away from Yanardag i.e. 200 meters south there is a weak volcano erupting and scattering around water with slime. When bringing a lighter nearer to the mixture of the volcanic water and sulphur trioxide that comes out of the





Tbilisi. Metekhi church (XII)



Old Baku.



Sevan Lake.

**Azerbaijan-Georgia  
Nights**

**7 Days /6 Nights  
Armenia-Georgia**

**Azerbaijan-Georgia  
7 Days /6 Nights**

**9 Days /8**

## The Highlights of Azerbaijan & Georgia

## From The Caspian to The Black Sea

Side Boulevard; after lunch transfer to the airport.

- Day 1: Arrival in Baku;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel;
- Day 2: Visit Baku & Absheron Peninsula;** explore old town of Baku, called Ichari Shahar. In the afternoon explore Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshgyakh – fire worshippers’ temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dagh.
- Day 3: From Baku to Sheki;** en route visit historical and religious sites of Shemakha. In the evening enjoy Sheki sightseeing tour.
- Day 4: From Sheki to Tbilisi;** after crossing Georgia border explore Kakheti – The land of wine; have a walk in narrow streets of Sighnaghi Royal Town; visit Bodbe monastery Complex.
- Day 5: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore the old town; visit centuries old churches; architectural and historical sites as well as museums.
- Day 6: Day Trip to the Caucasus Mountains;** drive towards the high peaks of the Caucasus Mountain Range; explore Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia & Ananuri architectural Complex. Walk up the Gergeti hill and visit “Gergeti Trinity church”– The most important altar of the region.
- Day 7: Departure;** transfer to the airport.

- Day 1: Arrival in Baku;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel.
- Day 2: Visit Baku & Absheron Peninsula;** explore old town of Baku, called Ichari Shahar. In the afternoon drive to Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshgyakh – fire worshippers’ temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dagh.
- Day 3: Drive from Baku to Sheki;** explore Gobustan and its petroglyphs of Neolithic Period; en route to Sheki visit historical and religious sites of Shemakha. In the evening enjoy Sheki sightseeing tour.
- Day 4: From Sheki to Tbilisi;** after crossing Georgian border explore Kakheti – The Land of Wine; have a walk in narrow streets of Sighnaghi Royal Town; get acquainted with Georgian wine making tradition.
- Day 5: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore the old town; visit centuries old churches; architectural and historical sites as well as museums.
- Day 6: Tbilisi – Kazbegi – Gudauri;** drive towards the high peaks of Caucasus Mountain Range; explore Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia & Ananuri architectural complex. Walk up to Gergeti hill and visit “Gergeti Trinity church”– the most important altar of the region.
- Day 7: From Gudauri to Kutaisi via Gori;** visit Uplistsikhe Cave town dating back to the 1st millennium BC; in Gori – birth place of Joseph Stalin, visit Stalin’s museum.
- Day 8: Explore Kutaisi** – the Capital of legendary Colchis and drive to Batumi. In Kutaisi visit historical center and its important cultural & religious sites.
- Day 9: Batumi sightseeing tour;** departure; after breakfast visit Batumi agricultural market; have a walk in old quarter and picturesque squares as well as in a Sea

# The Highlights of Armenia & Georgia

**Day 1: Arrival in Yerevan;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel.

**Day 2: Yerevan Sightseeing Tour;** enjoy bus tour and visit local museums; in afternoon visit Garni Pagan Temple & Geghard Monastery, carved in a rocky hill.

**Day 3: From Yerevan drive to Tbilisi;** have a walk along the blue waters of Sevan; visit monastery Sevan & Noradus – field of “Khach Kars” – Cross Stones; en route visit Haghastin Monastery complex.

**Day 4: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore the old town with its narrow streets and colorful squares; visit centuries old churches and museums.

**Day 5: Day trip to the Caucasus Mountains;** drive towards the high peaks of

Caucasus Mountain Range; en route explore Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia & impressive Ananuri Architectural Complex.

**Day 6: Day trip to Kakheti –**“The Land of Wine”; have a walk in Signaghi, enjoy impressive views of Kizikhi area; visit centuries old churches and get acquainted with wine making traditions.

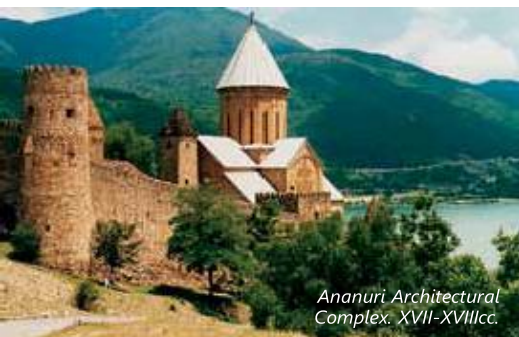
**Day 7: Departure;** transfer to the airport



Batumi City



Juma Mosque, Baku, Azerbaijan



Ananuri Architectural Complex. XVII-XVIIIcc.



Echmiadzin Cathedral.



Sheki Khans' Palace.

**Armenia-Georgia**

**9 Days /8 Nights**

**Azerbaijan-Georgia-Armenia**

**Georgia-Armenia-Georgia**

**12 Days /11 Nights**

**13 Days /12 Nights**

## The Best of Georgia & Armenia

**Day 1: Arrival in Yerevan;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel.

**Day 2: Yerevan sightseeing tour;** visit the statue of "Mother Armenia" and enjoy the view of Yerevan; spend the whole day by visiting the capital of Armenia and its museums.

**Day 3: Day trip to Echmiadzin & Zvartnots;** visit the holy seat of the Supreme Patriarch-Catholicos of all Armenians; in the afternoon explore the Archaeological Site of Zvartnots.

**Day 4: From Yerevan to Tbilisi;** en route explore Alavedi region and visit Sanahin and Haghpat monasteries located on opposing mountainous spurs.

**Day 5: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** Tbilisi introduction from Metekhi Plateau; visit district of Bathouses and have a walk in narrow streets of the old town.

**Day 6: Tbilisi –Kazbegi – Gudauri;** drive north along the famed Military Highway; Explore Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia and its UNESCO sites. Walk up to Gergeti hill beautifully located in the shadow of mount Kazbek.

**Day 7: From Gudauri drive to Tbilisi via Gori,** birthplace of Joseph Stalin; Visit Stalin's museum and Uplistsikhe – an unusual Cave town dating back to the 1st millennium BC.

**Day 8: Day trip to Kakheti** – the Land of wine; visit Telavi and historical and religious sites in its surroundings.

**Day 9: Departure;** transfer to the airport.

## Ancient Christian Countries

**Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel.

**Day 2: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore old town where centuries old orthodox churches are neighboring Mosque, Synagogue and Armenian Churches.

**Day 3: Day Trip to Caucasus Mountains;** explore Mtskheta, religious and cultural center of Georgia. Visit Gergeti Trinity church- the most important altar of kvevi Province.

**Day 4: Day Trip to David Gareja Semi desert & Sighnaghi;** venture to David Gareja Semi desert and visit caved monasteries Lavra and Udabno. In the afternoon explore Sighnaghi Royal Town surrounded by defensive walls with 23 towers.

**Day 5: From Tbilisi drive to Yerevan;** visit Haghpat and Sanahin monasteries as well as Sevan Monastery ,overnight in Sevan

**Day 6: Noradus – Field of Khachkars,** visit Garni pagan temple & Geghard monastery complex, overnight in Yerevan

**Day 7: Yerevan sightseeing tour & Echmiadzin;** explore Yerevan the capital of Armenia; in the afternoon visit Echmiadzin spiritual centre of the Armenians and the seat of the Catholicos of All Armenians.

**Day 8: Day trip to Khorvirap and Noravank;** enjoy impressive views across vast plain to Turkey and the twin peaks of Mount Ararat.

**Day 9: From Yerevan drive to small town Giumri;** visit Erebuni fortress, also called "Arim Berd"- "Fortress of Blood" in Translation. Then drive to Gyumri for overnight.

**Day 10: From Giumri drive to Georgian Border;** Visit Varzia Cave town and

monastery. In the evening explore "Rabati"– historical center and museum of Akhaltsikhe.

**Day 11: From Akhaltsikhe drive to Kutaisi** – the capital of legendary Colchis. Have a walk in old town and visit its UNESCO sites;

**Day 12: From Kutaisi Drive to Batumi** via subtropical landscapes of Adjara Region. Enjoy Batumi sightseeing tour.

**Day 13: Morning Sightseeing tour of Batumi;** in the afternoon transfer to the airport



# Travers the Caucasus

**Day 1: Arrival in Baku;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel.

**Day 2: Visit Baku & Absheron Peninsula;** explore old town of Baku, called Ichari Shahr. In the afternoon explore Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshyakh – fire worshippers' temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dagh.

**Day 3: From Baku to Sheki;** en route visit historical and religious sites of Shemakha. In the evening enjoy Sheki sightseeing tour.

**Day 4: From Sheki to Tbilisi;** after crossing Georgian border explore Kakheti – the land of wine; have a walk in Signaghi Royal Town; get

acquainted with Georgian wine making tradition.

**Day 5: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore the old town; visit centuries old churches; architectural and historical sites as well as museums.

**Day 6: Tbilisi – Gudauri;** drive north along the famed Military Highway; explore Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia and its UNESCO sites. En route to Gudauri explore Ananuri Architectural Complex overlooking Jinvali Dam.

**Day 7: Day trip to Kazbegi** and to the high peaks of Caucasus Mountain Range. Walk up to Gergeti hill to visit Gergeti Trinity Church beautifully located in the shadow of Mount Kazbek.

**Day 8: From Gudauri drive to Tbilisi via**

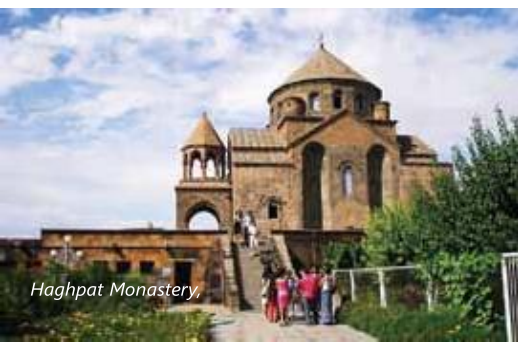
**Gori,** birthplace of Joseph Stalin; visit Stalin's museum and Uplistsikhe – an unusual Cave Town dating back to 1st millennium BC.

**Day 9: Drive to Yerevan** – en route visit Haghartsin Monastery complex; have a walk along the blue waters of Sevan; visit monastery Sevan & Noradus – field of Khach Kars – Cross Stones; overnight in Sevan

**Day 10: Yerevan sightseeing tour;** visit Garni Pagan Temple & Geghard Monastery carved in a rocky hill. Enjoy bus tour of Yerevan and visit local museums.

**Day 11: Day Trip to Khor Virap & Noravank;** enjoy the scenery of green hills and impressive views of the twin peaks of Mount Ararat. Visit important religious and historical sites.

**Day 12: Departure;** transfer to the airport.



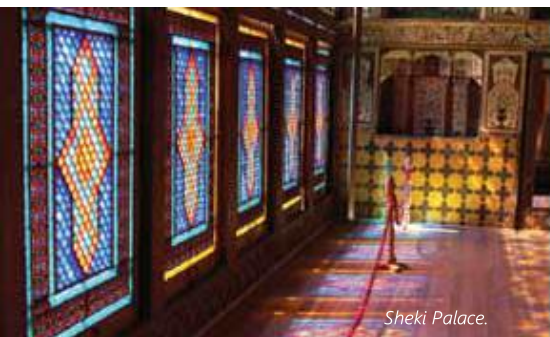
Haghpat Monastery,



David Gareja Monastery



Haghartsin Monastery,



Sheki Palace.



Dmanisi Archeological Site, Georgia



## Azerbaijan-Georgia-Armenia 14

Days /13 Nights

# The Caucasus Paradise

**Day 1: Arrival in Baku;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel.

**Day 2: Visit Baku & Absheron Peninsula;** explore old town of Baku, called Ichari Shahar. In the afternoon drive to Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshgyakh – fire worshippers’ temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dagh.

**Day 3: From Baku to Sheki;** en route to Sheki visit historical and religious sites of Shemakha. In the evening enjoy Sheki sightseeing tour.

**Day 4: From Sheki to Tbilisi;** after crossing Georgia border explore Kakheti – the land of wine; have a walk in Sighnaghi Royal Town and enjoy impressive views of Alazani Valley.

**Day 5: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore the old town; visit centuries old churches; architectural and historical sites as well as museums.

**Day 6: Day trip to Kazbegi** and to the high peaks of Caucasus Mountain range. Walk up to Gergeti hill beautifully located in the shadow of mount Kazbek. En route visit Mtskheta – the ancient capital of Georgia.

**Day 7: From Tbilisi drive to Yerevan;** visit Sanahin and Haghpat monasteries as well as Sevan Monastery and Noradus – Field of Khachkars.

**Day 8: Yerevan sightseeing tour & Echmiadzin;** explore Yerevan; in the afternoon visit Echmiadzin spiritual centre of the Armenians and the seat of the Catholicos of all Armenians.

**Day 9: Day trip to Khorvirap and Noravank;** enjoy impressive views across vast plain to Turkey and the of Mount Ararat.

**Day 10: From Yerevan drive to small town Gyumri;** visit Erebuni fortress, also called “Arim Berd”- “Fortress of Blood” in translation.

**Day 11: From Gyumri drive to Georgian Border;** visit Varzia Cave Town and Monastery. In the evening explore “Rabati”–

Akhaltsikhe.

**Day 12: From Akhalsikhe drive to Kutaisi** – the capital of legendary Colchis. Have a walk in Old town and visit its UNESCO sites.

**Day 13: From Kutaisi drive to Batumi** via subtropical landscapes of Adjara Region. Enjoy Batumi sightseeing tour.

**Day 14: Morning Sightseeing tour of Batumi;** in afternoon transfer to the airport

## Azerbaijan-Georgia-Armenia 15

Days /14 Nights

# Transcaucasus

**Day 1: Arrival in Baku;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel.

**Day 2: Visit Baku & Absheron Peninsula;** explore Old town of Baku, called Ichari Shahar. In the afternoon explore Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshgyakh - fire worshippers’ temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dagh;

**Day 3: From Baku to Sheki;** visit Gobustan archaeological site and drive to Sheki; en route visit historical sites of Shemakha.

**Day 4: From Sheki to Sighnaghi;** enjoy Sheki sightseeing tour. Visit old town and local museums. In the afternoon cross Georgian border; have a walk in narrow streets of Sighnaghi Royal Town; get acquainted with Georgian wine making tradition.

**Day 5: Sighnaghi - Telavi - Tbilisi;** explore Kakheti, “the Land of Wine” and its important religious and cultural sites;

**Day 6: Tbilisi Sightseeing tour;** explore the old town; visit centuries old churches; architectural and historical sites as well as museums.

**Day 7: Tbilisi - Kazbegi - Gudauri;** drive north along the famed Military Highway; explore Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia and its UNESCO sites. Walk up to Gergeti hill beautifully located in the shadow of mount Kazbek.

**Day 8: From Gudauri drive to Tbilisi** via Gori, birthplace of Joseph Stalin; visit Stalin’s museum and Uplistsikhe – an unusual cave town dating back to the 1st millennium BC.

**Day 9: Day Trip to Bolnisi & Dmanisi;** visit basilica of Bolnisi Sioni and Dmanisi Archaeological site; hominoid skulls discovered in Dmanisi are the oldest and the most primitive in Eurasia.

**Day 10: From Tbilisi drive to Yerevan;** visit Sanahin and Haghpat monasteries as well as Sevan Monastery.

**Day 11: Yerevan sightseeing tour;** explore Yerevan the capital of Armenia; enjoy bus tour; visit local bazaar; museums and galleries.

**Day 12: Day trip to Echmiadzin, Garni & Geghard;** visit spiritual centre of the country; in the

afternoon visit Garni Pagan Temple & Geghard Monastery, carved in a rocky hill.

**Day 13: Day trip to Khor Virap, Noravank & Tatev;** enjoy the scenery of green hills and impressive views of Mount Ararat. Visit important religious and historical sites. The first visit is to Tatev Monastery, an architectural masterpiece dating from the 10th century. Overnight in Goris.

**Day 14: Visit old and new Khndzoresk;** drive back to Yerevan.

**Day 15: Departure;** transfer to the airport.

**Azerbaijan-Georgia-Armenia** 14  
**Days /13 Nights**

## The UNESCO Treasuries

**Day 1: Arrival in Baku;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel.

**Day 2: Visit Baku & Absheron Peninsula;** explore Walled Old town of Baku, called Ichari Shahar. In the afternoon drive to Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshyakh – fire worshippers' temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dagh.

**Day 3: From Baku to Sheki;** visit Gobustan archaeological site; en route to Sheki visit historical and religious sites of Shemakha. In the evening enjoy Sheki sightseeing tour.

**Day 4: From Sheki to Tbilisi;** after crossing Georgia border explore Kakheti – The land of wine; have a walk in Sighnaghi Royal Town and enjoy impressive views of Alazani Valley.

**Day 5: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore the old town; visit centuries old churches; architectural and historical sites as well as museums.

**Day 6: From Tbilisi drive to Kutaisi via Mtskheta,** it is designated as a UNESCO site and is a living museum with many architectural and historical sites.

**Day 7: Kutaisi – Mestia;** explore Kutaisi and its important cultural and religious sites; proceed up the Enguri Gorge, toward the inaccessible mountains of Svaneti.

**Day 8: Mestia – Ushguli – Mestia;** drive to Ushguli, medieval fortified village.

**Day 9: Mestia – Kutaisi;** explore Mestia; visit Swan dwelling tower and ethnographical museum. Late afternoon arrive in Kutaisi.

**Day 10: From Kutaisi drive to Tbilisi,** via Gori; visit Uplistsikhe cave town, dating back to the 1st millennium BC; also visit Stalin's museum.

**Day 11: From Tbilisi drive to Yerevan;** visit

Echmiadzin, spiritual centre of the Armenians and the seat of the Catholicos of all Armenians. In afternoon visit archaeological site of Zvartnots.

**Day 14: Departure;** transfer to the airport.



Rabath Akhaltsikhe.



Tatev Monastery, IXc.



Jvari Monastery, VI-VIIcc.



# Unesco World Heritage Sites



## Georgia



### *Architectural Monuments of Mtskheta*

At the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers, one of the oldest towns and the cultural and religious center of Georgia, Mtskheta, has been populated since the second millennium BC., Mtskheta, is a living museum, with many architectural and historical monuments.



### *Ushguli*

Ushguli (Chazhashi) – at about 2200 m. above sea level, is the highest village in Europe. Architecturally unique Middle Age village-fortifications in Svaneti, represent a junction of watchtowers, dwelling complexes and basilicas decorated with the murals.



### *Gelati Monastery*

The architectural complex, founded by King David the Builder in the 12th c. includes the main church of the Virgin, St. George's church, St. Nicolas' church and Gelati Academy - a significant center of culture, religion and philosophy.



## Armenia



### *Bagrati Cathedral*

Cathedral was built by King Bagrat III in Kutaisi, in 1003 AD. It is a marvellous example of domed-church architecture from the high Medieval period, noted with impressive examples of stone carving.



## Azerbaijan



### *Echmiadzin*

Echmiadzin is the center of the Armenian Church. It is where the Catholicos Of all Armenians lives, and the location of the Ejmiatsin Cathedral. The cathedral, built in 480, is located in a walled compound with gardens and various structures.



### *Monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin*

The Monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin represent a fusion of vernacular and Byzantine ecclesiastical architecture. Both monasteries are located in the Debed Canyon, in the Lori-region of North Armenia. Their oldest structures date back to the 10th century.

### *Monastery of Geghard and Upper Azat valle*

The monastery of Geghard is a unique architectural construction in the Kotayk province of Armenia, being partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by cliffs at the entrance to the Azat Valley.

### *Zvartnots Cathedral*

The Zvartnots dates from the 7th century, and was built to suppress the Echmiatsin Cathedral in grandeur. This complex consists of a temple and the palace of Catholicos Nerses III. Now in ruins, it is located at the edge of the city of Etchmiadzin in Armenia's Armarvir Province.

## ***Isheri Shakh***

*Old City or Inner City is the historical core of Baku. It is widely accepted that the Old City, including its Maiden Tower, date at least to the 12th century, with some researchers contending that construction dates as far back as the 7th century.*

### ***Maiden Tower***

*The Maiden Tower or also known as Giz Galasi located in the old city of Baku is an ancient tower built in the 12th century, as a part of the walled city of Baku.*

*Maiden Tower houses a museum, which presents the story of historic evolution of the city.*



### ***Shirvanshahs' Palace***

*The complex contains the main building of the palace, Divan- hane, the burial-vaults, the shah's mosque with a minaret, Seyid Yahya Bakuvi's mausoleum, a portal in the east - Murad's gate, a reservoir and the remnants of the bath-house.*



### ***Gobustan***

*Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is a hill and mountain site occupying the southeast end of the Big Caucasian Ridge in Azerbaijan. It is located to the west of the settlement of Gobustan, about 40 miles (64 km) southwest of the centre of Baku on the west bank of the Caspian Sea.*





# South Caucasus Extention to north Turkey

Turkey preserves cultural heritage of numerous ancient civilizations, among them splendid samples of medieval Georgian and Armenian architecture and art.

Country's northeastern provinces known as Tao-Klarjeti, as well as Ani, once the Capital of Urartu, later linked to Armenian Bagratid are still full of legends and mysteries. It has been rapidly becoming the subject of international travelers.



Oshki Cathedral,



Khantza,

Our Program gives the opportunity to travel back to the past, explore the ancient history, and experience the scenery of stunning mountains,

## Extention 1

*The treasury of Tao – Klarjeti: Khanza Cathedral; Oshki Monastery, Otkhta Ecclesia, Parhali Church and more.*

**Day 1: From Akhaltsikhe to Turkish border**

Valle (Posof); explore the Former Tao – Klarjeti, visit the ruins of Tbeti Church; drive to Khantska Cathedral, for overnight proceed to Yusufeli.

**Day 2: In the Footsteps of Christ - Erzurum and Artvin Provinces;**

explore the former monastery complex Oschki – Turkish ÖSK Vank and Parhali church, today covered as a mosque Parhali

## Extention 2

*Ani - City of 1001 Churches; Holy Cross Church, Ardahan Fortress.*

**Day 1: Giumri – Akhaltsikhe – Kars Cross**

Armenian- Georgian border Bavra; proceed to Georgian- Turkish border Valle (Posof); proceed to Kars, small city which is a beautiful example of Russian urbanism of the 19th century. Visit St. Apostle's church, Kars Fortress, St. Vardan bridge, Charents' paternal house.

**Day 2: Drive to Van,** enjoy beautiful scenery

of the lake and visit Holy Cross Church



van Lake. Church of the Holy





Tbeti Church,



Ani Cathedral,



Ani City Walls,

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ROOMS HOTEL

KAZBEGI

For reservation please dial +995 32 2710099  
or send us an e-mail on [reception@roomshotel.com](mailto:reception@roomshotel.com)

**An upper-scale mountain resort hotel, Rooms Hotel Kazbegi, nestled in the picturesque Kazbegi Region, has started welcoming guests since 1st July, 2012.**

Featuring 156 hotel guest rooms with spectacular mountain and forest views, this full-service hotel offers all of the modern amenities that discerning travelers expect. Wooden interior in entire hotel with two fireplaces in the lobby and restaurant create a warm and comfortable retreat.