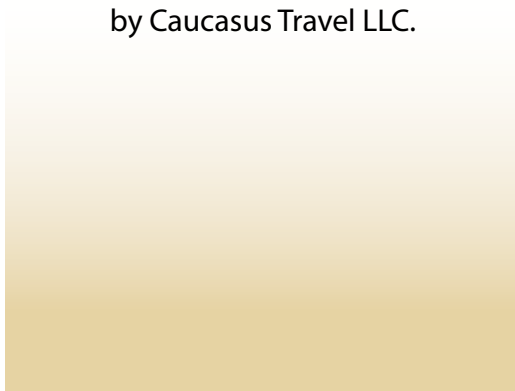




# SOUTH CAUCASUS COUNTRIES

by Caucasus Travel LLC.



**Georgia**



**Armenia**



**Azerbaijan**

**Cultural - Exploratory Tours**



# BEYOND BUSINESS

By Qatar Airways



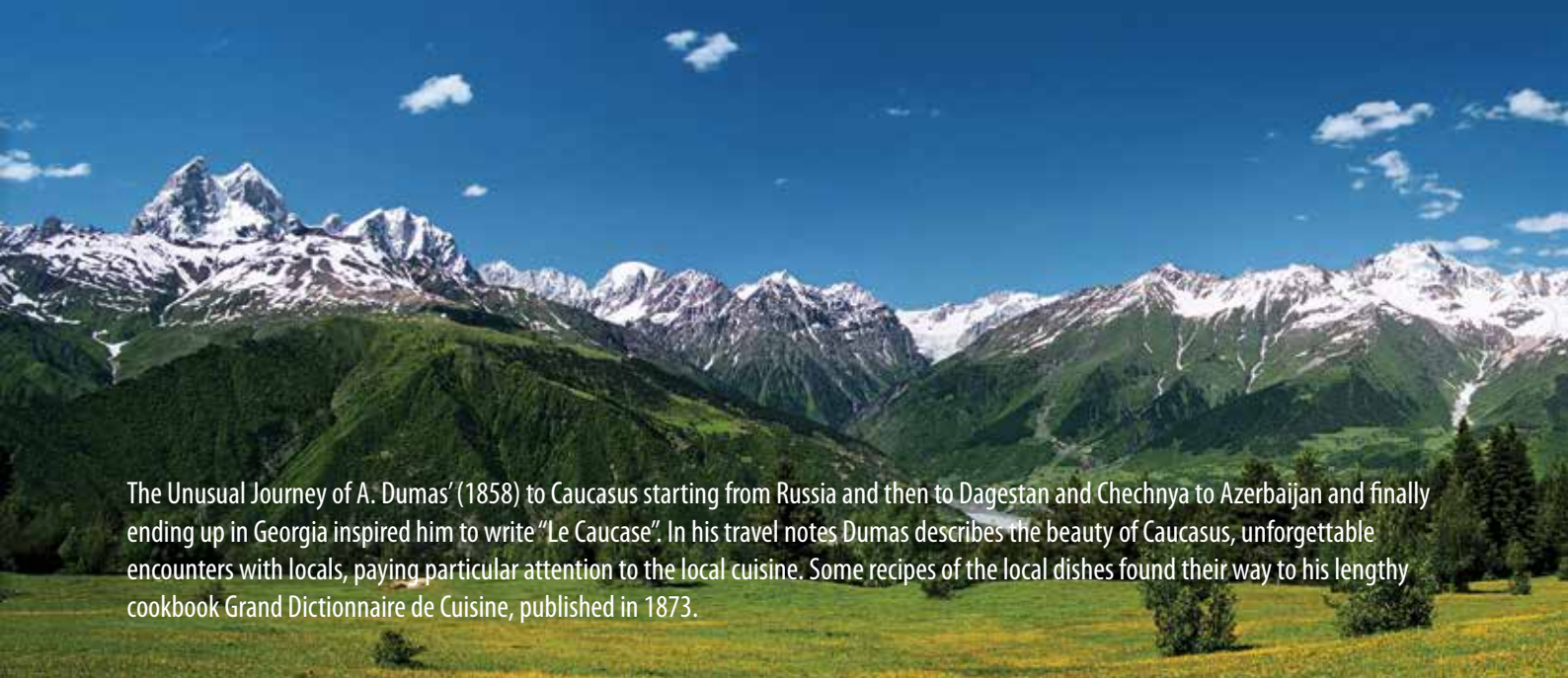
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GOING PLACES TOGETHER





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 Dictionnaire de Cuisine, published in 1873.

## 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.







# Georgia

**Territory:** 69,700 sq km **Population:** 3 688 600  
**Capital / Main cities:** Tbilisi - 1 200 000, Batumi - 173 700, Kutaisi - 130 000  
**Main Airports:** Tbilisi International Airport - TBS  
Batumi International Airport - BUS  
Kutaisi International Airport - KUT  
**Official Language:** Georgian **Script:** Georgian (33 Letters)  
**Climate:** A humid subtropical climate in Western Georgia and subtropical to moderate in Eastern Georgia  
**Time zone:** GMT +4  
**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 most countries.  
(Please, see details on last page)

## National Holidays:

1-2 Jan / New Year Holiday; 7 Jan / Christmas; 19 Jan / The Epiphany;  
3 Mar / Mother's Day; 8 Mar / Women's International Day; 9 Apr / Day of National Unity; 9 May / Victory Day over Fascism; 12 May / Commemoration Day of St. Apostle Andrew; 26 May / Independence Day of Georgia; 28 Aug / the day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary; 14 Oct / 'Mtskhetoba' (Holiday of Svetitskhovloba), 23 Nov / St. George's Day.  
\* Easter Holiday in Georgia is on variable dates each year (Friday to Monday)

## Some of recommended Hotels in Georgia

The list below is a selection of just few partner hotels in the capital city and the regions.

There is a big choice of international and local hotels offering high standard hospitality services.



### Stamba Hotel \*\*\*\*\*

Imaginative and industrial design of the Stamba hotel is offering an expressive journey through the vintage and the modern. Located in a charming neighborhood of Vera district, few minutes walking distance from Rustaveli Avenue, Hotel reflects the vivid life of Tbilisi and its refined dynamism.



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

Choose Tbilisi Marriott Hotel for a luxurious stay in one of the world's most unforgettable cities. Nestled in a building with a history and charm, hotel offers high standard services. Its location is perfect to explore the old town, numerous museums, and galleries in the hotel surroundings.



### The Biltmore \*\*\*\*\*

The Biltmore hotel is the first glass skyscrapers in Georgia, offering astonishing views all around the city. Grand Lobby is located in a building connected to the Soviet past; its marble floors, crystal chandeliers and enduring pillars remind the nostalgia of glamour of the past.



### Rooms Hotel Tbilisi \*\*\*\*\*

Set in the heart of Tbilisi Vera district, in a building of former publishing house Rooms Hotel opens its doors to anyone willing to get individual experience. The design of hotel and aesthetics of the 125 rooms and suites are the epitome of industrial-chic.



### 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.



### 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 Tsinandali Estate, A Radisson Collection Hotel \*\*\*\*\*

Located in Kakheti region, the luxury hotel is surrounded by historical garden in a vicinity of Tsinandali Estate of Chavchavadze family, the favorite gathering place of local aristocracy and guests of the country since the beginning of 19th cc.



### Sheraton Batumi \*\*\*\*\*

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.



# Georgia

**Georgia**, located on the edge of Europe and Asia, boasts both Mediterranean and European culture. It is a small area of land between the Black and the Caspian Seas. The Great Caucasus Range serves as Georgia's natural border with Russia. In geographic terms Georgia belongs to neither Europe nor Asia; in cultural terms it is neither East nor West.



The area was inhabited by human beings since the prehistorical times. Discovery of hominoid skulls dating back to 1.8 million years ago, make the crucial link between Africa and First Europeans.

A crossroad of ancient civilizations, Georgia was a part of legendary Silk Road. The remarkable **Silk Road** sites still stand as the evidence of rich history. Flourishing ancient culture, unique traditions and beliefs made Georgia a home for the thrilling myths and legends.

Ancient Greek's legendary **Prometheus** was punished by the Gods for bringing fire to humans and was chained on the peak of the Caucasus. Amirani, the hero of a Georgian epic, chained on Mt.Shkhara 5 068, resembles the Classical Prometheus.

Georgians call themselves Kartveli and their country **Sakartvelo**, i.e. the Georgians' place. The latter name is in use since the 11th century when ethnically and linguistically related kingdoms in the region united to form one nation. Georgia has a distinct language and distinct customs and traditions, found nowhere else.

The Georgian alphabet (includes 33 symbols) is one of 14 existing scripts in the world. The **Georgian scripts** are the three writing systems Asomtavruli, Nuskhuri and Mkhedruli.

As the state religion since IV century, Orthodox **Christianity** has played a major role in Georgian history and culture, defining National values and country's European vector of development.

One of distinctive feature of Georgia and its folk is traditional **hospitality**; Georgians treat guests as "a Gift of God", as old saying teaches. Wherever you go, you will be welcomed with open heart and joy, with wine and food, dinner parties, often accompanied by songs and dances.

**Nature** Despite its relatively small size of country, you can find here steppes, semi deserts, subtropical forests and glaciers here. Georgia possesses a biodiversity of global significance, which can be seen in numerous National parks and Nature reserves. Rich in Spa resorts, the country is a paradise for those who wish to relax, refresh and recreate.

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

🏛️ Historical Monuments of Mtskheta; 🏛️ Gelati Monastery; 🏛️ Upper Svaneti; 🌿 Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands.

## UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

🎵 Georgian polyphonic singing; 🍷 The Ancient Georgian traditional Qvevri wine-making method; 🤼 The living culture of the three writing systems of the Georgian alphabet; 🤼 Chidaoba, wrestling in Georgia.

**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 unforgettable Georgian dishes with all kinds of meat, fish, vegetables with garlic, walnuts and various herbs and spices.

### Khachapuri

Bread with cheese filling, described by foreigners as 'Georgian pizza'. Each part of Georgia has its own unique Khachapuri with its own special flavour, composition and shape.



### Chakhokhbili

The original Chakhokhbili was prepared with 'Khokhobi' (Pheasant) and was a popular festive dish. Chakhokhbili made with chicken tastes almost as delicious.



### Satsivi

It takes a long time to prepare Satsivi – a traditional dish for the New Year feast. It is turkey or chicken with a lot of oriental and 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 special spices.

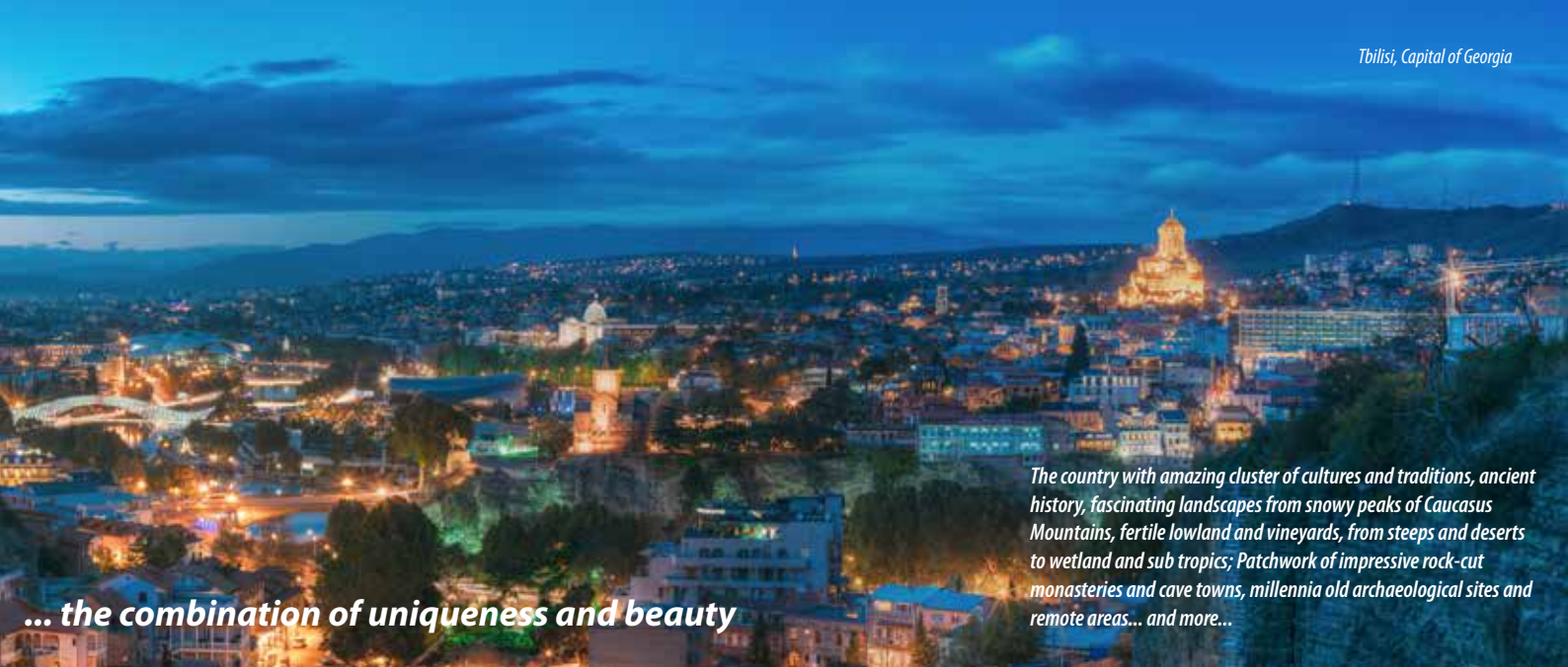


### Churchkhela

A yummy and wholesome delicacy of nuts or raisins threaded onto a string. The string is then dipped repeatedly in simmering grape juice and wheat flour and then hung out on ropes to dry.







... the combination of uniqueness and beauty

The country with amazing cluster of cultures and traditions, ancient history, fascinating landscapes from snowy peaks of Caucasus Mountains, fertile lowland and vineyards, from steeps and deserts to wetland and sub tropics; Patchwork of impressive rock-cut monasteries and cave towns, millennia old archaeological sites and remote areas... and more...

## The Myth of Argonauts and Gold of Colchis



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 snakes, in the land where the ram was held sacred and the fleece was used to gather gold, was further striking evidence for the truth of the tale. For me that moment on the muddy temple mound near Kobuleti was the end of the search, as it must have been for Jason, close on thirty-three centuries earlier." - Tim Severin, British historian and explorer.



Golden figure of a Lion.  
2500-3000 BC



Svaneti, Mount Ushba

## The Cradle of Wine - 8000 years of winemaking

Vine-growing has an ancient history 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 winemaking has been practiced in Georgia since 6000 years BC.

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.



Toast master - "Tamada"  
500-700 BC



Ikalto Academy

## Christian Bedrock

Georgia was one of the first countries in the world to officially adopt Christianity, in AD 337, but its history goes back much, much further. Christianity was first preached in Georgia by the Apostles Simon, Andrew and Matthias in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Later in 4<sup>th</sup> century the conversion of Georgia to Christianity is credited to St. Nino of Cappadocia.

The Georgian Orthodox Church, originally part of the Church of Antioch, gained its autocephaly in the 5<sup>th</sup> c. The Bible was also translated into Georgian in the same century.

## Georgian Polyphonic Singing



Georgian singing by its textures and vocal timbres sounds mystical. Much of the music defies the conventions of harmony and counterpoint. A voice-leading Georgian singing is a polyphonic tradition, The songs contain three, or even four, independent melodic lines. Each line functions with great melodic and harmonic independence.



Gergeti Trinity Church

## Supra (Georgian Table) and Qvevri Wine

Georgian Supra is an essential part of Georgian lifestyle with abundance of wine, the toasts of the Tamada, the beautiful Georgian songs, the romantic atmosphere and much more – the way to communicate and being together. There can't exist supra, dinner party or celebration without a variety of wines; of particular importance is a Qvevri wine becoming worldwide "Brand". Qvevri wine-making technique is unique to Georgia and is on the list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. The earliest samples of "Qvevri" date to the early Iron age (6th millennium BC). Surely wines, supra and traditional dinner parties are of the same age...



We invite you for dinner at a "Marani" – a special storehouse for harvested grapes and for making wine. It has special, almost magic importance for a Georgian man. Here you can find "Qvevri" earthenware vessels used for making, aging and storing the wine, as well as "Satsnakheli" wine press, a huge wooden vat in which the family crushes the grapes.



Caucasus Travel is pleased to offer the **best of Georgia**.

Being an inbound Tour Operator company with 30 years of experience, we provide the ultimate travel and inspiring memories with the help of our professional staff.

We participate in all the steps of product development, from generating the ideas to designing logical schemes of day-to-day operations. We carefully select and assess each product before we introduce it to the market.

During the decades we have created high standard programs that inspire to travel, explore and learn.

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**  
SINCE 1991





# Armenia

**Territory:** 29 800 sq km **Population:** 2 961 900  
**Capital / Main cities:** Yerevan - 1 092 800, Gyumri - 110 200, Vanadzor - 76 220  
**Main Airports:** Zvartnots International Airport - EVN  
Shirak International Airport: LWN  
**Official Language:** Armenian **Script:** Armenian  
**Climate:** Highland continental  
**Time zone:** GMT+4  
**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:** No visa is required for the citizens of most countries.  
(Please, see details on last page)

## National Holidays:

31 Dec-1 Jan / New Year's Holiday; 6 Jan / Christmas; 8 Mar / Women's International Day; 24 April / Genocide Remembrance Day; 9 May / Victory and Peace Day; 28 May / The First Republic Day; 5 Jul / Constitution Day; 21 Sep / Independence Day

\* Easter Holiday in Armenia is on variable dates each year (Friday to Monday)

## Some of recommended Hotels in Armenia

The list below is a selection of just few partner hotels in the capital city and the regions.

There is a big choice of international and local hotels offering high standard hospitality services.



### Alexander Luxury Collection\*\*\*\*\*

Introducing an exclusive new address to the city's developing social landscape, The Alexander is heralded as the first luxury international hotel in the historic center of Yerevan. Hotel features minimalist design, grand gold accents and hints of decorative Armenian motifs.



### 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 statly Republic Square is the Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan the most comfortable accommodations in Yerevan and a tribute to modern hospitality.



### Grand Hotel Yerevan\*\*\*\*\*

Grand Hotel Yerevan is a luxurious and charming hotel situated in the very center of Yerevan, only in 15 min. 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.



### Holiday Inn Yerevan\*\*\*

A modern hotel located in the heart of Yerevan. Nearby you can find a wide variety of restaurants, shops and entertainment centers. Comfortable rooms are created for relaxing and enjoyable stay.



### DoubleTree Hilton Yerevan City Centre\*\*\*\*

Enjoy a warm welcome and make your stay unforgettable in center of Yerevan, within walking distance from the Blue Mosque, Sergei Parajanov Museum, and Republic Square. The picturesque Circular Park is just a few blocks from hotel.



### Tufenkian Historic Hotel\*\*\*\*

Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel operates since 2012. It has an excellent location in the city center with easy access to city's main attractions. The majestic hotel building accords to architecture of Yerevan of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



### Paris Hotel\*\*\*\*\*

Located in the very center of Yerevan, Paris Hotel offers relaxing and delightful stay in 65 stylishly designed comfortable rooms. From the Montmartre Restaurant-Cocktail-Bar impressive panoramic view of the city and Mount Ararat can be seen.



### Tufenkian Avan Dzoraget Hotel\*\*\*\*

Located midway between the capitals of Armenia and Georgia, hotel offers enjoyable stay. Its exterior design made from basalt stone reminds medieval chalet while the interior is decorated with famous Tufenkian carpets, hand-made furniture and big letters of Armenian Alphabet.



## Armenia

officially the Republic of Armenia, is a landlocked mountainous country in South Caucasus, sharing borders with Georgia to the north, Turkey to the west, Azerbaijan to the east and Iran in the South. By its location Armenia can be considered to be at the arbitrary border between Europe and Asia, in other words, a transcontinental nation. A former republic of the Soviet Union, Armenia is a unitary, democratic nation-state.

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 one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a rich cultural heritage and natural resources. The ancient country was noted for its art, architecture, literature, and music. The country was Influenced and conquered by Rome, Byzantine; was frequently suffered from Persian invasions, Mongol or Turkish control.

Being the first country to adopt Christianity as its official religion in 301, Armenia is rich in world's oldest churches and monasteries located in the extremely beautiful natural settings.

Armenians have their own highly distinctive alphabet and language. The Letters were invented by Saint Mesrop Mashtots in 405. The alphabet consists of 39 letters. The fine samples of Armenian writings can be visited at the Matenadaran - museum and depository of the Institute of Ancient manuscripts. Currently collections contain over 23000 samples.

**Nature** Armenia's Climate has attracted visitors for thousands of years. Fertile soil radiates a natural energy that accumulated over the centuries fueling the small country's plentiful harvests, fresh vegetables and luscious fruits. Armenia's alpine spring waters induce relaxation. In this small land are growing more than 3200 varieties of vegetation of which 120 are endemic for Armenia.

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- 🏛 Cathedral and Churches of Echmiatsin; 🏛 The Archaeological Site of Zvartnots; 🏛 Monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin;
- 🏛 Monastery of Geghard and the Upper Azat Valley.

## UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

- 🎭 Pilgrimage to the St. Thaddeus Apostle Monastery; 🎭 Armenian letter art and its cultural expressions; 🎭 Kochari, traditional group dance; 🎭 Lavash, the preparation, meaning and appearance of traditional bread as an expression of culture in Armenia;
- 🎭 Performance of the Armenian epic of 'Daredevils of Sassoun' or 'David of Sassoun'; 🎭 Armenian cross-stones art of Khachkars;
- 🎭 Duduk and its music.

**A Selection of Armenian Cuisine** 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 get acquainted with the history of Armenian cognac making, as well as taste this sunlit spirit.

### Dolma

One of the main dishes of Armenian cuisine, which is made in the leaves of grape and served with stand-alone matsun (Armenian yogurt) to be poured over it.



### Khorovats

It is good at any season of the year. In the summertime, Khorovats is usually served with tomatoes, eggplant and bell peppers baked on skewers over hot coals.



### Armenian Lavash

A very thin, lightly wrapped stripe of dough about one meter long, baked on the hot wall of the oven- tondir, that is what the real Lavash is. Taste it with traditional Armenian cheese and greens, each dinner.



### Basturma

Basturma is an air cured and spiced product made from topside of beef to recipes dating back to pre-Christian times. Basturma is prepared by salting the meat, then washing it with water and letting it dry for 10-15 days.



### Kyata and Nazuk

The most known sweets are Kyata and Nazuk - original multilayered pies with stuffing. Each layer is soaked with drawn butter and sugar - as a result Kyata and Nazuk have such melting dough and mild taste.



Temple of Garni, dedicated to the God of the sun -Mithr. (1st c AD), is the only preserved Greco-Roman building in the Caucasus.







**... one of the oldest nations in the world**

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

## Noah's Ark



Human beings have inhabited the Armenian Plateau and Caucasus Region since over 100,000 years ago. Little is known of them, however, drawings in caves and on rocks attest to their existence. The area, situated between some of the Old World's major water ways, is generally considered the cradle of civilization. Additionally, the Bible records that Noah's Ark came to rest on Historic Armenia's Mt. Ararat, and there are many references of his descent from the mountain after the Great Flood.

## One of the Oldest Christianity

Armenia was the first country to adopt Christianity, when St. Gregory the Illuminator converted the Arsacid king Tiradites III. In 301 Christianity was first proclaimed as the official religion, but there is historical evidence of the existence of a Christian community and clergy in Armenia prior to the fourth century. According to belief, Armenia was first evangelized by the apostles Bartholomew and Thadeus. Christianity permeated all aspects of country's life and culture. The turbulent history of Armenia was a nonstop struggle for Christianity, full of sacrifices and sorrow.

Armenian Apostolic Church is often referred as Gregorian. According to Armenian chronicles, St. Gregory was Parthian prince who was educated as a Christian in Cappadocia. He arrived in Armenia in the midst of a Christian persecution and was imprisoned by King Tiradites III in a burial pit. After being rescued, St. Gregory converted the king, and Tiridates III became the first monarch in history to impose Christianity on his people.



Armenian Khachkars - Cross Stones are memorial stele with an ornamentally carved cross in the middle, resting on the symbol of a sun or wheel of eternity, accompanied by vegetative-geometric motifs, carvings of saints and animals.



*Yerevan. Capital of Armenia*



*Sevanavank*

## Duduk - Armenian Oboe



The Armenian oboe or Armenian Duduk is a double-reed wind instrument characterized by a warm, soft, slightly nasal timbre. Its roots go as far as to the 1st c BC. It accompanies popular Armenian traditional songs and dances. It is played at the most important events of human life, such as weddings and funerals.

## Armenian Brandy

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

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 flavour 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 flavours of dried fruits, spices, chocolate and vanilla.



*"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. The "Aged Brandies" of 10, 15, 18, and 20 years each have their own unique taste and specific dark golden colour.*



*Tatev Monastery*

Caucasus Travel is pleased to offer **the best of Armenia.**

As a DMC company we operate in the region for 30 years. The travel industry is incredibly interconnected and we feature the input of our local partners.

Choosing them carefully, having high standard criteria, helps us to craft the rewarding programs together.

**We are honoured to have trusted partners** – professional, committed, experienced and enthusiastic, true market leaders.

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# Azerbaijan

**Territory:** 86 600 sq km **Population:** 10 346 250  
**Capital / Main cities:** Baku - 2 293 100, Ganja - 335 600, Sumqayıt - 358 680  
**Main Airports:** Heydar Aliyev International Airport - GYD  
Lankaran International Airport - LLK  
Zaqatala International Airport - ZTU  
**Official Language:** Azeri **Script:** Latin  
**Climate:** Varies from subtropical and dry in Central and Eastern Azerbaijan to subtropical and humid in the southeast.  
**Time zone:** GMT + 4  
**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 (Please, see details on last page)

## National Holidays:

1-2 Jan / New Year Holiday; 20 Jan / National Mourning Day; 8 Mar / International Women's Day; 9 May / Victory Day; 28 - 29 May / Republic Day; 15 Jun / Salvation Day; 26 Jun / Armed Forces Day; 9 Nov / Flag Day; 31 Dec / Solidarity Day.  
\* Some holidays in Azerbaijan are celebrated on different date each year:  
- Novruz Holiday (Spring - Monday to Saturday)  
- Ramazan Bayram Holiday (Spring, Summer - Friday to Monday)  
- Gurban Bayram Holiday (Summer - Wednesday to Thursday)

## Some of recommended Hotels in Azerbaijan

The list below is a selection of just few partner hotels in the capital city and the regions.  
There is a big choice of international and local hotels offering high standard hospitality services.



### 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.



### Fairmont Baku \*\*\*\*\*

Fairmont Baku, Flame Towers is designed to exceed five-star standards and services. It offers 299 superbly appointed guest rooms and suites, 19 serviced apartments, Unique Spa, excellent restaurants, and bars. The hotel building inspired by the flames is almost a symbol of Baku and of the country itself.



### 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 to business and leisure travellers alike.



### 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, the hotel is the ideal base to explore the historic city center, attractions and vibrant nightlife.



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

Retreat to an oasis of tranquility for business and leisure travellers, and enjoy the comforts of home at Hyatt Regency Baku. Our Baku 5 star hotel is strategically located with just a 20-minute drive from International Heydar Aliyev Airport.



### Courtyard by Marriott \*\*\*\*\*

The newly opened hotel meets the expectation of today's discerning traveller by combining heritage and style with innovative design. Hotel, situated near the Winter Park is an ideal starting point to explore Azerbaijan's vibrant capital city.



### Saphyr Bayil \*\*\*\*\*

Hotel is located on the territory of the Sabail district with centuries-old history of Bayil. The hallmark of the hotel is an interior that professionally combines European and national styles with pronounced features of restraint, nobility and harmony.



### Macara Sheki City Hotel \*\*\*\*\*

Located close to the main attractions of Sheki, cozy and comfortable Macara Sheki City Hotel is surrounded by beautiful garden. Guests can take enjoyable stroll to Taza Bazar. Walk to the city center to get a cup of traditional tea and taste sweets in one of numerous cafes of old town.



# 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.

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 than 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.

Where does the Myth of Prometheus start? Wasn't it "Yanar Dag" –The burning mountain, the place where he had stolen fire from Gods to give it to humans? Story ends in Caucasus peak of Shkhara (Georgia) where he got the punishment for the above mentioned action...

Nowadays Azerbaijan, one of the world's Oil Rich countries, takes part in the transcontinental tourist itinerary of the Silk Road. There is everything in Azerbaijan to inspire you to start your journey here: ancient culture, historical and architectural monuments, colourful national arts & crafts, centuries-old customs and traditions, unique and delicious national cuisine, various and enchanting natural landscapes, mineral springs and a gentle warm sea. In addition to all above mentioned, architecture and lifestyle always leaves unforgettable memories in the hearts of visitors.

No matter where you are in Azerbaijan, everywhere you will find a most hospitable and warm welcome accompanied by famous **Mugham music**, the centuries-old Azerbaijan musical tradition based on folklore and oral histories passed down from generation to generation. Azerbaijani Mugham is characterised by a unique and 'melancholy' sound, a number of improvisations creating an endless variety of its artistic expression.



**Nature** Azerbaijan has a wide biodiversity and enormous natural resources. There are 16 state natural parks that preserve and protect the fauna, flora and their ecosystems. Nine of the Earth's eleven climate zones are found here.

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

📍 Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscapes; 📍 Historic Centre of Sheki with the Khan's Palace; 📍 Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower.

## UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

📍 Mugham music; 📍 Art of Azerbaijani Ashiq; 📍 Art of Carpet weaving; 📍 Art of the Kamancha; 📍 Chovgan game; 📍 Art of Kelaghyay; 📍 Copper crafts of Lahij; 📍 Flatbread making; 📍 Nowrouz; 📍 Dolma making; 📍 Art of the Tar; 📍 Yalli dancing; 📍 Dede Qorqud epic culture, folk tales and music; 📍 Art of miniature; 📍 Nar Bayrami; 📍 Telling tradition of Nasreddin Hodja Anecdotes; 📍 Pehlevanliq sports; 📍 Culture of Çay; 📍 Sericulture.

**A Selection of Azerbaijani Cuisine** Azerbaijani cuisine is somewhat similar 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. The national food range also includes many dishes from rice, flour, vegetables and greens, widely uses such domestic spices as caraway seeds, fennel, anise, bay leaf, etc.

### Lavangi

Delicious casserole of chicken stuffed with walnuts and herbs. It's supposedly a specialty of the Talish region of South Azerbaijan, but is very difficult to find in restaurants.

### Lyulya kabab

A mixture of minced lamb, herbs and spices squeezed around a skewer and barbecued, often served with lavas win sheets of unleavened bread).

### Piti

A soupy stew of mutton, fat, chick peas and saffron, cooked and served in individual earthenware pots. Spoon it out into your bowl, and mop up the juices with plenty of bread.

### Parcha-Bozbash

The word 'parcha' means a part or a chunk, whilst the word 'bozbash' translates from Azerbaijani as a grey chunk or a grey part because the meat turns grey whilst cooking.

### Pakhlava

One of the festive sweets that are baked for the Novruz Holiday to honour the Sun. The name derives from Azerbaijani carpet rhombic shape decor called 'pakhl'a', which symbolizes fire.







*... the country full of colours*

*The rich historical and cultural heritage, untouched nature, ancient and modern architecture, unique culture, cuisine and more...*

## The 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. 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. 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 earth one can see burst of a fire for a moment. The fire burning around the monument can reach the height of 10-15 meters.



Gobustan

## Homeland of the Oil Rush and Nobel brothers

Azerbaijan is one of the world's oldest oil producing countries, while Baku and the Absheron Peninsula are historic sites for oil industry. The first foreign oil company in Baku was founded by the Nobel brothers - Alfred, Ludvig and Robert. Ludwig Nobel, moved to Baku and in 1882, he invited technical staff from Finland, Sweden, Norway and Germany, and founded a colony that he called Villa Petrolea, located in the "Black City" district of Baku. 12 percent of the Nobel Prizes was said to be from Alfred's shares in the Nobel Brothers' Petroleum Company in Baku. Today oil is not only the main source of wealth for Azerbaijan state, but remarkable part of its history.



Baku old city

## Carpet-making



Herodotus, Claudius Elian, Xenofontus and other ancient historians of the world described the development of carpet making in Azerbaijan. Carpets made of 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. The artistic value as well as the cost of these fine carpets called "Zarbaft" was quite high and were made for the local feudal.

Traditional Rugs and Carpets made of a local sheep wool were part of everyday life. The role and importance of carpet is reflected in the meaning of the designs and in a way of use of symbols and ornaments. It was common for young girls to tell fortune on carpets. Special carpets were woven for medical treatment, for wedding ceremonies, the birth of a child, mourning rituals and prayer. Till early of XX century Azerbaijan carpet has an important position in the world market.



Carpet "Gallery"

## Black gold of the Caspian Sea

A favourable environment and chemical composition of waters made the Caspian see the perfect habitat of sturgeon, the most valuable fish breed in the world. The local caviar, often called as a "Black Gold" is traditionally taken from sturgeon, it's a Caspian delicacy which, since it became popular in the 17th century, has been known worldwide as a luxury product, supplied to Europe's royal courts, Michelin-starred restaurants and fishmongers.

The prized roe, cured with salt, traditionally comes from three sturgeon species-sturgeon, beluga and starred sturgeon. Caviar is a pure source of protein flavoured with fish oil, nutty tastes, and seafood aroma.

Caviar making is rear profession and Azerbaijan masters are highly respected. Visiting caviar farm is the unique experience.



Caucasus Travel is pleased to offer the best of Azerbaijan

As a DMC company we operate in the region for 30 years. The travel industry is incredibly interconnected and we feature the input of our local partners.

Choosing them carefully, having high standard criteria, helps us to craft the rewarding programs together.

**We are honoured to have trusted partners** – professional, committed, experienced and enthusiastic, true market leaders.

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**  
SINCE 1991





**1 Tbilisi/Abanotubani** - The king Gorgasali (5th c.), when hunting, caught a pheasant on the wing that fell directly into one of the hot springs. King ordered the city to be built around it and called it Tbilisi, "Tbili" means "warm" in Georgian. **GE**



**2 Narikala Fortress** - an ancient, 4th century fortress of Tbilisi built on a steep hill, overlooking the capital of Georgia and the Mtkvari river valley. The fortress was established in the 4th century as Shuris-tsikhe (i.e., "Invidious Fort"). **GE**



**3 Anchiskhati Basilica** (6th-18th cc) named after the treasured icon of the Sorvior of Anchi is the oldest surviving Basilica in Tbilisi. In front of entrance to the church, stands an elegant bell tower, typical of the late medieval Georgian style. **GE**



**4 Jvari Monastery**, the 6th century cross-shaped monastery built on the top of a cliff, overlooking the confluence of Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers. At this place St. Nino, enlightener of Georgia, erected a large wooden cross on the site of a pagan temple. **GE**



**5 Svetitskhoveli**, translated as "The Life-giving pillar" is the fortified cathedral dating from 11th century. It is a bright example of Georgian renaissance architecture and a sacred place, where the Robe of Christ is buried. **GE**



**6 Ananuri Architectural Complex** - former residence of Dukes of Aragvi region, beautifully overlooking Jinnvali reservoir. The complex includes churches and towers dating back to the 15-17th cc. **GE**



## Map of the South Caucasus

This map is designed to show main roads, cities and places just to be acquainted with the area. Of course only few (described here) sites are pointed on the Map. Provided below Linear Scale can be used for approximate estimation of distances.



UNESCO World Heritage Sites



**13 Rabat** - The historical center of Akhaltsikhe was mainly built in the 13th cc and developed under the influence of different cultures. On the territory of the complex there is a Church, Mosque, Minaret, Synagogue as well as Historical museum. **GE**

The boundaries shown on this map are set according to the Map No. 3761 Rev. 9, United Nations, September 2014.



**1 Matenadaran** - is a repository of ancient manuscripts, research institute and museum in Yerevan. The collection includes Armenian manuscripts, as well as Arabic, Persian, Greek, Syrian, Latin, Ethiopian, Indian, Japanese and other manuscripts. **AM**



**2 Garni** - Hellenistic temple built in the 1st century AD which served as a summer residence for Armenian kings. It is the only pagan temple on the territory of modern Armenia, others were destroyed after the adoption of Christianity. **AM**



**3 Geghard Monastery** was founded in the 4th century by Gregory the Illuminator at the site of a sacred spring inside a cave. It is partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by cliffs at the entrance to the Azat Valley. **AM**



**4 Etchmiadzin** is the center of the Armenian Church and the residence of the Catholicos of all Armenians and the location of the Etchmiadzin Cathedral. The earliest domed church was built in AD 301-303. **AM**



**5 Khor Virap** ("Deep Dungeon") - one of the holiest sites, where in the underground pit Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned before converting King Tiridat III to Christianity. Its location offers a spectacular view of the mountain Ararat. **AM**



**6 Noravank Monastery** (7th-8th cc) is located in a narrow gorge made by the Anagh River. The road to monastery is an adventure itself. The high rocks on both sides of the path almost cover the sky above until the picturesque view of monastery opens. **AM**



**7 The Zvartnots** (7th cc) was built to suppress the Etchmiadzin Cathedral in grandeur. 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. **AM**



**8 Lake Sevan** - the largest lake in and one of the largest high-altitude lakes in the world. Its surface is at an altitude of 1,950 m above sea level. Armenians call this volcanic origin lake - "The Blue Pearl" of Armenia. **AM**



**9 Sevanavank Monastery** complex founded in 874, is located on a peninsula at the northwestern shore of Lake Sevan. Here you can find many fine samples of Khachkar - carved memorial stone stele bearing a cross and often additional motives. **AM**



**10 Noraduzt** - "forest of Khachkars" (cross-stones) is an old graveyard with approx. 900 khachkars from various periods and of various styles. The Khachkar is unique Armenian tradition, incorporating both pagan and Christian symbols. **AM**



**11 Haghpat Monastery** founded by Queen Khosrovanush in 976, is one of the best examples of Armenian religious architecture, laying in a picturesque landscape. Monastery was a major center of learning in the Middle Ages. **AM**



**12 Sanahin Monastery** (10th-13th cc) represents a fusion of vernacular and Byzantine ecclesiastic Architecture. Sanahin was the administrative centre and family burial place of the Kyurikyan Bagratids, as well as the Episcopal residence. **AM**



**13 Tatev Monastery** (9th-13th cc) is located on the edge of basalt plateau in Tatev village and was center of Armenian intellectual life where philosophers, musicians, painters, calligraphers, and monks lived. **AM**





**7 Gergeti Trinity Church** (14<sup>th</sup> c.) - Situated on the slopes of Mt. Kazbek at 2170 m, is the most important church of Khvi province. The stone decorations on the facade of the church help us to understand the ancient rituals and beliefs. **GE**



**8 Uplistsikhe** rock-hewn town (1<sup>st</sup> Mill. BC), which is notable for unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures and the co-existence of pagan and Christian architecture. Here you can see ancient city's fascinating elements. **GE**



**9 Sighnaghi** - the town is famous for its wine and carpet making culture. Enjoy breathtaking views of Kizikhi area and unusual charm of Sighnaghi - so called 'City of Love' which is surrounded by 18<sup>th</sup> c. fortified town wall. **GE**



**10 Tsinandali Family Estate and wine cellar**, which once belonged to the 19<sup>th</sup> century aristocratic poet Alexander Chavchavadze. The residence consists of summer home, garden and winery, featuring several vintages of white wine. **GE**



**11 Alaverdi Cathedral** (11<sup>th</sup> c.) the tallest Georgian church of its time was built in Alazani Valley - holy place since pagan times. This elegant church with decor of grape vines and the sun on the facade is noted by its simplicity and monumentality. **GE**



**12 Gremi** is a 16<sup>th</sup>-century architectural complex representing remains from the once flourishing town destroyed during the invasion of Shah-Abas. The complex consists of royal citadel, the Church of the Archangels and archaeological museum. **GE**



**14 Khartvisi Fortress**. The fortress already existed in the 10<sup>th</sup> c, although there is an evidence of earlier construction work. Two tunnels lead down to the river, one served as a water supply route, the other for communication. **GE**



**15 Vardzia Cave Complex**, founded during the reign of Georgia III and Queen Tamar (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> cc.). The complex became a well fortified monastery, which had a significant role in the political, cultural, educational and spiritual life of Georgia. **GE**



**16 Kutaisi** is Georgia's second largest city. It is believed to be the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Colchis. The city represents an interesting mixture of architectural styles and boasts variety of cultural and religious sites, as well as museum treasures. **GE**



**17 Gelati**, the architectural complex, founded by King David the Builder in the 12<sup>th</sup> c., includes the main church of the Virgin, St. George's church, St. Nicholas' church and Gelati Academy - a significant center of culture, religion and philosophy. **GE**



**18 Bagrati Church** in Kutaisi, built by King Bagrat III (1003 AD) is a marvelous example of domed-church architecture, noted with impressive examples of stone carving. Cathedral damaged throughout centuries was reconstructed to its present state. **GE**



**19 Prometheus Speleological Caves** offer 16 rooms sharply differing fossil deposits, with spectacular views of stalactites, stalagmites, helictite, drapes, petrified waterfalls, cave pearls, underground rivers and lakes and more. **GE**



**20 Martvili Canyon** located in Samegrelo region was named among eight best scuba diving sites in Europe. Taking boat or walking tours, you can explore the mountain river gorge, limestone natural bridges, waterfalls, and unique nature. **GE**



**21 Dadiani Palace** - Historical and Architectural museum complex includes the palace of the prince of Samegrelo Region, botanical garden and museum exhibiting different thematic collections and treasury collected by Dadiani family. **GE**



**22 Ushguli** - located at about 2200 m. above sea level, is the highest village in Europe. Unique middle age Village-fortification in Svaneti, representing a junction of watchtowers, dwelling complexes and basilicas decorated with the murals. **GE**



**23 Batumi**, very popular sea resort with modern skyline, is one of the oldest cities in Georgia inhabited from as early as the third century BC. Batumi is mentioned by Greek and Roman sources as one of the principal ports of the Black Sea. **GE**



**24 Gonio Fortress** (3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> cc. BC), known as "Asparunt" meaning "the place of water", was one of the biggest ports of its time and the best example of Roman-Byzantine military architecture. **GE**



**1 Baku Icheri Sheher** - Old City (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> cc.) is the historical core of Baku. The Old City is the most ancient part of Baku, which is surrounded by walls. Juma Mosque, stating the year 126 according to Islamic calendar as the establishment year. **AZ**



**2 Shirvanshahs' Palace** - The complex contains the main building of the palace, Divanhane, the burial-vaults, the Shah's mosque with a minaret, mausoleum, a portal in the east, a reservoir and the remnants of the bath-house. **AZ**



**3 Maiden Tower** - or also known as Giz Galasi located in the old city of Baku is an ancient tower built as a part of the walled city of Baku (12<sup>th</sup> c.). Maiden tower houses a museum, which presents the story of historic evolution of the city. **AZ**



**4 Azerbaijan Carpet Museum** will amaze you with its vast collection of more than 10,000 items. Aside from carpets woven in 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, a collection of jewelry, ceramics and old metal works is also a part of the exhibition. **AZ**



**5 Ateshgah** is an ancient religious temple of fire worshippers built in 17<sup>th</sup> century. Many foreign travellers and historians have described this castle like place. It is one of the sacred places Zoroastrians used to visit and still do during their pilgrimage. **AZ**



**6 Yanardag** is a unique geological site where natural gas escaping from the ground burns continuously. This natural phenomenon was formed by marsh-gas condensate which comes to the surface under intense pressure. **AZ**



**7 Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape** site is occupying the southeast end of the Big Caucasian Ridge in Azerbaijan. It represents an outstanding collection of over 7000 rock engravings dating from Upper Paleolithic to the Middle Ages. **AZ**



**8 Mud Volcanoes** - Azerbaijan has the most significant number of mud volcanoes in the world, concentrated mainly at the eastern part of the country. They primarily consist of marsh-gas, but also other hydrocarbons and ineffective gases. **AZ**



**9 Juma Mosque** in Shemakhi (743-744) Construction date was defined with Arab ligature on the facade of the Mosque. Historical appearance of monument is related to Arabs' governance and spreading of Islam on the territory of Azerbaijan. **AZ**



**14 Gyumri** - Armenia's second-largest city is country's creative capital and historical hub. City boasts old neighborhoods with characteristic black stone houses. In historical center there are number of restaurants, cafes, craft studios and galleries. **AM**



**10 Quba** is a small town located on the north east of Azerbaijan, offering unique culinary experiences in numerous small restaurants. The site is famous for its finest carpets. Carpet waving is still popular among local women. **AZ**



**11 Khinalig** - picturesque village is located at around 2300 m above sea level. Over 380 Houses built from stones climb the mountain and resemble a multi-story building. The roof of one house is the courtyard of another house located above. **AZ**



**12 Lahij** is a small village with stone houses, cobbled streets, and number craft shops. Historically, there have been seven residential quarters surrounded by seven mountains, seven springs, seven mosques and seven baths in Lahij. **AZ**



**13 Sheki Khan's Palace** (1790-1797). The summer residence is the only remaining structure from the larger palatial complex inside the Sheki Khan's Fortress. Its facade is covered with colored tiles and beautiful mosaics. **AZ**



**14 Albanian Church** in village Kish is believed to be the first Christian church built in the Caucasus region. First church stood here back in the 1<sup>st</sup> cc. The site is often referred to one of the oldest spiritual centers of the Caucasian Albania. **AZ**





View of modern city Baku, Azerbaijan



Tbilisi, Georgia



Zvartnots, Armenia



David Gareji Monastery, Georgia

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## A Glance of the Caucasus

Armenia - Georgia - Azerbaijan

9 Days / 8 Nights

The program below gives an opportunity to explore all three countries within the very limited time frame. Journey starts in Armenia, proceeds to Georgia by crossing the land-border and continues to Azerbaijan by direct flight from Tbilisi to Baku. The cultural program is focused on main sightseeings in the capitals and their picturesque neighborhoods.

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

**Day 2: Visit Yerevan and its picturesque surroundings;** explore Yerevan the capital of Armenia; enjoy bus tour and visit its museums and galleries. In the afternoon visit Garni Pagan Temple & Geghard Monastery, carved in a rocky hill.

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

**Day 4: From Yerevan to Tbilisi;** en route short stop on Lake Sevan; In Alaverdi region visit Sanahin and Haghpate monasteries located on opposing mountainous spurs. Cross Georgian border and proceed to Tbilisi.

**Day 5: The tour of the Two Capitals;** visit Tbilisi, have a walk in narrow streets of the Old town. In the afternoon visit Mtskheta, the former capital of Georgia and its numerous cultural, historical and religious sites.

**Day 6: Day trip to Kakheti – The land of wine;** visit Signaghi, surrounded by defensive walls with towers. Get acquainted with Georgian winemaking traditions.

**Day 7: Tbilisi - Baku;** transfer to the airport of Tbilisi for the direct flight to Baku. Enjoy afternoon tour of historical center of Baku, called Ichari Shahar.


**Day 8: Absheron Peninsula and Gobustan;** explore oil field of Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshgah – fire worshippers' temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dag. In the afternoon drive to Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape.

**Day 9: Departure;** transfer to Baku international airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 1090 km. per/tour - Max. 305 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 2-4h, Hiking 1h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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 Caucasus Travel takes special care of disabled persons, doing the best to adopt and improve conditions for disabled persons in wheelchair, when/where it is possible. Programs marked with logo are adaptable to wheelchair.

## Traverse the Caucasus

Azerbaijan-Georgia-Armenia

13 Days / 12 Nights

The program shows the highlights of three states so close to each other but so different in terms of culture and religion. Guests travel to different climate zones from the Caspian Sea to high peaks of Main Caucasus Mountain Range, from fertile lands to high altitude alpine plateaus exploring cultural, religious and architectural sites; meeting locals and enjoying traditional hospitality.

**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 Sheher. In the afternoon explore Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshgah – fire worshippers' temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dag.

**Day 3: From Baku to Sheki;** en route visit historical and religious sites of Shemakha and Lahij.

**Day 4: Sheki;** enjoy Sheki sightseeing tour and visit Albanian church of Kish; The first Christian church in the Caucasus.

**Day 5: 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 6: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore the old town; visit centuries old churches; architectural and historical sites as well as museums.

**Day 7: 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 Dum.

**Day 8: Day trip to Kazbegi and to the high peaks of the Caucasus Mountain Range;** walk up to Gergeti hill to visit Gergeti Trinity Church beautifully located in the shadow of Mount Kazbek.

**Day 9: From Gudauri drive to Tbilisi via Gori, birthplace of Joseph Stalin;** visit Stalin Museum and Uplistsikhe – an unusual Cave Town dating back to 1st millennium BC.

**Day 10: Drive to Yerevan - en route visit Hagharstin Monastery complex;** have a walk along the blue waters of Sevan; visit monastery Sevan & Noradus – field of Khachkars – Cross Stones; overnight in Sevan.

**Day 11: Yerevan sightseeing tour;** visit Garni Pagan Temple & Geghard Monastery carved in a rocky hill. Enjoy bus tour of Yerevan and visit local museums.

**Day 12: 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 13: Departure;** transfer to the airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 1755 km. per/tour - Max. 330 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 4-8h, Hiking 1h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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## Extension programs to North Turkey

Two nonstop operating border crossing points between Georgia and Turkey, as well as regular flights (Turkish Airlines) from Tbilisi, Batumi and Baku permits organically extend our tours to Turkey, offering excellent opportunity: explore northeastern provinces of country; travel to legendary Cappadocia; rest or relax on Turkey's best beach resorts or spend a couple of days in Istanbul- country's economic, cultural and historic hub.

Please contact us to tailor exciting extension program of your choice.

Dilijan, Armenia

Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Mtskheta, Georgia

Gobustan, Azerbaijan

Bridge of Peace, Tbilisi, Georgia



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Shirvanshah's Palace, Baku, Azerbaijan



Geghard Monastery, Armenia



The Maiden Tower, Baku, Azerbaijan



Village Ushguli, Georgia

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## The UNESCO Treasures

Azerbaijan-Georgia-Armenia

14 Days /13 Nights

*The program is designed in a way to get the profound look into the cultural heritage of three Caucasus countries by visiting the most important cultural, religious, and architectural highlights as well as archaeological sites and museum treasures. In a timeframe of two weeks, guests travel from country to country and visit all the UNESCO sites located in the South Caucasus.*

- 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 Icheri Sheher. In the afternoon drive to Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshgah – fire worshippers' temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dag.
- 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 Signaghi 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;** Mtskheta 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 Svan 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 museum.
- Day 11: From Tbilisi drive to Yerevan;** visit Sanahin and Haghpatri monasteries as well as Sevan Monastery.
- Day 12: Yerevan sightseeing tour;** Garni & Geghard; explore Yerevan, the capital of Armenia; in the afternoon visit the Pagan Temple of Garni and Geghard Monastery.
- Day 13: Echmiadzin, Zvartnots;** 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.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 2430 km. per/tour - Max. 395 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 4-8h, Hiking 2h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

We design and tailor tours for our customers to suit their specific interests. If you have request for special itinerary, content, etc..., please contact us, we will customize tour programs accordingly.

## The Best of the Caucasus

Azerbaijan-Georgia-Armenia-Georgia

21 Days /20 Nights

*This comprehensive program offers the opportunity to explore impressive puzzle of cultural and natural heritage. Guests travel from country to country following the ancient roads, once used by Silk Road travellers and caravans on their way to Europe. Picturesque villages and towns, contrasting landscapes of valleys and mountains, open hearted local folks make the journey full of lifelong impressions.*

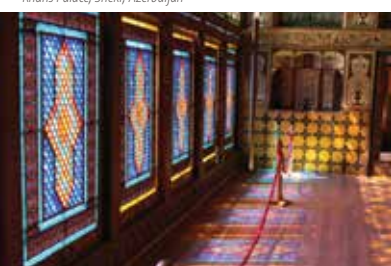
- Day 1: Arrival in Baku;** met and assisted at the airport; transfer to hotel.
- Day 2: Visit Baku & Absheron Peninsula;** explore old town of Baku, called Ichari Shahar. In the afternoon drive to Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshgah – fire worshippers' temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dag.
- Day 3: 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 Signaghi 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 to Stepantsminda;** en route visit Mtskheta – the ancient capital of Georgia and explore Ananuri Architectural Complex overlooking blue waters of Jinvali Dam.
- Day 7: Stepantsminda – Tbilisi;** spend morning in highlands of Stepantsminda; visit Gergeti Trinity church beautifully located on Gergeti Hill, in the shadow of mount Kazbek.
- Day 8: From Tbilisi drive to Yerevan;** visit Sanahin and Haghpatri monasteries as well as Sevan Monastery and Noradus – Field of Khachkars.
- Day 9: Yerevan sightseeing tour;** Explore Yerevan, its market squares, parks, museums and galleries.
- Day 10: Yerevan – Echmiadzin – Zvartnots -Yerevan;** visit Echmiadzin spiritual center of the Armenians and the seat of the Catholicos of all Armenians. In afternoon visit archaeological site of Zvartnots.
- Day 11: Garni & Geghard;** visit Garni Pagan Temple and Geghard Monastery, carved in a rocky hill.
- Day 12: Day trip to Khorvirap and Noravank;** enjoy impressive views across the vast plain to Turkey and Mount Ararat.
- Day 13: From Yerevan drive to small town Gyumri;** visit Erebuni fortress, also called "Arim Berd" – "Fortress of Blood" in translation.
- Day 14: From Gyumri drive to Georgian Border;** visit Varzia Cave Town and the Monastery. In the evening explore "Rabati" – Historical Center and Museum of Akhaltsikhe.
- Day 15: From Akhaltsikhe drive to Kutaisi - the capital of legendary Colchis;** have a walk in Old town and visit its UNESCO sites.
- Day 16: From Kutaisi to Mestia;** en route visit Prometheus Speleological caves and enjoy boat tour in Martvili Canyon.
- Day 17: Spend a day in Mestia;** walk in Seti district; visit "Machubi" dwelling tower and local Ethnographical Museum.
- Day 18: Mestia - Ushguli – Mestia;** explore Ushguli, medieval fortified village, representing unique junction of watchtowers, dwelling complexes and basilicas.
- Day 19: Drive to Batumi;** enjoy subtropical landscapes of the Black Sea coastline. Evening walking tour.
- Day 20: Sightseeing tour of Batumi;** walk in Batumi historical quarter, in old port and Sea Side boulevard; visit Gonio Fortress and Archaeological Museum.
- Day 21: Departure;** transfer to Batumi airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 3080 km. per/tour - Max. 310 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 6-9h, Hiking 6h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Khans Palace, Sheki, Azerbaijan



Hayravank, Sevan Lake, Armenia



Rabati, Akhaltsikhe, Georgia



Piazza, Batumi, Georgia



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Zorats Karer, Armenia



Sighnaghi, Georgia



Echmiadzin, Armenia



Jvari Monastery, Mtskheta, Georgia

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## The Highlights of Armenia & Georgia

Armenia-Georgia

8 Days / 7 Nights

*The program offers a fascinating journey to Georgia and Armenia. Geographically so close, these countries are so different with their nature, languages, authentic costumes and traditions. While travel from country to country get acquainted with a blend of culture, turbulent history and stunning natural beauty with a variety of landscapes ranging from the snow-capped mountains to verdant valleys.*

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

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

**Day 4: From Yerevan drive to Tbilisi;** have a walk along the blue waters of Sevan. Visit Sevan Monastery & Noraduz – field of “Khach Kars” – Cross Stones; after short stop at Hagharstin Monastery Complex head to Georgian border.

**Day 5: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** explore the old town with its narrow streets and colorful squares; visit centuries old churches and museums.

**Day 6: Day trip to the Caucasus Mountains;** drive towards the high peaks of the Caucasus Mountain Range; en route explore Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia & impressive Ananuri Architectural Complex.

**Day 7: Day trip to Kakheti – “The Land of Wine”;** have a walk in Sighnaghi, enjoy impressive views of Kizikhi area; visit centuries old churches and get acquainted with wine making traditions.

**Day 8: Departure;** transfer to the airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 1315 km. per/tour - Max. 345 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 4-7h, Hiking 1h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Caucasus Travel takes special care of disabled persons, doing the best to adopt and improve conditions for disabled persons in wheelchair, when/where it is possible. Programs marked with logo are adaptable to wheelchair.

## Extension programs to North Turkey

Two nonstop operating border crossing points between Georgia and Turkey, as well as regular flights (Turkish Airlines) from Tbilisi, Batumi and Baku permits organically extend our tours to Turkey, offering excellent opportunity: **explore northeastern provinces of country; travel to legendary Cappadocia; rest or relax on Turkey's best beach resorts or spend a couple of days in Istanbul- country's economic, cultural and historic hub.**

**Please contact us to tailor exciting extension program of your choice.**

## Ancient Christian Countries

Armenia-Georgia

14 Days / 13 Nights

*The history of Armenia and Georgia was a non-stop battle for Christianity and survival. Despite of this, countries have created a number of masterpieces of ecclesiastic architecture; during the tour guests will visit churches and monasteries, richly decorated with impressive stone engravings, mural painting and mosaics; visit collections of precious icons and get acquainted with unique religious chants.*

**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: Surroundings of Yerevan;** enjoy a day trip to Garni pagan temple and visit Geghard monastery complex.

**Day 4: 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 5: Day trip to Sevan Lake; “The Pearl” of Armenia.** Visit Sevan monastery and Noraduz - field of “Khachkars”.

**Day 6: From Yerevan drive to picturesque town Giumri;** en route visit Erebuni fortress. Evening walk in Giumri.

**Day 7: From Giumri to Akhaltsikhe;** drive to the Georgian border; continue sightseeing in Samtskhe-Javakheti region. Visit Varzia Cave Town a masterpiece of Georgian caved architecture. In the evening explore “Rabati” – historical center and museum of Akhaltsikhe.

**Day 8: From Akhaltsikhe drive to Kutaisi;** the capital of legendary Colchi; en route short stop in Borjomi.

**Day 9: Kutaisi - Mestia;** visit Prometheus speleological caves and drive up the Enguri Gorge, toward the inaccessible mountains of Svaneti.

**Day 10: Mestia - Ushguli - Mestia;** explore Ushguli, medieval fortified village located at 2200m above sea level.

**Day 11: Mestia - Kutaisi;** explore Mestia; visit Svan dwelling tower and ethnographical museum. Late afternoon arrive in Kutaisi.

**Day 12: Kutaisi - Tbilisi;** have a walk in Kutaisi old town and visit its important cultural and religious sites. Around noon drive to Tbilisi.

**Day 13: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** Tbilisi introduction from Metekhi Plateau; visit district of bathhouses, have a walk in narrow streets of the old town and explore museum treasures.

**Day 14: Departure;** transfer to Tbilisi International Airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 1795 km. per/tour - Max. 470 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 5-7h, Hiking 1h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Mtskheta, Georgia

Church of St.Hripsime, Armenia

Ananuri Castle, Georgia

Haghartcin Monastery, Armenia



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Sheki, Azerbaijan



Mestia, Svaneti region, Georgia



Juma Mosque Shamakhi, Azerbaijan



Batumi, Georgia

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## The Highlights of Azerbaijan & Georgia

### Azerbaijan-Georgia

8 Days / 7 Nights

*The program below is a journey full of contrasts in every aspect of the tour. During the eight days guests are immersed in two different worlds by visiting masterpieces of Muslim and Christian architecture; enjoying vibrant life of modern and fashionable Baku and Tbilisi and exploring the remote areas of countryside, impressive landscapes of steppes, fertile valleys and the highlands.*

**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 Icheri Sheher. In the afternoon explore Absheron Peninsula; visit Ateshgah - fire worshippers' temple and Burning Mountain - Yanar Dag.

**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 narrow streets of Signaghi 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: Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Stepantsminda;** first stop in Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia; around noon drive towards the high peaks of the Caucasus Mountain Range; en route visit Ananuri Architectural complex.

**Day 7: Stepantsminda - Tbilisi;** spend leisure morning in the highlands of the Caucasus; visit "Gergeti Trinity Church" beautifully located on the top of Gergeti Hill, in the shadow of mount Kazbek.

**Day 8: Departure;** transfer to the airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 1050 km. per/tour - Max. 190 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 5-8h, Hiking 0 h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

## From the Caspian to the Black Sea

### Azerbaijan-Georgia

12 Days / 11 Nights

*The program gives an opportunity to give a profound look to two neighboring countries so different in terms of culture, religion and nature. The program covers the whole area between the Caspian and the Black Sea crisscrossed by the Silkroad and other trade routes connecting east with west and north with south. Along the program visit remote villages, meet locals, enjoy traditional hospitality.*

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

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

**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 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: From Tbilisi to Kutaisi;** en route explore Mtskheta UNESCO sites and visit Uplistsikhe Cave Town.

**Day 7: Kutaisi - Mestia;** visit Kutaisi, the capital of legendary Colchis and drive north towards Svaneti remote areas and inaccessible peaks and glaciers of the Caucasus Mountain Range.

**Day 8: Leisure day in Mestia;** visit Svan dwelling tower and Ethnographical Museum; enjoy mountain walks in Mestia surroundings.

**Day 9: Mestia - Ushguli - Mestia;** venture to Ushguli fortified village and enjoy impressive views of the remote villages and mountain peaks.

**Day 10: Mestia - Batumi;** from snowy peaks of Svaneti, drive to subtropics of the Black Sea shore; evening walking tour of Batumi.

**Day 11: Batumi sightseeing tour;** have a walk in old quarter of Batumi, its picturesque squares and along sea side boulevard; visit museum treasures.

**Day 12: Departure;** transfer to Batumi International Airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 1800 km. per/tour - Max. 395 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 5-8h, Hiking 2h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

We design and tailor tours for our customers to suit their specific interests.  
If you have request for special itinerary, content, etc...,  
please contact us,  
we will customize tour programs accordingly.



Ancient Tombs, Shemakhi, Azerbaijan



Signaghi, Georgia



Khans Palace, Sheki, Azerbaijan



Prince Dadiani Palace, Zugdidi, Georgia

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Khor-Virap, Armenia



Geghard Monastery, Armenia



Baku, Azerbaijan



Mud Volcano, Gobustan, Azerbaijan

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## ARMENIA - The Cradle of Christianity

9 Days / 8 Nights

- Day 1:** Arrival in Yerevan; met and assisted at the airport.
- Day 2:** City Tour of Yerevan and Echmiadzin; explore Yerevan, walk in its market squares and parks; visit museums and galleries. In the afternoon drive to Echmiadzin, spiritual center and the seat of the Catholics of all Armenians.
- Day 3:** From Yerevan to Goris; visit Khor Virap and Noravank monasteries; enjoy impressive views of the vast plain and magnificent Mount Ararat.
- Day 4:** Goris and surroundings; visit the village Khndzoresk with grottoes used by the ancient humans as a dwell. Explore Tatev Monastery, spiritual and intellectual center of the medieval Armenia.
- Day 5:** From Goris to Sevan via picturesque Selim Pass; visit Noraduz, "the forest of Khachkars" - cross stones.
- Day 6:** Sevan - Dilijan; leisure morning on the Lake Sevan, one of the largest high-altitude lakes in the world; visit to Sevanavank monastery.
- Day 7:** From Dilijan to Yerevan; enjoy short city tour of Dilijan; en route to Yerevan visit Goshavank monastery.
- Day 8:** Yerevan & its surroundings; visit Garni Pagan Temple & Geghard Monastery, carved in a rocky hill.
- Day 9:** Departure; transfer to the airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 735 km. per/tour - Max. 230 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 1-3h, Hiking 0 h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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## AZERBAIJAN - The Land of Fire

9 Days / 8 Nights

- Day 1:** Arrival in Baku; met and assisted at the airport.
- Day 2:** Baku - Absheron - Baku; explore historical center of Baku which is enclosed by medieval walls resembling a citadel. In the afternoon visit Absheron peninsula linked to the old religions and beliefs.
- Day 3:** Baku - Gobustan - Baku; venture to see the Mud Volcanoes and Gobustan State Reserve with impressive engravings of the Stone Age.
- Day 4:** From Baku to Guba via the city Khachmaz of the Soviet era; explore remote mountain village Laza.
- Day 5:** Guba - Khinaliq - Baku; explore remote village of Khinaliq, impressive with its houses built of river stone on steep slopes of mountain.
- Day 6:** From Baku to Gabala; en route visit the town Maraza and Shemakhy, the old capital of Shirvan state.
- Day 7:** Gabala and its surroundings; drive to Sheki, visit Sheki Khan's palace, old caravanserai and local market square; in the afternoon explore Ilisu village.
- Day 8:** From Gabala to Baku via village Lahij; visit Lahij and see seven residential quarters surrounded by seven mountains, seven springs, seven mosques and seven baths.
- Day 9:** Departure; transfer to the airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 1415 km. per/tour - Max. 280 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 4-6 h, Hiking 1h.

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Yerevan, the capital of Armenia is a city with ancient history, numerous architectural monuments, museums, and galleries. It is a home of friendly and hospitable people. Its picturesque surroundings have lots to offer: Visit Echmiadzin the religious center of Armenian Apostolic Church, a real must to see while being in Armenia. Venture to Garni - Hellenistic temple and visit Geghard Monastery partially carved out of the adjacent mountains.

While in Yerevan, explore its outdoor markets, souvenir shops and vernissage flea market; rest in one of local cafes and get a cup of coffee, that Armenians believe to be the best and the tastiest. If lucky with weather, admire magnificent view of Mount Ararat, Holy Mountain impressively covering the horizon behind Yerevan.

**Day 1:** Arrival in Yerevan; **Day 2:** Yerevan & Echmiadzin; **Day 3:** Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan; **Day 4:** Leisure day in Yerevan; **Day 5:** Departure.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 2020 km. Per/Tour - Max. 345 km. Per/Day  
Time - 30,5 hours. Per/Tour - Max. 6 hours Per/Day

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Yerevan, Armenia

Republic Square, Yerevan, Armenia



Baku historically served as a bridge between the Western and Oriental cultures and traditions, having benefited from both. In the city of contrasts, every traveller can find something for its own taste, from new districts with sky towers and fashionable, modern architecture to centuries old historical center with ancient palaces and mosques, colorful arts & crafts, centuries-old customs and traditions, delicious national cuisine, hospitable people and warm welcome.

Explore Inner City, the historical core of Baku. Walk in narrow streets and market squares. Visit Maiden Tower & Shirvanshah's Palace; Venture to the oldest oil producing fields and visit the highlights of the Absheron Peninsula; get acquainted with ancient petroglyphs of the Gobustan Rock Art Landscape.

**Day 1:** Arrival in Baku; **Day 2:** Explore Baku; **Day 3:** Baku - Absheron - Gobustan - Baku; **Day 4:** Leisure day in Baku; **Day 5:** Departure.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 2020 km. Per/Tour - Max. 345 km. Per/Day  
Time - 30,5 hours. Per/Tour - Max. 6 hours Per/Day

Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Old city, Baku, Azerbaijan

Nizami Street, Baku, Azerbaijan



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Uplistsikhe Cave Town, Georgia



Alaverdi Cathedral, Kakheti, Georgia



Mt. Ushba, Svaneti, Georgia



Trinity Church, Stepantsminda, Georgia

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## GEORGIA - The Land of the Golden Fleece

10 Days /9 Nights

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

**Day 2: Tbilisi sightseeing tour;** visit a town with centuries old history and discover its museum treasures.

**Day 3: Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Kutaisi;** drive west towards the second biggest city of the country; en route visit Mtsketa, the former capital and religious center of the country.

**Day 4: Kutaisi and its surroundings;** explore Kutaisi, the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Colchis, the land where the epic legend of the Argonauts was acted out. In the afternoon visit Vani Archaeological site.

**Day 5: Kutaisi - Mestia;** venture north to Svaneti - it was here that most of the Colchi's gold was obtained. For centuries, the Svan ethnic groups preserved their culture almost intact, cut off from the outside world by the high and inaccessible mountains.

**Day 6: Mestia and its surrounding;** leisure day in highlands of Svaneti; visit Latali and Lenjeri villages with medieval watchtowers and churches, get acquainted with Svan school of iconography.

**Day 7: Mestia - Ushguli - Mestia;** explore Ushguli, architecturally unique Middle Age fortification, surrounded by the 5000 m giants of the Caucasus Mountain Range.

**Day 8: Mestia - Zugdidi - Batumi;** from Svaneti highlands drive to subtropics of Adjara region – the land of citrus and tea.

**Day 9: Batumi sightseeing tour;** explore Batumi, one of the oldest cities inhabited from as early as the third century BC. Visit Gonio fortress and Batumi Archaeological Museum.

**Day 10: Departure;** transfer to the airport.

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 1180 km. per/tour - Max. 270 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 3-5 h, Hiking 1h.



Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Georgia

5 Days /4 Nights

TBILISI - City Break

Tbilisi is a city born of relaxation and warmth – its old streets overlooked by wooden balconies, ancient caravanserais and hotels served as a home away from home. Firstly, for traders and camel caravans of the Silk Road, then more recently to the artists, thinkers and tourists exploring its centuries old districts, streets and squares. Easy access to Tbilisi international airport, makes it a perfect destination for long weekend.

Visit cultural, religious, and architectural highlands of Tbilisi and explore its museum treasures. Be a guest of local pubs, restaurants or cafes or plan a cultural evening; attend a concert, folk show or exhibition. Visit Mtskheta, the former capital and one of the oldest towns in Georgia; Today Mtskheta is an open-air museum and the religious center of the country.

**Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; Day 2: Tbilisi Sightseeing; Day 3: Tbilisi-Mtskheta-Tbilisi; Day 4: Leisure day in Tbilisi; Day 5: Departure.**

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 250 km. per/tour - Max. 80 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 1-4 h, Hiking 0 h.



Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Sharden Street Restaurants, Tbilisi, Georgia



View of Meidan, Tbilisi, Georgia



Marionette Theater, Tbilisi, Georgia



Meidan, Tbilisi, Georgia



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Georgia

3-5 Day Packages

Flying to/from Batumi International Airport

BATUMI - City Break

Beautiful and unique with its narrow streets, squares and parks, museums and cultural sites, Batumi is rapidly increasing modern city with a great variety of hotels, seaside cafes, restaurants, bars and pubs.



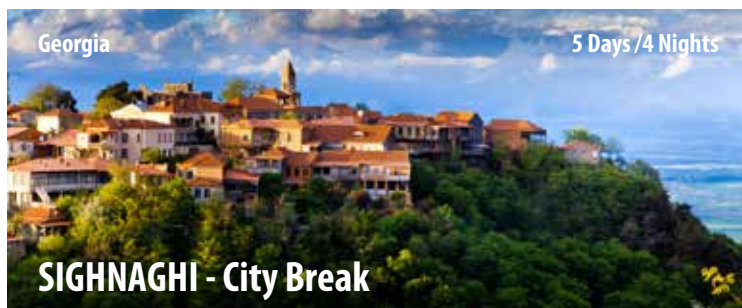
Georgia

3-5 Day Packages

Flying to/from Kutaisi International Airport

KUTAISI - City Break

Kutaisi, Georgia's the second largest city, is believed to be the capital of Legendary Colchi's. The city boasts variety of cultural and religious sites. Its surroundings are rich in Nature Parks and reserved areas.



Georgia

5 Days /4 Nights

SIGNAGHI - City Break

Rest and relax in a Signaghi, city of love, smiling faces and abundance of wine. Walk in narrow streets of the Royal town surrounded by the defensive walls with 23 towers. The town was mainly inhabited by merchants and artisans. It had many gates through which numerous Silk Road travelers from Asia and Europe passed on their way. Today Signaghi is a picturesque town with wedding house on the main square and just married couples walking in its twisty streets. While in Kakheti, get acquainted with Georgian wine making Tradition. Before leaving Georgia, explore Tbilisi and visit its centuries old quarters and museum treasures.

**Day 1: Arrival in Tbilisi; transfer to Signaghi; Day2: Leisure day in Signaghi; Day 3: Signaghi-Telavi -Tbilisi; Day 4: Tbilisi Sightseeing tour; Day 5: Departure.**

**Tour Driving, Activity:**  
Distance - 445 km. per/tour - Max. 270 km. per/day  
Optional Walking time 1-4 h, Hiking 0 h.



Recommended period for the tour (Greener - the better)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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## The Programs, Services and More...

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**  
SINCE 1991

**The Programs** - The sample Cultural/Exploratory programs shown in this brochure are based on customers frequent requests and points of interests, however **as usual, we design and tailor tours for our customers** to meet their best interests.

Provided 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, visit museums, important architectural monuments and enjoy diversity of the landscapes by visiting lowlands and the Caucasus Mountains.

Even though programs are mainly focused on excursions and cultural experiences some elements of active leisure can be organically incorporated in the program without much changes. Opportunities of short hiking, early morning short biking or horse riding, ballooning, etc., are very common and desired options for visitors.

**Sightseeing** - Our programs are combinations of the most interesting and thematically different visits to cultural, architectural, historical, archaeological sites, museums, galleries, nature sites and National Parks; at most sites brief written information is given in English and guided tours are available in English and other European languages. In places where local guides are not available or do not speak the language requested by our guests Caucasus Travel guides are there to assist with guiding and translation.

**Experience** - Along the cultural programs we offer unique experiences: meet locals, enjoy craft workshops, culinary master classes, thematic meetings. Book events and receptions in the most unexpected places, meet outstanding interesting people, speakers, artists, experts. Enjoy short and easy hiking in some programs, also use an opportunity to book horseback, white water easy rafting & other activities or relaxing boat tours and ballooning opening fascinating views. Travel from country to country and create your own unforgettable memories.

**Supply & Network** - We are strengthened by professional, reliable, loyal suppliers and partners in cities and rural areas of Georgia and the Caucasus. One can guess, that during years of mutually successful business and sincere relationship, we have earned huge network of partnership in accommodation, catering, transportation or in any needed field of supply. This is our wealth and the strongest point.

**Accommodation** - In all three countries we have a wide choice of international and local hotels offering high standard hospitality services. We couple the tradition with the comfort. Our visitors choosing accommodation places from big variety of properties, from beautiful Guest Houses to Superior Hotels. Providing hotels of all categories, we are working with best of them and having great deals for our customers.

**Food & Catering** - We serve our guests in the best local restaurants, providing big variety of National and European food. There are also many Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Thai and other exotic food restaurants available in all three countries. When and where it is needed we provide picnic, snacks, fruits, drinks, and of course unlimited bottled water while transportation.

**Transportation** - Depending on group size we provide appropriate types of comfortable vehicles: for large groups medium or full size busses (30-45 seats); for smaller groups minibuses (15 seats) and minivans; for individual travellers we offer sedan type cars or SUV. Vehicles will usually be changed while crossing land borders between the countries, as well as drivers, to guarantee local expertise.

**Professional Staff with "Field Experience"** - Company Managers and staff have had special training in tourism management in various leading institutions of Europe, USA and Japan. Caucasus Travel employs and contracts people with diverse professional backgrounds. This enables us competently and successfully plan, design and carry various tours in many fields of interest: archaeology, history, culture, art, ethnology, etc. ....

**Guides** - In each country we employ top professional, well-trained and experienced guides. Having wide knowledge and interests, they are very enthusiastic to show the best of the country, its life, moderate communication with locals and always will be glad to assist guests best interest.

**Languages** - Our managers, office staff, guides are fluent in 3-4 languages. We speak and guiding tours in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Korean languages.

## How to get there...

**Flights** - Direct flights to Tbilisi, Yerevan, Baku also Kutaisi and Batumi are available from the main European and Asian cities. Flights are operated by: Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines, Qatar Airways, Air France, Condor, LOT, Air Baltic, Wizz Air, FlyDubai, Eurowings, Pegasus, Air Arabia, many more..., and of course Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani national carriers.

**Visa is not required for Georgia** for the citizens of the USA, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, Israel, Turkey, citizens of EU member countries and CIS - full list is available on [www.mfa.gov.ge](http://www.mfa.gov.ge). Those, who require visa for Georgia will be able to obtain e-visa through [www.evisa.gov.ge](http://www.evisa.gov.ge).

Please find information about **visa requirements in Armenia** on [www.mfa.am](http://www.mfa.am). Visa can be obtained at Armenian border upon arrival. The citizens of some countries need invitation letter in order to get visa at the consulate of Armenia in their country of residence. The list of the countries can be found on [www.mfa.am](http://www.mfa.am).

**Visa for Azerbaijan** has to be arranged before arrival. You can find information about visa requirements on [www.mfa.gov.az](http://www.mfa.gov.az). Please note, that e-visa for Azerbaijan can be provided by Caucasus Travel and on supplementary basis.

**Passport** must be valid for at least six months (required for all three countries).

## Please contact us for questions or enquiries...

We are open for collaboration and keen to develop new product and projects to satisfy the most demanding customers. Having decades of experience in operating in South Caucasus, we have hosted travellers from many countries and nationalities, gaining great understanding of their cultural, practical customs and expectations.

We carefully select the product and all its components. We participate in all the steps in the product development – from generating ideas to designing logistical schemes of day-to-day operations. We constantly monitor and control our suppliers (hotels, restaurants, transportation, etc.). When developing a product, should this be for individuals or groups, we consider four major parameters: content, safety, quality and price. Of course, final shape of the product is defined according to the priorities settled by the customer.

**So, welcome to South Caucasus - have a great Cultural Experience and Lifelong Impression.**

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL - The first choice DMC in the South Caucasus**

Caucasus Travel is member of:







Discover local touch - 108 rooms featured by **MERCURE TBILISI OLD TOWN**

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ROOMS HOTEL KOKHTA



ROOMS HOTEL TBILISI



ROOMS HOTEL KAZBEGI

## CREATING OTSTANDING HOSPITALITY EXPERIENCES IN GEORGIA

Rooms Hotels is a young and independent lifestyle hotel brand based in Georgia that has quickly emerged as the leader of distinctive hospitality experiences in the region. The original Rooms Hotel opened in 2012 in a remote city called Kazbegi in the north of Georgia. Back then, conceptual travel could only be experienced outside of Georgia. And Kazbegi - a hidden treasure - was visited exclusively by adventurous travelers.

As of now, Rooms Hotel creates outstanding hospitality experiences in 3 major cities of Georgia: Kazbegi, Tbilisi, and Bakuriani. In the summer of 2023, Rooms Hotel will also open in Batumi, Georgia's most popular seaside resort. The Rooms Hotels brand is poised to continue its expansion throughout the region, unlocking new experiences and opportunities in a country rapidly forging a bright new identity.



ROOMS HOTEL BATUMI

Summer 2023

**The first choice DMC in the South Caucasus**  
**The most reliable Team of Tourism Professionals**  
**Thousands of visitors from all over the world since 1991**

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL**  
 SINCE 1991

Back in 1991, Caucasus Travel was a pioneer and at the same time the only company focused on incoming tourism of newly independent country of Georgia as well as of whole South Caucasus as new and attractive tourist destination. Over the past years we irreplaceably were leading the industry and today, when the number of incoming tourism organizations are increasing rapidly, we still share the major part of the explorers and cultural travel market. Throughout the decades, Caucasus Travel has been chosen as a trusted and loyal partner, by hundreds of travel professionals - tour operators, DMCs, travel agencies, incentive houses, conference organizers and associations from all over the world.

**CAUCASUS TRAVEL** as a DMC is conducting land operations in the South Caucasus countries in cooperation with most professional partners and suppliers providing the best product and services to customers from all over the world.

We have decades of outstanding experience in providing hospitality and travel services. We offer the best of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan: important and valuable cultural and religious sites, museums, nature reserves, adventure, entertainment, exquisite food, wine and enjoyable nightlife.

### Caucasus Travel major products

**Package tours:** *Cultural, Exploratory, Special Interest, Ecological, Religious, Nature, Adventurous tours (trekking, hiking, 4X4 safaris, horseback, biking, etc...), and Leisure packages.*

**Business Travel Assistance & FIT Services:** *Hotel reservation, guide service, car rental, technical assistance.*

**MICE:** *Management of the Events, Incentive Groups & Conferences.*

*Join us on the road of discovery and excitement!*

### CAUCASUS TRAVEL LLC.

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## Cultural - Exploratory Tours