

# Combined tour in 3 countries 15 days/14 nights 2025

# Day 1: Arrival



The tour starts at 10:00 AM. Baku full day sightseeing.

In the morning We will organize a pick up from the hotel to join the group.

#### Baku City tour

We will start our city tour in Baku and we may see Baku Bay and Upland Park. Visit the cosmopolitan capital from the heart of the old city (town), a set of alleys, dead ends and caravanserais where we find the Maiden's Tower, dating from the twelfth century and the Palace of Shirvan Shah (XV century): domes and arches, mosaics and sculptures are presented in excellent condition and between buildings also mausoleum palace, Turkish bath and divan-khana that housed the court. Lunch. In the afternoon, following visits to the city with the museum Carpet and Applied Arts, which exhibits Azerbaijani carpets, jewelry, embroidery products in metal and carved wood. After a walk through Boulevard. Overnight in Baku .

Free time on leisure

Overnight in Baku

# Day 2: Baku - Gobustan - Shamakhi - Sheki



# Sheki

**Breakfast** 

Depart to the North, to the Sheki district, small town of **Sheki**. On the way, make several stops and visit a magnificent work of Islamic architecture of 15th c mausoleum of **Sheikh Diri-Baba** in **Gobustan** town and 8th c **Juma Mosque** in **Shamakhi** town.

Arrive in Sheki, located on the forested slopes of the Greater Caucasus Mountains (700m altitude). Evening city tour includes visiting historical sites: Shaki Khans' Palace, fortress, mosque and caravanserai.

#### **Overnight in Sheki**

# Day 3: Sheki - Kish - Sighnaghi

#### **Breakfast**

#### Kish

Check out and drive to **Kish** – a village located about 13 minutes' drive from Sheki. A short city excursion. The prominent Kish Church is estimated to be constructed in the 12th century and has served Caucasian Albanian, **Georgian** and **Armenian** congregation at different times through the history. However, archaeologists found that the church stands on much older, ancient cultic sites.

#### Georgia Balaqani-Lagodekhi

After Kish, depart to the eastern border of **Georgia Balaqani-Lagodekhi**. Border formalities. Walk the border, change the vehicle. Georgian guide will greet you and continue the tour to Sighnaghi – a tiny town in a wine-making region of east Georgia Kakheti.

#### Sighnaghi



Sighnaghi stands on the **Gombori** range hills, overlooks Great Caucasus mountains and Alazani valley. Surrounded by the medieval defensive wall and towers, irregular streets and carved colorful wooden balcony houses, the town attracts with its cozy atmosphere.

Overnight in Sighnaghi

# Day 4: Sighnaghi - Tsinandali - Shumi - Telavi - Tbilisi

Breakfast

#### Tsinandali

Check out and depart for **Telavi**, the capital town of the former kingdom of **Kakheti**. The village **Tsinandali** is located on the way, just 10 km before the town entrance. Visit prince Aleksandre Chavchavadze's House Museum – Georgian poet of 19th c. The residence, garden, wine library and wine-cellar functions as a museum, the venue of the Tsinandali annual classic music festival and the frequent host of the world wine forums.



#### Shumi

Taste a glass of white Tsinandali wine and continue wine tasting to **Shumi Winery**. Dry Qvevry red and white wines with snacks will be served in beautiful ethno-garden of **Shumi**.

#### Telavi

After five minutes' drive, stop in **Telavi** – the major town of **Kakheti** region. Make a short **Telavi** city tour, visit medieval fortress **Batonistsikhe** – a residence of the King of **Kakheti** and Kartki kingdoms – Erekle II. Depart for Tbilisi through the Shuamta forest and Gombori pass (1620 m).



#### Evening arrival to Tbilisi. Leisure time.

**Overnight in Tbilisi** 

# **Day 5: TBILISI CITY TOUR**

Tbilisi city tour

Take a walking tour of Old Tbilisi.

Tbilisi is a blend of Asian eeriness and European charm. Located in the gorge of Mtkvari River it's shaped out in accordance with the terrain and forms a very beautiful city with Mt. Mtatsminda embracing the entire town, Narikala Fortress topping up the oldest quarter of Tbilisi – Kala and Metekhi Church overlooking Mtkvari River from a rocky plateau.

In this classic tour of Tbilisi you'll see the highlights of the Old Town with beautiful Orthodox Christian Churches, Mosque, Synagogue, famous and refreshing Sulphur Baths, narrow cobbled streets with hanging wooden carved multi-colored balconies and the 19th century houses following the architectural styles of the 19th century Europe, Narikala Fortress (by cable car), the glass Bridge of Peace, Freedom Square and Rustaveli Avenue.

#### One-hour break – free time for wondering or for lunch at the local restaurant.

#### Georgia National Museum

After the break, continue the city sightseeing. Visit the treasury of **Georgia National Museum**, drive across the main streets, Rustaveli avenue, Heroes' square, Agmashenebeli avenue and Freedom square. See National Opera and Ballet house, Parliament house, Republic square, Soviet Tbilisi and have a nice day ahead!

# Day 6: TBILISI – MTSKHETA – ANANURI – GUDAURID

### Breakfast

#### Mtskheta

In Tbilisi hotel check out and drive to the North along the Georgian Military Highway.

Before leave the city, visit **Chronicle of Georgia** – Memorial of Georgian Kings. Huge bronze Soviet monument overlooks Tbilisi and Tbilisi Reservoir.

**Mtskheta** – the former historical capital of Eastern Georgian kingdom, named Iberia, is located 23 km from Tbilisi at the convergence of the rivers of **Mtkvari** and Aragvi. Take a walk in the town and visit Cathedral **Svetitskhoveli** (11th c) and Monastery of **Jvari** (6th c) – all area is listed in UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

### Ananuri

On the way to the Great Caucasus Mountains make a stop near picturesque **Zhinvali** reservoir. Visit **Ananuri** Architectural Complex that served once a residential caste of local Aragvi's Eristavi dukes (17-18th cc).

### Gudauri

In the evening arrive to the ski-resort Gudauri, at an elevation of 2196 m above sea level.

#### Dinner

**Overnight in Gudauri** 

# Day 7: GUDAURI – KAZBEGI – TBILISI

Breakfast

#### Gudauri

Gudauri hotel leave for Stepantsminda Kazbegi municipality town. Drive through the picturesque, high mountain **Jvari Pass** (2395 m altitude). Make several stops on the way: for the **Friendship Monument** (colorful observation platform), at **Jvari Pass obelisk** of 19th c, the pink travertine hill and mineral water spring. The total length of the pass is 15 km, it starts after **Gudauri** and represents one of the most impressive roads in Georgia

#### Kazbegi

Arrive to the alpine townlet **Stephantsminda**, the closest city to the border with Russia. **Stepansminda** is a favorite place and a base camp for climbers and adventure seekers, who travel in the **Greater Caucasus Mountains**, **Kazbegi national park** and climb the **Mount Kazbegi** (5054 m).

Change transport to 4×4 WD vehicles and visit the top of **Gergeti**. The **Mount Gergeti** (2000m) is crowned by 14th c Gergeti Trinty Church. The church platform reveals a breathtaking view overlooking the town, while standing on the foothills of the giant **Kazbegi peak** (5054 m).

#### Gveleti waterfall, Dariali, Sno valley

Next, visit Gveleti waterfall, Dariali, Sno valley and finally, after the trip to the mountains drive back to Tbilisi.



#### **Overnight in Tbilisi**

# Day 8: TBILISI – GORI – UPLISTSIKHE – BORJOMI – AKHALTSIKHE



#### Breakfast

#### Gori

Check out and head to Samtskhe region through Kartli.

Visit town **Gori**, museum of **Joseph Stalin**. Museum consists of Stalin's memorial house, exhibition building with tower and a train.



#### Uplistsikhe

Next stop in Kartli region is an ancient cave town **Uplistsikhe** dated back to the 1st millennium BC, which is one of the oldest urban settlements in Georgia. Tour will take about 40 minutes.

### Borjomi

Continuation of the way to **Borjomi** – a spa resort in the **Mtkvari** gorge, famous for its woods, National Park and springs of mineral water "**Borjomi**". Take relaxing walk in **Borjomi park**, taste the healing water from the main spring and depart for Akhaltsihke.

Overnight in Akhalstsikhe

# Day 9: AKHALTSIKHE - VARDZIA



#### Akhaltsikhe

**Breakfast** 

**Akhaltsikhe** in translation means "a new castle" as the main castle was renewed in the middle ages. Visit its most remarkable district – **Rabati**. The tour includes excursion in **Akhaltsikhe history museum** located inside the 14th century Jakeli Castle, courtyard with amphitheater, Mosque, fortress church and the St. Marine church.

#### Vardzia

Leave for Vardzia village. **Vardzia** is another famous cave complex located near Turkish and Armenia borders. This rockhewn cave monastery was founded in 12th-13th centuries. Tour will take about one hour.

**Overnight in Vardzia** 

# Day 10: VARDZIA – BAVRA – GYUMRI



Breakfast

#### Bavra

Check out and drive to Ninotsminda town, which is located on the way to Armenia border. Cross the border at the Bavra village.



#### Gyumri-Bavra Border

Change the transport at Bavra border crossing point, say good buy to the Georgian guide and greet Armenian team, which will lead you for the trip in Armenia.

#### Gyumri

Drive to Gyumri, the second city by the population in Armenia. City tour includes easy walk in the historical center of Gyumri, many built in 19th century. The city was called Alexandropol and was under the rule of Russian Empire.



# Day 11: GYUMRI – ST. HRIPSIME CHURCH – ZVARTNOTS – YEREVAN

Breakfast

#### St. Hripsime church.

Drive to the city of Vagharshapat to visit two well-known Armenian churches built in the 7th century – St Hripsime church.

#### **Zvartnots Cathedral**

**Zvartnots Temple**: After our visit to Ejmiatsin, we will continue our trip to **Zvartnots Temple**, constructed in the 7th century by **Nerses the Builder**. Although only ruins remain today, the site is steeped in history and still holds an air of mystery and grandeur. Once a magnificent architectural marvel, Zvartnots was known for its unique design, featuring a circular structure with an impressive dome. As we explore the ruins, we will delve into the temple's historical significance and the reasons for its eventual abandonment.

#### **Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts**

Yerevan evening tour includes visiting Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, referred as Matenadaran. Take a look at the brilliant collection of medieval manuscripts and books.

**Overnight in Yerevan** 

# Day 12: YEREVAN – GARNI – GEGHARD – YEREVAN



Breakfast

History Museum Visit History Museum

#### Garni Temple

Take a trip to Garni, home to the only standing Pagan temple in Armenia, built in the 1st century AD. This unique structure was dedicated to Mihr, the god of light and purity, showcasing Armenia's ancient pre-Christian beliefs. While the temple was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1679, it was meticulously restored in 1975, bringing back its classical Greco-Roman architectural style. Set atop a rocky hill with stunning views of the Azat River gorge, the Temple of Garni provides a fascinating insight into Armenia's pagan history and its preservation efforts.

#### **Geghard Monastery**

We'll continue to the Monastery of Geghard, named after the legendary lance that pierced Christ's body and was kept here for centuries. Although the exact founding date of the monastery remains unknown, the current complex dates back to the mid-13th century. Built partially into the cliffs of a spectacular gorge, Geghard Monastery is a masterpiece of medieval Armenian architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage site, symbolizing both faith and artistry.

**Return to Yerevan** 

**Overnight in Yerevan** 

# Day 13: YEREVAN - KHOR VIRAP - ARENI - NORAVANK - YEREVAN



#### **Breakfast**

#### **Khor Virap**

Take trip to Khor Virap Monastery (4-18th cc.). This monastery is very prominent because of its history; Gregory the Illuminator, who introduced Christianity to Armenia, has been imprisoned there about 13 years as at that time there was a prison in the place of the monastery. Here we can enjoy the spectacular view of the sacred Ararat Mountain - an immortal symbol of Armenia.

#### Areni Cave

Continue the tour to Areni Village and Areni Cave. The cave consists of 3 rooms, most of which are not yet explored. During the studies of the cave, metal knives, fruit seeds, grain residues, rope, pottery, clothing, grapes and dried plums attributed to the years 4200-3500 BC were found. The oldest leather shoe in the world (which is more than 5500 years old) was found here. Here has been found the cellar which is considered to be the oldest cellar in the world (dating back over 6000 years ago).

#### Noravank

We will continue our tour to Noravank - a monastery of XII century situated among amazing sheer rocks on the bench of a twisty gorge. This is the only monastery where we may find a unique sculpture of Father God.

**Return to Yerevan** 

**Overnight in Yerevan** 

# Day 14: YEREVAN – SEVAN – SANAHIN – HAGHPAT – SADAKHLO (18:00) – TBILISI

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Departure from Yerevan to Georgia

Sevan

**Breakfast** 

We will drive to Lake Sevan, one of the largest freshwater high-altitude lakes in the world, often referred to as the "Pearl of Armenia." The lake stands out with its sweet and astonishingly blue water, reflecting the surrounding mountain landscapes. Situated at an altitude of about 1,900 meters (6,200 feet) above sea level, it is a vital ecological and cultural landmark for Armenia. Visitors can enjoy the breathtaking scenery and serene ambiance, making it a perfect spot for relaxation and photography. Next, we will visit Sevanavank Monastery, a historic complex located on the Sevan Peninsula. Originally, the peninsula was an island, but due to a decrease in the water level of the lake, it has transformed into a peninsula.

#### Dilijan

Then we will drive to Dilijan. Walking along the Sharamberyan Street we will come across with many museums, souvenirs' markets, small shops and so on. We will also observe two traditional houses built of wood, with tiled roofs and balconies with meticulously carved being typical examples of Dilijan.

#### **Sanahin Monastery**

Visit Sanahin Monastery, which is an ancient Armenian monastery complex located in the Lori Province of Armenia. Founded in the 10th century, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its well-preserved medieval architecture, intricate khachkars (cross-stones), and a rich history of scholarly and cultural contributions.

Drive to the Georgia-Armenia border at Sadakhlo village.



Change the transport and transfer to Tbilisi.

**Overnight in Tbilisi** 

# Day 15: Tbilisi



Breakfast

Check out time untill 12:00 pm. End of service.

# **Information & Documents**

#### **Price Includes**

- Transportation service all days
- Professional English-speaking guide service
- 14 overnights in DB/TW room in 3\* hotels:
- 14 x breakfasts on days: 2-15
- 1 x dinner on day 6
- 1 x wine tasting in Shumi winery on day 4 / 1 x glass of wine in Tsinandali museum on day 4 /1 x wine tasting in the village Areni on day 1
- Entrance fees per program
- 1 bottle of mineral water per person per day

#### **Price Excludes**

- Accommodation in a single room
- Hotel night on the last day of the Land Only itinerary
- · Alcohol beverages unless mentioned in the itinerary

- Breakfast on the final day if departing earlier than 8 am
- Lunches & Dinners
- Individual airport transfers