

16 Days Azerbaijan ,Georgia, Armenia

<u>D</u>	<u>itinerary</u>	<u>Overnight</u>
1	<p>7/11/2019 23:00 please check in at HKG airport and prepare for departure for Baku</p> <p>8/11/2019 Qatar Airways QR815 01:20 HKG Hong Kong International 05:20 DOH Hamad International 2h 10 Connect in airport Qatar Airways QR351 07:30 DOH Hamad International 11:20 GYD Baku Heydar Aliyev International</p> <p><b><u>Baku</u></b></p> <p>Upon arrival at Baku, you will be met by your Azerbaijan guide and be transferred for lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, check in hotel and take your times to refresh after long haul flight.</p> <p>In the afternoon, we will visit <b>Memory Alley - "Shehidler Khiyabany"</b>. Walk the <b>Matryrs Lane</b> enjoy panoramic view of Baku .</p> <p>Optional, if time allowed –Boat tour to enjoy view of Baku boulevard from Caspian sea. (Entrance fee no included)</p> <p><b>Meals:</b> Lunch, Dinner</p> <p>Dinner in an authentic Azeri restaurant which offer delicious dishes cooked according to the recipe once the ruler of Shah have enjoyed so much. A private cooking demonstration will be arranged so our guests can learn how to cook Azerbaijan cuisine.</p>	<b>Baku</b>
2	<p><b><u>Baku wet market and caviar store&gt; Absheron Peninsula &gt; Baku (85km )</u></b></p> <p>Today you will start the morning by having a <b>caviar tasting</b> offered by a secret seller in the wet market.</p> <p>After, we will leave Baku for <b>Absheron Peninsula</b> to visit the UNESCO-listed <b>Ateshgah (Fire Temple)</b> from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and admire the view of <b>Burning Mountain Yanar Dah</b>, it is a natural gas fire which blazes continuously for 3000 years</p>	Same as above

After lunch, return to Baku for a sightseeing tour of its historic and architectural monuments. Visit the old town inner city (**Ichari Shahar**), the medieval fortress of old Baku, **Maiden Tower, Shirvanshakhs Palace, ancient quarter ruins**

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Dinner will be arranged in a museum restaurant where guests can appreciate a good collection of Azerbaijan handcraft and also traditional music live performance.

Tonight the authentic cuisine include some special Azeri festival dishes for example dried fruit rice baked in bread, walnut stuffed fish.



巴庫市港灣全景



阿塞拜疆泥火山

3

**Baku > > Mud volcanoes > Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape (137km)**

Same as above

Today we drive outside Baku, first we visit the **mud volcanoes**, some of them are added to the UNESCO list as particularly protected natural monuments.

Note: you will switch to use 4- seats vehicle (number of vehicle needed depends on number of people we have) for an approximately 25 mins off road driving to reach the volcanoes.

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, **Gobustan National Park** preserves more than 6,000 rock engravings over 5,000-40,000 years old, which will take you back to the early years of humans inhabiting our planet.

Back to Baky city, we will visit the **Heydar Aliyev Center**, which is a symbol of modern Azerbaijan, guests will admire the excellent architecture as well as the history of Azerbaijan which the exhibition showcases.

Optional, if time allowed- visit the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum. (Entrance fee not included)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today lunch you will enjoy grilled fish from the Caspian sea, pair with some Azerbaijan white wine if you are up for an alcohol chill in the afternoon.



**Heydar Aliyev**

4

**Baku > Shamakhi > Sheki (total 480km)**

This morning, leaving Baku drive towards West Azerbaijan to **Sheki**. En route visit Juma Mosque in Shamakhi.

By the 19th century, Sheki, on the Silk Road path through northwest Azerbaijan, was an international center for silk production.

Today, it's one of Azerbaijan's most picturesque towns, filled with cobbled streets and medieval architecture: a fresh, bucolic retreat from the more arid south.

You will arrive in Sheki in late afternoon and we will visit **Sheki Khans' palace**. Russian wood, French strained glass, Ottoman ceramics and Iranian mirrorwork all went into the construction of this pleasingly picture-perfect and symmetrical masterpiece.

**Sheki**

	<p>Optional, if time allowed, you will see the Caravanserai roadside inns</p> <p><b>Meals:</b> Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</p> <p>Today you will try Sheki specialty called Piti, a fulfilling slow cooked meat broth.</p>	
5	<p><b><u>Sighnaghi&gt;Qvevri Wine cellar&gt; Telavi&gt; Lopota lake</u></b></p> <p>Today we drive towards the border for crossing into Georgia. After immigration formalities, we enter into Georgia and drive towards the most important wine region Kakheti</p> <p>You will spend a nice afternoon in a <b>Qvevri wine cellar</b>, learn about Qvevri wine making, open the Qvevri to taste the wine straight from the it. You will also have chance to learn how to make Georgian national snack.</p> <p>More info about the Qvevri wine:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUCyeFuoVfw&amp;t=25s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUCyeFuoVfw&amp;t=25s</a></p> <p>Continue you will visit one of the most important church in Georgia, the UNESCO listed <b>Alaverdi Monastery</b>, to admire the typical Kakhetian architecture back in the medieval time. The Monastery is also known as its Qvevri wine made by monk, monastery wine is not widely available anywhere in Georgia so this is the best chance to bring some bottles home.</p> <p>Then you will check in a beautiful resort next to the <b>Lopota lake</b> to enjoy the nice view around the lake, in autumn, its all about yellow and orange color.</p> <p><b>Meals:</b> Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</p> <p>Today lunch you will join a Georgian feast which they called supra, to experience the real Georgian hospitality, you will be amazed by the toasting tradition and how the Georgian as a serious drinker.</p>	<b>Telavi</b>



Lopota

6

**Telavi > Ananuri > Kazbegi (200km)**

Kazbegi

Today we will leave the Kakheti region and drive to North East of the country towards **Kazbegi**. Drive along the **Georgian Military Highway** through the mountainous terrains of the Greater Caucasus. Make a stop at the **Georgian-Russian friendship mosaic** and **Ananuri Fortress** which once was on the cover of the Lonely Planet guide book, it overlooking the Zhinvali reservoir.

After passing via Georgia's top ski resort **Gudauri** you will arrive in the afternoon in Kazbegi. The highest point we will pass through along the way is called the **Cross Pass** (2,379 m), there you will have great opportunity to take the snow capped Caucasus mountain.

After hotel check in, if weather permitted, you will go up to the mountain at (2,100m) where the most iconic Gergeti **Trinity Church** located. (You will go up by a 20 mins jeep ride). From there, it is the closest point to enjoy the breathtaking view of the **Mount Kazbek** – Georgia's third highest mountain (5,047m).

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today lunch you will enjoy the most authentic Georgian dumplings khinkali as it said to be originated from the area called Pasaauri which is on our way.



7

**Kazbegi> Mtskheta> Tbilisi (160km)**

This morning, spend some times in the hotel to enjoy one of the most delicious breakfast. Or you can chill in the warm pool with the view of Caucasus mountain.

After lunch, you will visit the old capital of Georgia- **Mtskheta**, you will see two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the 6<sup>th</sup> century **Jvari Monastery** and **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral**.

Jvari is the oldest church in Georgia, situated on top of the hill, from here, you

**Tbilisi**

can enjoy the picturesque view of the confluence of Mtkvari and Aragvi rivers. Svetitskhoveli Cathedral dates back to the 11th-century and has been a religious center of the country. Its complex includes the church, a bell tower, a gate, castles, and clerical residences.

In the evening we drive to the capital of Georgia Tbilisi.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tonight dinner will be arranged in a traditional Georgian restaurants where you can appreciate the traditional Georgian dance.



8

**Tbilisi**

Today you have a full day to explore the capital Tbilisi. Destroyed and rebuilt nearly 30 times, Tbilisi has evolved into one of the liveliest and most cosmopolitan cities in the Caucasus.

Take a walking tour of the **old town** , point of interests includes :

**Metekhi Church** , this 13<sup>th</sup> century church is located on the elevated cliff that overlooks the Mtkvari river, the best view to take pictures of the lovely old quarter.

**Narikala Fortress** is an historical fortress overlooking Tbilisi. The fortress was founded in the 4th century.

**Peace Bridge** nowadays become the modern landmark of Tbilisi, this symbol of Peace is a bow-shaped design bridge that sits over the Mtkvari river , was brought to Georgia from Italy in 200 unassembled components.

Same as above

	<p>Optional- If time allowed, visit the Tbilisi botanical garden where autumn color is beautiful.</p> <p><b>Meals:</b> Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</p> <p>Tonight dinner you will have chance to taste some unique Georgian fusion dishes pair with natural qvevri wine. At the same time appreciate the live Georgian polyphonic.</p>	
9	<p><b><u>Tbilisi&gt; Uplistsikhe&gt; Kutaisi (250km)</u></b></p> <p>Today we drive to uplistsikhe cave town. Uplistsikhe is an ancient rock-hewn town with fascinating history and view.</p> <p>Then we will drive to Kutaisi, the third largest city in Georgia. You will visit <b>Bagrati Cathedral</b> and the 12<sup>th</sup> century <b>Gelati Monastery</b> (UNESCO-listed) with its outstanding frescoes.</p> <p>Optional- visit <b>House-Museum of Soviet Dictator Joseph Stalin in Gori</b> instead of <b>Bagrati Cathedral</b> in Kutaisi.</p> <p><b>Meals:</b> Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</p>	<b>Kutaisi</b>
10	<p><b><u>Kutaisi&gt; Mestia</u></b></p> <p>Today we drive to the mountain area in the North, the <b>upper Svaneti</b>. We will base our Svaneti tour in its capital Mestia. Upon arrival at Mestia, you will take a ski lift to the tip of Hatsvali for <b>the best view of the Mountain Ushba</b> and a Svanetian lunch in front of the <b>Ushba</b>.</p> <p>In the afternoon, you will get inside a <b>watchtower</b> which the original life of the medieval Svan people is showcased by all the original house settings.</p> <p>Optional, If time allowed- visit Svaneti Museum of History and Ethnography (Entrance fee not included).</p> <p>This is one of the most significant museums in Georgia. It is home to some of</p>	<b>Mestia Banguriani (local 2*)</b>



the essential historical artifacts both from the region and the rest of the country.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



11

**Ushguli**

This morning, transfer by Jeep to **Ushguli Village**, located at 2,200 meter above sea level, Ushguli is one of the highest continuously inhabited settlements in Europe. It is famous for its medieval defensive watchtowers which is surrounded mountain **Shkhara** , the highest peak in Georgia.

After lunch, take a short walk in the village to get acquainted with the rural life of Svaneti , you will be introduced some local people , learn about their life and history in-person.

You will also visit the **Lamaria church**. Local residents believe that it was under this church that Queen Tamara, who was a central figure in Svans history, was buried.

Return to Mestia

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tonight dinner you will visit a local family who is a carpenter. The family meal includes some delicious Svanetian dishes which you can not find any other part in Georgia.

**Same as above**

Mountain Shkhara and Svan



12	<p><b><u>Mestia &gt; Zugdidi &gt; Borjomi (368Km)</u></b></p> <p>This morning, drive towards Borjomi via Zugdidi. After lunch in Zugdidi, visit Borjomi Park where the famous Borjomi Mineral Water (Georgia’s number one export to over 40 countries) is freshly produced.</p> <p><b>Meals:</b> Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</p>	<b>Borjomi</b>
13	<p><b><u>Borjomi &gt; Gyumri &gt; Haghpat &gt; Dilijan (417km)</u></b></p> <p>Today, we drive into the border (about 4 hrs driving) for crossing into Armenia via boarder Bavra.</p> <p>After immigration formalities, we enter into Armenia and have a lunch stop at Gyumri. After lunch we drive to the stunning <b>Haghpat Monastery complex</b> (about 2 hrs driving). Haghpat is a UNESCO World Heritage site founded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century boasting some of Armenia’s most incredible architectures.</p>	<b>Dilijan</b>

Afterwards, you will continue to Dilijan for overnight.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Sevanavank Monastery



14

**Dilijan > Haghartsin > Lake Sevan > Vardenyats Pass > Khor Virap > Noravank > Yerevan (317 km)**

Yerevan

This morning check out after early breakfast and continue exploring Armenia. Visit Haghartsin, hidden in a verdant valley 13km northeast of Dilijan, Haghartsin ('Dance of the Eagles') was built between the 10th and 13th centuries and has three churches. Then we will see the beautiful Lake Sevan which set at an altitude of 1,900 meter above sea level, Lake Sevan is the largest lake in the Caucasus. Then we will continue to the **Vardenyats Pass** (main junction on the Great Silk Route), with photo stop at medieval Caravanseray , and we will see **Khor Virap monastery**, the most visited pilgrimage site in Armenia once held a saint in a pit for 13 years. Khor Virap Monastery is located near the border of Turkey and Armenia, with wonderful views of Mount Ararat. Next see the **monastery complex Noravank**, that is unique in its construction as the Church of Holy Mother of God is the only two-storied monastery in Armenia. Then we drive to Yerevan (about 2 hrs driving) for overnight.

	<b>Meals:</b> Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	
15	<p><b><u>Yerevan &gt; Echmiadzin &gt; Garni &gt;Geghard (80 Km)</u></b></p> <p>Your morning begins with Echmiadzin to visit the Armenian Apostolic Church and Zvartnorts Ruins for brief stops.</p> <p>After lunch, drive to the Temple of Garni, the only Pagan temple in Armenia. Built since the 1st century, this is the best-known pre-Christian structure with its iconic Free time in Yerevan.</p> <p>Greco-Roman colonnades.</p> <p>Continue to the impressive UNESCO-listed Geghard Monastery, first founded in the 4<sup>th</sup> century by Gregory the Illuminator with chapels dating back to 1215. Partially carved out of the mountains and cliffs, this beautiful monastery overlooks the stunning Azat River Gorge.</p> <p>Free time in Yerevan. <b>Optional - If time allowed, we will visit of the factory which produces the famous Armenian cognac. (Fee not included)</b></p> <p><b>Meals:</b> Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</p>	NA



16	<p><b><u>Depart from Yerevan for HK</u></b></p> <p>Prepare to depart for HK</p> <p>23/11/2019 Qatar Airways QR286 02:45 EVN Yerevan</p> <p>04:45 DOH Hamad International</p>	NA
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4h 10 Connect in airport Long wait  
Qatar Airways QR816  
08:55 DOH Hamad International  
21:25 HKG Hong Kong International

**Meals:** NA