

## DISCOVER SOUTH CAUCASUS

Azerbaijan → Georgia → Armenia → Georgia

### Explore the puzzle of cultures of the South Caucasus

The South Caucasus comprises three unique, yet interconnected countries: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan. The history of Orthodox Christian Georgia, Gregorian Christian Armenia and Muslim Azerbaijan is blent in centuries of friendship and battle for survival. Still each country is unique with its own distinct customs, traditions, and religion. The Caucasus boasts the evidence of flourishing culture with impressive architectural monuments, archaeological and pagan sites, monastic jewels and centuries old mosques, nature sites, and National Parks.

**Day 1: Arrival in Baku;**

(driving distance ≈ 20km/driving time ≈ 0,5 hours)  
Met and assisted at the airport. Transfer to the hotel\*;  
Overnight in Baku.

**Day 2: Baku Old City & Absheron Peninsula tour;**

(driving distance ≈ 90 km/driving time ≈ 2,5 hours)  
Explore old town of Baku, called Ichari Shahar which is also a fortress. In the afternoon proceed to Absheron peninsula. The wide plain of Absheron with ravines and salt lakes, vineyards and tea plantations is particularly noted for its oil deposits.

- Pick up guests from different hotels;
  - 9:00 - Baku City Tour. Visit: Shirvanshah's Palace, Maiden Tower, Ateshgah, Carpet Museum;
  - 13:00 - Free time for lunch\*;
  - Explore Absheron Peninsula: visit the burning mountain Yanar Dag, Mardakan castle, Ramana castle;
  - Drop off guests to different hotels;
- Overnight in Baku.

**Day 3: Baku-Gobustan-Shamakhi-Sheki;**

(driving distance ≈ 430 km/driving time ≈ 6 hours)  
Visit Gobustan Rock Art Cultural landscape representing an outstanding collection of over 7000 rock engravings and drive to Sheki. En route visit historical and religious sites of Shemakhi.

- Pick up guests from different hotels;
  - 9:00 - Drive to Gobustan to visit Gobustan National Park;
  - Explore the town Shemakhi and Diribaba mausoleum;
  - 13:00 - Free time for lunch\*;
  - Visit Juma-Mosque (Friday Mosque) of Shamakhi; Seven Domes - the complex of tombs built for Shirvan's royal family in 18 th c.
  - Drive to Sheki; evening walk in Sheki;
- Overnight in Sheki.

**Day 4: Sheki- Lagodekhi Border-Tbilisi;**

(driving distance ≈ 340 km/driving time ≈ 6 hours)  
Enjoy Sheki sightseeing tour and drive to Georgian. After bordercrossing continue sightseeing in Georgia.

- 9:00 - Visit Sheki Khan's Palace;
  - Drive to Lagodegkhi border. Cross border and continue sightseeing;
  - 13:30 - Free time for lunch\*;
  - Visit Nekresi Architectural Complex;
  - Short stop in historical centre of Telavi and drive to Tbilisi;
  - Drop off guests to different hotels;
- Overnight in Tbilisi.



BEST SEASON FOR THE TOUR BY MONTH

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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TOUR TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS	
Total Touring Distance ≈ 2730 km	Total driving time ≈ 47 hours
Longest driving distance per day ≈ 430 km	Longest driving time per day ≈ 6 hours
O/N by locations: 2+1+3+1+1+3+2 = 13	Walking total ≈ 13 hours
Adopted conditions for disabled person*	No Partly Fully

\* Caucasus Travel takes special care of disabled persons, doing the best to adapt and improve conditions for disabled persons, when/where it is possible



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**Day 5: Half Day Tbilisi City Tour;**

(driving distance ≈50km/driving time ≈ 1 hours)

Visit Tbilisi, a town which conquers you with increasing fascination and lodges in your heart forever.

- Pick up guests from different hotels;
- 10:00 – Tbilisi Sightseeing tour. Sights to visit: Old City, Metekhi Church, Narikala Fortress, Abanotubani – Sulphur bath district, Sioni Cathedral, Anchiskhati Basilica, Rustaveli Avenue;
- 13:00 – Free time for lunch\*;
- Free time. Suggested places to visit: National Museum of Georgia\*, Open Air Ethnographic Museum\*;
- 20:00 – Welcome dinner at a local restaurant with traditional folk show.

Drop off guests to different hotels;

Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 6: Round trip to Wine Region Signaghi;**

(driving distance ≈330 km/driving time ≈ 4 hours)

Kakheti region is well-known for its hardworking, good-tempered people, and mostly for its wines. Ancient Georgian traditional Qvevri winemaking is listed in Intangible Cultural Heritage Monuments by UNESCO.

- Pick up guests from different hotels;
- 9:00 – Drive to Kakheti region; visit: Bodbe Nunnery, Signaghi - City of Love;
- 13:00 – Free time for lunch\*;
- Wine tasting at a local winery;
- Drop off guests to different hotels;

Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 7: From Tbilisi to Khevi Province;**

(driving distance ≈315 km/driving time ≈ 4,5 hours)

In order to see the high peaks, roaring rivers and mountain lifestyle of Georgia's northern borderlands travel to Stepantsminda via Mtskheta (UNESCO site) - former capital, historical and religious center of country.

- Pick up guests from different hotels;
- 9:00 – Drive to Mtskheta. Sights to visit: Jvari Monastery, Svetitskhoveli Cathedral;
- 13:00 – Free time for lunch\*;
- Walk to visit Gergeti Trinity Church- apps. 3hrs. round walk (or by 4WD vehicle\*);
- Drop off guests to different hotels;
- 20:00 – Dinner at the hotel;

Overnight in Gudauri.

**Day 8: Trip to the oldest urban settlement in Georgia;**

(driving distance ≈320 km/driving time ≈ 5,5 hours)

From Gudauri highlands drive to picturesque Borjomi valley, across fertile lands of Kartli region, known for numerous religious, cultural and archaeological sites.

- Pick up guests from different hotels;
- 9:00 – Drive to visit Ananuri architectural complex;
- Explore Uplistsikhe cave town (dating back to 1 st millennium BC);
- 13:00 – Free time for lunch\*;
- Visit Stalin's Museum and the house, where Stalin, the leader of Soviet Union, was born;
- Drive to Akhaltsikhe via Borjomi. Visit Borjomi Park to taste Borjomi mineral water;

Overnight in Akhaltsikhe.

**Day 9: Akhaltsikhe - Vardzia - Yerevan;**

(driving distance ≈320 km/driving time ≈ 6 hours)

Drive across the arid landscapes of Javakheti plateau. Enjoy impressive nature of terraced landscapes, and visit a masterpiece of stone carved architecture of Georgian Golden Age. Proceed to Armenian border.

After border crossing continue sightseeing in Armenia.

- 9:00 – visit Rabati fortress;
- Photo stop at Khertvisi fortress;
- Drive to Vardzia, explore Vardzia cave complex;
- 13:30 – Free time for lunch\*;
- Cross border and drive to Yerevan;
- Drop off guests to different hotels;

Overnight in Yerevan.

**Day 10: Yerevan - Echmiadzin - Yerevan;**

(driving distance ≈55 km / driving time ≈ 1,5 hours)

Visit Echmiadzin, spiritual center and the seat of the Catholicos of all Armenians. In the afternoon explore Yerevan, walk in its market squares and parks; visit museums and galleries.

- Pick up guests from different hotels;
- 9:00 – Drive to Echmiadzin to visit Echmiadzin Cathedral (UNESCO site) and its museum;
- Visit the ruins of Zvartnots;
- 13:00 – Free time for lunch;
- Yerevan city tour. Visit Matenadaran museum and Tsitsernakaberd - the memorial complex dedicated to the victims of the Great Armenian Genocide;
- Drop off guests to different hotels;

Overnight in Yerevan.

**Day 11: Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Khor Virap - Yerevan;**

(driving distance ≈150 km / driving time ≈ 3 hours)

Spend a day in the picturesque surroundings of Yerevan. Enjoy impressive nature and visit architectural and cultural highlights.

- Pick up guests from different hotels;
- 10:00 – Visit Garni Hellenistic temple and Geghard Monastery - the UNESCO site;
- 13:00 – Free time for lunch\*;
- Visit Khor-Virap - "Deep Dungeon", one of the holiest sites in Armenia;
- Drop off guests to different hotels;

Overnight in Yerevan.

**Day 12: Yerevan - Sevan - Sadakhlo - Tbilisi;**

(driving distance ≈310 km / driving time ≈ 6 hours)

From Yerevan drive to Tbilisi via the Lake Sevan - "The Pearl" of Armenia. Enjoy sightseeing before crossing Georgian border

- Pick up guests from different hotels;
- 9:00 – Drive to Lake Sevan, one of the largest high-altitude lakes in the world. Visit Sevan monastery;
- 13:00 – Free time for lunch\*;
- Drive to Alaverdi. Visit Haghpat monastery;
- Cross border and drive to Tbilisi;
- Drop off guests to different hotels;

Overnight in Tbilisi.



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**Day 13: Free day to explore Tbilisi Independently;**

(driving distance ≈0 km/driving time ≈ 0 hours)

Guide service and transportation on this day isn't provided.

Optional\*: Day trip to lower Kartli region to explore Dmanisi archaeological site and visit Bolnisi Basilica.

**Day 14: Departure from Tbilisi;**

(driving distance ≈20km/driving time ≈ 0,5 hours)

Transfer to the airport\*.

\*Not included services - All services mentioned in the Itineraries, but marked with (\*) are provided on supplementary basis - can be purchased on spot or booked in advance upon request.

Notes:

- Airport transfers (if booked) will be arranged to different hotel options chosen by customer.

- Every sightseeing day will start with collecting group members accommodated at different hotel options; the sightseeing day ends with transfer guests back to their hotels.



Purpose of this PDF is to give you general information about provided program.

**As always, we design and tailor tours to ensure that they are perfect fit for our customers.**

**Please contact us to design tailored tour for you.**

Program details, including transportation, accommodation, catering, events, and experiences, will be shared upon completing the request form and through ongoing communication to tailor to visitors' specific needs and wishes.

Arrival - Departure dates 2024

11 May - 18 May

15 June - 22 June

13 July - 20 July

17 Aug - 24 Aug

14 Sept - 21 Sept

19 Oct - 26 Oct

2 Nov - 9 Nov



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# About the Programs, Services and More...

**The Sample Programs** shown on this site, 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 Tour Operator and DMC in South Caucasus**