# **AZERBAIJAN-GEORGIA | 11 DAYS**

Small group tour to Georgia



#### STARTS FROM: BAKU, AZERBAIJAN EVERY SECOND TUESDAY

The exploration route is open from May to October. Choose the date and join the group in Tbilisi.

Combined small group tour to Azerbaijan and Georgia is a 11-day journey with guaranteed departure dates, which explores two different cultures with diversity of traditions. Tour starts in the capital of Azerbaijan - Baku, moves to the town Sheki, and from day 3 - continues in Georgia.

Group will be guided by two local experts - one local guide for each country. They will introduce you to the most important historico-cultural and architectural monuments of the two Caucasus countries, the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, local cuisines etc.

The group is "Guaranteed to Run" after two people book the tour.

# MAIN HIGHLIGHTS & SITES:

# **AZERBAIJAN**

#### BAKU

- Panorama of the City & Baku Bay from Mountain park
- · The medieval sight of the Old City 11-19 cc, 🟛
- Karvansaray Complex 14-15 cc.
- Mosques 11-19cc.
- Old bath, narrow small streets, Art Shops & Handicraft Workshop
- Giz Galasi Maiden Tower 🟛
- Gobustan NP of rock painting

- Diri-Baba Mausoleum
- Sheki Fortress
- Sheki Khan Palace
- Karvansaray
- Alban Church in Kish Village.

# **GEORGIA**

#### TBILISI CITY

- Holy Trinity Cathedral
- Narikala Fortress & Mosque
- Legutakheui Waterfall
- Sulfur Bathhouse District
- Sharden & King Erekle II street
- Sioni & Anchiskhati Basilica
- Mother of Georgia

# KARTI I REGION

- Gori J. Stalin Museum
- Uplistsikhe Caues 1st C

# MTSKHETA CITY

- Suetitskhoueli of 12th c 🟛
- Juari Monastery of 6th c 🟛

# KAKHETI PROVINCE

- Signagi town & museum
- Tsinandali, Shumi
- Telaui town

# KHEVI

- · Ananuri Castle 16-17th c
- Gudauri Ski-Resort 2119m
- Stephantsminda Town, Kazbegi
- Gergeti Holy Trinity Church 14th c

# SAMTSKHE REGION

- · Borjomi Spa-Resort
- Borjomi Park
- Akhaltsikhe Town
- Rabat Castle 14-18th cc
- · Vardzia Caues 12th c

# DAY TO DAY ITINFRARY

# 1 DAY | Baku Tour

Baku sightseeing tour starts on day 1 at 10:00 AM. First stop is at the Mountain Park, where we can observe Baku Bay and panoramic views of the city. After a short walk in the alley we drive to the old city to visit the Palace of the Shirvanshahs, which was built in the 15th century

and served as a stronghold of Baku in the middle ages. Participants of the Baku old city tour will also explore old caravanserai and bathhouse, medieval mosques, art shops, and last but not least - Maiden tower, 12th century monument under the UNESCO World Heritage list.

# 2 DAY | Baku - Sheki

After breakfast at the hotel, tour departs to the west - to town of Sheki. On our way we will make several stops to see 15th century mausoleum of Sheikh Diri-Baba in Gobustan town and 8th century Juma Mosque in Shamakhi town. In the evening, we arrive in Sheki. The evening Sheki tour explores Sheki fortress, Palace of Shaki Khans, old caravanserai and mosque.

# 3 DAY | Sheki - Sighnaghi

After breakfast we make a short excursion to Kish - a village located 5 km from Sheki. The main attraction of the village is Church of Kish. The existing church building is estimated to be constructed in the 12th century and has served Caucasian Albanian, Georgian and Armenian churches in different times through history. However, archaeologists found that church stands on much older, ancient cultic site.

From Kish we drive to the eastern border of Georgia. Tour guide will assist the participants with border formalities. On the border we change the vehicles. From now on local Georgian guide will assist you and continue the tour. From Georgian-Azerbaijan border we drive to Sighnaghi - a town in a traditional wine-making Kakheti region in the east Georgia. Surrounded by the medieval city wall, Sighnaghi stands on the hills of Gombori range, overlooking Alazani river valley. We are going to visit Sighnaghi Museum that has several important collections and exhibitions, such as the ethnographic and archaeological exhibitions, and collections of the works of prominent Georgian painter Niko Pirosmani. Afterwards we can take a walk in Sighnaghi streets and

# 4 DAY | Sighnaghi-Tsinandali-Telavi-Tbilisi

Depart from Sighnaghi and drive to the village of Tsinandali to visit Aleksandre Chavchavadze House Museum. Aleksandre Chauchavadze was a well-known 18th century Georgian aristocrat, military figure and poet. Nowadays Chauchavadze's residence, garden and wine-cellar functions as a museum and attracts lots of visitors. From Tsinandali we move to Shumi - where we can take a look on another, Shumi winery and the wine museum "Vazioni", where visitors can taste local wine and snacks.

Our next stop is Telavi - major town of Kakheti region. In Telaui we can visit medieval fortress that served as a residence of the Kings of Kakheti - Batonistsikhe. We make a short Telavi tour and afterwards depart for Tbilisi through the Gombori pass (1620 m).

# 5 DAY I Tbilisi City Tour

Tbilisi city tour starts from visiting the Holy Trinity Cathedral (Sameba), one of the tallest Orthodox Christian churches in the world. From Sameba, we move to Metekhi Platuau and Metekhi church built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, located on the cliff over river Mtkvari and the old city district. From Metekhi we move to Narikala fortress - ancient fortification ovelooking Tbilisi from the hill, which can be reached by a aerial cable car.

From Narikala we take a walk through the old city full of various attractions and sites: the National Botanical Garden of Georgia, Jumah Mosque, Legutakhevi canyon and waterfall, Abanotubani - historical sulfur bathhouse district of Tbilisi, Shardeni and Erekle II streets and the glass Bridge of Peace. Tbilisi city tour finishes at the Meidan Square.

#### 6 DAY | Tbilisi-Mtskheta-Ananuri-Gudauri

After breakfast at the hotel we drive to the north to Mtskheta - historical capital of Georgia, located near Tbilisi at the convergence of the two rivers of Mtkvari and Aragui. In Mtskheta we can take a look at two UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Juari Monastery (6th century) and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (11th century). After Mtskheta tour where we can visit handicrafts, souvenir shops and wine cellars located in the center of the town, we head to the north and drive on the Georgian Military Highway. On our way to Gudauri we make a stop near Zhinvali reservoir and visit Ananuri Architectural Complex that was once a fortification and residential building of local dukes. In the evening we arrive at Gudauri ski-resort, located at an elevation of 2196 m above sea level.

# 7 DAY | Gudauri-Kazbegi-Tbilisi

Drive to Kazbegi town. On our way we make a stop at the travertine hill and taste local mineral waters. After our arrival in Kazbegi we set off for Mount Gergeti trek. Mount Gergeti is famous for its Holy Trinity Church built in 14th century, which stands under the Kazbegi glacier (5033 m) while overlooking Kazbegi town. After the Mount Gergeti trek, we come back to Kazbegi town and drive to Tbilisi.

# 8 DAY I Tbilisi-Gori-Borjomi-Akhaltsikhe

Head to Samtskhe region and drive through Kartli province. Our first stop is at Gori town, where we will visit museum of Joseph Stalin. Museum consists of Stalin's memorial house, exposition building with tower and personal room with belongings.

Our next stop in Kartli - Uplistsikhe cave complex is another popular site located near Gori. Uplistsikhe represents ancient cave complex, which is one of the oldest urban settlements in Georgia dated back to the 1st millenium BC. Next stop is in Borjomi - a spa-resort in Mtkuari ravine, where well-known mineral water 'Borjomi' comes from. After a walk in Borjomi park, we depart for Akhaltsihke and arrive there in the evening.

#### 9 DAY Akhaltsikhe-Vardzia-Akhaltsikhe

After breakfast we start Akhaltsikhe (translated as "new castle") tour and visit its most remarkable monument - Rabati, a medieval fortress and castle. Akhaltsikhe Castle excursion includes Rabati museum, 14th century Jakeli Castle, fortress church and the St. Marine church. From Akhaltsikhe, we leave for Vardzia in the afternoon. Vardzia is another famous cave complex located in Samtskhe. It is a rock-hewn cave monastery founded in 12th-13th centuries.

In the evening we drive back to Akhaltsikhe.

#### DAY | Akhaltsikhe -Tsalka-Tbilisi

Leave for Tbilisi. Our way to Tbilisi goes through Javakheti Plateau, where we will make several stops at the alpine lakes of Sagamo, Paravani and Tsalka reservoir. In the evening we arrive in Tbilisi.

#### III DAY I Tbilisi

Breakfast. Check out time before 12:00 pm.

# € 1346 PRICE INCLUDES:

- 1x transfer from Lagodekhi border: 3;
- Transportation service all days;
- 1x local jeep in Kazbegi on day: 7;
- English speaking Guide & Driver service all days;

#### 10 OVERNIGHTS IN DB/TW ROOM IN 3\* HOTELS:

- 1 x overnight in Baku 3 \* hotel
- 1 x overnight in Sheki 3 \* hotel
- 1 x overnight in Sighnaghi 3\* hotel
  4 x overnights in Tbilisi 3 \* hotel
  1 x overnight in Gudauri 3 \* Hotel

- 2 x overnights in Akhaltsikhe 3 \* Hotel

#### MEALS:

- 10 x Breakfasts on days: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,9, 10, 11;
- 1 x Dinners on day 2

# ENTERTAINMENT AND OTHER:

- · 1 x wine tasting in Shumi winery on day 4
- · 1 x glass of wine in Tsinandali museum on day 4
- · Entrance fees per program;
- · 1 bottle of mineral water per person per day

The deposit for this tour is: 200 €

# ADDITIONAL PRICING INFORMATION:

Single room supplement is 199€

#### 11 DAY TOUR STARTS EVERY SECOND TUESDAY JOIN IN TBILISI





	Book 6 mon	ths in aduan	ice &	SAVE 10%
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ES	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
DATES	21.05	04.06	10.09
		18.06	24.09
START		02.07	08.10
)T		16.07	
6		30.07	
2019		13.08	
2		27.08	

# Book 12 months in advance & SAVE 15%

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DATES	19.05	02.06	08.09 22.09
		16.06 30.07	06.10
START		14.07	
		28.07	
2020		11.08	
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