

# 15 Day Caucasus Pearls

## Multi-Country Tours in Caucasus

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### Overview

Caucasus Pearls 15 Days/14 Nights

Starts from: Baku, Azerbaijan

Type: Small Group tour

Dates: every second Tuesday

Total Distance: 2328 km

A combined group tour to three South Caucasus countries – Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia is a 15-day special itinerary with fixed guaranteed dates. The journey starts from Baku, the capital town of Azerbaijan. Cross country to Georgia by the land border [Lagodekhi](#), visit cities and towns along the former Silk Road [Sighnaghi](#), Tbilisi, Gori, Mtskheta, [Gudauri](#), Akhaltsikhe, make a round trip in Armenia through Bavra border, visit Gyumri, Dilijan, Yerevan, and then return to Georgia throughout the border Sadakhlo to Tbilisi.

Three experienced guides will work for you – one local guide per country. The experts in the field will introduce you to the most remarkable historical and architectural monuments, UNESCO World Heritage Sights, and special highlights, and help to choose delicious food and the finest wines.

Get acquainted with three traditional cultures, see the diversity of the most unique and spectacular sights.

Have a wonderful trip!

*The group is “Guaranteed to Run” after two people book the tour.*

*The guaranteed tour dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Baku.*

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Tour details

- Code: GH-26
  - Starts from: Baku
  - Max. Group Size: 15 Adults
  - Duration: 15 Days
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Price Table

Start Date	End Date	Seats Left	Price From	Availability	Reserve
2025-09-30	2025-10-14	15	€ 2886	Scheduled	Reserve for € 400

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## Sights to Visit

- [Uplistsikhe Caves](#)
  - [Vardzia rock-cut caves](#)
  - [Narikala Fortress](#)
  - [Akhaltzikhe Castle, Rabati](#)
  - [Holy Trinity Cathedral](#)
  - [Metekhi Church](#)
  - [Vardzia Museum](#)
  - [Uplistsikhe Museum](#)
  - [Tsinandali Museum](#)
  - [Samtskhe - Javakheti Museum](#)
  - [Sighnaghi Museum](#)
  - [Ananuri Fortress](#)
  - [Shumi Winery](#)
  - [Bridge of Peace](#)
  - [Kazbegi National Park](#)
  - [Tbilisi Historic District](#)
  - [Tbilisi](#)
  - [Sighnaghi](#)
  - [Kutaisi](#)
  - [Gori](#)
  - [Gudauri Ski Resort](#)
  - [Rike Park & Cableway](#)
  - [Dariali Gorge](#)
  - [Lagodekhi](#)
  - [Batonis Tsikhe](#)
  - [Kakheti](#)
  - [Jvari Pass](#)
  - [Stepantsminda](#)
  - [Europe Square Tbilisi](#)
  - [Akhaltzikhe](#)
  - [Dariali Monastery](#)
  - [Zhinvali Reservoir](#)
  - [Agmashenebeli Avenue](#)
  - [Kanobi](#)
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## Itinerary

### Day 1: BAKU

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

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

Visit Memorial Park located high above the coastal area with a wonderful view of the **Baku Bay, Primorsky Boulevard**, the old town **Icheri Sheher, the Maiden Tower** and the **Shirvanshakh Palace**. Baku Bay is a natural harbor of the port, on the southern shore of the **Absheron Peninsula** of the **Caspian Sea**. Take a walk in the alley and old city to visit historical sites: Palace of the **Shirvanshahs** (15th c.), medieval **caravanserai** and bathhouse, old mosques, art shops, and finally – **Maiden tower**, 12th century monument that is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Leisure evening.

Overnight in **Baku**.



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## Day 2: BAKU - GOBUSTAN -SHAMAKHI- SHEKI

Driving distance: 330 km

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and leave for **Sheki**.

Drive to the north-west. On the way of the town Sheki, make a two stops to visit historical monuments: 15th century mausoleum of **Sheikh Dirî-Baba** in **Gobustan** town, and 8th century **Juma Mosque** in **Shamakhi** town. In the evening arrive to **Sheki**. The evening city tour includes sightseeing of **Sheki fortress, Palace of Shaki Khans**, old **caravanserai** and **mosque**.

Relaxing evening.

Overnight in Sheki.

### Day 3: SHEKI - SIGHNAGHI

Driving distance: 169 km

After breakfast check out and depart for **Kish village**, 7 km away from **Sheki**. The main highlight of the village is a unique **Church of Kish** with an extraordinary history. Built in the 12th century on an older pagan cult site, it belonged to Caucasian Albanian, Georgian and Armenian churches through history.

Drive to the border of **Georgia** at **Balakan** crossing near the village [Lagodekhi](#). Guide will assist with border formality procedures. Change the transport and meet Georgian guide, who will lead the tour during next six days. Drive to [Sighnaghi](#) – a town, located in a traditional wine-making region of the east **Georgia**, [Kakheti](#) region. Surrounded by medieval curtain walls and 28 watchtowers, [Sighnaghi](#) developed on **Gombori mountain** range, overlooking **Alazani river** valley. Don't miss [Sighnaghi Museum](#) exhibition of the artworks of prominent naive artist of early 20th c. **Niko Pirosmani**, its ethnographical and archaeological collections and fantastic view from the balcony, which overlooks **Alazani river valley** and it's permanent background of **Great Caucasus mountains**. Overnight in [Sighnaghi](#).

## Day 4: SIGNAGI - TSINANDALI - SHUMI - TELAVI - TBILISI

Driving distance: 157 km

After breakfast leave [Sighnaghi](#) for the village **Tsinandali** to visit Aleksander Chavchavadze's estate and House Museum. Al. Chavchavadze was a famous Georgian aristocrat, military figure and romanticism poet, whose residence, garden and wine-cellar functions as a museum and attracts lots of visitors nowadays. His wine cellar and **enoteca** are prominent. Taste a glass of white wine produced in this estate, visit the first wine library and enjoy the wonderful environment of 19th century on the oriental style wooden balcony.

[Shumi Winery](#) and small wine museum "**Vazoni**" are located next to the Chavchavadze's estate. Here, taste red and white dry and semi-dry wines and smell the aroma of [Kakheti](#) region.

The next stop is [Telavi](#) – the capital town of the former kingdom of [Kakheti](#). Visit **Batonistsikhe**, the medieval fortress that served as a residence of the King Erekle II in 18th c. After a short [Telavi](#) sightseeing depart for **Tbilisi**. Suggested route goes through the **Gombori pass** (1620 m).

Leisure evening and overnight in **Tbilisi**.

## Day 5: TBILISI CITY TOUR

**Tbilisi** city tour starts at 10:00.

Visit **Sameba** (Holy Trinity) Cathedral, one of the tallest Orthodox Christian churches in the world. The gorgeous golden cupola cathedral, grand entrance, three churches, beautiful garden, and three stored free standing belltower makes the site visible almost from all **Tbilisi** districts and remarkable city landmark. Walk around, go inside, enjoy the city view and return back to the parking. The tour will take about 40 minutes.

Next stop is at **Metekhi Plateau**. [Metekhi Church](#) of 13th c is located on the edge of the cliff overlooking **river Mtkvari** and opening the picturesque panorama of **old Tbilisi**. Walk to the **Europe square** and ride up **Rike Park** aerial cable car to reach the [Narikala Fortress](#). The ancient fortification is overlooking **Tbilisi** from another river bank; walking around **Jumah Mosque**, **LegvtaKhevi** canyon and waterfall, **Abanotubani** – historical sulfur bathhouse district of **Tbilisi**, stroll along the streets of **Botanical Garden**, **Shardeni**, **Iron Row**, **Cotton Row** and **the king Erekle II square** with lots of outdoor cafes, restaurants, art galleries, souvenir stores and handicraft shopping spots. Continue the way until the pedestrian glass [Bridge of Peace](#), cross it and get back to the Rike Park. This pleasant walking tour will take about 55 minutes.

One hour free time for lunch.

Visit the [National Museum](#) of Georgia.

Second half of the day continue the city sightseeing by car and drive around the main streets, **Freedom square**, **Rustaveli avenue**, **Hero's square** and **Agmashenebeli avenue**.

Overnight in **Tbilisi**.

## **Day 6: TBILISI - MTSKHETA - ANANURI - GUDAURI**

Driving distance: 130 km

Breakfast. Check out and drive to [Mtskheta](#) – historical capital of ancient Georgian kingdom Iberia. Located at the confluence of the two rivers of [Mtkvari](#) and **Aragvi**, [Mtskheta](#) became listed among UNESCO World Heritage Sites for outstanding architecture of [Jvari Monastery](#) (6th century) and [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#) (11th century). Visit both sites, see the handicrafts, souvenir shops and wine cellars located in the center of the town. [Mtskheta](#) sightseeing tour will take about one hour.

Continue the way to the North, follow so called **Georgian Military Road**, former Silk Road, which connects Georgia and Russia through the **Great Caucasus mountains**. On the way to the ski-resort [Gudauri](#) make a photo stop at [Zhinvali Reservoir](#) and visit **Ananuri fort**. Ananuri once served as a fortress and residence of local lords – Eristavi of Aragvi.

In the evening arrive to alpine settlement [Gudauri](#) (2196 m) in **Kazbegi Municipality**.

Dinner and overnight in [Gudauri](#).

## Day 7: GUDAURI - KAZBEGI - TBILISI

Driving distance: 186 km

After breakfast leave for [Stepantsminda](#) , the former name of town is Kazbegi . Make some stops on the [Jvari Pass](#) : the colorful observation platform - the Friendship Monument, reveals the picturesque panoramic views of Aragvi gorge; 19th c **Jvari Pass obelisk** is a landmark of the highest point on this road - 2395 m above the sea level; the red travertine hill with bobbling mineral water spring. The total length of the pass is 15 km, it starts after [Gudauri](#) and represents one of the impressive roads in Georgia.

After arrival in [Stepantsminda](#), set off for [Mount Gergeti](#) trek. The [Mount Gergeti](#) (2000m) on the top is crowned by 14th c [Gergeti Trinity Church](#). The church platform reveals a breathtaking view overlooking the town, while standing under the giant **Kazbegi peak** (5054 m).

Continue to the **Dariali canyon** up to the **Georgia-Russian** border **Larsi**. Visit [Dariali Monastery](#) of archangels of St. Gabriel and St. Michael. Walk to the **Gveleti** waterfalls.

Evening leave for Tbilisi.

Overnight in **Tbilisi**.

## **Day 8: TBILISI - GORI - UPLISTSIKHE - AKHALTSIKHE**

Driving distance: 250 km

Breakfast. Check out and depart for [Samtskhe-Javakheti](#) area. First, drive through [Kartli](#) region, where stop at the main town Gori. Visit [Gori Fortress](#) and the museum of Joseph Stalin, which consists of three parts: Stalin's memorial house of the end of 19th c, mid-soviet monumental exhibition building, and a private train with his personal study-room.

After visiting Gori, drive 12 km to the south-east to the [Uplistsikhe Caves](#), which represents one of the oldest urban settlements in Georgia, dating since 1st millennium BC up to 10th c AD. Visit a small museum attached to site and watch an 7-minute movie about Uplistsikhe cave town.

The next stop is a spa-resort town [Borjomi](#), located in the [Mtkvari](#) ravine. The thermal-mineral waters of volcanic origin distinguish [Borjomi](#). Development began at the end of 19th c., when the curative effect of its springs was discovered. After easy walk around the town and [Borjomi Central Park](#), depart for Akhaltsikhe for overnight.

Overnight in Akhaltsikhe.

## Day 9: AKHALTSIKHE - VARDZIA

Driving distance: 126 km

After breakfast start a tour to the historical **Samtskhe** region and its administrative center - [Akhaltsikhe](#) (translated as “new castle”). Visit the most remarkable site - [Akhaltsikhe Castle](#) in Rabati, a huge medieval fortification complex. Visit Rabati district, the fortress, the inner yard with amphitheater and [Akhaltsikhe history museum](#) located on the territory of Jakeli Castle (14th c).

Today follow the [Mtkvari](#) river gorge, discover countless fortresses in the valley; **Atskuri**, **Khertvisi**, **Tmogvi** and [Vani's Kvabebi](#) are the most impressive strongholds on the way to [Vardzia](#). Make short stops for pictures and finally reach rock-hewn cave monastery of the Georgian Golden Age (12th-13th cc.).

[Vardzia caves](#) are spread over thirteen levels on the **Erusheti mountains** slopes. Only one third has survived after the several earthquakes in the middle ages. Crafted by humans and carved deep into the volcanic layers, the caves were home to the troops who defended the border and the monastery in 12th-16th cc. The tour will continue about an hour and half.

Relaxing evening and overnight in [Vardzia](#).



## **Day 10: VARDZIA - BAVRA - GYUMRI**

Driving distance: 161 km

Today start the trip to **Armenia** . After breakfast check out and drive towards **Bavra Border**.

Make some short stops to see pelicans on the way to **Gorelovka village** . This village keeps exceptional community of Doukhobors , evicted by Tsarist Russia in 1841 in [Ninotsminda](#) **district** . One-store white houses with earth and green grass cover, carved blue windows and stork-nests on electricity-poles & chimneys are only here to discover.

After arrival at **Bavra Border**, go through the border crossing formalities, change vehicle and meet a new guide to continue the tour in **Armenia**.

Head to **Gyumri** – the second largest city of Armenia. City tour. Leisure evening.

Overnight in **Gyumri** .

## **Day 11: GYUMRI - VAGHARSHAPAT - ZVARTNOTS - YEREVAN**

Driving distance: 159 km

After breakfast, take a walk in the historical center of **Gyumri**. In 19th century, under the rule of Russian Empire the city was named as Alexandropol.

Leave Gyumri and continue the journey to **Vagharshapat** town. There are two important Armenian monuments to visit: **St. Gayane and St. Hripsime church** and **Zvartnots Cathedral** 7th century. **Echmiadzin**, the Armenian-Apostolic Cathedral is closed for restoration works till 2023.

From Vagharshapat head to the capital of Armenia – **Yerevan** (17 km).

Visit to **Mesrop Mashtots Institute** of Ancient Manuscripts, known as Matenadaran museum, and take a look at its brilliant collection of medieval manuscripts and books. In the evening leisure walk in Yerevan.

Overnight in Yerevan.

## **Day 12: YEREVAN - GARNI - GEGHARD - YEREVAN**

Driving distance: 80 km

After breakfast start excursion of the **Yerevan city** and its surroundings. First, morning visit **Yerevan History Museum**. Museum has a unique collection of local culture and history artifacts from ancient to present times.

Set off from **Yerevan** on the second half of the day to see the **Temple of Garni** and **Geghard monastery** (founded in the 4th c.). The **Garni** is an ancient pagan colonnaded temple with Greco -Roman architectural style. Destroyed by the earthquake in the 17th century, this pre-Christian stone building was rebuilt in the 20th century during the Soviet times.

Take a five minutes' walk along the canyon of **Azat river** and get to **Geghard monastery** , which is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

In the evening drive back to **Yerevan**.

Overnight in Yerevan.

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

Driving distance: 243 km

On day 13, after breakfast at the hotel take a trip to **Khor Virap Monastery** in **Ararat Province** . Khor Virap is one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in Armenia. According to the local beliefs, St. Gregory the Illuminator , who is credited with converting Armenia to Christianity, was imprisoned in this place for 13 years by the Armenian King. Visitors can also observe fantastic view on the **Mount Ararat** .

Continue the way to southeast direction and get to the village of **Areni** , Vayots Dzor Province. The village is famous for its red wine. Visit the wine factory and taste local wine.

After Areni village drive to **Noravank monastery**, established in the 13th c. Noravank is situated in a narrow gorge of **Amaghu river** , near the town of **Yeghegnadzor** .

Overnight in **Yerevan**.

## **Day 14: YEREVAN - SEVAN - SANAHIN - HAGHPAT - SADAKHLO - TBILISI**

Driving distance: 321 km

After breakfast drive to one of the largest alpine lakes – **Sevan** ( altitude 1900 m above sea level). Make some pictures and continue to the north - the administrative center of **Tavush Province – Dilijan town**. Dilijan city tour includes visiting Sharambeyan street workshops, handicraft shops, souvenir stores and traditional buildings.

After visiting Tavush Province, move to **Lori** region and visit medieval **Sanahin monastery** built in 10th c.(UNESCO World Heritage site). **Sanahin monastery** was founded by the Bagratid royal family in the 10th century and consists of several churches and chapels. Nearby there is **Haghpat monastery**.

Drive to the crossing point of Georgia-Armenia border **Sadakhlo**. After the Border formalities meeting with Georgian guide and drive to Tbilisi .

Meeting time at the border 18:00.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

*Farewell dinner in Georgian Traditional restaurant with folk show\* (Optional).*

*Note: Those taking extension trips to Georgia will start their tour next morning after breakfast.*

## **Day 15: TBILISI**

Breakfast at the hotel.

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

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## Inclusions

## Included

### Transportation:

- 1x transfer from Lagodekhi border: 3;
- 1x transfer to Bavra border on day: 10;
- Transportation service all days;
- 1x local jeep in Kazbegi on day: 7;

### Staff:

- Professional English-speaking guide service (guide-driver in case of 2 pax in the group)
- Professional driver service

### 14 overnights in DB/TW room in 3\*/4\* hotels:

- 1 x overnight in 4\*Central Park hotel, Baku or similar
- 1 x overnight in 4\* Sheki Palace or similiar
- 1 x overnight in Sighnaghi 3\* hotel Brigitte or similar
- 4 x overnights in Tbilisi 4\* hotel Brosse Garden or similar
- 1 x overnight in Gudauri Inn 4 \* Hotel or similar
- 1 x overnight in Akhaltsikhe Inn 4\* Hotel or similar
- 1 x overnight in Vardzia Resort 4\*
- 1 x overnight in Gyumri 3\* hotel Tomus or similar
- 3 x overnights in Yerevan 4\* hotel Ani Central Inn or similar

### Meals:

- 14 x breakfasts on days: 2-15;
- 1 x dinner on day 6;

### Entertainment and other:

- 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 13
- Entrance fees per program;
- 1 bottle of mineral water per person per day

## Excluded

- Visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Air tickets



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## More Info

## Additional Info

The deposit for this trip is: 400\$

\*Online booking deposit will be deducted from the total tour price.

If you book early (6 months before your landing) you will receive a 10% discount.

Flights should be booked individually.

Flights should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and "Guaranteed" is displayed on the trip.

### **CHILD POLICY:**

0-6 years - Free

7-11 years – 50% Discount

12 years and over - Adult price

To arrange airport transfers and pre-tour hotel overnights, contact us [trips\[at\]georgianholidays.com](mailto:trips[at]georgianholidays.com)

### **Cancellation Policy**

Cancellation is free of charge prior 14 days of the starting day.

- The booking deposit USD 400 is non-refundable.

If Tourist cancels the booked tour for some reasons not depending on Tour Operator, the following sums are kept back as a fine:

- 50% of total cost of tourist product in case of tour cancellation 14-7 days prior to the tour;
  - 90% of total cost of tourist product in case of tour cancellation 7 and fewer days prior to the tour;
  - 100% of the total cost of the tourist product due to the Tourist's failure to appear.
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Gallery

