

25 DAY CULTURAL TOUR

GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN

\$4999

PER
PERSON
TWIN
SHARE

TBILISI • YEREVAN • BAKU • VARDZIA • SHEKI

THE OFFER

From dazzling 21st century architecture to ancient rock-hewn monasteries, majestic vineyards to jaw-dropping mountain villages; Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan are three diverse countries that refuse to be pigeonholed. With distinct cultures to explore, intriguing history to uncover, and plenty of surprises along the way, this 25 day journey will leave a lasting impression long after it ends.

Be amazed by the contrast of old and new in bustling Baku; explore 16th century Ananuri Fortress on the banks of Aragvi River; and journey to the remote yet spectacular Gergeti Holy Trinity Church by four wheel drive. Enjoy stunning views across the colourful city of Tbilisi from Narikala Fortress, experience a traditional Georgian cooking class in Mukhuri, visit a caravanserai in the Silk Road town of Sheki, and relax in the mineral springs town of Borjomi. Explore the 12th century cave monastery of Vardzia, witness the incredible ruins of Zvartnots Temple in Yerevan - and so much more!

This once-in-a-lifetime cultural tour includes return flights, 22 nights quality hotel accommodation, English-speaking tour leaders and guides, airport transfers and more.

25 DAY TOUR

\$4999

Trip
aDeal
Est. 2011

Offer available for a limited time or until sold out. TRIP A DEAL PTY LTD: 50149240433

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Australia - Baku, Azerbaijan

Today depart from either Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth for Baku, Azerbaijan.

Meals included: In-Flight

Day 2 Welcome to Baku

Upon arrival be greeted at the airport and transferred to the hotel.

Overnight: Qafqaz Baku City Hotel, Baku, Azerbaijan

Meals included: None

Day 3 Baku City Tour

This morning after breakfast you will head out on a city tour of Baku. First you will visit Memory Alley (Martyr's Lane), which is a cemetery and memorial dedicated to those killed by the Soviet Army during Black January and also for those killed in the Nagorno-Karabakh War. Continue onwards to Upland Park where you may enjoy a panoramic view of Baku Bay. Afterwards enjoy a walking tour in the beautiful Old City area (a UNESCO heritage site). See historical and cultural sites such as the Maiden Tower, Shirvanshah's Palace, Medieval Caravanserai, the hamams (bathhouses), Market Square, carpet shops, art studios and souvenir stalls.

After lunch (not included) visit the world class cultural centre named after Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan's third president. The Heydar Aliyev Centre consists of various exhibitions and is recognised as one of the world's most famous buildings, the masterpiece of Zaha Hadid has become an architectural landmark of modern Azerbaijan. Finish the day with a walk along the Seaside Boulevard, the longest promenade in Baku,

before returning to the hotel for an evening at leisure or alternatively you can enjoy a traditional Azeri Dinner and Folk Show (not included).

Optional Activity: Traditional Azeri Dinner & Folk Show - approx. \$35USD per person (paid on tour).

Overnight: Qafqaz Baku City Hotel, Baku, Azerbaijan

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 Baku Free Day

Today is free at leisure, alternatively you may take part in an optional tour (not included).

Optional Activity - Mud Volcanoes, Gobustan Reserve - \$100 per person

This morning after breakfast you will travel to some mud volcanoes (approx. 70 km from Baku). Mud volcanoes are a unique natural phenomenon with almost half of the mud volcanoes on our planet located in Azerbaijan. Afterwards continue to Gobustan Reserve, an open-air archaeological museum where you can observe the caves and petroglyphs of the Neolithic period (Stone Age). Gobustan has outstanding universal value, its rock art images depict hunting, fauna, flora and lifestyles in pre-historic times. In the afternoon travel onwards to the Absheron Peninsula where you may explore the Fire Worshippers Temple - Ateshgah. Until the late 19th century, it was the Zoroastrian pilgrimage place. Admire the flaming mountain nearby - Yanardag, where natural gas comes to the surface and has been burning since ancient times, attracting fire worshippers throughout many centuries. Return to Baku where you may enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



THE ITINERARY

Please note: this optional tour is a shared service with a max of 40 pax per vehicle.

Overnight: Qafqaz Baku City Hotel, Baku, Azerbaijan

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5 Baku - Maraza Village - Shamakhi - Sheki - City Tour (approx. 300km day)

This morning after breakfast check out and travel onwards to Sheki in the North-West of the country (approx. 330km from Baku). Snoozing amid green pillows of beautifully forested mountains, Şəki (Sheki) is Azerbaijan's loveliest town, dappled with old houses with tiled-roofs and topped off with a glittering little Khan's palace. Along the way you will visit Diri Baba Mausoleum in Maraza Village and the ancient Juma Mosque in Shamakhi, the medieval capital city. You will also cross a river canyon through the beautiful Muganly mountainous pass.

Upon arrival in Sheki this afternoon you will enjoy a short city tour. See the city fortress, Sheki Khan Palace, Caravanserai, artisans' stalls including: stained glass – Shebeke, silk and embroidery shops, potters, confectioners, hatters and numerous souvenir shops. This evening check into the hotel for an evening at leisure.

Overnight: Sheki Palace Hotel or Sheki Saray Hotel, Sheki, Azerbaijan

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6 Sheki, Azerbaijan - Kish - Kvareli, Georgia - Wine Cellar Visit (approx. 160km day)

This morning check out and continue onwards to the neighbouring country of Georgia. Along the way visit the

village of Kish and observe the ancient temple called "the mother of churches". Once you have completed border formalities and crossed the border you will meet your Georgian guide who will drive you onwards to the town of Kvareli.

Upon arrival you will visit a wine cellar located in a tunnel dug out of the flank of the Caucasus Mountains and taste some amazing Georgian wines. The temperature in the tunnel stays at an idyllic 12-14 degrees throughout the year. It consists of two main tunnels, which are linked by 13 galleries. The total length of the tunnel is 7.7km. After the wine cellar visit continue onwards to the hotel and check-in for an evening at leisure.

Overnight: Kvareli Eden Hotel, Kvareli, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7 Kvareli - Ananuri - Gudauri (approx. 180km day)

After breakfast you will travel to the Tsinandali Museum of Alexander Chavchavadze – a Kakhetian nobleman and public figure. Alexander Chavchavadze was familiar with European ways of making wine and established the winery and decorative garden, where he frequently entertained his guests.

Continue onwards through the Gombori Pass to the north of Georgia to Gudauri Ski Resort via the Georgian Military Highway. On the way to Gudauri enjoy picturesque views of the Great Caucasus Range, serpentine roads and waterfalls. On the way, visit Ananuri Fortress, which was the residence of Aragvi Eristavis' (Dukes) during the 16th and 17th centuries. Upon arrival in Gudauri check into the hotel where dinner will be provided.

Overnight: Gudauri Lodge, Gudauri, Georgia

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



THE ITINERARY

Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner

Day 8 Gudauri - Kazbegi - Gveleti - Gudauri (approx. 60km day)

After breakfast, set out to explore the majestic Caucasus Mountains. Travel approx. 1 hour north to the town of Kazbegi, the centre of the Khevi Province in the Stepantsminda district. The striking landscapes of Khevi are dominated by alpine meadows dotted with beautiful rhododendron, mountain passes and waterfalls, along with Mount Kazbek, an ice-capped dormant volcano. En-route to the Khevi Province, you will see Jvari Pass, a high mountain cross pass at an elevation of 2379m above sea level on the southern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains in between Georgia and Russia.

During your adventures you will make a few stops to taste local mineral water before stopping in Kazbegi. Here you will board a 4x4 vehicle, which will take you up to Gergeti Mountain, where Gergeti Holy Trinity Church - built in the 14th century - acts as a popular waypoint for trekkers in the area. It's reached by a steep three hour climb up the mountain or, luckily for you, around 20 minutes by jeep up a mountain trail.

Afterwards return to Kazbegi and travel onto Darial Gorge on the border between Russia and Georgia. Almost 13kms in length, the gorge features steep granite walls reaching as high as 1800m in some places. While there, enjoy an easy short stroll to the beautiful Gveleti Waterfall. In the evening you will be transported back to the hotel, where you have the rest of the evening to spend at your own leisure with dinner included.

Overnight: Gudauri Lodge, Gudauri, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner

Day 9 Gudauri - Mtskheta - Tbilisi (approx. 120km day)

After breakfast depart Gudauri towards the capital city of Tbilisi. Along the way visit the ancient capital of Mtskheta which functioned as the capital of Eastern Georgia - Iberia - from the 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD. Mtskheta was a site of early Christian activity and the location where Christianity was proclaimed the state religion of Kartli in 337 AD. It remains the headquarters of the Georgian Orthodox Church. The Mtskheta historical monuments, which includes the Jvari Monastery of the 6th century and the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral of the 11th century, are recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Continue onwards to Tbilisi where you will check into the hotel for an evening at leisure.

With its dramatic valley setting, picturesque Old Town, eclectic architecture and superb eating and drinking opportunities, Tbilisi is the vibrant, beating heart of Georgia and home to more than one in three of its citizens. Add to that the pull of the city's hipster culture, its techno scene and general air of cool, and Tbilisi is confidently sealing its reputation as the South Caucasus' most cosmopolitan city.

Overnight: Coste Hotel, Citrus Hotel, Europe Hotel or Riverside Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 10 Tbilisi City Tour

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a full day tour of this historic capital city. First drive to Tbilisi Funicular Mtatsminda Park, which is located at the top of Mount Mtatsminda and overlooks the city. The park has carousels, water slides, a roller-coaster, funicular and a big Ferris Wheel at the edge of the mountain which offers splendid views. Continue onwards to see the Metekhi Church of Assumption which rests upon the

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



THE ITINERARY

top of the hill. The church was built by the Georgian King St Demetrius II between 1278-1284.

Continuing the tour, you will visit Shardeni Street and Meidan Square, which are known for their outdoor cafes, galleries and souvenir shops where you can enjoy a refreshing drink before continuing on to Rustaveli Avenue. The avenue starts at Freedom Square and extends for about 1.5 kms. Rustaveli is often considered the main thoroughfare of Tbilisi due to the large number of governmental, public, cultural, and business buildings located along and near the avenue.

Afterwards, travel up to Narikala Fortress by aerial cable car and take in magnificent panoramic views over Tbilisi and the Kura River. Comprised of two walled sections on a steep hill between the sulphur baths and the botanical gardens of Tbilisi, Narikala Fortress dates back to the 4th century. Enjoy a stroll to the Legvtakhevi Waterfall, located in the centre of Tbilisi, and also take a walk through the luscious botanical gardens.

Overnight: Coste Hotel, Citrus Hotel, Europe Hotel or Riverside Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11 Tbilisi Free Day

Today is free at leisure to explore this amazing city.

Overnight: Coste Hotel, Citrus Hotel, Europe Hotel or Riverside Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 12 Tbilisi - Gori - Uplistsikhe - Kutaisi/Tskaltubo (approx. 230km day)

After breakfast, drive to Gori (approx. 1.5 hours) where soviet

dictator Joseph Stalin was born and spent his first four years. Nowadays his former home functions as a museum with items related to his life. The museum contains the dictator's personal train carriage, as well as a museum building and the small house where he was born.

Continue onto Uplistsikhe, an ancient rock-hewn town in eastern Georgia, followed by Kutaisi - the legislative capital of Georgia and capital of the western region of Imereti - via the Rikoti Pass. Historically one of the major cities of Georgia, it served as the capital of the Kingdom of Georgia in the Middle Ages, and later as the capital of the Kingdom of Imereti. The Parliament of Georgia moved to Kutaisi in 2012 in an effort to both acknowledge the status of the city, and to decentralise the Georgian government. On the way to the hotel, enjoy a few stops along the way to visit pottery and farmers markets. Arrive at the hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Please note: some departures may stay overnight in the nearby town of Tskaltubo (approx 20 mins from Kutaisi).

Overnight: Argo Boutique Hotel, Kutaisi or Tskaltubo Plaza, Tskaltubo, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 13 Kutaisi - Martvili Canyon - Mukhuri - Cooking Class (approx. 90km day)

Today depart Kutaisi and travel onwards to Martvili - a small town in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti province of Western Georgia. Martvili Monastery was Samegrelo's clerical centre in the Middle Ages. Visit one of the unique natural attractions of Georgia - Martvili Canyon. Over millions of years, the Abasha River has created magnificent gorge in limestone rocks, reaching a depth of 40m, with canyons, caves and waterfalls.

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



THE ITINERARY

The total length of the canyon is one kilometre and there are stretches of quiet water for boating and swimming, and also steep rocks to climb, spectacular waterfalls to enjoy and caves to explore. In the upper part of the canyon, you will take a short boat trip up to a 7m high powerful waterfall. Afterwards continue to the village of Mukhuri where you will check into the hotel and enjoy a traditional Georgian cooking class where you will learn to make Georgia's most famous comfort food - Khachapuri. Khachapuri is a tasty dish of cheese-filled bread. The bread is leavened and allowed to rise and is shaped in various ways, usually with cheese in the middle and a crust which is ripped off and used to dip in the cheese. Afterwards enjoy lunch and dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: Buki Hotel, Mukhuri, Georgia (Opening in October 2020)

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 14 Mukhuri - Mazeri Village - Mestia (approx. 140km day)

This morning drive north to the Svaneti region of Georgia deep in the Caucasus Mountains. Along the way stop near Enguri Dam (one of the highest arch dams in the world) and then continue onwards to the village of Mazeri, located at the foothill of charming Ushba mountain (4710m). Enjoy the unforgettable landscapes surrounding the village and the beautiful Shikhra Valley, home to several large waterfalls. Whilst in Mazeri you will also visit the Becho Canyon which is famous for its numerous mineral springs. Afterwards continue onwards to the mountain town of Mestia. Upon arrival check into the hotel/guest house where you will enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Mountain Mestia or Shgedi Mestia Hotel,

Mestia, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner

Day 15 Mestia - Ushguli - Mestia (approx. 90km day)

Today you will explore the beautiful Svaneti Region, which is surrounded by mountains, glaciers, high peaks and waterfalls. Be driven in 4x4 vehicles to Ushguli Village which is a community of four villages at the head of Enguri Gorge. It's considered one of the highest continuously inhabited settlements in Europe at 2100m above sea level and due to its particularly inaccessible location, it has kept a timeless feel. The road to Ushguli passes by the villages of Ipari and Kala. The small churches in these villages contain beautiful frescos and murals dedicated to the history of the region.

From here you will enjoy a walk where you may view the Shkhara Glacier. The surrounding villages contain old Svan Towers and buildings that make Ushguli part of the UNESCO World Heritage listed sites in Upper Svaneti. In the evening you will return to the hotel (approx. two hours) where you will spend the rest of the evening at your own leisure, with dinner included.

Overnight: Hotel Mountain Mestia or Shgedi Mestia Hotel, Mestia, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner

Day 16 Mestia & Surroundings

After breakfast, enjoy a tour to see one of the many Svan Towers, the symbol of Svaneti and many of which date back to medieval times. These defensive structures were built as protection from invaders and natural disasters. Afterwards continue to the Svaneti Museum, where you will find unique

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



THE ITINERARY

icons and manuscripts from the 4th to 6th centuries, as well as ethnic artifacts associated with Svaneti and its people. After your visit to the museum, you will travel back to the hotel where you can enjoy the rest of the evening to explore at your own leisure, with dinner included.

Optional: Hatsvali Cable Car - \$5-6 USD

Ride the Hatsvali Cable Car to enjoy magnificent panoramic views of the surrounding area (weather dependent - subject to closures).

Overnight: Hotel Mountain Mestia or Shgedi Mestia Hotel, Mestia, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner

Day 17 Mestia - Zugdidi - Anaklia - Kutaisi (approx. 290km day)

Today depart Mestia and head back towards the Kutaisi/ Tskaltubo Area. Along the way enjoy a lunch break in the town of Zugdidi (not included) and then a quick detour to the town of Anaklia which sits on the edge of the Black Sea. Upon arrival check into the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Please note: some departures may overnight in the nearby town of Tskaltubo (approx. 20 mins from Kutaisi).

Overnight: Argo Boutique Hotel, Kutaisi or Tskaltubo Plaza, Tskaltubo, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 18 Kutaisi - Gelati Academy and Monastery - Borjomi (approx. 130km day)

Today you will visit the 12th century Gelati Academy and Monastery a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterwards, drive

to the town of Borjomi. Borjomi is a resort town in central Georgia. It's known for its mineral waters and springs. Here you will take a walk in the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, where you can taste the famous mineral spring water.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Borjomi, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 19 Borjomi, Georgia - Vardzia Caves - Gyumri, Armenia (approx. 200km day)

Today continue driving down to southern Georgia towards the Armenian border. On the way make a short stop at the ancient Khertvisi Fortress then continue onwards to rock-hewn Vardzia. Vardzia is a cave monastery, which consists of approximately 600 rooms located in five, six, seven and sometimes twelve tiers. Vardzia has residential caves, spring, churches, refectories, bakeries, wine presses, stables, barracks and stores, secret tunnels, internal corridors and chapels. The complex was built in the 12th century, under the rule of Queen Tamar of Georgia and is truly an impressive sight. After visiting the complex enjoy a lunch break at a local farm (not included) before arriving at the Bavra Armenia-Georgia border. Here you will proceed through immigration and customs and be met by your Armenian Tour Leader who will take you onwards to the city of Gyumri.

Gyumri is Armenia's second-biggest city and is located in the northwestern part of the Shirak Province. Gyumri is a place where the traditions, legends, tales and simple human stories come together. This is one of the few places in Armenia where you can see architecture from different periods of time. This is a city of culture and the future technological hub of Armenia. This is an amazing opportunity to discover the 18th -19th

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



THE ITINERARY

century unique and indigenous architecture, cuisine and the most hospitable people. A walking tour will help to discover more of the historic flavor of the city and the lifestyle of Gyumri people.

Overnight: Viktoria Plaza, Gyumri, Armenia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 20 Gyumri - Ejmiatsin - Zvartnots - Yerevan (approx. 120km day)

Today travel onwards towards Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. The first stop of the day will be the spiritual centre of Armenia: Ejmiatsin (also known as Vaghharshapat). Here you will visit the Cathedral of Ejmiatsin, founded in 303, it's the official residence of the Catholicos of Armenia. Afterwards, continue onwards to the centuries-old monument Zvartnots. This site is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Zvartnots Temple was built in the 7th century by Nerses Builder Catholicos. Continue onwards to Yerevan and check into the hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure. Continue onwards to Yerevan and on arrival visit a brandy factory where you will enjoy a guided tour and some tastings. According to local legend, Armenians have been distilling wine into brandy since the 12th century Brandy production is still a big business in Armenia. Yerevan, the country's capital, boasts more brandy distillers per capita than any other city in the world, including Cognac. After this tour check into the hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Imperial Palace, Yerevan, Armenia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 21 Yerevan City Tour

After breakfast, embark on a tour of Yerevan, the capital of

Armenia. The city is known by locals as the 'pink city', due to the colour of stone commonly used on the buildings. In the city centre you will visit Republic Square and Mashtoc Avenue, where you will see some of the most prominent buildings and attractive structures. Next you will see the gorgeous Yerevan Cascade, a giant multi-level stairway built of limestone and adorned with modernist sculptures. The stairs direct visitors' gaze to views of central Yerevan and Mount Ararat. At the base of the Cascade is a garden courtyard with statues by contemporary sculptures such as Botero.

Continuing onwards you will visit the Yerevan Theatre of Opera and Ballet which officially opened in 1933, with Alexander Spendiaryan's Almast opera performance. Next stop is the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, a museum and repository of ancient manuscripts.

Afterwards, you will visit a local house where you will have the chance to see and participate in the preparation of the Armenian national bread: lavash. This bread is very thin and sold in very large forms. It's usually cooked in a ground oven: "tonir". In 2014, "Lavash, the preparation, meaning and appearance of traditional bread as an expression of culture in Armenia" was inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Here you will enjoy the "Armenian fast food" - lavash and cheese.

After this enjoy a trip to Garni, a Pagan Temple built in the 1st century AD. It's the only temple that has been preserved from the Pagan times in Armenia. It was devoted to the god Mihr, who was the god of cleanliness. In 1679 it was destroyed by an earthquake and in 1975 the Temple was restored. After this, continue the tour with a trip to Geghard Monastery. Its name came from the legendary lance that was used to pierce the

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



THE ITINERARY

body of Christ. It has been kept here for centuries. Though the exact foundation of the monastery is unknown, the present complex was built in the mid – 13th century. Afterwards, return to Yerevan for an evening at leisure, or alternatively enjoy a traditional Armenian folk show and dinner (not included).

Optional Activity - Armenian Folk Show & Dinner - approx. \$20 USD per person (paid on tour).

Overnight: Imperial Palace, Yerevan, Armenia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 22 Yerevan Free Day

Today is free at leisure to explore this charming capital city, or alternatively you can take part in an optional tour (not included).

Optional Tour - Khor Virap Monastery, Noravank Monastery & Areni Village Tour - \$35 per person

After breakfast, you will take a trip to Khor Virap Monastery - which translates as “deep dungeon”. Located in the Ararat Plain, near the closed border with Turkey, the monastery was host to a theological seminary and was the residence of Armenian Catholicos, Gregory the Illuminator. Here enjoy the spectacular view of the sacred Ararat Mountain - an immortal symbol of Armenia with the monastery being surrounded by green pasture lands and vineyards.

You will then continue to Noravank, an Armenian monastery built in the 13th century and nestled in a gorge by the Amaghu, amongst amazing sheer rocks on the twisted bends of the river. The monastery is best known for its two-storey Surb Astvatsatsin (Holy Mother of God) church, which grants access

to the second floor by way of a narrow stone-made staircase jutting out from the face of the building.

The tour ends with a stop in the village of Areni, an important centre in the production of wine. You will travel back to the hotel where you will have the rest of the day to spend at your own leisure.

Overnight: Imperial Palace, Yerevan, Armenia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 23 Yerevan - Lake Sevan - Dilijan, Armenia - Tbilisi, Georgia (approx. 300km day)

Today you will drive to Lake Sevan, one of the largest freshwater high altitude lakes in Eurasia, where you will take a short cruise on the lake to enjoy the scenery and stunning blue water. Afterwards visit Sevanavank Monastery, a monastic complex in the Gegharkunik Province of Armenia.

Continuing onwards, you will drive to Dilijan and enjoy a city tour. Usually called Armenian Switzerland or Little Switzerland by the locals, it's one of the most important resorts of Armenia, situated within the Dilijan National Park. The forested and reclusive town is home to numerous Armenian artists, composers, and filmmakers and features some traditional Armenian architecture. Sharambeyan Street in the centre has been preserved and maintained as an “old town”, complete with craftsman’s workshops, a gallery and a museum.

Once you have had time to take in the history of the town of Dilijan, you will then be transferred to the hotel in Tbilisi, via the Sadakhlo border where you will transfer through the terminal for baggage scanning (this takes around 10-15 minutes). Once this process is complete you will be met and

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



THE ITINERARY

continue onto Tbilisi where you will have the rest of the day to spend at your own leisure or alternatively enjoy a traditional Georgian folk show and dinner (not included).

Optional Activity - Georgian Folk Show & Dinner - approx. \$25 USD per person (paid on tour).

Overnight: Coste Hotel, Citrus Hotel, Europe Hotel or Riverside Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 24 Tbilisi, Georgia - Australia

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight back to Australia.

Please note:

- Please note some flights may have long stopovers of up to 12 hours on the way home. Lounge passes or use of hotel accommodation may be purchased at your own expense.

- Some flights may not depart until late in the evening, and checkout will be at 12pm. Luggage storage facilities will be available so you may explore Tbilisi at leisure before being transferred back to your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast;In-Flight

Day 25 Arrive in Australia

Please note: some flights may arrive in Australia +1 day later.

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN

TOUR INCLUSIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

See the highlights of 3 amazing countries: Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan

Marvel at the contrast of old & new in bustling Baku

Enjoy a guided walk through Baku's Old City area, a UNESCO heritage site

Visit the Heydar Aliyev Centre, Baku's cultural centre and more

Explore Baku on a day free at leisure

Visit Georgian wine tunnels cellars carved into Caucasus Mountains

Explore the 16th century Ananuri Fortress, former residence of the Dukes of Aragvi

Visit a Caravanserai in the Silk Road town of Sheki

Travel through the Gudauri Ski Region in the Great Caucasus Range

Witness the striking landscapes of Khevi - alpine meadows and waterfalls

Travel to remote Gergeti Holy Trinity Church by 4x4

Explore Darial Gorge and Gveleti Waterfalls

See the UNESCO World Heritage listed Mtskheta historical monuments

Witness the magnificent panoramic views over Tbilisi from Narikala Fortress

Stroll Shardeni Street and Meidan Square known for their cafes and shopping

Travel to the famous Mtatsminda Park by funicular

Explore Tbilisi, the South Caucasus' cosmopolitan capital

Visit the museum and birthplace of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin

Discover the ancient rock-hewn town of Uplistsikhe

Visit a local pottery and farmers market

Take a short boat trip and see a beautiful waterfall in Martvili canyon

Enjoy a traditional Georgia cooking class in Mukhuri

See Enguri Dam, the second highest arch dam in the world

Visit the picturesque mountain village of Mazeri, nestled at the base of Mt Ushba

Journey to Ushguli, the highest permanently inhabited settlement in Europe

Witness mountains, glaciers and waterfalls in the beautiful Svaneti region

Visit the medieval stone Svan Towers, the symbol of Svaneti

See unique icons and manuscripts at Svaneti Museum

View the Black Sea from the town of Anaklia

See the monastic complex of Gelati Monastery and the 11th century Bagrati Cathedral

Visit the spa town of Borjomi, famous for its mineral springs

Explore the 12th century Vardzia Cave Monastery Complex, built into the surrounding rock

Stroll the lamp-lit, cobblestoned streets of Gyumri

Visit Ejmiatsin, the spiritual centre of Armenia, and its iconic cathedral

Witness the 7th century UNESCO World Heritage list Zvartnots Temple

Tour Yerevan, Armenia, one of the world's oldest cities

See the amazing Yerevan Cascade, Republic Square and more

Prepare and eat lavash bread with a local Armenian family

Explore the Garni Temple, a Pagan Temple from the 1st century

Visit UNESCO World Heritage listed Geghard Monastery

Enjoy a free day free at leisure in Yerevan

Admire the stunning scenery of Lake Sevan

Visit Dilijan, also known in Armenia as 'Little Switzerland'

25 DAY TOUR | GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



TOUR INCLUSIONS

FLIGHTS

Return international flights (economy class) ex SYD/MEL/BNE/ADL/PER

ACCOMMODATION

18 nights 4-star hotel accommodation

4 nights 3-star hotel accommodation

DINING

Enjoy 29 meals including daily breakfast and a traditional Georgian cooking class

TOUR ESSENTIALS

English speaking tour leaders and guides

Water (2 x bottles per person daily)

All entrance fees and local taxes

Airline taxes and surcharges

TRANSPORT

Transportation by private A/C vehicles

4x4 private vehicles to Gergeti and Ushguli

TRANSFERS

Return airport transfers

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*Please note: all information provided in this brochure is subject to both change and availability. Prior to purchase please check the current deal for up-to-date information. If you have already purchased this deal, the terms and conditions on your Purchase Confirmation apply and take precedence over the information in this brochure.

BOOKING INFORMATION

After purchase, you will receive a receipt and a Purchase Confirmation, directing you to an online Passenger Information Form. The Passenger Information Form must be completed within 72 hours of purchase.

Any special requests, preferences and optional extras MUST be clearly stated in your Passenger Information Form. Any change requested after submitting your Passenger Information Form cannot be guaranteed, is strictly subject to availability and will incur surcharges as outlined in the Schedule of Fees below.

On purchasing this Travel Offer you are bound by the General Terms and Conditions, in addition to the specific terms and conditions outlined in this Important Information.

Please note: all additional charges are payable direct to your Travel Consultant in AUD (unless otherwise stated).

OFFER ESSENTIALS

Travel offer is valid for travel on selected dates until the 2nd October 2022.

This travel offer is priced for one person based on twin share.

Single Traveller Supplement

For solo travellers a mandatory single supplement of \$1000 applies.

Departure Dates

Please see the TripADeal website for current departure dates.

Surcharges

*Please note: dates/months with a * incur a flight high season surcharge of \$200 per*

person.

Departure Cities

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth

FLIGHTS

Full Service Airline(s) Used

Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, Etihad Airways, Emirates, Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa, Swiss Airways, Austrian Airlines, Finnair, Cathay Pacific, Oman Air plus any codeshare partners (subject to availability).

Arrive early in Baku, Azerbaijan

\$200 per person, subject to availability

Please note:

- This fee does not include extra nights accommodation, meals or airport transfers.
- No flight booking changes or cancellations permitted after air tickets have been issued.
- Flight changes are subject to availability at the time of booking

Stay behind in Tbilisi, Georgia

\$200 per person, subject to availability

Please note:

- This fee does not include extra nights accommodation, meals or airport transfers.
- No flight booking changes or cancellations permitted after air tickets have been issued.
- Flight changes are subject to availability at the time of booking.

Stopover Packages

Twin share: \$550 per person/one way

Solo Traveller: \$850 one way

Locations:

* Doha

Includes:

- 2 Nights in 4 star accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Return airport transfers

Please note:

- A pre and post-tour stopover may be chosen; however the stopover location must be the same each way, due to the airline used.

- Stopover packages are subject to availability.

Flight Class Upgrades

- Premium Economy: Not available.
- Business Class: Buy now for \$6599 per person

Please note:

- All Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are subject to availability (if we are not able to fulfill your business class request the upgrade cost will be refunded).
- On any upgrade purchase, short haul flights and domestic flight sectors are not guaranteed in a Premium or Business cabin; subject to aircraft configuration.
- If Abu Dhabi, Dubai or Doha stopovers are offered, Premium Economy upgrades will not be available

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation Used 4 Star (self-rated)

- Baku, Azerbaijan: Qafqaz Baku City Hotel
- Sheki, Azerbaijan: Sheki Palace Hotel or Sheki Saray Hotel
- Kvareli, Georgia: Kvareli Eden Hotel
- Gudauri, Georgia: Gudauri Lodge
- Tbilisi, Georgia: Coste Hotel, Citrus Hotel, Europe Hotel or Riverside Hotel
- Kutaisi/Tskaltubo, Georgia: Argo Boutique Hotel or Tskaltubo Plaza
- Borjomi, Georgia: Crowne Plaza Hotel



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Gyumri, Armenia: Viktoria Plaza Hotel
- Yerevan, Armenia: Imperial Palace Hotel

3 Star (self-rated)

- Mukhuri, Georgia: Buki Hotel (brand new hotel opening in October 2020)
- Mestia, Georgia: Hotel Mountain Mestia or Shgedi Mestia Hotel

Please note: Accommodation/rooms offered are based on a lead-in room type, and are subject to availability based on seasonality. Properties will be confirmed, no later than two weeks prior to travel.

Extra Nights

- Baku, Azerbaijan (Pre Tour): \$160 per room including breakfast.
- Tbilisi, Georgia (Post Tour): \$210 per room including breakfast.

Please note: extra nights are subject to availability until the time of booking. Airport transfers are not included if you wish to arrive early or stay behind.

Maximum Room Capacity

2 people.

Child Policy

- No child discounts. Full price applies for all children travelling with their parents.
- Valid for Children/infants 10 years old and over.

Please note: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years old and over to travel. No unaccompanied minors allowed.

Triple Share

Not available.

Bedding Configuration

2 x Single or 1 x Queen/King (subject to availability).

Adjoining / Interconnecting Rooms

Subject to availability and at the hotels discretion. Please enquire on booking if you require this option.

GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Minimum group size 10, maximum group size 20 per vehicle.

Optional Tours / Activities

Day 4: Baku: Gobustan & Mud Volcanoes Tour - \$100 per person

Day 22: Yerevan: Khor Virap Monastery, Noravank Monastery & Areni Village Tour - \$35 per person

Please note:

- Prices are based on per person, are subject to availability, time permitting and weather conditions.
- The optional tours listed above must be purchased on checkout or over the phone prior to submitting your passenger information form (subject to availability)
- Some tours require minimum numbers to operate.

EXCLUSIONS

- Visa fees and requirements (A tourist visa is not required if travelling to Georgia or Armenia on an Australian passport, but an e-visa is required for Azerbaijan)
- Meals/beverages not stated in the itinerary
- Recommended gratuities/tipping: \$4 USD per person/day payable on tour.
- Optional activities/tours
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance (Mandatory)

Please note: A comprehensive travel Insurance policy must be organised BEFORE all details can be finalised.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TOUR GUIDE VS. TOUR LEADER

Tour Guide:

Often locals with intimate knowledge of an area, its culture, and history. Their role entails providing commentary, routing the tour, and seeing that people have a good time. They are a licensed, qualified expert who supplies specific information on history, art, architecture and culture of the city/village/attraction in which he or she is guiding the tour. The guide meets the group at the required place and leaves the group at the end of the tour, they do not travel with the group.

Tour Leader:

An experienced person tasked with ensuring the smooth operation of tours, as well as providing practical support to passengers throughout the whole trip. Their role primarily includes assisting with accommodation, transportation between locations, and communication with tour guides in each stop. A tour leader may provide general guidance around a city or village, and offer information on the place visited on the bus, however they are not required to have specific knowledge on art, architecture, or history. They are not allowed to provide a guided tour or commentary of a city/village/attraction once there and if caught doing so, can be fined.

Please note: Tour leaders/guides are not a standard inclusion in all travel offers. Tour leaders/guides will only be made available when particularly required to enhance the experience of the destination featured.

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Baku, Azerbaijan:

Baku has a temperate semi-arid climate with hot and humid summers, cool and occasionally wet winters, and strong winds all year long.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Tbilisi, Georgia:

The city experiences very warm summers and moderately cold winters. Like other regions of Georgia, Tbilisi receives significant rainfall throughout the year with no distinct dry period.

Mestia, Georgia:

The climate of Mestia is humid and is influenced by the air masses coming in from the Black Sea throughout the year. Average temperatures and precipitation vary considerably with elevation.

Yerevan, Armenia:

Yerevan features a continental influenced steppe climate with long, hot, dry summers and short, but cold and snowy winters. This is attributed to Yerevan being on a plain surrounded by mountains and to its distance from the sea and its effects.

FLIGHTS

Seat Selection & Frequent Flyer Points:

At TripADeal we do not arrange seat selection. It is important to highlight that some Airlines do not allow pre-selected seats. We strongly suggest you contact the Airline directly with seating allocation requirements and or arrive at the airport earlier to arrange your seating. While we do not add frequent flyer member details to bookings, you can do this directly with the Airline once you have your flight information.

Passport Validity:

Customers are required to provide valid passport details either at the time of purchase, or no later than 45 days prior to departure date. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the booking. In this instance customers will be responsible for any costs and fees incurred.

COACH TOUR

Meals:

29 meals are included in the tour, for all other meals; lunches and dinners the tour leader (when available) will offer assistance with reservations, suggestions and directions to local restaurants. It is your responsibility to notify TripADeal of any dietary requests/requirements.

Please note: we will do our best to meet your requests/requirements, however cannot guarantee that we will always be able to.

Luggage:

You will be responsible for all your personal belongings whilst on the tour. With regards to luggage, you must carry your own luggage from the coach to the hotel room and back to the coach. The driver will assist with the uploading and off-loading of the luggage from the coach.

OTHER

Fitness Level Required / Mobility:

Our vehicles are not equipped with wheelchair access, so unfortunately our tours are currently not suitable for wheelchair users and those less mobile.

Please note: a moderate level of fitness will be required. There will be some walking tours of up to 2 hours in length on uneven surfaces/cobbled streets and around archaeological sites. Not all hotels will have lift facilities and walking upstairs to the hotel room may be required. If you have any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.

Yellow Fever:

A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate.

It's also quite common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate on your arrival back home. It is your responsibility to check with your doctor well in advance of leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

Gratuities / Tipping:

- Gratuities (tips) are not included in the tour price for services of the tour leader (when available) and driver throughout the tour. The recommended tip is \$4 USD per person per day this covers the guide/leader and the driver, which will be collected whilst on tour.

- Tipping for all services provided on tour is always a matter of personal discretion, however please be aware that tipping is considered by many locals to be a part of their normal remuneration and they may approach you for payment and there is no need to be intimidated by the request.

Sightseeing:

Please note: In the event entrance to a site is affected by changes in operating hours or public holiday closures, your itinerary where possible, will be adjusted or an similar activity will be offered in its place (subject to availability).

Shopping:

Shopping overseas can be a daunting and confusing experience, especially when there is a language barrier. Please be very cautious when foreign currencies and prices are involved. If paying by credit card, please pay close attention to the amount you are being charged and keep all of your receipts.

Do not make any purchases you are not comfortable with or feel pressured into. If you are uncertain or need assistance with the language barrier, please seek assistance from your Tour Guide/Leader.

Please refer to our Terms and Conditions in regards to shopping for further information.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VISAS

Georgia

Australian passport holders can visit Georgia without a visa for periods of up to 12 months.

Armenia

Australian passport holders can visit Armenia without a visa for up to 180 days per year.

Azerbaijan

- A tourist visa is required for Azerbaijan if travelling on an Australian passport. Electronic visas (e-visa) are for single entry, 30 day stays are available online through Azerbaijan's State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations here: <https://evisa.gov.az/en#>. Allow at least three business days for online applications to be processed and ensure your passport is valid for at least three months from the expiry date of the e-visa.

- If your passport contains visas/stamps from the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, you'll likely encounter difficulties at Azerbaijan border control points and could be refused entry into Azerbaijan.

Important: Please start arranging your visa at least 3 weeks prior to departure to account for any delays due to consulate operating hours.

Please note: Passengers who are not Australian citizens must check with the respective consulate or visa agency to determine what their visa requirements are and what personal identification is required. It is also important to note, some areas of employment such as journalism, government authorities and charity organisations may have additional restrictions in applying for Visas. This may in turn affect the type of application required.

INSURANCE

We are proud to offer a range of travel

insurance products - please ask your Travel Consultant for more information.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Voluntary Changes

This includes booking changes requested by you, including but not limited to those changes requiring an airline ticket, date/accommodation changes or a Purchase Confirmation reissue.

- Changes - \$100.00 per booking + any additional charges applied by the airline/accommodation/other travel provider.

Name Changes Due To Passenger Error

- If the incorrect name has been advised to TripADeal, charges of \$100 per booking + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.

Supplier Fees

In the event the Travel Offer you have purchased is unable to proceed, and/or a travel Supplier is unable to fulfil the Travel Offer due to external circumstances (Limitation of Liability e.g. a Force Majeure event), there may be a fee or amount of money that is withheld by our Suppliers and is unrecoverable. This may be due to non-refundable airline tickets, cancellation penalties with cruise cabins or unrecoverable payments with our land/accommodation partners. TripADeal has committed to these costs as your Agent and will endeavour to recover all funds committed and/or paid for your Travel Offer, but this may not be possible in all circumstances. If refunds are not available from Suppliers, we will endeavour to obtain a travel credit on the best terms available and communicate these outcomes to you. In the event, TripADeal is unable to obtain a refund or travel service credit, or part thereof, this cost is passed on to the customer as a Supplier Fee. This fee is not revenue-raising and is paid to or withheld by our suppliers when

recovering payments.