

10D9N

LOVELY GEORGIA AZERBAIJAN ARMENIA

MINIMUM : 12 ADULTS

TOUR CODE : GE10-3C

TRAVEL PERIOD : UNTIL MARCH 2018



DAY 1 - Tbilisi

Meet and greet at Tbilisi International Airport. Transfer to hotel and check-in. Overnight in Tbilisi.

DAY 2 - Tbilisi > Gori > Uplistsikhe > Borjoni > Akhaltsikhe (B/D)

After breakfast, drive to Gori, home town of Stalin. Visit the house, where he was born. Then proceed to visit cave town Uplistsikhe, which was carved in the rocks in the VI C. BC. and was one of the important cities along the historical Silk Road. Drive to spa resort Borjomi, have a walk in the beautiful natural mineral water's park and drive to Akhaltsikhe - main town of Samtskhe-Javakheti province, which was part of the Ottoman Empire. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Akhaltsikhe.

DAY 3 - Akhaltsikhe > Vardzia > Gyumri (B)

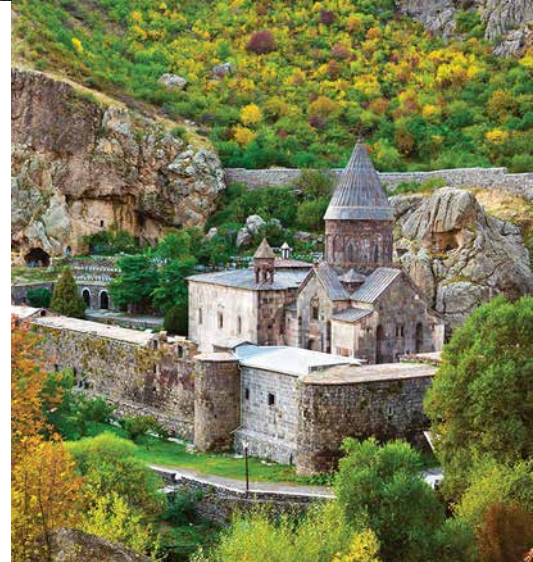
After breakfast, head to Vardzia, 12th century city carved in the rock in Southern Georgia. Its construction is linked to Queen Tamar, one of the strongest sovereigns of Georgia. The huge 13-storey complex includes 250 caves. The extant church is located in the central part and the fresco of Queen Tamar is one of its treasures. After visiting Vardzia, we will proceed to Armenia border. After visa formalities we will change bus and guide and continue our tour. From there, we will drive to Gyumri, the second City of Armenia. Gyumri is one of the ancient settlements that has a history of over 3,000 years which has preserved unique specimens of the culture of Armenian urbanization, marvelous architectural complexes, whole traditional quarters, streets, public and commercial buildings, as well as unique fortifications. Visit the following places: 5 minute photo stop at Dzitoghtsonts Mansion, a wealthy family house, walking in Kumayri reserve with its over 1600 well preserved 18-19th century houses, Vardanants or Freedom Square, Seven Wounds' Church, Rijkov Pedestrian Avenue, Russian Orthodox Church. Overnight in Gyumri.

DAY 4 - Gyumri > Etchmiadzin > Zvartnots > Yerevan (B)

Drive towards Armavir region, Etchmiadzin city, included in UNESCO World Heritage List. Visit Hripsime church. Visit the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin (303AD). Drive to Yerevan. On the way visit the ruins of Zvartnots Temple (643AD). There are amazing jars from the Bronze Age (3rd-2nd c BC) kept in Zvartnots. Return to Yerevan. Visit State History Museum. Dinner at the traditional Armenian restaurant with folklore music. Overnight in Yerevan.

DAY 5 - Yerevan > Kotayk > Yerevan (B/L)

Yerevan City tour: Parliament Building, President's Residence, Academy of Sciences, Opera House, Cascade, The statue of Alexander Tamanyan - the architect of Yerevan. Visit Matenadaran - institute and museum of medieval manuscripts. Drive to Kotayk region. Visit Garni pagan temple (1st c. AD). (4-13th CC.). In Garni participate in Armenian traditional bread "lavash" making. Lunch in Garni at a local house. Return to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.



INCLUSION

- Accommodation
- Meals as per itinerary
- Transfer as per itinerary
- Sightseeing tour as per itinerary
- English speaking tour guides
- Traditional Armenian bread "lavash" making in a local house in Garni
- Wine tasting in local family winery in Georgia

EXCLUSION

- Air ticket
- Visa for Armenia at the border
- Visa for Azerbaijan (Must be obtained electronically in advance)
- Portage fees
- Personal travel insurance
- Other services not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Lunches & dinners not mentioned in the itinerary
- Tipping for local guide and driver

DAY 6 - Yerevan > Lake Sevan > Dilijan > Lori > Tbilisi (B/D)

Head to Lake Sevan, the largest lake in Armenia at an altitude of 1900m above sea level. Visit Monastery of Sevanavank. Continue to Dilijan National Park, a protected area renowned for its serene lakes, picturesque hill trails and peaceful villages, also known as "Armenia's Little Switzerland". Stroll down and experience Old Dilijan Complex on historic Sharambeyan Street. Drive to Lori region, visit Haghpat Monastic, listed in UNESCO World Heritage List. Proceed to the Armenian - Georgian border. Meet new guide and transfer to Tbilisi for evening walk sightseeing. There are different religious buildings and 19th century houses with wooden multi-colored balconies. We'll take a cable car ride if circumstances permit. Visit the sulfur bath which made an unforgettable impression on Pushkin, Lermontov, Dumas. Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in Tbilisi.

DAY 7 - Tbilisi (B)

Visit ancient capital of Georgia - Mtskheta, a UNESCO site with its 2 magnificent churches Jvari and Svetitskhoveli. Jvari Church gives beautiful view on the city itself and Svetitskhoveli is where the robe of Christ is buried. After Mtskheta, enjoy wine tasting and lunch in a traditional family winery producing traditional Georgian wine. (Lunch for additional fees). After lunch, proceed to Tbilisi for city tour. 1500 years history as a capital, it is famous for its Tbilisi Baths - natural spring waters with sulfur. We will visit this famous baths, also XVII C. Head to Metekhi church where you can see different churches, also Jewish Synagogue and Muslim Mosque side by side as a symbol of Georgian tolerance. We also visit Narikala fortress, Cathedral Sameba - which is the highest Orthodox Church and the oldest church of Tbilisi - Anchiskhati (VI-VII C). and the oldest café of Tbilisi - "café Gabriadze". We also visit Rustaveli Avenue with authentic European Architecture buildings of the 19th century. Proceed to National Museum of Georgia. Overnight in Tbilisi.

DAY 8 - Tbilisi > Kakheti > Lagodekhi > Sheki (B)

Drive to Kakheti, well known for its wine producing. Enjoy superb views of the Great Caucasus Mountains and valleys of Kakheti. Visit fortified town of love - Signaghi, preserved its original image and now offers stunning views of the surrounding Caucasus Mountains. Enjoy leisure walk and wine tasting at a local winery "Pheasant's Tears" founded by an American painter. Transfer to Georgia-Azerbaijan border (Lagodekhi), meet with new guide and transfer to Sheki after border formalities. Overnight in Sheki.

DAY 9 - Sheki > Shemakha > Diri Baba Tomb > Yeddi Gumbez > Baku (B)

Explore Sheki, one of the most famous places of Azerbaijan surrounded by the mountains and forests of oak trees. This ancient city was an important stop on the Great Silk Route. We'll start visiting the 18th century Khan's summer palace with magnificent frescos and exquisite stained glass work and Sheki History Museum. Head to town of Shemakha, Diri Baba Tomb and Yeddi Gumbez. Shemakha was the capital of Shirvan Kingdom for several centuries. Yeddi Gumbez (The Seven Cupolas) Mausoleum is the burial place for Shirvan Shahs royal families. Continue to Baku. Arrive and check-in to the hotel. Overnight in Baku

DAY 10 - Baku > Yanar Dag > Airport (B)

Discover Baku. The city is shaped like an amphitheater, descending down to the Caspian Sea. Tour covers the central part of the city called "Old Town" or "Inner City", a small fraction of Baku but concentrated architectural and historical monuments like Maiden Tower (XII century), Palace of Shirvanshahs (XV century), Castle Synyk Gala, Caravan Saray, Juma Mosque and more.

Visit Temple of Zoroastrians – "Atashgah", an ancient religious structure built in place of natural gas output. In the former cells, where pilgrims from around the world are now museum, containing many unique original exhibits. Excursion to Yanar Dag known for its burning rock, a nature phenomenon, incessant burning nature gas on the rock. According to historians, this place may have given the name "the fire country" to Azerbaijan. Transfer to the airport. End of service.

**REMARKS**

- Deposit required upon confirmation
- Price basis is twin-sharing
- Confirmation subject to availability
- Itinerary subject to change depending on circumstances
- Change of guide and driver at the border.