# EXPLORE CAUCASUS TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



# <u>AZERBAIJAN</u>

 Icheri Shahar (Old Baku), Rock Art Cultural Landscape, Sheki

### **GEORGIA**

 Tbilisi City Tour, Kazbegi, Mtskheta, Uplistsikhe, Sighnagi

# **ARMENIA**

 Yerevan City Tour, Echmiadzin, Zvartnots, Khor Virap, Lake Sevan, Garni Temple, Geghard Monastery,

### **ITINERARY**

### **DAY 01**

#### ARRIVAL IN BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Meal -/D Upon arrival at Baku International airport, meet and greet by a local guide. Transfer to hotel for check in. Evening, start Baku sightseeing tour with visits to **Memory Lane** "Shehidler Khiyabany", enjoy panoramic view of Baku city from the Martyrs Lane. Continue to medieval fortress of **Old Baku – "Icheri Shahar**", Maiden Tower, The complex of "Shirvan Shahs" Palace, Medieval Karvansaray, Medieval Market Square, Handmade carpet workshop and the Old Town. Overnight in Baku.

### **DAY 02**

### BAKU > GOBUSTAN > ABSHERON > BAKU

Meal

B/L/D

After breakfast transfer to Gobustan to visit **Rock Art Cultural Landscape** (UNESCO). Drive to the Temple of Fire Worshippers – **Ateshgah** and visit **Yanardag**, which is translated as "Fire Mountain". On the way visit the **Mardakan Castle** dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Overnight in Baku.

# **DAY 03**

### **BAKU > SHAMAKHY > SHEKI**

Meal

B/L/D

Depart for Shamakhy and visit the town, **Diri Baba Tomb and Yeddi Gumbez**. After lunch drive to Sheki. Upon arrival, start with Sheki sightseeing tour. Visit the local medieval fortress **Sheki Khan's Palace**, local museum of history and enjoy panoramic view of the town. Overnight in Sheki

### **DAY 04**

### SHEKI > LAGODEKHI (GEORGIA) > TELAVI

Meal

B/L/D

Transfer to Azerbaijan- Georgia border **Lagodekhi**. After immigration formalities, meet Georgia local guide at the border and proceed to Kakheti region. Tour **Sighnaghi** and visit ancient wall-fortress and enjoy breathtaking views of Alazani valley. Sighnaghi is a small town in the east of Georgia situated on the mountainside in the historical region of Kakheti. Overnight in Telavi.

# **DAY 05**

# TELAVI > TBILISI

Meal

B/L/D

Tour to **Gremi Monastery**, the royal citadel and the Church of Archangels, this town once was the capital of the Kakheti region. Continuation of the sightseeing program and proceed to visit **Tsinandali** family museum. Today you will visit the historic winery of **Alexander Chavchavadze**, a famous Georgian poet and public figure. Transfer to Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi











**DAY 06** 

**TBILISI** 

Meal B/L/D Start city tour with visits to Abanotubani (district of sulfur baths) - built on natural hot Sulphur springs in XVII-XIX; Tbilisi Mosque and Synagogue; Narikala fortress - the old citadel, was the main fortress of the city; Metekhi Church of Blessed Virgin Mary (XIII AC) and the Cathedral of Holy Trinity Sameba, built in 1996 -2004 which became the main cathedral of Georgian Orthodox Church. At the end of the tour we will take a walk on Rustaveli Avenue, which is the main street of the city. Free time for shopping of souvenirs. Overnight in Tbilisi.

**DAY 07** 

### TBILISI > KAZBEGI > TBILISI

Meal B/L/D Start the journey with Ananuri castle. represents multifunctional architectural complex located on the main trade rout leading to the North, to Russia and in past it was part of the Great Silk Road. Nowadays the road is called the Georgian Military Highway. Transfer to Kazbegi with visit to Gergeti Trinity Church, beautifully situated on the top of the hill, overlooking Kazbegi, is the main chapel of the Khevi region. Its impressive location, set before the stunning backdrop of the snow-capped, 5033m high Mt. Kazbek makes it a unique place to experience. Head back to Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi.

**DAY 08** 

### TBILISI > MTSKHETA > GORI & UPLISTSIKHE > TBILISI

Meal B/L/D

Drive to Mtskheta City - the old capital of Georgia. Sightseeing Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Jvari Monastery. Mtskheta has been Georgia's spiritual heart since Christianity. It was the capital of Georgia from about the 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD. This town is located approximately 20 kilometres north of Tbilisi, at the confluence of the Aragvi and Kura rivers. First, we see Jvari Monastery, which means Monastery of the Cross. Next, we will visit Svetitskhoveli cathedral (11th century) literally, "the Living Pillar", known as the burial site of Christ's mantle. It is listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site along with other historical monuments of Mtskheta visit the ancient rock-hewn town Uplistsikhe (VI-IV BC). Built on a high rocky left bank of the Mtkvari River, Uplistsikhe is notable for the unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures, as well as the co-existence of pagan and Christian architecture. It is suggested to be one of the oldest urban settlements in Georgia. Proceed to Gori to visit Stalin's Museum. Transfer back to Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi.

**DAY 09** 

### TBILISI > HAGHPAT (ARMENIA) > LAKE SEVAN > YEREVAN

Meal B/L/D

Drive to Sadakhlo border, change of bus and guide after the immigration formalities. Drive to Haghpat Monastery (UNESCO), one of the largest religious, cultural and educational centers of medieval Armenia. Drive to Lake Sevan via Dilijan resort town. Visit Lake Sevan, Sevanavank Monastery and sightseeing on the peninsula. Continue journey to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

**DAY 10** 

# YEREVAN > KHOR VIRAP > ECHMIADZIN > ZVARTNOTS > YEREVAN

Meal

B/L/D

Start journey to Ararat Valley to visit Khor Virap Monastery, located in the place of an ancient capital of Armenia - Artashat. The significance of the church is relatively connected with Grigor Illuminator who was spreading Christianity in Armenia. Depart to visit Echmiadzin Cathedral (UNESCO) a holy place, one will be impressed by the spiritual atmosphere around and can hit a candle just for his/her dreams. Here we will have lunch in a local community which is also a school for "Children with limited disabilities". Here we will help them to build up their sculptures and will also help the community with building reconstruction. Drive back to Yerevan with a stop at the ruins of Zvartnots Temple. Visit Brandy Factory for brandy degustation. Overnight in Yerevan.

**DAY 11** 

# YEREVAN > GARNI & GEGHARD > YEREVAN

Meal

B/L/D

Start city tour in Yerevan includes visits to a high scale viewpoint over the city, **Abovyan** Street, Republic Square, Opera House and Swam Lake. Visit Cascades which is an open air museum. Visit **Tsitsernakaberd Memorial** and the museum of victims of Genocide. Depart to the Temple of Garni built by the Romans in the classical Greek style with columns and altar. The columns and cornice of the temple are decorated with rich ornaments. Next stop is Geghard Monastery, located at the cliff and is surrounded by steep rocks. The monastic complex includes the Katoghike church, part of which is cut in the rock, the cave church, cave ladders, khachkars and the underwater river. According to legend water has a healing power. Return to Yerevan and visit Vernissage flea market where you can buy different kinds of Armenian traditional souvenirs. Overnight in Yerevan.















# **DAY 12**

# YEREVAN > DEPARTURE

Meal B/- After breakfast, free until time to be transferred to airport for flight departure. End of service.

# **INCLUSION**

- 11 Nights hotel accommodation
- Fullboard meals as per itinerary
- Return airport transfer
- English speaking Guide
- Sightseeing, entrance fees, activities & transport services as per itinerary

### **EXCLUSION**

- International air ticket
- Visa
- Beverages not included in the meals
- Additional / Special meals
- Personal expenses
- Other charges in the hotel for additional services
- Peak season surcharge
- Tipping for Driver and Guide

### **REMARKS**

- Minimum 10 pax to go
- Special meals can be arranged upon request with additional charges
- Tour itinerary sequence may be different, subject to any necessary changes in accordance to local requirements
- Price quoted is subject to change without prior notice.
- GATS terms & conditions apply

