

TOUR DOSSIER

Aspirational Travel to Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan Tel: +44 (0) 20 30 51 76 40 info@best-of-caucasus.co.uk www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk

Highlights of Azerbaijan - 6 days

AZ-01



DEPARTURE DATES:

Experience the wonders of Azerbaijan on this captivating 6-day tour. Immerse yourself in the country's rich cultural heritage and explore the dynamic transformation of its capital, Baku. Discover ancient treasures such as Gobustan's petroglyphs and the Ateshgah Fire Temple, alongside awe-inspiring natural phenomena like Yanar Dag and the mud volcanoes. Delve into the medieval charm of Icheri Sheher and marvel at the futuristic architecture of the Heydar Aliyev Cultural Centre and Flame Towers. This journey seamlessly blends history, tradition, and modernity, offering an unforgettable adventure in the "Land of Fire."

09.05.2025; 16.05.2025; 23.05.2025; 30.05.2025; 06.06.2025; 13.06.2025; 20.06.2025; 27.06.2025; 04.07.2025; 11.07.2025; 18.07.2025; 25.07.2025; 01.08.2025; 08.08.2025; 15.08.2025; 22.08.2025; 29.08.2025; 05.09.2025; 12.09.2025; 26.09.2025; 03.10.2025; 10.10.2025; 17.10.2025; 24.10.2025; 31.10.2025; 07.11.2025; 14.11.2025; 21.11.2025; 28.11.2025; 05.12.2025; 12.12.2025; 19.12.2025.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Baku

Upon arrival at the international airport of Baku you'll be met by our representative for your transfer to the hotel. After check in there'll be free time. You'll overnight in Baku. (D)

Day 2 - Baku

After breakfast, we begin our discovery of the city of Baku. You'll enjoy a sightseeing tour of Baku with a visit to the city's monumental, historical and architectural attractions as well as taking in a panorama of the Azeri capital and its bay from Upland Park, the city's highest point. From there we'll make our way down to the old city, also known as Icheri sheher. This area contained all of Baku until the mid-19th century when, as a result of the oil boom, growth spilled beyond its defensive walls. This tiny area measures just 22 square hectares yet contains many of the city's must-see sights, including the Shirvanshakhs Palace, the Maiden Tower and the Karavansaray, once the place of merchants' rest. Today, 1300 families still call Icheri sheher home, this ancient city found within the modern city of Baku. It's a delightful place to take an evening stroll through the warren of streets to Fountains Square. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 3 - Baku - Gobustan - Yanar Dag - Baku

Today, after breakfast, your guide will be ready to collect you for an exciting excursion to Gobustan National Park. Located in East Azerbaijan, Gobustan borders the southern slopes of the Major Caucasus ridge and stretches to the Caspian Sea in the east. This UNESCO World Heritage site is an archaeological reserve, home to over 6,000 ancient petroglyphs, some dating back as far as the 18th century BC. The rock carvings offer a fascinating glimpse into early human life, depicting scenes such as mountain goat hunts, ceremonial dances, and maritime activities. You will also explore ancient caves and archaeological remains that provide insight into the cultural and environmental history of the region. Afterward, the tour will take you to the mud volcanoes of Gobustan, one of the most remarkable geological features of Azerbaijan. The region boasts the highest concentration of mud volcanoes in the world, where you can witness the natural phenomenon of mud bubbling and emitting gases from the earth, creating an otherworldly atmosphere. On the return journey to Baku, a stop will be made at Yanar Dag, also known as the "Burning Mountain." This natural gas-fueled phenomenon continuously emits flames up to three meters high from the sandstone hillside, earning Azerbaijan its nickname, "Land of Fire." Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 4 - Baku - Gala - Ateshgah - Ramana - Baku

Start your day with a journey through Azerbaijan's rich history and culture, visiting ancient sites and unique landmarks around Baku. Begin with a visit to Gala, located on the Absheron Peninsula. This open-air museum showcases life in ancient Azerbaijan, with exhibits including traditional houses, tools, pottery, and artifacts dating back to the 3rd century BC. Wander through recreated dwellings and learn about the lifestyles and customs of early settlers. Continue to the Ateshgah Fire Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of Azerbaijan's nickname, "Land of Fire." This 17th-century temple, built by Zoroastrian and Hindu communities, is centered around a natural gas vent that fueled eternal flames. Explore the complex and learn about its religious significance and history as a place of worship. Enjoy a traditional Azerbaijani lunch at a local restaurant on the

Absheron Peninsula, where you can savour dishes like kebabs, plov, and fresh salads. Then head to the Ramana Fortress, a medieval structure built during the Shirvanshahs' reign to protect the Absheron Peninsula. This stone tower offers insights into the region's defensive architecture and provides stunning views of the surrounding landscape. Return to Baku in the evening. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 5 - Baku

Today we will immerse ourselves in the dynamic and modern side of the city, exploring landmarks that showcase its vibrant transformation. Begin with a leisurely stroll along Baku Boulevard, the city's picturesque waterfront promenade. Extending along the Caspian Sea, it offers stunning views of the skyline, including the iconic Flame Towers. These striking skyscrapers symbolise modern Azerbaijan, illuminating the city with dynamic LED displays at night. Our next stop is the Carpet Museum, a unique building designed in the shape of a rolled carpet. This architectural marvel houses an extensive collection of traditional Azerbaijani carpets, each telling a story of craftsmanship and cultural heritage. From here, we'll move to the Heydar Aliyev Cultural Centre, designed by the renowned architect Zaha Hadid. This masterpiece of fluid, wave-like architecture hosts exhibitions and cultural events, reflecting the country's forward-thinking vision. For a taste of contemporary leisure, we'll visit the Shopping Mall 28th May and Park Boulevard, two hubs of modern retail and entertainment. Located in the heart of the city and along the promenade, these malls offer an array of shops, cafes, and a chance to experience the cosmopolitan spirit of Baku. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 6 - Baku

After breakfast you'll transfer to the airport for departure. (B)

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

International flights
Accommodation
Guided tours & cultural programme
English - speaking guides
Half board meals
Ground transportation
Airport transfers
Azerbaijan e-visa

Not included

Personal travel insurance Optional excursions

Practical information

About Best of Caucasus company
How our tours are run
Contact our travel consultants

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT - 3* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
09/05/2025 - 14/05/2025	£995	£1395	£105
16/05/2025 - 21/05/2025	£995	£1395	£105
23/05/2025 - 28/05/2025	£995	£1395	£105
30/05/2025 - 04/06/2025	£995	£1395	£105
06/06/2025 - 11/06/2025	£995	£1395	£105
13/06/2025 - 18/06/2025	£995	£1395	£105
20/06/2025 - 25/06/2025	£995	£1395	£105
27/06/2025 - 02/07/2025	£995	£1395	£105
04/07/2025 - 09/07/2025	£995	£1395	£105
11/07/2025 - 16/07/2025	£995	£1395	£105
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12/09/2025 - 17/09/2025	£995	£1395	£105
26/09/2025 - 01/10/2025	£995	£1395	£105
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10/10/2025 - 15/10/2025	£995	£1395	£105

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PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

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ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please contact us for a quote.

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > Best of Azerbaijan 8 days (AZ-02), Price from £1,295, 8 days
- > Great Azerbaijan Discovery with Jewish Legacy 13 days (AZ-06), Price from £1,945, 13 days
- > Best of Georgia 10 days (GE-02), Price from £1,745, 10 days
- > Short Break in Istanbul 3 days (TR-01), Price from £645, 3 days

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Best of Caucasus holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to <u>www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk</u> and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Best of Caucasus, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@best-of-caucasus.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on +44 (0)20 30 51 76 40

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum BJ100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

YOUR NOTES

On request we can organise an additional programme for you, please <u>inquire</u> about the price and availability of the optional excursions.

Please find below some space to write down y	our queries or comments regarding this trip.