

Best of Azerbaijan - 8 days

AZ-02



DEPARTURE DATES:

Discover Azerbaijan on an unforgettable 8-day journey where ancient traditions meet modern wonders. Explore Baku's Old City, iconic Flame Towers, and the architectural marvel of the Heydar Aliyev Centre. Step back in time at Gobustan's petroglyphs, Yanar Dag's eternal flames, and Sheki's Silk Road treasures, including the Khan's Summer Palace and the village of Kish. From breathtaking landscapes to rich cultural heritage, each day offers a unique blend of history, nature, and modern charm, all paired with warm Azeri hospitality. Experience the heart of the Land of Fire on this extraordinary adventure!

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; 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

On arrival at Baku's international airport you'll be met by our representative for your transfer to the hotel. After check in there'll be free time. 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, our guide will be waiting to collect you for your included excursion to Gobustan National Park. Situated in East Azerbaijan, this archaeological reserve borders the southern slopes of the Major Caucasus ridge to the north, the Harami and Mishov Mountains to the south, the Pirsaat River to the west, and the Caspian Sea and Absheron peninsula to the east. Gobustan is a culturally significant landscape renowned for its myriad rock carvings and unique geological formations. Over 6,000 petroglyphs have been discovered here, along with many ancient caves and archaeological sites within the reserve. Incredibly, some have been dated to as early as the 18th century BC, offering a fascinating insight into the development of human activity in this area, with scenes depicting mountain goat hunts, ceremonial dances, and even maritime imagery, as this place once bordered the sea. In addition to exploring the stunning petroglyphs, you will also visit the famous mud volcanoes of Gobustan. These natural wonders, characterised by their bubbling mud and unique formations, provide a spectacular display of the region's dynamic geological activity. Observing the mud volcanoes offers an extraordinary glimpse into the earth's subterranean processes and adds a thrilling dimension to your excursion. On our way back to Baku, you'll stop at Yanar Dag. This intriguing natural phenomenon is called the Burning Rock, so named because it is fueled by seepage of natural gas. Flames up to three metres high regularly shoot from the sandstone hillside. Many believe that Yanar Dag is the reason Azerbaijan acquired its nickname, the Land of Fire. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

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

Today's exploration begins with a visit to Gala, an open-air museum located on the Apsheron Peninsula. This site offers an immersive glimpse into ancient Azerbaijani life, showcasing traditional homes, tools, pottery, and artifacts dating back to the 3rd century BC. Wander through reconstructed dwellings, explore historical exhibits, and learn about the customs of early inhabitants of the region. From Gala, we continue to Ateshgah, the Temple of Fire Worshippers, located near the village of Surakhani, approximately 30 kilometers from Baku. This historically significant site, revered by Zoroastrians, Hindus, and Sikhs, features a 17th-century pentagonal

structure with an open courtyard and a central altar. Built over a natural gas vent, it was a major pilgrimage site and stands today as a State Historical-Architectural Reserve, restored to reflect its past splendor. The day concludes with a visit to Ramana Castle, a medieval fortress believed to have been constructed during the Shirvanshah era. Its impressive 15-meter stone tower was likely built to protect a palace and offers commanding views of the surrounding landscape. The fortress provides a window into Azerbaijan's defensive architectural heritage. After the tour, return to Baku for an overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 5 - Baku

After returning to Baku, we will immerse ourselves in the vibrant charm of modern Baku, exploring its most iconic contemporary landmarks. Our journey begins at Baku Boulevard, a picturesque waterfront promenade stretching along the Caspian Sea. This lively area is perfect for a leisurely stroll and offers stunning views of the city's skyline, highlighted by the Flame Towers. These three iconic skyscrapers, shaped like flames, symbolize Azerbaijan's "Land of Fire" identity. As night falls, their dynamic LED displays create mesmerizing visuals that light up the city. Next, we'll visit the Carpet Museum, housed in a uniquely designed building that resembles a rolled-up carpet. Inside, you'll find an extensive collection of traditional Azerbaijani carpets, showcasing intricate patterns, weaving techniques, and cultural stories spanning centuries. We then head to the Heydar Aliyev Cultural Centre, a masterpiece designed by world-renowned architect Zaha Hadid. This fluid, wave-like structure is not only an architectural marvel but also a hub of culture and innovation, hosting exhibitions, concerts, and artistic displays that reflect Azerbaijan's progressive vision. For a taste of contemporary leisure, we'll visit Shopping Mall 28th May, a bustling retail destination located in the heart of the city. Finally, we'll explore Park Boulevard, a stylish mall situated along the promenade. Here, you can shop, relax at cosy cafes, and experience the cosmopolitan spirit of Baku. After a day of sightseeing and exploring, we'll return to our hotel for the night. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 6 - Baku - Shamakhi - Sheki

A visit to Azerbaijan reveals a long history. Shamakhi is one such place. Long ago it was the capital of the Shirvan Empire and home to the Shirvan Dynasty. Nowadays Shamakhi is known for its winemaking. Visiting this city you'll have an opportunity to explore the Yeddi Gumbez mausoleum. Its magnificent domes rise mysteriously above an almost silent valley with stunning views back to Shamakhi. Nearby, the tombs of Diri Baba are equally atmospheric, built into the rock with the appearance of an eagle's nest. Approaching, we see only one side; the others are hidden in the cliffs, giving the impression that the tomb is suspended off the ground. The monument has two storeys: the lower floor was probably for servants while the upper, reached by stairs, would have been the salon. Whether it is a sacred site or a place of burial is open to interpretation. Continuing our journey, we stop at Kish, the site of a centuries-old Albanian church incorporated into the Armenian Apostolic Church in 1836. Near the church you'll find an ancient cemetery where buried bodies are visible through a glass cupola. The remains impress with their height, appearing to be 2.5 metres or more. Ancient Albanian people were giants with white skin; their hair was golden. They looked unlike residents of the modern Caucasian nations. Overnight in Sheki. (B, D)

Day 7 - Sheki - Baku

An excursion to Sheki will delight; this is the oldest city in Azerbaijan. In ancient times people sold silk here. It was famous among merchants from the Great Silk Road. There's much to see here including the history museum. The star of Sheki's show is Khan's Summer Palace with its wonderful fa ades built from brick, river stones and oak, decorated with floral motives. Its interior design impresses even more. Within its six rooms, you can see different frescoes painted by talented craftsman; some of them feature flowers, while others give us pictures of hunting or battle scenes. There are two beautiful mirrored balconies, ornate decoration using rare coloured Venetian glass and exquisite paintings featuring colourful depictions of birds and animals. The first floor of this palace shows Khan's richness and powerful reign. A great number of animals and hunting motifs on the walls are thought to be symbols of nobility. In ancient times the palace was surrounded by beautiful gardens, though nowadays only two big trees remain. Later, you'll be driven to Baku where you'll check into the hotel for an overnight stay. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 8 - Baku

After breakfast, you'll transfer to the airport for your flight home. (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.
11/07/2025 - 18/07/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
18/07/2025 - 25/07/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
25/07/2025 - 01/08/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
01/08/2025 - 08/08/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
08/08/2025 - 15/08/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
15/08/2025 - 22/08/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
22/08/2025 - 29/08/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
29/08/2025 - 05/09/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
05/09/2025 - 12/09/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
26/09/2025 - 03/10/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
03/10/2025 - 10/10/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
10/10/2025 - 17/10/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
17/10/2025 - 24/10/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
24/10/2025 - 31/10/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
31/10/2025 - 07/11/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
07/11/2025 - 14/11/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
14/11/2025 - 21/11/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
21/11/2025 - 28/11/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
28/11/2025 - 05/12/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
05/12/2025 - 12/12/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
12/12/2025 - 19/12/2025	£1295	£1695	£145
19/12/2025 - 26/12/2025	£1295	£1695	£145

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
11/07/2025 - 18/07/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
18/07/2025 - 25/07/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
25/07/2025 - 01/08/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
01/08/2025 - 08/08/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
08/08/2025 - 15/08/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
15/08/2025 - 22/08/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
22/08/2025 - 29/08/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
29/08/2025 - 05/09/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
05/09/2025 - 12/09/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
26/09/2025 - 03/10/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
03/10/2025 - 10/10/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
10/10/2025 - 17/10/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
17/10/2025 - 24/10/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
24/10/2025 - 31/10/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
31/10/2025 - 07/11/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
07/11/2025 - 14/11/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
14/11/2025 - 21/11/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
21/11/2025 - 28/11/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
28/11/2025 - 05/12/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
05/12/2025 - 12/12/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
12/12/2025 - 19/12/2025	£1395	£1795	£175
19/12/2025 - 26/12/2025	£1395	£1795	£175

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:

- > [Highlights of Azerbaijan - 6 days \(AZ-01\)](#), Price from £995, 6 days
- > [Great Azerbaijan Discovery - 10 days \(AZ-05\)](#), Price from £1,545, 10 days
- > [Best of Georgia and Azerbaijan - 12 days \(CT-03\)](#), Price from £2,295, 12 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 www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk 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.

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

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

This image shows a full page of a document template designed for handwriting practice. It consists of two vertical columns of horizontal dotted lines on a plain white background. The left column contains 20 rows of dots, and the right column also contains 20 rows of dots. There are no margins, text, or other markings present on the page.