

Discover Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan - 16 days

CT-02



These three Caucasus nations couldn't be more different, but they share a common desire to show guests warm hospitality which makes them a wonderful choice for a holiday. This 16 day tour will show you the highlights of Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. You'll enjoy visits to UNESCO-listed monasteries, unique subterranean cave systems, wineries and of course, a rural landscape that's as diverse as it is beautiful. The three capitals also have a different flavour, but all are compelling in their history and rich heritage.

DEPARTURE DATES: 02.06.2022; 09.06.2022; 16.06.2022; 23.06.2022; 30.06.2022; 07.07.2022; 14.07.2022; 21.07.2022; 28.07.2022; 04.08.2022; 11.08.2022; 18.08.2022; 25.08.2022; 01.09.2022; 08.09.2022; 15.09.2022; 22.09.2022; 29.09.2022; 06.10.2022; 13.10.2022; 20.10.2022; 27.10.2022; 03.11.2022; 10.11.2022.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Yerevan

Today your Caucasus adventure starts when you step off the plane in the Armenian capital Yerevan. You'll be met for your transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Yerevan. (D)

Day 2 - Yerevan - Ejmiatsin - Zvartnots - Yerevan

The Yerevan cascade is one of the city's most recognisable spaces, its staircases and escalators rising over multiple storeys to provide a breathtaking view over the capital and beyond from the top. Pick out Mount Ararat in the distance. Explore a little more of the city, including attractive Republic Square with its singing fountains and the Vernissage, with rows and rows of stalls selling everything from antiques to locally-made crafts. Also on the programme is a visit to the Matenadaran where ancient manuscripts are housed. Just outside of town, we'll take you to the Zvartnots Cathedral, a ruined structure dating from the 7th century. Nearby, you'll visit the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, the spiritual and administrative heart of the Armenian Church, before we return to Yerevan for a typically Armenian dinner. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

Day 3 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

This morning, we set our sights on Garni Temple, an ancient Greco-Roman structure whose appearance is in stark contrast to the many monasteries that can be found in Armenia. After exploring the site and learning a little about its history, we move on to nearby Geghard Monastery, the first of several monasteries you'll visit while in the country. As we retrace our steps back to the Armenian capital, we'll stop off at a rural home in the countryside where you'll be shown how to make the local bread known as lavash. Participation is encouraged! Our final stop today is at the Ararat Wine Factory, where we will have the opportunity to sample the produce. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

Day 4 - Yerevan - Khor Virap - Noravank - Yerevan

An excursion to Khor Virap takes us a little closer to iconic Mount Ararat, which you saw from the top of the Yerevan Cascades. This monastery is famous as the site of the cell that held Saint Gregor the Illuminator prisoner for 13 years. After lunch, we will drive to Noravank Monastery. This beautiful monastery is tucked away up a narrow canyon and sits in perfect harmony with its surroundings. Climb a staircase without rails to enjoy jaw-dropping views along the canyon. Later this afternoon we'll take you to Areni Winery. This is one of the best places in the country to try wine and also fruit-infused spirits - you may wish to leave room in your bag to bring home a souvenir or two. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

Day 5 - Yerevan - Sevan - Dilijan - Haghpats - Armenian-Georgian border - Tbilisi

Armenia has a few more sights to show us before we set off for the Georgian border. Lake Sevan is the largest body of water in Armenia and perched on a hilltop above its shoreline is the delightful Sevanavank Monastery. There are quite a few steps to climb, but the reward is panoramic views across the blue waters of the lake as well as a glimpse inside this 9th century marvel. Later, you'll enjoy a tour of the spa resort of Dilijan before visiting Haghpats Monastery en route to the border. We'll continue on to the Georgian capital Tbilisi; total driving distance today is around 188 miles (301km). Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

Day 6 - Tbilisi

The Georgian capital is very different to Yerevan, with less of a Soviet feel to the place, particularly in the heart of the city. We'll begin in Tbilisi's Old Town, where there's a plethora of ancient churches, old synagogues and the thermal baths for which the city is known. On today's tour, you'll pay a visit to the Georgian National Museum to learn a bit about this fascinating country and also take a walk along Rustaveli Avenue, one of the city's liveliest thoroughfares. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

Day 7 - Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Kutaisi

Tbilisi hasn't always been the capital of Georgia; before, that honour went to Mtskheta. As you'd expect, that means there is much to see, the highlights being the UNESCO-listed Djvari Church and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. Later, in the afternoon, we will drive to Kutaisi, the country's second largest city, and visit the Prometheus Cave which is located just outside. Overnight in Kutaisi. (B, D)

Day 8 - Kutaisi - Gelati - Bagrati - Akhaltsikhe

One of the great joys when travelling in the Caucasus is to visit the bustling local markets and we'll do so in Kutaisi before leaving the city. Our UNESCO hit list continues with visits to Gelati Monastery and Bagrati Cathedrals. There'll be plenty of time to explore before we need to hit the road for Akhaltsikhe. Incidentally, its name means "new castle" although old is no longer an apt epithet. Overnight in Akhaltsikhe. (B, D)

Day 9 - Akhaltsikhe - Vardzia - Akhaltsikhe

Visitors come to Akhaltsikhe to visit the spectacular underground cave city of Vardzia. The hillside is riddled with tunnels and caverns; these were used as store rooms, churches and refectories. If you're wondering how they came to be here, the thirteen level site was hewn from the rock on the orders of Queen Tamar in 1185. Destroyed by an earthquake in 1283, it was rebuilt but abandoned again when the Ottomans came in the 16th century. Back in Akhaltsikhe the itinerary includes a visit to the famous ethnographic Museum in the Rabati Fortress. Overnight in Akhaltsikhe. (B, D)

Day 10 - Akhaltsikhe - Borjomi - Gori - Uplistikhe - Tbilisi

The most infamous leader Russia ever had was in fact Georgian by birth, and he came from the town of Gori. Today, there's a museum dedicated to his life, which incorporates the humble wooden hut in which he spent his early years. Of course, this is a sanitised history and you'll be wise to make up your own mind as to what you think of the man and his actions. Afterwards, we'll visit nearby Uplistikhe Cave Town, another fascinating subterranean complex, before returning to Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

Day 11 - Tbilisi - Gombori - Alaverdi - Napareuli - Gremi - Signagi

Georgia has a long history of viticulture; the nation has been producing wine for over 8000 years. Today's programme takes us into wine country, to explore the region of Kakheti. We will explore the Alaverdi Monastery and Gremi Complex as well as enjoy a much-anticipated wine tasting in Napareuli. Last stop today is the pretty town of Signagi. We'll start exploring the town's fortifications and from those walls enjoy far-reaching views across the surrounding countryside. Overnight in Signagi. (B, D)

Day 12 - Signagi - Azerbaijan border - Kish - Sheki

Having enjoyed a tour of Signagi's main sights yesterday afternoon, there'll be more time in this characterful place to soak up the atmosphere of its historic centre. A couple of miles down the road is Bodbe Monastery, a complex set amid delightful gardens. That will be our last stop before we leave Georgia. It's time to cross the border into our third country, Azerbaijan, where we'll begin the drive to Sheki. A visit to Kish village completes today's programme. Overnight in Sheki. (B, D)

Day 13 - Sheki - Shamakhi - Baku

Sheki, sometimes referred to as Shaki, was a stop on the ancient Silk Road. Its 18th century Palace of the Shaki Khans was a summer residence for the ruling elite and was built without a single nail. Even the regular dwellings were richly decorated with wooden lattice work framing colourful glass. That's not all; we'll also show you the 18th century Shaki Castle before setting off for Shamakhi. This place is rich in culture and history; highlights include Juma Mosque which has survived many earthquakes. Our final destination this afternoon is the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 14 - Baku

Baku is forward thinking, but also has a thriving old city which abuts the Caspian Sea. You'll enjoy a tour of old Baku, taking in the Maiden Tower, the Palace of Shirvanshahs, the courtyard of Divankhana and numerous mosques, minarets, caravanserais and baths. Most people will recognise the distinctive shapes of Baku's newest landmark, the Flame Towers, built on the back of Azerbaijan's not insignificant mineral wealth. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 15 - Baku - Gobustan - Yanar Dag - Baku

For our final full day of sightseeing, we head out of the capital into Gobustan. The Gobustan State Reserve is best known for its petroglyphs which depict prehistoric life in the Caucasus. There are also around three hundred mud volcanoes which some say have health-enhancing properties. After lunch, we'll take you to the hillside of Yanar Dag. Gases have seeped from this hillside since the 1950s and since then the hillside has burned without a break. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 16 - Baku

Your Caucasus adventure has to end sometime and today is that day. We'll transfer you to the airport for your flight home and wish you well for the journey home. (B)

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

[International flights](#)
[Accommodation](#)
[Guided tours & cultural programme](#)
[English - speaking guides](#)
[Half board meals](#)
[Evening entertainment](#)
[Ground transportation](#)
[Airport transfers](#)
[Azerbaijan e-visa](#)

Not included

[Personal travel insurance](#)
[Optional excursions](#)

Practical information

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[Book with confidence - covid FAQs](#)
[Contact our travel consultants](#)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT - 3* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
02/06/2022 - 17/06/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
09/06/2022 - 24/06/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
16/06/2022 - 01/07/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
23/06/2022 - 08/07/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
30/06/2022 - 15/07/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
07/07/2022 - 22/07/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
14/07/2022 - 29/07/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
21/07/2022 - 05/08/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
28/07/2022 - 12/08/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
04/08/2022 - 19/08/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
11/08/2022 - 26/08/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
18/08/2022 - 02/09/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
25/08/2022 - 09/09/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
01/09/2022 - 16/09/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
08/09/2022 - 23/09/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
15/09/2022 - 30/09/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
22/09/2022 - 07/10/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
29/09/2022 - 14/10/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
06/10/2022 - 21/10/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
13/10/2022 - 28/10/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
20/10/2022 - 04/11/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
27/10/2022 - 11/11/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
03/11/2022 - 18/11/2022	£2745	£3145	£295
10/11/2022 - 25/11/2022	£2745	£3145	£295

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
02/06/2022 - 17/06/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
09/06/2022 - 24/06/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
16/06/2022 - 01/07/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
23/06/2022 - 08/07/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
30/06/2022 - 15/07/2022	£2895	£3295	£395

07/07/2022 - 22/07/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
14/07/2022 - 29/07/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
21/07/2022 - 05/08/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
28/07/2022 - 12/08/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
04/08/2022 - 19/08/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
11/08/2022 - 26/08/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
18/08/2022 - 02/09/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
25/08/2022 - 09/09/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
01/09/2022 - 16/09/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
08/09/2022 - 23/09/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
15/09/2022 - 30/09/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
22/09/2022 - 07/10/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
29/09/2022 - 14/10/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
06/10/2022 - 21/10/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
13/10/2022 - 28/10/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
20/10/2022 - 04/11/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
27/10/2022 - 11/11/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
03/11/2022 - 18/11/2022	£2895	£3295	£395
10/11/2022 - 25/11/2022	£2895	£3295	£395

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 Armenia - 8 days \(AM-02\)](#), Price from £1,295, 8 days
- > [Best of Georgia and Azerbaijan - 12 days \(CT-03\)](#), Price from £2,045, 12 days
- > [Highlights of Iran and Armenia - 15 days \(CT-04\)](#), Price from £2,595, 15 days
- > [Short Break in Istanbul - 3 days \(TR-01\)](#), Price from £595, 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 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 £100) 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.

A large rectangular area with horizontal dotted lines, intended for writing notes or queries.