

# 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

# Caucasus Express: Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan - 10 days

CT-08



Perfect for those with limited time, this 10-day tour offers a condensed yet unforgettable exploration of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. Experience the essence of the Caucasus as you uncover ancient landmarks, stunning natural landscapes, and vibrant cities. From Yerevan's historic treasures to Tbilisi's charm and Baku's modern allure, this itinerary is designed to showcase the best of the region in just 10 days. Ideal for travelers seeking a rich cultural journey without a long commitment.

#### **DEPARTURE DATES:**

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06.05.2025; 13.05.2025; 20.05.2025; 27.05.2025; 03.06.2025; 10.06.2025; 17.06.2025; 24.06.2025; 01.07.2025; 08.07.2025; 15.07.2025; 22.07.2025; 29.07.2025; 05.08.2025; 12.08.2025; 19.08.2025; 26.08.2025; 02.09.2025; 09.09.2025; 16.09.2025; 23.09.2025; 30.09.2025; 07.10.2025; 14.10.2025; 21.10.2025; 28.10.2025; 04.11.2025; 11.11.2025; 18.11.2025; 25.11.2025; 02.12.2025; 09.12.2025; 16.12.2025.
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#### **ITINERARY**

#### Day 1 - Yerevan

Your journey through the Caucasus begins today as you arrive in the captivating Armenian capital, Yerevan. Upon landing, you will be greeted and escorted to your hotel. Settle in and enjoy your first evening in this historic city. Overnight in Yerevan. (D)

## Day 2 - Yerevan - Ejmiatsin - Zvarnots - Yerevan

The Yerevan Cascade, with its striking staircases and escalators spanning multiple levels, is one of the city's most recognisable landmarks. From its summit, enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the capital and the majestic Mount Ararat. Continuing our exploration of Yerevan, we'll visit Republic Square, famed for its charming singing fountains, and browse the vibrant Vernissage market, where stalls brim with antiques and locally crafted treasures. Next, we'll tour the Matenadaran, which houses an extraordinary collection of ancient manuscripts, followed by a visit to the solemn Genocide Memorial, a moving tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. From there, we'll journey to the 7th-century ruins of Zvartnots Cathedral before visiting the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, the spiritual centre of the Armenian Church. Return to Yerevan to savour a traditional Armenian dinner. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

### Day 3 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

This morning, we begin with a visit to Garni Temple, a striking Greco-Roman structure that stands in contrast to Armenia's many ancient monasteries. After exploring its fascinating history, we'll head to the nearby Garni Gorge to marvel at the "Symphony of Stones," a spectacular formation of basalt columns shaped by volcanic activity. This awe-inspiring landscape offers fantastic photo opportunities and a tranquil setting for a short walk. Our journey then takes us to the impressive Geghard Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the first of many monasteries you'll encounter on your Armenian adventure. On our way back to Yerevan, we'll stop at a countryside home to learn the art of making lavash, Armenia's traditional bread, with a chance to try your hand at baking. If time permits, we can also visit the Ararat Wine Factory to sample some of the region's celebrated wines. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

#### Day 4 - Yerevan - Sevan - Dilijan - Haghpat - Armenian-Georgian border - Tbilisi

Before crossing into Georgia, Armenia has a few final gems to share with us. We start at Lake Sevan, the country's largest body of water, where the enchanting Sevanavank Monastery sits atop a hill overlooking the serene blue lake. While the climb involves a number of steps, the breathtaking panoramic views and the opportunity to explore this 9th-century masterpiece make it well worth the effort. Next, we'll tour the charming spa town of Dilijan, known for its picturesque scenery and relaxed atmosphere. Continuing our journey, we visit Haghpat Monastery, a stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site, before heading towards the Georgian border. From there, we proceed to Tbilisi, Georgia's vibrant capital city. Today's driving distance is approximately 188 miles (301 km). Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

#### Day 5 - Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Gori - Uplistsikhe - Tbilisi

Today begins with a fascinating city tour of Tbilisi, Georgia's captivating capital, where history and modernity

blend seamlessly. Stroll through the historic Old Town, discovering its narrow streets, colourful balconies, and eclectic architecture. Highlights include the iconic Metekhi Church, the Bridge of Peace, and the historic Sulphur Baths. Next, we travel to Mtskheta, Georgia's ancient capital and spiritual hub. Here, we'll visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the awe-inspiring Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and the scenic Jvari Monastery, both offering insights into Georgia's rich cultural heritage. From Mtskheta, we continue to Gori, the birthplace of Joseph Stalin, where a visit to the Stalin Museum is available. Nearby, explore Uplistsikhe, an ancient rock-hewn city with a labyrinth of caves, tunnels, and historic structures that provide a glimpse into the region's past. In the evening, enjoy a gala dinner in Tbilisi featuring traditional Georgian cuisine, accompanied by vibrant folklore dances and soulful singing - a perfect way to immerse yourself in the country's culture. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

## Day 6 - Tbilisi - Gombori - Alaverdi - Napareuli - Gremi - Sighnaghi

Georgia boasts an ancient tradition of winemaking, with over 8,000 years of history in viticulture. Today's itinerary takes us to the heart of wine country, the picturesque Kakheti region. Here, we'll visit the historic Alaverdi Monastery and the impressive Gremi Complex, both steeped in centuries of heritage. A highlight of the day is a wine-tasting experience in Napareuli, where we'll sample some of the region's finest offerings. Our final stop is the charming town of Sighnaghi, known for its well-preserved fortifications. From the town walls, enjoy sweeping views of the surrounding countryside before settling in for the evening. Overnight in Sighnaghi. (B, D)

#### Day 7 - Sighnaghi - Azerbaijan border - Kish - Sheki

After exploring Sighnaghi's main attractions yesterday, the morning offers more time to enjoy the charm of its historic centre and take in the unique atmosphere of this picturesque town. Just a short drive away, we'll visit Bodbe Monastery, a serene complex surrounded by beautifully maintained gardens. This marks our final stop in Georgia before crossing the border into Azerbaijan, our third country on this journey. Once in Azerbaijan, we'll continue to Sheki, a city steeped in history and tradition. En route, we'll visit the nearby village of Kish, known for its ancient church and captivating rural setting. Overnight in Sheki. (B, D)

#### Day 8 - Sheki - Shamakhi - Baku

Sheki, also known as Shaki, was once a key stop on the ancient Silk Road. During our tour, we'll explore the 18th-century Palace of the Shaki Khans, a stunning summer residence for the ruling elite, built without a single nail. The town's regular dwellings are equally impressive, featuring beautiful wooden latticework and colourful stained glass. We'll also visit the 18th-century Shaki Castle, a remarkable historical site. After our exploration of Sheki, we'll continue to Shamakhi, where we'll take a guided tour of this culturally rich town. One of its key highlights is the Juma Mosque, which has withstood many earthquakes throughout history. Our day concludes with the journey to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

#### Day 9 - Baku - Gobustan - Yanar Dag - Baku

On our final full day of sightseeing, we venture beyond Baku to the fascinating Gobustan archaeological reserve. Known for its ancient petroglyphs, Gobustan offers a vivid glimpse into prehistoric life in the Caucasus, with intricate rock carvings that tell stories of early human existence. The area is also home to around 300 mud volcanoes, a natural wonder with bubbling mud pools and geysers, some of which are believed to have therapeutic properties. You'll have the opportunity to experience this unique geological phenomenon up close. After lunch, we continue to Yanar Dag, or the "Burning Mountain." This hillside has been aflame since the 1950s, with natural gas seeping through the sandstone, creating a dramatic and hypnotic display of fire. It's an awe-inspiring sight you won't soon forget. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

#### Day 10 - Baku

Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and today marks the final day of your Caucasus adventure. After a memorable journey, we'll transfer you to the airport for your flight home. Wishing you a safe and pleasant journey back. (B)

#### TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

# Included

International flights

Accommodation

Guided tours & cultural programme

English - speaking guides

Half board meals

Airport transfers

Azerbaijan e-visa

#### Not included

<u>Personal travel insurance</u> <u>Optional excursions</u>

#### **Practical information**

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

# **COMFORT - 3\* PACKAGE**

COMI ORI - 3" PACKAGE			
Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
06/05/2025 - 15/05/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
13/05/2025 - 22/05/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
20/05/2025 - 29/05/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
27/05/2025 - 05/06/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
03/06/2025 - 12/06/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
10/06/2025 - 19/06/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
17/06/2025 - 26/06/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
24/06/2025 - 03/07/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
01/07/2025 - 10/07/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
08/07/2025 - 17/07/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
15/07/2025 - 24/07/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
22/07/2025 - 31/07/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
29/07/2025 - 07/08/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
05/08/2025 - 14/08/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
12/08/2025 - 21/08/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
19/08/2025 - 28/08/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
26/08/2025 - 04/09/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
02/09/2025 - 11/09/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
09/09/2025 - 18/09/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
16/09/2025 - 25/09/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
23/09/2025 - 02/10/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
30/09/2025 - 09/10/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
07/10/2025 - 16/10/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
14/10/2025 - 23/10/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
21/10/2025 - 30/10/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
28/10/2025 - 06/11/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
04/11/2025 - 13/11/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
11/11/2025 - 20/11/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
18/11/2025 - 27/11/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
25/11/2025 - 04/12/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
02/12/2025 - 11/12/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
09/12/2025 - 18/12/2025	£1995	£2395	£245
16/12/2025 - 25/12/2025	£1995	£2395	£245

# PREMIUM - 4\* PACKAGE

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Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
06/05/2025 - 15/05/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
13/05/2025 - 22/05/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
20/05/2025 - 29/05/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
27/05/2025 - 05/06/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
03/06/2025 - 12/06/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
10/06/2025 - 19/06/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
17/06/2025 - 26/06/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
24/06/2025 - 03/07/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
01/07/2025 - 10/07/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
08/07/2025 - 17/07/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
15/07/2025 - 24/07/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
22/07/2025 - 31/07/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
29/07/2025 - 07/08/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
05/08/2025 - 14/08/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
12/08/2025 - 21/08/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
19/08/2025 - 28/08/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
26/08/2025 - 04/09/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
02/09/2025 - 11/09/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
09/09/2025 - 18/09/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
16/09/2025 - 25/09/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
23/09/2025 - 02/10/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
30/09/2025 - 09/10/2025	£2195	£2595	£325

07/10/2025 - 16/10/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
14/10/2025 - 23/10/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
21/10/2025 - 30/10/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
28/10/2025 - 06/11/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
04/11/2025 - 13/11/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
11/11/2025 - 20/11/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
18/11/2025 - 27/11/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
25/11/2025 - 04/12/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
02/12/2025 - 11/12/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
09/12/2025 - 18/12/2025	£2195	£2595	£325
16/12/2025 - 25/12/2025	£2195	£2595	£325

#### 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:

- > <u>Discover Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan: from the Highlands to the Caspian 16 days (CT-02)</u>, Price from £2,995, 16 days
- > Best of Georgia and Azerbaijan 12 days (CT-03), Price from £2,295, 12 days
- > Best of Armenia and Georgia 12 days (CT-05), Price from £2,195, 12 days
- > Istanbul to Georgia 13 days (CT-07), Price from £2,945, 13 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, payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit can be cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.	full ard,

# 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 your queries or comments regarding this trip.		