

Cultural Tour to Georgia, Armenia and Iran

Key information

Duration: 17 days / 16 nights

Best season: Year round

Type of the tour: Small group of 3-13 people

What's included:

Airport transfers, transport, all transfers in air-conditioned vehicles, accommodation in hotels for 16 nights (3-4*/ double rooms), meals – half board (breakfast), 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.), English speaking guide service for 12 days, all admission fees, visa reference code for Iran, inner flights from Tabriz to Tehran, from Tehran to Shiraz and from Isfahan to Tehran

What's not included:

Flights, visa fee, medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival in Tbilisi

Day 2 - Tbilisi City Tour

Day 3 - Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Gori - Uplistsikhe

Day 4 - Ananuri - Gudauri - Stepantsminda - Dariali

Day 5 - Gombori - Kakheti - Telavi - Alaverdi - Tsinandali - Signaghi

Day 6 - Georgian-Armenian border - Dilijan - Sevan - Yerevan

Day 7 - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan City Tour

Day 8 - Echmiadzin - Zvartnots - Yerevan

Day 9 - Noravank - Areni - Tatev - Goris

Day 10 - Goris - Armenian-Iranian border - Tabriz

Day 11 - Tabriz - Flight to Tehran

Day 12 - Tehran - Flight to Shiraz

Day 13 - Shiraz City Tour

Day 14 - Persepolis - Pasargade - Isfahan

Day 15 - Isfahan City Tour

Day 16 - Isfahan - Flight to Tehran

Day 17 - Departure



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

Arrival at Tbilisi airport, transfer to the hotel. Yerevan is the capital of Armenia, its largest city and the administrative, cultural, and industrial centre. Yerevan is often referred to as the city of contradictions where modernity is interweaving with antiquity. It is filled with a cosy atmosphere; there is no hustle and bustle and you will feel friendliness and hospitality. More interesting facts about Yerevan, you will learn the next day during your guided city tour.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Day 2

After breakfast, you will have a city tour around Tbilisi. First, you will visit the historic district of Metekhi, where the Assumption Church is located. During the day you will also have a chance to enjoy the beautiful architecture of the Bridge of Peace, designed by a well-known Italian architect. Then the cable car will take you to Narikala fortress – the well-known symbol of Tbilisi located on a hill. Then you will go down on foot and appear in the Old Town. First, you will see the sulfuric baths – famous bath complex (XVII-XIX cc.), standing on the natural sulfur springs. The next sight to visit will be the Meidani Square – the place which was once the part of the famous caravanserai. After a while, you will have a chance to enjoy Chardin Street – the prestigious street that was named after famous French traveller – Jean Chardin. The tour will continue to Sioni Church. There is kept one of the greatest relics of Georgia, the cross of St. Patriarchate. Mtatsminda Funicular via tramway.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3

A few kilometers North from Tbilisi there is a small and colorful town Mtskheta which will be your next destination. This town was the first capital of Georgia from 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD. The excursion will start with the visit to the Cathedral of the 11th century – Svetitskhoveli. The next stop is Jvari Temple located at the top of the hill which offers a fascinating view of the confluence of two rivers Kura and Aragvi. After the tour in Mtskheta you will have a trip to Gori – the heart of eastern Georgia and Stalin's homeland. Here you will visit the cave town of Uplistsikhe, ancient cave town carved in the rock, which is one of the first towns in Georgia, and it dates back to the end of the I millennium BC.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4

The day will start with a trip to Ananuri Fortress – a beautiful castle complex located on the Aragvi River. Once it used to be a seat of the Georgian feudal dynasty. Our next stop is the popular ski resort Gudauri which is actually beautiful in any season. After some rest, the trip will continue to Stepantsminda village which is famous due to its nature and Gergeti Trinity Church (14th century). The sanctuary is located at an altitude of 2180 m above sea level. From the top an unforgettable view of the famous Mount Kazbek opens. At the end of the day, you will visit Dariali Gorge and the church of transfiguration and then drive back to Tbilisi.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast



Day 5

In the morning you will drive to the east of the country through Gombori pass to Kakheti – the main winemaking region of Georgia. A pleasant time is waiting for you in Telavi – the center of the winemaking region. After a while, you will visit the Alaverdi Monastery famous for its unique wine cellar of the 11th century. In Tsinandali village, you will have a tour around the estate of the famous Georgian public figure and poet Alexander Chavchavadze. The estate is famous for its delightful garden and a collection of 16,500 wines from different countries. The tour will end with a visit to the cozy town of Signaghi. Here, those who wish can go up the watchtower and admire the beautiful view of the Alazani Valley.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 6

Transfer to the Georgian-Armenian border and trip to Yerevan – the capital of Armenia. On the way, you will visit the resort town of Dilijan, which is known for its lush scenery and delicious healthful, full of pine aroma air. You will also stop to admire the azure Lake Sevan – the pearl of Armenian nature. In Yerevan, you will have some time for a rest.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 7

This day you will have a 1-hour drive to the canyon of Azat River. Our destination is Geghard Monastery. This unique monastery is carved into nearby rocks and the surrounding cliffs compose a great part of it. In 2000 it became a UNESCO Heritage site. The trip will continue to Garni village well known for its Garni temple – the only surviving example of Hellenistic architecture in the region. Back in Yerevan, you will have a city tour around the capital. You will see famous Cascade Complex, the building of Opera and Ballet Theatre after A. Spendiarian, Republic Square. You will visit the Museum of History of Armenia, Matenadaran – a repository of ancient manuscripts, research institute and museum, the Armenian Genocide memorial complex – Armenia's official memorial dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Those who wish can visit the museum at the memorial. In the end of this tour day, you will have an opportunity to taste famous Armenian brandy in Ararat brandy factory.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 8

This day starts with an excursion to Echmiadzin, the religious center of Armenia. Here you will see Echmiadzin Cathedral (UNESCO object) and visit Echmiadzin museum-treasury. It houses the famous spear that pierced the body of Christ, fragments of the Noah's Ark, the crown of thorns, the cross on which Christ was crucified, and many other Christian relics. On the way back you will visit the ruins of the temple of Zvartnots (UNESCO object).

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 9

This day you will have a trip to the south of Armenia. A long and picturesque road will lead you to Goris, a small town in the south of Armenia. On the way, you will stop to visit Noravank Monastery and then taste wine in Areni village famous for its local wine. The last stop will be not far from Tatev Monastery which can be reached by the longest cable car ride in the world.

Overnight: *Hotel in Goris*



Meals: Breakfast

Day 10

Early in the morning, you will leave the hotel in Goris and head towards Armenia-Iran border which lies between Agarak and Nordooz villages. After passing the customs you will drive to Iranian town Tabriz where you will stay for overnight.

Overnight: Hotel in Tabriz

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11

The day starts from the trip to Tabriz which is the biggest cities in Iran. You will see the beautiful El-Goli Park named after Shah Golu. It has a square artificial lake and a beautiful building in the middle of the lake with the traditional architecture of Iranian Azerbaijan. Besides the beautiful El Goli Park, there is also a luxurious 17-floor building named Tabriz Pars Hotel with a marvellous view. The programme includes visits to the Blue Mosque, the housemuseum of Amir-Al- Mulk and the big bazaar famous for its oriental sweets. In the evening you will have an internal flight to Tehran – the capital of Iran.

Overnight: Hotel in Tehran

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12

The day will begin with a sightseeing tour around Tehran. The program includes a visit to the Golestan Palace, an excursion to the National Museum, a visit to the National Jewelry Museum famous for its amazing collections of Safavids and other dynasties such as crowns, diadems, swords and other jewelry, a tour to the Milad and Azadi towers and a walk around the modern Ab-Atash. At the end of the long tour, you will have a pleasant walk in Ab-O-Atash garden and then have a flight to Shiraz.

Overnight: Hotel in Shiraz

Meals: Breakfast

Day 13

The day will begin with a sightseeing tour around Shiraz. During the city tour, you will see Nasir-al-Mulk Mosque, Narenjestan Palace, the tombs of famous Persian poets Hafiz and Saadi, from the Koran gates you will enjoy the great panorama of Shiraz city. This day, you also have a walk in the garden of Eram – one of the most famous and beautiful Persian gardens in all of Iran.

Overnight: Hotel in Shiraz

Meals: Breakfast

Day 14

The day will begin with a trip to Isfahan, the third largest city in Iran. On the way to Isfahan, you will stop to visit ruins of Persepolis and Pasargad ancient cities. Persepolis is included to UNESCO World Heritage List. Pasargad is the first capital of Achemenidian Empire.

Overnight: Hotel in Isfahan

Meals: Breakfast

Day 15

This day will be devoted to the city-tour around Isfahan and to the famous Isfahan bridges among which the mustvisit is the longest bridge Si-O-Si-Pole. You will have an excursion to the largest Nakhsh-e-Jakhan Square and then stop at



Ali Gapu Palace built by Abbas shakh in XVII and Loftolla Mosque an example of the outstanding architecture of Iran. At the end of the day, you will visit the local bazaar to buy souvenirs.

Overnight: *Hotel in Isfahan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 16

The last day in Isfahan will start from the following sights: Jame Mosque, Minaret Jonban, Chekhel Sotun Palace, Khasht Bekhesht Palace. You will also have a trip to Vank Church – one of the most beautiful Armenian churches in the world, which will undoubtedly capture the attention of every Christian. After the tour, you will have a flight to Tehran.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tehran*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 17

Transfer to the airport, departure.



Booking terms and conditions

Once we received your application, confirmed all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 50-100 euro per person (depending on the tour price) is received, we will start your hotel reservation and other service booking and will send your Tour Voucher with all the trip details.

Payment Terms

After you have booked the tour, it is necessary to make a non-refundable deposit of 50-100 euros, which will provide our coordinators with the possibility to start organizing a trip (hotel reservation, food, transportation, etc.). Final payment could be made after your arrival on the spot. We reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply the relevant cancellation charges (detailed below) if we do not receive all payments at the due time.

Cancellation of the tour

If you or a member of your group wants to cancel the tour, please, inform our company as soon as possible in writing form. Please, note that the prepayment (50-100 euros) is non-refundable, however, you can use it throughout the year and book another tour. In this case, our company will have to charge an extra 100 euros for re-booking the hotel.

Rights and obligations

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before its inception and are not the subject of change or cancellation. Under the obligation of forced circumstances (weather, holidays) we can make some changes in the itinerary, however, all that relates to services and attractions will remain unchanged.

Please note, that our tours require a minimum number of participants – 2 persons. We reserve the right to cancel the trip, if any tour will not have the minimum number of participants. We will inform you about the cancellation of the tour no later than 30 days before the start and will do the full refund of the amount paid, including the prepayment.

We also request immediately and promptly report all complaints and any claims during the tour. If possible, all problems will be solved. If the tourist does not report any complaint, the compensation will not be implemented.

Please, also note that the company AraraTour is not liable for services not included in the tour price. Our responsibility is limited only to the extent provided by our tour.

Force majeure or any other event which is beyond our control and which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part frees both parties from liability or obligation. In case of Force majeure, we don't issue any refund.

Insolvency or bankruptcy insurance

Tour operator Arara guarantees the refund of clients' money for unfulfilled services even in the case of company's own insolvency or bankruptcy.

