

Tour to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Turkey

Key information

Countries visited: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Turkey

Duration: 19 days / 18 nights

Best season: April - June, August - October

Tour type: Small group of 3-13 people

What's included:

Private airport transfers according to your flight information, Accommodation in hotels for 18 nights (3* European class hotels with free Wi-Fi), Meals: breakfast, All transfers in air-conditioned vehicles, English speaking guide service for all days, All admission fees, 4-wheel drive vehicle for Gergeti Trinity Church, Wine tasting in Signaghi, 3 bottles (0,5 l) of water per day

What's not included:

Flights (available upon request), Visa fee, Medical insurance, Additional night, 3* Single supplement, 4* Single supplement, 4* upgrade p/p (dbl/twin room)

Itinerary in brief

- Day 1 - Arrival in Baku
- Day 2 - Baku City Tour
- Day 3 - Gobustan - Baku
- Day 4 - Shamakhi - Nij - Gabala - Sheki
- Day 5 - Lagodekhi border - Tbilisi
- Day 6 - Mtskheta - Tbilisi City Tour
- Day 7 - Ananuri - Gudauri - Gergeti - Tbilisi
- Day 8 - Kakheti - Tbilisi
- Day 9 - Sadakhlo border - Goshavank - Haghartsin - Sevan - Yerevan
- Day 10 - Yerevan City Tour - Echmiadzin - Zvartnots - Yerevan
- Day 11 - Khor Virap - Noravank - Yerevan
- Day 12 - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan
- Day 13 - Arrival in Istanbul
- Day 14 - Istanbul City Tour
- Day 15 - Istanbul - Bursa - Denizli
- Day 16 - Pamukkale - Konya - Cappadocia
- Day 17 - Cappadocia City Tour
- Day 18 - Ankara City Tour - Istanbul
- Day 19 - Departure



Detailed itinerary

Day 1

Arrival in Baku. Transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day will be free for your own exploration of the city. Baku is a city of contrasts where old is combined with modern. Since the second oil boom in 2006, the city has been transformed into a vibrant metropolis with stunning landmarks. We recommend strolling around the city center for enjoying its atmosphere and captivating architecture. Be sure to taste a cup of local tea or coffee at a local café.

Overnight: *Hotel in Baku*

Day 2

After breakfast your city tour around Baku will start. The program includes Flag Square, the Carpet Museum, the Government House, and the Philharmonic Theatre named after M. Magomayev. The tour will continue to one of the most atmospheric parts of Baku – its Old City. You will feel as though you have stepped back in time. One of the popular sights here are the Palace of the Shirvanshahs (15th century), the Maiden Tower (9th century), historic caravanserais and mosques. The last sight to visit is the Heydar Aliyev Center, a masterpiece of modern architecture designed by world-renowned architect Zaha Hadid. The building, known for its futuristic design without sharp angles, houses a museum, exhibition halls, and an auditorium.

Overnight: *Hotel in Baku*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *5-6 hours*

Length: *40 km / 25 mi / 40 min*

Day 3

In the morning after breakfast, you will start a journey to one of the most popular attractions in Azerbaijan – Gobustan National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its ancient petroglyphs, mud volcanoes, and unique natural formations. You will start your tour by visiting the Gobustan Museum, which showcases fascinating archaeological finds, and then head to the mud volcanoes. This area, with its cracked earth, resembles the surface of Mars. After returning to Baku, you will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant on the Caspian Sea coast. The day will conclude with a visit to the Bibi-Heybat Mosque, an important spiritual landmark.

Overnight: *Hotel in Baku*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Duration: *5-6 hours*

Length: *120 km / 75 mi / 1.5 hr*

Day 4

Your day will begin with a journey to Shamakhi known for its largest mosque in the Caucasus. Then you will visit the unique village of Nij where Udi community lives. They are descendants of one of the oldest Christian communities in the region, preserving the traditions of ancient Caucasian Albania. The journey will continue to Gabala, a city rich in history and natural beauty. Here, you will enjoy Gabala Lake, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, and the majestic Tufandag Mountain. Finally, you will arrive in Sheki, a charming town steeped in culture and history. Your



sightseeing tour will include the Palace of Sheki Khans, once the summer residence of local rulers. You will also have the chance to explore local craft workshops, where artisans create handmade frescoes, traditional sweets, and exquisite textiles.

Overnight: Hotel in Sheki

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 7-8 hours

Length: 300 km / 187 mi / 4 hr

Day 5

This day you will leave Azerbaijan and start your tour in Georgia. After passing Azerbaijan-Georgian (Lagodekhi) border you will meet our company's Georgian representatives and head to Tbilisi for overnight. Tbilisi is probably one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the South Caucasus. Its vibrant, lively atmosphere and the interweaving of modernity with antiquity will not leave anyone indifferent.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 5-6 hours

Length: 265 km / 165 mi / 3.5 hr

Day 6

This day will start with a short trip to Mtskheta town, which was the first capital of Georgia, and now is considered the country's spiritual center. In the town you will first visit the main Orthodox Cathedral of Georgia, Svetitskhoveli, which is a UNESCO site dating back to the 11th century. Next you will go up the hill to Jvari Monastery, from where breathtaking views of the confluence of the Aragvi and Kura rivers open. After sightseeing in Mtskheta you will return to Tbilisi and have some rest. This tour day will end with an exploration of Tbilisi. The first attraction to visit is the historic district of Metekhi, where you will see the Assumption Church. Next you will visit the most iconic sights such as the Bridge of Peace, the Narikala Fortress with panoramic city views, the sulfur baths, and Shardeni Street with its Parisian-inspired ambiance, cafes, and boutiques.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 5-6 hours

Length: 60 km / 37 mi / 1 hr

Day 7

After breakfast you will head to Ananuri Fortress located among beautiful landscapes. The scene of the azure Zhinvali Reservoir framed by velvet hills make this place unforgettable. The tour will continue to the resort town of Gudauri known as a ski resort but beautiful in any season. Next you will proceed to the village of Stepantsminda where you will go up a hill to visit the Gergeti Trinity Church, a 14th-century construction located at 2,170 meters above sea level, at the foot of Mount Kazbek. The view from the top of the hill overlooking the majestic Mount Kazbek is truly unforgettable. The final stop of the day is the Dariali Gorge and the Church of the Transfiguration. Afterward, you will return to Tbilisi.



Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 7-8 hours

Length: 250 km / 156 mi / 3.5 hr

Day 8

This day you will explore the beautiful winemaking region of Georgia – Kakheti. Your sightseeing will start in Telavi, the heart of Kakheti. Then you will have a leisurely walk along the picturesque streets of cozy Signaghi town. The tour will continue to the Tsinandali Estate which once belonged to the prominent Chavchavadze family. Here you will enjoy a walk along the labyrinth filled with exotic trees and explore the cellars that house an exceptional collection of both Georgian and European wines. The next stop is the Batonis Tsikhe fortress – the former residence of the King Erekle II of Georgia. At the end of the day, you will visit the famous Khareba Winery, where you can taste local wines and participate in a masterclass in baking traditional Georgian bread, "shoti". Afterward, you will return to Tbilisi.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 7-8 hours

Length: 250 km / 156 mi / 3.5 hr

Day 9

Today your adventures in Armenia will start. After crossing the borders, you will have several hours drive before reaching beautiful Tavush region. Here you will visit the medieval monasteries of Goshavank and Haghartsin. This region is also home to the cozy resort town of Dilijan, famous for its arts and crafts, as well as its lush, serene nature and refreshing air. The journey will continue to Gegharkunik region, where you will see the stunning Lake Sevan, one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world, situated at an altitude of 1,900 meters above sea level. In the evening, you will arrive in Yerevan – the capital of Armenia.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 9-10 hours

Length: 340 km / 212 mi / 5 hr

Day 10

This day you will have a sightseeing tour around Yerevan. Your tour will uncover the vibrant pulse of this historic city as you visit famous sights like the Cascade complex, the elegant Opera and Ballet Theater, Mashtots Avenue, and the central Republic Square. You will also explore the Matenadaran Museum, which houses one of the world's most extensive collections of ancient manuscripts. After the city tour, you will travel to Echmiadzin, the spiritual center of Armenia. Here, you will visit the Echmiadzin Cathedral, one of the world's oldest Christian churches, built after Armenia adopted Christianity in 301 A.D. In addition, you will explore the ruins of Zvartnots, a 7th-century temple that was once a marvel of its time and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. The day will conclude with a visit to the Genocide Memorial in Yerevan.



Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 5-6 hours

Length: 40 km / 25 mi / 0.5 hr

Day 11

The day will start with a trip to Ararat Province where proudly stands one of the holiest sites in Armenia – Khor Virap Monastery. You will go up a small hill to see the monastery and enjoy the breathtaking view of Biblical Mount Ararat that opens from above. The tour will continue through a narrow canyon to the valley of red rocks, where Noravank Monastery is located – built in the 13th century it is a masterpiece of Armenian architect Momik. On the territory of the monastery, amazing khachkars are scattered all around – crosstones designed by Momik.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 7-8 hours

Length: 240 km / 150 mi / 3.5 hr

Day 12

On your last day in Armenia, you visit one of the most known religious monuments – Geghard Monastery. The half of the monastery is carved in the rock make it a unique architectural marvel. the tour will continue to nearby Garni village, home to the Garni Temple, the only surviving example of Hellenistic architecture in the region. Next, you will return to Yerevan and visit the History Museum of Armenia. The museum houses an extensive collection of archaeological, numismatic, and ethnographic exhibits, offering a deep insight into Armenia's rich past.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast

Duration: 6-7 hours

Length: 80 km / 50 mi / 2 hr

Day 13

Transfer to the airport, departure to Turkey. After your arrival at Istanbul airport our company's representatives will meet you and arrange your transfer to the hotel. The most interesting fact about Istanbul is that it is located on two at once continents, Europe and Asia. Istanbul is a city of old mosques, minarets and lively bazaars. After some rest at the hotel, we will pick you up to have a boat cruise with traditional dinner.

Overnight: Hotel in Istanbul

Meals: Breakfast

Day 14

This day your city tour around Istanbul will start. First, you will see the Sultan Ahmed Mosque or the Blue Mosque. It is an iconic sight in Istanbul attracting lots of visitors daily. It was built in the 16th century and is under the protection of UNESCO. Next you will continue your tour to the Hippodrome of Constantinople which is now a square but once was a sporting center. Your next sights to visit are Hagia Sophia Mosque and Topkapi Palace Museum. After lunch you will go to the Grand Bazaar and



plunge into the unique exotic atmosphere of bright colors, spices, delights and natural products. Here you can buy some souvenirs like ceramics or products like local natural olive oil, sweet lokum and many others. At the end of the tour, you will return to your hotel.

Overnight: Hotel in Istanbul

Meals: Breakfast

Day 15

Early in the morning you will start a trip to Bursa city known as the first capital of Ottoman Empire. There are lots of old buildings that have historical value and are protected by UNESCO. After arrival your first visits will be to Covered Bazaar, the Grand Mosque of Bursa and Silk Bazaar. Then you will enjoy traditional Turkish dishes at one of local restaurants. The tour will continue to Green Mosque and Green Mausoleum. The last stop will be at Traditional Turkish Delight Factory. Here one of the most beloved Turkish sweets, lokum, is produced. At the end of the day, you will reach Pamukkale town and stay there for an overnight.

Overnight: Hotel in Pamukkale

Meals: Breakfast

Day 16

After breakfast you will visit one of the most amazing natural sights of Pamukkale – its travertine terraces. These terraces are formed by mineral-rich thermal waters that deposit calcium carbonate as they flow over the cliffs. This process has created an amazing landscape of white pools. You will have a chance to walk around this natural masterpiece and those who wish can lie in the waters of the natural springs. During the tour you will also see the ruins of Hierapolis located at the top of Pamukkale. It was once the ancient Greco-Roman city protected now by UNESCO. Next you will start your trip to Cappadocia – a historical region in central Turkey famous for its “fairy chimneys”, underground cities, and hot air balloon rides, making it one of Turkey's most iconic travel destinations. You will reach Cappadocia via Konya. Here you will visit Mausoleum of Mevlana, the mystic founder of the Sufi sect (Whirling Dervishes). Finally, you will reach Cappadocia around 18:00-19:00 pm.

Overnight: Hotel in Cappadocia

Meals: Breakfast

Day 17

This day you will have a sightseeing tour in Cappadocia. Your first stop will be at Ozkonak Underground City which is one of the best preserved in the country. Then you will explore the other impressive sight, Goreme Open Air Museum, which is a monastic area with structures connected to Christianity. The next stop will be at Cavusin abandoned village with old cave Greek houses. Then you will have a chance to visit pottery work shop and watch a master making potteries. You will also stop to visit another local workshop showcasing the art of Cappadocian handwoven carpets and kilims. The journey will continue to Devrent Valley, also known as Imagination Valley, where you will marvel at the rock formations resembling animals. Our final stop is the fairy chimneys called “Three Beauties”, three unique rock formations with rock “hats”, often referred to the symbol of Cappadocia.



Overnight: Hotel in Cappadocia

Meals: Breakfast

Day 18

Early in the morning you will leave Cappadocia and head to Ankara, the capital of Turkey. Along the way, you will have a stop at Salt Lake - the second-largest lake in the country. Its white, mirror-like surface is truly breathtaking, making it a perfect spot for photos. Next the tour will continue to Ankara. Upon arrival, you will visit the Atatürk Mausoleum – a historic monument dedicated to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey. Inside, you will explore the Atatürk Museum, which showcases his life, personal belongings, and the history of Turkey's independence. At the end of the day, you will return to Istanbul.

Overnight: Hotel in Istanbul

Meals: Breakfast

Day 19

Transfer to the airport, departure.



Booking terms

Booking process

Once you have chosen the tour and travel date, push Book now button at your chosen date, fill necessary fields and send us an inquiry. Alternatively use contact from contact us page in about us menu tab. Once we have received your inquiry, confirmed all tour details with you, we send deposit invoice. After the deposit is received (500 euro per person), we start your hotel, train, air tickets reservations and send your Tour Voucher with all the trip details.

Payment process

Tour payment is divided into 2 parts: 1. Deposit, 2. Final payment.

1. Deposit amount is 500 euro per person. Once you prepaid the deposit, it is fully refundable for a month. After month deposit becomes nonrefundable. Deposit is paid via bank transfer; your tour manager provides deposit payment invoice with full bank details. We need deposit to start your hotel, guide, vehicle, domestic flights and train ticket booking.
2. Final payment is done via bank transfer (15 working days prior to tour start) or cash (upon arrival before tour start). Both cases your tour manager provides you electronic or paper invoice. We reserve the right to cancel your tour and apply the relevant cancellation charges (detailed below) if we do not receive all payments at the due time.

Tour Cancellation

If you or your group member cancels the tour, please make sure to let us know in a month after deposit is paid. Note, the deposit is non-refundable; however, you can use it throughout the year and book another tour. In this case, train and domestic flight ticket fees only will be charged a cancellation fee.

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 to 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 with full refund or deposit paid, if the tour booked by you and do not have the minimum number of participants. We inform you about the cancellation of the tour no later than 30 days before the start. 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.

Note AraraTour Central Asia 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

AraraTour Central Asia guarantees the refund of clients' money for unfulfilled services even in the case of company's own insolvency or bankruptcy.

