



## Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia in 17 days

### Key information

Duration: 17 days / 16 nights

Best season: May - October

Tour type: Small group of 2-13

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### What's included:

Transfers from/to the airport, accommodation for 16 nights (3\* hotels, double/twin rooms), breakfast, 3 bottles of water per day (0.5lt.), English-speaking guide services, a comfortable vehicle during the tour, all entrance fees as per the program, Tatev Cable car ticket.

### What's not included:

Flights, visa fees, medical insurance, lunches & dinners

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### Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival - Baku City Tour (start at 10:00 am)

Day 2 - Yanardag - Ateshgah - Gobustan - Baku

Day 3 - Nij - Sheki

Day 4 - Kish - Azerbaijan-Georgian border transfer - Kakheti

Day 5 - Telavi - Tsinandali - Tbilisi

Day 6 - Tbilisi City Tour

Day 7 - Ananuri - Gudauri - Gergeti - Tbilisi

Day 8 - Vardzia - Paravani - Akhaltsikhe

Day 9 - Rabati - Borjomi - Kutaisi

Day 10 - Kutaisi City Tour

Day 11 - Georgian-Armenian border - Haghpat - Sanahin - Dilijan

Day 12 - Sevan - Selim Pass - Jermuk

Day 13 - Karahunj - Tatev - Goris

Day 14 - Areni - Noravank - Khor Virap - Yerevan

Day 15 - Yerevan City Tour - Echmiadzin - Zvartnots

Day 16 - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

Day 17 - Departure



## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1

Arrival at the airport, transfer to the hotel. Your first day will start with a city tour around Baku. Baku is the capital of Azerbaijan, its scientific, cultural, and industrial center. After the second oil boom in 2006 the city turned into a modern one with unique, extraordinary, jaw-dropping masterpieces. Your city tour will start from the old part of Baku, from the Double Gates - double-arched entrance to the inner city of old Baku. The tour will include visits to the oldest Caravanserai, medieval Hamams and Mosques, Shirvanshakhs' Palace, and a climb to the rooftop of Maiden Tower. Also, the tour guide will show you the place where Apostle Bartholomew was crucified. You will also visit the Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center distinguished by its unique design.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Baku

**Duration:** 5-6 hours

**Length:** 60 km

### Day 2

The tour will start with a visit to Yanar Dag or “burning mountain”. The place is distinguished by the eternal fire blazing on the hill. The flame appears due to the subsurface natural gas. Due to such amazing natural phenomena, Azerbaijan is often called «the land of fire». The tour will proceed to the temple of Ateshgah, also called the «Fire Temple of Baku». The next place to explore is the world's unique Gobustan National Reserve. The area is known for its petroglyphs. The area is known for its petroglyphs. You will return to Baku at the end of the day.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Baku

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 6-7 hours

**Length:** 140 km

### Day 3

In the morning, you will depart for Sheki town. On the way, there will be some stops for exploring curious places and sights. One such place is Nij village, where you will forget about modern life and feel in a special world. Here is located a unique small church of the Udi people. There are only a few thousand Udi people in the world today, and the majority (approx. 4.000) live in this area in Azerbaijan. They have roots in Caucasian Albania. At last, you will reach your destination, Sheki town, and will start a guided tour. The sightseeing tour will include the magnificent Palace of Sheki Khans and the Craft Museum. The palace once serving as a summer residence of khans, nowadays impresses with its lavish design and surrounding chinar trees. Shebeke craft workshop will be your last destination.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Sheki

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 320 km

### Day 4

The day will start with a nice tour around the local sweet bakery. After a while, you will head to Kish village. The place is well known for its Church of Saint Elishe, which is one of the oldest Orthodox churches in the world. Your tour will proceed to the Azerbaijan-Georgian border, where you will be met by our



Georgian representatives. Your last-day destination will be the Kakheti region - the hospitable, picturesque region with sun-filled vineyards as well as many great places of interest. Sometime later you will admire the architecture and pleasant atmosphere of Sighnaghi town.

*Note: You will cross the land border from Azerbaijan to Georgia on foot. There will be a walk of approximately 700 m from the Azerbaijan customs area to the Georgia customs area, which includes a few uphill sections. For your comfort, we recommend packing lighter luggage that can be easily wheeled or carried.*

**Overnight:** Hotel in Kakheti

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 6-7 hours

**Length:** 200 km

### **Day 5**

Your tour will start with an exploration of Telavi – the center of the Kakheti region. The tour will continue to Tsinandali estate, which is the patrimony of the famous Georgian dynasty, Chavchavadze. The estate is known for its amazing labyrinth planted with exotic trees in it and cellars, where the unique collection of Georgian and European wine is preserved. The day will end with a tour around the well-known winery Khareba and have a chance to taste local wines, as well as have a master-class on baking shoti bread.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Tbilisi

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 250 km

### **Day 6**

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. The day will be devoted to sightseeing in the city. First, you will explore an open-air Ethnographic Museum where traditional buildings from all Georgian regions are displayed. Then you will explore the center and the old town. Meidani Square, the Assumption Church, Narikala Fortress, the sulfur baths, Mtatsminda Mount and other attractions will be included in the program.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Tbilisi

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 5-6 hours

**Length:** 60 km

### **Day 7**

In the morning, you will head to Ananuri Fortress, located in an amazing place on the shore of the Zhinvali reservoir and surrounded by green velvet hills. The fortress was founded in 1720 with a defensive purpose. The tour will proceed to Gudauri resort. The town is considered one of the most popular ski destinations in Georgia. Although its tourist season starts in winter, Gudauri is no less attractive in summer and autumn: green mountains, sunlit meadows strewn with fragrant flowers, fields with peacefully grazing cows, silence and absolute idyll! In Stepantsminda settlement you will go up the hill to visit Gergeti Church. From the top of the hill opens an amazing view which cannot be expressed in words.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Tbilisi

**Meals:** Breakfast



**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 250 km

### **Day 8**

The cave city Vardzia, without a doubt is in the lists of the most interesting sights of Georgia. It used to be a real city carved in a monolithic rock high in the mountains. Here you will have a chance to go through narrow tunnels, visit the rock church and watch unique frescoes, you will also learn an interesting legend connected to the sight. Your tour will proceed to the largest lake of Georgia - Paravani. After admiring the natural beauties, you will visit the monastery of St. Nino which is famous for its small dairy managed by local nuns. Here you will find various unique kinds of cheeses that cannot be found anywhere else in Georgia. Your overnight will be arranged in Akhaltsikhe.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Akhaltsikhe

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 8-9 hours

**Length:** 320 km

### **Day 9**

This day you will start your tour from the most famous sight of Akhaltsikhe town - Rabat Fortress. This recently renovated fortress can be seen from almost any corner of this small and cozy town. Over its centuries-old history, the citadel had undergone many troubles, including devastation, desolation, the rebuilding of churches. Till our days not all constructions have survived. After the renovation project, the fortress turned into an impressive and very popular tourist attraction. The territory of the fortress occupies no less than about 7 hectares. Your tour will proceed to Borjomi resort where you can taste its world-famous mineral waters just from the spring in the Mineral Water Park. The last destination is Kutaisi town.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Kutaisi

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 200 km

### **Day 10**

Your tour will start with an exploration of Kutaisi. It is considered the historical capital of Georgia. The city is beautifully divided into two parts by the Rioni River, the parts are connected by several bridges, among which the White Bridge stands out. The main attraction of Kutaisi, we would call the Bagrat Temple, which is one of the largest churches in all of Georgia. Bagrati Cathedral is a UNESCO object. In Sataplia National Reserve, you will explore the cave known for its dinosaurs Traces. The last excursion will be at Motsameta Monastery, located on the hill under the River Tskhaltsitela - Red River. Drive to Tbilisi.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Tbilisi

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 280 km

### **Day 11**

In the morning, you will head to the Georgian-Armenian border, meet your Armenian representatives, and start your tour to Armenia. Trip to Haghpat and Sanahin Monasteries, which are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. We continue our trip further to Tavush Province. Here we have a stop at the cozy resort town of Dilijan, known for its arts and crafts as well as picturesque lush nature and healing air.



**Overnight:** Hotel in Dilijan

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 250 km

### Day 12

Gegharkunik Province is best known for its amazing Lake Sevan; on this day you will head to Sevan Lake. It is one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world, located at an altitude of 1900 meters above sea level. After visiting Sevanavank monastery, you will have a Trip along the part of the Great Silk Road towards the Selim Pass. Stop at the 14th-century Selim Caravansary – one of the most well-preserved hostels along the ancient Great Silk Road. The next stop is the resort town of Jermuk, famous for its hot mineral springs and scenic landscape. Walk through the Arpa River Canyon to admire the Jermuk Waterfall.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Jermuk

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 250 km

### Day 13

On this day, you will head to Syunik province and have the first stop at Karahunj, a 7,500-year-old observatory, known as the “Armenian Stonehenge”. Trip to the pearl of Armenian Medieval architecture, the Monastery, and the University of Tatev. The monastery can be reached by the longest cable car in the world, which stretches over the 320-meter-deep Vorotan River Canyon. Head to Goris for a free evening and overnight.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Goris

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 270 km

### Day 14

In the morning you will check out from the hotel and head to Yerevan. En route, you will visit a wine factory to taste local wine made of the unique grape variety “Areni”. The tour will continue through a narrow canyon to the valley of red rocks where Noravank Monastery is located. Trip to the south of Armenia to Khor Virap Monastery, located at the foot of Biblical Mount Ararat. In the evening you will be in Yerevan and explore the vibrant capital of Armenia.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 250 km

### Day 15

First stop at the Food Market of Yerevan, where you will have an opportunity to wander through the aisles of locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables. Further visit the Genocide Memorial – a solemn reminder of the first genocide of the 20th century. Trip to Echmiadzin town, the religious center of all Armenians around the world. Visit Echmiadzin Cathedral. On the way back, you will stop at the ruins of Zvartnots temple (7th century UNESCO World Heritage Site), which was a miracle of its time.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan



*Meals: Breakfast*

*Duration: 7-8 hours*

*Length: 90 km*

### **Day 16**

Trip to the scenic canyon of the Azat River to Geghard Cave Monastery, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Tour to the Hellenistic Garni temple built in 77 AD, dedicated to the Armenian God of the Sun Mitra. You will also visit the Symphony of Stones in Garni Gorge to see the unique rock formations that look like a giant stone organ. Upon your return in Yerevan, visit the Museum of Armenian History where you will have a fascinating journey through the rich history of Armenia.

*Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan*

*Meals: Breakfast*

*Duration: 7-8 hours*

*Length: 90 km*

### **Day 17**

Transfer to the airport, departure.

*Meals: Breakfast*



### **Booking terms and conditions**

Once we receive your application and confirm all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 200 EUR/USD/GBP/AUD 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 200 EUR/USD/GBP/AUD, 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 (200 EUR/USD/GBP/AUD) 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 200 EUR/USD/GBP/AUD for re-booking the hotel.

### **Rights and obligations**

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before their inception and are not subject to 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 the company's insolvency or bankruptcy.