



Classical Tour to Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan

Key information

Duration: 13 days / 12 nights

Best season: May - October

Tour type: Small group / individual (starting from 2 persons)

What's included:

Airport transfers, accommodation in hotels 12 nights (3* hotels with free WiFi double/twin room), breakfast, 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.), 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, 24-hour office support

What's not included:

Flights, visa fee, medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Yerevan City Tour - Matenadaran

Day 2 - Etchmiadzin Cathedral - Genocide Memorial

Day 3 - Khor Virap - Noravank Monastery - Yerevan

Day 4 - Garni Pagan Temple - Geghard Cave Monastery

Day 5 - Lake Sevan - Sanahin Monastery - Haghpat Monastery - Armenia-Georgia border - Tbilisi

Day 6 - Mtskheta - Tbilisi City Tour

Day 7 - Ananuri Fortress - Gudauri - Holy Trinity Church of Gergeti

Day 8 - Georgian Wine Trail - Signaghi - Telavi - Tsinandali Winery

Day 9 - Transfer to the border - Sheki - Palace of Shaki Khans - Sheki Caravanserai - Silk Carpet Shop of Sheki

Day 10 - Gabala - Friday Mosque in Shamakhi

Day 11 - Baku City tour

Day 12 - Gobustan National Park - Bibi Heybat Mosque

Day 13 - Departure



Detailed itinerary

Day 1

After your arrival at the airport, you will be transferred to the hotel in Yerevan and checked in. On your first day you will have a city tour around Yerevan, the ancient capital of Armenia, which was founded in 782 B.C. Armenians are proud that Yerevan is 29 years older than Rome. During the city tour, you will walk around the center of the city and visit Cascade, Opera and Ballet Theater, Mashtots Avenue, and the Republic Square. The tour also includes a visit to Matenadaran Museum, a repository of one of the richest manuscript collections in the world.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Day 2

A short morning drive will take you to Etchmiadzin town – the religious center of all Armenians around the world. Here – after the adoption of Christianity in 301 AD – was built the first Christian temple in the world – Etchmiadzin Cathedral. It is the seat of the Supreme Patriarch of the Catholicos of all Armenians. The cathedral keeps an important religious relic – the Holy Lance spear. In 2000 Etchmiadzin Cathedral was listed as an UNESCO site. You'll see the ruins of Zvartnots temple (7th century, UNESCO World Heritage Site), that was a miracle of its time. The trip will continue to the Genocide Memorial – a solemn reminder of the first genocide of the 20th century.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 3

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 hike up a small hill to discover the monastery and enjoy the breathtaking view on Biblical Mount Ararat. The tour will continue through a narrow canyon to the valley of red rocks, right 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*

Day 4

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 leads us 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 an excursion in the History Museum of Armenia – the main historical museum of the country known for its Archaeological, Numismatic, and Ethnographic collections.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 5

After breakfast, you will start your day to the North. Gegharkunik Province is best known for amazing Lake Sevan. It is one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world located at an altitude of 1900 meters above the sea level. We continue our trip further north to Lori 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. After an excursion to the medieval monasteries of Sanahin and Haghpat both listed as UNESCO objects the tour will continue to the Armenian-Georgian border. Having passed the customs another 3-hour drive to Tbilisi takes us to the capital of Georgia.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*



Meals: Breakfast

Day 6

After breakfast head to Mtskheta which was the first capital of Georgia from the 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD. The town is considered the religious center of Georgia. Our excursion will start with the visit to the Cathedral of the 11th century – Svetitskhoveli. The next stop – Jvari Temple located at the top of the hill which offers a fascinating view of the confluence of two rivers Kura and Aragvi. After your return to Tbilisi we'll continue with a city tour including an in depth exploration of the old town, cable car trips to Narikala Fortress, a visit to the Bridge of Peace and Armenian Church, Jewish Synagogue and Turkish Mosque.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7

The day will start with a trip to Ananuri Fortress. A beautiful castle complex 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 continues to Stepantsminda village where a 4-wheel vehicle will take you up the high hill to the Gergeti Trinity Church (14th century). The sanctuary is located at an altitude of 2180 m above sea level. From the top opens an unforgettable view to the famous Mount Kazbek.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8

In the morning you will drive to the east of the country, to Kakheti – the main wine making region of Georgia. A pleasant time is waiting for you in Signaghi – a royal town founded by the king Erekle II in the 18th century. Strolling around the tiny streets you will enjoy the local architecture and atmosphere. Continue to Telavi well-known for its delightful landscapes. There you can see nine-hundred-year old tree. Visit to Tsinandali village – the patrimony of famous Georgian family – 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.

Overnight: Hotel in Signaghi

Meals: Breakfast

Day 9

Transfer to Georgia-Azerbaijan border. We will meet and greet you at the border, and then you will departure for Sheki city. Firstly, you will check in your hotel in Sheki, and then you will have a sightseeing tour around Sheki. You will visit the Upper Town, the magnificent Palace of Sheki Khans and the Craft Museum. Built in 1797 as a summer residence for Muhammad Hasan Khan, the Palace of Sheki Khans is a masterpiece of lavish decoration. Both the exterior and interior decorations of the palace embody the architectural glamor of the ancient Sheki Khanate. After the lunch, you will visit Museum of carpets (there are various big rooms with pottery, silk embroidery, and national costumes, jewelry) Shebeke craft workshop, Sheki Bazaar, and the local sweet bakery. We advise you to try famous Sheki sweet baklava – the pride of Sheki population. After a long day delving into the many treasures of Sheki you will return back to the hotel to have a rest. Then you will have dinner in one of the best local restaurants.

Overnight: Hotel in Sheki

Meals: Breakfast

Day 10

After breakfast at your hotel in Sheki, you will explore Gabala – the ancient capital of Azerbaijan. This veritable melting pot of culture and tradition is a joy to explore. Whilst traveling through Gabala in the north of Azerbaijan you will take the



time to experience a small but significant part of the religious tolerance within the country. First, you will visit the Church of the Udi, near Gabala, in the village of Nij. This small church is special. It belongs to the native people of the Caucasus – 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. Today they practice Orthodox Christianity and you will be welcomed with their kindness to see them. church, renovated and used. You will then head to the village of Chukhur Gabala home to interesting ruins from its time as the former capital of Caucasian Albania. During the tour, the guide will explain interesting facts about the history, cultural heritage of Gabala. Then you will get acquainted with the Gabala Archeology Center. The three-storey building of the Gabala Archeology Center has a showroom, an archeological collection, a restoration lab, a conference hall and study rooms for archeologists. So here, you can see the exhibition features about 1,500 items discovered during excavation. Now it is time to visit the must-see natural beauties of Gabala. First, you will head to Tufandag Mountain, riding the Cable car, then the Gabala Lake, where you can ride a non-powered boat. Gabala Lake is a gem, half-natural, half man-made. The tour will continue to Samakhih city and have a sightseeing of historical Juma Mosque of Shamakhi. On the way to Baku, visit Diri Baba Mausoleum in Maraza village.

Overnight: *Hotel in Baku*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 11

This day you will have a tour around Baku Old City. You will visit the legendary Zoroastrian Maiden Tower of the 5th c. Then you will walk to the old bazaar. The entire old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and during the city tour you will visit the oldest Multani Caravanserai, the Haji Banu Hamam of the 15th c., the Juma Mosque (Friday Mosque), as well as the Shirvanshahs' Palace (the most striking example of the medieval palace structures in Azerbaijan, dating to the middle of 15th century), antique carpet shops and museum. After the city tour, you will have lunch (Azerbaijan National Cuisine) in one of the beautifully designed restaurants in old town. After the lunch, you will continue the remaining program of sightseeing excursion. You will visit the Upland Park of Baku where you can enjoy the panoramic view of the city and bay of Baku. Then you will head to Martyr's Line or Alley of Martyrs formerly the Kirov Park, where is a cemetery and memorial dedicated to those killed by the Soviet Army during Black January. You will be also impressed by the modern district with the three Flame Towers near the Upland Park, overlooking the city. They look as if they have been thrown from heavens into the city by some fabulous giants. The next place to visit is Baku Boulevard. You will have a walk along Baku Boulevard, the second longest one in Europe. You can get a boat and make 30 minutes trip along Baku Bay. During Baku Bay Cruise, you will enjoy splendid panoramic views of Baku from the sea while learning about Baku and its history. After the boat trip, you will visit the Carpet Museum. It demonstrates carpets in close connection with other kinds of traditional handicrafts of Azerbaijan. Once you finish Baku Boulevard tour, you will head to Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center. An internationally recognized architectural marvel, Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center displays a curved modern style.

Overnight: *Hotel in Baku*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 12

Start your day with a breakfast at your hotel and enjoy a beautiful drive out of Baku to visit the Gobustan National Park. You will travel 64 km southwest of Baku along with the Caspian shore. The tour will start from Gobustan Museum where you will see ancient human bones, work tools used in back to thousand years ago during the Mesolithic Period. Then, you will advance to the mountain in order to see real Rock Paintings in the open-air museum. You will also get a chance to marvel at the Mud Volcanoes in the Gobustan Reserve, which is home to almost half of the world's mud volcanoes. At the end of the Gobustan tour, you will return to Baku. On the way back to Baku, we will have lunch at a local restaurant on the Caspian Sea Coast. After the lunch around 14:00 we will see the Bibi-Heybat Mosque.



Overnight: Hotel in Baku

Meals: Breakfast

Day 13

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 in Armenia. 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.

