

## Classical Tour to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia

### Key information

Duration: 13 days / 12 nights

Best season: May - October

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

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### What's included:

Airport transfers, accommodation in hotels 12 nights (3\* hotels with free Wi-Fi 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

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### Itinerary in brief

- Day 1 - Arrival in Baku
- Day 2 - Gobustan - Baku
- Day 3 - Baku City Tour
- Day 4 - Shamakhi - Gabala - Sheki
- Day 5 - Lagodekhi border - Signaghi - Tbilisi
- Day 6 - Mtskheta - Tbilisi City Tour
- Day 7 - Ananuri - Gudauri - Gergeti - Tbilisi
- Day 8 - Telavi - Tsindandali - Batoni Tsikhe - 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 - Departure



## Detailed itinerary

### Day 1

Meeting at the airport. Transfer to the hotel. Free day in Baku. Baku is the capital of Azerbaijan, its scientific, cultural, and industrial centre. After the second oil boom in 2006, the city turned into the modern one with unique extraordinary jaw-dropping masterpieces. During your free time, you can just stroll in the city centre, feel the atmosphere, have a cup of tea or coffee in local cafes and admire the attractive architecture.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Baku

### Day 2

The day will start with a trip out of Baku to Gobustan National Park. The area is known for its petroglyphs, mud volcanoes and gas stones. All this heritage is protected by UNESCO. In the Gobustan Museum, you will explore the different archaeological finds of this area. Later you will feel like strolling around the Mars surface while exploring the grey-beige cracked earth with the mud volcanoes. At the end of the Gobustan tour, you will return to Baku. The lunch will be served at a local restaurant on the Caspian Sea Coast. After lunch, we will see the Bibi-Heybat Mosque.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Baku

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 5-6 hours

**Length:** 150 km

### Day 3

This day you will have Baku sightseeing tour including all the important historical and architectural sights. You will see the Flag Square, the Carpet Museum, the House of Government, the Philharmonic Theatre named after M. Magomayev, the Baku Mayor's office. Then the tour will continue to the old city that had preserved its ancient architecture, narrow cobbled streets till our days. The Old City Tour will include the Palace of the Shirvan Shahs (XV cent), the symbol of the city - Maiden Tower (IX cent), Karvansarays, mosques etc. During the excursion, you will also visit the Cultural Center named after Heydar Aliyev. Heydar Aliyev Center is a cultural center, projected as a complex structure that includes the auditorium (convention center), a museum, exhibition halls, administrative offices. The design of the building is also notable for the fact that neither in the interior or exterior of the building has any angles. The project of the center was designed by the winner of Pritzker prize and internationally recognized architect Zaha Hadid.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Baku

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 5-6 hours

**Length:** 60 km

### Day 4

Your first stop on the fourth day will be in the city of Shamakhi, with its largest mosque of the Caucasus and the tomb of the Shirvan Shahs, rulers of Yeddi Gyumyaz. Then, you will head to Nij village where you will forget about modern life and feel in a special world. Here is located a unique small church of Udi people. There are only a few thousand Udi people in the world today and the majority, approximately 4000 live in this area and village in Azerbaijan. They have roots of Caucasian Albania. They managed to preserve their traditions, language and culture. Today they practice Orthodox Christianity and you will be welcomed with their kindness to see their church. In Gabala you will see Tufandag Mountain and Gabala Lake. The town itself has an impressive and very old history. At finally, you will reach your last destination, Sheki town, and will start a guided tour. The sightseeing tour will include the Upper Town and the magnificent Palace of Sheki Khans. The palace once served as a summer residence of khans and nowadays impresses with



its lavish design and surrounding chinar trees. Shebeke craft workshop will be the last destination. The tour will end with a visit to “Shebeke” handmade frescos’ workshop, “Pakhlava” famous local sweets’ workshop and “Tekulduz” popular weaving workshop.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Sheki

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 300 km

## Day 5

On this day, you will head to Georgia. After crossing the Azerbaijan–Georgia (Lagodekhi) border, you will meet your Georgian representatives and begin your journey toward Tbilisi. Along the way, you won't miss the chance to stroll through the cozy streets of Signaghi, a picturesque town often referred to as the "City of Love." Despite its small size, Signaghi is rich in historical and cultural heritage, offering breathtaking views, charming architecture, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. After your visit to Signaghi, you will continue on to Tbilisi, where you will stay overnight. Tbilisi is considered one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the South Caucasus, with a vibrant atmosphere and a seamless blend of modern life and ancient history.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Tbilisi

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 5-6 hours

**Length:** 280 km

## Day 6

After breakfast, you'll have a short trip 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 centre of Georgia. Our excursion will start with the visit to the Cathedral of the 11th century – Svetitskhoveli. The next sight to visit 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 your return to Tbilisi, you'll continue with a city tour including an in-depth exploration of the old town. The trip will start from the historic district of Metekhi, where you will see the Assumption Church located on the picturesque hill. Next stop will be Bridge of Peace – designed by a well-known Italian architect; it is one of the most famous city's landmarks. Hereafter, you will go up to the Narikala Fortress, situated on a hill. You will reach the fortress by the cable car, and at the top, a spectacular view of the city opens. Going down by foot, the excursion will continue to the sulfuric baths – famous royal bath complex (XVII-XIX centuries), standing on the warm natural sulfur springs. That is one of the main attractions of the Old Town. Stroll around cosy Shardeni Street named after the French traveller Jean Chardin. The street has an architecture resembling Paris and is full of cosy cafes, boutiques, and interesting galleries. The way will continue to Juma Mosque located on the Botanical Street. Visit to Meydan Square one of the central squares of Old Town. Excursion to Sioni church. There is kept one of the greatest relics of Georgia, the cross of St. Patriarchate.

**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 Trinity Church (14th century) situated at an altitude of 2170 m at the foot of Mount Kazbek. From the top opens an unforgettable view to the famous Mount Kazbek. The last tour destination will be to the Dariali Gorge and the church of Transfiguration. Return to Tbilisi.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Tbilisi

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 250 km

## Day 8

In the morning, you will drive to the east of the country, to Kakheti – the main winemaking region of Georgia. Your tour will start with an exploration of Telavi, the centre of the Kakheti region. The tour will continue to Tsinandali Estate, the patrimony of the famous Georgian Chavchavadze dynasty. The estate is known for its exotic tree labyrinth and wine cellars that preserve a unique collection of Georgian and European wines. You will then visit the Batoni Tsikhe fortress museum, the former residence of the prominent Georgian King Erekle II. At the end of the day, you will tour the well-known Khareba Winery, where you will have the opportunity to taste local wines and enjoy a masterclass on baking traditional Georgian bread – shoti. Afterward, you will return to Tbilisi.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Tbilisi

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 250 km

## Day 9

After breakfast, you will have a transfer to the Georgian-Armenian (Sadakhlo) border. Your pleasant trip to Armenia will start after passing the customs. First stop will be in Tavush region where you will have visits to the medieval monasteries of Goshavank and Haghartsin. The region is also home to the cosy resort town of Dilijan known for its arts and crafts as well as picturesque lush nature and healing air. The trip will continue to 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. In the evening you will be in Yerevan.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 9-10 hours

**Length:** 350 km

## Day 10

This 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 centre of the city and visit Cascade, Opera and Ballet Theater, Mashtots Avenue, and the Republic Square. The tour also includes a visit to the Matenadaran Museum, a repository of one of the richest manuscript collections in the world. After the city tour, you will head to Echmiadzin town – the religious centre of all Armenians around the world. Hereafter, the adoption of Christianity in 301 AD was built one of the first Christian cathedrals in the world – Echmiadzin 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 it was listed as a UNESCO site. You'll see the ruins of Zvartnots temple (the 7<sup>th</sup> century, UNESCO World Heritage Site), that was a miracle of its time. The trip will end with the visit of the Genocide Memorial – a solemn reminder of the first genocide of the 20th century.



**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Duration:** 5-6 hours

**Length:** 40 km

### **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 climb up a small hill to explore the monastery and enjoy the breathtaking view of 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

**Duration:** 7-8 hours

**Length:** 240 km

### **Day 12**

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

**Duration:** 6-7 hours

**Length:** 90 km

### **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 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.

