

5 STANS AND CAUCASUS 31 DAYS ITINERARY – 2020

KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN,
TAJIKISTAN, AZERBAIJAN,
GEORGIA AND ARMENIA

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL TO ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN)

AUGUST 23, SUNDAY

Welcome to Kazakhstan! Upon arrival to Almaty airport, we will meet you and transfer to hotel for rest after flight. It takes about 20 min. of driving to the hotel. After we check in to hotel and have a short rest, we will have a Welcome dinner at one of local restaurants where we'll provide a short introduction about Kazakhstan – the largest country of Central Asia with majestic mountains and plains, glaciers, and deep rivers, lakes and deserts, boundless steppes and the woods adjoin. Such variety of landscapes causes existence of rich natural world. Besides natural sights the country has a lot of rich history which is imprinted in numerous monuments: the remains of ancient settlements, barrows, petroglyphs, mausoleums and mosques being important shrines of Muslim culture. Kazakhstan – is a country of most ancient civilization of Eurasian continent, homeland of nomad tribes, a significant part of Great Silk Road – 870 mi. The republic contains 27 thousand monuments of antiquity. Leading industries of Kazakhstan are: metallurgy, chemical and mechanical engineering. Oil processing and production of building materials are also developed industries of Kazakhstan. After dinner today we'll overnight at a hotel in Almaty.

✓ *Dinner*

DAY 2 – ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN)

AUGUST 24, MONDAY

After breakfast at hotel, we have a full day of sightseeing ahead. Today we visit: Panfilov Park, Zenkov Wooden Cathedral, St. Nicholas Cathedral, National Musical Instruments Museum, Central State Museum, Almaty's Green Bazaar and have a Panoramic view at observatory. Almaty is a name of "the southern capital" of Kazakhstan. It is the largest city of country which was state capital during the period 1927 – 1997. Almaty is located in southeast part of Kazakhstan near border with Kyrgyzstan at heights from 670 to 1100 m. The main sight of Almaty is Panfilov Park named in honor of Panfilov's 28 guardsmen, stretched in northeast part of the city covering near 18 hectares.

Located in center of park is majestic Holy Ascension Cathedral. Behind Panfilov park, we come visit to one of biggest market places of Almaty – the Green Bazaar. It is a fine example of a true Asian bazaar. Next we will visit the Museum of National Musical Instruments named in honor of Ykylas Dukenov, People’s Composer. It was opened in 1980s and contains many types of Kazakh national musical instruments most ancient of which are dated to 17th century. In the southern part of the city we visit Central State Museum – place to see unique archaeological finds telling history of Kazakhstan since the most ancient times to the present. Museum displays over 120 thousand exhibits. Before dinner excursion to falcon farm with a short show program. After dinner at one of the local restaurants we’ll overnight at a hotel in Almaty.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 3 – ALMATY – BISHKEK – 170 MI. (KAZAKHSTAN/KYRGYZSTAN)

AUGUST 25, TUESDAY

Today after breakfast at the hotel we depart Almaty and drive to Bishkek via newly built highway. En route which will take approximately 3 hours we will enjoy beautiful landscape. Soon we will welcome you to Kyrgyzstan. On the way we will provide short information about Kyrgyzstan. Republic located in northeast of Central Asia, crossed by two of the world’s major mountain ranges: Tien Shan and Pamir. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, with strong continental climate, 93% of its territory is located at over 350 meters above sea level. In the afternoon we will arrive to the capital of Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek. Check in to the hotel for a short rest and have lunch at local restaurant. For the second part of the day we will have a sightseeing of Bishkek - visit Central Museum, Panfilov park, the local bazaar. After dinner at one of the local restaurants followed by a folk show program, today we will overnight in Bishkek.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 4 – BISHKEK – ISSYK KUL – 165 MI. (KYRGYZSTAN)

AUGUST 26, WEDNESDAY

After breakfast at hotel we’ll transfer to the Issyk Kul Lake, the pearl of Kyrgyzstan. En route we’ll visit Burana Tower located in the city of Tokmok, 50 mi. from Bishkek. Today we’ll have lunch in Kyrgyz family in Tokmok city. After a lunch break we’ll continue on driving to Issyk Kul Lake through Boom Gorge. Issyk Kul is one of the largest mountain lakes in the world and the most beautiful lake in Kyrgyzstan. It is located in the north-east part of the republic between two ridges of the Northern Tien Shan: Kungey Ala-Too and Terskey Ala-Too at the height of 1609 m. above sea level. Excursions will also include visiting petroglyphs of Paleolithic era and local museum in Cholpon-Ata. Upon arrival we’ll check into the hotel and have dinner at one of the local restaurants. Overnight at a hotel in Issyk Kul Lake.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 5 – ISSYK KUL – CHOPON-ATA – GRIGORIEVKA GORGE – BISHKEK– TASHKENT (KYRGYZSTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 27, THURSDAY

After breakfast at the hotel we’ll transfer to Grigorievka Gorge. Grigorievka Gorge is located 45 mi. from the city of Cholpon-Ata. Gentle slopes of a valley are covered with a dense fir forest. Length of a valley is 25 mi. The Grigorievka Gorge is considered to be one of the most picturesque in Issyk Kul area. Today we’ll have a relaxing day in the nature. After lunch at local restaurant we’ll return to Bishkek and transfer to the airport for flight to Tashkent by HY778 at 18:40 (subject to change). Welcome to Uzbekistan! Upon your arrival to Tashkent airport, you’ll be met and transferred to

hotel to check. En route short introduction about Uzbekistan – one of the economically developed states of the Central Asian region, occupying a bit more than 11% of the territory of Central Asia. Main branches of industry of the republic are linked with the cotton growing, silk production, fruit and vegetable production and irrigation construction. Overnight at a hotel in Tashkent.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 6 – TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 28, FRIDAY

After breakfast at the hotel we'll visit old part of the city: Khast Imam Complex which displays unique Osman Koran thought to be the world's oldest Koran. Chorsu bazaar is one of the oldest, biggest bazaars of Tashkent. Madrasah Kukeldash – is a significant architectural sights of the 16th century. After lunch we will continue on to modern part of the city: Independence Square called Mustakillik, the main square of Tashkent, flanked by largest public buildings and walls of fountains. A. Navoi theatre square built in 1947 by Japanese prisoners in World War II. Visits to museum of Amir Timur and museum of Handicraft Art will end our excursion of Tashkent, and we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight at a hotel in Tashkent.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 7 – TASHKENT – SAMARKAND – 190 MI. (UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 29, SATURDAY

After breakfast we will take a train to world famous Samarkand located 190 mi from Tashkent. The road to Samarkand is via Syrdarya and Jizzakh provinces and takes approximately 3 hours. We will arrive to Samarkand in the afternoon, check in to hotel and have lunch. After short rest we'll start our excursion of Samarkand by visiting Paper Mills Factory where we'll have a presentation of paper production from mulberry tree, Afrasiyob Museum, Ulugbek's observatory – dated to 1428 - 1429 – known as biggest observatory of the East with best equipment to the time. After dinner at one of the local restaurants we'll transfer to hotel for overnight in Samarkand.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 8 – SAMARKAND (UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 30, SUNDAY

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing of Samarkand. Visit heart of the city – Registan Square which played great role in commercial and scientific life of the time. Gur Emir Mausoleum - mausoleum for the males of Temurid's dynasty, real masterpiece of Central Asian architecture. Shaki Zinda Necropolis in the northern outskirts of Samarkand. Bibi – Khanum Mosque construction of which started in 1399 after Victorian campaign of Temur to India. Central bazaar of Samarkand- Siyobian where we'll taste famous round bread (non) made only in Samarkand. After this long day, we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight in Samarkand.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 9 – SAMARKAND – BUKHARA – 172 MI. (UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 31, MONDAY

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart Samarkand for Bukhara. Stop on the way at the ruins of medieval monument Caravanserai Rabat-i-Malik. Continue driving to Bukhara via Gijduvan where we'll visit Abdulla's pottery house where we'll be offered short presentation and a cup of

tea. Upon arrival to Bukhara, we'll accommodate at the hotel. Visit Chor Minor memorial. Today we'll dinner in one of the local restaurants and will overnight in Bukhara. Today we'll overnight in Bukhara.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 10 – BUKHARA (UZBEKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 1, TUESDAY

After breakfast we'll have a full day of sightseeing of this ancient city. Bukhara is one of most historically rich cities on the Great Silk Road attracting attention of thousands of people with its unique heritage. Today we'll visit: Samanid's dynasty mausoleum known to be one of the best architectural samples of the Samanids period (875 - 999). Chashma Ayub Mausoleum – legend say is it of Prophet Jove. Bolo – Khauz Mosque. The Ark Forteress – Citadel is the most ancient memorial of Bukhara, on archeological matter dated to the 3rd century B.C. Kalon Complex – consists of minaret, Mosque and Madrasah both of which are still active. Magoki Attori Mosque. Ulugbek and Abdulazizi Khan madrasahs. Next we'll visit most popular place of Bukhara – reservoir Lyabi Khauz complex built in 1620 by khans' dignitary Nodir Devan Begi. We'll end the day with a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Today we'll overnight in Bukhara.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 11 – BUKHARA – FARAB – TURKMENABAT – MARY – 290 MI. (UZBEKISTAN/TURKMENISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 2, WEDNESDAY



After breakfast we'll continue with half a day of sightseeing in Bukhara, visiting: former summer palace of Bukhara Emir Said Olimkhan – last Emir of Bukhara Sitora – iMokhi – Khosa, Museum of Decorative Applied Art. After Lunch we say good bye to Uzbekistan as we make our way to Turkmenistan border which is almost 1.5 hours of driving away. Upon arrival to the border point we'll go through custom procedures and continue on to drive directly to Mary via Turkmenabat which will take another 4.5 hours. On the way we'll cross

the Floating Bridge (almost .5mi. long). We will proceed our way to Mary crossing one of the biggest deserts in the world known as Kara Kum Desert which means "black sand". Upon arrival in Mary we will accommodate in hotel and have dinner in one of the local restaurants. Overnight at hotel in Mary.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 12 – MARY – ASHGABAT (TURKMENISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 3, THURSDAY

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll make our way through sand dunes and bush forests of the desert, to an important excursion of Old Merv – Merv located at the road crossing of Great Silk Road quickly became one of most important and biggest cities of the ancient World. Sightseeing will include: Gyz Gala and Oglan Gala, Complex of Askhabs, Gyaour Gala, Erk Gala, Soltan Gala,

Soltan Sanjar Mausoleum, Ibn Zeid Mausoleum. After lunch we'll take a walking tour within the central part of Mary City. Sightseeing Local United Museum of History, Ethnography, Flora and Fauna of Mary and Orthodox Church built by Russians at the end of XIX century, the Regional Mosque of Mary Province, The Central Theater of Mary, The Convention and Conference Center "Ruhiyet Koshgi", Central Park and Monument of Mollanepes. Late afternoon transfer to the airport of Mary for flight to Ashgabat by flight T5-132 at 19:00. Upon arrival transfer to have dinner at local restaurant. Accommodate and overnight at hotel in Ashgabat.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 13 – ASHGABAT – NISSA – ASHGABAT (TURKMENISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 4, FRIDAY

Today after breakfast we'll proceed with sightseeing one of the most beautiful cities of the world which was recently included into the Book of Guinness as the Most-White Marble City. Today's sightseeing includes: Complex of Monuments of Oguz Han and Sons surrounded with fountains. Tombs of Turkmenbashy (first President of Turkmenistan S. Nyyazow) and his parents and brothers, Old Nissa - The Sanctuary of Parthian Kings, Nissa was the capital of Parthian Empire which lasted 600 years and was greatest enemy of Rome Empire. After excursions of Old Nissa we'll proceed to Monuments of Archabil Shayoly and discover new part of Ashgabat with its' modern buildings, monuments and parks which includes: Health Path of Turkmenbashy built on mountains which became very popular place among locals, Monument of Constitution and tallest building in Turkmenistan (600 feet), "Alem" Culture and Recreation Center. In the afternoon we'll transfer to hotel and check in. We'll have lunch at one of the local restaurants. After lunch we will continue with sightseeing of Ashgabat, visiting: Museum of Turkmen Carpets, Park dedicated to Turkmen horses-the pride of Turkmen, Gulistan Bazar, Monument for the Victims of the Earthquake of 1948, Monument of Lenin, Ertogrul Gazy Mosque. We'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants. After dinner we'll go for a night tour, driving along the main streets of Ashgabat making stop near Palace of Happiness. Dinner followed by a folk show program. Today we'll overnight at hotel in Ashgabat.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 14 – ASHGABAT – DASHOGUZ (TURKMENISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 5, SATURDAY

Today after breakfast we'll have another full day of sightseeing in Ashgabat which will include:



Ashgabat's famous "Altyn Asyr" Oriental Bazar, Jygyldyk bazaar – one of the biggest bazaar in Central Asia. After bazaar we'll visit Hippodrome of Ashgabat where we'll see famous horses of Turkmenistan: Turkmen Horses – Akhalteke. We'll have lunch at one of the local restaurants in Ashgabat. After lunch we'll continue sightseeing of National Museum of History highly recommendable: one of the biggest museums in Central Asia. After Museum we'll be visiting Arch of Neutrality – famous rocket and tripod style built building symbolizing neutral status of Turkmenistan. Its' height is over 300 feet including 40 feet rotating statue of first President of Turkmenistan: Saparmyrat Nyyazow (Turkmenbashy).

building symbolizing neutral status of Turkmenistan. Its' height is over 300 feet including 40 feet rotating statue of first President of Turkmenistan: Saparmyrat Nyyazow (Turkmenbashy).

Enjoy short walking tour within the Park of Independency along the hundreds of fountains and statues with stops to visit Monuments of Independency and Ruhnama. Late afternoon transfer to the airport of Ashgabat for flight to Dashoguz by T5-109 at 19:20. Upon arrival transfer to have dinner at local restaurant. After dinner accommodation and rest. Today overnight is at hotel in Dashoguz.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 15 – DASHOGUZ – KUNYA – URGENCH – KHIVA – 184 MI. (TURKMENISTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 6, SUNDAY

After breakfast at the hotel we'll proceed with drive of 75 mi to Koneurgench – the capital of Khorezmshahs, have sightseeing of Old City which will include: Portal of Caravansaray, Mamun Minaret, Il Arslan Mausoleum, Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum, Academy of Horezm, Kutlug Timur Minaret – one of the tallest minarets in Central Asia and Turabek Hanum Mausoleum. After half day excursion of Koneurgench we'll drive back to Dashoguz where we'll stop for a lunch at one of the local restaurants. After lunch we'll transfer to the border pass Dashoguz – Shavat which is located 10 mi from Dashoguz. Upon arrival proceed the way through passport control and customs procedures and return to Uzbekistan. After border formalities on both sides we'll continue our way to Khiva. Upon arrival we'll accommodate in hotel in Khiva for rest and relaxation. Khiva is a fascinating place, walk through Ichan Kala – old walled city of Khiva, will give you an insight into the life led there from ancient days up to the present time. We'll have a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Overnight is at the hotel in Khiva.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 16 – KHIVA – URGENCH – TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 7, MONDAY

After breakfast at hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing in Khiva: visit Ichan Kala – a UNESCO World Heritage Site including madrasah Muhammad Amin Khan, Kelta Minar, Kunya Ark, madrasah Muhammad Rakhimkhan. We'll have lunch at local restaurant and continue sightseeing program: visit Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, Islam Khodja Minaret and Madrasah, Djuma Mosque and Minaret, Tash Hovli Palace. After dinner at the local restaurant we'll proceed to airport for a flight back to Tashkent leaving at 08:40PM and arriving at 10:10PM (subject to change). Upon arrival to Tashkent, we'll accommodate in hotel for overnight and rest.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 17 – TASHKENT – KHUJAND – 104 MI. (UZBEKISTAN/TAJIKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 8, TUESDAY

After early breakfast at the hotel in Tashkent today we'll head on to a 1 day excursion of Tajikistan. We'll drive to the border check point Oybek and after border crossing formalities we'll continue on to city Khujand. Upon arrival we'll accommodate at the hotel after a long drive and start sightseeing. Khujand – the country's second largest city – situated in the north of Tajikistan and is one of its most ancient, founded about 2,300 years ago during the time of Alexander the Great. Standing in a favorable location in the Ferghana valley, Khujand prospered for a long time, becoming rich and building palaces, mosques, and citadels. In the 13th century it was conquered and destroyed by the Genghis Khan's army. We'll have a close city tour in second part of the day, and end the day with dinner at a local restaurant. We'll overnight in Khujand.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 18 — KHUJAND — OYBEK — TASHKENT — 104 MI. (TAJIKISTAN/ UZBEKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 9, WEDNESDAY

After breakfast at the hotel we'll continue sightseeing of Khujand, visit ancient part of Khujand: Timurmaliq fortress, Archeology and History museums, Orient bazaar Panjshanbe – famous Panjshanbe city market is one of the most interesting sights of Khujand. Near the market we'll stop by Sheikh Muslihiddin Masque and Mausoleum, Museum of Archeology and Resporation. We'll have lunch at the local restaurant and in the afternoon transfer back to Tashkent. Once back to Uzbekistan, we'll have a rest at the hotel before making a long way back home. We'll have a Farewell dinner followed by a show program and return to hotel for overnight in Tashkent.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 19 — TASHKENT — BAKU (UZBEKISTAN/ AZERBAIJAN)

SEPTEMBER 10, THURSDAY

After breakfast today, we'll transfer to airport of Tashkent for flight to Baku. Depending on flight schedule we'll have time to rest before or after the flight. Upon your arrival to Baku airport, you'll be met and transferred to hotel to check in and rest. We'll have a welcome dinner at 7PM with short introduction about Azerbaijan – one of the economically developed states of the Caucasus region, located at the shore of Caspian Sea. Main branches of industry of the republic are linked with the oil drilling due to reach deposits of oil and gas in Azerbaijan. Today we'll overnight in Baku hotel.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 20 — BAKU — GOBUSTAN — BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

SEPTEMBER 11, FRIDAY

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend a day in Azerbaijan having an excursion to Gabustan where we'll see more than 4000 rock-carvings which describe like style of ancient inhabitants of area near Caspian Sea. In the afternoon we'll have lunch and continue our excursion with visit to Museum of Art and have a short (40 min long) cruise of Caspian Sea (if weather permits). In the evening we'll have a dinner at one of the local restaurants followed with folk show program. We'll overnight in Baku hotel today.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 21 — BAKU — ABSHERON PENINSULA — BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

SEPTEMBER 12, SATURDAY

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend the morning sightseeing capital of Azerbaijan – city of Baku. Sightseeing will include: panoramic view of the city, visit Shirvan Shahs Palace, Maiden Tower architectural monument of 12th century, Caravanserai. After lunch break at one of the local restaurants we'll visit Absheron peninsula – the Fire Worshippers Temple in Surakhany district, historical architectural monument of the 17th. Visit Merdakan Fortresses. Have acquaintance with the Oil Industry in Azerbaijan. Continue on with excursion to “Yanar Dag” – Firing Mountain. We'll have dinner at the local restaurant at the end of the day and overnight at a hotel in Baku.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 22 – BAKU – SHAMAKHA – MARAZA – SHEKI (AZERBAIJAN)

SEPTEMBER 13, SUNDAY

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend most of the day in transfer from Baku to Sheki. The transfer will take 4 hours and we'll cover almost 220 mi. In route we'll visit mud volcanoes, Diri Baba mausoleum in Maraza, YeddiGumbez and Cuma masque in Shamakha. We'll have lunch break at the restaurant in route. Upon arrival to Sheki, we'll accommodate at the hotel, have some time to rest and then head for dinner. Today we'll overnight at hotel in Sheki.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 23 – SHEKI – GEORGIA BORDER – TELAVI (AZERBAIJAN/GEORGIA)

SEPTEMBER 14, MONDAY

Today after breakfast at the hotel, we'll have a half day excursion of Sheki and Shebeke visiting Khan's palace and museum of history. After we'll have lunch at the local restaurant we'll be transferred to the border between Azerbaijan and Georgia called Lagodekhi. Once border formalities will be completed, we'll continue sightseeing tour in Georgia. We visit Gremi Monastery and take a transfer to Telavi.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 24 – TELAVI – SIGHNAGHI – TBILISI (GEORGIA)

SEPTEMBER 15, TUESDAY

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing of Kakheti region well known for its wine producing. Visit Great Caucasus Mountains and valleys of Kakheti, observe traditions and culture of the country, taste wines and delicious food. We visit 11th century church of Alaverdi operating as a monastery. Later transfer to Tsinandali Garden and the Museum – estate of 19th century Georgian Duke. After excursion we try a glass of wine and continue to a farmer's house to see a unique 300 year-old wine-cellar. We'll get acquainted with the Georgian way of wine-making, quite different from the European and drink more Georgian wine straight from the clay jars. Transfer to the fortified town of love – Signaghi. Here we take a leisure walk and enjoy more wine-tasting at a winery established by an American painter. Afterwards we'll continue making our way to Tbilisi. We'll have lunch and dinner at local restaurants on the way. Today we'll overnight at hotel in Tbilisi.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 25 – TBILISI – MTSKHETA – GORI – GUDAURI (GEORGIA)

SEPTEMBER 16, WEDNESDAY

Today after breakfast we'll have an excursion to the ancient capital and religious center of Georgia – Mtskheta dated 3000 years back and see its' historical places: Jvari church built in 6th century and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral built in 11th century – known as the place where the Robe of Christ is buried – a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Later we'll transfer to town of Gori – the heart of Kartli region. We visit Stalin museum and Uplistsikhe Cave Town – dated to 1st millennium BC, it is the place where the Great Silk Road used to pass. Later drive along the Georgian Military Highway and enjoy a photo stop at Ananuri fort set on the background of Jinali water reservoir. We'll have lunch at local restaurant on the way. Today we'll have dinner and overnight at hotel in Gudauri.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 26 – GUDAURI – KAZBEGI – TBILISI (GEORGIA)

SEPTEMBER 17, THURSDAY

Today after breakfast we'll have a stunning drive from Gudauri along the Tergi River which will bring us to Kazbegi – the main town in the region. From Kazbegi a leisurely 2 hour walk up through beautiful valleys and woodland leads to Gergeti Trinity Church located at 7100 ft – round trip will take 3hr of walking. Weather permitting you may catch a glimpse of one of the highest glaciers in Caucasus – Mt Kazbegi – 16500ft high. On our way back we enjoy lunch at a local cafe. Walk a bit more back to our vehicle and transfer to Tbilisi. After accommodation and short rest at the hotel we'll head for dinner at a local restaurant followed by a folk show. Overnight at hotel in Tbilisi.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 27 – TBILISI – GEORGIA – ARMENIA “SADAKHLO” – SEVAN – DILIJAN (GEORGIA/ARMENIA)

SEPTEMBER 18, FRIDAY

After breakfast at the hotel we'll have a walking sightseeing tour of Tbilisi – capital of Georgia, visiting different religious buildings – churches, synagogue, as well as famous 19th century houses with wooden multi colored balconies, Old city, Georgian History Museum (closed on Mondays), Rustaveli Avenue – the main street in Tbilisi. After lunch drive to Georgia – Armenia border “Sadakhlo”. After border formalities we'll start acquaintances with Armenia with the Haghpats dated to 976 AD, Monastic Complex which one of outstanding works of medieval Armenian architecture and is inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage List. The complex used to be an educational center of the middle ages where the majority of Armenian scholars and scientists obtained their education. We'll continue on driving to Dilijan, where we'll accommodate at the hotel, have dinner at local restaurant and overnight in Dilijan.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 28 – DILIJAN – NORAVANK – KHOR VIRAP – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

SEPTEMBER 19, SATURDAY

After breakfast at the hotel we'll start sightseeing tour with Lake Sevan – the emerald of Armenia. It is the second largest alpine freshwater lake in the world and the biggest in Caucasus. This mountain lake is located at 6200 ft above sea level. Sightseeing in Sevan also includes peninsula with Sevan Monastery. Later we'll drive to Selim caravanserai – built in 1332 by Prince Chesar Orbelian, according to an inscription in Armenian and Arabic, it used to be an important trade point in the famous Silk Road. Visit Noravank monastery – religious and cultural centre of 12th century, Areni wine factory to taste local wine made from special sorts of grapes grows in Armenia and Noravank. We'll have lunch in local cave café. Continue sightseeing with Khor-Virap monastery which is situated in the Ararat valley close the biblical Ararat Mountain, where Noah's arch cast its' anchor. We'll have dinner at a local restaurant followed by folk show program and overnight at hotel in Yerevan.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 29 – YEREVAN – GARNI – GEGHARD – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

SEPTEMBER 20, SUNDAY

After breakfast today we'll drive to a magnificent monument of medieval Armenian architecture – Geghard monastery partly carved out of a mountain. Continue on to Garni Temple – citadel and pagan temple of Garni. Have lunch at a local house in Garni where you will have opportunity to watch Armenian national bread “lavash” baking and barbeque making process in the

underground stove called “tonir”. After lunch we’ll return to Yerevan. Second part of the day we’ll visit the depository of ancient manuscripts –Matenadaran, which contains historical documents of Europe and Asia from many centuries. We’ll have dinner and overnight in Yerevan today.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 30 – YEREVAN – ETCHMIATSIN – ZVARTNOTS – YEREVAN (ARMENIA) SEPTEMBER 21, MONDAY

After breakfast at the hotel, today we’ll drive to Echmiadzin. On the way visiting St Hripsime church. We’ll have lunch in a local community tasting homemade dishes. Then drive back to Yerevan with stop at the ruins of Zvartnots temple – of the 7th c. architecture. Second part of the day our main attraction will be Armenian History Museum and visit to Tsitsernakaberd memorial and museum of victims of Genocide. We’ll have farewell dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at a hotel in Yerevan.

✓ *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

DAY 31 – DEPARTURE (ARMENIA) SEPTEMBER 22, TUESDAY

Today is the last day of the tour; we’ll have breakfast at the hotel and arrange transfer to the airport for your flight home. End of tour.

✓ *Breakfast*

PRICE – \$15,380.00 PER PERSON IN DOUBLE
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – \$ 1,395.00

2020 – GUARANTEED DEPARTURES:

<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>
➤ March 29	April 28
➤ April 12	May 12
➤ April 26	May 26
➤ May 17	June 16
➤ June 07	July 07
➤ August 23	September 22
➤ September 06	October 06
➤ September 20	October 20
➤ October 04	November 03
➤ October 25	November 24

HOTELS:

❖ Almaty	<u><i>Kazzhol or similar</i></u>
❖ Bishkek	<u><i>Ambassador or similar</i></u>
❖ Issyk Kul	<u><i>Karven Four Seasons</i></u>
❖ Tashkent	<u><i>LOTTE City Tashkent Palace or similar</i></u>
❖ Samarkand	<u><i>Konstantin, Devon or similar</i></u>
❖ Bukhara	<u><i>Devon, Sasha & Son or similar</i></u>
❖ Mary	<u><i>Mary or similar</i></u>
❖ Ashgabat	<u><i>Yulduz or similar</i></u>
❖ Dashoguz	<u><i>Dashoguz or similar</i></u>
❖ Khiva	<u><i>Asia Khiva or similar</i></u>
❖ Khujand	<u><i>Parlament Palace or similar</i></u>
❖ Baku	<u><i>Sapphire or similar</i></u>
❖ Sheki	<u><i>Sheki Saray or similar</i></u>
❖ Telavi	<u><i>Chateau Schuchman, Holiday Inn or similar</i></u>
❖ Tbilisi	<u><i>Tiflis Palace or similar</i></u>
❖ Guduary	<u><i>Guduary or similar</i></u>
❖ Dilijan	<u><i>Best Western Paradise or similar</i></u>
❖ Yerevan	<u><i>Imperial, Opera Suites or similar</i></u>

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Visa processing
- Hotel Accommodation (double room sharing)
- Full Board Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*
- Bottled water (1 lt per person per day)
- All Land Transfers with A/C
- Internal Flights
- First class railway ticket
- Accompany of guide/escort
- Guided sightseeing
- Entrance Fees
- Show programs

* Meals: Breakfast at the hotel. Lunch/Dinner consists of: 1 salad, 1 soup, 1 entrée, bread, tea.

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Tips in hotels, to the guides and drivers
- Any extra expenses for additional services in hotels
- Video and photo camera charges