

## CAUCASUS TOUR – 13 DAYS ITINERARY – 2020

### AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA, ARMENIA

#### DAY 1 – ARRIVE TO BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

##### SEPTEMBER 24, THURSDAY

Welcome to Azerbaijan! Upon your arrival to Baku airport, you'll be met and transferred to hotel to check in and rest (one time group transfer included). 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.

✓ *Dinner*

#### DAY 2 – BAKU – GOBUSTAN – BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

##### SEPTEMBER 25, FRIDAY

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend a day in Azerbaijan having an excursion to Gobustan where we'll see more than 4000 rock-carvings which describe the 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 3 – BAKU – ABSHERON PENINSULA – BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

##### SEPTEMBER 26, 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 4 – BAKU – SHAMAKHA – MARAZA – SHEKI (AZERBAIJAN)

### SEPTEMBER 27, 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 5 – SHEKI – GEORGIA BORDER – TELAVI (AZERBAIJAN/GEORGIA)

### SEPTEMBER 28, 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 6 – TELAVI – SIGHNAGHI – TBILISI (GEORGIA)

### SEPTEMBER 29, 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 – Sighnaghi. 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 7 – TBILISI – MTSKHETA – GORI – GUDAURI (GEORGIA)

### SEPTEMBER 30, 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 and dinner at local restaurants on the way. Today we'll overnight at hotel in Gudauri.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## DAY 8 – GUDAURI – KAZBEGI – TBILISI (GEORGIA)

OCTOBER 1, 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 9 – TBILISI – GEORGIA – ARMENIA “SADAKHLO” – SEVAN – DILIJAN (GEORGIA/ARMENIA)

OCTOBER 2, 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 Haghpat 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 10 – SEVANDILIJAN – NORAVANK – KHORVIRAP – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

OCTOBER 3, 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 11 – YEREVAN – GARNI – GEGHARD – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

### OCTOBER 4, 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 barbecue 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 12 – YEREVAN – ETCHMIATSIN – ZVARTNOTS – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

### OCTOBER 5, 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 13 - DEPARTURE (ARMENIA)

### OCTOBER 6, 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 – \$6,560.00 PER PERSON IN DOUBLE

### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – \$ 650.00

## GUARANTEED DEPARTURES IN 2020:

<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>
➤ April 16	April 28
➤ April 30	May 12
➤ May 14	May 26
➤ June 04	June 16
➤ June 25	July 07
➤ September 10	September 22
➤ September 24	October 06
➤ October 08	October 20
➤ October 22	November 03
➤ November 12	November 24

## HOTELS:

❖ Baku	<u><i>Sapphire or similar</i></u>
❖ Sheki	<u><i>Sheki Saray or similar</i></u>
❖ Telavi	<u><i>4* Holiday Inn, Chateau Schuchman 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>Opera Suites, Imperial or similar</i></u>

## PRICE INCLUDES:

- Letter Of Invitation
  - Visa consular and processing fee
  - 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
  - Accompany of guide/escort
  - Guided sightseeing
  - Entrance Fees
  - Show program in Baku, Tbilisi, Yerevan
- \*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