

# Mysterious Caucasus

**Day 1:** Depart for Yerevan

**Day 2:** Yerevan – Echmiadzin – Yerevan

Arrive at Yerevan international airport, transfer to a hotel.

In the morning we will have the city tour and visit Erebus fortress and the museum of Matenadaran which houses the collection of the ancient manuscripts. Afterwards visit Echmiadzin representing the patriarch's residence (UNESCO World heritage sight). Then return back to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

**Day 3:** Yerevan – Hagarstyn – Sevan – Noraduz – Yerevan

In the morning drive to visit Hagarstyn monastery. Afterwards drive to the region of Gegarkunik and visit Sevan monastery (9th century). Then we will continue to the village of Noraduz where we will see the stone crosses made by Khachkars. Return back to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

**Day 4:** Yerevan – Garni – Geghard – Khor Virap – Yerevan

Traveling to the region of Ararat. Visit Khor Virap monastery where we will enjoy the superb views of biblical Mt. Ararat. Afterwards visit the pagan temple of Garni (1st century AD) and Geghard monastery (4th-13th centuries). Return back to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

**Day 5:** Yerevan – Haghpat – Sadakhlo – Tbilisi

In the morning depart for Georgia. On the way we will visit Goshavank monastery and then Haghpat monastery (10th -13th centuries). Arrive at Georgian – Armenian border and after some formalities depart for Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 6:** Tbilisi

Tbilisi city tour: exquisite mixture of eastern and western cultures gave the foundation to Tbilisi. Narrow streets of Old Tbilisi will be here your companion to the old districts, Christian churches and the bath district. And panoramic view from Narikhala fortress overlooking all the districts of the city will simply increase your admiration. We will also visit Georgian national art museum and its gold fund with the unique artifacts of Georgian art and some enamel samples on display. Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 7:** Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Gori – Gudauri

In the morning we will drive to the ancient capital of Georgia – Mtskheta. Here we will visit UNESCO World heritage sights - Jvari monastery (6th century) and Svetitskhoveli cathedral which houses the robe of Christ (11th century). Afterwards we continue the way to Gori – the birthplace of Stalin and Uplistsikhe cave town (1st millennium BC) which preserves various interesting religious and household buildings from pagan and Christian period. Then we drive to the north along Aragvi gorge and arrive in the ski resort Gudauri. On the way we visit Ananuri complex (17th century) famous for its magnificent carvings. Overnight in Gudauri.

**Day 8:** Gudauri – Kazbegi – Tbilisi

Today the highlight of this trip awaits you. Drive to Kazbegi will be truly memorable traveling along gushy rivers and fabulous views. On arrival in Kazbegi we will walk up to Gergeti Trinity church (14th century) located on top of the mountain. The route to the church starts in the village and continues in the forest. Being on the top we enjoy the fascinating view of Mt. Kazbegi (5047). Return to Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi.

**Day 9:** Tbilisi – Signaghi – Lagodekhi – Sheki

In the morning drive to Kakheti famous for being the wine-growing region. Visit the fortified town of Signaghi situated on the slopes of the mountains. Taking a stroll in the streets of the town and enjoy the views of the Caucasus Mountains. Continue the way to one of the local villager's wine caller and wine tasting. Arrive at Georgian – Azerbaijan border and after some formalities depart for Sheki. Overnight in Sheki

**Day 10:** Sheki – Shemakha – Baku

In the morning visit Sheki Khan's palace and caravanserai. Afterwards drive to Baku. On the way visit Seven Tombs in Shemakha. Overnight in Baku.

**Day 11:** Baku

Baku city tour: Taking a stroll along the memorial avenue and enjoy the city. Visit the sightseeing in the old part of Baku: Gate of Shemakha, Maiden's Tower, Shirvanshah palace and caravanserai. In the afternoon visit Ateshgah and Mt. Ianardag.

Farewell dinner in the restaurant with folk show.

Overnight in Baku.

**Day 12:** Departure