

# TOUR DOSSIER

Aspirational Travel to Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan Tel: +1 (917) 259 13 33 info@best-of-caucasus.com www.best-of-caucasus.com

# Caucasus Express: Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan - 10 days

**CT-08** 



Designed for those with limited time, this 10-day tour provides a compact yet unforgettable journey through Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. Immerse yourself in the heart of the Caucasus as you explore ancient landmarks, breathtaking landscapes, and dynamic cities. From the historic sights of Yerevan to the charm of Tbilisi and the modern vibrancy of Baku, this carefully crafted itinerary highlights the very best of the region in just 10 days. Perfect for travelers looking for a culturally rich experience without a lengthy commitment.

#### **DEPARTURE DATES:**

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01.07.2025; 01.14.2025; 01.21.2025; 01.28.2025; 02.04.2025; 02.11.2025; 02.18.2025; 02.25.2025; 03.04.2025; 03.11.2025; 03.18.2025; 03.25.2025; 04.01.2025; 04.08.2025; 04.15.2025; 04.22.2025; 04.29.2025; 05.06.2025; 05.13.2025; 05.20.2025; 05.27.2025; 06.03.2025; 06.10.2025; 06.17.2025; 06.24.2025; 07.01.2025; 07.08.2025; 07.15.2025; 07.22.2025; 07.29.2025; 08.05.2025; 08.12.2025; 08.19.2025; 08.26.2025; 09.02.2025; 09.09.2025; 09.16.2025; 09.23.2025; 09.30.2025; 10.07.2025; 10.14.2025; 10.21.2025; 10.28.2025; 11.04.2025; 11.11.2025; 11.18.2025; 11.25.2025; 12.02.2025; 12.09.2025; 12.16.2025.
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#### **ITINERARY**

#### Day 1 - Yerevan

Your adventure through the Caucasus starts today as you arrive in the vibrant capital of Armenia, Yerevan. After landing, you'll be welcomed and transferred to your hotel. Take some time to relax and enjoy your first evening in this historic city. Overnight in Yerevan. (D)

#### Day 2 - Yerevan - Ejmiatsin - Zvarnots - Yerevan

The Yerevan Cascade, with its impressive staircases and escalators stretching across several levels, is one of the city's most iconic landmarks. From the top, take in breathtaking panoramic views of the city and the majestic Mount Ararat. Our exploration of Yerevan continues with a visit to Republic Square, famous for its enchanting singing fountains, and a stroll through the bustling Vernissage market, where you'll find a variety of antiques and locally crafted goods. Next, we'll visit the Matenadaran, home to an extraordinary collection of ancient manuscripts, followed by a somber visit to the Genocide Memorial, a poignant tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Our day also includes a stop at the 7th-century ruins of Zvartnots Cathedral, and the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, the heart of the Armenian Church. Afterward, we'll return to Yerevan to enjoy a traditional Armenian dinner. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

#### Day 3 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

This morning, we begin by visiting the Garni Temple, an impressive Greco-Roman monument that contrasts with Armenia's numerous monasteries. After exploring its rich history, we'll head to the nearby Garni Gorge, where we'll admire the "Symphony of Stones," a remarkable formation of basalt columns shaped by volcanic forces. This stunning landscape offers fantastic photo opportunities and a peaceful setting for a brief walk. We'll then continue to the remarkable Geghard Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the first of many monasteries on your Armenian journey. On our return to Yerevan, we'll visit a local home to learn how to bake lavash, the traditional Armenian flatbread, with the opportunity to try making it yourself. If time permits, we'll also stop at the Ararat Wine Factory to sample some of the region's fine wines. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

#### Day 4 - Yerevan - Sevan - Dilijan - Haghpat - Armenian-Georgian border - Tbilisi

Before we cross into Georgia, Armenia has a few more treasures to reveal. Our journey begins at Lake Sevan, the country's largest lake, where the picturesque Sevanavank Monastery stands on a hill overlooking the tranquil blue waters. Though it requires climbing several steps, the panoramic views and the chance to explore this 9th-century gem make the effort worthwhile. Next, we'll visit the charming spa town of Dilijan, celebrated for its scenic beauty and relaxing atmosphere. Continuing on, we'll explore Haghpat Monastery, a stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site, before heading towards the Georgian border. From there, we'll make our way to Tbilisi, the lively capital of Georgia. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

#### Day 5 - Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Gori - Uplistsikhe - Tbilisi

Today begins with a captivating city tour of Tbilisi, Georgia's dynamic capital, where history and modernity come together. Wander through the charming Old Town, with its narrow alleys, colourful balconies, and eclectic mix of architecture. Key highlights include the iconic Metekhi Church, the stunning Bridge of Peace, and the historic Sulphur Baths. Next, we travel to Mtskheta, Georgia's ancient capital and spiritual heart. Here, we'll visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the magnificent Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and the picturesque Jvari Monastery, both offering a deep insight into Georgia's cultural and religious heritage. From Mtskheta, we continue to Gori, the birthplace of Joseph Stalin, where you can choose to visit the Stalin Museum. Just nearby is Uplistsikhe, an ancient rock-hewn city, home to a fascinating labyrinth of caves, tunnels, and historical structures, providing a glimpse into the region's past. In the evening, enjoy a gala dinner in Tbilisi, featuring traditional Georgian dishes, accompanied by vibrant folklore dances and soulful singing - a wonderful way to experience Georgia's rich culture. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B, D)

#### Day 6 - Tbilisi - Gombori - Alaverdi - Napareuli - Gremi - Sighnaghi

Georgia has a rich winemaking heritage, with over 8,000 years of history in viticulture. Today, we journey into the heart of wine country, the scenic Kakheti region. Here, we'll visit the historic Alaverdi Monastery and the impressive Gremi Complex, both offering a deep dive into the region's cultural and historical roots. A highlight of the day is a wine-tasting experience in Napareuli, where we'll sample some of the finest local wines. Our final stop is the charming town of Sighnaghi, known for its well-preserved city walls. From the town's ramparts, enjoy expansive views of the surrounding countryside before relaxing for the evening. Overnight in Sighnaghi. (B, D)

#### Day 7 - Sighnaghi - Azerbaijan border - Kish - Sheki

After discovering the main sights of Sighnaghi yesterday, this morning offers more time to appreciate the charm of its historic centre and soak in the unique atmosphere of this picturesque town. Just a short drive away, we'll visit Bodbe Monastery, a peaceful complex nestled within beautifully maintained gardens. This will be our final stop in Georgia before we cross the border into Azerbaijan, our third country on this journey. Upon entering Azerbaijan, we'll continue our journey to Sheki, a city rich in history and tradition. On the way, we'll stop at the village of Kish, famous for its ancient church and stunning rural surroundings. Overnight in Sheki. (B, D)

#### Day 8 - Sheki - Shamakhi - Baku

Sheki, once a prominent stop on the ancient Silk Road, is rich in history and culture. During our visit, we'll explore the 18th-century Palace of the Shaki Khans, an impressive summer residence for the ruling elite, constructed without the use of a single nail. The town's residential buildings are equally remarkable, adorned with intricate wooden latticework and vibrant stained glass. We'll also visit the 18th-century Shaki Castle, a fascinating historical site. After our time in Sheki, we'll head to Shamakhi for a guided tour of this culturally significant town. One of its highlights is the Juma Mosque, which has withstood numerous earthquakes over the centuries. Our day ends with a drive to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

#### Day 9 - Baku - Gobustan - Yanar Dag - Baku

On our final full day of sightseeing, we journey beyond Baku to the intriguing Gobustan archaeological reserve. Famous for its ancient petroglyphs, Gobustan offers a fascinating insight into prehistoric life in the Caucasus, with intricate rock carvings that depict early human history. The area is also home to around 300 mud volcanoes, a natural wonder featuring bubbling mud pools and geysers, some believed to have therapeutic properties. You'll have the chance to explore this unique geological marvel up close. After lunch, we continue to Yanar Dag, or the "Burning Mountain." This hillside has been continuously aflame since the 1950s, as natural gas seeps through the sandstone, creating a captivating and dramatic display of fire. It's a truly unforgettable sight. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

#### Day 10 - Baku

As your unforgettable journey through the Caucasus comes to a close, today we'll transfer you to the airport for your return flight. We hope you've had a memorable experience and wish you a smooth and pleasant journey home. (B)

#### TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

#### Included

Accommodation
Guided tours & cultural programme
English - speaking guides
Half board meals

<u>Airport transfers</u> <u>Azerbaijan e-visa</u>

#### **Not included**

Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions

#### **Practical information**

About Best of Caucasus company
How our tours are run
Contact our travel consultants

### **AVAILABLE PACKAGES**

#### **COMFORT - 3\* PACKAGE**

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
01/07/2025 - 01/16/2025	\$2495	\$295
01/14/2025 - 01/23/2025	\$2495	\$295

01/21/2025 - 01/30/2025	\$2495	\$295
01/28/2025 - 02/06/2025	\$2495	\$295
02/04/2025 - 02/13/2025	\$2495	\$295
02/11/2025 - 02/20/2025	\$2495	\$295
02/18/2025 - 02/27/2025	\$2495	\$295
02/25/2025 - 03/06/2025	\$2495	\$295
03/04/2025 - 03/13/2025	\$2495	\$295
03/11/2025 - 03/20/2025	\$2495	\$295
03/18/2025 - 03/27/2025	\$2495	\$295
03/25/2025 - 04/03/2025	\$2495	\$295
04/01/2025 - 04/10/2025	\$2495	\$295
04/08/2025 - 04/17/2025	\$2495	\$295
04/15/2025 - 04/24/2025	\$2495	\$295
04/22/2025 - 05/01/2025	\$2495	\$295
04/29/2025 - 05/08/2025	\$2495	\$295
05/06/2025 - 05/15/2025	\$2495	\$295
05/13/2025 - 05/22/2025	\$2495	\$295
05/20/2025 - 05/29/2025	\$2495	\$295
05/27/2025 - 06/05/2025	\$2495	\$295
06/03/2025 - 06/12/2025	\$2495	\$295
06/10/2025 - 06/19/2025	\$2495	\$295
06/17/2025 - 06/26/2025	\$2495	\$295
06/24/2025 - 07/03/2025	\$2495	\$295
07/01/2025 - 07/10/2025	\$2495	\$295
07/08/2025 - 07/17/2025	\$2495	\$295
07/15/2025 - 07/24/2025	\$2495	\$295
07/22/2025 - 07/31/2025	\$2495	\$295
07/29/2025 - 08/07/2025	\$2495	\$295
08/05/2025 - 08/14/2025	\$2495	\$295
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08/19/2025 - 08/28/2025	\$2495	\$295
08/26/2025 - 09/04/2025	\$2495	\$295
09/02/2025 - 09/11/2025	\$2495	\$295
09/09/2025 - 09/18/2025	\$2495	\$295
09/16/2025 - 09/25/2025	\$2495	\$295
09/23/2025 - 10/02/2025	\$2495	\$295
09/30/2025 - 10/09/2025	\$2495	\$295
10/07/2025 - 10/16/2025	\$2495	\$295
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11/18/2025 - 11/27/2025	\$2495	\$295
11/25/2025 - 12/04/2025	\$2495	\$295
12/02/2025 - 12/11/2025	\$2495	\$295
12/09/2025 - 12/18/2025	\$2495	\$295
12/16/2025 - 12/25/2025	\$2495	\$295

## **PREMIUM - 4\* PACKAGE**

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Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
01/07/2025 - 01/16/2025	\$2695	\$395
01/14/2025 - 01/23/2025	\$2695	\$395
01/21/2025 - 01/30/2025	\$2695	\$395
01/28/2025 - 02/06/2025	\$2695	\$395
02/04/2025 - 02/13/2025	\$2695	\$395
02/11/2025 - 02/20/2025	\$2695	\$395
02/18/2025 - 02/27/2025	\$2695	\$395
02/25/2025 - 03/06/2025	\$2695	\$395
03/04/2025 - 03/13/2025	\$2695	\$395
03/11/2025 - 03/20/2025	\$2695	\$395

03/18/2025 - 03/27/2025	\$2695	\$395
03/25/2025 - 04/03/2025	\$2695	\$395
04/01/2025 - 04/10/2025	\$2695	\$395
04/08/2025 - 04/17/2025	\$2695	\$395
04/15/2025 - 04/24/2025	\$2695	\$395
04/22/2025 - 05/01/2025	\$2695	\$395
04/29/2025 - 05/08/2025	\$2695	\$395
05/06/2025 - 05/15/2025	\$2695	\$395
05/13/2025 - 05/22/2025	\$2695	\$395
05/20/2025 - 05/29/2025	\$2695	\$395
05/27/2025 - 06/05/2025	\$2695	\$395
06/03/2025 - 06/12/2025	\$2695	\$395
06/10/2025 - 06/19/2025	\$2695	\$395
06/17/2025 - 06/26/2025	\$2695	\$395
06/24/2025 - 07/03/2025	\$2695	\$395
07/01/2025 - 07/10/2025	\$2695	\$395
07/08/2025 - 07/17/2025	\$2695	\$395
07/15/2025 - 07/24/2025	\$2695	\$395
07/22/2025 - 07/31/2025	\$2695	\$395
07/29/2025 - 08/07/2025	\$2695	\$395
08/05/2025 - 08/14/2025	\$2695	\$395
08/12/2025 - 08/21/2025	\$2695	\$395
08/19/2025 - 08/28/2025	\$2695	\$395
08/26/2025 - 09/04/2025	\$2695	\$395
09/02/2025 - 09/11/2025	\$2695	\$395
09/09/2025 - 09/18/2025	\$2695	\$395
09/16/2025 - 09/25/2025	\$2695	\$395
09/23/2025 - 10/02/2025	\$2695	\$395
09/30/2025 - 10/09/2025	\$2695	\$395
10/07/2025 - 10/16/2025	\$2695	\$395
10/14/2025 - 10/23/2025	\$2695	\$395
10/21/2025 - 10/30/2025	\$2695	\$395
10/28/2025 - 11/06/2025	\$2695	\$395
11/04/2025 - 11/13/2025	\$2695	\$395
11/11/2025 - 11/20/2025	\$2695	\$395
11/18/2025 - 11/27/2025	\$2695	\$395
11/25/2025 - 12/04/2025	\$2695	\$395
12/02/2025 - 12/11/2025	\$2695	\$395
12/09/2025 - 12/18/2025	\$2695	\$395
12/16/2025 - 12/25/2025	\$2695	\$395

#### ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please contact us for a quote.

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > <u>Discover Armenia</u>, <u>Georgia and Azerbaijan 16 days (CT-02)</u>, Price from \$3,195, 16 days
- > Best of Georgia and Azerbaijan 12 days (CT-03), Price from \$2,595, 12 days
- > Best of Armenia and Georgia 12 days (CT-05), Price from \$2,295, 12 days
- > Istanbul to Georgia 13 days (CT-07), Price from \$3,395, 13 days

#### **HOW TO BOOK**

#### **Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates**

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Best of Caucasus holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general

information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

#### **Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form**

**Online:** log on to <u>www.best-of-caucasus.com</u> and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Best of Caucasus, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@best-of-caucasus.com, or

#### Phone: call us on +1 (917) 259 13 33

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel category), and available upgrades.

#### **Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking**

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

#### **Step 4 - Payment**

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum \$250) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

# YOUR NOTES

On request we can organise an additional programme for you, please <u>inquire</u> about the price and availability of the optional excursions.

riease find below some space to write down your queries of comments regarding this trip.		