



Tour to Azerbaijan and Georgia "ASSA" from 440 \$

Countries: Azerbaijan-Georgia

Duration: 6 days, 5 nights

Category: Cultural

Period: year round except blackout dates *

If someone wants to discover a city or country, its life or architectural monuments, looking at the pictures on the Internet or read the information in books is not enough.

Nothing conveys the flavor of particular city as a real acquaintance with its inhabitants, the presence next to the monuments of antiquity and a visit to local restaurants, where you can directly evaluate the taste of dishes prepared according to old recipes. Over the centuries, the culture, cuisine and architecture of Transcaucasia have absorbed all the best qualities of the peoples living in these countries.

In this tour we invite you to visit two unique countries - Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Tour program:

Day 1. Arrival in Baku - check in to hotel

Hotel accommodation. (Registration from 14:00)

Free day.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 2. A sightseeing tour of Baku, visiting the "Old City" and the Heydar Aliyev Center

09:00 Breakfast at the hotel.

10:00 Departure for a tour.

City tour begins with a visit to the Upland Park.

Upland Park is located on a hill in the western part of the city. This is the best place to see the city itself and the Baku bay.

Further tourists will visit the "Old City".

Many historical and architectural monuments are concentrated on the territory of the "Old City", including the Palace of Shirvanshahs, the symbol of the city of Baku - the Maiden's Tower, the Caravanserai, the mosque, etc.

For an additional fee it is possible to arrange lunch in one of the national restaurants

From 14:00 - 18:00 we will meet with Baku Boulevard and Baku Bay.

This favorite vacation spot of Baku residents and guests of the capital is also one of the attractions of the city, which in 2009 celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Our today's tour will end with a visit to the Heydar Aliyev Center.

The Heydar Aliyev Center is a cultural center, which is a complex structure, which includes an auditorium (congress center), a museum, exhibition halls, administrative offices. The project of the center was designed by the famous architect Zaha Hadid.

18:30 Return to the hotel. Free time.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 3. Excursion around the Absheron Peninsula. Visit to Gobustan, the Temple of Fire-worshippers of Ateshgah, Ethnographic reserve "Gala", departure to Tbilisi by train

09:00 Breakfast at the hotel

10:00 Departure for an excursion to the historical and architectural reserve - Gobustan.

The reserve is widely known for the well-preserved rock paintings - petroglyphs - a kind of artistic archive of human evolution on planet Earth. Documents of such archives - the first recording of the human "I" to the world. The rocks of Gobustan are not only the brightest witnesses of the prehistoric period of human existence. They reflect the history of this region for almost 15 thousand years - from the end of the Upper Paleolithic age to the Middle Ages. Lunch (extra charge)

After lunch, excursion to the Fire Temple - "Ateshgah"

Azerbaijan is one of the few places on earth, where even today it is possible to observe elements of the survived fire cult and the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism. Zoroastrianism was the official religion in the 7th century BC Manna and Midia its spread was associated with self-igniting sources of oil and gas.

The Temple of Fire Ateshgah (literally the House of Fire) is located 30 kilometers from the center of Baku, on the southeastern outskirts of the Absheron Peninsula.

15:30 - 18:30 Guests will proceed with the trip to the Ethnographic Reserve - "Gala".

Ethnographic open-air museum "Gala" is located about 40 minutes from Baku and is a museum that was created on the site of archaeological excavations.

In the village, which is about five thousand years old, there is a number of neighborhoods that have survived to this day. During the tour, guests will get acquainted with the ancient dwellings, with the life of the past time, traditions, methods of farming.

Tour participants will be told about the way of life of people who lived here many centuries ago, and show the real objects of that time.

20:30 Transfer to the station - farewell to the group

The train departs from Baku railway station every day at 21:30. Arrival - in Tbilisi 10:45. The road to Tbilisi takes 15-16 hours, while the border control takes 1 hour on each side. Verification of documents is taking place in the train.

Day 4. Arrival in Tbilisi, transfer to hotel, check-in, city tour

City tour: travel along Shota Rustaveli Avenue and Freedom Square. Visiting the Rustaveli monument is a must. Here the guests will see the national museum, the parliament building, the palace of the former Caucasian governor-general, Alexander Park, the Kashveti temple, the divine service of which takes place on two floors, many modern offices and shops. Further, your path will lie to the Temple Sameba - Holy Trinity Cathedral in Tbilisi. This is the main cathedral of the Georgian Orthodox Church, the largest church in Georgia and not only, for good reason, it is among the largest Orthodox churches in the world. Temple built on the hill of St. Ilya which is also the left bank of the Kura river, majestically rising above the city. Then you will pass through one more main avenue of the city along Agmashenebeli avenue. Where you can admire the beautiful recently restored facades of buildings of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century.

Return to the hotel

Free time.

You can stroll through the beautifully lit streets of the old town, where there are many trendy cafes, restaurants and bars.

Overnight in Tbilisi

Day 5. Tbilisi - Mtskheta, excursion with a lunch break

Breakfast in the hotel

09.00 Excursion program in Tbilisi. Your tour will begin with a visit to Zion Cathedral - this is historically the main temple of Tbilisi, named after the Mount of Zion and consecrated in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Until 2006, it was the cathedral and, as it were, the main temple of the country. It was built by order of the Byzantine grandee Guram I in the 6th century, but was destroyed by the Arabs. In the XII century. David IV the Builder erected a new building of the temple here. This is a very revered cathedral in Georgia, some of the hierarchs of the

Georgian Church are buried here, but its main relic is a cross woven from grape vines, an ancient cross of St. Nina, who brought Christianity to Georgia.

Passing a little more, you will reach the Anchiskhat basilica.

Anchiskhat Basilica - the oldest church building in Tbilisi, dating from the VI. The construction of this sacred temple began soon after the capital of Georgia was moved from Mtskheta to Tbilisi in the reign of the successor Vakhtang Gorgasal.

Anchiskhati Basilica has another name - the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, which is still in effect. This beautiful rectangular church building was built under the influence of ancient Palestinian architecture. The doors of the Anchiskhat church are decorated with a traditional Georgian cross. On the western facade of the temple, a medallion is carved out of stone with a cross, which is preserved from the earliest part of the building. The church got its current name in the 17th century, when a large icon was transferred here from the Anchi Cathedral (South Georgia). The icon of the Savior the Unmilitary is one of the greatest shrines of Georgia. It is made in the encaustic technique (painting with hot wax paints), which originated in Byzantium no earlier than the 6th century. The icon of the Savior from Anchi became widely known in the XII century, when the court goldsmith of Queen Tamara Bek Opizari made a silver for her with gold inserts. In the 17th century, private owners transferred the icon to the church of St. Mary in Tbilisi. Here, the icon of the Savior was more than 200 years. At the end of the XIX century, for security reasons, it was placed in the Church Museum. Today the Anchi Icon (in Georgian "Anchiskhati") is on display in the Museum of Art of Georgia.

Further you will pass to the glass bridge of the World. The glass pedestrian bridge of Peace on the Mtkvari River connects the Old Town and modern Tbilisi - a great view of many of the city's sights opens up from here. The wave-shaped construction with a length of 156 m was designed by Italian architect Michel de Lucci, together with French lighting engineer Philippe Martino.

In the evening, the bridge is highlighted, iridescent lights of different colors - about 30 thousand in total. The interactive light system on two parapets of the Peace Bridge using Morse code each hour depicts one of the elements of the periodic table, which is in the human body. The main idea of the installation - all people are one.

Further your path lies in the ancient capital of Georgia - the city of Mtskheta, which is a holy and cult place for every Georgian. The city was founded in the second half of the 1st millennium BC. That is, almost simultaneously with the creation on the territory of Georgia of the Eastern Georgian kingdom - Kartli (Iberia), the capital of which was Mtskheta. Before reaching Mtskheta, on the top of a high mountain stands the temple of Jvari, where your path lies. Inspection of the Temple Jvari. Jvari Temple ("Temple of the Holy Cross"), was built in the VI century. It allows to view beautiful panorama of the confluence of two majestic rivers - Aragva and Kura. It was about this monastery that Lermontov wrote in his poem Mtsyri. According to the legend, on this very mountain a cross was erected by St. Nino, and then around him, and a temple was built. Jvari is the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in Georgia.

Descending from the mountain, you find yourself in the ancient capital of Georgia - Mtskheta. The main attraction of the city is the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral.

Lunch - extra paid

Visit to the Cathedral of Svetitskhoveli. According to the legend, the Cathedral, lit in honor of the Twelve Apostles, was erected at the burial site of the Heaton Jesus Christ. In Svetitskhoveli, as in the main church of Georgia, the coronation and wedding of Georgian kings took place there. The church has many murals dating back to the 16th and 18th centuries, some of which were restored in the 19th century.

And finally, you will visit Samtavro - the current convent. The temple was built on the site of the first wooden church, which was built by King Mirian. King Mirian was the first Christian king of Georgia, his tomb and the tomb of his wife, Queen Nana, are in the same temple. Here was the cell of St. Nino The frescoes preserved in the temple date from the 16th-17th centuries. In the church enclosure of the monastery rests the elder Gabriel, one of the most beloved Georgian saints. In the temple of Samtavro there are many shrines and miraculous icons.

Samtavro is one of the oldest nunneries in Georgia. In this monastery and in our time services are conducted.

Return to Tbilisi. Overnight in Tbilisi

Day 6. Departure day

Breakfast in the hotel.

Till 12 o'clock release of numbers.

Free time to buy Georgian souvenirs.

Departure from Tbilisi.

Price of the tour

Number of tourists	Price per person in USD в 3 * DBL / Twin room:
2	749\$
4	584\$
6	504\$
8	464\$
10	440\$

Price includes:

Accommodation in hotels 3 * for 5 nights on the basis of breakfasts (1 night passes in a train on the route Baku-Tbilisi)

Stay in Tbilisi 2 nights in a 3 * hotel

Transfers in Baku: Airport - Hotel - Railway Station (group transfer)

Transfer to Tbilisi: Railway Station - Hotel - Airport

Baku-Tbilisi train ticket (coupe)

Bottle of local souvenir wine in Baku

Comfortable transportation during excursions

Services of the Russian-speaking guide

Entrance fees to the specified museums

Water bottle per person / daily

Travel company commission

Price does not include:

Lunches and dinners

Medical insurance

Additional costs for guests in the hotel

Fee for photo and video shooting in museums.

Visa (For citizens of Russia and the CIS, with the exception of Turkmenistan, a visa is not required)

* Blackout dates:

- Holiday Novruz 03/19/2019 -05.04.2019

- Grand Prix Formula 1 04/22/2019 - 04/28/2019

- Final of the Europa League May 26, 2019 - June 1, 2019

- Ramazan Bayram 01.06.2019-09.06.2019

- European Youth Summer Olympic Festival 07/19/2019 - 07/29/2019

- Kurban Bayram 08/10/2019 - 08/14/2019

- New Year 30/12/2019 - 01/03/2020

Accommodation and upgrade:

The cost of the tour provides accommodation in comfortable hotels of 3 * category. Accommodation in Baku in hotels Diplomat or Azcot or Qafqaz Park. Accommodation in Tbilisi in hotels Sharden, Kalasi or their alternative. The exact name of the hotel is given on the day of booking the tour.

At additional payment on request, depending on the wishes of the client, the category of the hotel can be upgraded.

Check-in and checkout policy:

* For the tourists' convenience, please inform in advance about the early arrivals or late departures of your guests.

* Depending on the hotel, guests may be charged for early check-in or late check-out.

Check in until 06:00 am: surcharge of 100% of the cost of daily living.

Check in after 06:00 am, but before 14:00: surcharge of 50% of the cost of daily living.

Children's policy:

* Children up to 6 years old free of charge (without an extra bed with accommodation with two adults). In the case of placement of one adult + 1 child under 6 years old, surcharge 40% of the cost of the tour.

* Children from 6 –x up to 12 years get 30% discount from the total cost of the tour.

Cancellation and penalties:

* All changes and cancellations of already confirmed applications must be made in writing form.

* Cancellation of a confirmed application more than 21 days prior to arrival is not subject to penalties.

* If you cancel a confirmed application less than 14 days or more than 10 days before the planned arrival: penalty of 50% of the total cost of the tour will be applied.

* If you cancel a confirmed application less than 10 days or after the date of the planned arrival: penalty of 100% of the full cost of the tour will be applied.

Visa:

Citizens of Turkey, Israel, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Japan, South Korea, China, Malaysia and Singapore can obtain visa upon arrival to Baku International Airport. However, for the more smooth passage of passport control and to save time, citizens of above mentioned countries might obtain e-visas from our managers.

E-visa is issued within 3-5 working days. The procedure of registration takes 3-5 business days in the usual mode of \$ 30 and \$ 65 for 1 working day.

The procedure of registration begins after all documents are submitted and payment is confirmed.

Electronic visas will be issued only to nationals of countries listed [here](#)

For most countries of the world visa to Georgia is not required.

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