

# 15 Day Caucasus Pearls

## Multi-Country Tours in Caucasus

From: 2129 €

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### Overview

#### Caucasus Pearls

15 Days/14 Nights

Combined group tour to 3 South Caucasus countries –Azerbaijan, [Georgia](#) and Armenia is a special itinerary with fixed guaranteed dates. Start the journey from Baku, the capital town of Azerbaijan, continue the way to [Georgia](#), visiting [Signaghi](#), [Tbilisi](#), [Gudauri](#) and [Akhaltsikhe](#), do the round trip in Armenia from Bavra border to Gyumri and Yerevan and then return to [Georgia](#) from Sadakhlo border to [Tbilisi](#).

[Preview or download tour description file \(PDF\)](#)

Three experienced guides will work for you –one local guide in each country. They are experts in the field and they will introduce you the most remarkable historical and architectural monuments, UNESCO World Heritage Sights, special highlights, help to choose delicious food and finest wines. Get acquainted with 3 different cultures, see diversity of traditions and visit the most unique and spectacular sights of these countries.

*The group is “Guaranteed to Run” after two people book the tour.*

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### Tour details

- Code: GTC AZ-02
  - Starts from: Baku
  - Group Size: 15 Persons
  - Duration: 15 Days
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### Sights to Visit

- [Uplistsikhe Cave Complex](#)
  - [Vardzia](#)
  - [Ananuri Architectural Complex](#)
  - [Rabati Castle](#)
  - [Vardzia Historical-Architectural Museum](#)
  - [Uplistsikhe historical-architectural museum](#)
  - [Tsinandali Museum](#)
  - [Samtskhe - Javakheti History Museum](#)
  - [Shumi Winery](#)
  - [Bridge of Peace](#)
  - [Tbilisi Historic District](#)
  - [Akhaltsikhe](#)
  - [Gori](#)
  - [Gudauri](#)
  - [Rike Park & Aerial Cableway](#)
  - [Kakheti](#)
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## Itinerary

### Day 1: BAKU

In the morning Georgian Holidays will organize a pick up from the hotel and our tour will start at 10:00 AM with Baku sightseeing.

First, we will visit Mountain Park with panoramic views on the city and **Baku Bay**.

After taking a walk in the alley we drive to the old city to visit several interesting sites: **Palace of the Shirvanshahs** (15th c.), medieval caravanserai and bathhouse, old mosques, art shops, and finally – **Maiden tower**, 12th century monument that is listed under the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

**Overnight in Baku.**

## **Day 2: BAKU – SHEKI**

After breakfast at the hotel, we drive to the north-west – to town of **Sheki**. We are going to make a few stops along the way to visit two interesting historical monuments: 15th century mausoleum of Sheikh Diri-Baba in **Gobustan** town, and 8th century Juma Mosque in **Shamakhi** town.

In the evening, we get to **Sheki**. We are going to make a short **Sheki** city tour to sightsee **Sheki fortress**, Palace of Shaki Khans, old caravanserai and mosque.

**Overnight in Sheki.**

### **Day 3: SHEKI – SIGHNAGHI**

After breakfast we drive to Kish – a village located 5 km from **Sheki** – to sightsee the main attraction of the village – the **Church of Kish**. Church has an extraordinary history as its existing building is estimated to be built in the 12th century on much older pagan cultic site, and belonged to Caucasian Albanian, [Georgian](#) and **Armenian** churches in different times through history.

On day 3 our **Azerbaijan** tour ends as from **Kish** we drive to Georgia-Azerbaijan border near Lagodekhi. Tour guide will assist the group with border procedures. On the border we change the transport and from now on local Georgian guide will lead the tour.

From the border we drive to [Sighnaghi](#) – a town in a traditional wine-making **Kakheti** region in the east Georgia. Surrounded by medieval curtain walls, [Sighnaghi](#) is located on **Gombori mountain** range, overlooking **Alazani river** valley. We are going to sightsee [Sighnaghi Museum](#) and its rich collections, such as the ethnographic and archaeological exhibitions, and collections of the works of prominent Georgian painter [Niko Pirosmani](#).

Afterwards we can take a walk in [Sighnaghi](#).

**Overnight in [Sighnaghi](#).**

## **Day 4: SIGNAGI – TSINANDALI – SHUMI – TELAVI – TBILISI**

After breakfast we leave [Sighnaghi](#) and drive to the village of **Tsinandali**.

In Tsinandali we are going to pay a visit [Aleksandre Chavchavadze](#) House Museum. Aleksandre Chavchavadze was a famous 18th century Georgian aristocrat, military figure and poet, whose residence, garden and wine-cellar functions as a museum and attracts lots of visitors nowadays.

From **Tsinandali** we drive to Shumi to take a look on [Shumi winery](#) and wine museum “**Vazoni**”. Visitors can taste local wine and snacks.

Our next stop is [Telavi](#) – major town of **Kakheti** region. In [Telavi](#) we can visit medieval fortress that served as a residence of the Kings of Kakheti – **Batonistsikhe**. We make a short [Telavi](#) tour and afterwards depart for [Tbilisi](#) through the Gombori pass (1620 m).

**Overnight in [Tbilisi](#).**

## Day 5: TBILISI CITY TOUR

On day 5 we start [Tbilisi](#) city tour by visiting the [Holy Trinity Cathedral](#) (Sameba), one of the tallest Orthodox Christian churches on earth.

Our next stop is at **Metekhi Plateau**, where we visit [Metekhi church](#) constructed in the 5th century. [Metekhi church](#) is located on the cliff overlooking river **Mtkvari** and the old [Tbilisi](#).

From Metekhi we move down to the old city and take walk on the streets of **Shardeni, Iron Row, Cotton Row and Erekle II** with lots of outdoor cafes, bars, restaurants, art galleries, souvenir stores and handicraft shopping spots. We continue our way until we cross the [glass Bridge](#) of Peace and get to the [Rike Park](#).

From here we head to the [Narikala fortress](#) – ancient fortification overlooking [Tbilisi](#) from the hill, which can be reached by a aerial cable car.

From [Narikala](#) we walk back to the old city to pay a visit to the following sites: the [National Botanical Garden](#) of Georgia, [Jumah Mosque](#), **Legvtakhevi** canyon and waterfall, and Abanotubani – historical **sulfur bathhouse** district of [Tbilisi](#). [Tbilisi](#) city tour finishes at the **Meidan Square**.

Overnight in [Tbilisi](#).

## **Day 6: TBILISI – MTSKHETA – ANANURI – GUDAURI**

After breakfast at the hotel we drive to the north to **Mtskheta** – historical capital of Georgia.

**Mtskheta**, located at the confluence of the two rivers of **Mtkvari** and **Aragvi**, is famous for its two UNESCO World Heritage Sites – [Jvari Monastery](#) (6th century) and [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#) (11th century).

After **Mtskheta** sightseeing tour and our visit to the handicrafts, souvenir shops and wine cellars located in the center of the town, we continue our way to the north and drive through Georgian Military Highway towards the mountainous **Khevi** province.

On our way to [Gudauri](#) ski-resort we make a stop at **Zhinvali reservoir** and visit [Ananuri Architectural Complex](#). Ananuri once served as a fortress and residence of local feudal lords – Eristavi of Aragvi.

In the evening we arrive at [Gudauri](#) (2196 m), **Kazbegi** Municipality.

**Dinner and overnight in [Gudauri](#).**

## **Day 7: GUDAURI – KAZBEGI – TBILISI**

On day 7 after breakfast we leave for Kazbegi town from [Gudauri](#).

On our way at the Cross Pass (2379 m), we make a stop at the red travertine hill and taste local mineral water.

After our arrival in **Kazbegi** we set off for Mount Gergeti trek. Mount Gergeti is famous for its [Holy Trinity Church](#) – built in 14th century, church is overlooking **Kazbegi** town while standing under the Kazbegi peak (5033 m) and glacier.

After our trek to Mount Gergeti is finished we come back to Kazbegi town and leave for [Tbilisi](#).

**Overnight in [Tbilisi](#).**



## **Day 8: TBILISI – GORI – UPLISTSIKHE – AKHALTSIKHE**

After breakfast we depart for **Samtskhe-Javakheti** region.

On our way we drive through **Kartli** province, where our first stop is at **Gori** town. In **Gori** we are going to visit the museum of **Joseph Stalin**, which consists of Stalin's memorial house, exposition building, and his room with various personal belongings.

From **Gori** we get to **Uplistsikhe cave** complex – another well-known site near **Gori**. **Uplistsikhe** represents ancient cave complex and one of the oldest urban settlements in Georgia, dating back to the 1st millennium BC. It is also possible to visit a small museum nearby and watch an 8-minute movie about **Uplistsikhe**.

Our next stop is at **Borjomi** – a spa-resort located in Mtkvari ravine. **Borjomi** is famous for its mineral water 'Borjomi'. After a walk around town and Borjomi Central Park, we depart for **Akhaltsikhe** and arrive there in the evening.

**Overnight in Akhaltsikhe.**

## **Day 9: AKHALTSIKHE – AKHALTSIKHE CASTLE – VARDZIA – AKHALTSIKHE**

After breakfast we start our journey to the historical Samtskhe region and its administrative centre – [Akhaltzikhe](#) (translated as “new castle”) town. We are going to visit the most remarkable site of [Akhaltzikhe – Rabati Castle](#), a medieval fortification complex. During Rabati excursion we are going to take a look at the fortress, museum, 14th century Jakeli Castle, fortress church and the St. Marine church.

From [Akhaltzikhe](#), we get to [Vardzia](#). Built during the Georgian Golden Age in the 12th-13th cc., [Vardzia](#) is another well-known rock-hewn cave monastery, located on the slopes of Erusheti mountains in Samtskhe region.

In the evening we drive back to [Akhaltzikhe](#).

**Overnight in [Akhaltzikhe](#).**

## **Day 10: AKHALTSIKHE – BAVRA – GYUMRI**

On day 10 we start our trip to **Armenia**. After breakfast we drive towards Bavra Border Crossing Point. On our way we make a short stop at [Khertvisi fortress](#) – a medieval fortification erected in the Mtkvari river ravine.

After our arrival at **Bavra** Border Crossing Point, we will change vehicle and guided by the local expert will continue tour in **Armenia**. First, we head to **Gyumri** – the second largest city of **Armenia** and have a short city tour there.

**Overnight in Gyumri.**

## **Day 11: GYUMRI – St Hripsime Church – ZVARTNOTS – YEREVAN**

After breakfast we take a walk in the historical center of Gyumri. Gyumri has lots of buildings from 19th century when the city was named as Alexandropol under the rule of Russian Empire.

After Gyumri city tour we continue our journey to Vagharshapat town to visit two important Armenian monuments – Visit St. Gayane and St. Hripsime churches and 7th century Zvartnots Cathedral.

From Vagharshapat we head to the capital of Armenia – Yerevan. In the evening we pay a visit to Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, known as Matenadaran museum, and take a look at its rich collection of medieval manuscripts and books.

**Overnight in Yerevan.**

## **Day 12: YEREVAN – GARNI – GEGHARD – YEREVAN**

On day 8 after breakfast we begin our excursion of the Yerevan city and its surroundings. First, we will visit Yerevan History Museum in the center of the city. Museum has a rich collection of different artifacts that represent local culture and history from ancient to present times.

From Yerevan we set off to see the Temple of Garni and Geghard monastery (founded in the 4th c.). The Temple of Garni is an ancient pagan temple with Greco-Roman colonnaded architectural style. Destroyed by the earthquake in the 17th century, this pre-Christian temple was rebuilt in the 20th century during the Soviet times.

From Garni we can take a walk along the canyon of Azat river and get to Geghard, which is located close from the Temple of Garni. Geghard monastery is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Finally, we drive back to Yerevan.

**Overnight in Yerevan.**

## **Day 13: YEREVAN – KHOR VIRAP – ARENI – NORAVANK – YEREVAN**

On day 13 after breakfast at the hotel we take a trip to Khor Virap Monastery in Ararat Province. Khor Virap is one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in Armenia due to the local beliefs, according to which St. Gregory the Illuminator, who is credited with converting Armenia to Christianity, was imprisoned in this place for 13 years by the Armenian King. Visitors can also observe view on the Mount Ararat – national symbol of Armenia, from the monastery

From Khor Virap we continue our way to southeast direction and get to the wine village of Areni, located in Vayots Dzor Province and famous for its red wine. We can visit the wine factory and taste local Armenian wine.

From Areni we drive to Noravank monastery, established in the 13th c. Noravank is situated in a narrow gorge of Amaghu river, near the town of Yeghegnadzor.

**Overnight in Yerevan.**

## **Day 14: YEREVAN – SEVAN – SANAHIN – HAGHPAT – SADAKHLO – TBILISI**

After breakfast we drive to one of the world's largest alpine lakes – **Sevan** (1900 m).

From **Lake Sevan** we continue our way to the north and arrive in the administrative center of Tavush Province – **Dilijan town**. On **Dilijan** city tour we are going to visit **Sharambeyan** street full of workshops, handicraft shops, souvenir stores and traditional buildings.

From the center of **Tavush** Province, we move to Lori region and visit medieval **Sanahin monastery** (built in 10th c.), which is another site among the UNESCO World Heritage list from **Armenia**. **Sanahin monastery** was founded by the Bagratid royal family in the 10th century and consists of several churches and chapels. From Sanahin we get to Haghpatt monastery located nearby.

From Haghpatt we drive to [Georgia](#)-Armenia border.

From Sadakhlo border crossing point we continue our way to [Tbilisi](#) led by Georgian driver.

Meeting with Georgian Holidays staff at 18:00.

**Overnight in [Tbilisi](#).**

*Farewell dinner in Georgian Traditional restaurant with folk show\* (Optional).*

*Note: Those taking extension trips to Georgia will start their tour next morning after breakfast.*

## **Day 15: TBILISI**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out time until 12:00 pm. End of service.

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## **Inclusions**

## **Included**

- 1x transfer from Lagodekhi border: 3;
- 1x transfer to Bavra border on day: 10;
- Transportation service all days;
- 1x local jeep in Kazbegi on day: 7;
- English speaking Guide & Driver service all days;
- 1 x overnight in Baku 4\* hotel Central Park/Desire/Azcot/Sapphire Bayil in double/twin rooms
- 1 x overnight in Sheki 4\* hotel Sheki Park in double/twin rooms
- 1 x overnight in Sighnaghi 3\* hotel Brigitte/Solomoni in double/twin rooms
- 4 x overnights in Tbilisi 3\* hotel Brigitte/IBIS Tbilisi Stadium/Zeg in double/twin rooms
- 1 x overnight in Gudauri 3\* Hotel Alpina in double/twin rooms
- 2 x overnight in Akhaltsikhe 3\* Hotel Tiflis/Almi in double/twin rooms
- 1 x overnight in Gyumri 3 \* hotel Alexandrapol or similar in double/twin rooms
- 3 x overnights in Yerevan 4\* hotel Ani Central Inn in double/twin rooms
- 14 x breakfasts on days: 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14, 15;
- 1 x dinner on day 6;
- 1 x wine tasting in Shumi winery on day 4
- 1 x glass of wine in Tsinandali museum on day 4
- 1 x wine tasting in the village Areni on day 12
- 1 bottle of mineral water per person per day

## **Excluded**

- Visa fees
  - Travel insurance
  - Air tickets
  - Accommodation in a single room
  - Hotel night on the last day of the Land Only itinerary
  - Alcohol beverages unless mentioned in the itinerary
  - Breakfast on the final day if departing earlier than 8 am
  - Lunches & Dinners
  - Farewell dinner in Georgian Traditional restaurant with folk show - 25 EUR per person
  - Individual airport transfers
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## More Info

### Additional Info

Additional cost for Single room accommodation is 295 €

Additional cost for the airport private pick up a transfer: 25 €

Additional cost for the airport private drop off transfer: 20 €

Discounted individual transfer rate for the double way: 40 €

To arrange airport transfers and additional hotel overnights, contact us **trips [at] georgianholidays.com**

### CHILD POLICY:

0-1 years - Free

2-6 years – 1065 EURO

7 years and over - Adult price

### Cancelation Policy

Cancellation is free of charge prior 31 days of the starting day.

The booking deposit 200 Euro is non-refundable in case of cancellation of the tour after booking has been confirmed. The fee is kept as a deposit on the Tourist's account for future booking(s).

If Tourist cancels the booked tour for some reasons not depending on Tour Operator, the following sums are kept back as a fine:

10% of total cost of tourist product in case of cancellation 30 days prior to the tour;

50% of total cost of tourist product in case of tour cancellation 15-7 days prior to the tour;

90% of total cost of tourist product in case of tour cancellation 7 and fewer days prior to the tour;

99% of total cost of tourist product due to the Tourist's failure to appear at the airport no more than 2 hours prior to departure or non-admission on the flight owing to circumstances beyond the Tour Operator's controls.