

# Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia

## 'The Caucasus: a Cultural and Culinary Journey'



22 May to 11 June 2027 | 21 Day escorted tour | NZ\$12,500

*სტუმარი ღვთისაა - "The guest is a gift from God"*

*Georgian proverb*

Join Dorje and Keryn for a tour across 3 extraordinary, varied and fascinating countries. The journey crosses the South Caucasus where Europe and Asia converge. We travel through diverse landscapes, from the futuristic skyline of Baku on the Caspian Sea to the ancient rugged mountains. Discover lands rich in history, where empires have clashed for centuries, leaving behind a tapestry of cultures and traditions.

We start in Baku the vibrant, ancient but modern capital of Azerbaijan, travel North on old silk roads to UNESCO listed Sheki and then cross the border into Georgian wine country. We drive into the stunning Caucasian mountains via ancient churches and old Soviet monuments before heading into Tbilisi with its unique, eclectic architecture and vibrant food scene. We then head, via a 12th century cave monastery, to beautiful Yerevan, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities.

Dorje and Keryn both fell in love with this area when they travelled there in 2024 and would love to share all their discoveries and the treasures of the area with you.

Garni temple

Baku, old town





Yerevan Cascade

## Highlights



Fruit from the  
Caucasus

- We'll introduce you to diverse peoples with rich cultures and histories
- Experience the awe-inspiring Caucasus mountains
- See where modern architecture meets ancient buildings
- Explore crafts, delicious cuisines and caravanserai
- Discover stunning stone monasteries, fortresses and cave cities
- Drink wine in the country that invented it!



Sheki  
Caravanserai



Telavi wine cellar, all for sale!

# Itinerary

## Sun 23 May Baku Azerbaijan

Arrive in Baku, transfer to hotel. Meet the group at the best wine bar in the country, then out for our first group dinner with Keryn and Dorje. (D)

## Mon 24 May Baku

Walk the old city in the morning with us, have lunch in a shaded tea garden, then we discover modern Baku in the afternoon. Promenade the waterfront in the early evening. (BLD)

## Tue 25 May Gobustan day trip

We explore mud volcanos and 20,000 yr old petroglyphs. (BLD)

## Wed 26 May to Sheki

We visit Lahic, a historic mountain village perched at an altitude of about 1,200 metres. Famous for its traditional crafts, we'll visit the centuries-old Aliyev family of coppersmiths. (BLD)

## Thu 27 May Sheki

An amazing walking tour of UNESCO town Sheki; it's a "Silk Road gem," famous for its preserved 18th-century architecture, vibrant crafts, and legendary local sweets. Visit the Khan's palace, stained glass workshops and caravanserai, topped off with wine tasting in the evening. (BLD)

## Fri 28 May Sheki

We forage through the market and then visit one of the oldest spiritual centres in the Caucasus. Enjoy our first free afternoon to wander, meet silk artisans and do some shopping! (BLD)

## Sat 29 May to Telavi Georgia

Cross our first border together into the Kakheti wine region of Georgia and have an amazing lunch at Pheasant's Tears. This traditional winery uses 8000 year old techniques and does excellent food to match. (BLD)

## Sun 30 May Kakheti day trip

We tour the wonderful monasteries, churches and abbeys of this region, hopefully we hear polyphonic singing as it is a Sunday, or come across a wedding. To complement this we will have a long, lazy, delicious winery lunch. (BL+cheese, wine tasting)



Wine museum,  
Telavi

## Mon 31 May Telavi

A walking tour of Telavi visiting the medieval castle, the market, buying tasty local food specialties. We then visit Dito's eccentric wine museum and later meet a 'quevri' maker. (BLD)

# Itinerary cont.

## Tue 1 June to Stepantsminda

We head up the Georgian Military Highway nearly to the Russian Border, as we climb we get gorgeous views of the Caucasus in all their splendour. (BLD)

## Wed 2 June to Tbilisi

We stop in Mtskheta, the ancient capital and spiritual heart of Georgia, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its 4th-century origins and medieval architecture. We visit the gigantic Chronicles of Georgia on our way into town and then do a cooking class together for dinner. (BL+cooking class dinner)



Georgian Khinkali

## Thu 3 June Tbilisi

A walking tour around Tbilisi that gives us insight into the diverse architecture and complicated history of this town. In the evening we go to a traditional folk music and dance show. (BLD)

## Fri 4 June Tbilisi

This morning we explore the famous 'dry bridge' antique market and some of the sights in the 'newer' part of Tbilisi.

We will have some free time to wander in the afternoon before (optional) helping Keryn celebrate her birthday at our Georgian friend Giorji's restaurant. (B)

## Sat 5 June to Akhalitske

Akhalitske, a cultural "melting pot" where Georgian, Armenian, Jewish, and Ottoman influences coexist. We visit the city's most famous landmark, Rabati castle, originally built in the 9th century. Try local snails for dinner if you're feeling adventurous. (BLD)

## Sun 6 June to Gyumri Armenia

A big day where we start at spectacular Vardzia cave monastery. Crossing our second border we head to Gyumri, Armenia's second city. We eat tonight at a restaurant so famous people fly from all over the world to eat there. They are a trout and sturgeon farm and produce their own caviar! (BLD)

## Mon 7 June Yerevan

We explore the neighbourhood, then head to Yerevan. Stopping for lunch at a unique house museum, we then visit the Ararat Brandy factory for a tour and lethal tasting! (BLD)



Armenia Gata sweet bread

# Itinerary cont.

## Tue 8 June Yerevan

Today, be wowed by the beautiful sights of Yerevan including the Cascade and the Matanaderan Museum which houses one of the world's most extensive collections of medieval manuscripts. (BLD)

## Wed 9 June day trip to Khor Virap

Khor Virap, one of Armenia's most iconic and sacred monasteries, is famously set against the backdrop of the snow-capped Mount Ararat and on the border with Turkey. Lunch is at a social enterprise in Etchmiadzin. We finish up at Zvartnots cathedral, ruins from the 'golden' age of Armenian architecture. (BLD)

## Thu 10 June day trip to Garni

We start the day with a breathtaking UNESCO masterpiece, Geghard monastery's unique rock-cut buildings are carved out of a mountain. Followed by Garni, an unexpected Greco-Roman temple and the Symphony of Stones, a stunning natural monument of basalt columns. We also get to observe 'lavash' ( the famous local bread ) being made. Tonight we share a farewell dinner. (BLD)

## Fri 11 June Yerevan departure

Departure day, transfer to the airport. Fly home or join Keryn in Greece for a week. (B)

[Note contact Keryn for details about the Greece add on ]

## Details

### What's included?

- All travel within Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.
- All tours, admissions and activities.
- Domestic guide and drivers.
- All hotels; twin-share accommodation / single available with supplement.
- Meals breakfast, lunch and dinner (BLD) all included except for 1 lunch and 1 dinner.
- Tips & gratuities at hotels, restaurants and for the guides and experiences.
- A great experience.

Café Lumen,  
Yerevan

### What's NOT included?

- International airfares to join and leave the tour.
- Travel insurance; by taking insurance you protect yourself against any unexpected cancellation or event. This is compulsory.
- Azerbaijani e-visa: US\$20 (We will send information at a later date on how to do this online)
- Personal Items – such as laundry, snacks, spa treatments
- Alcohol - unless specifically stated

Café Leila,  
Tbilisi



# Booking

## Cost

The cost for the 21 day/3 week tour is: NZ\$12,500 from Baku to Yerevan per person twin share.

**Note:** this is the 'Land Only' cost. It does not include international airfares.

Single Supplement: make contact for pricing

Prices are based on a minimum group size of 10 maximum of 16. Should the group size be less than 10 people (excluding tour escort), a surcharge may be applied.

Should currency or fuel prices or other circumstances beyond our control alter the tour substantially please understand the tour and tour price may change. We'll keep you informed if we think this could or has happened.

To secure your spot a deposit of NZ\$2,000 is required.

OR

You can put in an expression of interest, and you will go on our list and be updated as the trip is filling up.

## Health and Fitness

This tour includes city and country side walking, of up to several hours at a time. Cobblestones, stairs and rough surfaces are common, so you need to be moderately fit. NOTE crossing borders you'll have to move all your own luggage by yourself for 500m to 1000m.

## Refunds and Cancellations

- Deposit, is not refundable once the tour is confirmed.
- After the tour is confirmed refunds will depend on the expenditure to date.
- You should rely on travel insurance, to cover any cancellation costs.
- Where cancellation is by us or due to events beyond our control, we reserve the right to will refund what we can reasonably recover from our suppliers.

## Insurance

We require all those on the tour to provide proof of valid health and accident insurance. From and including the start and end dates. NOTE The Georgian government require proof of this on entry into the country.

## Passports and Visas

Your passport must have at least 6 months validity beyond your return date. You are responsible for visas and entry requirements; we'll notify you of these after booking. New Zealand passport holders have visa free entry to Georgia and Armenia, and require e visas for Azerbaijan.

## Contact

Please email [keryn@footprintstours.co.nz](mailto:keryn@footprintstours.co.nz)



# Next steps

Please express your interest by contacting Keryn at:  
[keryn@footprintstours.co.nz](mailto:keryn@footprintstours.co.nz)



Dorje and Keryn, Sighnaghi

1. Once you fill in the form we'll send you deposit details.
2. After the deposit is received, we will send you the detailed itinerary. We will also let you know what international flight schedules work well with this tour, and some suggested flight routes.
3. 4 months out from the tour date, we will send a 'what's owing' invoice
4. Once the invoice is paid we will send you our Caucasus tour and preparation notes.
5. We will send you a reminder when the final payment is due.
6. Will send out details on how to apply for your Visa online
7. Off we go

Fun in Georgia

