

PREMIUM

11D8N

GREAT CAUCASUS

TOUR CODE: MCGYDA

The spectacular mountain scenery, wonderful walks and picturesque old villages with ancient towers are all part of a trip to the Great Caucasus.



SEVANAVANK MONASTERY, ARMENIA

HIGHLIGHTS

AZERBAIJAN

- Shirvanshkh's Palace
- Maiden Tower
- Shemakha Gate
- Gobustan
- Juma Mosque
- Sheki Khan's Palace
- Caravanserai

GEORGIA

- Kakheti Wine Tasting
- Signaghi
- Stepantsminda Town
- Ananuri Fortress
- Gergeti Mountain
- Gergeti Trinity Church
- Tbilisi sightseeing tour
- Mtskheta
- Jvari Monastery
- Svetitskhoveli Cathedral
- Narikala Fortress cable car ride
- St. Nino Monastery

ARMENIA

- Haghpat Monastery
- Lake Sevan
- Sevanavank Monastery
- Yerevan sightseeing tour
- Garni Monastic Complex
- Geghard Monastery
- Local food market
- Khor Virap Monastery
- Etchmiadzin Cathedral
- Zvartnots Temple
- Brandy Factory

DELICACIES

Meal Plan

8 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 8 Dinners

Specialities

- Georgian dish with cheese
- Traditional meal with folk music

4★ HOTELS

AZERBAIJAN : Baku Central Park

AZERBAIJAN : Sheki Saray

GEORGIA : Tbilisi Best Western

ARMENIA : Yerevan Opera Suite

*Note: Hotels subject to final confirmation. Should there be changes, customers will be offered similar accommodations as stated in this list.



Day 1

HOME - BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Meal on board

Assemble at Singapore Changi Airport for your flight to **Baku** – the capital and largest city of Azerbaijan.

DAY 2

BAKU › GOBUSTAN › BAKU

Dinner

Upon arrival, proceed to **Gobustan National Park** to visit Gobustan museum and rock art. The ‘Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape’ is listed in 2007 as UNESCO Heritage Site. Return to **Baku** and visit main historical side of Baku which was included into the heritage list of UNESCOs. You will visit the **Maiden Tower, Palace of the Shirvanshahs** and market square of the Old Town, all which will impress you very much.

DAY 3

BAKU › SHEMAKHA › SHEKI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Morning depart Baku and drive to **Shemakha**. Visit the historical **Friday Mosque (Juma)** before proceed to **Sheki**, one of Azerbaijan’s highlights towns. Visit to **Sheki Khan’s Palace**, sweets’ confectionary and local market. A quick photo stop at **Caravanserai** before head to dinner.

DAY 4

SHEKI › LAGODEKHI BORDER › SIGHNAGHI (GEORGIA) › TBILISI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, after breakfast, you will be transfer to Azerbaijan-Georgian Border. After immigration clearance, enter **Georgia** in the region of **Kakheti**, synonymous in the

country with wine, and a fitting place to begin our introduction to the world-renowned Georgian hospitality and delicious food. Visit winery to have unique Georgian red and white varieties of **wines tasting** which are produced according Georgian clay vessel ‘Qvevri’ technology. Enjoy lunch with local family with homemade dishes and wine. Thereafter, toward east to visit one of the most unique cities of Georgia **Signaghi**, known as town of love. This city is surrounded by amazing defensive wall on the foreground of breathtaking views of **Alazani Valley**. Continue to **Tbilisi**, the capital of Georgia for dinner and the night.

DAY 5

TBILISI › STEPANTSMINDA › TBILISI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today you’ll start journey to **Caucasus Mountains**. Drive up the famous **Georgian Military Highway** (leading to the Georgian-Russian Border), your first stop is **Ananuri** architectural complex, the two churches and the fortress overlooking **Zhinvali Water Reservoir**. Continue the drive to **Stepantsminda** (also know as Khabezi), the administrative center of **Khevi** province. Here we’ll change to 4WD vehicle and drive up the beautiful forest to the top of **Gergeti Mountain**, where a lone church – **Gergeti Trinity Church** stands in front of one of the highest mountains of the **Great Caucasus – Mt. Kazbegi** (5047m). Return to Stepantsminda and drive back to Tbilisi. Tonight, enjoy delicious Georgian cuisine and national folk dance and musical shows at local restaurant.

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DAY 6 TBILISI > MTSKHETA > TBILISI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Commence the morning by driving to **Mtskheta**, one of the oldest towns and the cultural and religious centre of Georgia. Discover UNESCO-listed attractions including 6th-century **Jvari Monastery** and **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral**. Return to **Tbilisi** and enjoy sightseeing tour of Tbilisi to **Metekhi church**, **Synagogue** and **Sioni Cathedral**. Visit **Tbilisi State Museum** (closed on Mondays and Public Holidays). After that, ride up to **Narikala Fortress** by aerial cable car (if weather permit) to enjoy breathtaking panoramic view over the Tbilisi city. Walk downwards to the **sulfur bath** which made an unforgettable impression on Pushkin, Lermontov, Dumas. Enjoy the superb panoramic views of the Old city.

DAY 7 TBILISI > SADAKHLO BORDER > HAGHPAT (ARMENIA) > LAKE SEVAN > YERAVAN

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast bid farewell to Georgia and drive to Sadakhlo border. After border formalities, meet your Armenia tour guide and transportation, start your acquaintance with **Armenia** visit to **Haghpat Monastery** which is among the outstanding works of medieval Armenian architecture and is inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage list. Drive to **Lake Sevan**, one of the largest lake which stands out with astonishingly blue water. Here you can enjoy the breathtaking scenery around the lake. Next visit

Sevanavank monastery which is situated on **Sevan Peninsula**. Continue to Armenia's capital - **Yeravan** for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8 YEREVAN > GARNI > GEGHARD > YEREVAN

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Start sightseeing of Yeravan city including visit **Republic Square**, **Opera House**, **Freedom Square** and **Cascade**. Depart to **Garni Temple**. The citadel and pagan temple of Garni, a picturesque monument of the Hellenistic period and an impressive piece of ancient Armenian architecture. Afterwards visit a **local house** where we get the chance to see and participate in the preparation of Armenian national bread "lavash" which is usually cooked in the ground oven called "tonir". Continue to Northeast of Garni, higher up the gorge of the Azat river, there is a magnificent monument of medieval Armenian architecture - **Geghard monastery** inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage list. Geghard is another incredible ancient Armenian monastery, partly carved out of a mountain. Return to Yeravan and visit **food market "Gum"**.

DAY 9 YEREVAN > KHOR VIRAP > ETCHMIADZIN > ZVARTNOTS > YEREVAN

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today drive to **Khor Virap** through villages and vineyards and enjoy the **Biblical Mt. Ararat** on the way. Visit **monastery Khor Virap** (829m) near the border with Turkey.

It is a great place for embracing the most picturesque views of the mountain. Tour continue to the Western part of Armenia, **Echmiadzin**. Lunch will be in local Art school before visit to **Echmiadzin Cathedral** (UNESCO World Heritage) is one of the oldest standing churches in Christendom. Return to Yeravan with the stop at the ruins of **Zvartnots Temple** (UNESCO World Heritage) - the ruins of this 7th century church were said to be the most beautiful in the world. Visit to **Brandy factory** for a tour around the factory and sampling some of the finest examples of celebrated Armenian brandy. End the day program with a farewell dinner in a local restaurant with folk music.

DAY 10 YEREVAN > HOME

Breakfast, Meal on board

After breakfast, drive towards Georgia and transfer to the airport for your flight home

DAY 11 HOME SWEET HOME

We hope you enjoyed your vacation with EU Holidays and we look forward to seeing you again for your next trip.

Tipping Guideline: ((based on 11D8N)

- USD 88 per person

Note:

- A minimum group size of 15 passengers is required for a confirmed departure.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances, the sequence of the itinerary may be subject to change without prior notice. Visa is required to travel to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia.