# GEOTOURS GEORGIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN – JUNE 15 – JUNE 28, 2017 - \$2190

Includes lodging, breakfasts, 2 dinners, private transportation, entries, professional guides, Matt Ebiner as group leader Lunches, most dinners, and airfare are extra (about \$1500 from LAX) WWW.GEOTOURS.US







Thu 6/15/17 Depart USA (or depart June 10 if doing the Georgia Hiking excursion)

### Fri 6/16/17 Arrive Baku, Azerbaijan

Arrive in Baku, Azerbaijan's capital. Stay in Baku for 3 nights.

### Sat 6/17/17 Baku, Azerbaijan

Take a guided tour of Baku to see the historical and architectural highlights. Visit Memory Alley with a great panoramic view of the city. Explore the new part of the city with innovative architecture of the Flame Buildings, Fountain Square, and other monuments. Then enjoy the Old City, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, with Shirvan Shah's Palace, National Carpets Museum, and more. Night #2 in Baku.

## Sun 6/18/17 Baku area, Azerbaijan

Travel south along the Caspian Sea to visit Qobustan National Park with 6,000 UNESCO World Heritage-listed petroglyphs. The prehistoric carvings, about 10,000 years old, depict scenes of hunting, fishing and gathering. At Qobustan Reserve see gurgling mud volcanoes; this region has about 400 mud volcanoes, more than half the world's total. Visit Ateshgah temple where Zoroastrians worshiped for over 2000 years. Continue to Yanar Dag Fire Mountain, a natural gas fire which burns continuously on a hillside. Night #3 in Baku.

#### Mon 6/19/17 Baku – Sheki, Azerbaijan

Head west from Baku through an arid landscape to end the day in the foothills of the forested Caucasus Mountains. En route visit Diri Baba mausoleum in Maraza, Yeddi Gumbez Tomb and Juma Mosque in Shemakha. Enjoy the picturesque mountain village of Lehij, with cobblestone streets and copper and blacksmiths' workshops. Visit the ancient Albanian church in the village of Kish. Continue to Sheki for one night.

### Tue 6/20/17 Sheki, Azerbaijan to Telavi, Georgia

Wander around the lovely village of Sheki. Visit the beautifully reonovated Sheki Khan's Palace, with magnificent frescoes and stained glass. Visit the History Museum, the local market and handicrafts workshop. Depart Sheki and travel two hours to the border with Georgia. Cross the border, meet your Georgian guide and start exploring the beautiful landscape of vineyards and wine-producing villages of Georgia's Kakheti region. Tour and wine tasting at the unique Khareba wine cellar, located in a tunnel carved out of the rock. Visit the photogenic fortified church complex of Gremi before reaching Telavi for one night.

### Wed 6/21/17 Telavi – Tbilisi, Georgia

Visit Tsinandali, formerly a royal residence and now a museum with beautiful gardens. Continue to the 18<sup>th</sup>-century fortified hilltop town of Sighnaghi, one of the crossroads of the Silk Road and surrounded by defensive walls with 23 towers. Continue to Tbilisi for 2 nights.

## Thu 6/22/17 Tbilisi, Georgia

Spend the day touring Tbilisi, the pleasant capital city of Georgia. Visit churches, monuments, and take a cable car to Narikala fortress for a panoramic view of the city. Stroll through the old city, cross the innovatively designed Bridge of Peace, and visit the Open-Air Museum of Ethnography, a miniature model of Georgia. In the evening, visit a local restaurant to enjoy delicious, traditional Georgian cuisine and enjoy a folklore show of traditional Georgian music and dance. Overnight in Tbilisi.

### Fri 6/23/17 Tbilisi – Kazbegi, Georgia

Leave Tbilisi and visit the town of Gori, infamous as the birthplace of Josef Stalin. Visit the fascinating Stalin Museum with more than 60,000 artifacts, the tiny house where Stalin was born, and the bulletproof train Stalin used to travel in. Next explore the ancient remains of Uplistsikhe cave city. Scenic drive through the Caucasus Mountains along the Georgian Military Highway, a real highlight of the country. Stop at Ananuri, a 17<sup>th</sup>-century architectural complex of churches and towers, overlooking the Zhinvali reservoir. One night in Kazbegi, a small mountain town within view of glaciated Mt. Kazbek (16,500').

### Sat 6/24/17 Kazbegi – Tbilisi, Georgia

In the morning take an optional hike for about 2 hours through beautiful scenery to 14<sup>th</sup>-century Gergeti Trinity church, one of Georgia's most famous sites. In good weather there are outstanding views of Mt. Kazbek. Travel to Mtskheta, Georgia's ancient capital and religious center (3000 years old) with two UNESCO World Heritage sites: Jvari church (6th century) and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (11th century) where the crucifixion robe of Christ is said to be kept. Return to Tbilisi, for one night.

#### Sun 6/25/17 Tbilisi, Georgia – Yerevan, Armenia

Cross border into Armenia and change guide and driver. Visit 12<sup>th</sup>-century Haghartsin monastery in the Dilijan region, an area of forests and mountains. Continue to Lake Sevan, one of the world's largest alpine lakes, is Armenia's first and foremost national park, with beautiful scenery and ancient monastic ruins at Sevanavank. Marvel at Garni's magnificent pagan temple from the 1<sup>st</sup>-century. Visit Geghard monastery, which is partly carved into the side of the mountain and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Continue to Yerevan for 3 nights

#### Mon 6/26/17 Yerevan, Armenia

Enjoy a city tour of Yerevan, one of the oldest cities in the world (founded 782 BC). Visit the Cascade Monument, with great views of the city and beyond. Next visit Matenadaran, famous for being one of the world's best museums of medieval manuscripts with more than 60,000 documents. Visit the Armenian Genocide memorial, commemorating the victims of the first genocide of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century. Tour a Brandy Factory and sample some of the finest examples of celebrated Armenian brandy. In the evening, enjoy dinner and a show of traditional Armenian music and dance. Night #2 in Yerevan.

### <u>Tue 6/27/17 Khor Virap – Areni – Norovank – Echmiadzin, Armenia</u>

Visit Khor Virap monastery near the Turkish border, with amazing views of volcanic Mt. Ararat (legendary resting place of Noah's Ark). Continue to a winery in Areni to sample Armenian wine from pomegranate and apricot. Continue on to Noravank Monastery, wedged into a tall, red gorge. Continue to Echmiadzin, the headquarters of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the holiest site in Armenia. Night #3 in Yerevan.

#### Wed 6/28/17 Depart Yerevan, Armenia

Depart Yerevan to return to the USA (arrive home same day), or extend your travels with an optional extension to Astana, Kazakhstan to attend the 2017 World Expo (See next page for details).

### OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION - HIKING IN THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS OF GEORGIA

JUNE 10 – 16, 2016 - \$790 (includes round-trip flight from Tbilisi-Mestia-Tbilisi + international flight Tbilisi-Baku)

### Sat 6/10/17 Depart USA (if doing the Georgia Hiking pre-trip extension)

#### Sun 6/11/17 Arrive Tbilisi, Georgia

Arrive in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital. Stay in Tbilisi for one night.

## Mon 6/12/17 Tbilisi – Mestia (in the Caucasus Mountains)

Free morning to see a little of Tbilisi, a pleasant city with a beautiful location and historical old town. Mid-day flight to Mestia, located in the Georgia's Upper Svaneti Region in the Caucasus Mountains. Upper Svaneti is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site as an "exceptional example of mountain scenery with medieval-type villages and tower-houses", which were often family-built and served to protect against invaders for centuries. One night in Mestia.

### Tue 6/13/17 Hiking in the Caucasus Mountains

Hike 5 miles to Adishi, one of the most isolated villages in Georgia. One night in Adishi in a guesthouse.

## Wed 6/14/17 Hiking in the Caucasus Mountains

Magnificent hike from Adishi to Uprali (9 miles), in view of glaciers. Drive from Uprali to Ushguli, the "highest village in Europe" (about 7000'). Ushguli is a spectacular old town below glaciated peaks, with 20 ancient towers. Two nights in Ushguli in a guesthouse.

### Thu 6/15/17 Hiking in Caucasus Mountains

Hike from Ushguli to Shkhara Glacier and back (10 miles round-trip); overnight in Ushguli.

#### Fri 6/16/17 Return to Tbilisi, and continue to Baku, Azerbaijan

Drive from Ushguli to Mestia (2.5 hours). Afternoon flight to Tbilisi. Night flight from Tbilisi to Baku.

# OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION TO KAZAKHSTAN FOR WORLD EXPO 2017

JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2017 (+\$590; airfare not included, about \$250 from Yerevan, Armenia to Astana, Kazakhstan)







# Wed 6/28/17 Arrive Astana, Kazakhstan

Arrive in Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan. If flying from Yerevan, probably arrive mid-day in Astana. Four nights in Astana.

# Thu 6/29/17 Astana, Kazakhstan

Take a tour of Astana, one of the world's most remarkable capital cities, with fantastic, innovative architecture. Ascend the Bayterek Tower for great views over the city, stroll the beautiful pedestrianized Nurzhol Bulvar with gardens and fountains, visit the impressive Nur Astana Mosque, go inside the pyramid-shaped Palace of Peace & Accord, take an excellent guided tour of the Kazakhstan History Museum. Night #2 in Astana.

### Fri 6/30/17 Astana, Kazakhstan

Visit the World Expo, a 3-month extravaganza with pavilions for almost every country in the world, showcasing what is unique and noteworthy about each country. Night #3 in Astana.

### Sat 7/1/17 Astana, Kazakhstan

Visit the World Expo for a second day since there is so much to see. Evening flight to Ulan Bator, Mongolia to join GeoTours Mongolia or Night #4 in Astana. If flying to Mongolia possibly spend one day (July 2) sightseeing in Beijing, China (no visa required).

## Sun 7/2/17 Depart Kazakhstan

Depart Kazakhstan to fly home to the USA, or continue traveling on your own.

## Registration Form - GeoTours Georgia-Armenia-Azerbaijan: June 15 – 28, 2017- LAND COST = \$2190

CONTACT:

Matt Ebiner, Trip Organizer/Leader,

Includes hotels, private tour bus, entries/activities, all breakfasts, professional guides, Matt Ebiner as group leader

#### REGISTRATION/PAYMENT PROCEDURE

- 1. Complete this form and submit it to Matt Ebiner/GeoTours. You should keep a copy of this completed form.
- 2. Attach a \$400 payment (made payable to GeoTours LLC) to this form and mail to GeoTours at the address below or submit payment online through <a href="www.popmoney.com">www.popmoney.com</a> or <a href="www.payable.com">www.payable.com</a>, payable to <a href="payment@geotours.us">payment@geotours.us</a>. You can also make an online bank transfer if you are a customer of Chase (through QuickPay) or Wells Fargo (SurePay) to <a href="mattebiner@geotours.us">mattebiner@geotours.us</a> or 310-686-8171 (GeoTours phone #).
- 3. Second payment of \$500 is due on December 31, 2016.
- 4. Third payment of \$600 is due on February 15, 2017.
- 4. Final payment is due on March 31. If signing up after March 31 then full payment is due with registration.
- 5. Payments made after April 30 will be assessed a \$100 late fee.

Payments should be made payable to GeoTours LLC and sent to:

Covina, CA 91724

mattebiner@geotours.us; (310) 686-8171

CHECK THE TOUR(S) YOU PLAN TO DO:

GEORGIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN – JUNE 15 – 28, 2017 (\$2190)

GEORGIAN CAUCASUS HIKING - JUNE 10 – 16 (\$790)

WORLD EXPO - ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN - JUNE 28 – JULY 2 (\$590)

GEOTOURS MONGOLIA – JULY 1 - 13 (\$2490) (info on other itinerary)

YES

NO

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#### SPECIAL DISCOUNTS!

- Sign up with your deposit before July 15, 2016 and receive a \$75 discount.
- Sign up July 16 Sept 30, 2016 and receive a \$25 discount
- GeoTours alumni receive an additional discount of \$25 multiplied by the number of GeoTours trips they have done (maximum \$100 alumni discount).
- Sign up for Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan + Mongolia and deduct another \$100

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

GeoTours

1547 E. Puente Street

(Please print clearly and use your precise name as it appears, or will appear, on your passport)

First Name	Last Name	Gender:
Address		
Are you a US citizen? YesNo, I am a citizen of		
Email Address		
Home Phone ()	Cell Phone (	)
of the same sex, but this is not guaranteed. A single room inc	curs a supplement of +\$590.	n up without a roommate we will try to match you with someo
Please check one: Sharing a Twin room (2 beds) Sh		
Name of preferred roommate (if any)		
EMERGENCY CONTACT		
Name	Relationship	
Address	City, State	Zip
Home Phone ( )Cell ( ) _	Email A	ddress

#### CANCELLATIONS

To cancel your participation, you need to inform GeoTours in writing or by email. Cancellation date is the day when GeoTours has received your written notice.

Date of Cancellation	Cancellation Penalty	Date of Cancellation	Cancellation Penalty
On or before August 31, 2016	\$100	January 1 – 31, 2017	\$600
September 1 – October 31, 2016	\$200	February 1 – March 31, 2017	\$800
November 1 – Dec. 31, 2016	\$400	After April 1, 2017	No Refund

Responsibility
The program participant agrees that GeoTours LLC assumes no liability whatsoever for loss of property, injury, accident, illness, death, irregularity and delays during the duration of the tour. In addition, the program participant agrees to hold GeoTours LLC harmless for damage and delay due to equipment problems, quarantine, declared or undeclared war and insurrection, terrorist and criminal activity, revolt, civil disturbance, hostility, military action, strikes, labor unrest, any "act of God" or nature and for any act of any third party. The participant, by registering for this tour, agrees that GeoTours LLC is not responsible for delay, rerouting, omission and additional expense resulting from the passenger's improper travel documents such as passport, visa and health document. Any losses and expenses related to such circumstances are within the responsibility of the program participants and not of GeoTours LLC. GeoTours LLC is not responsible for acts of any government authority. GeoTours LLC reserves the right to adjust itinerary and contents and to substitute accommodation providers as deemed necessary. GeoTours LLC reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a program participant as well as to refuse to retain any participant's membership in the program. Participants that do not participate in an activity or entry, or who leave the tour early or arrive late, will not be entitled to any refund. By registering for this tour, the participant agrees to all terms and conditions.

I have carefully and agree to the regulations above.	
Participant Signature	Date