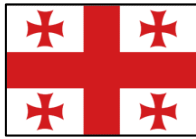
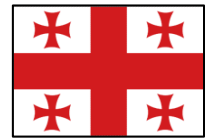


GEOTOURS



GEORGIA



ARMENIA



AZERBAIJAN



JUNE 9 - 22, 2024



TBILISI, GEORGIA



ARMENIA



BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan share the Caucasus Mountains, a towering, glaciated mountain range separating Europe from Asia. This is a region of natural beauty, cosmopolitan cities, charming small towns, rich history, a fascinating diversity of culture, and excellent food. This tour will visit the highlights of these countries, including all 3 capital cities, several UNESCO World Heritage sites, spectacular mountains, and many historical sites. The group will be ~20 people.

TOUR COST = \$2690

Includes lodging in a double/twin room, breakfasts, 2 dinners, private transport, professional English-speaking guide in each country, Matt and/or Suzan Ebner as group leaders, and entries/activities. Single room costs +\$800. Optional Georgia hiking extension costs +\$1290.

NOT INCLUDED

Airfare from the USA (about \$1800 round-trip from LAX to Baku; Yerevan to LAX), meals not listed above, drinks, tips to drivers and guides, shopping. Participants can spend additional time traveling on their own before or after the tour.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- **REGISTRATION OPENS TUESDAY, 6/27/23, 8:00 AM (PDT) at WWW.GEOTOURS.US/TOUR/CAUCASUS-2024**
- Payments can be made by:
 - Venmo or Zelle to payment@geotours.us or 310-686-8171 (GeoTours phone).
 - Check to GeoTours LLC, 1547 E. Puente St., Covina CA 91724
- 1st payment of \$400 is due within 7 days of registration.
- 2nd payment of \$500 is due October 31, 2023.
- 3rd payment of \$600 is due January 15, 2024.
- Final payment is due March 31, 2024.
- Payments made after April 30, 2024 will have a \$100 late fee.



TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

GEOTOURS LLC

WWW.GEOTOURS.US/TOUR/CAUCASUS-2024

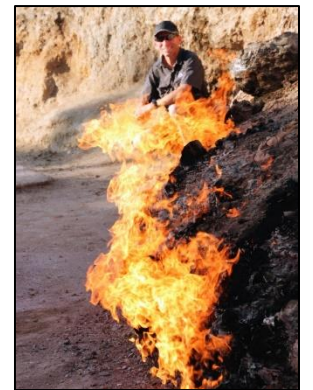
GEOTOURSUSA@GMAIL.COM

INFO@GEOTOURS.US

GEOTOURS CAUCASUS



BAKU



YANAR DAG



MUD VOLCANO

Sunday - 6/9/24 – Depart USA

Monday - 6/10/24 - Arrive Baku, Azerbaijan

Arrive in Baku, Azerbaijan's capital. Stay in Baku for 3 nights at Shaha Palace or equivalent.

Tuesday - 6/11/24 - 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 Heydar Aliyev Center. Then enjoy the Old City, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with Shirvan Shah's Palace and more. Night #2 in Baku.

Wednesday - 6/12/24 - Baku area, Azerbaijan

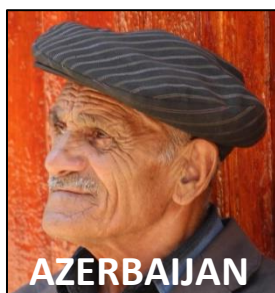
Travel south along the Caspian Sea to visit Qobustan National Park with 6,000 UNESCO World Heritage-listed petroglyphs. The prehistoric carvings, about 10,000 years old, depict scenes of hunting, fishing and gathering. At Qobustan Reserve see gurgling mud volcanoes; this region has about 400 mud volcanoes, 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.

Thursday – 6/13/24 - Baku – Sheki, Azerbaijan

Travel west from Baku through an arid landscape to end the day in the foothills of the forested Caucasus Mountains. En route visit Juma Mosque in Shemakha. Enjoy the picturesque mountain village of Lahic, with cobblestone streets and copper workshops. Continue to Sheki for one night at MinAli Boutique Hotel or equivalent.

Friday – 6/14/24 - Sheki, Azerbaijan to Telavi, Georgia

Wander around the lovely village of Sheki. Visit the beautifully renovated Sheki Khan's Palace, with magnificent frescoes and stained glass. Visit the local market and a handicrafts workshop. Depart Sheki and travel two hours to the border with Georgia. Cross the border 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 at Chateau Mere or equivalent.





Saturday – 6/15/24 - Telavi –Tbilisi, Georgia

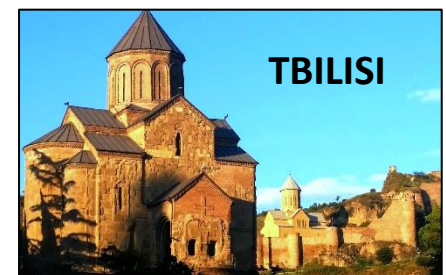
Visit Tsinandali, formerly a royal residence and now a museum with beautiful gardens. Continue to the 18th-century fortified hilltop town of Signaghi, one of the crossroads of the Silk Road and surrounded by defensive walls with 23 towers. Continue to Tbilisi for 2 nights at Riverside Hotel or equivalent.



Sunday – 6/16/24 -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. 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.

GEORGIA



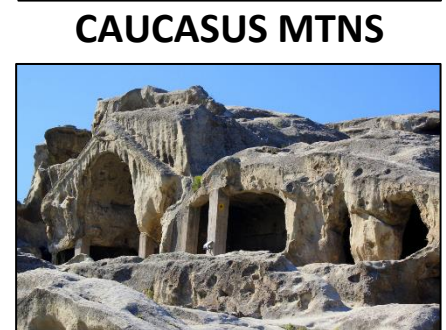
Monday – 6/17/24 - Tbilisi – Kazbegi, Georgia

Leave Tbilisi and 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. Scenic drive through the Caucasus Mountains along the Georgian Military Highway. Stop at Ananuri, a 17th-century architectural complex of churches and towers, overlooking the Zhinvali reservoir. Reach Kazbegi, a small mountain town within view of glaciated Mt. Kazbek (16,500'). One night in Kazbegi at Rooms Hotel, with spectacular views of the mountains.



Tuesday - 6/18/24 - Kazbegi – Gori – Uplistsikhe -Tbilisi, Georgia

In the morning take an optional hike for about 2 hours through beautiful scenery to 14th-century Gergeti Trinity church, one of Georgia's most famous sites. In good weather there are outstanding views of Mt. Kazbek. Leave the mountains 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 for travel. Next explore the ancient cave city of Uplistsikhe, an important religious center over 2,000 years ago. Return to Tbilisi, for one night at Riverside Hotel or equivalent.



CAUCASUS MTNS

UPLISTSIKHE



MT. KAZBEK



GEORGIA



GORI

GEOTOURS CAUCASUS



HAGHARTSIN



GARNI



YEREVAN

Wednesday - 6/19/24 - Tbilisi, Georgia – Yerevan, Armenia

Cross border into Armenia. Visit 12th-century Haghartsin monastery in the Dilijan region, an area of forests and mountains. Continue to Lake Sevan, Armenia's first and foremost national park, with beautiful scenery and ancient monastic ruins at Sevanavank. Continue to Yerevan for 3 nights at Ramada Hotel or equivalent.

Thursday - 6/20/24 - Yerevan, Armenia

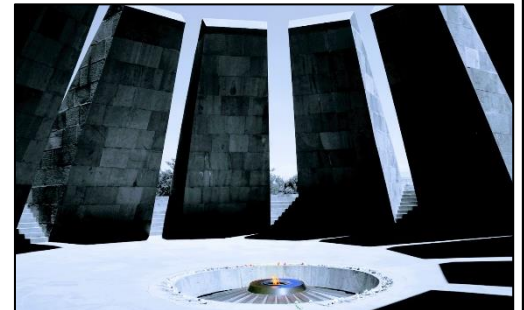
Visit Khor Virap monastery near the Turkish border, with amazing views of volcanic Mt. Ararat (legendary resting place of Noah's Ark). Continue to Noravank Monastery, wedged into a tall, red gorge. Visit a winery in Areni to sample wine from pomegranate and apricot. Night #2 in Yerevan.

Friday - 6/21/24 -Khor Virap – Areni – Norovank, Armenia

Marvel at Garni's magnificent pagan temple from the 1st-century. Visit Geghard monastery, partly carved into the side of the mountain and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy a city tour of Yerevan: visit the Cascade Monument, with great views of the city; 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 20th-century. In the evening, enjoy dinner and a show of traditional Armenian music and dance. Night #3 in Yerevan.



NOROVANK



GENOCIDE MEMORIAL



**ARMENIAN
PRIEST**

Saturday - 6/22/24 - Depart Armenia

Depart Yerevan to return to the USA (arrive home same day) or extend your travels on your own or with an optional extension to go trekking in the Caucasus mountains of Georgia. (See next page for details).



ARMENIAN MUSIC



MT. ARARAT

KHOR VIRAP

GEORGIA HIKING EXTENSION



OPTIONAL HIKING EXTENSION - CAUCASUS MTNS OF GEORGIA

JUNE 22–29, 2024 - \$1290 - includes private transport, local flights, 7 nights lodging, all breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, entries/activities, Georgian hiking guide, Matt Ebner as group leader. It might be possible to do ONLY this Georgia Hiking trip without the main tour; ask GeoTours if you're interested.

Saturday – 6/22/24 – Yerevan, Armenia to Kutaisi, Georgia

Fly Yerevan to Tbilisi (included in tour price). Transfer from TBS airport to Kutaisi, Georgia's 2nd largest city. Afternoon free to relax or explore. Two nights in Kutaisi.

Sunday – 6/23/24 – Kutaisi – Okatse Canyon – Prometheus Cave

Spend the day visiting natural wonders near Kutaisi. Hike 4 miles at Okatse Canyon through forest to a canyon with a remarkably constructed metal walkway suspended along the side of the cliff. Visit Prometheus Cave, filled with stalactites and stalagmites, finishing with a short boat ride through the cave on a subterranean river. Night #2 in Kutaisi.

Monday – 6/24/24 – Tbilisi to Mestia (in the Caucasus Mtns of Georgia)

Travel from Kutaisi to Martvili Canyon for a 45-minute walk through lush forest and a 15-minute boat ride through the canyon. Drive 4 hours to Mestia in the Upper Svaneti region in the Caucasus Mountains. Upper Svaneti is a UNESCO World Heritage Site as an "exceptional example of mountain scenery with medieval-type villages and tower-houses", used for centuries to protect families from enemies. One night in Mestia at Hotel Elite House or similar.

Tuesday – 6/25/24 – Hiking in the Caucasus Mountains, Georgia

Hike 5 miles at elevations around 7,000' to Adishi village. It has a spectacular location amid snow-capped mountains and cascading streams, with ancient tower houses on grassy slopes. One night in Adishi at Panorama Guesthouse or similar.

Wednesday – 6/26/24 - Hiking in the Caucasus Mountains, Georgia

Magnificent hike from Adishi to Uprali (9 miles) in view of glaciers. It is usually possible to hire a horse if someone doesn't want to hike the entire route. Drive from Uprali to Ushguli, the "highest village in Europe" (about 7000'), in a beautiful location, with 20 ancient tower-houses. One night in Ushguli at Miranda Guesthouse or similar.

Thursday - 6/27/24 – Hiking in the Caucasus Mountains, Georgia

Day-hike or horse ride from Ushguli to Shkhara Glacier if the weather is good. Drive from Ushguli back to Mestia for one night at Hotel Elite House or similar.

Friday - 6/28/24 - Return to Tbilisi

If the weather is good, take a one-hour flight from Mestia to Tbilisi. Otherwise travel 8 hours by road from Mestia to Tbilisi. One night in Tbilisi.

Saturday – 6/29/24 – Depart Georgia

Depart Tbilisi to return to the USA (arrive home same day).



GEOTOURS CAUCASUS

TRIP COST

- \$2690 – GEORGIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN land cost
 - Price based on sharing a room; single supplement is +\$800. Single rooms are limited.
 - Includes 12 nights lodging in a double or twin-shared room, private transport, Matt and/or Suzan Ebner as group leaders, English-speaking guides, breakfasts, 2 dinners, many activities.
- Not included in trip cost: international airline tix, tips to drivers and guides, meals not listed, drinks, shopping, optional activities.
- \$1290 – Optional Extension – HIKING IN THE CAUCASUS MTNS OF GEORGIA (8D/7N; June 22-29, 2024); details on previous page
- GeoTours Alumni discount - \$25 multiplied by the number of GeoTours trips you have done, up to \$100 maximum alumni discount.

TOUR DATES & FLIGHTS

- Depart USA on 6/9/24 to GYD (Baku). Return from Yerevan (EVN) on 6/22/24
 - Or return home from Tbilisi (TBS) on 6/29/23 if doing the Georgia hiking extension
 - These flights will cost a total of ~\$1800, and Turkish Airlines is probably the best choice.
- GeoTours will provide information on recommended flights. Participants can travel on their own before or after the GeoTours trip, which will affect the dates and price of airline tickets.

TRANSPORTATION, PACE, WEATHER

- Private transportation throughout the trip, with a bus just for our group
- This trip has a moderate pace and participants should be able to walk up to 4 miles a day.
- Temperatures will range widely during the trip. The temperature in all these countries can reach 90-95F in the daytime. It is often cool at night and early morning, around 50-55F. On the Georgia hiking extension it will be cold at night (40-45F) and likely to rain at times. It rains in all these countries during June, so bring a compact umbrella.

CANCELLATION POLICY

To cancel your participation, you must inform GeoTours in writing or by email. Cancellation date is the date when GeoTours receives your written notice. *Cancellation penalty is the amount shown below PLUS any non-recoverable expenses already paid on behalf of the passenger, such as nonrefundable tickets or hotel rooms.

<u>Date of Cancellation</u>	<u>Cancellation Penalty</u>
On or before July 31, 2023	\$100*
August 1 – September 30, 2023	\$200*
October 1 – November 30, 2023	\$300*
Dec 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024	\$500*
February 1 – March 31, 2024	\$600*
After April 1, 2024	No Refund

TRAVEL INSURANCE

- International travel always has inherent risks for injury, sickness, or loss, so Travel Insurance is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.
- Compare different travel insurance policies at squaremouth.com.
 - Trip participants should get Travel Insurance with Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Medical Evacuation, Medical, and Lost/Stolen Baggage.
 - Cancellation coverage means that travel insurance will reimburse nonrefundable trip costs if you cancel for a covered reason. Cancellation coverage only works if you purchase the insurance BEFORE a sickness or injury forces you to cancel, and an insurance claim requires a physician's written advice that you should cancel your trip due to your illness or injury.
 - **Trawick Safe Travels First Class** (found on www.squaremouth.com/) costs \$246 for a 60-year-old, \$4500 trip cost (airfare + GeoTours price), destination Georgia, June 9-22, 2024. The cost depends on age and costs more for older travelers.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS - Trip participants must agree to the Terms and Conditions below.

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, delay, or cancellation due to equipment problems, quarantine, pandemic, 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 such terms and conditions.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:
GEOTOURS LLC

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GEOTOURSUSA@GMAIL.COM
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