

# Treasures of the Trans-Caucasus

CLASSIC SURVEY OF AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA AND ARMENIA

SMALL GROUP TOUR



**15 Days**

2 departures in 2010

May 4-18 • September 14-28

**Land Tour Cost**

6-16 travelers \$6,395

Single Supplement \$1,595

**Stay a little longer...** Combine this tour with Journey Through Central Asia: The Five 'Stans, page 53.

**MIR Signature Features**

- Travel through the Caucasus' striking mountainous landscapes
- Relish the winemaking traditions of Georgia
- Feel the faith of centuries in the Geghard monastery



*Mt. Ararat seen from Armenia*



*Armenian a capella singers*

**G**eorgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan share stunning mountain backdrops, powerful stone architecture and a strong code of hospitality. Georgia's renowned winemaking traditions, Azerbaijan's Zoroastrian and Islamic background, and Armenia's multitude of ancient churches combine to make this distinctive journey more than the sum of its parts.

**Days 1-4: Baku, Sheki** The journey begins in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan and black gold boomtown, exploring the narrow stone streets of the medieval Old Town. Traveling overland, visit Sheki, a 14th century architectural preserve and one of the oldest towns in Azerbaijan.

**Days 5-6: Signagi, Tbilisi** Crossing the Georgian border, trace the ancient Silk Road on its way from the sea, stopping to explore the fortress town of Signagi. Enjoy a traditional "Georgian Table," laden with fine examples of the country's rich culinary and winemaking legacy. Georgia is where the wine grape was first cultivated and the flowers and fruits of the Mediterranean flourish. In Tbilisi, view a windfall of eastern artifacts at the State Museum of Fine Arts.

**Days 7-9: Mtskheta, Ananuri, Gudauri, Gori, UplisTsikhe, Tbilisi** Journey along the Georgian Military Highway to the alpine village of Gudauri, seated in the shadow of the Caucasus Mountains. Pause at UNESCO-listed Mtskheta, capital of the kingdom of Iberia from the 3rd century BC until the 5th century AD. Visit Gori, Stalin's hometown, and explore the fascinating cave town of UplisTsikhe.

**Days 10-15: Yerevan, Echmiadzin, Khor Virap, Garni, Geghard, Lake Sevan** Next is Armenia, the first kingdom to formally adopt Christianity. Take a day trip to the shores of Lake Sevan, and visit Khor Virap, where the view of Mt. Ararat is superb. Browse among some of the oldest books in the world at the 5th century Matenadaran Museum in Yerevan. Explore the monastery of Geghard, carved from solid rock, and the impressive cathedral at Echmiadzin, dating back to 303 AD.

