

Treasures of the South Caucasus

CLASSIC SURVEY OF AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA AND ARMENIA

SMALL GROUP TOUR



15 Days

Premier Series Land Tour

\$6,895 per person, double occupancy
Single supplement \$1,650

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

Group Size 6-16 travelers

2012 Land Tour Dates

April 29-May 13 • September 9-23

Stay a little longer... Combine this tour with Journey Through Central Asia: The Five 'Stans, page 67.

MIR Signature Experiences

- Enjoy a reception and private tour at Baku's Nobel House museum
- Relish the winemaking traditions of Georgia during an authentic "Georgian Table"
- Attend a private concert in the house museum of a Georgian painter

photo: Caucasus Travel



UNESCO-listed Mtskheta

Georgia, 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 charming medieval Old Town. Traveling overland, visit Sheki, a 14th century architectural preserve and one of the oldest towns in Azerbaijan.

Days 5-7: 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. Take a day trip to the fascinating David Gareja monastery complex.

Days 8-9: Mtskheta, Ananuri, Kazbegi, Gudauri, Gori, Uplistsikhe, Tbilisi Journey along the Georgian Military Highway to the alpine villages of Kazbegi and 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. Stop at UNESCO-listed Haghbat Monastery, 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.

photo: Nino Murvanidze



Trio of women in traditional Azerbaijani dress near Sheki

