

**Explore Azerbaijan
11 days – 10 nights**

Nature, Discovery, Culture, History

**This program may be operated for individual or for groups
This is a suggested itinerary – Please call us to customize**

This tour will give you an enchanting view of Azerbaijan. From Baku, the capital, to the isolated regions of Nashkhevan, Shemakha and Sheki, passing through natural wonders and the greatest archaeological sites, the country will pass before your eyes as meeting local people will touch your heart!

Day 1: Baku

Arrival at the airport, transfer to Baku and check-in at the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner at the hotel. [D]

Day 2: Baku

This morning start your guided tour of Baku at the Coastal Park located on the hill in the western part of town. It is the best place to enjoy the panoramic view of the city. Take the cable car and descend to Baku Boulevard and continue to Republic Flag Square, famous Crystal Hall, Mugam center and the Carpet Museum. From here we go to the Old Town, Icheri Sheher, home to a few dozen historical and architectural monuments, including the Palace of Shirvanshahs, a symbol of Baku, the Maiden's Tower, caravanserais, mosques and others. In the afternoon continue your visit starting with Yashyl Bazaar (green bazaar) where you find spices, fruits, vegetables, groceries, specialties and souvenirs. Then continue to the modern city with shopping centers (Park Boulevard shopping center, 28 Mall) and movie theaters, walk through Fountains Square and Nizami Street known for its cafes, restaurants, boutiques and souvenir shops. Dinner at downtown restaurant and overnight. [B/D]

Day 3: Baku, Nakhchivan, Dogubeyazit [Turkey]

Early departure to the airport for your flight to Nakhchivan, known as the land of Noah, a city in an isolated region of Azerbaijan between Armenia and Iran and no land border with the rest of Azerbaijan, making its access is possible only by air. On arrival you'll be met by your guide and driven to the city center to visit the 12th century Momina Khatun monument, Yusif Ibn Kuseyir tomb, carpet museum and the former home of Rahim Khan. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon drive to the Turkish border. After formalities continue to Dogubeyazit to check-in at the hotel, dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 4: Dogubeyazit, Nakhchivan

This morning our first stop is the Ishak Pasha Palace just outside town. Constructed in the 1600s with a blend of Ottoman, Persian and Armenian architectural styles, the palace offers a dazzling view over Dogubeyazit and features large courtyards, dungeons, a mausoleum, a mosque and a central heating system. After leaving the palace, we will head towards the site where Noah's Ark reputedly ran aground - a pilgrimage site for many. We look inside the visitor center for theories on how the boat, which is mentioned in both the Bible and the Koran, may have ended up here. After this, we head towards the Iranian border to see a huge, mysterious hole in the ground that is believed to be caused by a meteor impact. In the afternoon, we return to your hotel in Dogubeyazit for lunch before heading back to Nakhchivan for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 5: Nakhchivan (Ordubad, Daridagh)

Today, discover the unique landscapes in the multicolored Rocky Mountains of the Ordubad region. This was once an important trade hub located on the Silk Road dealing especially in silk and fruits and today its multiple quarters consisting of narrow winding streets, water springs, bathhouses and

mosques are part of an architectural and historical reserve. Historical monuments include a 14th-century ice house, the Geysariyye monument – a 17th-century bazaar and now history museum, and the Juma Mosque built way back in 1604. After lunch in Ordubad, discover the hot springs of Daridagh in the Julfa region. On the way back to Nachchivan visit the cave of Asabu mentioned in the Koran as Ashabi Kahf Dagi meaning “the cave possessers”. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 6: Nakhchivan, Batabat, Baku

This morning we head in the direction of. Batabat, located on a unique uninhabited plateau in the Shahbuz region. A beautiful landscape of forests, mountains, lakes and floating islands and very cold and transparent springs. After lunch in Batabat return to Nakhchivan to relax or souvenir shopping. After dinner, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Baku. Arrive in Baku late in the evening and transfer to the hotel for overnight. [B/L/D]

Note: Normally, the climate in this region is very cold so, pack a warm covering for this trip.

Day 7: Baku (Absheron Peninsula)

Breakfast. Visit of the Atashgah Zoroastrian Temple, a castle-like religious temple in Surakhani town, whose name derives from "Ātash", the Persian word for fire. Based on Persian and Indian inscriptions, the temple was used as a Hindu, and Zoroastrian place of worship. Then, visit of the "Gala" complex which represents an open-air museum, 40 minutes from Baku. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant. IN the afternoon visit the Mardakan fortress and take a short drive to Yanar Dag to see the natural phenomenon of incessant combustion of natural gas on the rock named the Yanar Dag or burning rock. As historians say, perhaps this place gave Azerbaijan the surname of the “country of fire”. Return to Baku for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 8: Baku (Quba)

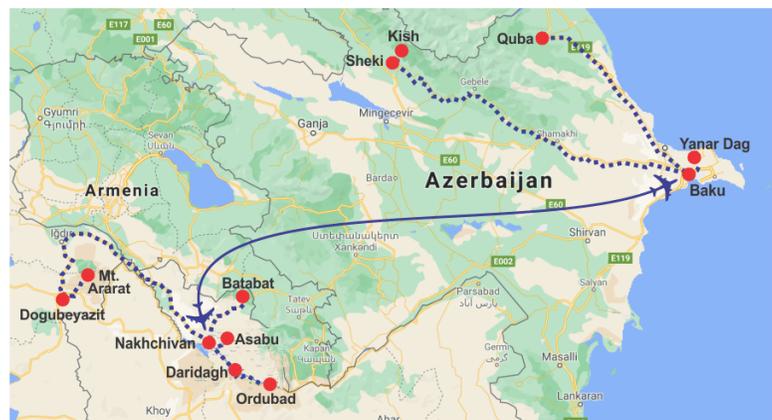
This morning we take a 2.5-hour drive to Quba to discovery the Beshbarmaq Mountain, a sacred place and a popular destination for locals. In the city, visit the Juma Mosque and the Jewish quarter named Krasnaya Sloboda. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, visit the Genocide Memorial complex before returning to Baku for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 9: Baku, Shamakhi, Kish, Sheki

The morning will be spent heading northwest towards Shamakhi, the capital of the Shirvan Kingdom for several centuries. Sit down at a local restaurant for lunch. In the afternoon, we visit the tomb of Diri Baba and yeddi Gumbez. The Yeddi Gumbez Mausoleum (the Seven Cupolas), is the burial place for members of the royal families of the Shahs Shirvan. Then, a short drive to the village of Kish, one of the oldest of Azerbaijani villages, well known for the unique ancient Albanian temple. This antique temple – mother of Alban churches, has a special status among Christian Albanian monuments not only as an architectural monument but also because of its outstanding historical significance. The temple was built in the 1st century AD when the territory of Azerbaijan was part of Caucasian Albania. Historians assume that the temple was founded by apostle Elise who brought Christianity to Albania. Continue to the hotel with free time before dinner. Overnight in Sheki. [B/L/D]

Day 10: Sheki, Baku

Sheki, one of the most famous and ancient places in Azerbaijan, is situated 2,295 feet above sea level and seats like an amphitheater surrounded by mountains and oak forests. This ancient town has long been known as a silk center and an important stop on the Great Silk Road. Some historians think the city's name goes back to the Saks ethnic group, who reached the territory of Azerbaijan during the 7th century BC. We will start our tour



of Şheki with the visit of the of Khan's summer palace, dating to the 18th century, with magnificent frescoes and stained-glass windows. The Şheki History Museum is famous for the many objects it gathered spanning different periods. We return to Baku for a late dinner and overnight [B/L/D]

Day 11: Baku, USA

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and use the free time to relax or last shopping. At the appointed time you'll be picked-up and driven to the airport to board your flight back home. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [D] = Dinner | [B/D] = Breakfast and Dinner | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- 10 nights' accommodation:
 - Baku 6 nights
 - Sheki 1 night
 - Dogubeyazit 1 night
 - Nachchivan 2 nights
- Meals
 - Breakfast daily
 - 8 lunches
 - 10 dinners
- Sightseeing of Baku
- Tour of Nakhchivan
- Ishak Pasha Palace in Dogubeyazit
- Excursion to Mount Ararat
- Geysariyye monument in Ordubad
- Hot springs of Daridagh
- Cave of Asabu
- Atashgah Zoroastrian Temple
- Mardakyan fortress
- Yanar Dag or burning rock
- Beshbarmaq sacred mountain

- Krasnaya Sloboda Jewish quarter
- Yeddi Gumbez Mausoleum
- Excursion to Sheki historical city
- Ancient Albanian temple in Kish
- Economy airline ticket Baku/Nakhchevan/Baku
- English speaking driver-guide
- Local English-speaking guides
- A/C vehicle for the tour
- Entrance fees
- 1 bottle of water per person, per day
- All local taxes

Tour does not include:

- International airfares
- Any taxes related to airfares or airports
- Meals not mentioned under inclusions
- Travel Insurance
- Visas
- Tips to guides or drivers
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Any item not mentioned as "Included"

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
Deluxe		
Baku	Fairmont Baku Flame Towers	5
Sheki	Sheki Park Hotel	4.5
Dogubeyazit	Tehran Boutique. Hotel	5
Nakhchivan	Grand Nakhchivan Hotel	5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

These programs can be customized for individuals and groups. Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

- Airfare
 - We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares
- Program
 - You may add or remove;
 - Trip days

- Cities and sites
- Meals
- **Other options**
 - The program was designed with private services; however, we may substitute shared sight-seeing where available
 - If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.
- **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: AZ02GYD21XX

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.

We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.