

**13 Days – Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia****Day 1 – 04 April Depart Brisbane**

Depart Brisbane on Emirates EK435 at 09:00pm and arrive Dubai 05.10am next day.

**Day 2 – 05 April Arrive Yerevan, Armenia**

Depart Dubai EK2206 (operated by Fly Dubai) at 08:00am and arrive in Yerevan at 11.10am. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel. Welcome to Armenia Dinner tonight.

4 nights at Grand Hotel Yerevan or similar.

**Day 3 – 06 April – Yerevan**

**Yerevan** is one of the oldest cities of the world, famous as a pink city and calls visitors with its humble and at the same time splendid landscapes. Walk the Yerevan's best-known places and enjoy seeing all the highlights of the city centre, including Cascade, Opera House, North Avenue, the Republic Square. Visit Vernissage, the biggest souvenir market in Yerevan. Continue to the Armenian Genocide memorial complex on the hill of Tsitsernakaberd. An excellent round-up of the tour will be a visit to the Megeryan carpet factory where you can observe a process of creating famous Armenian rugs. Tour and tasting of 2 types of Armenian brandy in Ararat/Noy brandy factory.

**Day 4 – 07 April – Yerevan – Garni – Geghard – Etchmiadzin – Zvartnoc**

Depart Yerevan and drive to Garni, one of the major villages in Armenia famous for its fortress. The fortress is the only pagan sacred place from the 1st century that survived aggressive introduction of Christianity in the 4th century. Next stop is at the monastery complex Geghard ("spear"). The beautiful landscape of Geghard is framed with towering cliffs. Decorative art cut into rocks reflects and explains Medieval Ages development throughout the region. The complex was introduced to the history in the 4th century as a sacred spring inside a cave. Continue to the Holy See of Armenia, Etchmiadzin. Visit Etchmiadzin Cathedral\*, which is the residence of the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Catholicos of all Armenians.

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**Day 5 – 08 April – Yerevan – Khor Virap – Noravank – Tatev**

Enjoy your first exploration on the list: Khor-Virap Monastery. The monastery is located close to the border between Armenia and Turkey. It is one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in Armenia which held a saint in a hole for 13 long years. Also here, you will be gifted a unique opportunity to have a closer look at splendid Biblical Mount Ararat, together with an ancient Monastery in the foreground. Later, we will continue our exploratory mission to another treasure, Monastery of Noravank, located in the magnificent Amaghu gorge, which attracts visitors with a fascinating view over the canyon and exceptional architectural solutions. Amaghu Gorge is sometimes twinned with American Grand Canyon. The red cliffs around the monastery make it a perfect location for taking memorable photos. Afterwards, we will depart to the province of Syunik to take the longest cable car in the world and reach Tatev Monastery – the mediaeval masterpiece of Armenia. The ride lasts about 12 minutes, which is much shorter than the 40 minute drive, along the steep rolling road that guides the Vorotan gorge. On 23 October of 2010, it was inscribed into the Guinness World Record as the longest non-stop reversible aerial tramway in the world. The Monastic Complex of Tatev is an absolutely mind-blowing beauty, with an ancient monument and divine natural surroundings. It is a top-rated landmark and one the most-visited attractions in Armenia.



**Day 6 – 09 April – Yerevan – Sevanavank – Lake Sevan – Haghpat – Armenian border – Tbilisi**

In the morning, drive to Lake Sevan, “The Jewel of Armenia” and one of the largest high-mountain freshwater lakes in the world. The coastline of Lake Sevan is rich with thick woods, white bare steep rocks, mountain steppes and Alpine meadows. Stop at Sevanavank to visit the remnants of the monastery that include two temples – Surb Arakelots and Surb Karapet standing among numerous khachkars - carved cross-stones. The buildings were constructed from black tuff which probably gave the monastery its name Sevanavank – “the Black Monastery”. The view from there is simply magnificent: the mountains surround lake from all sides and snow tops are seen almost on the entire perimeter and disappear behind horizon. Continue to Lori region and visit Haghpat Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This stunning example of Armenian traditional architecture was erected in 10-13th centuries. Standing on a hillside, Haghpat beautifully overlooks the Debed River. The location of the monastery was chosen to protect the peace and seclusion of its monks.

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Continue to “Sadakhlo-Bagrashen” Georgian-Armenian border point. Cross the border, meet your Georgian driver to have last hour-long transfer for today. In the evening, welcome dinner at traditional Georgian restaurant.

5 nights Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Tbilisi or similar

**Day 7 – 10 April – Tour of Tbilisi**

This romantic city, with a rich history, attracts hundreds of thousands of travellers from all over the world. The beauty of the mountain region and distinctive Georgian culture inspired many famous writers, artists and poets to dedicate their great creations to Georgia. We walk through the old street to Metekhi church. You listen to the great history about foundation of Tbilisi. Through the old Shardeni Street and open air market of carpets we visit Sioni church and unique clock tower of the Puppet Theatre Rezo Gabriadze. Also you get to know the story about Anchiskhati Church and through the Bridge of peace we walk in Rike Park. We taste local wine and continue our trip to the Narikala fortress. By the cable car, we reach the great monument of mother of Georgia. Then we descend from the mountain, through the narrow streets to the fortress Narikala. From the fortress you enjoy magnificent views on old part of Tbilisi: Metekhi church, Monument of Vakhtang Gorgasali and Sulphur baths district. We take memorable photos and continue our road to the sulphur baths district. On the way, you enjoy impressive views of the “Leghvtakhevi” gorge. Along the bridge of love, we walk to the natural waterfall, located in the centre of the capital. At the end of the tour, we take you to the famous Georgian market Navtlugi. You can buy everything you want in this picturesque place. You have a chance to taste almost any product: numerous vegetables, fruits and sweets and get in touch with the locals. After a city tour we take you to The Dry Bridge. This extraordinary flea market keeps you entertained for hours. You also have opportunity to visit Mtatsminda Park and enjoy the most incredible view of Tbilisi from there. The guide shows you the Holy trinity church, locally known as “Sameba”. The construction of Cathedral was only completed back in 2004. You discover Open-Air Museum of Ethnography with your guide. This collection of traditional, mostly wooden houses, collected from all around Georgia, is spread over a wooded hillside with good views.



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The first sight on the road is Jinali water reservoir. We stop along the way to snap photos of the wonderful scenery of blue colored water and the mountains. Then we visit Ananuri fortress in few minutes. The fortress dates to XVI-XVIII centuries and it is situated to the foreland by the river Aragvi. This is perfect place for landscape photography, there is amazingly beautiful views of the fortress and Jinali reservoir together. We stop in village Pasanauri to taste the best homemade Khinkali with Georgian wine and Chacha. On the way we find fantastic confluence of two River black and white Aragvi. Next stop Gudauri, which is located on the south-facing plateau of the Greater Caucasus Mountain Range in Georgia. Gudauri is situated in the Stepantsminda district, at an elevation of 2,200 meters, above sea level, enjoying maximum exposure to the sun. Gudauri is located in the very heart of the Caucasus Mountains. The resort takes on a whole new life as a fabulous sightseeing destination with fresh air, superior areas for horse-riding, mountain biking, hiking, paragliding, etc. There is a huge monument, called monument or Treaty of Georgievsk. It is a monument build in 1983 to celebrate the bicentennial of the Treaty of Georgievsk and ongoing friendship between Georgia and Russia. We enjoy breathtaking views of the mountains during the whole way to Kazbegi. When we reach Kazbegi village, we rent special car to take us to the top of the mountain to visit Gergeti Trinity Church. It is situated under Mount Kazbeg at an elevation of 2170 meters. From the church, you will get an epic panoramic view of the whole valley. The church was built in the 14th century and due to its isolation in the steep mountainous area full of nature, it remains the most iconic tourist attraction in Georgia. We will be impressed with the view of Mount Kazbeg, 5047 meters height.

**Day 9 – 12 April – Kakheti wine region**

Explore wine-producing region of Georgia, Kakheti. Discover enchanting city of love Signaghi with its wonderful Alazani valley. Taste Georgian wine, unlike any other wine in the world! Kakheti is home to some of the oldest human habitations in the entire Caucasus region, and archaeological findings have suggested that wine has been produced here for several thousand years. Almost everywhere you go, you are invited to have glass of red or white wine. Also, you find Georgian sweets “Churchkhela” everywhere, called “Georgian Snickers” by foreigners. On the way, we visit “Kakhetian traditional winemaking”, that is one of the largest wine and spirits producing companies in Georgia and Caucasus region. You have possibility to taste Georgian wine, that has different taste and aroma comparing to European wine, it is unlike any wine you’ve tasted before. Next, we go to Badiauri, where you are welcome to taste delicious Georgian bread, cheese and Chacha. Then we have lovely trip to Signagi, one of the most beautiful towns, with its unusually peculiar architecture, charming houses, cobblestone streets, defensive wall and spectacular views of the Caucasus range. Signaghi was nicknamed ‘the city of love’ for all the weddings it hosts. Signaghi is an incredibly romantic to explore on foot. Just 2 km far from Signaghi, there is Bodbe monastery. The history of Monastery is highly connected with the adoption of Christianity. The area of monastery is covered by wonderful flowers, bushes and vineyards. There is splendid scenery of Alazani valley from here. The last stop we have in Winery Khareba which is Georgia’s largest wine cellar. There is perfect storage conditions for wine, 7,7 km of tunnels and galleries maintain a constant temperature of 12-14 degrees C. You have walking tour with local guide, get more information about wine and taste it. The complex has excellent restaurant and beautiful landscape grounds.

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**Day 10 – 13 April – Uplistsikhe & Mtskheta**

We drive to Mtskheta firstly, one of the oldest towns and the cultural and religious centre of Georgia. Mtskheta was the capital of the Eastern Georgian Kingdom of Iberia from the third century BC. We visit Jvari Monastery a true architectural masterpiece of the early Medieval Period built on a hilltop. From the slopes of the hill on which was erected monastery Jvari, you enjoy with merging streams of two rivers: Aragvi and Mtkvari. We take incredible pictures and we continue the way to Gori. Gori is the homeland of Stalin, so you have opportunity to have a trip in Stalin’s house, museum and train wagon, with the local guide. The museum exhibits re-create surreal and revealing scenes from the life of the dictator and include unique photos, gifts and furniture. Uplistsikhe Cave Town named “Fortress of the Lord” is situated on a rocky massif in 15 km eastwards to town Gori on the left bank of the river Mtkvari. The fortress is mentioned in chronicles from earliest times. Its history begins in the I-II millennium B.C. Uplistsikhe was an important religious, political and cultural centre in the Hellenistic and the late Antique periods (IV c. B.C. – IV c. A.D.) it has been identified one of the oldest urban settlements in Georgia. We have walking tour there, the rock-cut structures include a large hall, called Tamaris Darbazi, pagan places of sacrifice, dwellings, as well as functional buildings, like a pharmacy, a bakery, a prison, and even an amphitheater. The rock-cut structures are connected by tunnels, while other tunnels had the purpose of an emergency escape route. Our last destination is Mtskheta. We visit Svetitskhoveli, the main cathedral of Mtskheta and a sacred place where the robe of Christ is being kept. A masterpiece of the Early Middle Ages, Svetitskhoveli is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. You have chance to taste Georgian sweet Churchkhela and buy various Georgian souvenirs.

**Day 11 – 14 April – Tbilisi – cross border into Azerbaijan – Sheki - Gabala**

Azerbaijan’s top provincial holiday centre, Gabala is a string of flashy new hotels and a burgeoning ski resort spread up into the foothills of some glorious forested mountains. Sheki is located 675 m above sea level in the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus about 370 km away from Baku. The region around the city is a real natural wonder with beautiful landscapes, mineral water springs, forests and rivers. The majestic Palace of Sheki Khans is considered as one of the most beautiful architectural monuments of medieval Azerbaijan.

1 night Marxal Resort & Spa or similar

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**13 Days – Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia****Day 12 – 15 April – Shamakhi and Lahij**

The history of Shamakhi starts from 5th century BC and is popular with its landscape and literature in Azerbaijan. In the 9th -16th centuries it was the capital of Shirvan Empire, and in the mid-18th century it used to be the center of Shamakhi Khanate. The first mosque of all Caucasus and Azerbaijan - the Juma Mosque is in Shamakhi. It is additionally called the City of Literature since it was the native land of many Azerbaijani poets. Present day Shamakhi is a recognized center of carpet weaving and winemaking. Located in Upper Caucasus, Lahij was built in 5th century BC, and in 1980 was announced as Historical-Cultural Reserve of Azerbaijan. Tat - the dialect of Old Persian - remains to this day the primary language in the village. Lahij has preserved its culture and trade and is considered as craft center of the Great Silk Road up to now.

2 nights in Fairmont Baku Flame Towers or similar

**Day 13 – 16 April – Gobustan - Ateshgah - Yanardag**

Discover all that Baku and its surroundings have to offer on this full-day tour. See the prehistoric petroglyphs at Gobustan National Park, learn about the mud volcanoes and their healing properties, visit the Zoroastrian fire temple of Ateshgah, explore the fire mountain of Yanardag, and admire the architecture of Baku's modern city centre. Farewell dinner.

**Day 14 – 17 April – Old Baku - Depart Baku**

Morning 02 hours walking tour in the mysterious Old City, which has preserved the walls and narrow cobbled streets. On the territory of the Old City, several dozens of historical and architectural monuments are concentrated, including the Palace of Shirvanshahs (XV century), the symbol of the city of Baku - the Maiden Tower (IX century), caravansaries, mosques, etc. The old city walls that have survived to our days, with its narrow, cobbled streets and numerous labyrinths, share all the flavour and historical value of Baku. Afternoon transfer to the Baku international airport for your return flights to Dubai and Brisbane.

Depart Emirates on EK2405 (Operated by FlyDubai) 5.55pm arrive Dubai 8.45pm.

**Day 15 – 18 April – Depart Dubai to Brisbane**

Depart Dubai Emirates EK430 at 02:30am arrive Brisbane 10:20pm.

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**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel Insurance is mandatory with  
iLuv2travel Groups.

**PRICE**

Cost Per Person Twin Share

**AUD\$ 7,470.00**

Cost for Single

**AUD\$ 8,690.00**

**ILUV2TRAVEL TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY**

**PAYMENT**

Full payment is required.

**CANCELATION CHARGES**

100% of Tour/Journey Price.

**VISAS & PASSPORT**

A valid passport is required to travel internationally (some countries insist the validity be for at least six months beyond the dates of your visit). Visa is required for Australian passport holders visiting **Azerbaijan**. Any other passport holders may have other visa requirements and you will need to contact your embassy for further details.

**INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE**

- Economy flight Brisbane to Yerevan and Baku to Brisbane  
\*Optional upgrade to Business class Brisbane to Dubai or Dubai to Brisbane from AUD\$ 2,290.00 per direction.
- Airport transfers.
- Sightseeing tour program in each city with local guides (mix of private and small group)
- Entrance tickets to sights as per itinerary.
- Wine tasting in Kakheti region, Georgia.
- 12 nights in 5 star hotels including breakfast
- 3 special local dinners.

**NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE**

Passport, vaccinations, visa application, laundry, telephone, mini bar, alcohol, beverages and food not on the regular menu as per itinerary, optional excursions, portage, travel insurance, excess baggage fees, early and late check-in and out, entrance fees not mentioned on this itinerary, all other items of a personal nature and anything else not mentioned in this itinerary.

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