

# “5 STANS” AND CAUCASUS – 31 DAYS ITINERARY – 2020 (KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA AND ARMENIA)

## **1** APRIL 12 SUNDAY – ARRIVAL TO ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN)

Welcome to Kazakhstan! Upon arrival to Almaty airport, we will meet you and transfer to hotel for rest after flight. It takes about 20 min. of driving to the hotel. After we check in to hotel and

have a short rest, we will have a Welcome dinner at one of local restaurants where we'll provide a short introduction about Kazakhstan – the largest country of Central Asia with majestic mountains and plains, glaciers, and deep rivers, lakes and deserts, boundless steppes and the woods adjoin. Such variety of landscapes causes existence of rich natural world. Besides natural sights the country has a lot of rich history which is imprinted in numerous monuments: the remains of ancient settlements, barrows, petroglyphs, mausoleums and mosques being important shrines of Muslim culture. Kazakhstan – is a country of most ancient civilization of Eurasian continent, homeland of nomad tribes, a significant part of Great Silk Road – 870 mi. The republic contains 27 thousand monuments of antiquity. Leading industries of Kazakhstan are: metallurgy, chemical and mechanical engineering. Oil processing and production of building materials are also developed industries of Kazakhstan. After dinner today we'll overnight at a hotel in Almaty.



Almaty



## **2** APRIL 13 MONDAY – ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN)

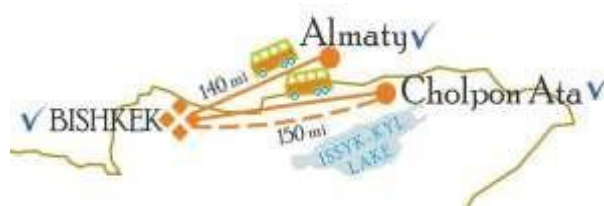
After breakfast at hotel, we have a full day of sightseeing ahead. Today we visit: Panfilov Park, Zenkov Wooden Cathedral, St. Nicholas Cathedral, National Musical Instruments Museum, Central State Museum, Almaty's Green Bazaar and have a Panoramic view at observatory. Almaty is a name of "the southern capital" of Kazakhstan. It is the largest city of country which was state capital during the period 1927 – 1997. Almaty is located in southeast part of Kazakhstan near border with Kyrgyzstan at heights from 670 to 1100 m. The main sight of Almaty is Panfilov Park named in honor of Panfilov's 28 guardsmen, stretched in northeast part of the city covering near 18 hectares. Located in center of park is majestic Holy Ascension Cathedral. Behind Panfilov park, we come visit to one of biggest market places of Almaty – the Green Bazaar. It is a fine example of a true Asian bazaar. Next we will visit the Museum of National Musical Instruments named in

honor of Ykylas Dukenov, People's Composer. It was opened in 1980s and contains many types of Kazakh national musical instruments most ancient of which are dated to 17th century. In the southern part of the city we visit Central State Museum – place to see unique archaeological finds telling history of Kazakhstan since the most ancient times to the present. Museum displays over 120 thousand exhibits. Before dinner excursion to falcon farm with a short show program. After dinner at one of the local restaurants we'll overnight at a hotel in Almaty.



### **3** APRIL 14 TUESDAY – ALMATY – BISHKEK – 170 MI. (KAZAKHSTAN/KYRGYZSTAN)

Today after breakfast at the hotel we depart Almaty and drive to Bishkek via newly built highway. En route which will take approximately 3 hours we will enjoy beautiful landscape. Soon we will welcome you to Kyrgyzstan. On the way we will provide short information about Kyrgyzstan. Republic located in northeast of Central Asia, crossed by two of the world's major mountain ranges: Tien Shan and Pamir. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, with strong continental climate, 93% of its territory is located at over 350 meters above sea level. In the afternoon we will arrive to the capital of Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek. Check in to the hotel for a short rest and have lunch at local restaurant. For the second part of the day we will have a sightseeing of Bishkek - visit Central Museum, Panfilov park, the local bazaar. After dinner at one of the local restaurants followed by a folk show program, today we will overnight in Bishkek.



### **4** APRIL 15 WEDNESDAY – BISHKEK – ISSYK KUL – 165 MI. (KYRGYZSTAN)

After breakfast at hotel we'll transfer to the Issyk Kul Lake, the pearl of Kyrgyzstan. En route we'll visit Burana Tower located in the city of Tokmok, 50 mi. from Bishkek. Today we'll have lunch in Kyrgyz family in Tokmok city. After a lunch break we'll continue on driving to Issyk Kul Lake through Boom Gorge. Issyk Kul is one of the largest mountain lakes in the world and the most beautiful lake in Kyrgyzstan. It is located in the north-east part of the republic between two ridges of the Northern Tien Shan: Kungey Ala-Too and Terskey Ala-Too at the height of 1609 m. above sea level. Excursions will also include visiting petroglyphs of Paleolithic era and local museum in Cholpon-Ata. Upon arrival we'll check into the hotel and have dinner at one of the local restaurants. Overnight at a hotel in Issyk Kul Lake.



**5** APRIL 16 THURSDAY – ISSYK KUL – CHOPON-ATA – GRIGORIEVKA GORGE – BISHKEK – TASHKENT  
(KYRGYZSTAN/UZBEKISTAN)



After breakfast at the hotel we'll transfer to Grigorievka Gorge. Grigorievka Gorge is located 45 mi. from the city of Cholpon-Ata. Gentle slopes of a valley are covered with a dense fir forest. Length of a valley is 25 mi. The Grigorievka Gorge is considered to be one of the most picturesque in Issyk Kul area. Today we'll have a relaxing day in the nature. After lunch at local restaurant we'll return to Bishkek and transfer to the airport for flight to Tashkent by HY778 at 18:40 (subject to change). Welcome to Uzbekistan! Upon your arrival to Tashkent airport, you'll be met and transferred to hotel to check. En route short introduction about Uzbekistan – one of the economically developed states of the Central Asian region, occupying a bit more than 11% of the territory of Central Asia. Main branches of industry of the republic are linked with the cotton growing, silk production, fruit and vegetable production and irrigation construction. Overnight at a hotel in Tashkent.



Tashkent

**6** APRIL 17 FRIDAY – TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast at the hotel we'll visit old part of the city: Khast Imam Complex which displays unique Osman Koran thought to be the world's oldest Koran. Chorsu bazaar is one of the oldest, biggest bazaars of Tashkent. Madrasah Kukeldash – is a significant architectural sights of the 16th century. After lunch we will continue on to modern part of the city: Independence Square called Mustakillik, the main square of Tashkent, flanked by largest public buildings and walls of fountains. A. Navoi theatre square built in 1947 by Japanese prisoners in World War II. Visits to museum of Amir Timur and museum of Handicraft Art will end our excursion of Tashkent, and we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight at a hotel in Tashkent.



Tashkent

**7** APRIL 18 SATURDAY – TASHKENT – SAMARKAND – 190 MI. (UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast we will take a train to world famous Samarkand located 190 mi. from Tashkent. The road to Samarkand passes through Syrdarya and Jizzakh provinces and takes approximately 3 hours. We will arrive to Samarkand in the afternoon, check in to a hotel and have lunch. After short rest we'll start our excursion of Samarkand by visiting Paper Mills Factory where we'll have a presentation of paper production from mulberry tree, Afrasiab Museum, Ulugbek's observatory – dated to 1428 - 1429 – known as biggest observatory of the East with best equipment to the time. After dinner at one of the local restaurants we'll transfer to a hotel for overnight in Samarkand.



Samarkand

**8****APRIL 19 SUNDAY – SAMARKAND (UZBEKISTAN)**

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing of Samarkand. Visit heart of the city – Registan Square which played a great role in commercial and scientific life of the time. Gur Emir Mausoleum - mausoleum for the males of Timurid dynasty, a real masterpiece of Central Asian architecture. Shaki Zinda Necropolis in the northern outskirts of Samarkand. Bibi-Khanum Mosque construction of which started in 1399 after Victorian campaign of Timur to India. Central bazaar of Samarkand – Siab where we'll taste famous round bread (non) made only in Samarkand. After this long day, we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight in Samarkand.

**9****APRIL 20 MONDAY – SAMARKAND – BUKHARA – 172 MI. (UZBEKISTAN)**

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart Samarkand for Bukhara. Stop on the way at the ruins of medieval monument Caravanserai Rabat-i-Malik. Continue driving to Bukhara via Gijduvan where we'll visit Abdulla's pottery house where we'll be offered short presentation and a cup of tea. Upon arrival to Bukhara, we'll accommodate at the hotel. Visit Chor Minor memorial. Today we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and will overnight in Bukhara.

**10****APRIL 21 TUESDAY – BUKHARA (UZBEKISTAN)**

After breakfast we'll have a full day of sightseeing of this ancient city. Bukhara is one of most historically rich cities on the Great Silk Road attracting attention of thousands of people with its unique heritage. Today we'll visit: Samanid dynasty mausoleum known to be one of the best architectural samples of the Samanid period (875 - 999). Chashma Ayub Mausoleum – legend says of the Prophet Job. Bolo – Khauz Mosque. The Ark Fortress – Citadel is the most ancient memorial of Bukhara, on archeological matter dated to the 3rd century B.C. Kalon Complex – consists of minaret, Mosque and Madrasah both of which are still active. Magoki Attori Mosque. Ulugbek and Abdulazizi Khan madrasahs. Next we'll visit the most popular place of Bukhara – reservoir Lyabi Khauz, complex built in 1620 by khans' dignitary Nodir Devan Begi. We'll end the day with a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Today we'll overnight in Bukhara.



**11****APRIL 22 WEDNESDAY – BUKHARA – FARAB – TURKMENABAT – MARY – 290 MI. (UZBEKISTAN/ TURKMENISTAN)**

After breakfast we'll continue with half a day of sightseeing in Bukhara, visiting: former summer palace of Bukhara Emir Said Olimkhan – last Emir of Bukhara Sitora – iMokhi – Khosa, Museum of Decorative- Applied Art. After lunch we say goodbye to Uzbekistan as we make our way to Turkmenistan border which is almost 1.5 hours of driving away. Upon arrival to the border at ~13.00-13.30 point we'll go through custom procedures. After you cross the wire border & passport check you will find a minibus (subject to be available) which will take you ~800 meters distance to Turkmenistan Customs. Upon arrival proceed with border passing, visa obtaining (if required) & customs procedures. After border passing formalities you need to walk around ~150meters to the next check point where you will find a minibus (subject to be available) which will take you ~600 meters to the last check point where you will find your Turkmenistan guide & transport waiting for you. After the last check point at the border zone you will drive ~280km & 4 hours to Mary via Turkmenabat crossing one of the biggest deserts in the world known as Garagum Desert which means "black sand". En route we will stop to visit some amazing sand dunes of Garagum Desert. Upon arrival in Mary accommodation & rest. Dinner you will have at one of the local restaurants. Overnight at a hotel in Mary.

**12****APRIL 23 THURSDAY – MARY – ASHGABAT (TURKMENISTAN)**

After breakfast, we will have a morning drive ~35 km & 35min to Bayramaly to have Sightseeing tour of Old Merv which was also known in the past with its title name: Mary Shahu Jahan-King of the World which for about 300 years became one of the biggest city in the World & 8 years Capital of World Islamic Khalifat. Today's excursion at Old Merv will include: Gyz Gala & Oglan Gala (VI-VII), Complex of Askhabs (VIII-XIV), Gyaur Gala (IV BC), Erk Gala (VI BC), Soltan Gala (XI), Shrine & Pilgrimage Complex of Yusup Hemadani: famous scholar who was the founder of one of ways in Sufism whose tomb became a popular pilgrimage sites in Turkmenistan & even among surrounding countries like Iran & etc, Soltan Sanjar Mausoleum (XII), Ibn Zeid Mausoleum (XII). After Old Merv drive back to Mary. Lunch you will have at local restaurant. After lunch break proceed with Sightseeing in Mary visiting: Local United Museum of History, Ethnography, Flora & Fauna of Mary, Orthodox Church built by Russians at the end of XIX century, Regional Mosque of Mary Province, Central Theater of Mary, Convention & Conference Center "Ruhiet Koshgi", Central Park & Monument of Mollanepes-the National Classic Poet who lived in Mary in XVIII-XIXcc. Late afternoon transfer to the airport of Mary for flight to Ashgabat by flight T5-134. Dep: 18.55 & Arr: at 19.35. (subject to change). Upon arrival transfer to hotel with en route stopping have dinner at local restaurant.

*Note:* Passports & 2 colored photos required to be left at hotel reception for registration at the City Tourist Board (CTB) in Ashgabat.

Upon arrival we'll be transferred to have dinner at local restaurant. Accommodate and overnight at a hotel in Ashgabat.



**13** APRIL 24 FRIDAY – ASHGABAT – NISSA – ASHGABAT  
(TURKMENISTAN)

Today after breakfast we'll have a full day Sightseeing in/around Ashgabat. Today's sightseeing includes: Memorial Complex with Monuments for Victims of World War II, Patriotic Wars of XIXcc & Monument for the Victims of the Earthquake of 1948, "Turkmenbashynyn Ruhy Metjidi": the largest mosque in Central Asia & Mausoleum Complex of the tombs of Turkmenbashy (first President of Turkmenistan S. Nyязow) and his parents with his brothers, Old Nissa-The Sanctuary of Parhian Kings. Lunch you will have at one of the local restaurants. After lunch break you will continue with a half day sightseeing in Ashgabat including: Museum of Turkmen Carpets, Park dedicated to Turkmen horses-the pride of Turkmen, Gulistan Bazar which is known as "Russian Bazaar" in public, Monument of Lenin which was erected in 1927 and was one those few monuments which survived the earthquake of 1948, making it the oldest standing monuments in Ashgabat, Ertogrul Gazy Mosque. Dinner you will have at one of the local restaurants. After dinner break night driving city tour along the main avenues/streets of Ashgabat including one stop near Palace of Happiness to have colorful views of night lights of Ashgabat which makes it one of the spectacular cities of Central Asia. Overnight in Ashgabat.



**14** APRIL 25 SATURDAY – ASHGABAT – DASHOGUZ  
(TURKMENISTAN)



Today after breakfast you will have another full day of sightseeing in Ashgabat which will include: Complex of Monuments of Oguz Han & Sons surrounded with largest in the world fountain complex. The complex includes 27 computerized fountains, with the statue of the founder of the Turkmen nation, Oguz Khan, installed on a central podium, Ashgabat's famous "Altyn Asyr" Oriental Bazaar-Jygyldyk which is located in ~16km to the north of Ashgabat in its new location/complex built in 2011. After Bazaar drive to the Hippodrome of Ashgabat to watch the Horse Race which is free to enter for all which gives a chance to see & familiarize with the best horses of Turkmenistan: Turkmen Horses-Akhalteke which thought to be the rootstock of Arab, Thoroughbred and etc in motion and "horse crazy" people rooting for their favorite horses without any betting. Lunch you will have at one of the local restaurants in Ashgabat. After lunch break proceed with SS includes: National Museum of History. After Museum proceed with Sightseeing of Monuments of Archabil Shayoly (Berzengi) to have a close impression of the new part of Ashgabat with its modern buildings, monuments & parks which includes: Monument of Constitution, "Alem" Culture & Recreation Center, Arch of Neutrality: famous rocket & tripod style built monument symbolizing neutral status of Turkmenistan. Late afternoon transfer to the airport of Ashgabat for flight to Dashoguz by flight



T5-113. Dep: 18.55 & Arr: at 19.45. (subject to change). Upon arrival transfer to have dinner at local restaurant. After dinner accommodation & rest. Overnight in Dashoguz.



### **15** APRIL 26 SUNDAY – DASHOGUZ – KUNYA – URGENCH – KHIVA – 184 MI. (TURKMENISTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast we will have a morning drive ~110 km which will take 1,5 hours to Koneurgench- the capital of Khorezmshahs (III-XVI cc). The sightseeing of the Old City will include: Turabek Hanum Mausoleum (XIV), Kutlug Timur Minaret (XIV)-one of the tallest minarets in Central Asia, Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum (XIII), Academy of Horezm (III-XIII), Il Arslan Mausoleum (XII), Mausoleums of Najm Ed Din (XIII) & Soltan Ali (XVI) located near Dash Metjit/Medrese (XIX). After sightseeing of Koneurgench drive back to Dashoguz where you will stop for a lunch at one of the local restaurants. After lunch break transfer to the border pass “Dashoguz-Shavat” located in ~15km from Dashoguz. Upon arrival proceed through passport control & customs procedures. After you come out from the Turkmenistan Customs building you will walk ~100 meters to the next check point there will be a minibus (subject to be available) shuttling for ~1000 meters from Turkmenistan Customs to Real Wire Border located between Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan. After you crossing the wire border & last passport check in Turkmenistan side of the border at ~15.00 you will cross in to Uzbekistan & walk for around 200 meters to Uzbekistan Customs where you start again passport control & customs procedures. After you come out of Uzbekistan Customs building you need to walk around 100 meters to get through the last check point where you will find your guide welcoming you back to Uzbekistan.

After border formalities on both sides we'll continue our way to Khiva. Upon arrival we'll accommodate in hotel in Khiva for rest and relaxation. Khiva is a fascinating place, walk through Ichan Kala – old walled city of Khiva, will give you an insight into the life led there from ancient days up to the present time. We'll have a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Overnight at a hotel in Khiva.



### **16** APRIL 27 MONDAY – KHIVA – URGENCH – TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)



After breakfast at hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing in Khiva: visit Ichan Kala – a UNESCO World Heritage Site including madrasah Muhammad Amin Khan, Kelta Minar, Kunya Ark, madrasah Muhammad Rakhimkhan. We'll have lunch at local restaurant and continue sightseeing program: visit Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, Islam Khodja Minaret and Madrasah, Djuma Mosque and Minaret, Tash Hovli Palace. After dinner at the local restaurant we'll proceed to airport for a flight back to Tashkent leaving at 08:40PM and arriving at 10:10PM (subject to change). Upon arrival to Tashkent, we'll accommodate in hotel for overnight and rest.



**17** APRIL 28 TUESDAY – TASHKENT – OYBEK – KHUJAND – 104 MI. (UZBEKISTAN/TAJIKISTAN)

After early breakfast at the hotel in Tashkent today we'll head on to a one-day excursion of Tajikistan. We'll drive to the border check point Oybek and after border crossing formalities we'll continue on to city Khujand. Upon arrival we'll accommodate at the hotel after a long drive and start sightseeing. Khujand – the country's second largest city – situated in the north of Tajikistan and is one of its most ancient, founded about 2300 years ago during the time of Alexander the Great. Standing in a favorable location in the Ferghana valley, Khujand prospered for a long time, becoming rich and building palaces, mosques, and citadels. In the 13th century it was conquered and destroyed by the Genghis Khan's army. We'll have a close city tour in second part of the day, and end the day with a dinner followed by a folk show program. We'll overnight in Khujand.



**18** APRIL 29 WEDNESDAY – KHUJAND – OYBEK – TASHKENT – 104 MI. (TAJIKISTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast at the hotel we'll continue sightseeing of Khujand, visit ancient part of Khujand: Timurmalik fortress, Archeology and History museums, Orient bazaar Panjshanbe – famous Panjshanbe city market is one of the most interesting sights of Khujand. Near the market we'll stop by Sheikh Muslihiddin Mosque and Mausoleum, Museum of Archaeology and Fortification. We'll have lunch at the local restaurant and in the afternoon transfer back to Tashkent. Once back to Uzbekistan, we'll have a rest at the hotel before making a long way back home. We'll have a Farewell dinner followed by a show program and return to hotel for overnight in Tashkent.



**19** APRIL 30 THURSDAY – TASHKENT – BAKU (UZBEKISTAN/AZERBAIJAN)



After breakfast today, we'll transfer to airport of Tashkent for flight to Baku. Depending on flight schedule we'll have time to rest before or after the flight. Upon your arrival to Baku airport, you'll be met and transferred to hotel to check in and rest. We'll have dinner at 7PM with short introduction about Azerbaijan – one of the economically developed states of the Caucasus region, located at the shore of Caspian Sea. Main branches of industry of the republic are linked with the oil drilling due to reach deposits of oil and gas in Azerbaijan. Today we'll overnight at a hotel in Baku.



**20** MAY 1 FRIDAY – BAKU – GOBUSTAN – BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend a day in Azerbaijan having an excursion to Gabustan where we'll see more than 4000 rock-carvings which describe like style of ancient inhabitants of area near Caspian Sea. In the afternoon we'll have lunch and continue our excursion



with visit to Museum of Art and have a short (40 min long) cruise of Caspian Sea (if weather permits). In the evening we'll have a dinner at one of the local restaurants followed with folk show program. We'll overnight at a hotel in Baku.



**21** MAY 2 SATURDAY  
— BAKU —

### ABSHERON PENINSULA — BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend the morning sightseeing capital of Azerbaijan – city of Baku. Sightseeing will include: panoramic view of the city, visit Shirvan Shahs Palace, Maiden Tower architectural monument of 12th century, Caravanserai. After lunch break at one of the local restaurants we'll visit Absheron Peninsula – the Fire Worshippers Temple in Surakhany district, historical architectural monument of the 17th. Visit Mardakan Fortresses. Have acquaintance with the oil industry in Azerbaijan. Continue on with excursion to “Yanar Dag” – the Fire Mountain. We'll have dinner at the local restaurant at the end of the day and overnight at a hotel in Baku.



**22** MAY 3 SUNDAY — BAKU — SHAMAKHI — MARAZA — SHEKI  
(AZERBAIJAN)

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend most of the day in transfer from Baku to Sheki. The transfer will take 4 hours and we'll cover almost 220 mi. En route we'll visit mud volcanoes, Diri Baba mausoleum in Maraza, Yeddi Gumbez and Cuma mosque in Shamakhi. We'll have lunch break at the restaurant in route. Upon arrival to Sheki, we'll accommodate at the hotel, have some time to rest and then head for dinner. Today we'll overnight at a hotel in Sheki.



**23** MAY 4 MONDAY — SHEKI — GEORGIA BORDER — TELAVI  
(AZERBAIJAN/GEORGIA)

Today after breakfast at the hotel, we'll have a half day excursion of Sheki and Shebeke visiting Khan's palace and museum of history. After we'll have lunch at the local restaurant we'll be transferred to the border between Azerbaijan and Georgia called Lagodekhi. Once border formalities will be completed, we'll continue sightseeing tour in Georgia, visiting Gremi complex –

is the capital of Kakheti province. Visit local family to observe Georgian bread 'Shoti' baking in "Tone" and taste local cheese with freshly baked bread. You'll be offered a cup of simple coffee and we'll move on to Telavi. Upon arrival we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants, accommodate at hotel for rest, overnight at a hotel in Telavi.



## **24** MAY 5 TUESDAY – TELAVI – SIGHNAGHI – TBILISI (GEORGIA)

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing of Kakheti region well known for its wine producing. Visit Great Caucasus Mountains and valleys of Kakheti, observe traditions and culture of the country, taste wines and delicious food. We visit 11th century Alaverdi Cathedral operating as a monastery. Later transfer to Tsinandali Garden and the Museum – estate of 19th century Georgian Duke. After excursion we'll enjoy a glass of wine and continue to a farmer's house to see a unique 300-year-old wine-cellar. We'll get acquainted with the Georgian way of wine-making, quite different from the European and drink more Georgian wine straight from the clay jars. Transfer to the fortified town of love – Signaghi. Here we take a leisure walk and enjoy more wine-tasting at a winery established by an American painter. Afterwards we'll continue making our way to Tbilisi. We'll have lunch and dinner at local restaurants on the way. Today we'll overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi.



## **25** MAY 6 WEDNESDAY – TBILISI – MTSKHETA – GORI – GUDAURI (GEORGIA)

Today after breakfast we'll have an excursion to the ancient capital and religious center of Georgia – Mtskheta dated 3000 years back and see its historical places: Jvari church built in 6th century and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral built in 11th century– known as the place where the Robe of Christ is buried –a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Later we'll transfer to town of Gori – the heart of Kartli region. We'll visit Stalin museum and Uplistsikhe Cave Town – dated to 1st millennium BC, it is the place where the Great Silk Road used to pass. Later drive along the Georgian Military Highway and enjoy a photo stop at Ananuri fort set on the background of Jinali water reservoir. We'll have lunch and dinner at local restaurants on the way. Today we'll overnight at a hotel in Gudaury.



## **26** MAY 7 THURSDAY – GUDAURI – KAZBEGI – TBILISI (GEORGIA)

Today after breakfast we'll have a stunning drive from Gudaury along the Tergi River which will bring us to Kazbegi – the main town in the region. From Kazbegi a leisurely 2 hour walk up through beautiful valleys and woodland leads to Gergeti Trinity Church located at 7100 ft –round trip will take 3 hr of walking. Weather permitting you may catch a glimpse of one of the highest

glaciers in Caucasus – Mt Kazbegi – 16500 ft high. On our way back we enjoy lunch at a local cafe. Walk a bit more back to our vehicle and transfer to Tbilisi. After accommodation and short rest at the hotel we'll head for dinner at a local restaurant followed by a folk show. Overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi.



## 27 MAY 8 FRIDAY – TBILISI – GEORGIA – ARMENIA “SADAKHLO” – SEVAN – DILIJAN (GEORGIA/ARMENIA)

After breakfast at the hotel we'll have a walking sightseeing tour of Tbilisi – capital of Georgia, visiting different religious buildings – churches, synagogue, as well as famous 19th century houses with wooden multi-colored balconies, Old city, Georgian History Museum, Rustaveli Avenue – the main street in Tbilisi. After lunch drive to Georgia – Armenia border “Sadakhlo”. After border formalities we'll start acquaintances with Armenia with the Haghpat dated to 976 AD, Monastic Complex which one of outstanding works of medieval Armenian architecture and is inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage List. The complex used to be an educational center of the middle ages where the majority of Armenian scholars and scientists obtained their education. We'll continue on driving to Dilijan, where we'll accommodate at the hotel, have dinner at local restaurant and overnight in Dilijan.



## 28 MAY 9 SATURDAY – DILIJAN – SEVAN – NORAVANK – KHOR VIRAP – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

After breakfast at the hotel we'll start sightseeing tour with Lake Sevan – the emerald of Armenia. It is the second largest alpine freshwater lake in the world and the biggest in Caucasus. This mountain lake is located at 6200 ft above sea level. Sightseeing in Sevan also includes peninsula with Sevan Monastery. Later we'll drive to Selim caravanserai – built in 1332 by prince Chesar Orbelian, according to an inscription in Armenian and Arabic, it used to be an important trade point in the famous Silk Road. Visit Noravank monastery – religious and cultural centre of 12th century, Areni wine factory to taste local wine made from special sorts of grapes grows in Armenia and Noravank. We'll have lunch in local cave café. Continue sightseeing with Khor Virap monastery which is situated in the Ararat valley close the biblical Ararat Mountain, where Noah's ark casts its anchor. We'll have dinner at a local restaurant followed by folk show program and overnight at a hotel in Yerevan.



29

**MAY 10 SUNDAY – YEREVAN – GARNI – GEGHARD – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)**

After breakfast today we'll drive to a magnificent monument of medieval Armenian architecture – Geghard monastery partly carved out of a mountain. Continue on to Garni Temple – citadel and pagan temple of Garni. Have lunch at a local house in Garni where you will have opportunity to watch Armenian national bread “lavash” baking and barbeque making process in the underground stove called “tonir”. After lunch we'll return to Yerevan. Second part of the day we'll visit the depository of ancient manuscripts – Matenadaran, which contains historical documents of Europe and Asia from many centuries. We'll have dinner and overnight in Yerevan today.



**B L D**



Yerevan

30

**MAY 11 MONDAY – YEREVAN – ETCHMIATZIN – ZVARTNOTS – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)**

After breakfast at the hotel, today we'll drive to Etchmiatzin. On the way visiting St. Hripsime Church. We'll have lunch in a local community tasting homemade dishes. Then drive back to Yerevan with stop at the ruins of Zvartnots temple – of the 7th c. architecture. Second part of the day our main attraction will be Armenian History Museum and visit to Tsitsernakaberd memorial and museum of victims of Genocide. We'll have farewell dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at a hotel in Yerevan.



**B L D**



Yerevan

31

**MAY 12 TUESDAY – DEPARTURE (ARMENIA)**

Today is the last day of the tour; we'll have breakfast at the hotel and arrange transfer to the airport for your flight home. End of tour. Thank you!



Yerevan



**B**



**PRICE – \$ 15,380.00 PER PERSON IN DOUBLE  
(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – \$ 1,395.00)**



## GUARANTEED DEPARTURES IN 2020:

| <b>Start:</b> | <b>End:</b>  |
|---------------|--------------|
| March 29      | April 28     |
| April 12      | May 12       |
| April 26      | May 26       |
| May 17        | June 16      |
| June 07       | July 07      |
| August 23     | September 22 |
| September 06  | October 06   |
| September 20  | October 20   |
| October 04    | November 03  |
| October 25    | November 24  |



## HOTELS:

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Almaty (2 nights)    | Kazzhol or similar               |
| Bishkek (1 night)    | Ambassador or similar            |
| Issyk Kul (1 night)  | Karven Four Seasons or similar   |
| Tashkent (4 nights)  | Tashkent Palace or similar       |
| Samarkand (2 nights) | Konstantin or similar            |
| Bukhara (2 nights)   | Sasha and Son or similar         |
| Mary (1 night)       | Mary or similar                  |
| Ashgabat (2 nights)  | Yulduz or similar                |
| Dashoguz (1 night)   | Dashoguz or similar              |
| Khiva (1 night)      | Asia Khiva or similar            |
| Khujand (1 night)    | Khujand Deluxe or similar        |
| Baku (3 nights)      | Sapphire or similar              |
| Sheki (1 night)      | Sheki Saray or similar           |
| Telavi (1 night)     | Chateau Schuchman or similar     |
| Tbilisi (2 nights)   | Tiflis Palace or similar         |
| Guduary (1 night)    | Guduary Inn or similar           |
| Dilijan(1 night)     | Best Western Paradise or similar |
| Yerevan (3 nights)   | Opera Suites or similar          |



### PRICE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Letter Of Invitation;
- ✓ Hotel Accommodation (double room sharing);
- ✓ Full Board Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner);\*
- ✓ Bottled water (1 lt per person per day);
- ✓ All Land Transfers with A/C;
- ✓ Internal Flights (Bishkek-Tashkent, Mary- Ashgabat, Ashgabat-Dashoguz, Urgench-Tashkent, Tashkent-Baku);
- ✓ Railway ticket (Tashkent-Samarkand);
- ✓ Accompany of guide/escort;
- ✓ Guided sightseeing;
- ✓ Entrance Fees;
- ✓ Show programs.

\*Meals: Breakfast at the hotel. Lunch/Dinner consists of: 1 salad, 1 soup, 1 entrée, bread, tea.



### PRICE EXCLUDES:

- ✗ Tips in hotels, to the guides and drivers;
- ✗ Any extra expenses for additional services in hotels;
- ✗ Video and photo camera charges.