

Great Azerbaijan Discovery with Jewish Legacy - 13 days

AZ-06



Discover the wonders of Azerbaijan on a journey that blends rich history, vibrant culture, and stunning landscapes. Begin in the dynamic capital, Baku, where ancient and modern worlds converge in architectural and cultural splendor. Explore the UNESCO-listed Old City, marvel at natural phenomena like Gobustan's petroglyphs and the eternal flames of Yanardag, and visit unique landmarks such as the Ateshgah Fire Temple and the iconic Heydar Aliyev Centre. Venture into the countryside to uncover the charm of Lahij and the scenic beauty of Gabala and Sheki, while delving into the cultural treasures of Ganja. Experience the Jewish heritage of Guba's Red Town and the timeless traditions of Khinalig, a mountain village preserved in history. This journey offers an unforgettable exploration of Azerbaijan's diverse heritage, breathtaking nature, and warm hospitality.

DEPARTURE DATES:

29.11.2024; 06.12.2024; 13.12.2024; 03.01.2025; 10.01.2025; 17.01.2025; 24.01.2025; 31.01.2025; 07.02.2025; 14.02.2025; 21.02.2025; 28.02.2025; 07.03.2025; 14.03.2025; 21.03.2025; 28.03.2025; 04.04.2025; 11.04.2025; 18.04.2025; 25.04.2025; 02.05.2025; 09.05.2025; 16.05.2025; 23.05.2025; 30.05.2025; 06.06.2025; 13.06.2025; 20.06.2025; 27.06.2025; 04.07.2025; 11.07.2025; 18.07.2025; 25.07.2025; 01.08.2025; 08.08.2025; 15.08.2025; 22.08.2025; 29.08.2025; 05.09.2025; 12.09.2025; 19.09.2025; 26.09.2025; 03.10.2025; 10.10.2025; 17.10.2025; 24.10.2025; 31.10.2025; 07.11.2025; 14.11.2025; 21.11.2025; 28.11.2025; 05.12.2025; 12.12.2025; 19.12.2025.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Baku

Arrive in Baku, the lively capital city of Azerbaijan. Upon landing, your driver will greet you at the airport and take you to your hotel. Spend the night in Baku. (D)

Day 2 - Baku

Begin your day exploring Baku, a city where the past and present blend seamlessly. Start with a guided tour showcasing the city's most fascinating landmarks, from majestic monuments to innovative architectural wonders. Visit Upland Park, the highest point in Baku, offering stunning panoramic views of the city and its shimmering bay. Next, journey into history with a visit to Icheri Sheher, Baku's Old City. This UNESCO-listed gem, enclosed by ancient walls, was Baku's entire urban area until the mid-19th century when the oil boom transformed the city. Despite its modest 22-hectare size, Icheri Sheher is home to remarkable attractions such as the grand Shirvanshah's Palace, the iconic Maiden Tower, and the historic Karavansaray, once a rest stop for merchants. Stroll through its winding, narrow streets, where around 1,300 families keep the charm of this "city within a city" alive. Later, unwind with a walk to Fountains Square, a vibrant area ideal for relaxing or enjoying some shopping. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 3 - Baku - Gobustan - Yanardag - Baku

Prepare for an adventurous day discovering some of Azerbaijan's most intriguing natural and cultural landmarks. Start your journey at Gobustan National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its ancient petroglyphs. These rock carvings, dating back over 40,000 years, provide a fascinating glimpse into the lives, traditions, and daily activities of prehistoric people. Stroll through this open-air museum and marvel at detailed depictions of hunting scenes, rituals, and more. Next, explore Azerbaijan's famous mud volcanoes, a geological wonder unique to the region. With nearly half of the world's mud volcanoes located here, the surreal landscape of bubbling craters and flowing mud is both mesmerizing and therapeutic. In the afternoon, visit Yanar Dag, a natural gas fire that has burned steadily for centuries. Known as the "eternal flame," this striking phenomenon, with flames flickering along the hillside, beautifully embodies Azerbaijan's nickname, the "Land of Fire." The fiery display creates an enchanting atmosphere, leaving a lasting impression. Return to Baku in the evening and relax at your hotel. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 4 - Baku - Gala - Ateshgah - Ramana - Baku

Embark on a captivating journey to uncover the rich history and mystical landmarks of Azerbaijan. Start your day at the Gala Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum Complex, an open-air museum showcasing the lifestyle of the country's ancient inhabitants. Explore reconstructed dwellings, ancient tools, and artifacts that provide an

immersive glimpse into the rural traditions and history of Azerbaijan's early communities. Next, visit Ateshgah, the Fire Temple of Baku, a unique site symbolizing the country's deep historical connection to fire worship. This pentagonal temple, once a spiritual center for Zoroastrians and later for Hindus, features a central altar where natural gas flames once burned perpetually. Walk through its chambers and courtyards to learn about its spiritual and cultural significance. Wrap up the day at Ramana Castle, a striking fortress from the 12th century perched on a rocky hill. This historic stronghold once protected the region and now offers breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. Wander around its ancient walls and imagine the centuries of history they have witnessed. Return to Baku in the evening and relax at your hotel. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 5 - Baku

Dive into the vibrant modern side of Baku, where contemporary culture and cutting-edge architecture harmonize with the city's rich historical backdrop. Begin your day with a leisurely walk along Baku Boulevard, a picturesque promenade lining the Caspian Sea. Enjoy the soothing sea breeze and panoramic views of the bay, while discovering its many attractions, including cozy cafes, lush parks, and cultural venues. Continue to the iconic Flame Towers, towering symbols of Baku's modern transformation. From there, visit the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum, home to an exceptional collection of carpets, textiles, and tapestries. This fascinating museum celebrates Azerbaijan's centuries-old carpet weaving tradition, showcasing beautifully crafted pieces that embody the nation's cultural identity. Next, marvel at the Heydar Aliyev Centre, an architectural wonder designed by Zaha Hadid. This futuristic structure, with its flowing curves, is an iconic landmark of modern design. Inside, explore exhibitions and displays dedicated to the vision and legacy of Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan's late president. Wrap up your day with some free time at Park Boulevard Mall, a contemporary shopping and leisure destination near the Caspian Sea. Browse the shops, relax at a chic café, or soak up the lively atmosphere. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 6 - Baku - Shamakhi - Lahich - Gabala

Begin your scenic journey to Gabala, enjoying the beauty of Azerbaijan's countryside along the way. Your first stop is Shamakhi, a city rich in history and natural charm. Visit the Juma Mosque, one of the oldest in Azerbaijan, dating back to the 8th century, and admire its intricate architecture and peaceful atmosphere. Also, explore the Shamakhi Mausoleum, a resting place for notable historical figures, surrounded by stunning landscapes. The region, known for its vineyards and orchards, provides a tranquil and picturesque setting. Next, continue to Lahich, a charming mountain village famous for its traditional copperware. Wander through the local workshops, where artisans craft intricate copper items, and perhaps take home a unique souvenir. After these enriching experiences, continue on to Gabala, nestled in the lush foothills of the Caucasus Mountains. Settle in for a peaceful evening in this beautiful town, surrounded by breathtaking natural landscapes. Overnight in Gabala. (B, D)

Day 7 - Gabala - Gabala - Sheki

Start your day by exploring the picturesque town of Gabala, nestled in the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains. Immerse yourself in its breathtaking natural beauty, with lush forests, serene lakes, and stunning landscapes that offer a peaceful escape. Gabala is also known for its vibrant cultural heritage, where you can visit local markets and craft workshops, adding a unique touch to your experience. After soaking in the sights of Gabala, continue your journey towards Sheki. On the way, make a stop at Kish, a quaint village that is home to the ancient Albanian Church of Kish, one of the oldest Christian churches in Azerbaijan. This beautifully preserved structure, dating back to the 1st century AD, provides a fascinating insight into the region's early Christian history. Arrive in Sheki, a town celebrated for its historic architecture and lush surroundings. Enjoy the evening soaking in the charm of this scenic location. Overnight in Sheki. (B, D)

Day 8 - Sheki - Sheki - Ganja

Begin your day by exploring the historic town of Sheki, renowned for its rich heritage and scenic landscapes. Visit the Sheki Khan's Summer Palace, an exquisite example of 18th-century architecture, famous for its intricate frescoes, vibrant stained glass windows, and stunning tilework. Surrounded by lush gardens, the palace offers a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of the Sheki Khan family, with breathtaking views from its balconies that you won't want to miss. After experiencing the beauty of Sheki, continue your journey towards Ganja. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy a restful evening. Overnight in Ganja. (B, D)

Day 9 - Ganja - Ganja - Goygol - Baku

Start your day by discovering Ganja, Azerbaijan's second-largest city, known for its rich history and vibrant culture. Visit the Shah Abbas Mosque, an impressive example of Islamic architecture, and the medieval caravanserai, which once served as a lively resting spot for travelers. Explore the Museum of Miniature Books, home to a remarkable collection of tiny literary works, and the quirky Bottle House, a unique local landmark. Pay your respects to the great Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi at his mausoleum, a site of cultural significance. Wander through the lively local bazaar, where the energy of Ganja's market life fills the air. Next, make your way

to the nearby town of Goygol, where the picturesque village of Xanlar awaits. Founded in 1819 by German winemakers as Helenendorf, Xanlar blends Azerbaijani and German influences. Admire the charming German-style architecture, including the old church that now houses a small museum, and stroll along the tree-lined streets that offer a tranquil ambiance. The area has a rich history, with Bronze Age settlements and fascinating archaeological discoveries on display at the local museum. Learn about the German community that once called this place home and visit the history museum to uncover the story of the German deportations during Stalin's regime. After returning to Baku, visit the Bibi Heydar Mosque, a striking architectural gem renowned for its beauty and cultural significance. This mosque, with its impressive design, is one of Baku's most important religious landmarks. Conclude your day and overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 10 - Baku - Baku - Guba

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for the northern capital of Azerbaijan, Guba. Upon arrival, begin your exploration with a visit to the Jewish Settlement across the Kudyal River. This area is home to Red Town, the largest Mountain Jewish community in the former Soviet Union and the only entirely Jewish settlement outside of Israel and the United States. Red Town, also known as Krasnaya Sloboda, is the last surviving shtetl, where Mountain Jews have lived for centuries. The Mountain Jews of the Caucasus have a unique version of Judaism, blending traditional practices with mysticism, and they speak Judeo-Tat (Juhuri), a language from the Persian family. The history of this community dates back to the 18th century when, after their settlements were destroyed by Nader Shah in Persia, many Jews sought refuge in Azerbaijan. Under the rule of Huseyn Ali Akhan, Jews began settling in this area in 1731, building Red Town, which grew into a vibrant yet insular community that has preserved its distinct culture, language, and traditions. Next, visit a local carpet shop in Guba to experience the town's rich tradition of carpet weaving, where you can admire beautifully crafted carpets that reflect the artistry of the region. Overnight in Guba. (B, D)

Day 11 - Guba - Guba - Khinalig - Guba

After breakfast at the hotel, embark on a scenic drive to Khinalig, an ancient mountain village, nestled in the northern region of Azerbaijan. Situated at an altitude of 2,200 meters above sea level, Khinalig is considered one of the highest mountain villages in the Caucasus. The village is part of a state historical, architectural, and ethnographic reserve, often referred to as an open-air museum due to its well-preserved traditional lifestyle and unique architecture. Khinalig's locals speak their own distinct language, which has drawn ethnologists from around the world to study the rich cultural heritage of the village. The villagers are known for their warmth and hospitality, and many visitors come to experience the charm of the village and the breathtaking beauty of the surrounding mountain landscapes. The village is located in the mountains of Gizil Gaya, Shahdag, Tufandag, and Khinalig, on the left bank of the Gudialchay River. A significant feature of the area is Tufandag mountain, directly opposite Khinalig. According to legend, the ruins of an ancient settlement destroyed by a powerful earthquake over 1,000 years ago can be found on Tufandag. The story goes that the survivors of this catastrophe founded the present-day village of Khinalig. After exploring this fascinating village, return to Guba for the evening. Overnight in Guba. (B, D)

Day 12 - Guba - Guba - Baku

After breakfast at the hotel, check out from your rooms and begin the drive back to Baku. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and spend the evening at leisure. Overnight in Baku. (B, D)

Day 13 - Baku

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

- [International flights](#)
- [Accommodation](#)
- [Guided tours & cultural programme](#)
- [English - speaking guides](#)
- [Half board meals](#)
- [Ground transportation](#)
- [Airport transfers](#)
- [Azerbaijan e-visa](#)

Not included

- [Personal travel insurance](#)
- [Optional excursions](#)

Practical information

- [About Best of Caucasus company](#)
- [How our tours are run](#)
- [Contact our travel consultants](#)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT - 3* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
29/11/2024 - 11/12/2024	£1945	£2345	£245
06/12/2024 - 18/12/2024	£1945	£2345	£245
13/12/2024 - 25/12/2024	£1945	£2345	£245
03/01/2025 - 15/01/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
10/01/2025 - 22/01/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
17/01/2025 - 29/01/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
24/01/2025 - 05/02/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
31/01/2025 - 12/02/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
07/02/2025 - 19/02/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
14/02/2025 - 26/02/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
21/02/2025 - 05/03/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
28/02/2025 - 12/03/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
07/03/2025 - 19/03/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
14/03/2025 - 26/03/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
21/03/2025 - 02/04/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
28/03/2025 - 09/04/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
04/04/2025 - 16/04/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
11/04/2025 - 23/04/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
18/04/2025 - 30/04/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
25/04/2025 - 07/05/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
02/05/2025 - 14/05/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
09/05/2025 - 21/05/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
16/05/2025 - 28/05/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
23/05/2025 - 04/06/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
30/05/2025 - 11/06/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
06/06/2025 - 18/06/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
13/06/2025 - 25/06/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
20/06/2025 - 02/07/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
27/06/2025 - 09/07/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
04/07/2025 - 16/07/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
11/07/2025 - 23/07/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
18/07/2025 - 30/07/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
25/07/2025 - 06/08/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
01/08/2025 - 13/08/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
08/08/2025 - 20/08/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
15/08/2025 - 27/08/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
22/08/2025 - 03/09/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
29/08/2025 - 10/09/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
05/09/2025 - 17/09/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
12/09/2025 - 24/09/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
19/09/2025 - 01/10/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
26/09/2025 - 08/10/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
03/10/2025 - 15/10/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
10/10/2025 - 22/10/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
17/10/2025 - 29/10/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
24/10/2025 - 05/11/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
31/10/2025 - 12/11/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
07/11/2025 - 19/11/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
14/11/2025 - 26/11/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
21/11/2025 - 03/12/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
28/11/2025 - 10/12/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
05/12/2025 - 17/12/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
12/12/2025 - 24/12/2025	£1945	£2345	£245
19/12/2025 - 31/12/2025	£1945	£2345	£245

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
29/11/2024 - 11/12/2024	£2045	£2445	£295
06/12/2024 - 18/12/2024	£2045	£2445	£295

13/12/2024 - 25/12/2024	£2045	£2445	£295
03/01/2025 - 15/01/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
10/01/2025 - 22/01/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
17/01/2025 - 29/01/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
24/01/2025 - 05/02/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
31/01/2025 - 12/02/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
07/02/2025 - 19/02/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
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07/03/2025 - 19/03/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
14/03/2025 - 26/03/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
21/03/2025 - 02/04/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
28/03/2025 - 09/04/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
04/04/2025 - 16/04/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
11/04/2025 - 23/04/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
18/04/2025 - 30/04/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
25/04/2025 - 07/05/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
02/05/2025 - 14/05/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
09/05/2025 - 21/05/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
16/05/2025 - 28/05/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
23/05/2025 - 04/06/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
30/05/2025 - 11/06/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
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12/12/2025 - 24/12/2025	£2045	£2445	£295
19/12/2025 - 31/12/2025	£2045	£2445	£295

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > Highlights of Azerbaijan - 6 days (AZ-01), Price from £995, 6 days
- > Great Azerbaijan Discovery - 10 days (AZ-05), Price from £1,545, 10 days
- > Best of Georgia and Azerbaijan - 12 days (CT-03), Price from £2,195, 12 days
- > Azerbaijan for Independent Travellers - 5 days (AZ-03), Price from £495, 5 days

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Best of Caucasus holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Best of Caucasus, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@best-of-caucasus.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on **+44 (0)20 30 51 76 40**

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum £100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

On request we can organise an additional programme for you, please inquire about the price and availability of the optional excursions.

Please find below some space to write down your queries or comments regarding this trip.

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