



Baku



Recognized as one of the world's masterpieces in architecture, the Heydar Aliyev Center has immediately grown into a signature architectural landmark of modern Baku. Not a single straight line was used in the Center's design. The overall shape of the building resembles a wave-like ascension from the ground towards the sky followed by gradual descent down to the earth. This is not only a tribute to post-modern architecture, but also a portrayal of an eternal cycle.

Shamakha



Shamakhy has a rich heritage and has provided the backdrop to major political events throughout much of its two millennia of existence. In its history eleven major earthquakes have rocked Shamakhy, but through multiple reconstructions it maintained its role as the economic and administrative capital of Shirvan and one of the key towns on the Silk Road. The only building to have survived eight of the eleven earthquakes is the landmark Juma Mosque, built in the 10th century

Sheki



Tour "Amazing Azerbaijan"

Duration: 7 days, 6 nights
Dates of tour: all year around

Day 1. Meet Baku

Meeting at the airport. Transfer to the hotel.

City tour begins with a visit to the Upland Park.

Upland Park is located on a hill in the western part of the city. This is the best place to see the city and the Baku Bay. The architecture of the capital is very eclectic; it is a combination of different styles and influences such as barocco, classicism and modern architecture, both Eastern and Western.

The rout covers the downtown an shows the most interesting historical and architectural sights.

The tourists will visit and see the Flag Square, a new Carpet Museum - design of the building is distinguished by its originality as the museum is built in the form of a folded carpet; stroll through the Baku promenade, enjoy the look of the House of Government, the Philharmonic Theatre named after M. Magomayev, the Baku Mayor's office and will visit the "Governor's garden."

Then the tour will continue visiting the "old city" that had preserved and walls and narrow cobbled streets till our days...

A number of the Soviet-time movies were shot here. Tourists will see the main attractions of the Old City, including the Palace of the Shirvan Shahs (XV cent), the symbol of the city - Maiden Tower (IX cent), Karvansarays, mosques etc.

We will continue our excursion visiting Cultural Center named after Heydar Aliyev.

Heydar Aliyev Center is a cultural center, projected as a complex structure that includes the auditorium (convention center), a museum, exhibition halls, administrative offices.

The design of the building is also notable for the fact that neither in the interior or exterior of the building has any angles.

The project of the center was designed by the winner of Pritzker prize and internationally recognized architect Zaha Hadid.

Day 2. Absheron Peninsula

Breakfast at the hotel. Start of the excursion.

Azerbaijan is one of the few places on earth, where even today one can observe elements of preserved fire cult and the ancient Zoroastrianism religion. These places where oil oozes from the earth, and natural gas breaks out like flaming torches have always attracted fire worshipers from around the world. Baku, its oil, its "burning earth" have been known far beyond its borders since ancient times. The official religion of the ancient states that emerged in the VII century BC, such as Mann and Midia was Zoroastrianism. The spread of Zoroastrianism in the territory of the modern Azerbaijan was due to spontaneously flammable sources of oil and gas. Therefore, in this area such a monument as the temple Ateshgah has survived.

Fire Temple Ateshgah (literally Fire House) is located in 30 kilometers from the center of Baku, in the south-eastern outskirts of the Absheron Peninsula. Coming up next on the program guests will visit the village Mehemmedli.

Sheki is situated in northern Azerbaijan on the southern part of the Greater Caucasus mountain range, 325 km (200 miles) from Baku. The population of Sheki is 63,000. Sheki is surrounded by snowy peaks of the Greater Caucasus, in some places reaching 3000–3600 m. Sheki has one of the greatest density of cultural resources and monuments that include 2700 years of Azerbaijani history. The city boasts a lot of houses with red roofs. In pop culture, probably the most famous feature of Shakinians are their nice sense of humor and comic tales

Lahij



Lahij represents an original monument of the Persian town-planning and architectural art of an antiquity. It is a medieval city with paved streets and areas, developed system of water drain and water supply.

Next to this small village in the Absheron peninsula Mount Yanardagh is situated. The word "Yanar" in Azeri language means "burning", and "Dagh" - "mountain". And this is real a burning mountain - not metaphorically, but literally. Once in Absheron it had been a lot of places where natural gas coming out from the earth to the surface ignited spontaneously, but with the start of mass extraction of oil and gas in Absheron these places started to disappear. At present, it is the only place of this unique natural phenomenon - the output of natural gas to the surface.

Return to the hotel

Day 3. Gobustan

Breakfast. Tour to Gobustan historical-art reserve

The reserve is well known with its perfectly preserved rock paintings - petroglyphs - a kind of artistic "archive" of human evolution on the Earth.

"Documents" of such archives is the first human's presentation of his/her "I" to the outside world.

Gobustan Rocks are not just the brightest witnesses of the prehistoric period of human existence. They reflect the history of this region for nearly 15,000 years - since the end of the era of the Upper Paleolithic till the Middle Ages. Of particular interest are the images multi-oar boats, with a light source at the stern. They were drawn above the level at which people had been portrayed, and this phenomenon set up a lot different interpretations. Today Azerbaijani scientists found, described and studied more than 4,000 petroglyphs (rock painting in the stone carving art) and this important work continues.

Before the start of the tour around Gobustan guests will visit the interactive museum with the same name, where with the help of special programs and multimedia touch screens you will get information about the nature, the flora of Gobustan.

Only few people know that Azerbaijan ranks the first place in the number of active mud volcanoes. Traces of their work can be found in Gobustan as well. These volcanoes are formations of a cone-shaped hill with a crater in the ground.

And of course, that the tourists also have the opportunity to explore them during this tour.

Return to the hotel

Day 4 Baku – Shemakha – Sheki

Breakfast in the hotel. Check out the regions of Azerbaijan.

We go to the north-west of Azerbaijan through the Caucasus Mountains. The dry landscape around Baku replaced by dense forest mountains.

On the way to visit the city of Shamakhi, which is the largest mosque of the Caucasus "Juma", and the tomb of the rulers of the Shirvan Shahs - "Yeddi Gyumbyaz."

Next trip to the city of Sheki and accommodation.

Day 5 Exploring Sheki

Breakfast at the hotel.

Start exploring Sheki. Sheki is one of the most famous and ancient places of Azerbaijan. Situated 700 m (2297 ft.) above sea level like an amphitheatre surrounded by the mountains and forests of oak trees, this ancient city was long famed as a silk centre and an important stop on the Great Silk Route. We'll start our Sheki tour from visiting the 18th century Khan's summer Palace with magnificent frescos and exquisite stained glass work. Then visiting of "Shebeke"(handmade frescos) workshop, "Pakhlava"(special and famous in Azerbaijan sweet) workshop and "Tekulduz" (a kind of weaving popular in this area) workshop. Walking in the old street and visiting of different craftsman workshops.

We will continue to discover Sheki and will visit Kish village and the legendary church.

Legend says that the church was built in 78 AD, but the researchers place it a few centuries later.

Night at the hotel

Day 6 Sheki – Lahij – Baku

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out.

Accommodation in Hotel. Overnight at the Hotel in Baku

Later we will drive to Lahij - famous Lahij village in Ismayilly district. Most part of 2,000 people living in Lahij are involved in ancient crafts such as engraved copper work and carpet weaving. In the mid-19th century, there were more than 200 workshops in Lahij. Traders discovered Lahij crafts many centuries ago, and sold them for high prices at bazaars in Baghdad [now Iraq], Shiraz [now Iran] and other Middle Eastern cities. Stop by a copper workshop for a impromptu lesson in ancient craftsmanship you'll get to see coppersmiths use small mallets to decorate plates, trays, jugs, goblets and pitchers, just as their ancestors have done for centuries.

After we will set up the way to Baku.

Arrival, check-in.

Overnight in Baku

Day 7

Breakfast. 12:00 check out from the hotel. Free time. Depend on departure time transfer to the airport.

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Tour price:

Tour price: Number of Persons	Single	Double/PP
6	\$709	\$598
8	\$612	\$501
10	\$554	\$443
12	\$516	\$405
14	\$488	\$377

Tour cost includes:

Transfers
6 nights' accommodation in a 3 * hotel with breakfast
Transport service for the whole tour
Speaking guide throughout the tour
Entrance fees to museums and historic sites
0.5lt water per person per day

Tour cost excludes:

Tips
Accommodation on arrival date
Flight expenses
Health insurance
Visa expenses
All additional costs
Lunches and dinners
Alcoholic beverages

NOTE: Tour cost provides placing in double room in comfortable hotels of a category 3*. Depending on a client's wish for additional payment the hotel category can be changed to higher.

Itinerary & Map

Baku – Shemakha – Sheki – Kish - Lahij - Baku

DAYS	SITES	DISTANCE, KM/ML	TIME IN TRAFFIC +/-
Day 1	Baku	- / -	2 hour 35 min
Day 2	Baku City tour and Absheron Peninsula	60 / 38	40 min
Day 3	Baku – Gobustan	70 / 44	1 hour
Day 4	Baku Shemakha Sheki	350 / 220	5 hour 20 min
Day 5	Sheki - Kish	- / -	-
Day 6	Sheki – Lahij – Baku	350 / 220	5 hour 20 min
Day 7	Baku - Airport	20 / 12	20 min



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Visa:

Visa on arrival at the international airports of Azerbaijan can only be obtained by the citizens of Turkey, Israel, UAE, Japan. For the citizens of Russia and CIS countries (except Turkmenistan) visa to Azerbaijan is not required. Citizens of other countries must obtain a visa prior to arrival via the Azerbaijani consulate in their home country or to issue electronic visas through our travel agency. To obtain a visa, please contact our managers at least 4 weeks prior to arrival to Azerbaijan.

Practical Information:

Foreign exchange market information is the exchange rates can be obtained by clicking the following link:

<http://www.cbar.az/>

Local currency: Manat


Recommended currency for exchange: USD or EURO.





Where to exchange currency: at the airport guide will give exact information on where and how to exchange cash in the local currency.

Availability of ATMs: only in major cities.

Accepting Credit Cards: only in major cities.

Climate:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
 Avg. temperature	6	5	8	15	18	30	32	30	20	17	12	8

 Avg. Max. temperature	10	8	12	19	22	30	35	37	25	21	16	12
 Avg. Min. Temperature	3	2	4	10	13	25	30	33	16	13	8	6
 Avg. Rainy days	4	5	3	3	4	3	5	4	3	4	2	5
 Avg. Snowy days	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Vaccinations & Protection:

Not necessarily

Power Supply and Plugs:

For more information about the voltage and type of outlets used in Azerbaijan, see ref.

[Http://www.kropla.com/electric2.htm](http://www.kropla.com/electric2.htm)

Travel insurance:

Travel insurance is compulsory for all our customers. You should make sure that your policy covers all medical expenses.

Baggage:

Remember that you have to carry your own luggage, and do not trust him unfamiliar people.

Permitted weight: 20 kg.

Clothing:

Weather is changeable in Azerbaijan. In the north and the highlands can be cool, especially at night, so bring warm clothes. During the summer, hot, hats and cream for sun protection is required. You must also carry a handkerchief to visit churches and mosques.

Footwear:

It is advisable to bring your most comfortable shoes. Be sure to have shoes or sneakers, to visit the rocky terrain.

Comments:

Azerbaijan is a secular country, in spite of the strong Muslim and Caucasian traditions. In Baku and other large cities, most of the population speaks Russian, young people also speak English. For tourists are here, as elsewhere in the East and the Caucasus, friendly and hospitable. The country is safe and crime low.

Please note that the tourism infrastructure continues to be on the stage of development and a program to be changed if necessary. You will need some extra money to cover meals, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry, etc. which are not included in the tour price. The approximate cost of USD 30 per day per person. Local food is not expensive. You can choose the national restaurants and small cafes to eat.

Estimated price menu per person is 10 USD.

Hotel check-out and check-in rules:

* For the convenience of the tourists it is kindly asked to inform about the early check-in or late check-out of your guests.

* Depending on the hotel additional price can be charged for early check-in or late check-out.

Check-in earlier than at 06:00 am: a surcharge of 100% of the daily rate.

Check-in after 06:00 am but before 14:00: a surcharge of 50% of the daily rate.

* All reservations must be made in written form, with the exact spelling of guests' name and dates of their births.

* Payment of all confirmed orders must be made at least 10 days before the planned date of arrival of tourists to the hotel.

Children policy:

*Children under 2 years old participate in tour for free.

*Children from 2 till 12 participate in tour with 30% discount of the tour's price.

Cancellation and penalties:

* All modifications and cancellations of confirmed orders must be made in written form.

- * Cancellation of confirmed applications earlier than 7 days prior to arrival is not subject to penalties.
- * Cancellation of confirmed applications later than 7 days and more than 3 days before the planned arrival: a penalty of 50% of the total cost of the tour.
- * Cancellation of confirmed applications later than 3 days, or after the date of the planned arrival: penalty is 100% of the full cost of the tour.

Transfers and additional services:

Price for transfer Airport- Hotel: 35 USD / one way /for a car up to 3 seats.

The cultural life of Baku is very diverse.

Our consultants and guides are always happy to provide a wide range of cultural programs to brighten up leisure activities.

For information about events and concerts visit the website: www.citylife.az