

Highlights of Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia and the TransCaucasian Trail



Booking Number: 6592831

Trip Code: EE-AUI6592831-250517



Please take this document with you when you travel. This document is your proof of purchase and confirmation of your travel arrangements.

About Your Trip

Start Location

Baku, Azerbaijan

Finish Location

Yerevan, Armenia

Accommodation

Hotel 16 nights

Guesthouse 6 nights

Rooming Requirements

Twin Share

Included Meals

Breakfast (21)

Lunch (7)

Dinner (8)

Transport

Private vehicle throughout, train

Leader/Guide

1 English speaking tour leader throughout.

Local guides as outlined below

Included Activities

Per Daily itinerary

Entrance/Admission Fees

Where applicable with included activities

Airport Transfers

Arrival and departure transfers are included on a group basis

Support

24-hour support from our local office

Exclusions

- International Flights
- Any visas required
- Services not mentioned in the itinerary
- Late check out at hotels
- Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
- Drinks with included lunches and dinners
- Tips for leaders, guide and driver
- Expenditure of personal nature
- Personal Insurance
- Optional activities

We offset these emissions on your behalf. But we know that is not enough, so we also have a carbon reduction target.

Names As Per Passport

To be advised at 90 days prior to departure

Joining Point

Mercure Baku

School No. 172

Address: 119 Ismayil Kutkashenli St, Baku 1100, Azerbaijan

Phone: +994 12 525 04 05

Joining Point Instructions

Date	Flight	Arrival Time
	Please advise	

Your group transfer has been organised for the above flight details. Your driver will be waiting for you in the arrivals area near the point you clear customs. Please look for our driver who will either be holding a card with your name on it or a card with the Intrepid Logo. The driver will wait for an hour after your scheduled arrival time. If you have issues location your driver please call our local office on the number listed below.

If you are not arriving with the rest of the group, please contact your agent to organise a separate transfer at an additional cost.

Rooming Configuration

- 5 x Double/Twin
- 4 x Single

Emergency Contact

If you are travelling with us and experience any issues please contact our local ground representative on the number below and quote your EE-AUI6592831-250517 so that the team can locate your booking quickly.

Intrepid's Local Operator: +49 8024 4679 540

Highlights of Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia and the TransCaucasian Trail 23 days / 22 nights

Saturday 17th May - Sunday 8th June 2025

Day 1 / Saturday, 17 May 2025

Baku

Meals included: Dinner

Salam eleykim! Welcome to Azerbaijan. On arrival at Baku Airport, you'll be met by a representative and transferred to your hotel. Baku certainly is a city where old meets new – ancient fortified buildings standing next to Russian imperial-style squares and ultra-modern architectural wonders. Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at 6 pm in the evening, where you will meet your local leader and fellow travellers joining you for this adventure. If you arrive with time to spare, perhaps take a walk down the charming Nizami Street and observe its Baroque, Neo-Gothic and Neo-Renaissance architecture. After your meeting, enjoy a local dinner with your leader and small group. In Azerbaijan, sharing bread is thought to seal a bond of friendship, so perhaps break some bread with your new travel companions.

Arrival Transfer

- Included on a group basis

Included Activities

- Baku - Welcome Dinner at Local Restaurant

Special Information

It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance details and next of kin information at this time. If you are going to be late please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place. If you can't arrange a flight that will arrive on time, you may wish to arrive a day early so you're able to attend. We'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability).

Accommodation

Mercure Baku

Day 2 / Sunday, 18 May 2025

Baku / Absheron

Meals included: Breakfast

This morning, embark on a tour of the city with a local guide. Pay a visit to the fortified Old City, once the Medieval capital, where your guide will weave together the history of Baku, from the rule of the Shirvanshahs to the cosmopolitan city you see today. Stop by the Shemakha Gate, Maiden Tower (visit optional), Old Market Square and end with a guided tour of the Palace of the Shirvanshahs. Be sure to bring your camera as there will be some panoramic views of Baku's varied skyline to enjoy. Afterwards, head out of the city on a day trip to the Absheron Peninsula. Visit the Ateshgah Fire Temple and the eternally burning Yanar Dag (Fire Mountain).

Included Activities

- Baku - Palace of the Shirvanshahs
- Baku - Walking Tour with Local Guide
- Baku - Carpet Museum visit
- Absheron Peninsula half-day visit with Local Guide

Accommodation

Mercure Baku

Day 3 / Monday, 19 May 2025

Absheron / Baku

Meals included: Breakfast

This morning, head out of the city on a half day trip to Qobustan, located around 60 kilometres south of Baku. Stop off along the way to view old oil rigs and learn how Azerbaijan was one of the birthplaces of the oil industry. On arrival to Qobustan National Park, visit one of the world's largest open-air archaeological museums where a local guide will share the stories of ancient rock art dating back some 40,000 years. The prehistoric carvings depict scenes of hunting, fishing and gathering. Return to Baku in the afternoon for free time - Perhaps visit one of Baku's most significant modern landmarks, the Heydar Aliyev Center designed by Zaha Hadid. This evening you may like to take a walk along the waterfront to find a restaurant for dinner, keeping an eye out for the Baku Eye and Flame Towers that light up the city skyline at night.

Included Activities

- Qobustan - Petroglyphs
- Qobustan - Half Day Trip

Special Information

Today's total driving time is approximately 3 hours.

Accommodation

Mercure Baku

Day 4 / Tuesday, 20 May 2025

Shamaki / Sheki

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner

Leave Baku and head for the Caucasus Mountains in the northwest of Azerbaijan. Watch arid landscapes slowly give way to densely forested mountains. En route to Sheki, there will be stops at Juma Mosque in Shamakhi, the Yeddi Gumbaz Mausoleum, and the Juma Mosque in Shamakhi. On arrival in Sheki, visit a local craft workshop where the famous shebeke – stained-glass windows with intricately carved frames – are made by hand. You will also visit the acclaimed Palace of Shaki Khans to see its magnificent frescoes and stained glass. Arrive in Sheki and enjoy a final evening of Azerbaijani cuisine during an included dinner at a local restaurant.

Included Activities

- Sheki - Khan's Palace
- Sheki - Stained Glass Workshop Visit
- Shamakhi - Yeddi Gumbaz Mausoleum & Juma Mosque

Accommodation

Marxal Hotel

Day 5 / Wednesday, 21 May 2025

Sheki / Kakheti Region / Telavi

Meals included: breakfast, lunch

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and visit the local Sheki bazaar before driving to Lagodeckhi – a town at the Azerbaijan–Georgia border – where you will change transportation. From here, travel to Georgia's Kakheti region, known for its

winemaking. There will be a visit to the Gremi Architectural Complex and its museum, followed by a wonderful lunch with a local family, which includes delicious homemade cuisine, wine and chacha, a local brandy. There will also be time to listen to unique Georgian polyphonic songs – a traditional style of music prevalent in the Kakheti region. Afterwards, travel to your beautiful accommodation near Telavi. Tucked into the foothills of the Tsiv-Gombori mountains, the Savaneti Hotel offers a chic aesthetic in a serene location. Enjoy a lovely swimming pool, a marvellous on-site restaurant and unbeatable views of the Alazani Valley and Caucasus mountains.

Included Activities

- Kakheti – Lunch and Wine Tasting with a Local Family
- Gremi Complex Visit
- Georgian Polyphonic Singing

Special Information

Today's total driving time is approximately 3.5 hours. Today you will cross the border from Azerbaijan to Georgia. You are required to have your passport with you, and you will need your Azerbaijan visa to exit the country. It will be necessary to carry or wheel your luggage a short distance to the Georgia customs area.

Accommodation

Chateau Artwine

Day 6 / Thursday, 22 May 2025

Telavi / Tbilisi

Meals included: breakfast

Following breakfast, journey to the beautiful 18th-century town of Signaghi, known for its quaint stone walls, small houses with terracotta roofs and decorated balconies. Here you will meet with an expert local guide who will explain the history of the intriguing town. After some time to admire the picturesque views of Alazani Valley and Great Caucasus Mountains, drive to Tbilisi with your leader. Once arrived perhaps wander the old districts of Georgia's capital, which are structured like terraces, and walk through the narrow streets to appreciate the colourful houses, patterned balconies and revamped modern architecture. Enjoy a free afternoon – your leader will have some wonderful recommendations for local restaurants to head for dinner.

Included Activities

- Signakhi – City Tour

Special Information

Today's total driving time is approximately 3 hours.

Accommodation

Museum Hotel Orbeliani

Day 7 / Friday, 23 May 2025

Tbilisi

Meals included: Breakfast

This morning uncover the secrets of the city on a walking tour with your local guide, beginning from the 13th-century Metekhi Church, which offers magnificent views over old Tbilisi. You will take a cable car to the ancient Narikala Fortress, a former Persian citadel with a history stretching back to the 4th century. Here your guide will share the layered history of the fortress while you take in sweeping views across Tbilisi. Then make your way to a historic part of the city where you will learn a little more about Tbilisi's past. The name Tbilisi translates to 'warm place' which is thought to be after the bubbling hot springs that the city was built around. This afternoon you may like to visit one of the local bathhouses for a dip in the therapeutic waters, or perhaps visit the stunning treasury of

the Golden Fund at the Natural History Museum (closed on Mondays), where you'll learn why Georgia is called the land of the Golden Fleece.

Included Activities

- Tbilisi - Narikala Fortress & Cable Car
- Tbilisi - Old Town Walking Tour with Local Guide

Accommodation

Museum Hotel Orbeliani

Day 8 / Saturday, 24 May 2025

Mtskheta / Tserovani / Kutaisi

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch

Today meet with a local guide for a visit to Mtskheta, the ancient capital and religious centre of Georgia. Visit World Heritage-listed sites with your local guide on hand to share their fascinating histories, such as the 6th-century Jvari Monastery. Afterwards, pay a visit to the Tserovani Refugee Settlement, home to 8000 people displaced by the 2008 conflict between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia over South Ossetia. While here you will visit an enamel jewellery workshop – a social enterprise offering training and employment to displaced youth and women within the camp. You will have the chance to meet the jewellery artists whose pieces tell the story of Georgia, and with their guidance, you will design a piece yourself. Stop for a light lunch of Georgian specialties then tour the settlement to learn about the issues surrounding long-term displacement faced by thousands of Georgia's citizens to this day. This inspiring experience sheds light on a side of the country that few visitors get to see, and is sure to be one of your lasting memories of your time in Georgia.

Continue to Gori – the birthplace of Joseph Stalin, where you will visit the Stalin Museum, housed in the home where he was born. Later, visit Uplistsikhe Cave Town (1st millennium BC) where the Great Silk Road used to pass. Here you will see dwelling quarters, wine cellars, bakeries, a three-nave basilica church hewn out into the rock. Drive to Kutaisi – second largest city in the country.

Included Activities

- Mtskheta - Jvari Monastery
- Tserovani - Refugee Settlement & Enamel Workshop Visit
- Gori - Stalin Museum
- Uplistsikhe Cave Complex visit

Special Information

Today's total driving time is approximately 4 hours.

Accommodation

Newport Hotel

Day 9 / Sunday, 25 May 2025

Zugdidi / Becho

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Today we drive to Mountain region of Svaneti. Arrive in the small village of Becho for our overnight stay. On the way, we will stop in Zugdidi for lunch. Visit a local Duke's Palace in Zugdidi. We will also see the Enguri Dam which offers a breathtaking view of one of the world's highest concrete arch dams amidst the stunning Caucasus Mountains. In the evening enjoy dinner and overnight at a family hotel in Becho.

Included Activities

- Zugdidi Palace Visit

- Enguri Dam Visit

Accommodation

Grand Hotel Ushba

Important note: Please note all rooms at this homestay offer a private ensuite bathroom, some rooms will need to use a shared bathroom.

Day 10 / Monday, 26 May 2025

Becho / Guli Mountain Farm / Mestia

Meals included: Breakfast, picnic lunch, dinner

Today we have some amazing adventures in store. First, we will drive to Mazeri village. From there we go along the river through the beautiful meadows of Guli Valley to the ruins of the abandoned Gul Village with a unique small church where women are not allowed to enter. The hike ends at a summer farm with spectacular views of southern and northern Ushba. Upon returning home, pleasantly tired, we will be treated to the most delectable Svanetian dinner when we overnight at a family hotel in Mestia.

Special Information

14 km, ↑↓ 770 m (walking time 4-6 hours)

Accommodation

Homestay Roza's Guesthouse

Day 11 / Tuesday, 27 May 2025

Mulakhi / Mestia

Meals included: Breakfast, picnic lunch, dinner

This morning we will drive to the village of Lakhiri and start our walk towards Mestia. After an uphill (1870m) we descend to the beautiful valley full with flowers and have a view of Chalaadi glacier (2300 m.) and Mestia valley with its watchtowers. After returning in Mestia we visit Historical Ethnographic museum (closed on Mondays). In the evening we discover how Georgians make their beloved cheese. Cheese is found in many Georgian dishes and is a key ingredient in the famous khachapuri, a traditional Georgian dish of cheese-filled bread which you will no doubt eat plenty of during your time here!

Included Activities

- Lakhiri Village Visit
- Cheese Making Process with a Local Family

Special Information

↑320m+500m (walking time 4-5 hours)

Accommodation

Homestay Roza's Guesthouse

Day 12 / Wednesday, 28 May 2025

Mestia / Ushguli

Meals included: Breakfast, picnic lunch, dinner

Today we visit the village of Ushguli, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The village is located at 2200m and is the highest continuously inhabited village in Europe. The village is most famous for its abundance of watchtowers and this is where you get the view of the highest mountain in Georgia – Mt. Shkhara (5068m). We will

visit Lamaria church (12th century) and walk to Queen Tamar's tower (2300m). In the evening, we can walk around the village and get familiar with the daily life of the local people.

Special Information

↑↓250m (walking time 2-3 hours)

Accommodation

Homestay Villa Lielo

Day 13 / Thursday, 29 May 2025

Ushguli / Shkhara glacier / Mestia

Meals included: Breakfast, picnic lunch, dinner

We start our walk from the guesthouse. The route takes us to the base of Georgia's highest mountain, Shkhara (5068 m) and rich tongue of the glacier. This is the place where the main river of Svaneti – Enguri, takes its source. After reaching the glacier (2500m) we return to Ushguli. During our walking, we have opportunity to enjoy beautiful meadows rich of alpine flowers. Return to Mestia.

Special Information

↑↓320m (walking time: 5 hours)

Accommodation

Homestay Roza's Guesthouse

Day 14 / Friday, 30 May 2025

Koruldi Lakes / Mestia

Meals included: Breakfast, picnic lunch, dinner

An amazing day is ahead of us. We will go from Mestia to Koruldi lakes, which are situated at the foot of a mountain with a double summit, Ushba (4,700 m.) On the way, we will see countless summits and glaciers and the gigantic mountains arising out of each other: Tetnuldi (4,800 m.), Laila (4,008 m.), Chatini (4,012 m.), Banguriani (3,838 m.), and Mestia will come clearly into view. At the small mountain lakes, after making the journey up, we will be overwhelmed by the impressive 360-degree panorama of the Greater Caucasus. We will return to Mestia along the very same path.

Special Information

Walking time: 7/8 hours

Accommodation

Homestay Roza's Guesthouse

Day 15 / Saturday, 31 May 2025

Batumi

Meals included: breakfast

From the mountains to the sea today with a long drive to Batumi (approximately 7-8 hours) on the Black Sea coast. While past its Soviet heyday where it was one of the premiere seaside resorts, it is still popular with holiday makers from all over the region for its waterfront parks and beaches.

Accommodation

Hotel Monarch

Day 16 / Sunday, 1 June 2025

Batumi

Meals included: Breakfast

Batumi – Georgia`s summer holiday capital. The city has sprouted new hotels and attractions like mushrooms in recent years, but it still has much of its charm. Strolling along Batumi Boulevard, with its trees, paths, fountains, cafes, beach bars and some quirky attractions, this is the life and soul of Batumi. On the Boulevard you`ll find a large Ferris wheel, the Alphabet Tower, a monument to Georgian script and culture, moving metal sculpture of Ali & Nino - the protagonists of Kurban Said`s marvellous novel of that name, an ornamental lake hosts the Dancing Fountains, an entertaining laser, music and water show. During the city tour we`ll visit Europe square with Astronomical clock and Medea statue. Visit Piazza Square, one of the most beautiful squares in whole Georgia. Distinguished by its painting, as well as by its exquisite mosaics and stained glass windows. Piazza Square has already become the venue of numerous entertaining and cultural events.

Included Activities

- Batumi – Guided Walking Tour

Accommodation

Hotel Monarch

Day 17 / Monday, 2 June 2025

Tbilisi

Meals included: Breakfast

Today take a scenic train ride from Batumi to Tbilisi that will take approximately 5 hours. Tbilisi, the vibrant capital of Georgia, is renowned for its charming mix of old-world architecture and modern development, nestled along the banks of the Kura River. Its historic Old Town, with narrow cobblestone streets, eclectic buildings, and sulfur baths, contrasts beautifully with the city's contemporary cafes and bustling markets.

Special Information

Driving time today will be approximately 7-8 hours

Accommodation

Museum Hotel Orbeliani

Day 18 / Tuesday, 3 June 2025

Haghpat / Dilijan

Meals included: Breakfast

Enjoy a final breakfast in Tbilisi before driving to Sadakhlo – a village at the Georgia–Armenia border. Continue to Armenia and after completing all formalities. Begin the Armenian leg of your adventure with a visit to Haghpat Monastery, listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site. Haghpat stands as an example of one of the most outstanding works of medieval Armenian architecture – your leader will give you an introduction to the country's history and design. Start hiking from Haghpat monastery. This is a delightful hike showing the beauty and scenery of Lori region. The trail ends by visiting Kayanberd fortress. Arrival Dilijan resort town often referred to as the Little Switzerland of Armenia. Short city tour in the old town, Sharambeyan Street. Home to numerous Armenian artists, composers and filmmakers, the town features some traditional Armenian architecture.

Included Activities

- Haghpat - Haghpat Monastery
- Dilijan Orientation Walk with the Tour Leader

Special Information

Today's total driving time is approximately 5 hours. Today is a long travel day, but the scenery is spectacular and there are plenty of stops to break the day. Depending on the size of the group, your luggage may be transported in a separate vehicle in Armenia, to allow for a comfortable trip. Total Hiking: ~1 hour.

Accommodation

Dilijan Resort & Spa

Day 19 / Wednesday, 4 June 2025

Dilijan

Meals included: breakfast

Breakfast at the hotel. Explore the forested area of Dilijan, one of the most important resorts in Armenia, often referred to as the Little Switzerland of Armenia. The forested and reclusive city is home to numerous Armenian artists, composers, and filmmakers and features some traditional Armenian architecture. Today you hike from Khachardzan to Gosh Lake. You'll follow the Aghstev River, go through the ruined village of Chermakavan, meaning 'white church' and reach Gosh Lake, a beautiful little lake surrounded on all sides by thick forest. It's a great place for a picnic. Return to Dilijan. Rest and overnight at the hotel in Dilijan.

Special Information

Total Hiking: 12,5 km, ↑↓ 600 m (walking time: 4-5 hrs)

Accommodation

Dilijan Resort & Spa

Day 20 / Thursday, 5 June 2025

Lake Parz/ Lake Sevan / Yerevan

Meals included: Breakfast

After breakfast, explore another part of Dilijan National Park. The trail begins at Parz Lich (Clear Lake), a small, picturesque lake nestled in Dilijan highlands. From here, we will trek through lush, dense woodlands, suddenly emerging in a vast grassy meadow and return to Dilijan. Then we drive to the reflective waters of Lake Sevan, nicknamed 'The Pearl of Armenia'. Sevan is one of the largest fresh-water high-altitude lakes in the world. Visit Sevanavank Monastery, which overlooks the water on the Peninsula. In the afternoon, drive to Armenia's capital, Yerevan, where you will spend the next two evenings.

Included Activities

- Lake Sevan - Sevanavank Monastery

Special Information

Today's total driving time is approximately 2 hours. Total Hiking: ~3.5 hours

Accommodation

Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel

Day 21 / Friday, 6 June 2025

Yerevan

Meals included: breakfast

This morning your local guide will introduce you to the sights and sounds of Yerevan on a tour of the city. Established in 782 BC, Armenia's capital is one of the oldest cities in the world. Nowadays, the city's liveliness comes from its ancient culture mixed with a modern lifestyle. Afterwards, visit the Armenian Genocide Museum to learn

the tragic history of this region. Visit Yerevan Fruit Market where you can find variety of fruits and vegetables, local sweets and traditional dry fruits. The afternoon drive to the village of Garni to visit the first century Garni Temple, where your leader will explain how it was built by the Armenian King Tiridates and dedicated to Mithra, the God of the Sun. Be treated to a special local performance in the temple and hear the magnificent sounds of the Duduk – a flute-like instrument originating to Armenia, and currently listed on the UNESCO in-tangible Cultural Heritage List. Travel northeast of Garni, higher up the gorge of the Azat River, to the magnificent Geghard Monastery. Here we take short hiking to Azat river gorge. We reach the portion of the Gorge typically referred to as the Symphony of Stones, a unique and picturesque monument of nature, resembling stone pipes. Higher up the gorge of the Azat River, there is a magnificent monument of medieval Armenian architecture - Geghard monastery, inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage list. This World Heritage-listed site is partly carved out of a mountain and surrounded by cliffs.

Included Activities

- Yerevan - City Tour with Local Guide
- Yerevan - Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex
- Geghard - Geghard Monastery
- Garni - Temple Visit & Duduk Performance

Accommodation

Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel

Day 22 / Saturday, 7 June 2025

Amberd Fortress / Letter Park / Zvartnots / Yerevan

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner

After breakfast drive to Amberd and start hiking to the fortress that stands at an elevation of 2300 meters above sea level on the high cape. It is located in the canyon of two rivers high upon the southern slope of Mount Aragats. Close to Oshakan village, which is known for the final resting place of the Armenian Alphabet creator Mesrop Mashtot; we stop at the Armenian alphabet park. It represents huge stones set against the backdrop of Armenia's Mt. Aragats representing each of Armenian letter. Drive back to Yerevan. Tonight, join your group for a final dinner at a local restaurant. Armenian cuisine is built on a foundation of fresh local produce and meat. Perhaps try some khorovats, a barbecued kebab, or spas, a refreshing yoghurt soup.

Included Activities

- Amberd Fortress hike

Special Information

Total Hiking: ~1.5 hours

Accommodation

Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel

Day 23 / Sunday, 8 June 2025

Yerevan

Meals included: Breakfast

Your adventure comes to an end after breakfast this morning. If you would like to spend some more time in Yerevan, we would be happy to arrange additional accommodation ahead of time (subject to availability).

Departure Transfer

- Included on a group basis

Finishing Point

Tufenkian Historic Yerevan Hotel
48 Hanrapetutyun St, Yerevan 0010, Armenia
Phone: +374 60 501030

Finishing Point Instructions

Date	Flight	Departure Time
	Please advise	

Your group departure transfer has been organised for the above flight details. If you have not been notified of your collection time, please ask at your hotel reception.

If you are not departing with the rest of the group, please contact your agent to organise a separate transfer at an additional cost.

Itinerary Disclaimer

Travel is always an adventure. Our leaders are experts when it comes to dealing with anything unexpected along the journey, so pack your understanding and flexibility, sit back and relax while they take care of the rest.

The word 'adventure' gets thrown around a lot these days. But the way we see it, there are adventures, and there are Adventures. As this itinerary may explore areas that we don't usually go to with our regular product range, places you don't find in your typical travel brochure, it may not have been tried and tested.

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we are visiting on this itinerary sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should anything unexpected occur while you are on your trip, it is best that you discuss this with your group leader or our local representative straight away so that they can do their best to address it and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

For us, adventures like this are at the heart of what it means to be Intrepid: something original, unexpected, and as far from 'the usual' as you're going to get. Wave goodbye to that beaten path.

Pre Departure Information Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia

Important Notes

- The quote and accommodation will be subject to availability at the time of booking
- Due to current border crossing restrictions for different Caucasus nationalities, your Trip Leader may be from nearby countries. Your leader will have in-depth knowledge and extensive travel experience throughout the Caucasus. Local guides from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia are represented throughout the itinerary to ensure you receive a diverse and uniquely local range of perspectives.

Group leader

On this trip you will be accompanied by one of our tour leaders. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible.

Your leader will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the places visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We aim to support local guides who have specialised knowledge of the regions we visit. If you were interested in delving deeper into the local culture at a specific site or location then your leader can recommend a local guide service in most of the main destinations of your trip.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

A selection of optional activities that have been popular with past travellers are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This isn't an exhaustive list and should be used as a guide only. Prices are approximate, are for entrance only and don't include transport to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. All activities are subject to availability and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination, so some pre-planning for what you are most interested in is advised. When it's recommended that travellers pre-book these activities, look for a note in the Special Information section of the day-to-day itinerary. For most, they can either be organised independently on the day, or just let your leader know you are interested and they can assist.

Where activities are considered medium or high risk, we work with operators whose safety and credentials we have sighted and assessed. This means that it is possible that you may find the same activity cheaper with another operator on the ground, however we cannot vouch for the safety or quality of that operator. Activities not listed above have not been assessed by us and as such our staff and leaders are unable to assist you with organising these activities.

FEEDBACK

Can't stop thinking about your adventure? Tell us all about it! We read each piece of feedback carefully and use it to make improvements for travellers like you. Share your experience with us at:

<http://www.intrepidtravel.com./feedback/>

Passports, visas and entry requirements

PASSPORT

You'll need a valid passport to travel internationally and most countries require your passport to have a minimum of 6 months validity, so remember to check the expiry date.

We need your passport information to get everything ready for your trip so it's important that the information on your booking matches your passport exactly. Please take care to provide the correct details. We recommend

carrying a copy of the photo page of your passport while travelling and leaving a copy at home with family or friends.

VISAS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Many countries require a visa and obtaining the correct visa for your trip and any countries you may transit through is your responsibility. We recommend you check your visa requirements as soon as you have booked your trip. This will ensure you have time to prepare your documents and for your visa application to be processed. You can check the entry requirements for your nationality on your government's foreign travel advisories, consular websites or on our page here: <http://www.intrepidtravel.com/visa-entry-requirements>

Medical and health information

GENERAL HEALTH

All travellers need to be in good physical health in order to participate fully on this trip. For the safety and wellbeing of yourself and others, if you are unwell prior to travelling, please stay at home and contact us to make alternative arrangements.

When selecting your trip please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully and assess your ability to manage and enjoy our style of travel. Please note that if in the assessment of our group leader or local representative a traveller is unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group, we reserve the right to exclude them from all or part of a trip without refund.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information or for any necessary vaccinations before departure. We recommend that you carry a first aid kit as well as any personal medical requirements in the original packaging as they may not easily be obtained while travelling. If you are carrying medication, ensure you check your government's foreign travel advice for any local restrictions or requirements.

DRINKING WATER:

As a rule we recommend you don't drink tap water, even in hotels, as it contains much higher levels of different minerals than the water you may have at home. For local people this is not a problem as their bodies are used to this and can cope, but for visitors drinking the tap water can result in illness. Generally this isn't serious, an upset stomach being the only symptom, but it's enough to spoil a day or two of your holiday. Bottled water is widely available and your leader can recommend safe alternatives when available. Water consumption should be about three litres a day. Rehydration salts, motion sickness tablets, and diarrhoea blockers are available from many pharmacies.

Food and dietary requirements

While travelling with us you'll experience the vast array of wonderful food available in the world. Your group leader or local representative will be able to suggest restaurants to try during your trip. To give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat, generally not all meals are included in the trip price. This also gives you more budgeting flexibility. As a rule our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety dishes and enjoy each other's company. If you have dietary requirements and/or food allergies, please let your booking agent know prior to departure.

Accommodation

Throughout the trip, we request that our properties prepare rooms in time for our arrival, especially if we're arriving prior to normal check-in time. However, this isn't always possible which means we won't be able to check-in immediately on arrival at some hotels. Instead, we can store our luggage and explore our new destination or on some trips, have use of shared day rooms until all rooms are available.

Transport

Private Vehicle

This trip includes some long travel days and some rough travelling in areas away from main tourist routes. Windy roads and rough surfaces make for some challenging travel experiences. On some long travel days we depart early in the morning to ensure we optimize our time at our next destination. If you experience travel sickness we recommend you consider medication to help ease the discomfort.

Money matters

SPENDING MONEY

When it comes to spending money on the trip, every traveller is a little different. You know your spending habits better than we do, so please budget an appropriate amount for things like optional meals, drinks, shopping, optional activities, and laundry. Make sure you have read the itinerary and inclusions thoroughly so you know what is included in the trip price and what you may need to pay for while travelling.

CONTINGENCY FUNDS

We try to plan for every eventuality, but there are still some things beyond our control. We reserve the right to change an itinerary after departure due to local circumstances or a Force Majeure Event. In such emergency circumstances, the additional cost of any necessary itinerary alterations will be covered by you. Please note we are not responsible for any incidental expenses that may be incurred as a result of the change of itineraries including but not limited to visas, vaccinations or non-refundable flights. Make sure you have access to an extra US\$500 for emergencies (e.g. severe weather, natural disasters, civil unrest) or other events that result in unavoidable changes to the itinerary (e.g. transport strikes or cancellations, airport closures). Sometimes these things necessitate last-minute changes to enable our trips to continue to run, and as a result, there may be some extra costs involved. The recommended amount is listed in USD for the relatability of universal travellers, however, local currency may be needed once in the country to cover these costs.

TIPPING

Tipping can be an appropriate way to recognise great service when travelling. While it may not be customary in your home country, it is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many of our destinations and is greatly appreciated by the people who take care of you during your travels. It is always best to avoid tipping with coins, very small denomination notes, or dirty and ripped notes, as this can be regarded as an insult rather than the goodwill gesture it is intended to be.

OPTIONAL TIPPING KITTY

On Day 1 of your trip, your group leader or local representative may discuss with you the idea of operating a group tipping kitty, whereby everybody contributes an equal amount and your group leader or local representative distributes tips for drivers, local guides, hotel staff and other services included on your trip. This excludes restaurant tips for meals not included in your itinerary. The group leader or local representative will keep a running record of all monies spent which can be checked at any time, and any funds remaining at the end of the tour will be returned to group members. We have found that this is easiest way to avoid the hassles of needing small change and knowing when and what is an appropriate amount to tip. Participation in this kitty is at your own discretion, and you are welcome to manage your own tipping separately if you prefer. Please note the tipping kitty excludes tips for your group leader or local representative.

Packing

What you need to bring will vary according to the trip style you have chosen, the countries you are visiting and when you are travelling. We recommend you pack as lightly as possible, ensuring that you are able to carry and lift your own luggage and walk with it for short distances or up or down a flight of stairs. Help will be on hand in most locations, but there may be times you need to handle your own luggage, for example in airports and train stations. A lockable suitcase with wheels is ideal for this trip. It is recommended that you keep your main luggage weight around 15kg and certainly no more than 20kg. A small or medium-sized backpack (45-50 litres) is another good option.

You'll also need a day pack/bag to carry water, camera, jacket, etc. when you're exploring during the day.

Below is a link to our ultimate packing list, a guide to get you started:

<https://www.intrepidtravel.com/packing-list>

Climate and seasonal information

WEATHER

Spring and autumn are the best times to visit the Caucasus. Summers can be very hot and humid with temperatures reaching up to 40 degrees Celsius. This is a great time to escape to the mountains to cool off. This is a beautiful, fertile region so bring an umbrella and expect rain at any time of year.

WARM CLOTHING

Temperatures can be low in the spring and autumn months, especially at altitude, so bring a set of warmer clothes including thermal underclothes and a fleece jacket

HIGH ALTITUDE ROAD CLOSURES

There is a chance of potential changes to the itinerary due to heavy rain, flooding and snow at higher altitude which often affect roads and bridges, making travel difficult or impossible (particularly in remote areas)

Group Leader

All group trips are accompanied by one of our group leaders. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. Premium leaders are Intrepid's most experienced, with in-depth knowledge and extensive local networks to make it a trip of a lifetime.

Your leader will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the places visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious, and social aspects. At Intrepid we aim to support local guides who have specialised knowledge of the regions we visit. When not already included in your trip, your leader will be able to recommend a local guide service who can share more detailed or specialised information at specific sites should you be interested in delving deeper.

Safety

Most national governments provide regularly updated foreign travel advice on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure and ensure that your travel insurance covers you for all destinations and activities on your trip. Please refer to our website's safety page for links to major travel advisories and updates on safety issues affecting our trips here: <https://www.intrepidtravel.com/travel-alerts>

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe-keeping of your passport, flight tickets, cash and other valuable items. Leave your jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of our hotels have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Your group leader or local representative will accompany you on all included activities, however, during your trip you'll have some free time to pursue your own interests or relax and take it easy. While your group leader or local representative will assist you with the available options in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your Intrepid itinerary, and Intrepid makes no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Please also note that your group leader or local representative has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it's deemed necessary due to safety concerns.

Intrepid's operational safety policies can be viewed on our website at the link below. We recommend that you take a moment to read through this information before travelling, and would appreciate any feedback on how safety is being managed on our trips.

<https://www.intrepidtravel.com/safety-guidelines>

FIRE PRECAUTIONS:

Please be aware that local laws governing tourism facilities in this region differ from those in your home country and not all the accommodation which we use has a fire exit, fire extinguishers or smoke alarms

PETTY THEFT AND PERSONAL SAFETY

While travelling there is always the risk of pick-pocketing and petty theft, particularly in the more touristy cities. We recommend that you exercise caution when walking alone at night and encourage you to walk together and only on main, well-lit thoroughfares. Be particularly vigilant on public transport. Simple measures like carrying your day pack on your front, not hanging your bag over the back of your chair or on the floor and wearing a money belt will reduce any chance that your valuables should go missing.

SEAT BELTS:

Please be aware that local laws governing transportation safety may differ from those in your home country and not all the transport which we use is able to provide seat belts.

A couple of rules

We like to think our Intrepid travellers are all connected by a love of adventure and passion for seeing the world in a different way. We've laid down a few non-negotiable rules to ensure everyone feels connected, comfortable and safe on our trips.

We ask that you respect your fellow travellers, group leader or local representative, and local people and places we visit in all circumstances. We don't tolerate any forms of violence and expect that you follow the local laws, customs and regulations in any destination we travel to. Any behaviour contrary to the above, including any behaviour that prevents our staff from performing their duty of care or continuing the itinerary as planned, may result in travellers being removed from the trip.

If you consume alcohol while travelling, we encourage responsible drinking and expect you to abide by local alcohol laws.

To ensure the well-being of everyone on the trip, all decisions made by group leaders or local representatives and ground staff are final.

Romantic relationships between travellers and group leader or local representative are not permitted while on trip. By travelling with us, you agree to comply with these rules and the laws and customs of all countries visited.

If something is concerning you during your travels with us, please speak to your group leader or local representative immediately. Alternatively, contact us on the emergency contact number detailed in your Essential Trip Information's Problems and Emergency Contact section.

Travel insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all our trips for those travelling internationally. We require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency repatriation. If you are travelling within your home country or region please confirm before travel that you are entitled to access the public medical system easily should accident occur. We strongly recommend all travellers have a policy that also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage or personal effects. For international trips, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance and the insurance company's 24-hour emergency contact number has been sighted by your group leader or local representative.

If you have credit card insurance your group leader or local representative will require details of the participating insurer/underwriter, the level of coverage, policy number, and emergency contact number rather than the bank's name and your credit card details. Please contact your bank for these details prior to arriving in-country.

For travellers who reside within the European Union, Switzerland or USA the requirement to purchase travel insurance cannot be compulsory. However the purchase of travel insurance is still highly recommended, and travellers from these regions who decline travel insurance when travelling outside of their home region must sign a Travel Insurance Waiver Form at the Group Meeting, recognizing personal responsibility for emergency medical and repatriation costs should they arise.

For assistance with travel insurance or other services, please visit the link below:
<https://www.intrepidtravel.com/booking-resources/our-services>

Responsible travel

Our Responsible Travel Policy outlines our commitment to preserving the environment, supporting local communities, protecting the vulnerable, and giving back to the places we travel. All our trip group leaders or local representatives, suppliers, and staff are trained on these principles and are core to us delivering sustainable, experience-rich travel.

Explore the different parts of our Responsible Travel Policy by visiting:
<https://www.intrepidtravel.com/responsible-travel>

The Intrepid Foundation

We created our not-for-profit, the Intrepid Foundation because you – our travellers – told us you wanted to make even greater impact in the communities you visit.

The Foundation works by teaming up with partners around the world so that together we can deliver greater positive impact at scale. Partners are identified by our local staff who live and work in our destinations. They harness their powerful community connections to determine the issues that matter most and select local partners who can deliver real solutions.

Since 2002, the Intrepid Foundation has raised more than \$14million dollars and supported more than 160 communities worldwide. Now, with over 40 partners all over the world, your donations are helping to restore forests in Kenya, empower women in Honduras and promote elephant welfare in Laos, to name just a few.

For more information about the Intrepid Foundation, please ask your group leader or local representative or visit our website:<http://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/>

This trip supports Mtskheta-Mtianeti Regional Hub, who provide services and training for people who've fled the homes due to war or political instability – helping them live and integrate into life in Georgia. Donations help improve their hub and build an additional space that will be used for workshops, training and other activities to help displaced people connect to their new community. Intrepid will double your impact by dollar-matching post-trip donations made to The Intrepid Foundation.

To find out more or make a donation, visit <https://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/t/iko>