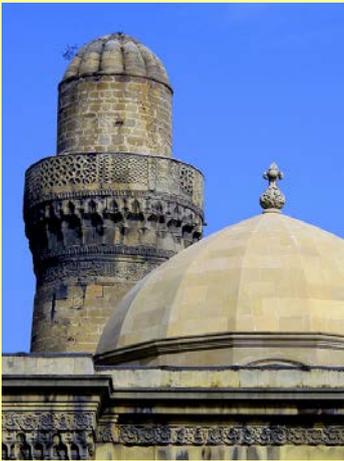




explore
Azerbaijan
by Victory Tour



Baku



Baku is the capital, largest city, and largest port of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus region. The city consists of two principal parts: the downtown and the old Inner City. The Inner City of Baku along with the Shirvanshah Palace and Maiden Tower were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. The city is the scientific, cultural and industrial center of Azerbaijan.

Shamakhy



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.

Sightseeing Tour across Azerbaijan

Duration: 7 days, 6 nights

Tour dates: from April to September

Azerbaijan is a country with ancient history and culture. There are more than 6000 historical and architectural monuments. Many centuries ago and till our days this land served as a crossroads of trade routes from Asia to Europe being a key part of caravan routes. Already then numerous merchants, travelers, ambassadors, historians, ethnographers marked interesting historical-architectural monuments in the land of Azerbaijan.

Program:

Day 1. Gobustan / Baku city tour

Arrival at the airport, transfer to the hotel. Check-in.

The tourists will have spare time for rest before we will start the first excursion to Gobustan 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.

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.

Drive back to Baku. The program is to be continued with our visits to the most popular sightseeings of the city. Ad we will start from the highest point of the city, situated on the upland park, where opens the magnificent view to all city. After we will go down by funicular to the Seashore Park and the Old City – "Icheri Sheher". "Icheri Sheher" means an Inner city. It began to be called inner after oil boom of the middle of XIXth century, when the city had stopped hold in fortifications and left for its limits. On territory of "Icheri Sheher", the area which makes 22 hectares, concentrated some tens of historical – architectural monuments including "The Shirvanshah Palace", the symbol of Baku city - The "Maiden Tower" and vacation spot of "Caravanserai"-merchants. "Icheri Sheher" is the live organism having the infrastructure and inhabited files where 1300 families live. It is an ancient city in a modern city.

After the guests are driven back to their hotel.

Day 2. Baku - Absheron

Breakfast at the hotel. Start of the excursion. We will launch the trip to Absheron peninsula where the most important Zoroastrian monuments had been preserved.

Azerbaijan is one of the few places on earth, where even today one can observe

Gabala



It is the beautiful part of Azerbaijan with a rich and ancient history. Sometime in the past this city (Kabbalah) was the capital of Caucasian Albania for 600 years. Up to this present time there are the ruins of the ancient city and the main gate of Caucasian Albania. There is a great number of historical and cultural monuments of different eras in this region. Beautiful nature and well developed infrastructure attract thousands of tourists to Gabala.

Sheki



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

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.

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 Baku.

Overnight in Baku.

Day 3. Baku – Shamakhi - Gabala

Breakfast in the hotel. Extract. 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 - "Yeddie Gyumbyaz." Next trip to the city of Gabala and accommodation.

After checking into the hotel, you can walk to the famous waterfall Seven Beauties, named in honor of the great poem of Nizami. The waterfall consists of 7 stages and is famous throughout the country.

After the tour will continue to the lake Nohur - another pearl of these places. The lake is known for its cleanliness, abundance of fish and amazing turquoise water. The lake is surrounded by forest, where you can walk, and, weather permitting, a ride on a catamaran in the town Duyma.

A trip to Gabalanad. It is believed that the beauty of this park is the fourth largest in Europe. The locals are very proud of this fact.

Overnight in Gabala.

Day 4. Gabala - Sheki - Kish

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out. Visit of Nij village (this village is famous with its ancient religious buildings and their citizens. It is the only place in the world where Udins ethnicity lives –very ancient Caucasian ethnos that has its own authentic culture and traditions) and visit of Chuhur Gabala (the ruins of the ancient Caucasian Albania’s capital Kabala. That times it was a very significant place in the Middle East as it was a huge educational centre for mags – the priests of Zoroastrian temples.

Arrival to Sheki.

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

Ganja



Modern historians believe that the name Ganja derives from the New Persian “treasure” and suggests that the city existed in pre-Islamic times and was likely founded in the 5th century A.D. The area in which Ganja is located was known as Arran from the 9th to 12th century. Ganja is also the birthplace of the famous poet Nizami Ganjavi

Lahij



The Alpine settlement Lahij located in Ismayilli region of Azerbaijan is an original monument of antique urban and architectural art. This medieval town with cobble streets and squares is one of the most famous craft and trading centers in the Caucasus and beyond. It is believed that the legendary Manomakh's cap, worn by Russian tsars for many centuries, was made here. Lahij became especially famous for manufacturing knives and copper utensils, decorated with engraved designs. Even today a dozen workshops operate here, demonstrating hereditary blacksmiths who make various household items in front of the astonished tourists. The very first residential block in Lahij was founded in III-IV centuries.

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.

Trip to Ilisu.

Ilisu is a small town, where all houses are built along one single street but it still remembers the days of former glory when Ilisu was the capital of an independent sultanate, which was later joined by the Russian Empire. In addition to charming village houses in Ilisu there are a few buildings, reminiscent of last Ilisu: Sumuggala fortress of the 16th century, which was almost completely destroyed, the tower Galadzha (the 19th century) and well-preserved 18th-century mosque. Here you can buy natural honey harvested by local beekeepers, walk to the waterfall and enjoy tea from a samovar outdoors.

Then we will go to Zagatala - a small, quiet town on the north-west of Azerbaijan. The sights of this place are the Albanian church of the 19th century (non-functioning), and the plane-tree alley - some trees are more than 700 years. After a short stay in the city, we continue the way to the village of Yukhari Chardahlar to see a monument of medieval architecture - Peri-Gala (temple complex carved into the rock). Conventionally, the monument belongs to the IV - V centuries and it is considered a Zoroastrian temple. Indeed, the typical Zoroastrian temples are also found in Iran, carved in the rocks.

Drive back to Sheki.

Overnight in Sheki.

Day 5. Sheki – Kish – Lahij

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out.

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. Upon our checking-in at the hotel, we'll enjoy the farewell dinner, tasting traditional Azeri cuisine dishes.

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.

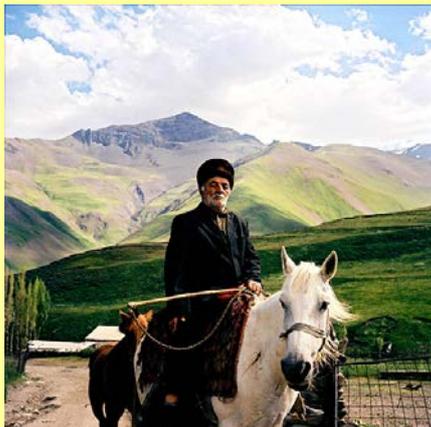
Day 6. Baku- Guba – Khinaliq –Baku

Breakfast in the hotel.

Today we will have a trip to the north of Azerbaijan, to Guba city. Guba is located in the north-eastern slopes of the Greater Caucasus Mountain Shahdag, at an altitude of 600 m above sea level, on the banks of the river Gudial tea, 168 km from Baku. The hotel location and rich infrastructure make Guba district one of the favorite tourist destinations.

The district has a unique Alpine village of Khinalig, situated at an altitude of 2500m above sea level. The population of the village is a separate ethnographic

Khinaliq



It is located just north of Quba in the middle of the Greater Caucasus mountains that divide Russia and the South Caucasus. Khinalug is also the highest, most remote and isolated village in Azerbaijan and among the highest in the Caucasus.

group with its own language, which no one else in the world does not speak. Not far from Khinalig there is another distinctive mountain village - Griz.

Return to the hotel.

Overnight in Baku.

Day 7. Baku

Breakfast. Check out from the hotel. Departure to Airport.

End of Tour

For more information please contact:

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www.victorytour.az , www.exploreazerbaijan.com

Tour Price:

Number of Persons	Single	Double/PP
6	\$790	\$682
8	\$674	\$566
10	\$605	\$497
12	\$559	\$451
14	\$526	\$418

Tour cost includes:

Transfer airport - hotel-airport

Accommodation in hotels 3* with breakfast program

Transportation services program

Tour guide

Entrance fees to museums

Cost of tour doesn't include:

Airfare

Insurance

Visa

Lunches and dinners

Alcohol

Notes: The cost of the tour includes accommodation in comfortable hotels of 3*category. With additional payment, depending on customer, hotel can be changed to a higher category.

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>

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