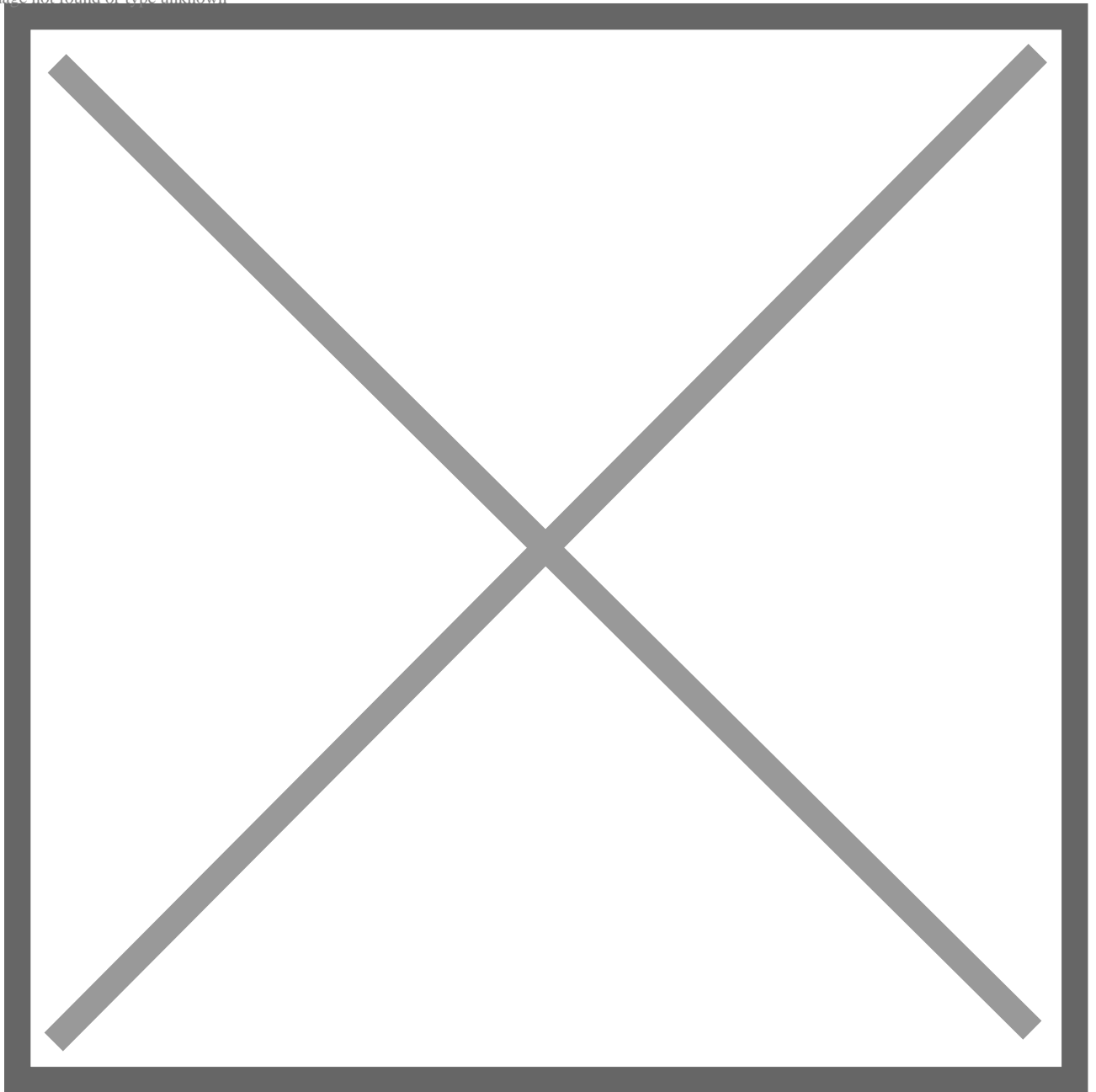


## **Full Itinerary & Trip Details**

# **15 Day Turkey - Armenia - Georgia Multi Country Tour**

Welcome to our combined Caucasus and Eastern Anatolia Tour! A 15 day tour of Istanbul including all the important sites the city has to offer, including private daily excursions to Sultanahmet Imperial Mosque, Istanbul's famous Grand Bazaar, Topkapi Palace, the Egyptian Spice Bazaar, the Bosphorus waterway and onto Armenia and Georgia's highlights such as Yerevan, Garni - Geghard, Khor Virap - Noravank - Areni - Selim – Sevan - Dilijan - Haghatsin – Alaverdi - Haghpat - Sanahin - Sadakhlo border – Tbilisi - Mtskheta – Gudauri – Kutaissi - Kutaisi and Gori. You will understand why people live the way they do here and you will take back colourful and warm memories back with you to cherish the moments over and over again.

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**PRICE STARTING FROM**

€0 €0

**DURATION**

15 days

**TOUR ID**

22832

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Istanbul - Arrival Day

Welcome to Turkey, Istanbul Airport. Meet with our staff and transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

### Day 2 : Istanbul City Tour

Breakfast Included

Our journey begins in Istanbul, the only city in the world situated on two continents. Today we discover the Byzantine and Ottoman treasures of Istanbul. We visit Hippodrome and the Obelisk brought from Egypt. Then our next visit is the Blue Mosque with its six minarets. Visit St. Sophia. This ancient basilica, built by Constantine the Great in the 4th century and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, is one of the architectural marvels of all time.

Afternoon we will visit the Topkapi Palace, which was the residence of the Ottoman sultans, with its fabulous treasure chambers. Lunch break at 13:00 pm. After the lunch, we will take you to the Grand Spice Bazaar, which is a unique atmosphere with reasonable prices for your shopping. Here you will find; Exotic Spices and Herbs, Turkish Baklava, Turkish Delights, Turkish Coffee, nuts and fruits, small souvenirs such as Ceramic Handicrafts, Evil Eyes totems, all naturel olive oil, soaps and many other goods in Souvenir Shops and stores. After the tour, transfer back to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

Please Note: Hagia Sophia is closed on Mondays, Topkapi Palace closed on Tuesdays. If your tour is on one of these days, we would offer you to visit Underground Cistern instead of Hagia Sophia and Topkapi palace museum.

### **Day 3 : Turkey - Istanbul Bosphorus Cruise and Shopping Tour**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast between 08:00 am and 09:30 am pick-ups from hotel. Your tour consultant will give you final timing one day before. BOSPHERUS BY BOAT; a traditional excursion by boat along the waterway separating Europe and Asia. The shore lined with old wooden villas, palaces of marble, fortresses, and small fishing villages. During the excursion, you will see the magnificent sights of the following attractions from your boat. See Dolmabahce Palace, and further along, the parks and imperial pavilions of Yildiz Palace. On the coastal edge of this park, is Ciragan Palace, 300 meters of its marble facade faces the shore. At Ortakoy a great variety of artists, gather every sunday to display their work along the street. Ortakoy is a symbol of tolerance with a church, a mosque and a synagogue existing side by side for centuries. RUMELI FORTRESS (view from boat), Built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 prior to the conquest of Istanbul was completed in only four months to control and protect the infamous Bosphorus passage. It is one of the most beautiful works of military architecture anywhere in the world.

BEYLERBEYI PALACE (view from boat), is the summer residence of Ottoman sultans exists in its original renovated glory featuring original antique furniture and magnificent gardens with the Harem on the Asian side of Istanbul. Lunch break at the Turkish restaurant. After the lunch we will then take you to the GRAND COVERED BAZAAR in this labyrinth of streets and passages are more than 4,000 shops with each trade having its own area: the goldsmiths' street, the carpet sellers, Turkish arts and crafts, such as hand painted ceramic plates, hand-honed copperware, brassware and trays, water ewers, onyx-ware and meerschaum pipes. After the tour transfer back to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

### **Day 4 : Istanbul - Yerevan - Armenia**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and depart for Istanbul International Airport. Arrive to Yerevan and you will be transferred from airport to your hotel by one of official guides of our tours. Check into the hotel where your accommodation has been reserved for the night. You will be given your room key and the rest of the day is yours to enjoy party and explore to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

### **Day 5 : Yerevan - Sightseeing - Garni - Geghard - Yeveran**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, we start to Yerevan Sightseeing Tour. Visit Matenadaran Museum which was built in 1959, has one of the world's largest manuscript collection in the world and has the largest collection of Armenian manuscripts. Continue to the famous Yerevan Brandy Factory founded in 1887. Our tour continue to Garni is the only non - Christian temple currently standing in Armenia and cave monastery in Geghard Temple. Lunch at a local house in Garni where you will have opportunity to watch Armenian national bread lavash baking and barbeque making process in the underground stove called tonir. Northeast of Garni, 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 (inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage list). Geghard is another incredible ancient Armenian monastery, partly carved out of a mountain. Dinner at the National Restaurant Our Village where you can taste Armenian National food and listen Folk music. Overnight in Yerevan.

## **Day 6 : Yerevan - Echmiadzin - Gyumri**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, the excursion to the center of Armenian - Apostolic Church in Echmiadzin. Visit to Main Cathedral and Hripsime church. Ejmiatzin means the coming of the only begotten because it was built where people said Jesus Himself descended from heaven to show where He wanted a church built. Lunch. Afterwards, we will head north passing by Armenia's highest Mount Aragats to Gyumri, the second largest city that used to be an important Armenian cultural center in the late 19th early 20th century. We will take a walk through its historical center (Alexandropol) that has many traditional 19th - century houses and visit a museum located in one of them. Overnight in Gyumri.

## **Day 7 : Georgia - Khertvisi Fortress - Vardiza Cave Complex - Akhaltsikhe – Sapara Monastery**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, we depart Gyumri to drive to the Armenian - Georgian border to the Samtskhe - Javakheti region of Georgia. Passed the border, on our way from Akhalkalaki to Akhaltsikhe, we will come across Khertvisi fortress (founded in the 2nd century BC) towering above the convergence of Parvana and Kura (Mtkvari) rivers. It is said to be the most favourite fortress of Tamara, the queen of Georgia (12 - 13th centuries), and one of the best preserved fortresses in the Caucasus. Lunch picnic.

We will then continue our drive through the mountains to a unique cave monastery complex of Vardzia (12th century), which used to have thirteen stories, thousands of apartments and a church, where we can still find magnificent frescoes. Afterwards, we will drive to Akhaltsikhe, the capital and the largest town in this region. We may go up the castle here that dates back to the 12th century. Near Akhaltsikhe, concealed in scenic mountains, we will discover the Sapara Monastery (10th century) where we will also see beautiful architecture and frescoes. Overnight in Akhaltsikhe.

## **Day 8 : Turkey - Kars - Church Of Apostels - Kars Fortress – Medieval Ani**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast in the morning, we leave Akhaltsikhe for the Georgian - Turkish border. Past the border through beautiful mountains and forests of Ardahan region. Arriving in Kars, we will tour its narrow streets that have many 19th century buildings in Russian architectural style, see the medieval stone bridge and the imposing Church of Apostles (10th century). We will ascend to the royal fortress of Kars, once the capital of Armenia, the seat of Bagratouni kings, and witness to numerous wars.

During the lunch in Kars, we will taste local honey and cheese for which the town is famous for. Our next

stop will be legendary Ani, the magnificent capital of the mighty Armenian kingdom of the 9 - 11th centuries. It used to be called the city of one thousand and one churches and was the largest religious, trade, and cultural center on the Silk Road at the Europe and Asia crossroad. We will experience the power of the medieval city walls and towers, glorious cathedrals and palaces and mosques that are still standing after a millennium. Overnight in Igdir.

**Day 9 : Turkey - Dogubeyazit - Ishak Pasha Palace - Muradie Waterfalls - Van City And Lake - Urartian Tushpa Fortress - Husref Pasha Mosque - Varagavanq Monastery - Sourb Khach Cathedral On Adgtamar Island**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast on our way from Igdir to Dogubayazit (Bayazed), we will enjoy the panoramic view of Mount Ararat from the opposite side. In old Bayazed, we will tour the magnificent 17th century palace of Ishak Pasha, its peculiar harem rooms, deep dungeons and cozy courtyards. By the palace we will see the unassailable fortress of Darink, the Arshakouni kings' (1 - 5th centuries AD) treasury and stronghold. Next we will head to Van and make a stop by the beautiful waterfall of Muradiye. Lunch picnic at the waterfall. Upon arrival in Van, we will visit the ancient Urartian fortress of Tushpa/ Van (9th century BC) that has impressing cuneiform inscriptions of King Sarduri, then we will descend to the famous Husref Pasha mosque (16th century). We will drive up the mountain to Varagavank church complex (Seven Churches), the archbishopric seat of medieval Vaspourakan kingdom. From here, we will descend to the turquoise Lake Van.

We will take the boat to Aghtamar Island and enjoy the unique Sourb Khach cathedral (10th century) that is all covered with magnificent Biblical relieves on the outside and frescoes inside. It is considered an exclusive architectural treasure worldwide. At the restaurant by the lake, we will taste the famous tarekh or inji kefal, the only fish species found in the lake, and enjoy swimming and resting on the lakeshore. In the evening, we will return to the city of Van for overnight.

**Day 10 : Turkey - Bitlis - Alexander the Great Fortress - Town of Mush - Eastern Euphrates**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast in the morning, we will drive to the town of Bitlis that is nestled in a gorge in Taurus Mountains. We will see the impregnable fortress, the founding of which is ascribed to Alexander the Great. From Bitlis we will enter the beautiful Mush valley through which Eastern Euphrates flows. After an old Mush city tour we will go on to the historic Murat (Souloukh) bridge on the Euphrates. Lunch.

We may visit the remnants of Msho Sultan Sourb Karapet cathedral (founded in the 4th century on a pagan temple), once the second important, after Ejmiatsin, religious center of the Armenian Church. Its architecture was wonderful once, but now only ruins remain inside a Kurdish village. From here, our route will take us to Erzurum, the largest city in Eastern Anatolia known for its strong Turkish nationalism tradition. On the way to Erzurum we will drive through Bingol and Palandoken scenic Mountain ranges. We will arrive late and stay overnight in Erzurum. Overnight in Erzurum.

**Day 11 : Turkey - Erzurum - Byzantine Fortress - Chifte Minaret And Theology Schools - Ulu Cami Mosque - Tortum Lake And Waterfalls - Iskhan Monastery**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, we will tour downtown Erzurum to see the Byzantine Theodoupolis fortress (5th century) as well as the Ulu Cami mosque (12th century). From Erzurum, we will drive northwards toward the historical Tao - Klarjeti region, which historically was an Armenian then a Georgian principedom. We will drive through the Tortum river gorge passing by the beautiful and tranquil lake and stopping by the waterfall of Tortum.

Then the route lies to the monastery of Ishkhan (7th century, firstly Armenian, then Georgian), on a top of a spectacular mountain range. Lunch. From here a picturesque drive will take us to the town of Artvin, sprawling on a mountain, and further down to the Black Sea. Reaching and passing the Turkish - Georgian border, we will find ourselves in Batumi, the center of Adjara region in Georgia. Batumi used to be a Greek colony in ancient times, now it is a famous coastal resort. Overnight in Batumi.

## **Day 12 : Georgia - Batumi - Black Sea - Kutaisi, Bagrati, Gelati Cathedrals - Gori - Umlistsikhe Cave City**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, we start the day taking a stroll on the famous Batumi Boulevard, along the beach, enjoying the characteristic 19th century Russian architecture. If the weather permits we will swim in the Black Sea. The next stop after Batumi will be Kutaisi, the center of Imereti region. We will see the magnificent Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery complex (11th and 12th centuries) both of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites. We may also visit the market area and the old Jewish district.

Following our way to Tbilisi we will stop in the town of Gori, the birthplace of Josef Stalin. Lunch picnic in Gori. We will have a look at Gori citadel, said to be once conquered by Pompeii, the Roman general. But more interestingly, we will see Stalin's impressive statue on the central square, such statues are rare to find in the former Soviet Union these days. Those who wish may visit the Stalin Museum to learn in detail about the life of this unordinary person while others take a short drive to Uplistsikhe (11 - 9th centuries BC), an ancient cave city with interesting architecture, where they produced first wines in Georgia. Evening arrival and overnight with dinner in Tbilisi.

## **Day 13 : Georgia - Tbilisi - Metekhi - Sioni And ST. Georgia Cathedrals - Narikala Fortress - The Synagogue - Sulfur Baths - The Mosque - Rustaveli Avenue - Mtskheta Ancient Capital - Svetitskhoveli Religious Center - Jvari And Samtavro Churches**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, we will walk in the old town to explore the cultural treasures of Tbilisi. We will visit Metekhi church (13th century). We will walk through the celebrated Chardin and Sololaki quarters see St. George Armenian church where the famous poet Sayat - Nova was killed during the Persian invasion. Not far from it stand the Synagogue and the Sioni Cathedral (6th century) that retains the first vine cross of Georgia's enlightener St. Nino. In this same quarter we will see the renowned decorated Sulfur Baths and the Mosque. Lunch.

We may ascend the Narikala Fortress (4th century) and enjoy a panoramic view of the city. Passing the old town we will reach Rustaveli Avenue, the heart of Tbilisi. The Freedom Square with the golden statue of St. George the Victorious, the symbol of Georgia, will be an interesting sight. In the second part of the day we will explore Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

We will visit historic churches that are outstanding examples of medieval religious architecture: Samtavro, the burial and coronation place of the Georgian royal family, Svetitskhoveli (4th century), the heart of the Georgian Orthodox Church where the robe of Christ is buried, and Jvari where St. Nino erected the first cross in Georgia. While in Tbilisi we will taste the celebrated Georgian food and wine (note, Georgia boasts to be the birthplace of wine). Overnight in Tbilisi and dinner accompanied by folklore show.

## **Day 14 : Armenia - Haghat - Sanahin And Haghartsin Monasteries - Dilijan - Artisans Street - Lake Sevan - Yerevan**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast in the morning, from Tbilisi our route lies back to Armenia. Crossing the Georgian - Armenian border, we will enter the Lori region. Here, we will visit the renowned Haghpat and Sanahin monasteries (10th century), UNESCO World Heritage sites. Through the scenic National Park we will reach the town of Dilijan to walk in its famous Artisans Street. After a short walk, we will have a lunch in Dilijan. We may visit Haghartsin monastery hidden in a virgin forest, a short drive from Dilijan. Our next stop will be Lake Sevan, the treasure of Armenia, one of the unique high - altitude freshwater repositories of the world (2000 meters above the sea level). Trying the local fish will be a special delight. Our program will finish here. At the farewell dinner we may toast each other to the memorable experiences of the previous days. Overnight in Yerevan.

## **Day 15 : Yerevan - End of Tour**

Breakfast Included

Check out from your hotel before 11:00 am. We hope you had a memorable tour and we look forward to seeing you in the future on another our tour. Provide your return Airport transfer services. Have a safe trip back home and thanks for choosing

## **Includes**

- Guided Istanbul city tour
- Professional English - speaking tour guides
- All entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary
- Transportation in a fully air - conditioned, non - smoking coach
- Arrival airport transfer from Istanbul airport
- 3 nights hotel in Istanbul
- 1 night hotel in Erzurum
- Guided tour in Erzurum
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Van
- Guided Tour in Van
- Return airport transfer to Istanbul Airport
- Arrival Airport transfer from Yerevan Airport
- 2 nights' hotel accommodation in Tbilisi
- Guided Yerevan Tour
- Guided Tbilisi Tour
- 3 nights' hotel accommodation in Yerevan
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Gyumri
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Akhaltsikhe
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Igdir
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Batumi
- Guided Gyumri Tour
- Guided Akhaltsikhe Tour
- Guided Igdir Tour
- Guided Batumi Tour
- Return transfer to Yerevan Airport
- Guided Istanbul Bosphorus cruise and shopping tour
- 11 breakfasts

## Excludes

- International flights
- Insurance: All types
- Turkey entry visa
- Items of a personal nature such as alcoholic drinks, cold drinks, laundry
- Any others expenses which are not mentioned at the included section
- Optinal land excursion
- City tax
- Tipping
- Hotel room taxes
- Armenia entry visa
- Georgia entry visa

## Routes

## Available On Dates

26 August, 2020 - 31 March, 2022    Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

## Hotels

SILVER TOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS or Similar Category Pullman Hotel or Ramada Golden Horn Hotel Grand Hotel Yerevan Nane Hotel Hotel Gino Wellness Rabath Hotel Azer Elite World Van Dedeman Palandoken Resort Hotel Hilton Batumi Wyndham Grand Hotel GOLDTOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS or Similar Category The Marmara Pera Hotel Grand Hotel Yerevan Nane Hotel Hotel Gino Wellness Rabath Hotel Azer Elite World Van Dedeman Palandoken Resort Hotel Hilton Batumi Wyndham Grand Hotel