

GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Depending on the passport you hold, a visa may be required for entry to Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan and is not included in the tour price. Please visit the relevant Visa Application Centre websites as per the countries you are visiting on the tour to find out more information and how to apply.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your national escort should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

EATING IN GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN:

The South Caucasus is a land of breath-taking views, ancient culture, temperamental people and colourful national cuisines. The countries of this region have much in common: their histories and fates intertwined throughout the centuries. Still, each country and cuisine is unique in its own right.

Caucasians are noted for a creative and masterful cuisine that cooks evolved over the years by using fragrant herbs and spices and tart flavours such as lemons and sour plums. With healthy yet delectable ingredients like pomegranates, saffron, rose water, honey, olive oil, yogurt, onions, garlic, fresh and dried fruits, and a variety of nuts.

They love their meat dishes, stews, cheese bread and all that hearty red wine. This 23-day adventure is very much a food and wine experience through some of the most fascinating countries in the region.

DEVELOPMENT IN GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN:

The South Caucasus region sits right in the heart of the emerging Eurasian supercontinent — a massive market that makes up 70% of the population, 80% of energy resources and 45% of the GDP in the world. China is to the east, Turkey and Europe are to the west, Russia is to the north, and Iran, the Middle East, and India are to the south. The new BTK Railway through this region was the missing trade link of the much-heralded middle corridor of the New Silk Road, which is a multimodal trade route that goes from China to Europe via Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey.

Though parts of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia match the west in modernity and technological advances, it is important to remember that these countries are still developing and as such, many

aspects of tourism in these countries do not have the solid infrastructure and safety standards as seen here in the west.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. Please note that double bed requests can be made at time of booking but can't be guaranteed.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

TIPPING POLICY:

Local tipping isn't customary in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is approximately 5 USD per person, per day on the tour, and will be collected (in USD\$) by your National Escort in Azerbaijan on the first day and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just 1-2 miles as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only. There may be sections of road where the surface is comparatively bumpy, but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Wendy Wu Tours is committed to always providing a safe and healthy environment for all passengers.

<https://www.wendywutours.co.uk/help-and-advice/travel-health/>

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: March 2024