

### AN EXTRAORDINARY AZERBAIJAN JOURNEY

Excursion Program: 8 days / 7 nights Sites to visit: Baku » Tufandag » Sheki » Seven Beauties Waterfall » Lahij » Gobustan » Yanardag » Ateshgah » Guba

### DAY 1/ Baku

Upon arrival in Baku, the travelers are greeted by a local guide who will accompany them during their stay. The group heads straight to a local restaurant in Baku city for dinner, which is included in their itinerary. After savoring traditional Azerbaijani cuisine, the travelers depart for Gebala City in the late evening. The journey takes a few hours, but the group is kept entertained by the stunning landscapes along the way. Finally, they arrive at their hotel in Gebala City, where they check-in and settle into their rooms for a well-deserved rest before their next adventure.

### DAY 2/ Tufandag - Sheki

The day begins with a delicious breakfast at the hotel, fueling the travelers for a day of exploration. First on the agenda is an ascent to Tufandag by cable car, offering stunning views of the surrounding mountains (admission included in the price). After taking in the panoramic views, the group heads to the city of Sheki. Here, they embark on a walking tour of the oldest parts of the city, known as Yukhary Bash. The highlight of the tour is a visit to the Palace of Sheki Khan, an excellent example of palace architecture during the Safavid period (entrance included in the price). Finally, the group visits the caravanserai in Sheki, a historical building once used as a resting place for travelers and their animals, followed by lunch in a local restaurant. After a full day of sightseeing, the travelers return to their hotel for dinner. Free time.

#### DAY 3/ Seven Beauties Waterfall - Lahij - Baku

The day begins with breakfast followed by a visit to the Seven Beauties waterfall, marveling at the natural beauty of the cascading water. The group then travels to the mountain village of Lahij, where they embark on a panoramic tour of the Lahij Historical and Ethnographic Reserve. The tour includes a visit to the local Historical Museum, exploration of ancient streets and monuments, and visits to handicraft workshops where travelers can observe artisans making carpets, utensils, and jewelry made of precious metals. After the tour, the group heads to Shamakhi for a traditional Azerbaijani lunch. Next on the itinerary is a visit to the Jume Mosque in Shamakhi, a stunning example of Islamic architecture. The travelers then depart for Baku, taking in the night panorama of the city before arriving at their hotel for check-in. Reflecting on the day's experiences, the travelers prepare for a well-deserved rest before their next adventure.

# DAY 4/ Baku

The day starts with a delicious breakfast at the hotel before a transfer to Nagorny Park, which is located in the modern part of Baku. Here, you'll visit Upland Park next to the Flame Towers, a modern skyscraper that represents the city's symbol. This park offers stunning views of Baku Bay and the city itself. Afterward, you'll be transferred to the old town for a walking tour to discover the beauty of Baku's ancient streets and modern skyscrapers. During this tour, you'll see the Shirvanshah Palace, which dates back to the 15th century, and the enigmatic Maiden Tower, which has stood since the 9th century, as well as explore the narrow streets of the ancient city. Later, you'll have lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a transfer to the Heydar Aliyev Center. Here, you'll embark on an excursion to discover the unique design and architecture of the center, which is dedicated to the memory of the former president of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev. The day's activities conclude with free time to explore more of Baku's wonders and relax before the next day's adventure.

### DAY 5/ Gobustan - Yanardag - Ateshgah

After having breakfast at the hotel, we will start our day with a transfer to Gobustan for a tour. During our tour, we will visit the petroglyphs museum and see ancient rock paintings. Then, we will transfer to small cars and drive to see mud volcanoes, where admission is included in the price. Next, we will visit the Yanardag fiery mountain and the temple of fire worshipers, both of which have admission included in the price. After that, we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, which is also included in the price. Following our meal, we will transfer to our hotel and have some free time to rest.

# DAY 6/ Guba

After having breakfast at the hotel, we will begin our journey to the village of Krasnaya Sloboda, which is considered an ethnographic enigma. The area is home to various ethnic groups, with the largest minority being the Munatin Jews. The history of Jewry in Azerbaijan dates back 2,500 years, and the Mountain Jews believe that they are the Lost Tribe of Dan. Azerbaijan was once ruled by the Khazars, an ancient Turkic state that turned to Judaism. The city of Guba is known for its cosmopolitan nature and is divided into two parts by the river Gudyalchay. One part is the Muslim quarter, and the other is the Jewish quarter, also known as the "Red Village." One of these quarters had tall minarets, and the other had synagogues. Later, we will enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Guba before returning to Baku.



## DAY 7/ Baku

After breakfast, the tour starts with a visit to the Carpet Museum. This includes an hour-long tour of the museum, where you can admire the exhibits of Azerbaijani carpets, which are known worldwide for their intricate patterns and high quality. After that, the group will go for a walk along the shopping street. At noon, the tour will continue with a visit to the House of Nobels. Following that, there will be a visit to the local market, where you can buy black caviar and sturgeon or beluga for those who are interested. The day ends with dinner at a local restaurant, which will include traditional Azerbaijani dishes. After dinner, the group will be taken back to the hotel.

### DAY 8/ Baku - Tel Aviv

Free day. Those who wish can walk around the city and go shopping. At 15.30 departure to the airport, departure to Tel Aviv at 19.10  $\,$