

**Byroads**  
*Inspiring Escorted Journeys*

# South Caucasus





# SOUTH CAUCASUS

DISCOVER AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA & ARMENIA

## 16 DAYS

### AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA & ARMENIA

 DEPARTS FROM: **BAKU**  MAX GROUP SIZE: **14 PEOPLE**  PHYSICAL LEVEL: **MODERATE**

Nestled at the crossroads of Europe and Asia the South Caucasus is a truly captivating region. Like a trove of hidden gems, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia await you on this immersive Byroads journey through time and tradition.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Old Baku
- Gobustan petroglyphs
- Mud volcanoes
- Heydar Aliyev Centre
- Ateshgah Fire Temple
- Flaming Mountain
- Sheki Khans Palace
- Caravanserai stay
- Khareba Winery
- Gremi Archaeological Complex
- Bodbe Monastery
- Royal town of Sighanaghi
- Old Tbilisi
- Village of Mtskheta
- Gergeti Church
- Ananuri Castle
- Stalin Museum
- Uplistsikhe Cave Town
- Haghpat Monastery
- Sevanavank Monastery
- Armenian Genocide Memorial
- Garni Temple & Etchmiadzin
- Khor Virap Monastery & Mt Ararat
- Noravank Monastery

## MEET YOUR HOST



Every Byroads tour is supported by either Steve or Bronny – two experienced travellers with a genuine passion for people. They take care of all the nitty-gritty details to ensure your trip runs smoothly – and you can focus on enjoying the moment.

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1: BAKU

Arrive at Baku Airport and transfer to your hotel. Settle in and meet up with your group in the evening.

## DAY 2: BAKU

Take a guided tour of the walled historical centre of the capital. Wander the beautiful Palace of the Shirvanshahs and later visit the National History Museum. (B)

## DAY 3: BAKU

Take time to explore the Heydar Aliyev Centre and its museum, gallery and many exhibitions. Drive to Highland Park for panoramic views of the city and its spectacular coast. Tonight, visit the memorial flame and Baku's famous trio of Flame Towers. (B)

## DAY 4: GOBUSTAN, ATESHGAH AND BAKU

After an early breakfast, drive south to the Gobustan National Park. Be guided through its ancient petroglyphs, museum and mud volcanoes. Marvel at the Fire Temple of Ateshgah, home of Zoroastrian fire worship. Finally, stop at the Flaming Mountain before returning to Baku. (B)

## DAY 5: SHAMAKHA, LAHIJ AND SHEKI

Rise early and head west to Sheki. En route, wander through the ancient family graveyard of the Shirvanshahs at Shamakha. Travel through stunning mountains, then wander the ancient village of Lahij. In Sheki, be guided through the ornate Sheki Khans Palace. (B)

## DAY 6: GEORGIAN BORDER AND KAKHETI

Cross into Georgia and enjoy lunch with a local Georgian family. Watch the unique qvevri wine-making process, then enjoy a drink of fine Georgian wine at the beautiful Khareba Winery. Be guided over the Gremi Archeological complex built during the 16th Century before overnighting in Kakheti. (BL)

## DAY 7: SIGHNAGHI AND TBILISI

Explore the expansive Bodbe Monastery, a major pilgrimage site to Saint Nino just 2km from the royal town of Signaghi. Enjoy lunch overlooking the stunning Alazani Valley, then wander the old, cobblestone streets of Signaghi – also known as the City of Love. Settle into your Tbilisi hotel for your three-night stay. (B)

## DAY 8 AND 9: TBILISI

Embark on a guided walking tour of the city, exploring all the major highlights. Stop by the many charming coffee houses and bars and soak up the city's vibrant atmosphere. Wander the sprawling Open Air Museum of Ethnography to learn more about the country's cultural anthropology. Tonight, enjoy the local's warm hospitality, traditional cuisine, and dancing! (2B, 1D)

## DAY 10: JVARI, MTSKHETA, KAZBEGI AND GUDAURI

Drive north through breathtaking mountain scenery and view the 6th Century Jvari Church | Wander through UNESCO-listed Mtskheta, the former capital and one of the country's oldest villages. Then, take a 4WD to the sublime Gergeti Trinity Church, with magnificent Mount Kazbegi looming behind. Snap a million photos before returning to relax in Gudauri. (B)

## DAY 11: ANANURI, GORI, UPLISTIKHE AND MTSKHETA

Reflect on Georgia's bloodied history as you wander the old castle complex of Ananuri and then at the Stalin Museum in Gori. Clamber over the ancient rock-hewn cave town of Uplistikhe, a former centre for pagans, Arabs and Christian Kings. Then, settle down for an unforgettable dinner with a local South Ossetian family. (BD)

## DAY 12: ARMENIAN BORDER, VANADZOR AND DILIJAN

Heading south, cross into Armenia to explore the ancient Hagpat Monastery, built during the 10th and 14th Centuries. In Vanadzor, be entertained by a local artist skilled in the medieval Christian Armenian art of crafting khachkar, the Armenian cross-stone. (B)

# ITINERARY

## DAY 13: LAKE SEVAN AND YEREVAN

Stroll the ruins of Sevanavank Monastery on the edge of Lake Sevan, the largest body of water in the Caucasus region. Stop to enjoy a tour of the Megeryan carpet factory, where rugs are available to buy. This afternoon visit the sombre yet peaceful Armenian Genocide Memorial to remember the 1.5 million Armenians exterminated during and after WW1 by the Ottoman government. Spend your first night in Yerevan. (BD)

## DAY 14: GARNI, GEGHARD, ETCHMIADZIN AND YEREVAN

Rise early and visit the Temple of Garni, the only standing Greco-Roman colonnaded building in Armenia. Travel to Geghardavank – also known as The Monastery of the Spear – where the spear that wounded Christ on the Cross was allegedly stored for 500 years. Marvel at UNESCO-listed Etchmiadzin Cathedral, the mother church of the Armenian Apostolic Church, originally built in the early 4th century. (B)

## DAY 15: KHOR VIRAP, NORAVANK, ARENI AND YEREVAN

Drive to the Ararat plain and the Khor Virap Monastery, backdropped by the magnificent Mount Ararat. Arrive at the 13th Century Armenian monastery Noravank, with its Holy Mother of God Church. In the village of Areni, sample local wines made from fruits such as pomegranate and apricot. Spend your final night in Yerevan. (B)

## DAY 16: YEREVAN

Breakfast concludes your tour. Taxis to the airport are available, or Byroads can organise a transfer on request. (B)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### GUIDES

- ✓ Byroads tour host and national and local guides

### TRANSPORT

- ✓ Arrival transfer, private minibus, 4WD

### ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ 15 nights (3 to 4-star hotel average, \*caravanserai 2-star)

### MEALS

- ✓ 15 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

### TICKETS

- ✓ Entrance fees to indicated sites



## GETTING THERE: FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

You can book your flights online or via your travel agent. Emirates, Qatar, and Etihad Airlines operate flights to Baku through the Gulf, and you can stop over en route.

Your arrival transfer is included in your tour cost – however, your departure transfer is not. We can organise one upon request.

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

We'd love to do it all for you. But there are a few things you'll need to arrange yourself. This includes your:

- Visa
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Departure transfer
- International flights
- Additional meals and drinks
- Cash for tipping kitty
- Optional tours
- Spending of a personal nature
- Laundry

## ACCOMMODATION

Byroads accommodation is a destination unto itself. We choose our hotels carefully to ensure a seamless transition from your day exploring to a night of relaxation. Think traditional architecture blended with modern comforts – and plenty of views.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



#### Shah Palace Hotel, Baku

This 4-star hotel is brilliantly located in historic Baku Old City. Luxuriously decorated, its architecture combines stunning classical and national patterns.



#### Babaneuris Marani Hotel Boutique Winery

Nestled in the foothills of the Caucasus and surrounded by vineyards, this 4-star hotel and winery has stunning views.



#### Marco Polo Hotel

Generously appointed, this 4-star mountain chateau hosts everything you need for a luxurious stay, including a restaurant and pool.

# THE FINER DETAILS

## DATES AND PRICES

DATE	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
17 May 2024	4995 USD	1100 USD
*16 May 2025	*5395 USD	*1190 USD

Due to the volatility of international currencies, trip fees are calculated in USD. However, you will be charged in Australian dollars. Currency conversion is based on Westpac Banking Corporation's buying rate on your balance due date.

**\*2025 Prices are provisional**

### Additional expenses

Tipping is customary, so please allow extra funds for the tipping kitty. This will pay your local and national guides, drivers and porters.

## MEALS

Breakfast is included daily. An additional 2 lunches and 2 dinners are also included. Elsewhere, you can enjoy the delicious variety of local food on offer. Meals typically cost between 10-15 USD for lunch and 20 USD for dinner.

## DOCUMENTATION

Once we've received your final payment, we'll post you a comprehensive field guide. It's a physical document you can keep handy to inform your travels. It also includes all relevant tour and accommodation information you need to book your visa.

## VISAS

Australian and New Zealand passport holders are not required to have a visa for Georgia or Armenia however they do need a visa for Azerbaijan.

Other passport holders, please contact us for the latest information.

## READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS?

There are two ways to book:

**Online**  
**(available 24/7)**

**Postal booking**  
**form (below)**



Got questions? Contact us at [travel@byroads.com.au](mailto:travel@byroads.com.au)

# BYROADS TOUR

## BOOKING FORM

Tour name:  Start date:

Room type:  Twin  Double  Single  Sharing with:

Full name:  Date of Birth:

Email:  Mobile:

Postal address:

Emergency contact (Name and phone number):

Nationality:  Passport No:

Issue date:  Expiry date:

Any medical, dietary or other special requests?

Travel insurance provider:

Policy No:

Emergency assistance phone no:

### PAYMENT DETAILS

The tour deposit is due at the time of booking. The final balance payment is due 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour. All payments must be made via direct bank deposit to Byroads.

**Acc Name:** Byroads Pty Ltd

**BSB:** 034-605

**Acc number:** 697336

### DECLARATION

I have read and I understand all the information in the respective Byroads tour brochure, and agree to abide by the Standard Booking Conditions attached to this booking form. I also confirm that I am fit to travel.

Signature:

Date:

# BYROADS TOUR

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# BOOKING CONDITIONS

## RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of \$750 is payable on all tours. This deposit must be paid to Byroads, and each participating client must complete the Byroads Booking form. You agree to accept these conditions when paying a deposit for your tour and completing the Booking Form. Your Byroads tour booking will only be confirmed once the deposit and completed booking form have been received. These Booking Conditions form the basis of the contract between you and Byroads.

## PAYMENT

All payments must be made directly to Byroads by bank transfer.

## FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

## CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- Cancellation up to and including 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- From 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of the tour price shall be retained
- From 44 to 31 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- Within 30 days prior to departure, no refund will be made.

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilized.

## CANCELLATION BY BYROADS – Prior to Travel

If, for any reason, Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, Byroads may offer a transfer to an alternate departure, or all monies paid by you in respect of the tour will be refunded, less any unrecoverable costs. Unrecoverable costs may include but are not limited to monies paid to service providers, airlines, transportation companies, travel agencies and hotels associated with your tour.

## AMENDMENTS

Up to and including 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation may incur a fee of \$50 per change per file. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements may incur a fee of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched, any amendment may incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

## TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

## TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, epidemic, pandemic, adverse weather conditions, floods, earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the tour's content. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour.

If Byroads is forced to cancel your travel arrangements after your trip has commenced due to reasons outside of its control, it will provide you with a refund of recoverable third-party costs only.

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operate soft adventure tours. All participants must have a reasonable degree of physical fitness and be healthy. Before travelling with Byroads, you must familiarise yourself with any health requirements applicable to the areas you will be travelling. This includes obtaining any compulsory vaccinations or medical tests that may be required for entry into your country of travel.

You are responsible for having the correct entry and exit documents for your visiting countries. Byroads will assist in providing up-to-date information but is not responsible for any changes that may be made by governments.

## ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the tour is adventurous and that participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes can present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from foreign government departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However, you must acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made considering this information, and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Ensure your passport has a minimum of six months validity remaining, as this is an entry requirement in many countries. Upon booking, visa requirements will be advised once Byroads has received your passport details. Visas are required for a number of our tours, and it is your responsibility to obtain them.

## ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, etc. or any other incidental expenses.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance to cover you for the duration of your tour. This should include full cover for any medical expenses and repatriation if required. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance when you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances that can lead to your need to cancel your tour. If you rely on complimentary travel insurance offered through your credit card company or bank, you should ensure that it is suitable for your tour. Some of the policies offered by these institutions may not offer adequate coverage. You must provide the policy number, insurance supplier details and emergency contact number to Byroads before your documents are issued.

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our tours as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

(i) Any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a tour, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;

(ii) You release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of, or in connection with, your participation in a tour;

(iii) Any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty) is excluded.

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar tour to an equivalent value or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss (however it arises) or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

## APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia, govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a tour or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts of Victoria.