The Republic of Georgia
Discovering an Ancient and Modern Nation
August 26–September 4, 2023
Optional Post Tour to Baku, Azerbaijan

Land Program Rate: $4,995
(per person based on double occupancy)

| Single Room Supplement: $995 |
| Baku Extension: $1,695 |
| Single Room Supplement: $395 |

Included:
- All accommodation, hotel taxes
- Meals per itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Arrival and departure airport transfers for travelers arriving and departing on the scheduled start and end dates
- All ground transportation per itinerary by private vehicles
- Extensive sightseeing including entrance fees and special cultural events per itinerary
- Dedicated English-speaking National Guide/Tour Manager throughout the program
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, Tour Manager and restaurant staff during included meals
- Baggage handling at hotels where available
- Comprehensive pre-departure information packet

The price of Baku post-tour includes one-way airfare from Tbilisi to Baku in economy class and the cost of the required e-visa for Azerbaijan.

Not Included:
- International airfare to/from Tbilisi (or to Baku) or international flights if taking the post-tour
- Our tour operator MIR Corporation can assist with reservations
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified as included in the itinerary
- Admission to Tsinaland Music Festival
- Personal items such as telephone and internet, laundry, alcoholic beverages, excess baggage fees, personal shopping and incidentals
- Air Arrangements: Program rates do not include international airfare to/from Tbilisi (or to Baku) or from Baku if taking the post-tour.

Insurance:
- A medical/evacuation and trip cancellation/interruption insurance policy is recommended.

Optional Post Tour to Baku, Azerbaijan

Program rates do not include international airfare to/from Tbilisi (or to Tbilisi / Baku if taking the post-tour).

Eligibility:
- We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one of the following options:
  - [ ] Renew my membership.
  - [ ] Pay the required membership fee and to purchase a membership, visit commonwealthclub.org/membership or call (415) 597-6720.

Reservations and Payments:
- Please mail the completed registration form with check payable to "MIR Corporation-CA Trust" or credit card information for the $500 deposit to the Commonwealth Club.

Cancellations and Refunds:
- All cancellations must be made in writing to the Commonwealth Club or MIR and the following cancellation charges will apply:
- Cancellations received 61 or more days before the start of the program forfeit the $500 non-refundable deposit; cancellations received 31 to 60 days before the start of the program forfeit 50% of the land tour cost; cancellations received 30 days or less before the start of the program, no refund. Refunds cannot be made to travelers who did not complete the full tour for any reason at all. Commonwealth Club Travel and our tour operator MIR Corporation reserve the right to decline to accept any person as a participant in a tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from a tour at any time at his/her own expense, when such action is determined by tour staff to be in the best interest of health, safety, or general welfare of the group or of the individual participant, and subject only to the requirement that the recoverable cost of unused services and accommodations be refunded, if any.

Note:
- Neither Commonwealth Club Travel nor MIR Corporation accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket in connection with this tour. It is recommended that you purchase international flights only upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request. A signed release of liability/assumption of risk agreement is required for trip participation.

For more information, contact The Commonwealth Club at (415) 597-6720 or travel@commonwealthclub.org.

You may fax this reservation to (415) 597-6729.
Day by Day Itinerary

**August 26-27**
Depart the U.S. on flights bound for Tbilisi, Georgia. Enjoy an evening welcome reception at the Art Nouveau mansion of the Writers’ House of Georgia followed by dinner set in a lovely garden. Marriott Tbilisi (Meals 1D)

**August 28-29**
Explore Tbilisi today and tomorrow. Enjoy a walking tour of Old Tbilisi including a stop at the city’s oldest church, Anchiskhati Basilica, explore the famous sulfur bath district, and take in a funicular ride to ancient Narikala Fortress. Stop in at a gallery to visit a local artist, absorb the treasures at the National Museum and learn about Georgia’s time under Soviet Occupation at a meeting with a Georgian guest. Experience an evening Georgian Table or supra – a uniquely Georgian dining experience accompanied by intriguing polyphonic singing and Georgian wines. Marriott Tbilisi (2B, 1L, 1D)

**August 30**
Venture east to the wine region of Kakheti to enjoy an in-depth vineyard and winery tour with tasting at one of the country’s most famous and successful wineries. Learn all about qvevri wine-making – an ancient Georgian winemaking technique involving clay jugs buried in the ground. Head toward Tsinandali and our fabulous hotel for the next two nights, stopping en route to explore the charming hilltop town of Signagi, and the Bodbe Nunnery nearby. Radisson Tsinandali Estate Hotel (1B, 1L)

**August 31**
Visit the family estate (now museum) of Alexander Chavchavadze, a 19th century Georgian aristocrat and poet. Here he and his father founded the first and foremost winery in the country, which still produces the dry white Tsinandali wine. Lunch at the home restaurant of one of Georgia’s rising star female chefs in a nearby village. Radisson Tsinandali Estate Hotel (1B, 1L)

**September 1**
Make our way along the picturesque driving route known as the Georgian Military Highway through rolling green hills and steep arid mountains dotted with ancient stone defensive towers, then over the Krestovy Pass at almost 8,000 feet. Along the way, stop for photos at the Russia-Georgia Friendship Monument and for views of herds of sheep and old fortress-like churches watching over the villages. Enjoy two nights at a mountain retreat in the town of Kazbegi, a small alpine village set in a monumental bowl of mountain peaks, including one of the Caucasus’ highest, Mt. Kazbek. Rooms Hotel Kazbegi (1B, 1L, 1D)

**September 2-3**
Explore Trinity church perched on a hill above the town (hiking option available) and then visit villages in the area for lunch with a private family, including a khinkali (Georgian dumpling) making lesson; and a meeting with a local priest at the Dariali Monastery at the Georgian frontier. The next day make our way back to Tbilisi stopping at the feudal stronghold of Ananuri, UNESCO-listed Mtshketa, Georgia’s ancient capital, and the Jvari Monastery, situated at the confluence of the Kura and Aragvi Rivers. Toast our journey at a farewell feast of traditional Georgian favorites this evening. Rooms Hotel Kazbegi (1B, 1L); Marriott Tbilisi (1B, 1L, 1D)

**September 4**
The tour concludes with transfer to the airport for international departures. (8 flight time permitting)

**September 4-7, 2023**

**Baku, Azerbaijan Post-Tour**

**September 4-7**
Fly from Tbilisi to Baku for a three-night, two-day exploration of Azerbaijan’s dynamic capital city. Explore the Old Town’s UNESCO-listed Maiden Tower and Shirvan Shah Palace with a local architect and enjoy an evening of Mugham music with dinner at a former caravanserai. Explore Baku’s Carpet Museum and the Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center, designed by famed Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid — an architectural landmark of the city, before a reception and tour at the Villa Petrolea Nobel Brothers Museum. Make an evening stop at Martyr’s Lane to experience this moving memorial with its eternal flame and wonderful views of the bay, city and the Flame Towers in the distance. Details will be sent with confirmation.
Program Highlights

- Experience layers of architectural history, and learn from local experts about Georgia’s contributions to the fields of archaeology, art, music, literature and faith.
- Savor a sumptuous Georgian Table dining tradition – an opportunity to taste a fantastic array of exclusively Georgian dishes.
- Learn about the complex relationship between Georgia and Russia through conversations with local experts and visits to specialized museums, such as the Soviet Occupation Museum.
- Learn about Georgia’s 8,000-year-old tradition of making wine in qvevri, the clay fermentation pots buried in the ground.
- Listen to the mesmerizing sound of Georgian traditional polyphonic singing.
- Pay a visit to an acclaimed natural organic winery, Pheasant’s Tears, for a vineyard tour and tasting.
- Enjoy a private cocktail hour and opportunity to meet with a local Georgian from the Tbilisi business or political community.

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Depart USA • Arrive Tbilisi, Georgia
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September 2-3
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September 4
Depart Tbilisi
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Baku, Azerbaijan Post-Tour September 4-7, 2023
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Depart Tbilisi
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**September 1**
Depart USA • Arrive Tbilisi, Georgia

**September 1-2**
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**September 2-3**
Explore east to Mt. Kazbek is a small alpine village set to mountain peaks, including one of the Caucasus’ highest, Mt. Kazbek. Rooms Hotel Kazbegi (1B, 1L, 1D)

**September 4**
Depart Tbilisi
The tour concludes with transfer to the airport for international departures. (By flight time permitting)

**Baku, Azerbaijan Post-Tour September 4-7, 2023**

**September 4-7**
Baku
Fly from Tbilisi to Baku for a three-night, two-day exploration of Azerbaijan’s dynamic capital city. Explore the Old Town’s UNESCO-listed Maiden Tower and Shirvan Shah Palace with a local architect and enjoy an evening of Mugham music with dinner at a former caravanserai. Explore Baku’s Carpet Museum and the Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center, designed by famed Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid — an architectural landmark of the city, before a reception and tour at the Villa Petrolea Nobel Brothers Museum. Make an evening stop at Martyr’s Lane to experience this moving memorial with its eternal flame and wonderful views of the bay, city and the Flame Towers in the distance.

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Single Room Supplement: $395

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Not Included: International airfare to/from Tbilisi (or to Tbilisi / from Baku if taking the post-tour) • Our tour operator MIR Corporation can assist with reservations • Travel insurance • Meals not specified as included in the itinerary • Admission to Tsinandali Music Festival • Personal items such as telephone and internet, laundry, alcoholic beverages, excess baggage fees, personal shopping and incidentals.

Air Arrangements: Program rates do not include international airfare to/from Tbilisi (or to Tbilisi / from Baku if taking the post-tour). Information on a recommended flight itinerary will be sent by our tour operator upon confirmation.

What to Expect: This trip is active due to the substantial distances covered and the extensive walking and star climbing required. The tour is not wheelchair accessible. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least two miles a day (with or without the assistance of a cane) over uneven terrain while keeping up with the group and stand for extended periods of time during walking tours and museum visits. Availability of western toilets on the trip is unreliable, particularly outside of major cities. Accommodations on this program are at five-star and boutique four-star hotels. Flexibility and willingness to accept local standards of service and amenities are essential to the enjoyment of this program. All travelers and staff must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. On-tour health and safety protocols will be communicated to guests upon registration and leading up to departure as the situation evolves.

Reservations and Payments: Please mail the completed registration form with check payable to "MIR Corporation-CA Trust" or credit card information for the $500 deposit to the Commonwealth Club.

Eligibility: We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a worldwide membership. To learn about membership types and to purchase a membership, visit commonwealthclub.org/membership or call (415) 597-6720.

Fees: No additional fees are required per itinerary. The final payment for all land and air costs is due by July 6, 2022 at 60 days prior to the start of the program. Final payment is accepted by check or bank transfer only.

Refunds: All cancellations will be refunded, if any. Cancellations and Refunds: All cancellations must be in writing to the Commonwealth Club or MIR and the following cancellation charges will apply: Cancellations received 61 or more days before the start of the program forfeit the $500 non-refundable deposit; cancellations received 31 to 60 days before the start of the program forfeit 50% of the land tour cost; cancellations received 30 days or less before the start of the program, no refund. Refunds cannot be made to travelers who, on completion of the full tour for any reason at all. Commonwealth Club Travel and our tour operator MIR Corporation reserve the right to decline to accept any person as a participant in a tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from a tour at any time at his/her own expense, when such action is determined by tour staff to be in the best interest of health, safety, or general welfare of the group or of the individual participant, and subject only to the requirement that the recoverable cost of unused services and accommodations be refunded, if any.

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Single Travelers: We make every effort to match single travelers who request a roommate. However, shared accommodations cannot be guaranteed, and the single room supplement rate will apply if no match is found.

Travelers must be able to walk at least two miles a day (with or without the assistance of a cane) over uneven terrain while keeping up with the group and stand for extended periods of time during walking tours and museum visits. Availability of western toilets on the trip is unreliable, particularly outside of major cities. Accommodations on this program are at five-star and boutique four-star hotels.

For more information, contact The Commonwealth Club at (415) 597-6720 or travel@commonwealthclub.org.

CWC: CST #2096889-46; MIR Corporation: CST #2082306-40. WST #601-099-932.

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Responsibility: A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Commonwealth Club Travel and MIR Corporation for the loss of property, injury or death will be provided to travelers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request. A signed release of liability/assumption of risk agreement is required for trip participation.

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LIMITED TO 18 TRAVELERS

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