



LYN TAYLOR'S ADVENTURE TRAVEL
Nepal... Africa... Where ever !!!

Armenia Georgia & Azerbaijan Hiking Tour

Key information

Duration: 18 days / 17 nights

Best season: April 21 2020

Tour type: Small group / individual

Price information

	6-8 Pax	
Tour price per person	AU\$ 5200	
Single room supplement	AU\$ 841	

What's included:

Airport transfers, accommodation in hotels (double rooms), in guesthouses (double rooms), meals - breakfast, lunches, dinners (as per itinerary), 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.), all transfers in air conditioned vehicles, English speaking hiking guide service for all days, local mountain guide service where needed, all admissions fees, 24-hour office support,

What's not included:

flights, visa fee, medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Yerevan City Tour - Garni Pagan Temple - Geghard Cave Monastery

Day 2 - Areni wine tasting - Noravank Monastery - Fortress of King Smbat - Tsakhats Kar Monastery

Day 3 - Selim Caravanserai on the Great Silk Road - Noratus – Cheese Master Class - Hayravank

Day 4 - Lake Sevan - Sevanavank - Parz Lake - Goshavank Monastery - Old Dilijan

Day 5 - Yenokavan Village - Lastiver Caves and Waterfalls

Day 6 - Armenia-Georgia border - Tbilisi City Tour

Day 7 - Gudauri - Vedza Sour Waters - Holy Trinity Church of Gergeti

Day 8 – Gveleti - Gveleti waterfall - Stapantsminda
Day 9 – Khada - Borjomi
Day 10 - Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park - Tbilisi
Day 11 - David Gareja - Signaghi - Bodbe
Day 12 - Georgia-Azerbaijan border - Sheki City Tour
Day 13 - Sheki - church of the Udi - Lahij
Day 14 - Lahij - Burov village - Lahij
Day 15 - Sulut - Baku
Day 16 - Baku City Tour
Day 17 - Gala - Baku
Day 18 - Departure

Detailed itinerary

Day 1

This trip begins with a city tour in Yerevan, the cuneiform inscription proving Yerevan was built in 782 B.C is in the History Museum of Armenia. You will start your tour with a short walk in the city center, and then visit Armenia History Museum. Excursion in History museum is fascinating Journey through the pages of Armenian History. After lunch you will head to Geghard Cave Monastery, partly carved pure rocks. Garni Pagan Temple is the only preserved in the Caucasus region. You will be back to Yerevan and have opportunity to feel the pulse of Yerevan night life as our itinerary starting from the second day gets you to the regions to hiking routes of this ancient country.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



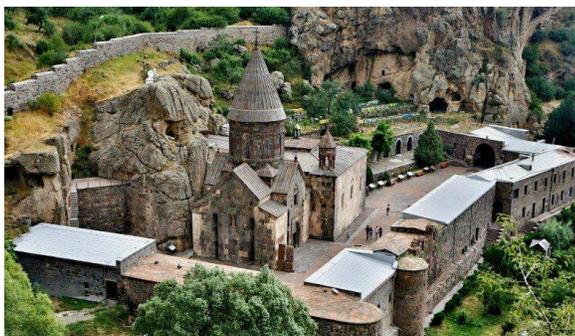
Cascade Complex in Yerevan



Yerevan Republic Square



Garni Temple



Geghard Cave Monastery

Day 2

This day you'll begin exploration of Southern Armenia. Our first stop will be Areni wine market where you'll have a chance to taste one of famous wines in Armenia. You will continue trip to beautiful two storied Noravank Monastery through the deep narrow canyon surrounded with red rocks. Then you will head to Hermon Village standing amidst a charming valley of Yeghegis river. After check in at hotel you will start your hike to the medieval well preserved fortress of King Smbat, standing on the elevation of about 1950. Afterwards you will have a walk on a slighter note to Yeghegis village where you can find Jewish Cemetery and little churches right in the gardens of villagers. Your hotel in Hermon village has all the amenities (swimming pool, thermal baths and gym) and bikes, horses to organize your evening well. (hiking trail length 7 km)

Optional* You will continue to Tsakhats Kar Monastery on the elevation of 2080 m. (hiking trail length 5 km)

Overnight: Hotel in Hermon Village

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Noravank Monastery



Smbataberd

Day 3

This day is a relaxed day, you will cover a part of The Great Silk Road, see one of well-preserved caravanserais. You will have feelings here as time has stopped for a long time as very little has changed here. During your trip you will also visit the medieval cemetery of khachkars (cross-stones) – Noratus. Khachkars are unique works of art, they can be found only in Armenian culture. Attend cheese master class in Noratus. In the stone patterns of khachkar the master embodied his soul and faith. Here you will visit Hayravank - 9th to 12th century Armenian monastery.

Overnight: Hotel at lake Sevan

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Hayravank



Noratus cemetery

Day 4

This day you will be driven to Lake Sevan, admire one of the highest freshwater lakes from the hilltop of Sevan Peninsula. Here you will visit Sevanavank- monastic complex located on a peninsula at the northwestern shore of Lake

Sevan. You will head to Parz Lake (Crystal) to start hike in Dilijan National Park along stunning forest trails cross the wildly beautiful Areguni Pass and reach Goshavank Monastery of Gosh village, where the great scholar of the 13th century Mkhitar Gosh lived. You will be driven to Dilijan, a cozy town that captures the spirit of rural Armenia. A visit to newly opened Old Dilijan complex on historic Sharambeyan Street and observe the weaving carpets by local women at Tufenkian Carpet Showroom will be great finale for this day. *(hiking trail length 8 km)*

Overnight: *Hotel in Dilijan*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Lake Sevan and Sevanavank



Parz Lake



Goshavank Monastery

Day 5

After breakfast at hotel you will head to Yenokavan Village near Ijevan where we you will take a short transfer to the Lastiver trail head. A wonderful forested route into the most unspoilt and rugged area of north-eastern Armenia as you will head into a deep gorge before descending to cascading waterfalls and the most scenic meadows in Armenia, perhaps Armenia's best-kept secret. Explore ancient caves of Lastiver. In the evening you'll be back to town of Ijevan for rest and overnight. *(hiking trail length 7 km)*

Overnight: *Guesthouse in Ijevan*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Waterfall

Lastiver

Lastiver

Day 6

After discovering wonderful culture, nature and architecture of Armenia, a fascinating journey around Georgia is waiting for you. After your breakfast you will be transferred to Armenia-Georgia border, from where after passing the customs “Sadakhlo” you’ll head to Tbilisi – the hospitable capital of Georgia. Your trip in this country will start with a city tour during which you will head to historical district of Metekhi where you will visit the Assumption Church located on the picturesque hill. You will also visit one of the most famous city's landmarks – the Bridge of Peace designed by the Italian architect. You will reach the Narikala Fortress by a cable car. The fortress is located on a hill overlooking Tbilisi and Kura River – an excellent place for memorable photos. You will also have a chance to stroll around the most famous streets of Tbilisi – Chardin, to visit the mosque located on the Botanical Street, the waterfall – an amazing attraction of the Botanical Garden. Your last stop will be at the royal baths complex of XVII-XIX centuries which is one of the most famous sights of the Old Town.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch*



Tbilisi



Metekhi church

Day 7

This day you will be driven to Kazbegi, Stepantsminda which is one of the most picturesque villages of Georgia. During your trip you will visit Gudauri, where you can see the balcony, dedicated to the treaty of Georgievs and enjoy breathtaking views. A few minute drive from Gudauri is located Vedza Sour Waters which with its natural beauty will amaze you. When you reach Stepantsminda you hiking to the Holy Trinity Church of Gergeti which is located at an altitude of 2170 m, will start. Hiking to the church takes 1,5 hr. After visiting Holy Trinity Church, continue drive to Stepantsminda

Overnight: *guesthouse in Stepantsminda*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Kazgebi



Gergeti Trinity



Gudauri

Day 8

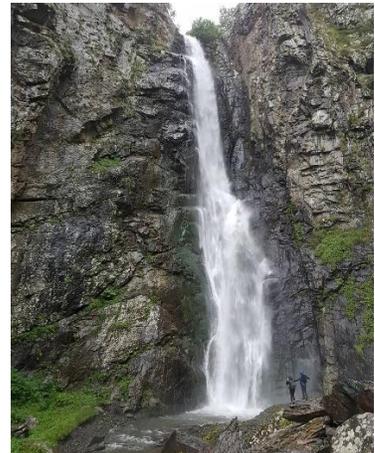
In the morning you will Trip to village Gveleti located at a distance of 7 km from Stepantsminda. *After reaching the village you will trek for about 700 meters to get to the Gveleti waterfall, which is in the top of 3 most beautiful waterfalls in Georgia, continue drive to Stepantsminda*

Overnight: *guesthouse in Stepantsminda*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Gveleti Waterfalls



Day 9

Morning trip to Khada Gorge known for its pure waters, amazing waterfalls, wide meadows, bright colors, villages hidden in mountains and old defensive tower-houses.

In 1 hour and 20-minute drive, you will reach ancient villages of Zaqtakari and Magartsikhe and visit Tsetskhlijvari castle complex, from where opens the beautiful view of the whole Khada gorge. After drive to Borjomi.

Overnight: Hotel in Borjomi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Khada gorge

Day 10

This day you will discover Borjomi, one of the biggest ones in Georgia. You will walk to the lovely Likani River Gorge then climb up the Chitakhevi Range. You will enjoy breathtaking scenery, bird singing and isolation from the daily hustle in Borjomi NP. Here you may come across with rare species of plants, birds included in the Red List. Evening transfer to Tbilisi for rest and overnight. *(hiking trail length 7 km)*

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Borjomi



Chitakhevi Range

Day 11

In the morning you will drive to the east of the country, to Kakheti – the main winemaking region of Georgia. A pleasant time is waiting for you in Signaghi – a royal town founded by the king Erekle II in the 18th century. Strolling around the tiny streets you will enjoy the local architecture and atmosphere. The day ends with a trip to David-Gareja semi-deserted area and monastery complex founded in 6th century by father David.

Overnight: *Hotel in Kakheti*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Signaghi



David Gareja Monastery Complex

Day 12

In the morning you will have a border transfer to Azerbaijan border. After meeting your Azeri representatives, you will start your tour. The tour will start with a sightseeing tour around Shaki. You will visit the Upper Town, the magnificent Palace of Shaki Khans and the Craft Museum. Built in 1797 as a summer residence for Muhammad Hasan Khan, the Palace of Shaki Khans is a masterpiece of lavish decoration. Both the exterior and interior decorations of the palace embody the architectural glamor of the ancient Shaki Khanate. Continue to Museum of carpets (there are various big rooms with pottery, silk embroidery, and national costumes, jewelry) Shebeke craft workshop, Shaki Bazaar. After workshops you will visit Caravanserai, which receives guests to this day. Then visit to local sweet bakery. You will head to the village of Kish. Here is one of the oldest Orthodox churches in the world. This church was founded in 62 by Saint Elisha, one of the 70 apostles. Now here is a museum. The church building itself was built on the site of a pagan temple. In the courtyard of the church there are burials of people distinguished by tall growth - more than 2 meters tall. One of the existing versions is the descendants of Atlanta. After the excursion - return to hotel.

Overnight: *Hotel in Shaki*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Sheki

Palace of Sheki Khans

Day 13

On this day you will visit The Church of the Udi, near Gabala, in the village of Nij. This church belongs to the native people of Caucasus - the Udi people. In the evening you will head to Lahij and have an overnight. (*hiking trail length 6 km*)

Overnight: Hotel in Lahij

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Village Nij

Day 14

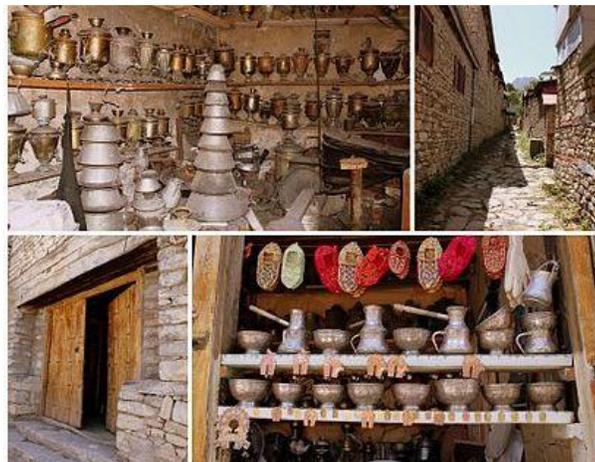
Breakfast in hotel. A walk around Lahij village, a notable place in Azerbaijan, with its authentic handicrafts traditions, particularly related to copper. The village's carpet and rug crafts are also well known in Azerbaijan and the South Caucasus. Hiking from Lahij to Burov village. (*hiking trail length 12 km*)

Overnight: Hotel in Lahij

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Lahij



Day 15

After the breakfast you will head to Sulut village of Ismailli district. The village is located among the mountains. After a walk around the village hiking to the ruins of a fortress “Girkh Otag” (XIV-XVII centuries.). The road passes through the mountain wood. The group will take food with itself. After the hiking you will head to Baku for an overnight. (*hiking trail length 18 km*)

Overnight: *Hotel in Baku*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch*



Ismailli District



Girkh Otag Fortress

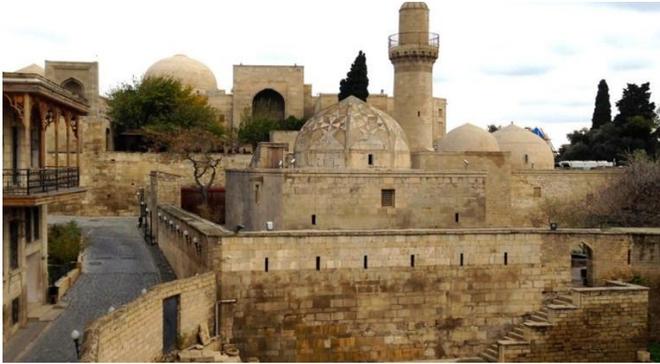
Day 16

After the breakfast starts tour around Old city (Baku Fortress): Tourists will visit the complex "Old City", which is UNESCO World Heritage Site. The tour starts at the entrance to Baku fortress. Tourists walk into fortress through the "Double Gates". Walking the ancient lanes of the fortress, tourists will visit the oldest Caravanserai, medieval Hamams and Mosques, Shirvanshakhs' Palace, and climb the rooftop of Maiden Tower. Maiden Tower is one of the legendary constructions of ancient East. Also the tour guide will show the tourist the place where apostle Yelisei was crucified.

Continue your tour to Gobustan, a museum of Rock Paintings. Here tourists will visit interactive and open air museum. The distance from Baku is 60 km. Rock paintings of Gobustan relate to different epochs and they are dated from 10-8 millennia to medieval period. For such coverage of historical period they have taken high place among other rock painting collections of the world. Archeologists have found there more than 6000 painting on 1000 rocks, ancient livings - caves, about 40 mounds, more 100000 work tools. The most ancient paintings relate to the Mesolithic Period, but it is supposed that the life existed before that period, and thus Gobustan can be considered as a cradle of civilization. After the tour in Gobustan you will head to Mud volcanoes.

Overnight: *Hotel in Baku*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch*



Baku Old City



Gobustan



Gobustan



Gobustan Mud Volcanos

Day 17

After breakfast starts excursion to museum complex Gala. The museum complex is located in Gala village. In the territory of museum there are gathered and restored monuments of architecture, found in Absheron peninsula. Master class on cooking Gutabs (A flour dish of Azerbaijani cuisine, this is a thin crescent-shaped unleavened pie with a filling. As a filling is used meat, greens, pumpkin. Continue to the Zoroastrian temple-museum "Atashgah. After an excursion in Atashgah you will head to mound Yanar Dag. You can also visit an interesting museum of modern art, the exhibits of which are created by an international team of artists and sculptors from items collected at the dump.

Overnight: Hotel in Baku

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Gala Museum Complex



Atashgah



Gutab



Yanar Dag

Day 18

Transfer to the airport, departure.

Meals: Breakfast in hotel