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Sophia's Travel Presents

Georgia – Armenia trip

Travel with Sophia Kulich in a small group,

Learn History and Jewish Heritage of Georgia and Armenia.

Eat delicious local food, enjoy scenery, friendly people, ancient cultures, and come out with the know-how to sell these two emerging, under-radar destinations.

Georgia May 27 - June 5, 2017

9 nights/10 days

Day 1: May 27, Saturday - Arrival (-/-/-) -30 minutes
Arrive in Tbilisi. Transfer to the hotel. Check in.

Free time.

Optional

Sulphur Baths - high in Sulphur and other minerals, with a constant temperature of 38C to 40C, the waters have long been used as a therapeutic aid for a range of ailments. \$40 per person, transfers included.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 2: May 28, Sunday - Tbilisi Sightseeing Tour (B/L/D)



After breakfast enjoy sightseeing tour of Tbilisi, with visits to Metechi church (12th-13th cc) - cross cupola church, part of the Royal residential complex; District of Sulfur bathhouses; Sioni Cathedral - the main church of Tbilisi dated to 7th-19th cc; Walking tour in the Old town and along Rustaveli Avenue and Georgian Synagogue - Jewish prayer house built from 1895 to 1903.

Ramble through the Old Town with its profusion of houses rubbing shoulders - their balconies, draped in plants, almost touching over the narrow cobbled streets. Peer into tiny courtyards and admire the eclectic mix of orthodox churches, mosques and synagogues.

Visit craft studios, souvenir shops and working bakery and see how Georgian bread is made.

Lunch and culinary masterclass at traditional Georgian restaurant. Professional cook will explain how to make delicious Georgian dishes from different regions of Georgia. The cook will share special recipes and those who want, can participate in the cooking process.

Visit David Baazov Georgian Jew Relations History Museum and National Museum of Georgia where you can enjoy the permanent exhibition 'The Archaeological Treasury'

Welcome dinner at a traditional restaurant with specially invited group of singers. Polyphony ensemble will join us during the dinner. Feel the atmosphere of Georgian dinner party, with traditional songs and long speeches of "Tamada" – toast master.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 3: May 29, Monday - Tbilisi - Mtskheta - Gori - Uplistsikhe - Kutaisi (B/L/-) - 4,5 hr

In the morning we drive to Mtskheta - the ancient capital of Georgia, located at the confluence

of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers.



Visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Jvari, the 6th century cross-shaped monastery built on the top of a cliff, overlooking the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers.

At this place St. Nino, a female evangelist, erected a large wooden cross on the site of a pagan temple; Svetitskhoveli, the fortified cathedral dating from the 11th century. Svetitskhoveli is a sacred place where the Robe of Christ is buried.

Visit Jewish cemeteries dating from the 1st to the 8th cc in Mtskheta near Samtavro Nunery. Drive to the center of Shida Kartli region - Gori, known as the birthplace of the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. Visit Stalin's Museum in Gori where you can see the house, where Stalin was born and his personal railway carriage.

Visit Uplistsikhe ("Fortress of God") rockhewn town (1st Millennium BC). Uplistsikhe is located on the left bank of Mtkvari river and is notable for unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures and the co-existence of pagan and Christian architecture. Here you can see ancient wine presses carved in stone.

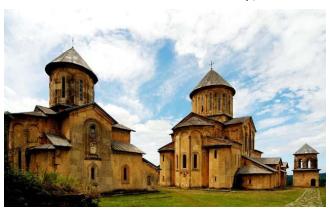
Drive to Kutaisi.

Dinner independent. Overnight in Kutaisi.

Day 4: May 30, Tuesday - Kutaisi -Mestia (B/L/D) - 5 hrs

Visit Bagrati Cathedral, the 11th century cathedral, built during the reign of King Bagrat III and known as "the symbol of united Georgia". The Cathedral was officially rebuilt on September 16, 2012.

Afterwards we visit Gelati Monastery, founded in 1106, by the famous king of Georgia, Davit



the Builder. Gelati Complex includes an academy and remained for a long time one of the main cultural and enlightening centers in Georgia. The Gelati Monastery has preserved a great number of manuscripts dating back to the 12th c. and is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Lunch at a local restaurant en route.

We set off for Svaneti. We drive up the Enguri Gorge where the first inhabitants, mainly gold prospectors, settled in the

ancient times. It was here that most of the Colchis gold was obtained. For centuries the Svan ethnic group evolved here, cut off from the outside world by the high and inaccessible mountains, their culture preserved almost intact. In earlier centuries Svaneti was a recognized part of the Kingdom of Colchis.

Arrive in Mestia. Dinner and overnight in Mestia.

Day 5: May 31, Wednesday - Mestia (B/L/D)

Mestia sightseeing tour. Visit Margiani house-museum where you can see typical Svan house and the tower. Walking tour in Mestia.

Visit Historical-Ethnographic Museum of Mestia, which houses manuscripts from the 10^{th} and 12 centuries, religious tracts from the 9^{th} - 11^{th} centuries, icons, metal and other artifacts of the 14^{th} - 16^{th} centuries, gold coins of the antique and late antique periods, and several Bronze Age treasures.

Lunch at a local family.

Dinner and overnight in Mestia.



Day 6: June 1, Thursday - Mestia - Ushquli - Mestia (B/L/D) - 3 hrs one way

Explore Ushguli - one of the highest villages in Europe and the architecturally unique Middle Age village-fortification, surrounded by the 5000m giants of the Caucasus Mountain Range. Ushguli and the whole Upper Svaneti is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Typical Svanetian protective towers are found throughout the village. According to the legend, it was in the Ushguli towers that the Georgian monarch and saint, Queen Tamar (12-13th c.) had her summer and winter residences.

Visit Lamaria Church. Lunch at a local family.

An optional walk towards Mt. Shkhara, the highest summit in Georgia.

Drive back to Mestia. Dinner and overnight in Mestia.

Day 7: June 2, Friday - Mestia - Kutaisi (B/L/-) - 5hrs

We leave Svaneti region and drive back to Kutaisi. Stop at Enguri Dam, currently the world's second highest concrete arch dam with a height of 271.5m. (891ft).



Visit Dadiani Palace in Zugdidi - a castlelike building from the 17th to 19th centuries. The museum houses one of Napoleon Bonaparte's three bronze death masks, acquired via a 19thcentury marriage between a Dadiani and a descendant of Napoleon's sister.

Arrive in Imereti region, return back to Kutaisi.

Kutaisi used to have one of Georgia's largest Jewish communities but since independence most of the 1000 or so families have emigrated to Israel. The main street running through the Jewish quarter used to be called Shaumyan

Street; the name has now been changed to Boris Gaponov Street after the man who translated Rustaveli's The Knight in the Panther's Shin into Hebrew. There are three synagogues along this street. A handsome 1880s synagogue is still in use which we will visit. Lunch at a local restaurant.

Dinner independent. Overnight in Kutaisi.

Day 8: June 3 , Saturday - Kutaisi - Tbilisi (B/L/-) - 4. hrs

Visit Ubisi - the 9th-century St. George's Monastery famous with its beautiful frescos.

In a village Shrosha, where every single family works on pottery and village is the main supplier of wine making vessels, pitchers and "Qvevri" – wine jar, be a guest of pottery maker. Attend the workshop, see how traditional Qvevri is made and enjoy local hospitality. Wine made in Qvevri is recognized as intangible world heritage.

Drive back to Tbilisi.

Optional: Ballooning is Available in Mukhrani Valley not far from Mtskheta. Dinner independent. Overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 9: June 4, Sunday -Tbilisi - Sighnaghi - Kvareli - Tsinandali - Tbilisi (B/L/-) - 4-5hrs. Today we will explore picturesque and the most fertile part of Georgia - Kakheti, which borders the Great Caucasus range from the north Alazani Valley, summits of which are over 3,000 m. This region is known as a birthplace of viticulture and wine- making. The reach land, burning sun and hard work have developed about 500 varieties of vine in Georgia.

Explore Sighnaghi fortified town famous for its wine and carpet making culture. Enjoy breathtaking views of Kizikhi area and unusual Charm of Sighnaghi Royal Town. Have a walk in narrow streets of the town in shadow of wooden balconies richly decorated with the lace of

carved ornaments.



Village corner in Kvareli. Here you can see how Georgian bread is baked, learn how to prepare famous Georgian barbecue "Mtsvadi" and participate Churchkhela making process. Churchkhela traditional is а Georgian sweet snack made of walnuts and grape juice.

Lunch and wine tasting at the local winery.

Visit local farmers market in Telavi, where you can enjoy the large

variety of fruits and vegetable, meat, cheese, etc. Here you can find all ingredients Georgians use for cooking.

Visit Tsinandali Family Estate and wine cellar, which once belonged to the 19^{th} century aristocratic poet Alexander Chavchavadze. The residence consists of summer home, garden and winery, featuring several vintages of white wine.

Drive back to Tbilisi.

Overnight in Tbilisi.

Day 10, June 5 Monday - Departure from Tbilisi (-/-/-) - 30 min. Transfer to the airport. Departure.

Or Continue to Armenia

June 5 - 9, 2017 Extension to Armenia: 4 nights/5 days

Day 10, Jun 5, Monday - Tbilisi - Sadakhlo - Haghpat - Dilijan molokan visit (B/L/D) Drive to Sadakhlo border, driving through the Georgian border, change of guides on Armenian

side. After border formalities drive to Haghpat monastic complex.

This monastery dates back to the 10th century and is one of UNESCO Heritage sites. On the way to Dilijan visit Odzoun village and honey tasting with Armenian tea in the house of the local.

Continue the visit to Dilijan Resort town on the way passing the villages of Molokans- one of the



minorities that settled down in Armenia from the 17th century. A short walk through the minority communities of Molokans.

Molokans (in Russian they are called "Milk drinkers": are Christian sectarians, Russian peasants who refused to obey the rules of Russian Orthodox church, at the end of the 17th century. They call themselves "True spiritual Christians". They were exiled to Armenia in the



workshop of a ceramist producing his own works. Overnight in Dilijan.

19th century and from that time on are living here. They are especially famous for their marinated pickles which are really tasty. There can be a lunch in one of the houses of the locals. Then we continue to Dilijan spa and resort town at the altitude of 1200 m (called locally as Armenian Switzerland) in Tavoush region. This is entirely different climate zone as the whole area is fully covered by a deep and dense forest with astonishingly rich vegetation. One is amazed by witnessing this diversity of nature in a short distance of just a few minutes' drive.

Visit Ethno-street in Dilijan where you can visit the souvenir shops as well as the

Day 11: June 6, Tuesday - Sevan - Selim Pass - Noravank - Khor Virap - Yerevan (B/L/-)

Visit Sevanavank monastery on the peninsula from where you can admire the majestic beauty of Lake Sevan.

Drive to Noravank via Selim pass that used to be a part of the Silk Road and is one of the best preserved Caravanserais in Armenia. On the way there can be a possibility to visit

Noradouz cemetery of Cross-stones where you can find more than 1000 cross-stones dating back to the 9th century.

On the way stop at Yeghegis village where there can be a visit to the Jewish cemetery.

Continue to Noravank monastery. Lunch in Noravank before starting the exploration of the complex. Noravank Monastery - a unique construction, spectacularly surrounded by red cliffs. We'll leave you to contemplate for yourself just what an incredible feat it must have been to construct this monastery in such a location in the 13th Century as you enjoy the spectacular



views. Lunch in a very nice restaurant with cottages resembling the prototype of the traditional Armenian houses. Drive to Khor Virap on the way visiting Areni village famous for its wine and viticulture. The landscapes suggest that this is a relatively hot and relatively dry part of Armenia and so not surprisingly is also renowned for its wine production too.

This area of Armenia is believed to be the location of one of the oldest wine producers in the world as over 6100 years old winery was recently discovered. A special visit to the oldest cave winery. Drive to Ararat valley which is dominated by Bibilical Mount Ararat. Our first stop is Khor Virap Monastery (dates back to the 4th century). From the monastery you'll admire the beauty of Mount Ararat. Visit the chapel which was constructed over the deep dungeon where Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned for 13 years. Drive back to Yerevan. Dinner on your own.

Day 12: June 7, Wednesday - Yerevan City Tour (B/L/-)

Today we start exploring Yerevan – the capital of Armenia which was founded 782 BC. We visit Cascade – a monument is rising over the city center, from the top of which the whole city is seen. Visiting a modern art museum / park of Cascade where We visit a monument called Cascade, which is rising over the city center, from the top of which the whole city is seen. Cascade is one of the unique modern art museums in the World, which collects of such



authors as Fernando Botero, Arshile Gorky, Jennifer Bartlett, Lynn Chadwick, Barry Flanagan and others.

Visit the Genocide Memorial and also the museum dedicated to the victims of the Great Genocide that took place in 1915 and the memorial with eternal fire.

Visit Matenadaran- Museum and Institute of ancient manuscripts, that houses the collection of about 17 000 ancient manuscripts.

Drive to History museum that is situated in the heart of the city in the Republic Square. The building houses also National Art gallery. So there is a possibility for the guests to choose

what they are mostly interested in.

We drive to Yerevan Brandy Factory for the excursion. The factory has preserved the traditions of the legendary brandy manufacturing since 1887 when the first wine and brandy factory was founded in Yerevan embodying Armenia, its cultural and historical heritage. Only local varieties of grape with special properties are used in the production of an authentic Armenian brandy, based on the unique microclimate of the Ararat Valley. Guided excursion around the factory during which you'll discover the secrets of the taste of Armenian brandy and will see the oldest brandies kept in the barrels. After the excursion there will be a degustation of brandies of different ages.

Day 13: June 8 , Thursday - Echmiatsin - Zvartnots - Geghard - Garni (B/-/D)

After breakfast drive to Echmiatsin. Visit the mother cathedral that is the first Christian church in the territory (303 AD UNESCO Heritage).

This is also the residence of the catholicos of all Armenians.

Visit CAU in Echmiatsin. The ethnic environment is purely organized by a hosting family of Cross of Armenian Unity. The group can go down to the winery of the owner where he himself makes wine and keeps it in the big barrels. The group can also take part in the process of carpet weaving, make



Armenian dishes or find themselves in the Stone Age. Cross of Armenian Unity is a charity NGO founded in 1991 the aim of which is to provide humanitarian assistance to orphans and help them successfully integrate in the social life... The group can also assist the development of an NGO by purchasing some stuff that is made by local orphans.

Visit Zvartnots Temple of the 7th century that is unfortunately in ruins now. Drive to Geghard monastery (4-13 th cc. UNESCO Heritage site) that is partly hewn in rock. We continue to Garni village from where we start a fascinating walk to Azat river gorge near Garni canyon. The road stretches along narrow serpentine near Azat river admiring the great view of Khosrov national reserve from one side and the natural monument called "Symphony of stones" or Basalt organ from the other.

<u>Please note that the group can choose either the walking or the off-road in trucks</u> as we lack time for the realization of both.



We continue to Garni village from where we start a fascinating off-road drive on military trucks with the flags of Poland (or the company) to Azat river gorge near Garni canyon. (A logo of the Client's company can be put on the board of the trucks) The road stretches along narrow serpentine near Azat river admiring the great view of Khosrov national reserve from one side and the natural monument called "Symphony of stones" or Basalt organ from the other.

Today we will also visit Garni temple which is the only pagan temple that remained in Armenia after adoption of Christianity from where the great panoramic view of Azat river gorge and Khosrov

state reserve opens. A short photo stop here and we continue our road to a local village house for lunch.

Duduk performance in Garni temple.

No other musical instrument is able to present the emotions of the Armenian people as the Duduk. Born in the early centuries of Armenian history, it is purely Armenian with a 3000 - year history. In 2005, UNESCO proclaimed the Armenian duduk music as a Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Dinner in Garni village with demonstration of baking process of Armenian Bread "Lavash" in an underground traditional oven - Tonir. Those who want can participate in the baking process.

Drive back to Yerevan.

Day 14: June 9, Friday - Departure

Transfer to the airport. Departure.

END OF SERVICES

Meals as per program (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, PL-Picnic Lunch, D-Dinner)

Price based on double/twin room accommodation minimum 6 people group

Georgia (10 Days 9 Nights): \$2,650 per person double occupancy

Single room supplement: \$775 per person

Price includes:

- Accommodations in a double room , tax and breakfast included daily best available hotels
 - 4 x overnights in Tbilisi Marriott 5* in Tbilisi
 - 2 x overnights in hotel Argo Inn 3*+ (or similar) in Kutaisi
 - o 3 x overnights in hotel Old Seti (or similar) in Mestia, Svaneti
- All transfers and transportations by air conditioned comfortable vehicle
- An English-speaking guide as per program
- 7 lunches and 4 dinners. Drinks are not included unless specified.
- Experiences
 - o Culinary masterclass at traditional Georgian restaurant
 - Polyphony concert at a traditional restaurant
 - Pottery workshop
 - Village corner including: wine tasting, barbeque, churchkhela making and bread baking
- Entrance fees
- 2 bottles of water per person per day
- Tips for drivers, guides and restaurants
- 24 hour assistance

Armenian Extension: 5 days 4 nights \$1,420 per person double occupancy

Single room supplement: \$325 per person

Price includes:

- Accommodations in a double room , tax and breakfast included daily best available hotels
 - o 1 x overnight in hotel Dilijan Resort 4* (or similar) in Dilijan
 - 3 x overnights in Yerevan at the Hotel Royal Tulip 5*
- All transfers and transportations by air conditioned comfortable vehicle
- An English-speaking guide as per program

- 3 lunches and 2 dinners Drinks are not included unless specified
- Duduk concert in Garni temple
- Experiences
 - o Brandy factory tour and brandy tasting
 - Excursion in Areni cave winery
 - Off road on Military trucks for 10 and more people, less than 10 people the transfer will be on 4X4 cars
 - o Degustation of homemade vodkas in the canyon
 - o Professional walking guide during the walk in the gorge
 - Lavash baking demonstration
 - Honey tasting in Odzoun village
- 2 bottles of water per person per day
- Entrance fees
- Tips for drivers, guides and restaurants
- 24 hour assitance

Price excludes in both countries

- Airfare
- Other meals except mentioned above
- Alcohol beverages with meals except mentioned above
- Travel insurance
- Early Check in/Late Check out
- Items of personal nature
- Tips to hotels and porters

Payment:

Nonrefundable deposit required \$250 per person to register.

Once minimum 6 people number will be reached, the tour will be guaranteed. After that, we advice participants to book airfare. Please do not buy airfare until we will have tour confirmed with minimum number of people. If no minimum reached, the tour will be cancelled and deposit returned.

Once tour confirmed, 60 days prior full prepayment is required.

Credit cards: please fill in credit card form

http://www.sophiastravel.com/creditcard-authorization-form

CANCELLATIONS & REFUND POLICY (All cancellations must be received in writing)

- After booking deposit \$250 per person
- 60-0 days before departure, 100%

Since it is a small study group and price depends on minimum number of people, deposit and full payment are non-refundable. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Airfare is not included.

You need to fly to Tbilisi (TBS) either round trip or for those who take Armenia extension, back from Yerevan (EVN).

We recommend Lufthansa/United which flies from major gateways connecting in Frankfurt or Munich. One stop from JFK for example, and return from Yerevan, 2 stops.

If you fly from JFK, there is also Air Ukraine , not expensive, which is only one stop connecting through Kiev (KBP). If you are interested in stopover in Kiev, let me know. I will be most likely doing it. It is realtively safe as of now in Kiev and Odessa since Eastern territory in dispute never been a tourist destination.

I do not recommend Aeroflot since you will be flying through Moscow without Visa. Technically up to 24 hours connection is visa free but you never know if the flight will be delayed or Russia will change visa regulations. Unless you want stopover in Russia with visa, that's another story. We can arrange a pre tour in Russia.

At this time I do not recommend Turkish airline unfortunately due to the instability there. Before it was a good option with one connection.

Visa

No visa required for US citizens to visit Georgia and Armenia. For citizen of other countries please contact Georgia and Armenia consulate directly.

CUISINE OF CAUCASUS - GEORGIA & ARMENIA

GEORGIAN CUISINE

Georgian cuisine offers an abundance of elaborate dishes with all possible kinds of meat, fish, vegetables with garlic, walnuts and various herbs and spices; different sorts of cheese; all kinds of pickles and pignut spices - all of which are very fresh natural products. Each part of Georgia has its unique cuisine with its special flavor. It does not matter are you in mountains or in lowlands, in large cities or remote villages you can feel the whole taste of Georgian cuisine and enjoy the abundance of Georgian wine. Admire dishes, variety of wines, Georgian traditional folk songs and fiery dances will make your holidays truly unforgettable.



KHONKALI - GEORGIAN DUMPLINGS

Khinkali - delicious food of the people in the east and north mountainous regions. It is a boiled dumplings filled with minced meat in dough. In the mountain regions people mix in special spices. All sacrificial rituals are finalized by preparing Khinkali. During the feast hosts serve trays of hot Khinkali for the guests.

KHACHAPURI - CHEESE PIE

Khachapuri is a filled bread stuffed with melting cheese and often served sliced. It is described by foreigners as "Georgian pizza". Each part of Georgia has its own unique Khachapuri with its own special flavor, composition and shape. In most regions of west Georgia guests are treated to hot Khachapuri. It is considered to be one of Georgia's national dishes and is popular in restaurants and in homes.





EGGPLANTS WITH WALNUT FILLING

A popular Georgian family dish of eggplant with walnuts and spices. This is primarily a summer dish and is served cold. Roasted eggplant strips, served flat and topped with walnut paste. Georgians make this dish with small eggplants, which are smaller than the elephantine specimens found in most grocery stores. Ground fenugreek, which traveled along the ancient Eurasian trade

routes from India to Georgia, imparts a slightly tart, nutty flavor and is worth seeking out.

LOBIO - BEANS IN A CLAY POT

Lobio is a popular dish made with kidney beans and usually eaten with marinade vegetables. The Georgian word 'Lobio' means 'beans'. There are a number of varieties of this dish. Lobio is a cross between bean soup and refried beans. Its consistency and taste varies widely, bears a resemblance to Mexican bean dishes and is almost always satisfying.





MTSVADI – GEORGIAN BARBEQUE

Georgian like to make their Shish Kebab. Fire-roasted salted meat. Georgians prepare Mtsvadi, sliced mead from beef on spear fried over a fire based on sticks of old grapes. Mtsvadi is basically served like beef. Mtsvadi is a simply grilling meat. The meat is done like Shashlik, and made from beef, lamb, pork, etc. The pork ones are the tastiest cubes of boneless meat, tender and slightly fatty, without much

seasoning.

SOKO KETSZE – MUSHROOMS IN A CLAY POT

Soko Ketsze translates to "Mushrooms in a clay pot". Soko Ketsze are staffed mushrooms fried in a clay pot. The Georgians love to cook and serve in a clay pots called Ketsi. While it is generally served in a clay pot, the mushrooms are also topped with melted Georgian cheese. This cheese, combined with the liquid from the mushrooms that pools at the bottom of the pot during cooking makes for a delicious, if highly unhealthy mélange of flavors.





CHASHUSHULI

Chashushuli is a Georgian dish of fried veal, tomatoes, large onion, pepper and mushrooms that give a new nuance of taste. Chashushuli is served with fresh-baked bread or a corn flat cake. Georgians make Chashushuli with beef, large onions, mushrooms, bay leaves, red pepper, oil and salt.

ARMENIAN CUISINE

Armenian cuisine is like a poem, each line of which has its own aroma and reminds you of innumerable dinners of shepherds and monks. Travel in Armenia, taste local dishes and get acquainted with the history of Armenian cognac making, as well as taste these sunlit spirit. There are also Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Korean and other exotic food available in some restaurants in Yerevan.



DOLMA

One of the main dishes of Armenian cuisine, which is made in the leaves of grape and served with stand-alone matsun (Armenian yogurt) to be purred over it.

KHOROVANTS

It is good at any season of the year. In the summertime, khorovats is usually served with eggplant and bell peppers baked on skewers over



tomatoes, hot coals.



ARMENIAN LAVASH

Even when abroad, Armenians remember about their traditional bread- lavash. A very thin, lightly wrapped stripe of dough about one-meter-long, baked on the hot wall of the oven- tondir, that is what the real lavash is. Taste it with traditional Armenian cheese and greens, which are surely the part of each dinner.

ARMENIAN BASTURMA

Basturma is an air cured and spiced beef to recipes dating back to preprepared by salting the meat, then letting it dry for 10–15 days.



product made from topside of Christian times. Basturma is washing it with water and



KYATA AND NAZUK

The most known sweets are kyata and nazuk - original multilayered pies with stuffing. Each layer is soaked with drawn butter and sugar - as a result kyata and nazuk have such melting dough and mild taste.

We suggest to read the following information in order get familiar with these countries

Anthony Bourdain "Parts Unknown":

http://us.cnn.com/2016/05/20/travel/bourdain-parts-unknown-georgia-essay/index.html

10 fact about Georgia

http://georgia.travel/en/facts-about-georgia#sthash.AhLIMmuM.dpbs

Video of Georgia

https://www.facebook.com/shermazana/videos/1786151521620298/

Armenia info

http://www.armeniainfo.am/

Video of Armenia

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPXxYZtTqbM

Is This Trip Right For You?

This trip is designed for adventurous traveler.

Accommodations will vary from 5^* hotels in the capitals to best available in the countryside Some hotels even with official 4^* rating but in reality by western standards, we've listed them as 3^*+).

Services are improving in the region; however, you may encounter problems with plumbing, bureaucratic service, road conditions, unpaved sidewalks, uneven surfaces and steps, and availability of public restrooms. You are traveling in areas which, relatively speaking, have seen very few travelers, and the infrastructure is not fully developed.

Air-conditioning is available in all hotels except hotel in Mestia (Svaneti) but in the mountains, it is cool at night and a/c is not needed. Sometimes air conditioning at hotels is not what we are used to, for example, in Florida. ©

All participants must be reasonably fit, and able to walk on cobblestone streets, walk up and down the hills and stairs. Unfortunately this trip is not suitable for participants in wheelchairs, motorized scooters, walkers or with limited mobility.

Flexibility, a sense of humor, and ability to manage your own baggage when required and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services are essential components to the enjoyment of this trip.

Some Orthodox churches enforce fairly strict dress codes. Women may need to have head coverings (scarves) with them, and men and women may need to have their arms and legs modestly covered. Your guides will advise you when this is the case.

2 bottles of water will be provided per person per day for touring.

Every effort has been made to make the information in this schedule accurate. However, trip itineraries are always subject to change. We will do our best to inform you in advance of any changes, but due to the nature of travel in Caucasus, this may not always be possible. This tour maintains a focus on cultural interaction and the natural beauty of the Caucasus.

Weather

May/June are the best times to visit. There is a chance of rain. Temperatures range from, 60-80F. Nighttime brings cooler temperatures that generally drop to the 50s. Please remember, weather at all times of year has an element of the unpredictable. For more information, look at www.weatherbase.com.

Better dress up in layers and bring comfortable walking shoes and waterproof jacket.

See attached information file re: Information on Georgia and Armenia

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http://www.cdc.gov/travel/ - Center for decease control and prevention

http://www.who.int/en/ - World Health Organization

http://www.state.gov/travel/ - Department of State Travel (USA)

The prices quoted are based on U.S. dollar valuation and foreign exchange values and tariffs at the time of printing. In case of appreciable variations in such values, the Company retains the right to make such adjustments in prices as are necessary. You should consider and in your discretion obtain appropriate insurance coverage to the extent available with respect to risks associated with your travel.

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute an acceptance of and consent to the above terms and conditions and an agreement on your part to convey the contents hereto to your travel companions or group members.

If the client is dissatisfied with any part of the package, the ultimate supplier (hotel, tour company, etc.) is solely in the position and the only one with any authority to make any adjustments.

The Company cannot be responsible for any arrangements not made through our agency.

All rates pertaining to independent hotels and services are agency's negotiated rates and include handling fees consisting of communications expenses incurred to obtain reservations. The Company will not be held responsible for any differences between rates paid prior to departure and locally posted rates, and absolutely no refunds will be made for such possible differences.

Thank you for your business,

Sophia Kulich, CTC