# THE BEST OF CAUCASUS REGION- PREMIUM AZERBAIJAN- GEORGIA -ARMENIA Winter Program February 17-27, 2025

### Itinerary/Program:

# 17FEB/ Day 1 – Manila Airport - Doha

INFM

Meet and greet in NAIA 1 at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, prepare for check in at 7pm, proceed to immigration and prepare for flight bound to Doha to connect to Baku, Azerbaijan.

### 18FEB/Day 2 – Arrival – Baku (Azerbaijan ) (L/D)

Arrival at Baku International Airport. Clearing immigration and customs, collecting the baggage. Meeting with the company representative in the arrivals hall. Transfer to the hotel and assistance with express check-in at the hotel (standard time – 14:00-15:00). Lunch en-route. Free evening to enjoy the city on your own. Stroll along Nizami Street and have dinner at the authentic Shirvanshah Museum-Restaurant with traditional music. *Overnight in Baku* 

### 19FEB/ Day 3- Baku City Tour (B/L/D)

Ismailiyya Palace, Old Town (Fortress Walls, Gosha Gala Gates, Haji Bani Bath Complex, Maiden Tower / outside, Hajinski Palace, Mugam Club, Juma Mosque, Small Caravanserai, Aliagha Vahid Monument, The Museum of Miniature Books / inside, The Palace of the Shirvanshahs / outside), Baku City Hall, Icherisheher Metro Station, Governor's Garden, Philharmonic Hall, Caspian Seaside Boulevard (Little Venice, Mugham Center, Carpet Museum / outside), Upland Park overlooking Baku Bay and iconic Flame Towers, Heydar Aliyev Center (outside / one of the most recognized architectural landmarks worldwide), "I Love Baku" sign (photo-shooting), Green Bazaar (dry fruits, nuts, caviar, spices, herbs). *Overnight in Baku* 

# 20FEB/ Day 4- Gobustan - Yanardag- By Flight (B/L/D)

Check-out formalities. Excursion (113 km x 2) to Mud Volcanoes (Azerbaijan is home to the world's greatest concentration of mud volcanoes), Gobustan National Preserve (ancient rock art and UNESCO's World Heritage, uncover an astonishing collection of over 6,000 ancient petroglyphs charting ways of life dating back tens of thousands of years), Gobustan Interactive Museum, Atashgah Fire Temple (built in the 17th–18th centuries around naturally burning flames which were previously worshipped by Zoroastrians), Yanardag Burning Hill (10-metre wall of flames blazes day and night at the base of a hillside) | Transfer to Baku International Airport (3 hours prior to departure flight). Flight to Tbilisi. *Overnight in Tbilisi*.

## 21FEB/ Day 5- Tour to Kakheti Region - Bodbe (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. At about 10:00 am - We will drive to Kakheti Region which is also known as the "Cradle of Wine", because of it's

world known history and technology of wine making and unique sorts of grapes. On the way, in village Badiauri, we will taste the delicious local Bread and Cheese. Later, we will visit the "City of Love" – Sighnaghi. A beautiful town is situated on the top of the hill, surrounded by valleys and huge Caucasus Mountains. Visit the nunnery of Bodbe. Return to Tbilisi. Upon request, guests can visit the KTW Winery and have a wine tasting. Then, we will visit the Chronicle Of Georgia in Tbilisi and survey the surroundings. Lunch at local restaurant & Welcome Dinner at local restaurant with folk dances. *Overnight in Tbilisi* 

# 22FEB/ Day 6- Tour to Gudauri / Ski experiences and Kazbegi (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. At about 09:00 am (!) – Start the tour of Mtskheta-Tianeti Region. Visit Ananuri Complex and Jinvali Dam, continue driving to Gudauri and stop at the Monument, which is good viewpoint for photo shooting. Drive to Kazbegi and change the transport to 4x4 vehicle there and ride up to Gergeti Trinity. Returning to Tbilisi. Lunch & Dinner at local restaurant. **Overnight in Tbilisi** 

# 23FEB/ Day 7- Tbilisi city tour

(B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. at about 10:00 am – Firstly, we will to the OLD TBILISI and start the walking tour to discover the beauty of ancient capital – walking tour starts at the Europe Square and includes: Metehki Church, Cable Car to the Narikala fortress (ride up by cable car), "Mother of Kartli", walking down to Abano District. Stroll through the Sharden area full of narrow streets with cozy cafés, wine-tasting bars, souvenir shops, and breathe in the living past. Visit Sioni Cathedral, Anchiskhati Basilica, the clock tower of famous Rezo Gabriadze Theatre, and Bridge of Peace leading to the Rike Park. After we will move to a shopping village - enjoy some free time and return to the Hotel. Lunch & Dinner at local restaurant, **Overnight in Tbilisi** 

# 24FEB/Day 8- Tbilisi – Armenian border - Dilijan - Lake Sevan – Sevanavank – Yerevan (B/L/D)

At 09:00, our driver will meet you at your hotel in Tbilisi and transfer to "Sadakhlo-Bagratashen" **Georgian-Armenian border point.** Cross the border, meet your Armenian guide and driver to start the journey to the land of ancient traditions and oldest temples. On day way you will stop in Dilijan and will have small walk in Old Town. Drive to the Lake Sevan, "The Jewel of Armenia" and one of the largest high-mountainous freshwater lakes in the world. The coastline of the Lake Sevan is rich with thick woods, white bare steep rocks, mountain steppes and Alpine meadows. Stop at Sevanavank to visit the remnants of the monastery that include two temples – Surb Arakelots and Surb Karapet, standing among numerous khachkars - carved cross-stones. The buildings were constructed from black tuff which probably gave the monastery its name Sevanavank – "the Black

Monastery". The place opens up a magnificent view: the mountains surround lake from all sides and snow tops are seen almost on the entire perimeter and disappear behind horizon. *Continue to Yerevan for overnight.* ( Duration of sightseeing tour: 8-9 hours, Driving distance: 330 km)

# 25FEB/ Day 9 -Yerevan – Etchmiadzin – Zvartnots – Yerevan

( B/L/D)

Breakfast. In the morning, drive out of the city to Etchmiadzin Cathedral, the Holy See of Armenia and the residence of the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church – the Catholicos of All Armenians. We will visit the museum of Christian relics. Return to explore Yerevan, the oldest capital city in the South Caucasus. Yerevan is known as the Pink City and attracts visitors with its humble yet splendid landscapes. Departure to Zvartnots, a complex of structures erected in the middle of the 7th century, is of extreme architectural value. Zvartnots is the oldest and largest aisled tetra conch church in historical Armenia. Zvartnots had stood for more than three hundred years and around 930 was destroyed by the earthquake. It was only in the early 20 th century that the famous Armenian architect Toros Toramanian tried to start the restoration works in Zvartnots. Today Zvartnots territory is the archaeological reserve and the museum which was opened in 1937 where it is possible to see the models – possible variants of the temple reconstruction, and numerous sculptural fragments impressive in their sizes. Huge stone slabs with the figures cut in them, the sundial, clusters of grapes and pomegranates have survived in good condition. UNESCO added the ruins of Zvartnots Cathedral to its World Heritage List in 2000 CE. Visit the Cascade Monument, one of the main symbols of the city. The mega scale staircase is 118 meters high and has 572 steps. From the top of the monument, enjoy a breathtaking city view that includes the Opera House, Mount Ararat, Swan Lake, Republic Square, and Abovyan Avenue, all of which we'll see as we walk the streets of Yerevan (~2 km walking). Drop off at the hotel. Free evening. Overnight at the hotel. Duration of sightseeing tour: 5-6 hours Driving distance: 45 km

# 26FEB/ Day 10- Khor Virap - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

(B/L/D)

After breakfast drive to the historical treasures of Armenia - to Ararat Valley to visit Khor Virap Monastery. The monastery of Khor Virap is located in the place of an ancient capital of Armenia –Artashat. The significance of the church is relatively connected with Grigor Illuminator who was spreading Christianity in Armenia. This is where Saint Gregory the Illuminator ("Surb Grigor Lusavorich" in Armenian) was imprisoned for 13 years living in this deep pit. In a way, this can be seen as a monument to the birth of Armenian Christianity. In fact, it can be seen as the starting place of Christianity altogether, as Armenia was the first country to adopt it as an official religion. There is also the most beautiful and nearest view of Mount Ararat and entire

Ararat Valley from the monastery. Proceed with Armenian countryside, going to the traditional village of Garni. Here you'll explore Garni Temple, an ancient pagan fortress that dates back to the 1st century BCE. It's known for its classic Greek design with columns and friezes. You'll then visit one of the country's most famous sites, the medieval Geghard Monastery. Founded in the 4th century, the UNESCO World Heritage Site is partially carved out of the adjacent mountain. Dinner at local restaurant and afterwards proceed to airport for your flight to Manila.

**27FEB/ Day 11 - Departure from Yerevan-Doha -Manila B/INFM** Early transfer to airport for departure flight back to Manila connecting Doha. Home sweet Home

Package Cost (Minimum 15 Paying) USD 3,520.00

#### PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip Airline Ticket on Economy Class via Qatar Airlines
- Hotel Accommodation in 5\*

Wyndham Baku 5\* hotel (BB) or similar (AZERBAIJAN) Pine Astoria 5\* or similar (GEORGIA) Radisson Blu Yerevan 5\* or similar (ARMENIA)

- Transfers as per program with deluxe 30-seater bus
- Tours as per program with the English-Speaking guide
  - Lada vehicle to Mud Volcanoes
  - Tbilisi Cable Car
  - Bread & Cheese tasting at Badiauri
  - Wine Tasting at KTW Winery
  - 4X4 Vehicle to Gergeti
  - Cable car ride in Gabala
  - All other necessary entrance fees as per program
- Meals: Full Board as per program
- E-visa to Georgia and Armenia
- Daily bottled water on board
- Travel Insurance with Covid Coverage
- Travel Kit
- Pre-departure briefing

### **EXCLUSIONS**

- 1. Airline Taxes (USD189.00)
- 2. Tipping and Porterage (USD100.00)
- Interior Flight Baku Tibilisi via Air Azerbaijan
   With 23KLS luggage allowance (USD200.00) subject to change
- 4. Visa and Processing Fees;
  Azerbaijan- P6,500.00
- 5. Cost of Passport

6. Others personal in nature

Flight Details;

QR 929 17FEB MNLDOH 2350 0440 18FEB

QR 353 18FEB DOHGYD 0915 1310

QR 286 27FEB EVNDOH 0300 0500

QR 928 27FEB DOHMNL 0840 2210

Interior Flight (Azerbaijan Airlines)
J2 8225 20FEB GYDTBS 2050 2200

### REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Passport valid 6 months prior to expiry
- 2. Passport size picture white background
- 3. VISA entry to: AZERBAIJAN to be processed from Embassy of Azerbaijan in Indonesia
- 4. Filled up Passenger information Sheet

VISA REQUIREMENTS; Please refer to TLC Travel

### **BOOKING & PAYMENT CONDITIONS**

- 1. A non-refundable deposit (if visa is granted) of **\$500.00** is required upon submission of documents.
- Fifty percent of tour cost is required on 2MOS BEFORE THE DEPARTURE DATE in payment for Airline Ticket which is due for issuance on the said date and
- 3. FULL PAYMENT should be 1MONTH BEFORE THE DEPARTURE DATE
- 4. **CANCELLATION FEE**: 50% of tour cost if cancelled within 3 weeks before the departure.

RATES, TOUR PROGRAMS & SCHEDULES are subject to change if conditions so demand. TLC Travel and Tours, reserves the right to postpone the departure if participants fall below the time. Tour fare is based on group departure therefore, non-endorsable, non re routable, with refunds, if any, is subject to cancellation and charges





#### TLC TRAVEL AND TOURS

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