Georgia and Azerbaijan

Textiles Arts & Crafts of the Caucasus

September 14 – 30, 2025

Optional: 7 days Armenia Sept 30 – Oct 6

The mountains sing... Their hoary peaks, in their snow-white fur hats, carry on a conversation among themselves. They are laconic witnesses of time long past. Even the stones here speak." -- Oleg Shamba





Your Destination Awaits...

A packed, curated tour of two defining and diverse regions of the Caucasus. From the shores of the Caspian Sea and the splendid history of Baku, through the pretty wine fields of Kakheti and up to the spectacular High Caucasus mountains, you will follow in the footsteps of Silk Road traders, Crusader Knights and Ottoman Princes. This region, lying at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, is filled with the legends of the Golden Fleece, folk arts and crafts, stunning scenery and a warm and hospitable people. The flourishing food and wine scene is a bonus. Add Armenia at the end to round off an unforgettable journey.

Highlights - Azerbaijan

- Sophisticated Baku's counterpoint to thriving ancient artisan towns of Lahij and Shekhi
- Hands on workshops in traditional sock knitting, kilims, wicker basket, rug making with ethnic Talysh peoples
- Demos with artisans: *Shebeke* stained-glass mosaics, intricate **wooden frame carving**, *tekelduz* velvet embroidery, clay-pot making, *papaq* lamb's fleece hat-making, *Kelagayi* block-printed silk, *copper-smithing*
- UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage **National Carpet Museum** and Baku **Museum of Miniature Books** Georgia too many to list! Here are a few.
- Colourful Sighnahi, culinary hub Akhmeta-Kakheti, ancient Mtskheta, Ateni, cave monasteries of Vardzia
- Workshop in traditional carpet and kilim weaving women's co-op
- Tushetian wool processing and Nabadi shepherd's coat making
- Intimate farm to table and wine-tastings with chefs
- Several demos and hands on cooking experiences of local delicacies; artisanal cheese production
- Meet scholars, ethnographers, artists, ceramists, ethnic jeweller, and historians in their homes and studios
- Museums, monasteries, and quirky antique markets
- Tblisi's hotbed of art, culture, world-class dining, and stunning architecture





Georgia and Azerbaijan. Why go?

In a world morphing into homogeneity, Georgia is like nowhere else. Wild landscapes, fortified mountain villages, ancient churches, unclimbed peaks, even a cave monastery. A history that stretches back forever, world's earliest known sites of winemaking, gold mining, and textiles of course. Serendipity brought Nino Kipshidze, a renowned Georgian art historian and textile artist on one of my tours. Nino has played a massive role in the development and preservation of local museums. Nino invited us to Georgia and offered to infuse a custom itinerary for EYHO travellers. How could I refuse? I added Azerbaijan's distinctive arts, crafts and culture as a counterpoint to Georgia's. Together, they tell the story of the Caucasus. I hope you'll join me! ~ Shila

AT A GLANCE... (16N/17 Days Sept 14 - 30, 2025)

Start in Baku/end Tblisi* (see flights info)

- 4 nights Baku with day trips
- 2 nights Sheki
- 2 nights Sighnaghi
- 1 night Akhmeta
- 2 nights Tblisi
- 1 nights Ateni
- 2 nights Vardzia
- 2 nights Tblisi

Optional Armenia 6N/7D (see below)

USD 6200 pp double occupancy*

\$200 off early registration till Feb 28! **USD 1200 single supplement**

Contact: shila@eyhotours.com

Based on 14 pax









Armenia - Arts Crafts Culture | September 30 - October 6, 2025

6 nights, 7 days followed by main tour, fully escorted by expert guide. USD 2,650 double occ. based on 10 pax. Min. 6 pax.

Day 1: September 30, 2025

Morning flight from Tblisi to Yerevan. City tour Yerevan; Matenadaran, the world's largest collection of ancient Armenian manuscripts; brandy factory; master class in carpet weaving; atelier of renowned Armenian handmade bag designer. Welcome dinner, traditional Armenian restaurant.

Day 2: October 1

UNESCO Geghard Cave Monastery carved into cliffs; 4thC Geghard Monastery for extraordinary acoustics; 1st C Garni pre-Christian pagan temple. Traditional Armenian lunch with lavash making class at a rural family home. Return to Yerevan. Visit a small carpet gallery before shopping at Vernissage, an open-air market where you can purchase Armenian handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork.

Day 3: October 2

Khor Virap Monastery, famous pilgrimage site and stunning views of Mount Ararat. Yelpin Village for a unique cheese tasting experience at an artisanal cheese maker, followed by a delicious lunch. Visit women's co-operative where talented artisans produce beautiful handmade crochet items, including scarves and gloves. Dinner and overnight in Goris.

Day 4: October 3

Journey to a stunning natural wonder Lake Sevan, crystal clear freshwater lake high in the Caucasus. Peaceful 9th C. Sevanavank Monastery Traditional lunch at Tsaghkunk village. Wine tasting at scenic Manukyan Winery. Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

Day 5: October 4

Yerevan's Parajanov Museum; frescos at 4th C UNESCO Echmiadzin, the spiritual heart of Armenia; ruins of 7th C UNESCO Zvartnots Cathedral for ancient Armenian architecture and stunning view of Mount Ararat; a local non-profit for traditional Armenian felting.

Day 6: October 5

Gyumri, for rich cultural heritage. Aslamazyan Sisters' Museum for expressive works of Armenian female painters. Museum of Urban Life for 19th-20th C life in Gyumri, visit a pre-Soviet textile factory. Participate in a ceramic masterclass. Visit atelier of renowned Armenian designer whose traditional costumes featuring the alphabet and cultural symbols are crafted. Farewell dinner in renowned fish restaurant. Overnight in Gyumri

Day 7: October 6, 2025

Transfer 2 hrs to Yerevan for international departure. Or continue on the Silk Road with our <u>Uzbekistan-Tajikistan</u> tour!



Enquiries

To register or questions, please email: shila@eyhotours.com

Terms and Conditions

For your complete peace of mind, EYHO is TICO (Travel Industry of Ontario) accredited #50023991

COSTS

Georgia-Azerbaijan 17 Days

USD 6200 pp double occupancy*

Early registration \$200 off!
USD 1200 single supplement

* Min. 14 pax

Armenia extension 7 days post tour
USD 2650 pp dbl. occ. (minimum 06 pax)
Single supplement USD 450

What's included:

- Experienced guides in specialty textiles, arts, and crafts
- Accompanied by EYHO owner Shila Desai
- All internal travel and transfers in private vehicles
- Accommodation in select 4* boutique properties
- Breakfast daily and 15 lunches and 13 dinners (some with wine and wine tastings)
- Multiple cooking demos and workshops
- All studio visits, demos, classes, and access to artisans
- Exclusive and intimate visits with designers, artists, art historians
- Bottled water on bus

What's not:

• International flight, gratuities, alcohol beverages where not indicated.