



LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

Georgia & Armenia: Journey Through the Caucasus 2020

13 days from \$6,995 per person

Limited to 18 guests

This journey is a unique opportunity to travel with other international guests on a limited-edition itinerary operated by A&K Australia.

This fascinating journey to the heart of the Caucasus offers a surprising taste of Old World Eastern European charm. Bridging East and West, these former Soviet republics boast thousands of years of history, jaw-dropping scenery and a rich cultural heritage. Armenia was one of the first countries to adopt Christianity, and there are magnificent churches in abundance in the most unexpected locations. Neighboring Georgia lays claim to the world's oldest wine industry and, on this journey, rare skin-fermented wines stored underground in clay jars are uncorked and savored. The food throughout the region is delicious and hearty and, in many places, there's a delightfully unspoiled medieval vibe.

Included With Every Limited edition Small Group Journey

- Limited-edition Journey Offered in Partnership with the A&K Australia Office
- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

A&K Advantages

- Wander through the historic heart of Tbilisi's Old Town
- Prepare *lavash* (Middle Eastern flatbread) in time-honored fashion in a local home
- Sip wine from earthenware pots in the world's oldest vineyards in the Kakheti region
- Uncover medieval history at the Haghpat and Sonahin monastic complexes
- Witness a spiritual vocal performance in an ancient monastery
- Float across the high-altitude waters of Lake Sevan on a private boat trip
- Taste Armenia's noble brandy at a Yerevan distillery
- Meet local artisans and traditional carpet manufacturers in colorful markets and workshops
- Hike up to the 14th-century Gergeti Holy Trinity Church, one of the world's most spectacularly situated

Itinerary

DAY 1 ARRIVE TBILISI, GEORGIA

Arrive at the Georgian capital, and this evening, join your Tour Director and fellow travellers for a cocktail briefing on the adventure ahead.

Tbilisi Marriott Hotel

DAY 2 TBILISI

Tbilisi is a surprising blend of cultures. Your adventure starts with a walk through the cobbled streets of the atmospheric Old Town. Visit the 12th-century Metekhi Church and a 19th-century Jewish synagogue. Admire the old Georgian houses with their distinctive wooden, curved balconies and the Sioni Cathedral. You'll see the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi before getting a bird's-eye view of the city from the Narikala fortress, which can be accessed by foot or cable car. On the way back down, stop at the Sulfur Baths and the National Museum of Fine Arts. Tonight is a chance to savor some of Georgia's finest cuisine at a favorite traditional restaurant.

Tbilisi Marriott Hotel | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 TBILISI

Start the day at the Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia with its extraordinary collection of gold filigree work. After lunch, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day**[®] activities:

An artisan visit to a local workshop, where you learn about the ancient technique of cloisonné, a decorative enamelwork tradition over 1,200 years old.

Join an architectural expert for an exciting walking tour of a local Tbilisi neighborhood. After, enjoy free time at leisure.

Tbilisi Marriott Hotel | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 KAKHETI

Explore the most picturesque part of Georgia — Kakheti — which borders the Greater Caucasus range. This area is the birthplace of viticulture and winemaking. Admire the profusion of vineyards and churches as you drive through. Stop at the ninth-century Bodbe Monastery nunnery before arriving at the pretty fortified town of Signaghi, famous for its wine and carpet making. Meander through the narrow streets before lunch with a local family serving up traditional dishes from the region with matching wines. Before returning to Tbilisi, visit the grand Tsinandali estate, once home to the noble Chavchavadze family and noted for its historic winery.

Tbilisi Marriott Hotel | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 MTSKHETA

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mtskheta is your first stop today. Georgia's cultural and religious center, it is also one of the country's oldest towns. Visit the early medieval Jvari Monastery and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. Heading along the Georgian Military Highway, take in the Ananuri architectural complex, with churches and towers dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Arrive at the sleepy town of Kazbegi later this afternoon, where views of Mount Kazbek are breathtaking — especially from your hotel room.

Rooms Hotel Kazbegi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 KAZBEGI

This morning, head for the beautifully situated 14th-century Gergeti Holy Trinity Church, perched high atop a hill overlooking the town and the surrounding mountain scenery. Get up close by 4x4 or, for the more energetic, on foot. Enjoy more traditional Georgian hospitality today over lunch with one of the local families. This afternoon, enjoy the stylish Nordic atmosphere of the hotel before sundowners on the terrace.

Rooms Hotel Kazbegi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 KAZBEGI, GORI & TBILISI

Today's adventure is to the fertile Kartli province with a stop in Gori, the birthplace of Joseph Stalin, where a controversial museum traces his life. For lunch today, enjoy traditional dishes paired with local wine.

Tbilisi Marriott Hotel | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 TBILISI & SADAKHLO, ARMENIA

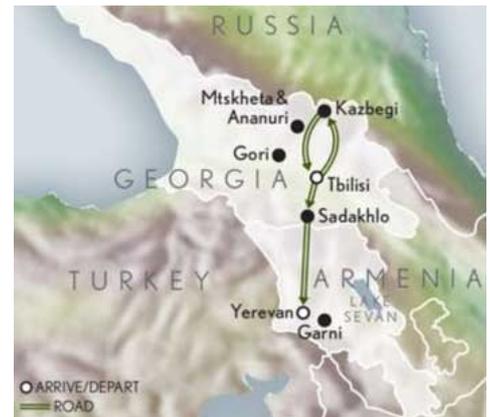
This morning, bid farewell to Georgia as you cross into Armenia at the Sadakhlo border. After a short drive, arrive at Akhtala fortress and church. After lunch, visit the beautiful Haghpat monastic complex, representative of Armenia's finest religious architectural tradition with a unique style blending elements of Byzantine ecclesiastical architecture and the traditional vernacular of the Caucasus region. Haghpat Monastery is justifiably a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Drive to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 YEREVAN

Travel today to Lake Sevan, the largest body of water in Armenia and the Caucasus region, where a boat trip is included. The capital city stretches along the banks of the River Hrazdan under the wistful gaze of Mount Ararat.

Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 10 YEREVAN

Your introduction to the capital begins with a guided tour of the city, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited metropolises. See the beautiful government buildings, the Central Post Office and banks. Visit the State History Museum as well as the Cafesjian Center for the Arts, which exhibits collections of Armenian and international contemporary artworks. Later, visit the somber Genocide Museum and Memorial. Also in the afternoon, discover why Armenian brandy is world famous at a VIP tasting specially organized for you at the Yerevan Brandy Factory. There is even time this afternoon to pore over the stalls at the Vernissage flea market, a short walk from the hotel.

Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11 YEREVAN, GEGHARD & GARNI

Your morning begins with a spiritual vocal performance in the acoustic hall of the ancient Geghard Monastery. Afterward, pay a visit to the pagan Temple of Garni, which dates to the Hellenistic Era. Built around AD 77, it is the only Greco-Roman colonnaded building in the country. Next, take part in a centuries-old Armenian cultural tradition at a hands-on *lavash*-making ceremony followed by lunch in a local home. There is also time this afternoon to explore the stalls at the Vernissage flea market.

Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 12 YEREVAN, ETCHMIADZIN & ZVARTNOTS

This morning, visit the ruins of the seventh-century Zvartnots Cathedral. Later, stop by Etchmiadzin Cathedral. This ancient cathedral serves as the headquarters for the Armenian Orthodox Church. Explore the museum, then enjoy lunch at the family-owned Megerian Carpet Armenia's factory and museum. Get comfortable as you admire exquisite handmade carpets before a traditional Armenian lunch in a rustic and atmospheric restaurant. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Tonight, celebrate the end of your journey through the Caucasus with a farewell dinner.

Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13 DEPART YEREVAN

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Program Note: This journey includes travel to high altitudes and active elements such as walking over steep, uneven terrain and visits to sites with limited accessibility for travellers with mobility issues. Accommodations in this emerging destination are the best available in each area.

Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

Dates	Prices	Single Supplement	Availability
May 01 - May 13, 2020	\$6,995	\$1,895	Available
May 31 - Jun 12, 2020	\$6,995	\$1,895	Available
Sep 04 - Sep 16, 2020	\$6,995	\$1,895	Available
Oct 04 - Oct 16, 2020	\$6,995	\$1,895	Available

Journey Details

Minimum number of guests to guarantee operation: Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Maximum number of guests: Limited to 18 guests.

First group event: Welcome briefing at 6:00 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: Farewell dinner at 8:00 p.m. on Day 12.

Tour inclusions: All accommodations as detailed on a double-occupancy basis with private facilities; meals as specified; bottled water during transfers and touring; airport welcome; assistance with luggage and group transportation by private air-conditioned vehicle; services of English-speaking A&K Resident Tour Director; economy flights only if specified as included in itinerary; all entrance fees, planning, handling, operational and communication charges; and all tipping.

Tour exclusions: International flights not specified as included; visas; insurance coverage of personal loss, injury, illness or damages incurred during your trip; items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, dry cleaning, Internet, fax or phone charges; transfers, sightseeing or meals not specified in itinerary; and excess baggage charges.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).