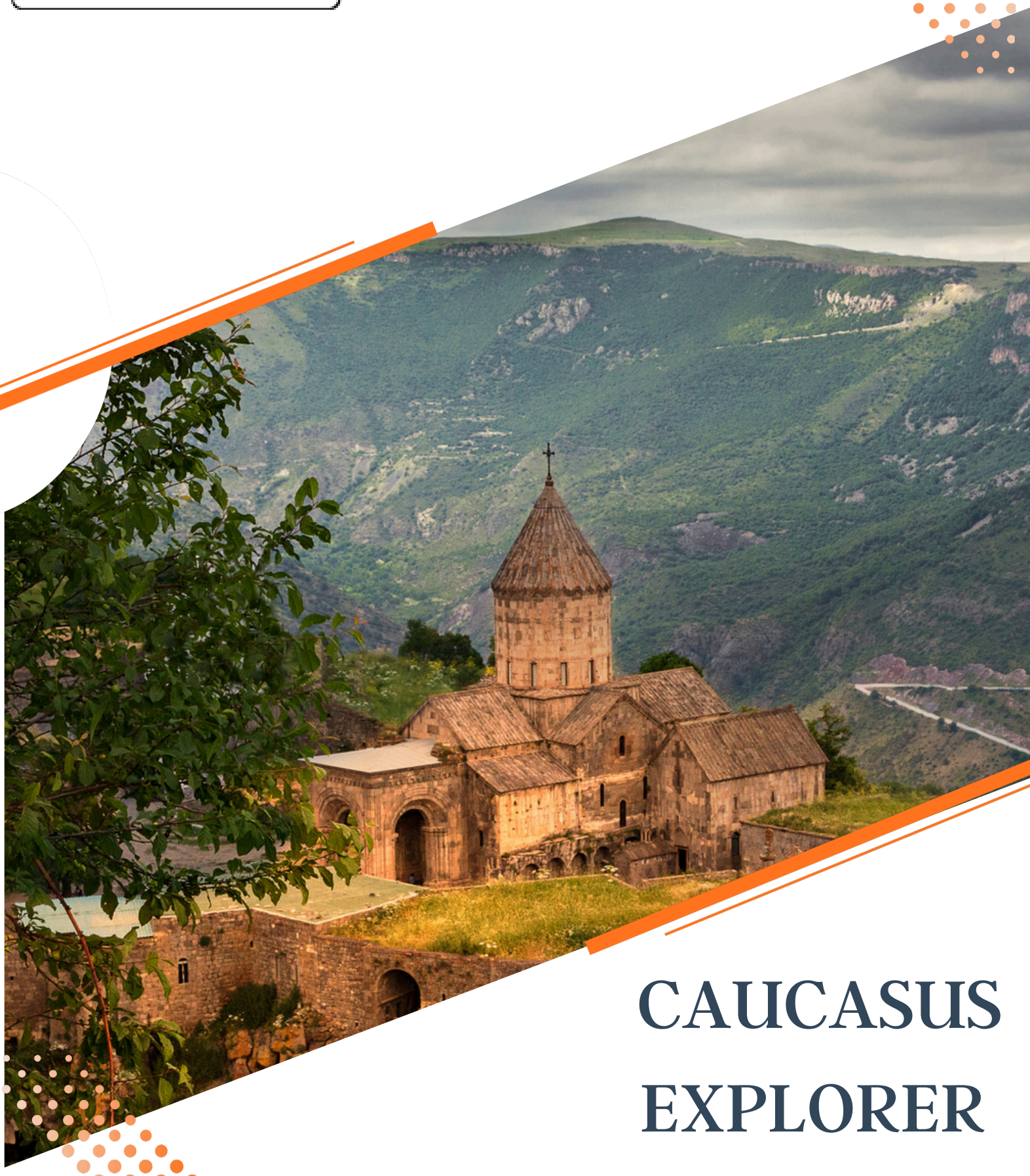
PENGUIN TRAVEL



CAUCASUS EXPLORER

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Who is this trip suitable for?

This is a classic cultural roundtrip that visits the highlights of three countries and is recommended to first-time visitors of the region. No physical preparation is required for this trip; however, it is not recommended for people with mobility issues. The city tours in the itinerary are about 2-3 hours long. Everyone who is in a condition to cope with long walks in the park can also cope with this tour. You can expect to spend about 3 hours in total per day on the bus (with some exceptions).

Visas and border crossings:

All border crossings on this journey are made by land. We will cross from Azerbaijan into Georgia at the Lagodekhi district, where we'll change buses and meet our Georgian guide. The onward border crossing from Georgia into Armenia will be made with the same bus.

Most nationalities need visas to enter some or all of the countries. We have travelers from all over the world on this trip, and we recommend you check with your local embassy if a visa is required for your nationality contact us for more details. We can provide the documents needed for a visa application (hotel names, tour confirmation, etc.). All nationalities need visas for Azerbaijan. You can apply for it online here: https://evisa.gov.az/en (single entry cost is about 30 USD as of November 2025).

Penguin Travel bears no responsibility if your visa is rejected or not received on time.

Accommodation:

On this tour, you will be accommodated in standard hotels with breakfast included. Most of them are centrally located; however, there are a few exceptions. Please note that some of the hotels might not have a parking space, and you might need to walk with your luggage from the bus parking stop to the hotel (no more than a 5-minute walk). Some of the hotels might not have elevators. Check the tour description for a sample hotel list.

*Please keep in mind that there is a limited availability for single rooms, and you might be accommodated in a room with another traveler from the same gender.

Transportation and Airport Transfers:

The bus size will depend on the group size for the particular departure (usually it accommodates 15 people group). We use local air-conditioned buses throughout the trip. Make sure you keep your documents and valuables in your day backpack so they are easily accessible.

Arrival (transfer from the airport to the hotel):

After collecting your luggage and exiting into the Arrivals Hall at Heydar Aliyev International Airport, you will find a licensed taxi company, Mastercard taxi, located directly in front of and next to the main terminal exit.
Please present the hotel address to the driver upon boarding. The hotel list will be provided to you approximately 10-14 days prior to the start of your tour.
The average fare for a transfer to the hotel is approximately €25 to €30/mandatory to be in local currency/.

The other options for a taxi are:
Bolt and Volt - In order to use them, you should have the Apps before landing. The payment is done online through the App.

Departure (transfer from the hotel to the airport):

The departure transfers from the hotel to the airport, on Day 12 of the program, can be arranged directly at the reception desk of the hotel or with our local partners on the spot.
We kindly advise you to schedule your departure transfer at least 2 hours and 30 minutes before your flight time to ensure a smooth and timely arrival at the airport.
Please contact the reception team/guide/tour leader in advance to organize your transfer.

Luggage and what to pack:

Clothes&Dress code:

The Caucasus region has a moderately warm climate, the daily average temperature in the summer months is 25-30C. It is recommended however to always be prepared and bring some warm clothes as well.
There is a lot of walking every day, so you should wear comfortable shoes.
A special dress code applies in the monasteries and churches - women need to wear clothes covering their knees and shoulders and bring s scarf to cover their hair when entering the temples. Men might not be allowed in some churches wearing shorts.
Other things to pack:

- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Antibacterial hand gel or wipes
- First Aid Kit and travel sickness tablets if you need them
- Universal power adapter (the countries on this trip use type C/F plug
- Power bank for charging your devices
- Umbrella/raincoat

Money, currency & budget:

Money & Currency:

Most restaurants and supermarkets in these countries accept Visa/Mastercard; however, it is recommended to have enough cash with you as well. You can bring either USD or EUR to exchange for local currency on the trip (the rates are usually better for USD). Some of the local currencies are always fluctuating, and the price within the country might be different than the one you see online before the trip.

Budget: To calculate your daily budget, keep in mind the entry fees (about 50 USD p.p), tips for guides and drivers, and meals and drinks (except for breakfast) are not included in the package price.

Meals and drinks:

Breakfast is the only meal included in the package price and is served at the hotels (box breakfast if the departure is early). International and local restaurants are available in the cities, included in our tour. Most of them are centrally located, within walking distance of our hotels. During the day, the local guides will recommend stops for lunch for the whole group. The price per meal may vary between 10 and 20 USD (as of November 2025).

Internet & connectivity:

It is highly recommended to buy and install a SIM card before the trip. It is also possible to buy a SIM card in the countries if your phone does not support an eSIM card. (Please let the tour leader know in advance if you will need to buy a SIM card, as it might affect the trip schedule.) The Internet works well in the country, and the hotels have wi-fi available (different signal strength depending on the hotel).

Local guides and tour leader:

On this tour, you will be accompanied by English-speaking guides and a tour leader from Penguin Travel (if the group is more than 10 people). The tour leader is responsible for organizing the logistics and making sure that the tour runs as smoothly as possible. The tour leader might have or have not visited the destination before. The local English-speaking guides will provide information about the places you visit and their historical significance, and help with restaurant recommendations. Some of the sites have their own on-site guide, too. Tips for the local guide/ tour leader are not included in the package price (we recommend 5 USD per person per day for the guide and 3 USD per person per day for the driver).

**Please keep in mind there might be some changes during your trip, especially the prices mentioned.*

Last update: *October 2025*

WE WISH YOU AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP!