



SALAM AZERBAIJAN !

Visit the cosmopolitan capital, Baku, then travel up into the southern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains to the charming medieval town of Sheki.

Duration: 8 Days & 7 Nights

Day 1 : Arrival in Baku

Arrival in Baku Heydar Aliyev Airport. ENC Tours guided transfer to hotel.

Day 2 : Baku.

This morning, your guided walking tour of Baku includes the medieval walled city "Icheri Sheher" with its narrow alleyways, historic caravanserais, mosques and Palace of the Shirvan Shahs. Visit the 12th century Maiden's Tower, the imposing mansions of the oil barons, built in the oil boom of 1870-1914 and Martyr's Alley with its superb views over the Bay of Baku.

Day 3 : Baku - Absheron - Baku.

Today enjoy a half day excursion to the Absheron Peninsula, visiting the Ateshgah (or place of fire) a Zoroastrian Fire Temple. Also see the fortresses, which in medieval times formed part of the defence system of the Peninsula and the attractive mosque at Amirjan. There's time for a swim in the Caspian Sea, before returning to Baku.

Day 4 : Baku - Shamakhi - Sheki.

Leaving Baku, depart for the Caucasus Mountains in the northwest of Azerbaijan. The dry landscape gives way to a densely forested mountain area. Visit the town of Shamakhi, once the capital of Shirvan, and the charming village of Lahij, a centre of Azerbaijani handicrafts, before arriving at the historic town of Sheki. Overnight with dinner at an atmospheric converted caravanserai.

Day 5 : Sheki - Kish

Visit the Royal Summer Palace of the Sheki Khans with its magnificent frescoes and stained glass as well as Sheki Museum and Fortress. In the afternoon drive into the countryside to the village of Kish with the oldest church in the Caucasus dating from the first century and enjoy a walk in the surrounding Caucasus foothills. Overnight in a local guesthouse with good home cooking.

Day 6 : Kish - Sheki - Ganja - Baku.

Today it is on to Azerbaijan's second city Ganja, birthplace of Nizami, the nation's most famous poet. Visit the 17th century Shah Abbas Mosque, the Orthodox church, Nizami's Mausoleum and the "Bottle House", decorated with 50,000 glass bottles. Return to Baku and overnight.

Day 7 : Baku - Gobustan - Baku.

Travel down the Caspian Sea shore to the volcanic desert south of Baku. There are thousands of rock paintings from the early Stone Age depicting hunting scenes, animals, people and ships as well as graffiti left by Alexander the Great's army and Roman legionnaires. Also see some bizarre mud volcanoes in an empty lunar landscape. Last afternoon at leisure in Baku.

Day 8 : Departure.

ENC TOURS guided transfer to airport. Departure.