



**Monday, June 17 - Arrive in Baku**

Arrival to the international airport of Baku.

19.45 Meeting at the airport in connection with Turkish Airlines flight 334 from Istanbul. Transfer to Baku.

Participants arriving with other flights will be assisted to arrange an individual or shared transfer\* or to take a taxi\* from the airport.

Accommodation at the Golden Coast Hotel (5 stars). Overnight.

21.00 Presentation dinner at the Hotel Restaurant\*.



**Tuesday, June 18 - Baku**

09:30 After breakfast, depart to visit the old Carpet Museum.

Our host will be Dr. Roya Tagyeva who will present some of the best examples, including pieces from the store-rooms. Official donation of two carpets by Mrs. Beverly Schiltz. Discussion of the two examples.

11:30 Visit the History Museum of Azerbaijan (incl. textiles and carpets).

12:30 Sightseeing tour in the city: Martyr's Cemetery, located on the higher slopes of the city's west-end, this is the best place for panorama viewing of the city and the Bay of Baku and walk along Baku Boulevard.

14:00 Light lunch\* in the Old Town.

Visit a carpet workshop in Old Town.

15:00 Visit the main objectives in the Inner City: Maiden Tower (XII century), Palace of Shirvanshahs (XV century), Castle Synyk Gala, Caravan Saray, Juma Mosque.

17:30 Tea at the workshop of Eldar Mikailzadeh where Alberto Boralevi will introduce the textile artist.

On the way back to the hotel outside view of the construction site of the new Carpet Museum of Baku.

20.00 Depart for dinner\* on the Caspian Sea (to be announced).



**Wednesday, June 19 - Baku - Gobustan - Lahij - Sheki (340 km)**

09:00 Depart from the hotel.

11.300 Stop on the road to visit cultural vestiges and have some fruits.

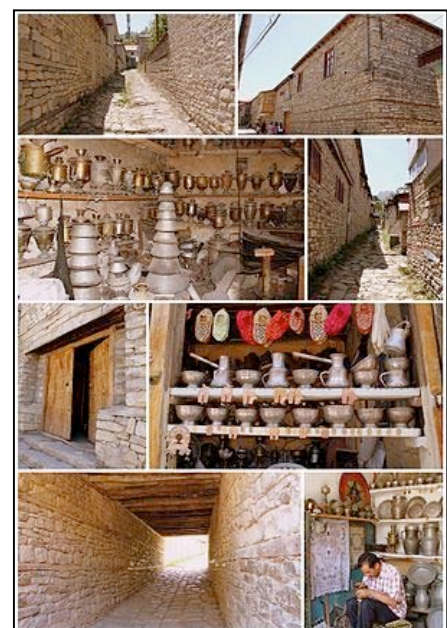
14:00 Lunch on road

15:30 Drive to Lahij village. One of the most beautiful corners of Azerbaijan at the foot of the Great Caucasus Mountains - the land of rivers, lakes and waterfalls. Three climate zones are represented in the same place in this region, ranging from snowy mountains to hot plains. The trip lasts about 2.5 hours. The itinerary passes through Lhij village, which is a commercial center. This village is inhabited by carpet weavers, hereditary tanners, engravers, potters, blacksmiths, metal and wood carvers. During the excursion, we will see an ancient bridge connecting two villages, a stone water-pipe from the 16th century, and specimens of dwellings from the 19th century with murals; we will also visit the Museum of regional studies, where ancient carpets and brass articles are kept.

Depart for Sheki our final destination.

19:30 Accommodation at hotel Sheki Saray Hotel (5 Stars)

20:00 Dinner\* at the hotel restaurant.





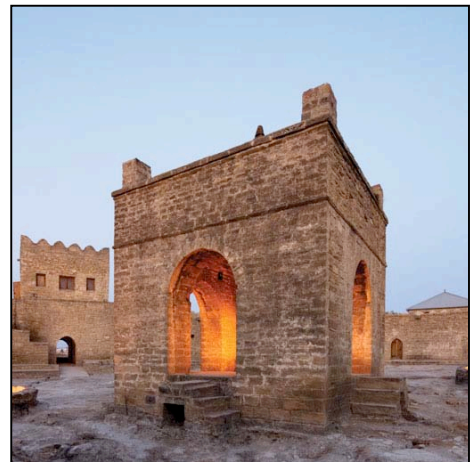
### Thursday, June 20 - Sheki

09:00 After breakfast we will have a 15 min. briefing to collect impressions, suggestions before starting the visit of Sheki. This is one of the most famous and ancient places of Azerbaijan. Situated 700 m (2297 ft.) above the sea level, like an amphitheatre surrounded by the mountains and forests of oak trees, this ancient city was long famed as a silk centre and an important stop on the Great Silk Route. There is an assumption that the name of the town goes back to the ethnonym of the Saks, who reached the territory of Azerbaijan in the 7th century BC. We'll start our Sheki tour from visiting the 18th century Khan's summer palace with magnificent frescos and exquisite stained glass work.  
10:30 Sheki History Museum with artifacts from several periods.  
12:00 Visit an early Albanian Church and the village of Kish.  
13:30 Lunch in a private home\*  
16:00 Visit a carpet work shop in Sheki  
20:00 Dinner to be announced.



### Friday, June 21 - Sheki - Shamakhi - Baku Airport - Baku (300 km)

08:00 After breakfast depart to Shamakhi.  
During the journey some experts participating at the tour will discuss topics related to the Caucasian Rugs.  
13:00 Lunch on road.  
14:30 Visit Diri Baba mausoleum in Maraza village, historical Juma Mosque (under construction), mausoleum of Yeddi Gumbez.  
Time permitting we also will visit the Fire Temple of Suraxani one of Azerbaijan's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.  
Reach Baku airport by 18.45 in connection with Turkish Airways flight to Istanbul at 20.45.  
Participants who will spend more time in Azerbaijan will be taken to the hotel in Baku. Please reserve the extra night and/or additional services.



### NOTES

- Price per person **\$550** in double room; single-room supplement **\$200**.
- Accommodation in 5 star hotels (2 nights in Baku and 2 nights in Sheki) with breakfast; private ISUZU bus, 28 seats; entrance tickets and special visits with expert English guiding.
- Fruits and 1lt of water per person per day.
- Meals and items marked with \* are not included in the cost of the tour;
- No insurance is provided as part of the fee.
- Air Costs: not included.
- Electronic Visa for Azerbaijan **\$20**; Please contact the Tour Operator at least 15 days ahead.
- This program may be slightly changed according to traffic conditions or other.
  
- Participants planning to stay longer in Baku should contact the organization for the extra nights and additional services.

Tour Leader: [Stefano\\_ionescu@yahoo.it](mailto:Stefano_ionescu@yahoo.it) 0039 0683088903 (Rome)  
Tour Operator: **Victory Tour Az** - Mr. Elvin Askerov **Tel:** (+99412) 4379090, ext.214  
**Mobile:** (+99450) 2291157 **Email:** [tdm@victorytour.az](mailto:tdm@victorytour.az)  
<http://exploreazerbaijan.com>