



Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan

THE CAUCASUS AT
A CROSSROADS

September 8 to 24, 2012

a program of the stanford
alumni association



Once united under a Soviet banner, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan are countries with wildly distinct cultures, languages, religions and peoples. And, while today's traveler may consider them off the beaten tourist track, historically these societies were at the crossroads of civilizations from ancient times to the Cold War. Join us as we explore the physical beauty of the Caucasus; the richness of each country's literary, musical and artistic heritage; the political significance of each nation's particular relationship with Russia and Turkey (and hence with the U.S. and nations of the Middle East); and the importance of the region's natural resources to the global economy. Come discover these fascinating lands with us.

Borell

BRETT S. THOMPSON, '83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY



COVER: ANANURI FORTRESS, GEORGIA

Highlights

MARVEL at the Greco-Roman temple of Garni that stands incongruously amid the medieval Christian churches dotting the Armenian countryside.

DISCOVER the unique and delicious Georgian cuisine and learn about the extensive drinking rituals that take place at nearly every big Georgian meal.

EXPLORE the narrow lanes and picturesque courtyards of Baku's Old City—a World Heritage site.



BAKU, AZERBAIJAN



Itinerary

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 & 9
DEPART U.S. / YEREVAN, ARMENIA
 Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving on Sunday in Yerevan. Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel. ARMENIA MARRIOTT HOTEL

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
YEREVAN
 Today explore Armenia's lovely capital city, including the nearly 3,000-year-old ruins of Erebuni, an ancient fortress city from which present-day Yerevan takes its name. Continue to the Armenia History Museum, then visit the Matenadaran, a repository of ancient manuscripts housing over 60,000 documents. End the day with a stroll through Vernissage, Yerevan's popular open-air market. ARMENIA MARRIOTT HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
GARNI / YEREVAN
 This morning drive to Garni, one of Armenia's oldest settlements and home to a magnificent Hellenistic-style pagan temple used as a royal residence after Armenia's conversion to Christianity. Continue to Geghard Monastery, famous for its *khatchkars*—unique stone crosses that are a symbol of Armenian religion and culture—and attend a specially arranged

choir performance there. Enjoy a private champagne reception at the Parajanov Museum. ARMENIA MARRIOTT HOTEL (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
YEREVAN / ECHMIADZIN
 Visit the sobering Armenian Genocide Museum Institute and explore the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Complex dedicated to the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in the first genocide of the 20th century. Attend a briefing at a local foundation working to promote social justice and democratic values. Drive to Echmiadzin to visit the residence of the Supreme Catholicos, leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and tour the cathedral's small museum. ARMENIA MARRIOTT HOTEL (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
KHOR VIRAP / NORAVANK / YEREVAN
 Drive to the monastery complex of Khor Virap where St. Gregory was imprisoned in an underground cell for 12 years before succeeding in making Armenia the first country to accept Christianity as its state religion. Marvel at the stunning views of Mt. Ararat, then drive to the Noravank Monastery whose 14th-century Surb Astvatsatsin Church is the masterpiece of renowned architect and sculptor, Momik. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the grounds of Noravank before returning to Yerevan. ARMENIA MARRIOTT HOTEL (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
RIYA TAZA / HAGHPAT / TBILISI, GEORGIA
 On our journey to Georgia, stop en route in the Kurdish village of Riya Taza. After an al fresco lunch, continue through vast pine forests to the monastic complex at Haghat, a 10th-century complex that boasts some of the best-preserved examples of Armenian architecture as well as beautiful frescoes and stone manuscripts. Cross the border into Georgia, arriving in Tbilisi this evening. RADISSON IVERIA HOTEL (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
TBILISI
 Explore Georgia's picturesque capital today. Visit Metekhi Church located high atop a cliff overlooking the Old Town, then tour the Museum of Georgian Art whose treasury includes the oldest example of Georgian icon painting. Visit Sioni Cathedral and Caravanserai, home to Georgia's holiest relic: a cross of vine stems and hair said to have been woven by St. Nino who brought Christianity to Georgia in the 4th century. Explore the atmospheric bathhouse district and end the afternoon with a briefing at the U.S. Embassy. This evening discover Georgia's tasty, unique cuisine at a traditional dinner. RADISSON IVERIA HOTEL (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
MTSKHETA / GORI / TBILISI
 After a morning meeting with a local civil rights NGO, drive to Georgia's

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TBILISI, GEORGIA

“spiritual capital,” the charming town of Mtskheta. Visit the Cathedral of Sveti-Tskoveli and Jvari Monastery, built at the end of the 6th century. Continue to Gori, birthplace of Stalin, and visit the Stalin Museum that includes the house in which the dictator was born. Return to Tbilisi and enjoy an evening at leisure. **RADISSON IVERIA HOTEL (B,L)**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

ANANURI / TBILISI

Drive along the Georgian Military Highway, an ancient strategic route through the Greater Caucasus that the Russian military turned into a modern road in the 19th century to help control its newly conquered territory. Stop at Ananuri, a superb 16th-century fortress with massive walls and defensive towers. Return to Tbilisi and spend this evening sampling more delectable Georgian cuisine independently. **RADISSON IVERIA HOTEL (B,L)**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

GURJAANI / TELAVI

Enjoy a scenic drive to the province of Kakheti, stopping en route at the Ninotsminda Cathedral where we meet with the resident nuns. Continue to the village of Gurjaani for a specially arranged lunch at a local home. Enjoy a wine-tasting at Tsinandali Winery whose oldest surviving bottle dates from 1814. Continue to the city of Telavi and check in to our hotel. **RCHEULI MARANI HOTEL (B,L,D)**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

TELAVI

Spend the day exploring the region, beginning with the stunning silver-domed Alaverdi Cathedral, Georgia’s largest church. Drive to the fortress complex of Kvetara that was built by a local Kakhetian prince in the 10th century. Return to Telavi where we explore Herekle’s Palace, an 18th-century castle enclosure with a distinctly Persian architectural flavor. **RCHEULI MARANI HOTEL (B,L,D)**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

TELAVI / SHEKI, AZERBAIJAN

Drive past the ruins of watchtowers and customs houses along an important ancient trade route across the border into Azerbaijan. Arrive in the city of Sheki and visit its summer palace and riverside fortress with Venetian stained-glass windows. Spend the night in a former caravanserai, a relic of Sheki’s large silk industry. **SHEKI SARAY HOTEL (B,L,D)**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

SHEMAKHA / BAKU

Depart early this morning for Baku, stopping first at Shemakha, a major trading center and former capital of the Shirvanshahs. Among the surviving buildings are a 10th-century mosque and a royal mausoleum. Arrive in Baku early this evening and check in to our hotel. **HYATT REGENCY BAKU (B,L,D)**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

BAKU

Visit the somber Martyrs Lane, a memorial to those killed during the fight for Azerbaijani independence in 1990 and later in the Nagorno-Karabakh War. After a walking tour through the Old City of Baku, a World Heritage site, view displays of carpets at the State Museum of Azerbaijan Carpets and Applied Art. Explore the extensive courtyards and buildings of the 15th-century Palace of the Shirvanshahs followed by a briefing at the U.S. Embassy. **HYATT REGENCY BAKU (B,L)**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

BAKU

Visit bizarre Yanar Dag, a natural gas fire that has blazed continuously since it was accidentally ignited by a shepherd in 1950. Tour the National Museum of Fine Arts and the Historical Museum housed in two of the wonderfully eclectic mansions built for 19th-century oil barons when Azerbaijan supplied more than half of the world’s oil. Enjoy an optional visit to the prehistoric petroglyphs at Gobustan. Gather for a special farewell reception and dinner this evening. **HYATT REGENCY BAKU (B,L,D)**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

BAKU / U.S.

Check out of our hotel this morning and transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B)**



GARNI, ARMENIA



YANAR DAG, AZERBAIJAN



Information

DATES

September 8 to 24, 2012 (17 days)



SIZE

Limited to 34 participants

COST*

\$8,695 per person, double occupancy

\$10,375 per person, single occupancy

*Association nonmembers add \$200 per person

INCLUDED

15 nights in best-available hotel accommodations

- 15 breakfasts, 14 lunches and 10 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Bottled water on excursions
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities
- All tours as described in the itinerary
- Transfers on program arrival and departure days
- Airport departure taxes
- Baggage handling at all hotels
- Visa for Azerbaijan
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED

- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and expedited visa fees
- Visa for Armenia (to be obtained upon arrival at the airport in Yerevan for approximately \$10)
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Transfers on days other than arrival and departure days
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour
- Personal items such as email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

WHAT TO EXPECT

We consider this program to be physically demanding and strenuous, suitable for travelers in excellent health with greater-than-average stamina and an enthusiasm for adventurous travel experiences. This program involves a great deal of travel in areas with a developing infrastructure. Daily activities include one to three miles of walking, often on uneven and rocky terrain. In many instances stairs are unavailable or do not have handrails. Our journey at times requires several hours of travel by motorcoach, the longest drives being up to 10 hours. We make occasional rest stops, but often toilets are not available and nature's facilities are more inviting and abundant than those that are manmade. Due to poor repair and some unpaved rural roads, travel may be slow at times. Medical treatment and care are not always available or up to U.S. standards. In many ways, the challenges of this program are part of the learning experience. Daytime temperatures in the Caucasus at this time of year range from the low 50s (°F) to the high 70s, with chances of rain. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.



MAIDEN TOWER, AZERBAIJAN



ETCHMIADZIN, ARMENIA



A KHATCHKAR, ARMENIA

Terms & Conditions

Deposit & Final Payment

A \$1,000 deposit is required to hold space for this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or place your deposit online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds

Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a \$500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The

product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

Eligibility

We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is \$200 more than the members' price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional

expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, *force majeure* or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in January 2012 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50



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Faculty Leader

SCOTT PEARSON has been studying economic change in developing countries for 50 years. Between 1968 and 2002, Professor Pearson taught economic development and international trade at Stanford's Food Research Institute. He has co-authored a dozen books, won awards for his research and teaching, and advised governments on food and agricultural policy. Since retiring, Scott has lectured on 75 Travel/Study trips. His passion is to understand why empires and nation states have risen and fallen. He will discuss the political and economic histories of Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan from the 3rd millennium BCE to the present.

“Scott is a teacher extraordinaire! His presentations gave all of us a better understanding of this part of the world and its history.”

**BETSY ROERING,
CROATIA WALK, 2009**

- Professor, agricultural economics, Food Research Institute, Stanford University, 1968–2002; served five years as director
- Dean’s Award for Teaching in the School of Humanities and Sciences, 1978
- MA, international relations, Johns Hopkins University
- PhD, economics, Harvard University

S T A N F O R D T R A V E L / S T U D Y

Reservation Form Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan

MR. / MRS. / MS.
MISS / DR. / PROF.

NAME _____

MR. / MRS. / MS.
MISS / DR. / PROF.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

CELL / WORK / HOME
PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE _____

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

- I wish to have single accommodations.
OR I plan to share accommodations with:

OR I'd like to know about possible roommates.



BED PREFERENCE:

- Twins Double

Here is my deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) for _____ space(s)

Enclosed is my check (payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

Charge my deposit to my:
 Visa MasterCard American Express

CARD # _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?armenia2012. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.

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Association

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Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan

THE CAUCASUS AT
A CROSSROADS

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“This extraordinary program was
one of my BEST Stanford trips.”

**CAMILLA CHANDLER FROST, EASTERN TURKEY, ARMENIA AND
GEORGIA SUITCASE SEMINAR, 2006**

S T A N F O R D T R A V E L / S T U D Y

