



explore
Azerbaijan
by Victory Tour



About Mugam



It is a highly complex art form that weds classical poetry and musical improvisation in specific local modes. "Mugham" is a modal system. Unlike Western modes, "mugham" modes are associated not only with scales but with an orally transmitted collection of melodies and melodic fragments that performers use in the course of improvisation. "Mugham" is a compound composition of many parts. The choice of a particular mugham and a style of performance fits a specific event.

The peculiarity of folk music clarifies itself firstly with the development of a fret system. It contains seven main frets - rast, shur, segyakh (are especially spread), shushter, bayati-shiraz, chargyakh, khumayun and three collateral kinds - shakhnaz, sarendj, chargyakh in some other form.

National Instruments



Instruments used in traditional Azeri mugam music include the stringed instruments tar - is a long-necked plucked lute, the kamancha - is an ancient stringed musical instrument of Azerbaijan played with a bow and the qaval - Gaval (daf) is also the oldest musical instrument of Azerbaijan.

Cultural Tour "Exploring Mugam"

Duration: 1 days

Period: all year

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Meeting in hotel on reception. Start exploring Baku. Panorama of the city presented to the height of the mountainous part of a television tower clearly gives an idea of the contrasts and the extent of Baku, the horseshoe bay of Baku. The city is shaped like an amphitheater, descending down to the Caspian Sea. Tour covers the central part of the city showing the most interesting historical and architectural sites.

Visiting of "Old Town" or "Inner City". The territory of "Inner City" - 22 hectares, which represents a small fraction of the total area of Baku (44,000 hectares). However, the concentration of architectural and historical monuments, dictates the need for this excursion into a separate and make this part of Baku, perhaps the most interesting to explore. Maiden Tower (XII century), Palace of Shirvanshahs (XV century), Castle Synyk Gala, Caravan Saray, Juma Mosque - this is not a complete list of attractions of the old Baku.

Visiting international Mugham Centre

Azeri Mugham - a traditional style of narrative folk music - was recognized by UNESCO in 2003 as being one of the 'Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'.

The construction of the building started in April, 2005. The center covers 7,500 square meters and has 3 stories. The design of the building was based on elements and shapes of Tar, Azerbaijani musical instrument used in performing Mugham. The center also has a club, restaurant, study halls and record studios. The official opening of the International Mugham Center took place on December 27, 2008. The center hosts mugham festivals, concerts, recitals of various singers and performers.

In the evening we will have a dinner with national meals and Mugham music in one of city restaurants

Visa

Visa upon arrival in International Airports of Azerbaijan can be obtained only by Turkish and Israel citizens. Citizens of other countries have to obtain visa before arrival through consulates of Azerbaijan around the world. To obtain tourist visa to Azerbaijan you will need an official Letter of Invitation (LOI) or Tourist Voucher from our travel agency. Procedures and prices are different and depend of citizenship and consulate location. Please contact with our managers at list 6 weeks before to arrange our visa to Azerbaijan.

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Practical Information

Foreign Exchange: Up-to-date information on exchange rates can be obtained here: <http://www.cbar.az/>

Local Currency: Manat

Recommended Currency for Exchange: USD or EURO.

Where to Exchange: Most major towns - your guide will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability: Only in major towns.

Credit Card Acceptance: Only in major towns.

Travelers Cheques: Travelers cheques are difficult to change.

Climate

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
 Avg. Temperature	6	5	8	15	18	30	32	30	20	17	12	8
 Avg. Max Temperature	10	8	12	19	22	30	35	37	25	21	16	12
 Avg. Min Temperature	3	2	4	10	13	25	30	33	16	13	8	6
 Avg. Rain Days	4	5	3	3	4	3	5	4	3	4	2	5
 Avg. Snow Days	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Vaccinations & Protection

Nothing compulsory

Electric Supply & Plugs

For comprehensive information regarding voltages and plug types in use in Azerbaijan see the link <http://www.kropla.com/electric2.htm>

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all our customers. You should ensure that your policy covers you for medical expenses and repatriation.

Packing for your trip

Unfortunately it does occasionally happen that luggage does not always reach its destination on the same flight as its owner, or possibly it may be damaged in transit. If you are unlucky enough for this to occur, it is important that you file a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) with the airline before leaving the airport. This is essential when you come to make a claim either against the airline or from your travel insurance company

Luggage

Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Total allowance: **20 kg.**

Clothing

Pack essentially for '**Hot Conditions**'. Weather is changeable in the north and mountains; it can be cool especially at night, bring a warmer jacket. Raingear is essential at all times. In remote parts of Caucasus you should avoid shorts and vest tops; long trousers or skirts are ideal. A headscarf is essential for visiting churches and mosques.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes for visiting sites and hilly towns; sandals; lightweight walking/trail boots for optional day walks.

Equipment

Swimsuit, Sunhat, Sun Cream and Sunglasses.

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Comments

While it is our intention to follow the itinerary printed, tours within Azerbaijan may be subject to change a bit. The infrastructure for tourism is still developing in this region.

You'll need some extra money to cover meals not included in the tour price, other sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry. Approximately USD 30 per day per person.

Local food is not expensive and you can choose local national restaurants and small cafes to eat, approximate menu price for one person is from USD 10.

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