



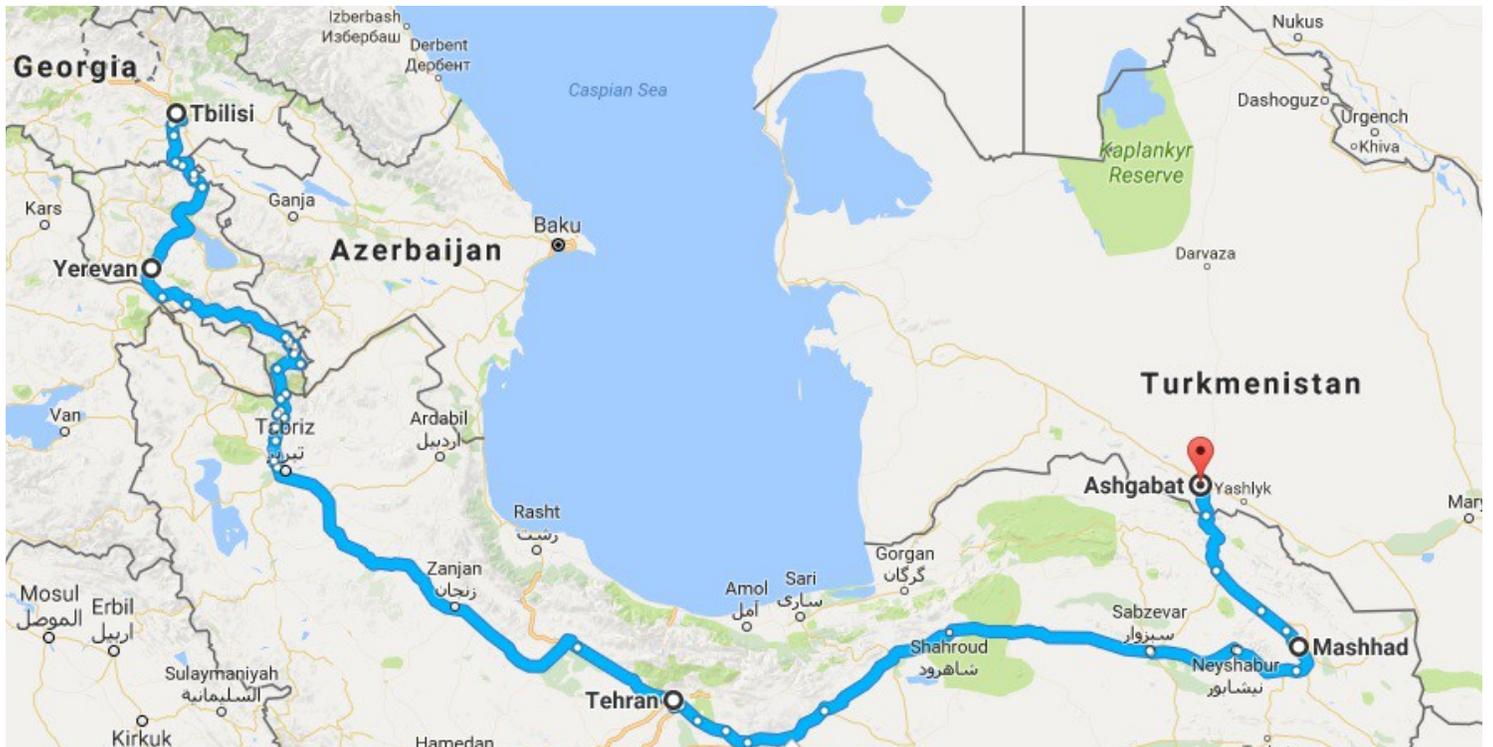
Tour: SILK ROAD ROUTE

Route: Georgia – Armenia – Iran – Turkmenistan

Duration: 14 days / 13 nights

Best period : Late Spring – Beginning of Autumn

Suitable for middle size groups



incoming@neoarmenia.com T.: (+374) (0)60 483872

Skype:NeoArmenia URL: www.neoarmenia.com



DRAFT ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure from homeland
Day 2: Arrival / Tbilisi
Day 3 : Tbilisi-Mtskheta-Gori-Uplistsikhe-Tbilisi
Day 4: Tbilisi-Sighnaghi-Velistsikhe-Kvareli-Tbilisi
Day 5: Tbilisi / Sadachlo / Hagpat / Sevan / Yerevan city tour
Day 6: Yerevan / Echmiadzin / Garni / Ghégard / Yerevan
Day 7: Yerevan /Khor Virap / Noravank / Selim/ Yeghegnadzor
Day 8: Yeghegnadzor / Tatev / Kapan
Day 9: Kapan / Megri / Nor duz / Tabriz
Day 10: Tabriz / Znajan
Day 11: Znajan / Tehran
Day 12: Tehran ✈ Mashad
Day 13: Mashad / Ashgabat
Day 14: Departure

DESCRIPTIVE PROGRAM

Day 1 : Departure from homeland

Day 2: Arrival / Tbilisi

Early in the morning arrive to Tbilisi airport and transfer to the hotel. After late breakfast start Tbilisi sightseeing program visiting the Old Town including Metekhi Church (13th century), a Synagogue, Sioni Cathedral (6th-7th centuries), Peace Bridge and Anchiskhati Church (6th century). Afterwards drive up to Mother Georgia statue and walk down to Narikala Fortress (4th century) en route enjoying beautiful views of Old Town as well as the visit to Sulphur Baths. Overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi.

Day 3 : Tbilisi-Mtskheta-Gori-Uplistsikhe-Tbilisi

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit the ancient capital and religious center of Georgia – Mtskheta and see its historical places: Jvari Monastery (6th century) and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (11th century) where the Robe of Christ is buried. Both Jvari and Svetitskhoveli are UNESCO World Heritage sites. Continue drive to visit the town of Gori – the heart of Kartli region and its historical place: Uplistsikhe Cave Town (1st millennium BC). Uplistsikhe is the place where the Great Silk Road used to pass. Short visit also to which Gori is a birthplace of Stalin, visit his house and museum. Drive back to Tbilisi. Overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi.

Day 4: Tbilisi-Sighnaghi-Velistsikhe-Kvareli-Tbilisi



Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning start exploring Kakheti region well known for its wine producing. Enjoy superb views of Great Caucasus Mountains and valleys of Kakheti. Visit the fortified town of love - Sighnaghi, where take a short walk. Visit Bodbe monastery that holds the tomb of St Nino. Next visit is to a family wine-cellar where we learn more about home-made wine producing and along with wine tasting (See the supplement price below). Drive back to Tbilisi. Overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi.

Day 5: Tbilisi / Sadachlo / Hagpat / Sevan / Yerevan city tour

Drive to Georgian-Armenian border. Check point Sadakhlo. Change guide and transport and continue trip to Armenia. Drive to Hagpat monastery of 10-13 cen. in Lori region near the industrial town of Alaverdi. Continue to lake Sevan to enjoy the world's second highest and largest freshwater lake and drive to Yerevan. Short city tour with the panoramic view to the city. Check in at the hotel. Evening stroll in republic Square to enjoy the colorful fountains. Overnight in Yerevan.

Day 6: Yerevan / Echmiadzin / Garni / Ghegard / Yerevan

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit Tsitsernakaberd memorial dedicated to the victims of 1915 Genocide. Continue to the religious center of Armenia and visit Echmiadzin cathedral of 4th cent, and the ruins of Zvarntots church of 7th cen. Return back to Yerevan and drive to Kotayk region and visit Garni Pagan temple (1st cent. A.D.) – the only one in all CIS countries and the cave monastery of Ghegard (12-13 cen. UNESCO). Return back to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

Day 7: Yerevan /Khor Virap / Noravank / Selim / Yeghegnadzor

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Khor Virap monastery to enjoy the best and the closest view to the beautiful and biblical Mt. Ararat. Continue to Vayots Dzor region and visit Noravank monastery of 10-14 cen. and the beautiful Gnishik canyon that leads to the monastery. Continue to Selim pass to visit Orbelians caravanserai 14 cen. built on the former routes of Great Silk Road. Located at the southern side of Vardenyats Mountain Pass at a height of 2410 meters above sea level, Orbelian's Caravanserai is the best preserved caravanserai in the entire country. Descend to Yeghegnadzor for overnight.

Day 8: Yeghegnadzor / Tatev / Kapan

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Syunik province which borders with Iran. Visit Tatev monastery 10 -15 cen. taking world's longest aerial tramway which flies over the spectacular Vortan river canyon. Tatev is known as the bishopric seat of Syunik and played a significant role in the history of the region as a center of economic, political, spiritual and cultural activity. In the 14th and 15th centuries the monastery hosted one of the most important Armenian medieval universities, the University of Tatev, which contributed to the advancement of science, religion and philosophy, reproduction of books and development of [miniature painting](#). Continue to Kapan town for overnight.

Day 9: Kapan / Megri - Nor duz / Tabriz

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Drive to Megri – Nor Duz at Armenia – Iran border . Today's Armenia borders with Iran with only 30 km. Guide and driver change on the border, border formalities and continue to Tabriz which has been one of the historical capitals of Iran. Present Tabriz is the biggest economic hub and the biggest metropolitan area in North West of Iran. Marco Polo, who traveled



through the Silk Road and passed Tabriz about 1275, described it as: "a great city surrounded by beautiful and pleasant gardens. It is excellently situated so the goods brought to here come from many regions. Latin merchants specially Genevis go there to buy the goods that come from foreign lands." Overnight in Tabriz.

Day 10: Tabriz / Znanjan

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Visit famous historical Blue Mosque which was constructed in 1465 upon the order of Jahan Shah, the ruler of Kara Koyunlu. Continue to Zanzan situated 298 km north-west of Tehran on the main highway to Tabriz and Turkey and approximately 125 km from the Caspian Sea. Zanzan is known for its beautiful handcrafts such as knives, traditional sandals, called charoogh, and malileh, a handcraft made with silver wires. Visit the Dome of Soltaniyeh erected from 1302 to 1312 AD, has the oldest double-shell dome in Iran. It is one of the largest brick domes in the world, just at the theoretical engineering limit for a brick dome and the third largest dome in the world after the domes of Florence Cathedral and Hagia Sophia. Overnight in Zanzan.

Day 11: Zanzan / Tehran

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out. Visit Historical Edifice of Rakhtshooy Khaneh which in means wash-house and it was built nearly 20th century. This place was used for washing clothes by women around the city. It was constructed by two brothers named Mashad Akbar and Mashadi Esmail. This historic building is currently being used as Zanzan anthropological museum. Drive to Theran via Qazvin which was an ancient capital in the Persian Empire and nowadays is known as the calligraphy capital of Iran. Overnight in Qazvin.

Day 12: Tehran ✈ Mashad

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out. Visit the National Museum and the famous Glassware Museum. The premises that have been turned into museum where glass and clay works are on display were built about 90 years ago upon orders of Ahmad Qavam (Qavam-ol-Saltaneh) for his personal lodging (residence and working office). The building is situated in a garden with a span of 7000 square meters and was used by Qavam himself till the year 1953. Visit also Golestan palace which is One of the oldest historic monuments in the city of Tehran of world heritage status. It belongs to a group of royal buildings that were once enclosed within the mud-thatched walls of Tehran's arg ("citadel"). It consists of gardens, royal buildings, and collections of Iranian crafts and European presents from the 18th and 19th centuries. Then transfer to the airport for flight to Mashhad. If time permits Visit of holy shrine of Imam Reza. Overnight in Mashad.

Day 13: Mashad / Ashgabat

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out. Drive to the border post on Gaudan at the Iran - Turkmenistan border. Border formalities. Guide and driver change and drive to Ashgabat. Short city tour in Ashgabat which is the capital and the largest city of Turkmenistan in Central Asia. If time permits visit Nissa (UNESCO) and Turkmenbashi Mosque-Mausoleum. Overnight in Ashgabat .

Day 14: Departure



Drive to the airport. Return back to homeland.

Notes:

The order of the itinerary is subject to be revised.

Museums are closed on Mondays.

Scarves are required for women to enter in Armenian Orthodox churches.

Short trousers aren't acceptable in the church both for women and men.

Wind and rain coats, hat, sun cream and comfortable shoes should be in every luggage.