

## DAY 1

### 10:00 TRADITIONAL BREAKFAST

It is common knowledge that Azerbaijan starts with nice and tasty food. Therefore, we recommend you in the first place to get some satisfying breakfast, to build up enough energy before a long walk. If you enter the cozy fortress of the Old City through the "QoshaQala" (double gate) Gates, at the entrance you will find a tiny restaurant, famous for its amazing breakfasts. The place is called "Mangal" (charcoal grill), which means here you can taste some nice traditional cuisine. At "Mangal", you will get real Azerbaijani breakfast, which will keep you full and comfortable up until the lunchtime. Just go ahead and order the standard package, and enjoy dishes appearing on your table one after another.

### 11:00 MAIDEN TOWER & ICHERI SHEHER (OLD CITY)

Let's continue our journey without leaving the walls of the Old City. The main symbol of the ancient Baku – a mysterious tower of an unknown purpose is located at the very heart of the ancient city, inside Baku. There are still many legends told about this building, and we recommend you to listen to your guide or interpreter, who will show you every corner of this XII century tower and help you get into the spirit of the old times.

**Address: the Old City (Inner city or "Icherisheher")**

**Business hours: Tuesday-Sunday: 10:00 – 18:00 Ticket price: 2 AZN**

### 12:30 SOUVENIRS

Authentic streets, historic walls and souvenir shops, covered with multitude of colorful stuff... and of course the quaint colorful sellers, who definitely will recommend you to buy absolutely everything. Here you will find handmade articles and goods, beautiful silk scarfs, kerchiefs and neckpieces, as well as Azerbaijani national headdress "kelaghayi", small city symbols and statues, bijouterie made of natural stones and even traditional craft made of natural wool, such as "Papakha" hats, special bags and etc. Just don't forget to bargain!

### 13:15 LUNCH

Various kebabs, lulah kebabs, qutabs with greens, meat and pumpkin, dovqa and many other dishes! We also strongly recommend you to try the liver salad, i.e. so called "mangal salad". Almost everyone here loves it, and believe us you won't regret it as well.

### 14:30 YAY GALLERY

After such a close acquaintance with Azerbaijani cuisine, you will be ready to start knowing the local residents. Baku residents never stop to develop their city and potential. Therefore, we recommend you to start familiarizing yourself with the creative side of the city. One of the best ways to do so is "Yay! Gallery". This gallery represents the modern arts of Azerbaijan, and also helps the guests to learn about the new tendencies and names in the world's art.

**Address: KichikQala str. 5**

### 15:15 THE FOUNTAIN SQUARE

At the Fountain Square and famous Nizami Street, often out of old habit called by the native Baku residents as the "Torgovi" street (the trade street), you will find a multitude of boutiques, coffee shops, burger places and restaurants. This is the place where you can easily find almost everything you might need.

### 16:15 HEYDAR ALIYEV CULTURAL CENTER

Designed by legendary architect ZahaHadid in the year 2014, the Center has been recognized as the best building in the world, by the London museum of design. In this amazing complex, you will see the auditorium, Heydar Aliyev museum, exhibition halls, cafes and administrative offices. Shaped in a way to represent a way heavenward aspiration and a smooth fusion with the earth, the cultural center represents not only a postmodern style of the master, but also the infinity, symbolizing a connection between the past and the future. This is why the Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center perfectly matches our capital city.

**Address: Heydar Aliyev avenue 1.; phone: (+994 12) 505-60-01.**

**Business hours: Tuesdays-Fridays 11:00-19:00, Saturdays and Sundays 11:00-18:00; ticket price: 15 AZN**

### 19:00 RELAX

After your a tasty dinner, we recommend you to walk over the central street and enter one of the wine bars (ROOM Baku, KEFLI Local Wine & Snacks), in order to taste some local wine. And if it's Friday, then you should definitely visit the Hashtag Cocktail Bar and get a couple of unique cocktails in an original serving.

**Address: T. Aliyabekov str. Natavan alley 1 Phone: +994 (552) 55-07-00**

## DAY 2

### 11:00 THE PALACE OF THE SHIRVANSHAHS

You just can't visit Baku without seeing the Shirvanshahs Palace! Therefore, our today's journey will start from the fortress. This palace is a former residence of the Shirvan rulers. The astonishingly beautiful complex contains the main building of the palace, Divanhane yard, burial vaults, and mosque dated 1441, as well as a bath house and mausoleum of royal scientist Seyid Yahya Bakuvi. This noble complex was built in the course of several centuries, starting from XIII.

**Address: the Old City, Qasrdongesi, 76. Phone: (+994 12) 492-10-73 Business hours: 10:00-18:00 Ticket price: 2 AZN**

### 12:00 THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARTS OF AZERBAIJAN

This is the biggest art museum in the country, with more than 17000 items in its funds. The museum has been established in the year 1936, and today it occupies two beautiful city buildings, constructed at the end of XIX century. Inside, you can enjoy viewing pieces of art created not only by the national artists, but also by authors from Russia, the Near East and Europe.

**Address: 9/11 Niyazi str.**

### 13:00 THE LITTLE VENICE

This "little Italian town" recreated at the seaside boulevard adds a special color to the park. The Little Venice consists of several channels, where gondolas and gondoliers sail between the small bridges and invite the guests to a romantic journey. In the restaurants at the "shore", you will be able to enjoy a tasty dinner, get some appetizers and drinks, or just relax with a cup of tea and make clouds with shisha.

**Address: 73 Nefchilar ave.**

### 14:00 FISH FOR LUNCH

Visiting a seaside town and not tasting a fish? No, we wouldn't recommend you to commit this kind of awful crime! We advice you to go to the restaurants near Bibi Heybat, they are famous for its tasty dishes, made of perch, carp, mullet, kutum, and others. You can order dishes cooked on mangal or on tava (frying pan).

### 15:30 YARAT CENTRE

After your seafood lunch, while heading down to the city center you can walk around the new boulevard. This is the very place where new locations are being built and opened in the recent years. For instance, YARAT Contemporary Arts Center, being one of the largest modern art environments in the whole region, combining the constant exposition, platforms for modern exhibitions and auditoriums for educational programs. YARAT is engaged in development of the modern arts in Azerbaijan, and creation of a platform for representation of Azerbaijani arts within the country and abroad.

**Address: Bayil settlement (near the National Flag square) Phone: (+994 12) 505-14-14**

**Business hours: 11:00-20:00, Thursdays - 11:00- 22:00**

### 16:40 THE EYE (BAKU FERRIS WHEEL)

The new Baku Eye is one of the most favorite entertainments of the local residents. Its height reaches 60 meters and you can find it at the part of boulevard close to the National Flag Square.

### 17:20 THE CARPET MUSEUM

Established in the year 1967, the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum is the first museum in the world, engaged in collection, preservation and studying of the carpets. The museum fund contains more than 14 thousand showpieces. The oldest carpet exhibit item at the museum is a fragment of carpet, which belongs to the Tebriz "Ovchuluq" school, weaved back in 17th century.

**Address: Baku, Mikayil Useynov ave. 28;**

**Business hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10:00-20:00; phone: +994 12 497-20-57.**

## DAY 3

### 11:20 MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Museum of Modern Arts was established in Baku in the year 2009, by initiative of the First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva. The main tendencies of the museum are the freedom and absence of stipulated boundaries for the expositions. This can be seen even by looking at the building's architecture – there are no corners, the passages are open and the walls have different inclines. The museum contains more than 800 works of Azerbaijani artists and sculptures, who are mostly avant-gardists. Moreover, there are also works of Picasso, Dali Chagall and many others.

**Address: Yusif Safarov str. 5**

**Business hours: Tuesday – Sunday 11:00 - 20:00 Tickets prices: 5 AZN for adults, 2 AZN for school and college students and free of charge for pre-schoolers**

### 12:20 ARCHITECTURAL SOPHISTICATION OF BAKU

At the end of XIX century and beginning of XX century, Baku has gone through the first oil boom, which had a large influence on the development of local building industry. The entrepreneurs from all over the world have chosen Baku as the platform for their architectural investments. Therefore, even a regular walk around the city can turn into an informative insight into the history of world architecture. All you need to do is pay a little more attention, look around, keep your head up and look on to the roofs, as well as notice writings on the street doors, where the year of the building's construction is usually indicated.

**More: <http://salambaku.travel/en/whatsee/single/5-architectural-sophistication-of-baku>**

### 14:00 LUNCH

Pilaf is the royal dish of any Azerbaijani feast. Therefore, we strongly recommend you to dedicate at least one meal to tasting it. And we are confident that the new feelings and experience will be incomparable with whatever you've tasted before, because the whole taste spectrum and soul of this hot dish can be experienced only while enjoying it at its native land.

### 15:30 THE HISTORY MUSEUM - TAGHIYEV'S ROOM

During the years 1895-1901Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev has built a big palace in the center of Baku. All four facades of this noble mansion and giant domes on its roof will attract your attention even from a distance. Since 1921, this building hosts the Museum of History of Azerbaijan, while one of the expositions is still dedicated to the life and family of famous oil magnate, millionaire and philanthropist Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev.

**Address: 4 Taghiyev str.**

### 18:00 THE BOULEVARD

Yes, indeed you can walk on the shore of the Caspian Sea without leaving the city center! The boulevard has various attractions, cozy cafes, colorful tea houses and fast food kiosks. A fairytale train, which cruises all over the boulevard, will take you from one side of this enormous park to another. However, it is worth mentioning that you will have a much more pleasant time if you walk around the seaside boulevard and enjoy your surroundings.

### 19:30 THE FUNICULAR

You can also have a nice and pleasant ride from the boulevard and the Nefchilaravenue up to the Nagorny (Uphill) Park. The funicular will take you all the way up within about 4 minutes, and the waiting time is about 10 minutes.

### 20:00 NAGORNY (UPHILL) PARK

And this is the place where you get an amazing view of the city. Sightseeing platform of the Uphill Park is the highest point of Baku, from where you can see a beautiful panoramic view of the city and the bay.

## DAY 4

### 11:30 THE ATESHGAH

Ateshgah kilometers from temple – is pure and unique Azerbaijani exotica. It is known almost all over the world and located in about 30 kilometers from Baku downtown, on the outskirts of Surakhani village. This territory is famous for its unique natural phenomenon – the burning exhaustion of natural gas (the gas comes out of the ground and inflames after contact with the oxygen). The today's version of the temple was built back in XVII-XVIII centuries. It was constructed by the Hindu community, mainly the Sikh cast, who were residing in Baku at that time. However, the history of Ateshgah temple goes way back in time. From the ancient times this territory was a sacred sanctuary of Zoroastrians-fire worshippers (approximately the beginning of modern era). They attached mystical importance to the eternal flame and were making pilgrimage to worship this sacred place.

### 13:30 YANARDAG (THE BURNING MOUNTAIN)

Yanardag or the burning mountain – is one of the most amazing natural monuments of the Absheron peninsula. A hill-side engulfed in flames, which are impossible to extinguish by fire, or sand, which is burning for thousands of years now.

### 15:30 LUNCH

You've probably figured it out by now, and know which dish is the most popular of all not only in Baku but all over Azerbaijan – it is Kebab! We recommend you to taste the lamb kebab (or shashlik) and lulah-kebab. It is served as a separated dish and may be served with other dishes as well. For an appetizer, you should definitely try the salad made of local tomatoes! Juicy, sweet and amazingly flavored fresh tomatoes, dressed with greens – straight out of the garden will not leave you indifferent. Just don't get too stuffed, leave some room because there are so many delicious things around!

### 17:30 TRADITIONAL BAZAAR

No matter how hard you try, but you just won't be able to leave Baku empty handed. Therefore, in order to help you save time and money we recommend you to visit local market (bazaar) or one of the large local markets. Here you will find tons of home-made jam (i.e. conserve), made of watermelon, walnuts, berries and etc., as well as the freshest fruits, vegetables, pickles and most importantly a big share of great mood. Don't miss out on a chance to immerse into authentic world of Baku resident.