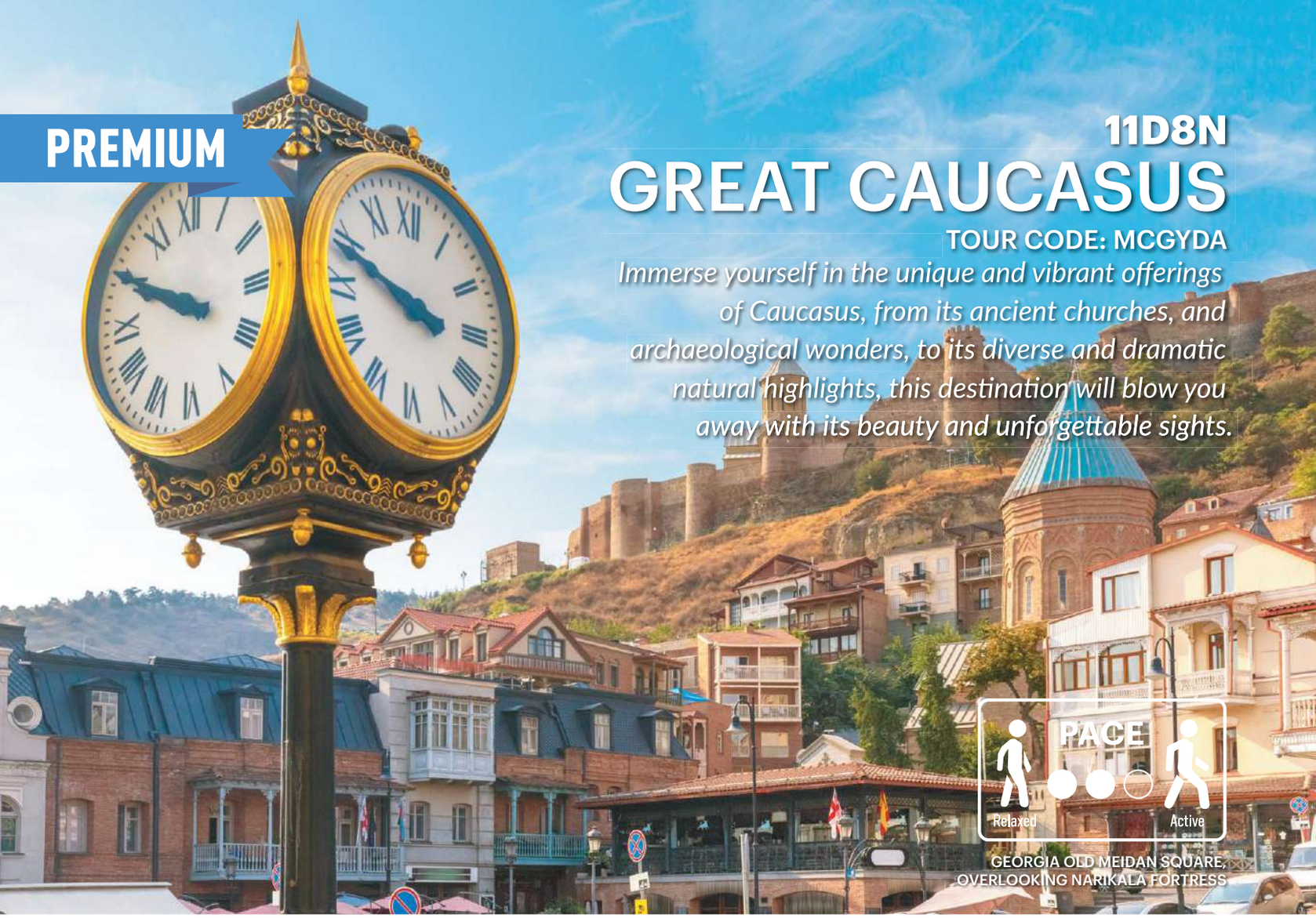
PREMIUM

11D8N GREAT CAUCASUS

TOUR CODE: MCGYDA

Immerse yourself in the unique and vibrant offerings of Caucasus, from its ancient churches, and archaeological wonders, to its diverse and dramatic natural highlights, this destination will blow you away with its beauty and unforgettable sights.



GEORGIA OLD MEIDAN SQUARE, OVERLOOKING NARIKALA FORTRESS

DAY 1

HOME › BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Meals on board

Assemble at the airport for your flight to **Baku** – the capital and commercial hub of Azerbaijan.

DAY 2

BAKU › GOBUSTAN › BAKU

Lunch, Dinner

Upon arrival, see the **Gobustan National Park**. Visit the **Petroglyphs Museum** and explore petroglyphs dating back to 10,000 BC. Return to Baku and indulge in the scenic vistas of Baku new city & Flame Towers on coach. Afterwards, move to **Icheri Sheher**, the oldest part of the city. Visit the **Maiden Tower**, **Shirvanshahs' Palace**, **Multani Caravanserai**, and market square with numerous art studios and souvenir stalls.

DAY 3

BAKU › SHAMAKHI › SHEKI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

In the morning depart from Baku and head to **Sheki**. On the way, stop at **Diri Baba Mausoleum** in Maraza village. Continue to **Shamakhi** and visit the historical **Juma Mosque**. Journey through the awesome Muganly Mountain Pass and make a quick stop at **Nohur Lake** for great mountain view if the weather & time allows. Continue driving to **Sheki.** Visit to **Sheki Khans Palace**, caravanserai and local bazaar.

DAY 4

SHEKI › LAGODEKHI BORDER › KAKHETI (GEORGIA) › SIGHNAGHI › TBILISI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, you will head towards the border to meet your Georgian guide and start exploring the eastern part of Georgia, famous for its viticulture and winemaking traditions. Visit **Gvirabi - Winery Khareba**, the unique wine cellar located in the tunnel carved out of the rock. Sample three varieties along with the local liquor chacha and enjoy a traditional lunch at the restaurant which is built into the rock 58 meters above the tunnel. Continue to **Sighnaghi**, the city of love and the Royal Town, one of the crossroads of the Great Silk Road surrounded by defensive walls with 23 towers. It offers spectacular views of Alazani Valley. Head to **Tbilisi,** the capital of Georgia for stay.

DAY 5

TBILISI › KAZBEGI › TBILISI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Drive north into the awesome Greater Caucasus Mountain Range. Your first stop will be at the 6th century **Jvari Monastery**, a medieval monument perched on a clifftop. The next stop is the **Ananuri complex**, the former residence of the Argveti Dukes. The complex features churches and towers dating back to the 16-17th centuries, beautifully overlooking the Jinvali reservoir.

Then drive over to the Cross Pass and make a stop at the **Russia–Georgia Friendship Monument**, which offers a breathtaking viewpoint that overlooks a deep gorge of the Caucasus mountain range. Upon your arrival to **Kazbegi**, you will board a 4WD to reach **Gergeti Holy Trinity Church**, which is located at an altitude of 2170 m and enjoy breathtaking views of Mount Kazbegi. Afterwards, return to Tbilisi.

 # During winter months (Nov to mid Mar) due to snowand obstructed road conditions, day 5 itinerary will be as follows:

HIGHLIGHTS

AZERBAIJAN

- *Gobustan National Park*
- *Maiden Tower*
- *Shirvanshahs' Palace*
- *Diri Baba Mausoleum*
- *Juma Mosque*
- *Sheki Khan's Palace*

GEORGIA

- *Gvirabi Winery*
- *Sighnaghi Town*
- *Jvari Monastery*
- *Ananuri Complex*
- *Russia–Georgia Friendship Monument*
- *4WD to Gergeti Trinity Church*
- *Holy Trinity Cathedral*
- *Metekhi Church*
- *Statue of King Vakhtang Gorgasali*
- *Cable Car to Narikala Fortress*
- *Old Town Walking Tour*

ARMENIA

- *Haghpat Monastery*
- *Lake Sevan*
- *Sevanavank Complex*
- *Tsaghkadzor*
- *Garni Pagan*
- *Geghard Monastery*
- *Yerevan City Tour*
- *Gum Market*
- *Vernissage Market*
- *Khor Virap Monastery*
- *Etchmiadzin Cathedral*
- *Zvartnots Cathedral*
- *Ararat Factory*

DELICACIES

Meal Plan
8 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 8 Dinners

Specialities:

- *Khinkali*
- *Chacha*
- *Khorovats*

4-5★ HOTELS

BAKU *Park Inn by Radisson*
SHEKI *Saray*
TBILISI *Ramada Encore*
TSAGHKADZOR *Ararat Resort*
YEREVAN *Opera Suite*

**Note: Hotels are subject to final confirmation. Should there be changes, customers will be offered similar accommodations as stated in this list.*

Winter period, Nov to Mar

#DAY 5

TBILISI ▸ MTSKHETA ▸ GORI ▸ UPLISTSIKHE ▸ TBILISI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Depart for **Mtskheta,** one of the oldest cities in Georgia and its first capital. Discover the two UNESCO Sites including **Jvari Monastery**, dating back to 6th century AD. Admire **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral**, a major center of Georgian Orthodox Christianity where the robe of Jesus is said to be buried. Continue to **Uplistsikhe**, an ancient rock town that's over 3000 years old. Drive on to **Gori** to visit the **Stalin Museum**, dedicated to the life of Joseph Stalin. Return to Tbilisi, hop on **Funicular Railway** up to **Mt Mtatsminda** and enjoy the awesome views over the city from a height of 710 metres.

DAY 6

TBILISI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Start the sightseeing tour to visit the **Holy Trinity Cathedral**, one of the largest orthodox cathedrals in the world. Head to the **Metekhi Church** and see the **Statue of King Vakhtang Gorgasali**, the legendary founder of Tbilisi. Take a cable car to **Narikala Fortress** and enjoy the panoramic view of the city. Walk down to the district of sulphur bath houses and pass by the only mosque in Tbilisi. Visit to the **Sioni Cathedral**, **Anchiskhati Basilica**, the **clock tower of Rezo Gabriadze Marionette Theater** (exterior views), and **Bridge of Peace** leading to **Rike Park**. Thereafter, enjoy the traditional Georgian cuisine and be entertained by national folk dances and musical shows at the local restaurant.

DAY 7

TBILISI ▸ SADAKHLO BORDER (ARMENIA) ▸ HAGHPAT ▸ SEVAN ▸ TSAGHKADZOR

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Have an early breakfast before heading to the Sadakhlo border to cross into **Armenia.** Start the journey to the land of ancient traditions and temples. Drive up to the **Lori** region and visit the **Haghpat monastery**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Standing on a hillside, Haghpat beautifully overlooks the Debed River. Continue driving through Dilijan to Sevan, stop at **Sevanavank**, a monastic complex located on a peninsula at the northwestern shore of **Lake Sevan**, one of the largest high-mountain freshwater lakes in the world. Depart to **Tsaghkadzor** mountain resort, which is located at an altitude of 1750m above the sea level for an overnight stay.

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KHOR VIRAP OVERVIEW OF MT ARARAK, ARMENIA

DAY 8

TSAKHKADZOR › GARNI › GEGHARD › YEREVAN

Breakfast, Lunch, Chinese Dinner

Tsaghkadzor city, also known as the Valley of Flowers, famous for its beautiful forest and its shining fields of snow during winter. This morning, you may ride on a cable car to enjoy the fascinating views of Teghenis Mountains or rent a ski equipment to enjoy 2-3 hours skiing activity at your own expense (Note: skiing activities available on winter period only). Depart for lunch at a local house where you will get a chance to see the preparation of the Armenian national bread "lavash". Drive to **Garni** and see the extraordinary **Pagan Temple** built in the 1st century AD. Your next visit is the UNESCO Site **Geghard,** a medieval monastery partially carved out of the adjacent mountain. Depart to **Yerevan** city sightseeing tour, see the Cascade, Opera House, Republic Square and Freedom Square. Continue your visit to the **Gum Market** which offers a variety of fresh and dry fruits, spices, nuts, and teas. Stroll through **Vernissage**, the biggest souvenir market in Yerevan.

DAY 9

YEREVAN › KHOR VIRAP › ETCHMIADZIN › ZVARTNOTS › YEREVAN

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Start the day by visiting **Ararat Factory** to taste renowned Armenian cognac. Head to **Khor Virap Monastery**, which sits on a spur above the Ararat Valley and offers spectacular views of the majestic Mount Ararat (5,163 metres). Tuck into an authentic lunch in a local art school before heading to the **Echmiadzin Cathedral**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the 7th century ruins of **Zvartnots Cathedral** — it was built at a time when much of Armenia was under the Byzantine empire. In the evening, enjoy a farewell evening meal and be entertained by an Armenian Folk show.

DAY 10

YEREVAN › HOME

Breakfast, Meal on board

Today free at own leisure, or you may take optional tour to Ashtarak before transferring to the Zvartnots Airport for your flight home.

DAY 11

HOME SWEET HOME

We hope you enjoyed your trip with our company. We look forward to seeing you again for your next trip.

Additional activities that complement your holidays will be at your own discretion and is entirely optional.
**minimum group size may apply.*

- *Garni Gorge by 4WD: USD15*
- *Ashtarak Tour with local house lunch: USD60*

Tipping Guideline: (based on 11D8N)

- *USD88 per person*

Remarks:

- *A minimum group size of 15 passengers is required for a confirmed departure*
- *The sequence of the itinerary, flight schedules and hotels are subject to change without prior notice in the event of unforeseen circumstances.*
- *Entry visa is required to Azerbaijan.*
- *During the crossing of border, a short walk with the luggage will be requred due to custom regulations.*