

A BLACK 360° EXPERIENCE

Private document

Classified content for
Paloma Notario Bodelon



ARMENIA + GEORGIA + AZERBAIJAN 360°

Private experience

FACT SHEET

Dates: 14th to 22nd OCTOBER 2017



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Day 1: Madrid - Yerevan

Arrival to Yerevan Airport at 19h55

Transfer from the Airport to the selected hotel with a Spanish speaking guide who will meet&greet you at arrival, and will be with you whilst in Armenia.

Mr. Ashot +374 93 32 68 70

Accommodation at the Marriott hotel

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-photos/evnmc-armenia-marriott-hotel-yerevan/>



Day 2: Yerevan – Garní – Qarahunj - Yerevan

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit of the Garni, (UNESCO Heritage site) Hellenistic Temple of the God of Sun, Mithra in an amazing natural setting, the summer residence of the Armenian kings dating back to 77A. D. , royal palace ruins, Roman Baths with a well preserved mosaic. It is the only pagan temple that remained in Armenia after adoption of Christianity.

Here you will enjoy a Duduk performance, an ancient double-reed woodwind flute made of apricot wood. (National instrument), No other musical instrument is able to present the emotions of the Armenian people as the Duduk. Born in the early centuries of Armenian history, it is purely Armenian with a 3000 -year history.

In 2005, UNESCO proclaimed the Armenian Duduk music as a Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity

Later you'll visit Geghard, an incredible ancient Armenian monastery, partly carved out of a mountainside, situated in the Upper Azat Valley It is said that the "Holy Lance" that pierced the body of Christ was kept here.

Lunch at Lchak: not only a restaurant, it's a sight

Then we continue to Zorats Karer also called Karahunj, Qarahunj or Carahunge and Carenishis a prehistoric archaeological site near the town of Sisian in the Syunik Province. It is also often referred to in international tourist lore as the 'Armenian Stonehenge'. The megalithic complex has been included in top 10 ancient sites for stargazing.

Armenian historian Stepanos Orbelian in his book 'History of Syunik' (I-XII centuries) mentioned that in Tsluk (Yevalakh) region of Armenia, near town Syunik or Sisian was a village Carunge which means in Armenian Stone Treasure or Foundational Stones.

In 2004, the site was officially named the Karahunj (Carahunge) Observatory, by Parliamentary decree (Government decision No. 1095-n, July 29, 2004).

Carahunge is also known in local lore as ZoratsKarer, Dik-dik Karer and TsitsKarer meaning Vertical Stones in vernacular Armenian.

Dinner at Topsia

Return back to the hotel, and overnight in Yerevan.



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Day 3: Yerevan

Breakfast at the hotel

Exploring the capital of Armenia which was founded 782 BC.

City Tour with a high-scale view point over the city, City Park, Abovyan street, Republic Square and other main places of interest. Visit to the Genocide Memorial and the museum dedicated to the victims of the Great Genocide that took place in 1915 and the memorial with eternal fire. Visit Erebuni fortress (also known as Arin Berd) and if time permits History museum of Armenia.

Visit of Cascade – a monument is rising over the city center, from the top of which the whole city is seen; a modern art museum / park of Cascade, one of the unique modern art museums in the World, which houses works of such authors as Fernando Botero, Arshile Gorky, Jennifer Bartlett, Lynn Chadwick, Barry Flanagan and others.

Lunch at restaurant The Club or similar

Visit of the Brandy Factory that has preserved the traditions of the legendary brandy manufacturing since 1887 when the first wine and brandy factory was founded in Yerevan embodying Armenia, its cultural and historical heritage. Only local varieties of grape with special properties are used in the production of an authentic Armenian brandy, based on the unique microclimate of the Ararat Valley. Guided excursion around the factory during which you'll discover the secrets of the taste of Armenian brandy and will see the oldest brandies kept in the barrels. A degustation of brandies of different ages is included.



Dinner at restaurant Pandok

Overnight in Yerevan



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Day 4: Yerevan – Sevan – Dilijan – Sadakhlo – Tbilisi

Breakfast at the hotel and check out

Drive to Lake Sevan, one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world, The Pearl, The Emerald of Armenia.

Lake Sevan is situated in the central part of the Republic of Armenia, inside the Gegharkunik Province, at the altitude of 1,900m above sea level.

Explore romantic Sevanavank Monastery. According to an inscription in one of the churches, the monastery of Sevanavank was founded in 874 by Princess Mariam, the daughter of Ashot I (who became a king a decade later). At the time, Armenia was still struggling to free itself from Arab rule.

Continue to Dilijan.

Visit Haghartsin Monastery, which is a 13th-century monastery located near the town of Dilijan in the Tavush Province of Armenia. It was built between the 10th and 14th centuries (in the 12th under Khachatur of Taron); much of it under the patronage of the Bagratuni Dynasty.



Lunch at restaurant Qefo (Armenia)

Drive to Sadakhlo border.

Meet with Mrs.Nino +995591018148 who will be with you whilst in Georgia.

Transfer from Sadakhlo border to Tbilisi.

Explore the capital of Georgia

Myth and history, culture and traditions, diverse nature and hospitable people; all intermingle with one another, inspired poetry, polyphonic songs and elegant dancing.

A blend of cultures, a smell of spices, different nations meeting on street corners, different faiths sharing the same courtyards.... This is Tbilisi, the city that has been dominated by traders, warriors, tyrants and dictators in turn. Today Tbilisi is a modern city with well-known museums and theaters, art galleries, churches, Sulphur bathhouses and narrow streets with inner courts.

Sights to visit:

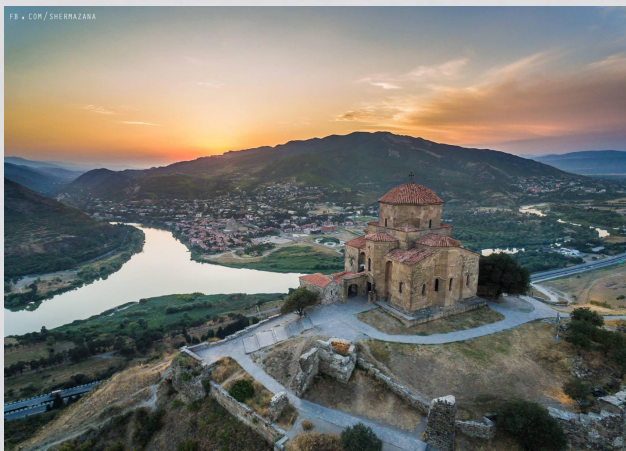
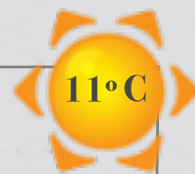
- Metekhi Church of Assumption (13th c.) built by the king DemetreII. Resting upon the top of the hill, the church is a good example of cross-domed Georgian orthodox churches.
- Georgian Synagogue - Jewish prayer house built from 1895 to 1903.
- Sioni Cathedral (6th-19th cc.). The cathedral was the seat of the ruling Catholicos-Patriarchs and is commonly referred to as the "Tbilisi Sioni", following an old Georgian custom of naming churches after places in the Holy Land.
- Anchiskhati Basilica (6th c.) – the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi.
- Narikhala Fortress - the main citadel of the city where you can enjoy wonderful views
- Sulphur Baths - high in sulphur and other minerals, with a constant temperature of 38C to 40C, the waters have long been used as a therapeutic aid for a range of ailments.



Dinner at restaurant Metekhi's Chrdili (Shadow of Metekhi) in Tbilisi

Overnight at Hotel Ambassadori <http://www.ambassadori.com/>

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Day 5: Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Tbilisi

After breakfast, drive to Mtskheta - the ancient capital of Georgia, located at the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers.

Visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Jvari, the 6th century cross-shaped monastery built on the top of a cliff, overlooking the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers. At this place St. Nino, a female evangelist, erected a large wooden cross on the site of a pagan temple; Svetitskhoveli, the fortified cathedral dating from the 11th century, a sacred place where the Robe of Christ is buried.

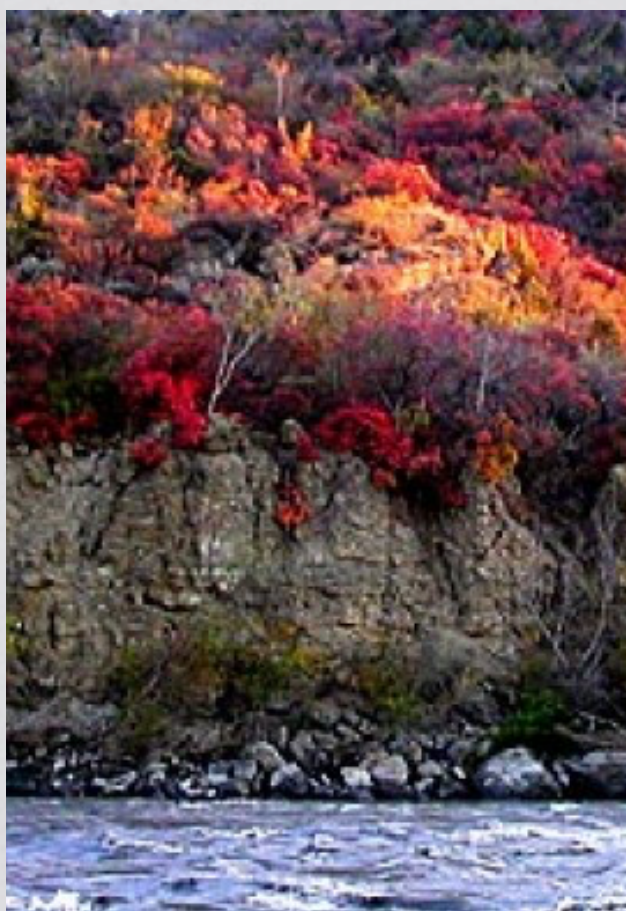
Visit Samtavro - the main building of the complex is the great church of Samtavro. The tiny church of St Nino dates from the 4th c. In the North-west stands a handsome three-storey bell-tower of 13th c. The South-west buildings have functioned both as a nunnery and theological seminary of the Georgian Orthodox Church.

Drive back to Tbilisi. Lunch at Chateau Mukhrani a 25 minute drive from Tbilisi.

- Visit to National Museum of Georgia where you can enjoy the permanent exhibition 'The Archaeological Treasury'.

Dinner at Restaurant Funicular

Overnight



Day 6: Tbilisi – Signaghi – Lagodekhi – Kish – Sheki

Breakfast at the hotel and check out

Explore Signaghi fortified town famous for its wine and carpet making culture.

Enjoy breathtaking views of Kizikhi area and unusual Charm of Signaghi Royal Town. Have a walk in narrow streets of the town in shadow of wooden balconies richly decorated with the lace of carved ornaments.

Visit Bodbe Nunnery (9thc), the place where St. Nino, the 4th.c female evangelist of Georgians is buried.

Transfer to Lagodekhi Board.

Lunch with wine tasting at Pheasant Tears (Georgia)

or

Lunch in Balakan or Naib Bulag (Azerbaijan)

There are 2 option as depends on how much time it takes the border cross

Cross the border, meet your Azeri guide (Kamilla +994 55 349 24 85) and start exploring Azerbaijan – the land of fire.

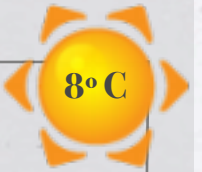
Drive to Sheki (115 km, ca.2 h.). On the way, visit the first Albanian church in Caucasus in the village Kish dating back to the 1st century AD.

Have a short sightseeing tour on arrival: visit Sheki medieval fortress, Sheki Khans Palace, handicrafts workshop, Mosque-Madrassah, and local bazaar.

Dinner in Chelabi Khan

Overnight in Sheki at Marxal Resort & SPA <http://www.marxalresort.com/>

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Day 7: Sheki – Lahij – Shamakha – Baku

Breakfast and check out

In the morning, drive through Girdimanchay River's canyon to visit Lahij, the 5th-century place rich in historic and architectural values. Lahij is an ancient village with charming eye-catching sidewalks inlaid by stones. It is famous for medieval water supply and sewage systems as well as for traditional workshops making jewelry, copper-ware, carpets, pottery, daggers, and iron tools.

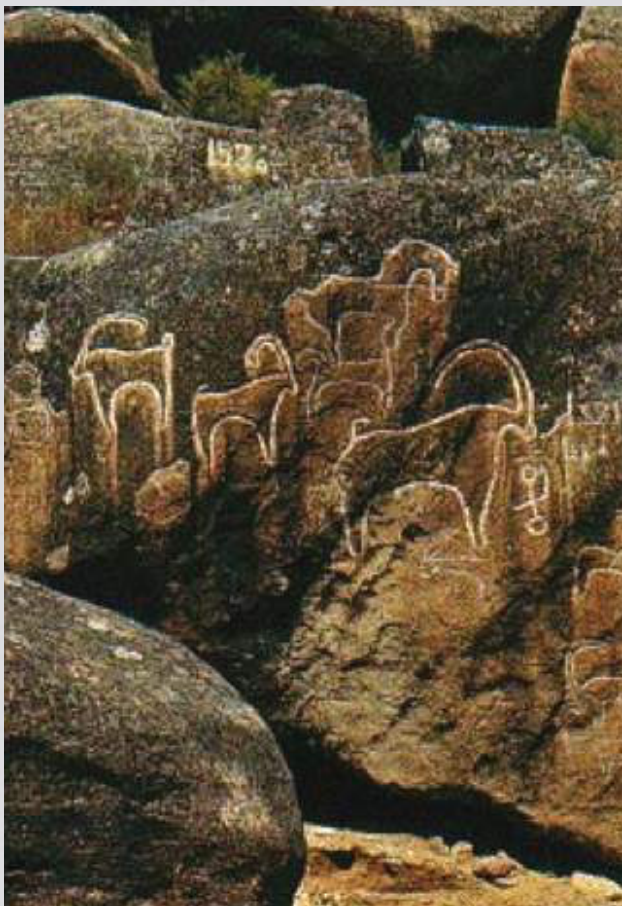
Continue to Shamakhi and visit the historical Juma Mosque, Yeddi Gumbaz Mausoleum, and the Shirvan Shah's family grave yard.

Lunch in Khan Baghi

Dinner in Shirvanshakh or Nargiz (Depends on time)

Overnight in Baku at the Fairmont hotel

<http://www.fairmont.com/baku/>



Day 8: Baku - Absheron Peninsula – Gobustan – Baku

Breakfast at the hotel

Today you will visit the area of the Greater Baku and Absheron peninsula.

Start with Gobustan National Park.

Visit to the Petroglyphs Museum and explore petroglyphs dating back to 10,000 BC.

Continue to mud volcanoes in Gobustan Reserve, home to almost half of world's mud volcanoes.

Lunch in Shafa Garden

Later drive to Ateshgah – temple of fire worshippers located in Surakhany village.

Zoroastrians from India travelled thousands of kilometers to Ateshgah to worship fire coming out of the earth.

Drive to Yanardag Mountain with natural gas burning for several thousands of years.

There are numerous fortresses on Absheron peninsula.

Visit one of the medieval castles (XIV c.) located in Merdekan village.

Dinner at Shakh. The decoration reflects the style of Shah Ismail Khatai epoch, general and poet, founder of the Safavid dynasty. Distinctive interior implemented in the luxurious oriental style and pleasant music, takes you back to the era of medieval Azerbaijan.

Overnight

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Day 9: Departure

Transfer to Baku International Airport.

Departure at 6h30 with AF 8177 for Madrid via Paris

Arrival Madrid at 14h25

End of services



NOTES

All visits are mostly planned to start at 8h00 or 8h30 in the morning, except those that takes longer, like on day 2, which must be agreed on site with the guide.

In general, timing are not fixed, have to be agreed with the guides there, as it will depend also on the climate

Here the contacts again:

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