



Treasures of Eurasia

September 2 – September 19, 2019

18 days / 17 nights



Cost: \$ 14,725 per person (double occupancy)

\$ 3,675 plane registration fee (escorted journey)

Single supplement available upon request

Itinerary

Day 1 – Monday, September 2: Arrival in Skiathos, Greece

Welcome to Skiathos! Air Journey staff will greet you at the Atrium Hotel.

All participants will meet for introductions and attend an extensive briefing covering the general procedures of our journey as well as details for tomorrow's departure.

Afterwards, we'll meet for a welcome cocktail before dinner.



Renowned among returning guests for offering unparalleled Greek hospitality, Atrium Hotel Skiathos is a home away from home.

Atrium Hotel Skiathos masterfully combines style, tradition, and high-end, tailor-made service, with an emphasis on the guests' personal needs and preferences. Its accommodations boast high-end facilities and stunning, panoramic views of the sea or the island's idyllic natural landscape, making for an unrivalled and unforgettable Skiathos experience.

Hotel: Atrium Hotel

Welcome Cocktail and Dinner included

Day 2 – Tuesday, September 3: Skiathos ➔ Tbilisi

990 NM

Fly to Tbilisi. Upon arrival at Tbilisi international airport this afternoon, clearing immigration and customs, the group will be met by our local guide. You will then be privately transferred to your hotel in the center of town by private luxury vehicle. Transfer to Tbilisi (30 min) and check in at the Stamba Tbilisi Hotel.

Stamba Hotel was conceived to highlight the industrial splendor of the 20th century printing house in which it is situated. Housed within historic atriums, passages and courtyards of what was once Georgia's most important printing house, Stamba Hotel is a celebration of Tbilisi's ever-evolving identity as a hotbed of talent and originality.

Hotel: Stamba Hotel

Breakfast and Dinner included

Air Journey

Jupiter, FL

Phone: (561) 841-1551

www.AirJourney.com



Day 3 – Wednesday, September 4: Visit Mtskheta – the Ancient capital of Georgia – Uplistsikhe cave town

This morning drive to Mtskheta (30 min.) – the ancient capital of Georgia. The country's conversion to Christianity occurred in Mtskheta in 337 AD and it is considered one of Georgia's most important religious centers. Saint Nino erected the first Christian cross and the first churches were built here. Visit the monastery of Jvari perched on a cliff overlooking Mtskheta and continue to the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. Svetitskhoveli church has long been the principal Georgian church and remains one of the most venerated places of worship to this day. This UNESCO World Heritage Site today functions as the seat of the archbishop.

Continue to Château Mukhrani. The Château was established as the prince's estate of the royal Bagrationi name. In 1876, Ivane Mukhranbatoni, a royal family representative and political and public figure of 19th century Georgia returned from France with the chateau winemaking concept and since then the estate's own winemaking history began.

Our wine tour will guide you to discover the Georgian royal family history and breath-taking legends, a flavor of antiquity and enchanting wines which have just won 4 prestigious Medals the 23rd Grand International Wine Award Mundus Vini - one of the most important wine competitions in the world.

After a delicious lunch accompanied by wine tasting, continue the drive to Gori town to visit the cave town Uplistsikhe (Fortress of the Lord) dating from the 1st millennium BC. The rock-hewn town includes houses, temples, streets, and Roman theatres which were carved out of the cliffs. Drive back to Tbilisi.

Hotel: Stamba Hotel
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Air Journey
Jupiter, FL

Phone: (561) 841-1551
www.AirJourney.com



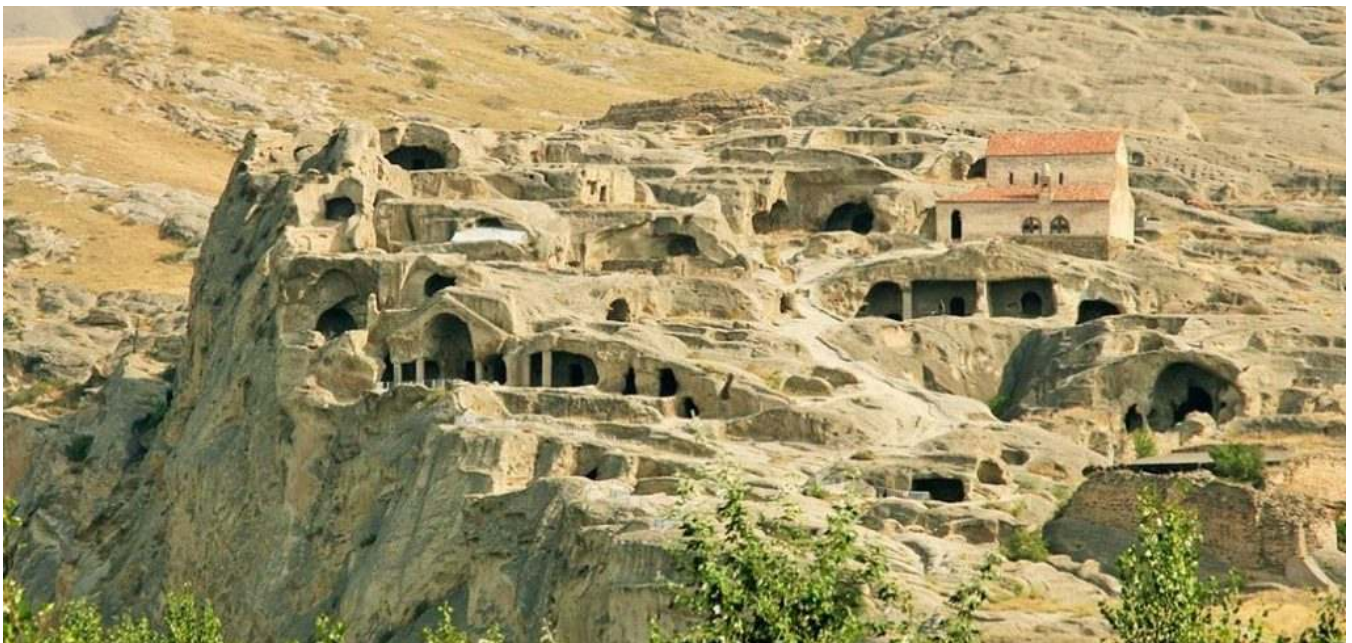
Day 4 – Thursday, September 5: Tbilisi – Ananuri - Kazbegi

After breakfast depart with our local guide for a visit to one of the mountainous regions of Georgia.

In order to see the high peaks, roaring rivers and mountain lifestyle of Georgia's Northern borderlands we will travel towards Mtiuleti and Khevi provinces via one of the oldest roads in Georgia, which the Russian Tsar Alexander I named the Georgian Military Highway.

If weather conditions permit we'll see 'Mkinvartsveri' or Kazbek peak meaning 'ice-top' in English. It is a spent volcano soaring to height of 16,558'. Mount Kazbek is the third highest and one of the best known peaks in the Caucasus. Its white pristine beauty wrapped in the rays of the rising sun almost fills the sky. Grand and dignified, it is at times capricious, even savage. Natives of Khevi often call this giant volcano looming over their homes 'the Bride of the Khevi'.

Stop for a lunch at leisure at a charming local restaurant.





Drive to Ananuri 16th – 17th century fortress and church. The complex comprises fortification, two churches and civic buildings. Ananuri was a kind of a guardian of North borders of Georgia.

Hotel: Stamba Hotel
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 5 – Friday, September 6: Tbilisi ➔ Bukhara, Uzbekistan

895 NM

Fly to Bukhara. On arrival, transfer to the Zargaron Plaza Hotel situated in Bukhara's historic center.

One of Central Asia's oldest cities, Bukhara was a legendary stop on the ancient Silk Road, a network of trade routes between China and Europe. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its historic center, the city remains the best example of a well-preserved medieval Central Asian city.



Hotel: Zargaron Plaza Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 6 – Saturday, September 7: Bukhara

With our local guide, explore Bukhara's historic center. Experience a time when this ancient city was a fabled trading outpost on the Silk Road and an intellectual center for Islamic scholars. Take note of not only the impressive mosques, religious schools and shrines that represent the best of Islamic architecture, but also the careful urban planning that led to the city's UNESCO designation.

Hotel: Zargaron Plaza Hotel
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 7 – Sunday, September 8: Bukhara ➔ Samarkand, Uzbekistan

115 NM

Fly to Samarkand. Known as one of the most ancient cities with history dating back to more than 2,500 years ago, Samarkand used to be the capital of Uzbekistan in the 19th century before it lost its status to Tashkent, the current capital of Uzbekistan.

Samarkand was blessed with a strategic geographical location which made it a pivotal part of the Great Silk Road. With such a rich history and culture, it's no wonder that Samarkand is also known as the heart of the great Silk Road.

Hotel: Emir Han
Breakfast and Dinner included



Day 8 – Monday, September 9: Samarkand

Our exploration today begins with a visit to the tomb of Tamerlane who made Samarkand his capital. He set about making it the richest city on earth by pillaging and destroying all other cities and removing their wealth and skilled traders to Samarkand.

There will be a visit to Ulugbek observatory - one of the most advanced observatories of the ancient world.

We'll then take in the sights of the Registan complex, the remarkable market place of ancient Samarkand. It is enclosed by spectacular medressas on three sides. These huge buildings with domes and minarets covered in a mosaic of azure tiles were built from the 1400s. The Registan is one of the wonders of the ancient world. We visit another highlight of Samarkand - the huge Bibi-Khonum mosque.

Later, visit a workshop where handcrafted paper is made according to traditions handed down from the 8th-century, when paper-making began in Samarkand.

Hotel: Emir Han
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 9 – Tuesday, September 10: Samarkand ➔ Mary, Turkmenistan

270 NM

Fly to Mary.

This afternoon we'll depart with our local guide as we head east of Mary, towards Bayram-Ali, the contemporary re-incarnation of and humble suburb of the glorious Ancient Merv (UNESCO World Heritage Site). One of the major archaeological sites of Central Asia, Merv played an important part in the development of the Silk Road for more than 2000 years. Within the limits of the archaeological park, which is 1200 ha, you will have a chance to observe all constituent parts of the "wandering city".

Besides remnants of the cities of Merv, you will visit the 6-9th centuries AD forts of Big and Little Kyz-Kalas, excellent examples of the so-called corrugated Koshks; the splendid XII c. mausoleums of Sultan Sanjar and Muhammed ibn-Zeyd, demonstrating exquisite Seljuk period brickwork and architectural decor. If time permits, a possible visit to several more interesting spots within the site.

Check in at a local Mary Hotel, located in the city center. It is the largest hotel in Mary city built in 2015. The six-floor hotel has a restaurant, a gym, swimming pool, and sauna. There are tennis courts in the adjoining territory. Apart from that, guests may enjoy shopping in the souvenir and the carpet shops.

Hotel: Hotel Mary
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included



Day 10 – Wednesday, September 11: Mary ➔ Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**170 NM**

Fly to Ashgabat. Upon arrival at Ashgabat international airport this afternoon, clearing immigration and customs, the group will be met by our local guide. You will then be privately transferred to your hotel in the center of town by private luxury vehicle.

This afternoon there is an orientation tour of the city. You will see such monuments as the Monument and Park of Independence (looking like a white-marble “Eiffel Tower” standing in a beautiful park) and a rocket-like Arch of Neutrality, beautiful Ertoghrul Gazie Mosque (reminiscent of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul), and the unusual “Palace of Happiness” (the official name for the Wedding Palace).

In the evening you will enjoy a folk show of traditional Turkmen music and songs, see some of Turkmen customs and rituals.

Hotel: Yildiz

Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 11 – Thursday, September 12: Ashgabat: Old Nisa and Arkadash horse farm

This morning your tour includes the World Heritage listed fortress of Old Nisa, the earliest of the Parthian Empire capitals. Located in an atmospheric area on an irregular pentagon hill, at the foot of the Kopet-Dag Mountains, Old Nisa is a beautiful landmark.

Afterwards continue to the Arkadash stud farm, home of the famous Akhal-Tekke horse. The breed is one of the oldest in existence and well known for its stamina. Snacks and tea will be provided at the farm.



On the way back to Ashgabat make a sightseeing stop in Kipchak, to visit a complex of the biggest mosque in Turkmenistan (called "Turkmenbashi Spirituality Mosque") and the family mausoleum of the first President. You will also visit the National Museum of History (more than 327.000 objects on a display) exhibiting exclusive ancient artefacts from different historical & archaeological sites of Turkmenistan, such as Old Nisa, Ancient Merv, Kunya-Urgench & others.

Hotel: Yildiz

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 12 – Friday, September 13: Ashgabat ➔ Yerevan, Armenia

665 NM

Fly to Yerevan, Armenia. Upon arrival in Yerevan International airport, you will be met by our local guide and privately transferred to your hotel. Check-in at The Alexander Luxury Collection.

Introducing an exclusive new address to the city's developing social landscape, The Alexander is heralded as the first luxury international hotel in the historic center of Yerevan. Each of the 114 non-smoking guestrooms and suites features scaled back, minimalist design, grand gold accents and hints of decorative Armenian motifs.

The Alexander's collection of bars and restaurants attracts Yerevan's most discerning social scene. An all-day menu is offered at the signature Gabriel's Bar & Lounge, whilst fine dining venue, Atelier 1797 Penthouse Bar & Grill, is located on the building's top floor. The wood-paneled, The Keys Aficionado's Private Club, with handsomely designed bar and glass wine cellar, is the perfect place to enjoy a fine vintage, whilst French and Armenian sweet treats can be sampled in the elegant Gabriel's Patisserie, accessible via Abovyan Street.

This afternoon there will be a short city tour of Yerevan by your luxury vehicle. Panoramic drive of Yerevan to see Opera and Ballet Building, Presidential House, National Assembly, Republic Square. Visit the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial.

Continue to Yerevan Brandy Factory for tour and Cognac tasting.



Finish your day with a welcome to Armenia dinner at *Charles* restaurant in Cascade.

Hotel: Alexander Luxury Collection
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 13 – Saturday, September 14: Explore the Geghar Cave monastery and Garni Temple

This morning drive with our local guide to Geghard, one of the treasures of Armenia. It is a medieval monastery in the Kotayk province of Armenia, partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by cliffs. It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

While the main chapel was built in 1215, the monastery complex was founded in the 4th century by Gregory the Illuminator at the site of a sacred spring inside a cave. The name commonly used for the monastery today, Geghard, or more fully Geghardavank, meaning "the Monastery of the Spear", takes its name from the spear which had wounded Jesus at the Crucifixion, allegedly brought to Armenia by Apostle Jude, called here Thaddeus, and stored amongst many other relics.



Continue to Garni, a large village in the Kotayk Province of Armenia which is known for the nearby classical temple. En route stop for lunch at a rustic local restaurant. Enjoy the local food as well as the master class of Armenian lavish bread making.

After lunch, continue to the ancient pagan temple of Garni. The Temple of Garni is a reconstructed classical Hellenistic temple and the best-known structure and symbol of pre-Christian Armenia. It is the only "Greco-Roman colonnaded building" in Armenia and the former Soviet Union. Enjoy traditional duduk flute by the temple.

Return back to Yerevan to visit Matenadaran Museum - The Institute of Ancient Manuscripts.

Hotel: Alexander Luxury Collection
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Air Journey
Jupiter, FL

Phone: (561) 841-1551
www.AirJourney.com

Day 14 – Sunday, September 15: Yerevan ➔ Kayseri, Turkey

420 NM

Fly to Kayseri, Turkey. Upon arrival at Kayseri international airport this afternoon, clearing immigration and customs, you will be privately transferred to the Museum Hotel in Kapakokya.

The Museum Hotel is composed from the restorations of old ruins into a luxury boutique hotel. With its unique location you can enjoy panoramic views of the major sites of the region including Avanos, Goreme, Love Valley, Pigeon Valley, Red Valley and Mt. Erciyes from all its rooms.

The hotel founder is an antique collector that has a great collection from the period of Ottoman, Seljuk, Roman, and Hittite. His vision was to allow hotel guests to experience the Cappadocian culture and let them feel the sense of a living museum. All of the rooms and outer spaces are decorated with the priceless antiques that are registered in Nevsehir Museum. During your time at the Museum Hotel, you will be enjoying your time in a real museum with many valuable antiques.

Hotel: Museum Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included



Day 15 – Monday, September 16: Balloon Adventure - Goreme – Kaymakli – Fairy chimneys

If the velocity of the wind will be suitable today, it will be an early bird departure from the hotel for a formidable “Balloon Adventure” over the enchanting “lunar landscape” of Cappadocia, to hail the slowly rising sun, with a glass of champagne. The balloon ride over Cappadocia at sunrise is an experience of a lifetime, with all the excitement of seeing from above, the farthest “fairy chimneys” of the vast region, as a lunar landscape, only possible in one’s fantasies.

You will then return to your hotel for a leisurely buffet breakfast (included in room rate), before you are ready for a new day in Cappadocia, with other “fun” experiences and wonderful cultural “surprises”.

This morning, explore one of the most extraordinary treasures of sacred art, the rock-carved churches of Goreme, now an ‘open-air museum’. This museum hosts some of the finest examples of ninth and tenth century. What survives at Goreme and other

sites scattered about Cappadocia marks out the region's rock-cut churches and chapels as one of the greatest museums of medieval art in the world.

Next, you will visit another marvel of the region: the 'underground city' at Kaymakli. The enigmatic cellar villages, over 40 of which have been discovered empty, are among the wonders of Cappadocia.

After a morning of touring glorious sites in Cappadocia, you will be transferred to a specially-chosen vantage spot where, white-gloved country lunch has been arranged. Right in the midst of the Cappadocian landscape next to "fairy-chimneys", this is truly being here!

Another cultural experience, unique to this region, is a visit to the group of young village girls from all over Cappadocia, at their "Art School", where they happily learn to become masters of the national art of weaving Turkish carpets and kilims to be able to contribute to their traditional dowry, before they get married.

Hotel: Museum Hotel
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 16 – Tuesday, September 17: Kayseri ➔ Bodrum, Turkey

380 NM

Fly to Bodrum situated on the southern Aegean coast of Turkey. This fabled coastline is where Homer's heroes were born, where the ancient Greeks consulted their oracles and the Romans built magnificent temples to honor their gods.

Hotel: Mandarin Oriental
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 17 – Wednesday, September 18: Bodrum

Today is at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel amenities on your own. Surrounded by quiet bays where rolling forested hills touch the sea's edge, the Mandarin Oriental is positioned on the Bodrum peninsula - within easy reach of the aged battlements and cosmopolitan brio of Bodrum. Ancient sites from Greek and Roman history are dotted across the Aegean coastline, a short drive or sail away, and for centuries the region has been a center of traditional artisan Turkish crafts



Hotel: Mandarin Oriental
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 18 – Thursday, September 19: Bodrum ➔ Bologna, Italy

860 NM

Fly to Bologna before flying our separate ways as we head home.

Breakfast included

Stans Journey Distances			
From:	To:	Code	Distance (NM)
Home	Skiathos, Greece	LGSK	
Skiathos, Greece	Tbilisi, Georgia	UGTB	990
Tbilisi, Georgia	Bukhara, Uzbekistan	UTSB	895
Bukhara, Uzbekistan	Sumarkand, Uzbekistan	UTSS	115
Sumarkand, Uzbekistan	Mary, Turkmenistan	UTAM	270
Mary, Turkmenistan	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	UTAA	170
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Yerevan, Armenia	UDYZ	665
Yerevan, Armenia	Kayseri, Turkey	LTAU	420
Kayseri, Turkey	Bodrum Turkey	LTFE	380
Bodrum, Turkey	Bologna, Italy	LIPE	860
		TOTAL NM	4,765

Terms & Conditions

Our land program includes:

- Presence of an Air Journey tour leader who will facilitate clearances, Immigration, refueling, flight planning, and provide help with any difficulty that might arise
- Full-time services of a professional Air Journey guide and local experts
- Deluxe accommodations in hotels listed or similar categories based on double occupancy
- Meals: All breakfasts and most lunches and dinners
- Wine selected by Air journey is included with dinner. All other beverages are not included.
- Tours and admission to all planned group sightseeing
- All service charges and taxes
- Round trip transfers between airport and hotel

Our land program does not include:

- Travel Insurance (available, call us for details)
- Airport departure taxes
- Beverages except as noted above
- Personal expenses such as laundry, room service, communication charges and other incidentals

Please note that hotel accommodations and sightseeing are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Air Journey reserves the right to amend the order of sightseeing as necessary. Every effort will be made to operate tours as planned but alterations may occur after the final itinerary has been issued.

Passports are mandatory for the Journey.

Air Journey has quoted this itinerary with a minimum participation of 5 airplanes.

Our quoted prices include planning, handling and operational charges; they are based on current rates of exchange, tariffs and taxes as of April 2019. Air Journey reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets.

The Registration fee includes:

- Extensive Navigation log (airports, route, frequencies, information of airspace, nav-aids, reporting points, international flight plan) tailored for each aircraft;
- Flight plans and eAPIS manifest (departure and arrival) filed on your behalf;
- Pilot briefing prior to each day's flight;
- Weather website with constant updates showing TAF, METAR, Wind Aloft, prognostic forecast and review;
- Fuel availability confirmed along the route of flight;
- Flight bag and collared, cotton shirt for the pilot with his name and aircraft tail number embroidered on the upper front. Shirts are available for passengers and crew at an additional cost.

Cancellation, refunds:

- a) **Cancellation by the client:** Is always required in writing and is subject to the following schedule of dates, whereby some or all moneys paid will be retained:
 - i) Given outside of 120 days of departure: AJ retains initial deposit per person & plane registration fee
 - ii) Between 120 and 90 days of departure: AJ retains 50% of tour cost & plane registration fee
 - iii) Between 89 and 45 days of departure: AJ retains 75% of tour cost & plane registration fee
 - iv) Less than 45 days or no show of departure: AJ retains 100% of tour cost & plane registration fee
- b) **Cancellation by AJ:** Should AJ cancel the tour after deposits have been received due to fewer than the minimum participants required, the full deposit will be refunded. Should AJ cancel the tour at any time due to factors beyond their control (including war, flood, force of nature, riot, civil action), they will refund the client whatever portion of moneys are reimbursed by ground operators and accommodation suppliers.

Survival equipment is available for rental on a daily basis and will be waiting for you at our departure point. Contact us for details. Life vests are mandatory. A life raft is recommended.

Travel and Cancellation Insurance

Travel and Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended and not included in the package but it can be purchased from Air Journey for approximately 6% of the cost of the Journey. The actual cost is based on a person's state of residency, birth date and amount covered. Contact Anais ([561 841-1551 ext. 3](tel:5618411551)) at Air Journey for more details.

Air Journey
Jupiter, FL

Phone: (561) 841-1551
www.AirJourney.com