

Silk Road IV The Caucasus

AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA AND ARMENIA

with Liz Gibson
14 September–02 October 2015 (19 days)



Silk Road IV – The Caucasus

AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA AND ARMENIA



TOUR LEADER

Liz Gibson has been professionally involved with the Art Gallery of NSW since 1988, as a Senior Co-ordinator of Public Programs, and currently as Co-ordinator of the Members' World Art Tours Program. Liz lectures on broad ranging aspects of art history and art appreciation. She is an experienced tour leader, having led many Members' tours to Russia, Germany and Eastern European countries including the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria. She has also led tours to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in Central Asia.

Journey through the breathtaking Caucasus to three distinctive countries – Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia – and explore one of the most culturally complex and linguistically diverse parts of our world.

Extending from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, and wedged between Russia in the north and Turkey and Iran in the south, the Caucasus occupies a strategic position between Europe and Asia. This unique location has long attracted invaders, including Persians, Mongols, Turks and Russians. It has also attracted a variety of traders travelling along the Silk Road, resulting in a rich and complex mix of religion, language and culture.

From the ancient Byzantine monasteries and churches of Armenia and Georgia, to the Persian-style palaces and mosques of Azerbaijan, Caucasian architecture is a fascinating fusion of divergent styles. The three cosmopolitan Caucasian capital cities of Baku, Tbilisi and Yerevan will captivate and surprise you as they blend ancient tradition with contemporary culture.

At a glance...

- Explore the Persian-style palaces and historic mosques of Azerbaijan
- Visit Georgia's and Armenia's mountain Byzantine monasteries and churches
- Discover how the Caucasus was a key leg of the Silk Route
- Wander through the Khan's Palace in Sheki, meander the old alleyways of Tbilisi, and visit the wooden village of Dilijan
- Travel through regions of contrasting landscapes with rugged mountains, snow-capped peaks, lush valleys, large lakes and arid semi-deserts



Itinerary

Sun 13 Sep 2015

Depart Australia

Suggested evening departure from Australia on Emirates (EK419) to Dubai.

Mon 14 Sep

Arrive Dubai

Early morning arrival in Dubai.

Transfer to the Le Meridien Dubai Airport hotel. Following an early check-in and breakfast, the remainder of the day is at leisure. The resort-like hotel features numerous recreational, shopping and dining facilities. **B**

Tue 15 Sep

Arrive Baku

Late morning transfer from the hotel to Dubai International Airport. Depart Dubai (13:10) on Azerbaijan Airlines flight to Baku – 3 hours flight. **(Not included in the tour price.)**

Late afternoon arrival in Baku, Azerbaijan. Transfer to the hotel for check-in.

Enjoy a welcome briefing and dinner with Liz. **D**

Wed 16 Sep

Baku

Following a talk, join a local guide for a morning walking tour of the Walled City constructed in local almond-coloured limestone. Visit the 15th century Shirvanshah Palace with its Divankhana, mausoleum, mosque and bath-house; continue to the 12th century Maiden's Tower, ancient Haman, bazaar and caravanserai.

Afternoon visit to the opulent, former 19th century mansion of Azerbaijani oil baron Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev.

Tonight, enjoy dinner in the Old City. **B L D**

Thu 17 Sep

Baku

Morning drive to Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape – a UNESCO World Heritage Site. View the vast collection of prehistoric petroglyphs in situ, dating to 10,000 BCE.

After lunch visit the spectacular Heydar Aliyev Cultural Centre (architect Zaha Hadid) and the new Azeri Carpet Museum, designed to resemble a rolled-up Azeri carpet.

Evening at leisure. **B L**

Fri 18 Sep

Baku – Shamakhi – Sheki

Morning drive from Baku to Shamakhi, once a royal seat and one of the key towns on the Silk Road. Visit the impressive, recently rebuilt Friday Mosque – originally built in the 8th century – and a group of 19th century tomb towers, set amidst a field of much older gravestones.

Following lunch, travel through the Muganly Mountain Pass to Sheki. Visit the lavishly decorated 18th century style Summer Palace of the Sheki Khans, renowned for its lavish frescoes and mosaic tiles.

Dinner at a local restaurant. **B L D**

Sat 19 Sep

Sheki – Sighnaghi, Georgia

Depart early for Georgia. After a border crossing (Australian citizens do not require a visa) drive through Kakheti and the heart of the world's oldest wine region. Enjoy some famous Georgian wine with lunch in the Khareba Winery.

Travel via the 16th century royal citadel of Gremi, once capital of the Kingdom of Kakheti, and a lively trading town on the Silk Road (photo stop of the reconstructed citadel).

Continue to the 11th century Alaverdi Monastery complex, then onto Tsinandali to visit the summer residence of Alexander Chavchavadze, once the gathering place of poets and artists of the 19th Century.

Evening at leisure. **B L**

Sun 20 Sep

Sighnaghi – David Gareja – Tbilisi

After breakfast depart Sighnaghi and drive to the David Gareja monastery complex located on the rocky, arid slopes of Mount Gareja, originally founded in 6th century (the impressive cave frescos involve a steep climb for the fit and adventurous).

After lunch, continue to Georgia's capital, Tbilisi.

Dinner at a local restaurant. **B L D**



Baku, Azerbaijan © David Davidson via flickr.com/photos/teuchterlad



David Gareja Monastery, Georgia © Liz Gibson

Mon 21 Sep

Tbilisi

Following a morning talk, begin your exploration of Tbilisi. Drive to the 13th century Metekhi Church and nearby equestrian monument of Tbilisi's founder, King Vakhtang I Gorgasali. Continue to the remains of the Nariqala Fortress and enjoy a panoramic view of Tbilisi.

Return for a walking tour through the Old City to see the Mosque, Orbeliani Baths and Synagogue. After lunch, explore the Old Town, with visits to the Sioni Cathedral housing the Cross of St Nina – who introduced Christianity to Georgia in 327 – and the 6th century Anchiskhati Basilica, the oldest surviving church in Tbilisi.

Remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure. **B L**

Tue 22 Sep

Tbilisi

Begin today with a morning visit to the Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia to see its exquisite gold treasures. The Museum houses hundreds of thousands of artefacts from the Caucasus' archaeological and ethnographical antiquity. Valuable exhibits include the Homo Ergaster fossils discovered at Dmanisi, and the 5th century BC Akhagori hoard which contains unique examples of jewellery blending Achaemenid and local styles.

This afternoon visit the National Gallery of Art exhibiting around 140,000 items of Georgian, Oriental, Russian, and European art.

Dinner at a local restaurant. **B D**

Wed 23 Sep

Tbilisi – Gori – Tbilisi

This morning travel to the Uplistikhe Cave Complex where the Silk Road used to pass. It is comprised of structures from c. 1200 BCE to the 14th/15th centuries and is located in the ancient kingdom of Kartli.

After lunch continue to Gori and visit the Soviet-style museum dedicated to Joseph Stalin, who was born in Gori.

Return to Tbilisi for an evening at leisure. **B L**



Tbilisi © Liz Gibson

Thu 24 Sep

Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Kazbegi

This morning drive to the ancient capital and religious centre of Georgia – Mtskheta (3000 years old), one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Visit the 11th century fortified Svetitskhoveli Cathedral – the headquarters of the Georgian Orthodox – and the nearby 6th century Jvari Monastery perched on a rocky mountaintop, overlooking the Mtkvari and Aragvi rivers.

Drive along the Georgian Military Highway visiting the 17th century Ananuri architectural complex, where the two churches and fortress overlook the Zhinvali water reservoir. The carvings on the churches are one of the best examples of Georgian art.

Continue further through the spectacularly high Caucasus Mountains to Kazbegi.

Dinner at the hotel. **B D**

Fri 25 Sep

Kazbegi – Tbilisi

Begin with a morning walk (leisurely 2 hours) through the beautiful woodlands and valleys to Gergeti Trinity Church (drive option available).

Following lunch in Kazbegi, return to Tbilisi.

Evening at leisure. **B L**

Sat 26 Sep Tbilisi – Sadakhlo (border) – Dilijan, Armenia

Depart Tbilisi, Georgia and drive to Armenian border (Armenian Visa obtained at the border). Visit the 10th century basalt Haghpat Monastery, a beautiful blend of Byzantine and traditional Caucasian architecture overlooking the Debed River.

Following lunch continue onto Dilijan.

On arrival enjoy a late afternoon talk, prior to dinner at hotel.

B L D



Kazbegi - Gergeti Trinity Church
© Andrzej Wójtowicz via flickr.com/photos/andrezgorapl

Sun 27 Sep

Dilijan – Goris

This morning drive past Lake Sevan, the largest lake in the Caucasus, and onto Noratus Cemetery to see the ancient Khachkars (carved memorial stele featuring an Armenian cross). Continue through the Selim Pass and stop at the 14th century Caravanserai, on the Armenian Silk Road.

Following a late lunch by the Orpa River in Vayk, drive to ancient Karahunj (Armenian 'Stonehenge') with over 200 Menhirs (standing stones). Continue to Goris and overnight at local hotel. **B L D**

Mon 28 Sep

Goris – Tatev – Yerevan

Depart Goris for Vorotan. Take a cable car across a deep gorge to the 9th century Tatev Monastery ensemble, located on a large basalt plateau. Return by cable car.

After lunch, drive to Khor Virap monastery where Saint Gregory the Illuminator (who was responsible for Armenia becoming the first Christian nation in 301) was imprisoned. Visit the monastery and enjoy the view to Armenia's beloved Mt Ararat, located in Turkey. Continue to Yerevan, capital of Armenia. **B L D**

Tue 29 Sep

Yerevan

This morning walk to the National History Museum for a guided tour. Following lunch visit the nearby Genocide Memorial Museum. Continue to the Yerevan Cascade, a popular meeting place for locals, and wander among the impressive collection of sculptures by prominent international sculptors, supported by the Cafesjian Centre for the Arts.

Evening at leisure. **B L**

Wed 30 Sep

Yerevan

Begin with a visit to the Geghard Cave Monastery, built into towering basalt cliffs and founded in 4th century by Gregory the Illuminator. Continue to the nearby 1st century Hellenistic Garni Temple, Armenia's only surviving pagan temple. Return to Yerevan.

Afternoon visit to the National Art Gallery.

Evening reception at Sergey Parajanov Museum in a traditional Caucasian style noble house, with a unique collection of lively, diverse art forms created by Soviet Armenian film director and artist, Sergey Parajanov. **B D**

Thu 1 Oct

Yerevan

This morning drive to the 7th century Amberd Fortress located 2,300 m above sea level on the slopes of Mt Aragats. En route see the Armenian Stone Letters Monument.

Following lunch visit the remains of Zvartnots Cathedral built in the 7th century when much of Armenia was under Byzantine control. Return to Yerevan and visit the Vernissage open air flea market.

This evening celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a special farewell dinner. **B L D**

Fri 2 Oct

Depart Yerevan

Tour arrangements conclude after breakfast.

Suggested afternoon departure on FlyDubai for Dubai and Emirates flight to Sydney. **B**

Sat 3 Oct

Arrive Australia

Evening arrival in Australia.



Cave frescos David Gareja © Liz Gibson



Tatev Monastery, Armenia
© Tommy and Georgie via flickr.com/photos/thomasfrederick



Old Tbilisi Mosque © Cyril Lawler 2013



David Gareja Georgian Orthodox monastery complex © Cyril Lawler



Upper Svaneti, Georgia

Tour prices

Per person, twin share	AUD 8,950
Single supplement*	AUD 1,990
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	17 July 2015

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code AGI512

Fitness level Above average
Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Suggested airline
Qantas/Emirates and FlyDubai. Please contact Renaissance Tours for current airfares and flight reservations.

Tour price includes

- Accommodation with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner).
Wines with meals
- Comfortable air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Transfers in Dubai, Baku and Yerevan if travelling on suggested flights
- Visa's for Azerbaijan and Armenia
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- International airfares
- Items of a personal nature (e.g. telephone, laundry, minibar etc.)
- Travel insurance

Your hotels

Dubai – Le Meridien Hotel & Conference Centre ★★★★★
 Baku – Hilton ★★★★★
 Sheki – Sheki Palace ★★★★★
 Sighnaghi – Kabadoni ★★★★★
 Tbilisi – Tbilisi Marriott ★★★★★
 Kazbegi – Rooms ★★★★★
 Dilijan – Best Western Paradise ★★★★★
 Goris – Mirhav ★★★★★
 Yerevan – Royal Tulip Grand ★★★★★

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for

force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissance-tours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Old Tbilisi—Local Tapestry Weave © Cyril Lawler 2013



Tbilisi © Levan Nioradze via flickr.com/photos/leonio



Republic Square, Yerevan, Armenia



Renaissance
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email info@renaissancetours.com.au

visit www.renaissancetours.com.au

Level 4, 47 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001

ABN 14 069 591 448

Your travel agent is

Booking form

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Renaissance
Tours

www.renaissancetours.com.au

Please return pages 1 and 2 to:

GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia or info@renaissancetours.com.au

Toll free AU 1300 727 095 or NZ 0800 403 621 | Tel: +61 2 9299 5801 | Fax: +61 2 9299 5805

- Please complete, sign and return this Booking Form, along with a copy of page one of your passport (international tours only and deposit. NOTE: Flight bookings cannot proceed without passport copy. This is an airline security requirement.
- Complete credit card authority (if paying by credit card) OR forward a (deposit) cheque (made payable to Renaissance Tours).
- Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place on the tour(s) from Renaissance Tours.

Tour name

Tour code

Personal details – Passenger 1

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

☐ Yes

☐ No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist Renaissance Tours in determining the suitability of a tour participant for a particular tour. The information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE DECLARATION (Please tick)

I have read, understood and confirm that I meet the:

☐ MODERATE ☐ ABOVE AVERAGE ☐ CHALLENGING

fitness level to participate on this tour.

Booking conditions

- ☐ I have read, understood and accept the **Booking Conditions** on page 3. I have enclosed the deposit and understand that the balance of the tour cost must be paid at least 60 days prior to departure (45 days prior for domestic tours) or my reservation may be cancelled.

Sign here

Personal details – Passenger 2

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

☐ Yes

☐ No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

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Sign here

Booking form

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Travel details – Passenger 1

AIRFARE

☐ Economy ☐ Premium Economy ☐ Business Class ☐ First Class

☐ LAND ONLY

CITY OF DEPARTURE

☐ Sydney ☐ Melbourne ☐ Brisbane ☐ Perth ☐ Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

☐ Double ☐ Twin ☐ Single ☐ If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

TRAVEL INSURANCE – WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE?

☐ Yes ☐ No

PRE/POST TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Please advise if you would like Renaissance Tours to organise any pre/post tour arrangements (e.g. earlier departure, later return, additional accommodation/flights, etc)

NEXT OF KIN (Emergency contact only)

Name

Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Travel details – Passenger 2 (only fill if different from Pax 1)

AIRFARE

☐ Economy ☐ Premium Economy ☐ Business Class ☐ First Class

☐ LAND ONLY

CITY OF DEPARTURE

☐ Sydney ☐ Melbourne ☐ Brisbane ☐ Perth ☐ Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

☐ Double ☐ Twin ☐ Single ☐ If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

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Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Payment

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express. Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

AMOUNT ☐ CREDIT CARD ☐ CHEQUE ☐ CASH ☐ EFT

CREDIT CARD AUTHORITY

Cardholder's name

☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Cardholder's number

SIGN

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account name: Renaissance Tours

BSB: 062-032 / Account: 2800 4163

Swift code: CTBAAU2S (use for transfers from overseas)

Expiry (month/year)

DATE

Travel agent

Booking form

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FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE

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However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (eg. remote rail), certain tours will require an **ABOVE AVERAGE** or **CHALLENGING** level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
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ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 m and above).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is highly recommended that you are covered by travel insurance for domestic tours.

However, it is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact.



Renaissance
Tours

toll free 1300 727 095 (AU)
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visit www.renaissancetours.com.au

Level 4, 47 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000
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ABN 14 069 591 448

1. TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received. In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid. Once final payment is received, all prices (excluding air taxes) will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

2. PAYMENT

Your final payment is due 60 days before departure (45 days prior for domestic tours). Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

3. FLIGHT BOOKINGS AND FARES

Renaissance Tours will use its best endeavours to ensure that all flight prices are correct at the time that they are quoted. However, once a deposit is paid on an air fare, it guarantees that a booking is being held for you, it does not guarantee the fare and applicable taxes.

The fare and taxes can only be guaranteed when the flight booking has been paid in full and a ticket has been issued. Flight bookings cannot be transferred.

4. CHANGES

a) Changes by You – Because of additional communication and other expenses, we reserve the right to charge an appropriate administration fee per amendment to your original booking. While every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate changes and additional requests their availability cannot be guaranteed.

b) Changes by Us – While we will use our best endeavours to operate all tours as advertised, by entering into this contract the Client accepts that it may prove necessary or advisable to vary or modify a tour or its contents due to prevailing local conditions. We reserve the right at any time to cancel or change any of the facilities, services or prices described in the brochure (including flights, transport, accommodation or other arrangements) and to substitute alternative arrangements of comparable monetary value without compensation.

If a service or facility becomes unavailable due to circumstances beyond our control ('force majeure') and no alternative arrangement of comparable monetary value is available, we will substitute the best alternative available and will refund the Client for any cost saving or charge the Client for any additional costs incurred. 'Force majeure' includes any event which Renaissance Tours or its suppliers could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid (e.g. advice against travel from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, epidemics, health risks, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or adverse weather conditions, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by cancellation or rescheduling of flights by an airline or main charterer, the alteration of airline or aircraft type). Renaissance Tours is not liable for any penalty charges associated with 'supersaver' type connecting rail or air fares, in the event of a change to a holiday departure time, date or airport.

5. SUBSTITUTION OF CLIENT

If any member of the party is prevented from travelling because of the death, injury or serious illness of the passenger, close relative or friend, redundancy or jury service, it may be possible to transfer the booking to another suitable person (acceptable to Renaissance Tours) provided that written notice is given at least one calendar month prior to departure. An administration fee of \$100 + GST per person will be levied plus any costs imposed by our suppliers. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

6. CANCELLATION

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to the charges shown below airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

International Tours

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

Domestic Tours

45 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

* Includes any flight deposit paid.

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for *force majeure* (as outlined in clause 4b) or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure for international tours and 45 days before departure for domestic tours. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees. No compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

7. PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return to Australia. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary visas, inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Renaissance Tours.

8. ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

Anyone suffering from illness or disability or undergoing treatment for any physical or medical condition must declare the true nature of such condition at the time of booking and make arrangements for the provision of any medication or other treatment which may be required during the tour. Failure to make such disclosure will constitute a breach of these booking conditions and result in such persons being excluded from the tour in which case all monies paid will be forfeit.

9. LOCAL LAWS

All participants of the tours we operate are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the countries visited and any failure to do so will relieve Renaissance Tours of all obligations that they may otherwise have under these booking conditions.

10. IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT

If you have a complaint about any of the tour arrangements, you must bring it to the attention of the tour leader or other representative of Renaissance Tours at the time so that they may use their best endeavours to rectify the situation. It is only if we are made aware of any problems that there will be the opportunity to put things right. Any complaints must be made in writing to Renaissance Tours within 28 days of the completion of the tour.

11. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

All bookings are accepted on the understanding that the Client appreciates that travel does involve some risk and that they undertake all tours of their own volition.

i) Renaissance Tours accepts liability should any part of the tour arrangements booked with us not be supplied as described in the brochure(s) and not be of reasonable standard. In such a case, we will pay reasonable compensation if the Client's enjoyment of the tour has been adversely affected but will pay no compensation if there has been no fault on the part of Renaissance Tours or our suppliers and the reason for the failure in the tour arrangements was the Client's fault, the actions of someone unconnected with the tour arrangements or could not have been foreseen or avoided by Renaissance Tours or its suppliers even if all due care had been exercised.

ii) Our acceptance of liability to pay compensation pursuant to clause 11(i) is limited, in the case of air travel, rail travel, sea travel or hotel accommodation, to the amount set out in the provisions of, respectively, the Warsaw Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol 1955, the 1961 Berne Convention, the 1974 Athens Convention and the 1962 Paris Convention.

iii) Our acceptance of liability in clauses 11(i) and 11(ii) above is subject to assignment by the Client to Renaissance Tours of the Client's rights against any agent, supplier or sub-contractor of Renaissance Tours which is in any way responsible for the unsatisfactory tour arrangements.