



Pre-Departure Information

TRANS-CAUCASUS ADVENTURE



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WELCOME!

We're delighted to welcome you on this adventure! This booklet is designed to guide you in the practical details for preparing for your trip. As you read, if any questions come to mind, feel free to give us a call or send us an email—we're here to help.

PLEASE SEND US

- Trip Application:** Complete, sign, and return your Trip Application form as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Medical Form:** Complete, sign, and return your Medical Form as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Air Schedule:** Please forward a copy of your email confirmation, which shows your exact flight arrival and departure times. Refer to the Arrival & Departure section of the Detailed Itinerary for instructions. Please review your proposed schedule with Wilderness Travel before purchasing your tickets.
- Passport Photocopy:** Scan* a COLOR copy of your passport photo page and email it to us as a JPG or PDF attachment, or send us a high quality photocopy by mail (immediately upon reserving your trip).
- Vaccination Card:** Please send us a photo or scanned copy of your completed Covid-19 Vaccination Card if you have not already done so. Just the front side of the card is sufficient.

**If you are scanning documents to email, we suggest a maximum resolution of 300 dpi.*

PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW

- Travel Documents & Medical Information:** Carefully review the Travel Documents and Medical Information sections of this booklet to familiarize yourself with Passport and Visa entry requirements for your destination, as well as any recommended inoculations.
- Optional Travel Insurance:** Review the Trip Cancellation & Transfer Fee Schedule included in the Detailed Itinerary. We recommend that all trip members purchase Travel Insurance.
- Final Documents:** Approximately three weeks before your trip, we will send you final departure documents, including hotel and local contact information and rendezvous instructions.

QUESTIONS?

Call: 1-800-368-2794, go to our **website** (www.wildernesstravel.com) or e-mail us at: info@wildernesstravel.com.

Travel Information

PASSPORT

A valid passport is required for your trip. Be sure to check the expiration date. Your passport must be valid for six months after your date of exit from the trip. In addition, we recommend your passport have at least two completely blank visa pages for every country you will be visiting. It is very important that the blank pages say “Visas” at the top. The last few pages of your passport, which say “Amendments and Endorsements,” and the final page of your passport, which may not have a page number, are not considered to be legitimate visa pages. You can request a new passport through **US Passport Services Office**(http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html) (the service of adding pages for visas was discontinued as of January 1, 2016) or use a visa service agency, which can take care of your passport renewal and expedite the process, if needed. We recommend **Passport Visas Express**(<http://www.passportvisaexpress.com/?affid=2120>). Be sure to allow sufficient time to acquire this before your trip.

It is a good idea to carry a photocopy of the photo page of your passport as an additional piece of identification, as well as extra passport photos.

VISAS

On this trip, you will be visiting Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia.

Azerbaijan: US citizens do need a visa for travel to Azerbaijan, which you can obtain online through the "ASAN Visa" system of the Azerbaijan government at the following link: <https://evisa.gov.az/en/>

An E-Visa is typically issued within 3 (three) working days of the online application, and is valid for 30 days. The E-Visa fee is currently \$20, paid electronically via the system. Once approved, the E-Visa is sent to the applicant via email. Travelers must print this information and present it to border security officials on arrival in Azerbaijan.

Georgia and Armenia: Based on our trip length, US citizens do not need to obtain a visa for Georgia and Armenia.

Please note that all visa requirements and regulations are subject to change.

If you are a citizen of any country other than the US, please check with a local consulate or tourist office in your country for entry requirements.

MONEY

The currency for Armenia is the dram, AMD. The currency for Georgia is the lari, GEL. The currency for Azerbaijan is the manta, AZM. We suggest you bring money in US cash because travelers' checks can be difficult to cash in remote places. Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are only accepted at major hotels and major stores. ATMs are only available in the major cities. To use an ATM internationally, you must have a four-digit PIN. If you plan to use your credit cards, inform your credit card company before your departure that you will be using the card abroad.

You will need to budget spending money for gratuities, any meals listed as “on your own” in the trip itinerary (approximately \$8-\$15 for lunches and \$15-\$25 for dinners), for international and domestic airport departure taxes, and for personal items such as beverages.

TIPPING

During the trip, the Trip Leader takes care of tips for waiters at restaurants, for porters for luggage handling, and for local guides and drivers who are with the group for only a short time. For the staff who have accompanied you throughout a significant portion of your adventure—our drivers and guides—excellent service can be rewarded by the organization of a pooled tip, a process to be facilitated by the Trip Leader.

Tipping for the Trip Leader is not formally organized. Should you wish to tip your Trip Leader, we suggest that you do so toward the end of the trip. Tipping is completely discretionary, but over the years, clients have asked us for tipping guidelines to reward outstanding service.

A range of reference would be \$15-\$18 per trip member, per day for the Trip Leader, and \$12-14 per trip member, per day for the local guides/drivers.

Many clients have expressed concern over carrying so much cash on a trip, so for your convenience, your Trip Leader will accept personal checks for tips, as he will carry extra cash for tipping the local staff.

SPECIAL DIETS

We will do our best to accommodate special dietary needs, however, please keep in mind that certain cultural differences or limitations due to logistics can make it extremely difficult and at times impossible to accommodate dietary restrictions. Please inform us at least eight weeks before your trip if you have a restricted diet. It is important to bring a flexible attitude and supplemental snacks.

COMMUNICATIONS

Email & Internet Access

Some cities you visit may have internet cafes where you can access email accounts. You can ask your Trip Leader to show you where they are. However, internet access may be limited at the hotels and other properties used on this trip (and you may have to pay extra for this service, if available).

Medical Information

The following recommendations should be used as a guideline only; consult your physician for medical advice. It is vital that you let Wilderness Travel know of any medical problems, allergies, or physical limitations you may have. Please fill out and return the personal medical questionnaire, and feel free to consult us if you have any questions about your ability to undertake this particular trip.

Wilderness Travel is not a medical facility and has no expertise or responsibility regarding what medications or inoculations you and your physician decide are necessary for your safe participation in the trip.

Traveler's health information is available from the **Centers for Disease Control**. (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm>)
Medical travel products are available from **Travel Health Medicine** (<http://www.travmed.com>) and from **Magellan's Travel Supplies**. (<http://www.magellans.com>)

INOCULATIONS

Entry requirements and international health situations are subject to change; check with the Centers for Disease Control for updates. All shots should be entered on your International Health Card (yellow card), which is provided by the facility giving the shots. Keep it with your passport while traveling. It provides an important personal record for you to refer to when making future travel plans. Please consult with your physician regarding the following:

Tetanus Booster

Strongly recommended (effective for 10 years).

Polio

People who have received the primary series of at least three doses of polio vaccine are considered fully immunized. People who are unsure of their status should receive the vaccine (three doses spaced at intervals).

Hepatitis

The vaccines HAVRIX and VAQTA (two injections, six to 18 months apart) give long-term protection against Hepatitis A and are worthwhile if you travel regularly to developing countries.

Typhoid

The CDC recommends the shot or the oral vaccine Vivotif Berna.

STAYING HEALTHY

Change of diet and a number of other factors can cause stomach upsets while traveling, especially in underdeveloped countries. To guard against illness, follow these guidelines:

Consider all tap water unsafe. Do not drink it or brush your teeth with it. Bottled water is available everywhere. Don't drink the water served in restaurants (bottled water is widely available). Avoid ice in your drinks (it may not have been made with treated water). Beware of uncooked or raw foods such as salads. Don't eat fruit unless you have peeled it yourself. Avoid custards, pastry creams, yogurt, and milk where refrigeration and pasteurization are unreliable. Don't eat food bought from sidewalk vendors. Overall, be conservative about what you eat. Frequent hand washing, especially after using the bathroom and before eating, can cut down on the possibility of traveler's diarrhea. On any airline, drink only the bottled water, not the tap water.

GETTING IN SHAPE

This is not a hiking trip, but there are opportunities on many days for touring on foot for one to three hours at a time. The walking tours are not difficult. However, we recommend you make a special effort to get in good physical condition for the trip. Six weeks to a month before you go, we recommend that you begin a program of hiking or other form of aerobic exercise that goes beyond your normal routine.

MEDICAL SERVICES AND EVACUATION

Medical services are extremely limited in certain areas we visit on this trip. In the event of illness requiring evacuation, there are risks involved. Depending upon the point where we are in the itinerary, an evacuation may take several days. You should bring an ample supply of any prescription medicines you need and the items listed on the personal first aid list, in consultation with your physician.

Helpful Information

PHOTOGRAPHY

Camera Recommendations

With the many advances in digital technology, a simple compact digital camera or even your smartphone is capable of taking pictures suitable for the needs of most people. For higher quality images and the ability to use long lenses for closer wildlife pictures, a DSLR camera is well worthwhile, though heavier. Most digital cameras and phones have good video options, but you may want to consider a GoPro for a lightweight, waterproof option. Always practice ahead of time with new equipment and bring your manual with you. Camera equipment is available for rent from **Borrow Lenses** (<https://www.borrowlenses.com/discount/wildernesstravel>), with a 10% discount offered to Wilderness Travel clients. This is an especially good idea for renting large zoom lenses that you may need for just one trip.

Camera Accessories

We recommend bringing at least two large capacity memory cards or a small digital storage unit (or tablet) to back up your photos, freeing space on your memory cards. Don't forget to bring a battery charger and a backup battery so one is always charged and ready to use. For trips where you may be away from power sources for multiple days, consider looking into a solar-powered battery charger or buying additional backup batteries, and check that you have the appropriate adapter for the electrical outlets in your destination.

Sharing Your Images

We would love for you to share photos from your trip, and with your permission, may even use your photos in our marketing materials or on our photo blog. We request that you send us a small sample of your best images. Please email your photos to wtphotoblog@gmail.com or tag us [@WildernessTravel](#) on social media.

Photography Etiquette

When taking pictures of local people, be aware of cultural considerations. Approaching people with a warm smile and using polite gestures or simple phrases to ask permission to photograph them usually works well. It is always recommended to engage people in conversation before asking to photograph them, but if people do not wish to have their photo taken, please honor their requests. We urge travelers to avoid giving money in exchange for photo opportunities, which makes it harder for future travelers to have a meaningful personal interaction with local people. Please always heed your Trip Leader's guidelines for what is appropriate.

BEING A CONSIDERATE TRAVELER

Please show respect for the cultures we are visiting by observing local customs concerning appropriate dress, particularly in sacred places. Your Trip Leader is always available to answer any questions that you may have regarding this. If it is necessary to use a cell phone during the trip, please do so privately. Smoking is rarely an issue these days, but if you do smoke, please do so only away from the group.

SUGGESTED READING FROM THE TRIP LEADER

Your Trip Leader, Roger Williams, has compiled his own list of recommended books and films. We have also included a

Reading Guide from Longitude Books, which follows this list.

TRANS-CAUCUSUS – NON-FICTION

Nelson, Kay Shaw, *Cuisines of the Caucasus Mountains: Recipes, Drinks, and Lore from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Russia*

De Waal, Thomas, *The Caucasus: An Introduction*, 2010

***Griffin, Nicholas, *Caucasus: A Journey to the Land Between Christianity and Islam*, 2004

Hopkirk, Peter, ****Setting the East Ablaze*

****On Secret Service East of Constantinople*

Karny, Yo'av, *Highlanders: A Journey to the Caucasus in Quest of Memory*, 2001

King, Charles, *The Ghost of Freedom: A Modern History of the Caucasus*, 2009

AZERBAIJAN - NON-FICTION

Ascherson, Neal, *Black Sea*, 1996

De Waal, Thomas, *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War*

***Goltz, Thomas, *Azerbaijan Dairy: A Rogue Reporter's Adventures in an Oil-Rich, War-Torn, Post-Soviet Republic*

King, David C, *Azerbaijan: Cultures of the World*

Lerner Geography Department, *Azerbaijan: Then and Now*

***Reiss, Tom, *The Orientalist: Solving the Mystery of a Strange and Dangerous Life*, 2006

Wegge, Bjorn A, *Azerbaijan: Where East Meets West*

GEORGIA - NON-FICTION

Blanch, Lesley, *The Sabers of Paradise: Conquest and Vengeance in the Caucasus*

Freshfield, Douglas William, *The Exploration of the Caucasus: Volume I*

Goldstein, Darra, *The Georgian Feast: The Vibrant Culture and Savory Food of the Republic of Georgia*, 1999

Nasmyth, Peter, *Georgia: In the Mountains of Poetry*, 2006

Pavlovic, Zoran, *Republic of Georgia: Modern World Nations*

Rhodos, Apollonios & Peter Green. *The Argonautika, the tale of Jason and the Golden Fleece*

***Stevenson, Wendall, *Stories I stole: A Journey to Georgia*, 2004

ARMENIA - NON-FICTION

Antonson, Rick, *Full Moon Over Noah's Ark: An Odyssey to Mount Ararat and Beyond*, Skyhorse Publishing, 2016

Bagdasarian, Adam, *Forgotten Fire*, Laurel-Leaf Books 2000

Balakian, Peter, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenia Genocide and America's Response*

....., *Black Dog of Fate: A Memoir*, 2009

Hintz, Martin, *Armenia: Enchantment of the World*, Second Series

Gurdjieff, Luba Everitt, *Luba Gurdjiff: Memoir with Recipes*, introduction by Marina Bear

***Kaplan, Robert D, *Eastward to Tartary; Travels in the Balkans, the Middle East and the Caucasus*, Vintage books 2000

***Karanian, Matthew. *Historic Armenia After 100 Years: Ani, Kars and the Six Provinces of Western Armenia*
Edge of Time: Traveling in Armenia and Karabagh

Armenia and Karabakh: The Stone Garden Travel Guide

Out of Stone: Armenia & Artsakh

Kasbarian, Lucine, *Armenia: A Rugged Land, an Enduring People*

***Kelly, Laurence, *Lermontov: Tragedy in the Caucasus*

***Marsden, Phillip, *The Crossing Place*

Melkonian, Markar, *My Brother's Road: An American's Fateful Journey to Armenia*

Mardiganian, Aurora, *Ravished Armenia*

SELECTED NOVELS

***Said, Kurban, *Ali and Nino: A Love Story*, 2000, pre-WWI Baku love story between a Muslim boy and a Georgian Christian girl

***Saroyan, William. *My Name is Aram*, recounts the exploits of an Armenian clan in northern California at the turn of the 20th century

***Tolstoy, Leo, *Hadji Mirad*, 2003

Bohjalian, Chris, *The Sandcastle Girls*

Chabon, Michael, *Gentlemen of the Road*, 2008

Cumming, Charles, *A Spy by Nature*, 2008

Ferry, Daniel, *Field Book II: Azerbaijan*

Haddam, Jane, *Fighting Chance: A Gregor Demarkian Novel*, an Armenia murder mystery

Lermontov, Mikhail, *A Hero of our Time*, translated by Paul Foote, originally published in 1840

Mayland, Dan, *The Colonel's Mistake*, a Mark Sava Azeri spy novel (#1)

The Leveling, a Mark Sava Azeri spy novel (#2)

A Spy for Hire, a Mark Sava Azeri spy novel (#3)

Death of a Spy, a Mark Sava Azeri spy novel (#4)

Ohanesian, Aline, *Orphan's Inheritance*, an Armenia novel

Van Bark, Conrad, *Mr. Holmes and the Fair Armenian*

Movies https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Armenian+films

****Ararat*, directed by Atom Egoyan, based loosely on the defense of Van in 1915 during the Armenian Genocide

Calendar, directed by Atom Egoyan, Armenia-Canadian film maker

****Tangerines* (2013), directed by Zaza Urushadze, takes place during the 1992-93 war in Abkhazia

Lost and Found in Armenia, directed by Gor Kirakosian

Vodka Lemon, directed by Hiner Saleem

If Only Everyone, directed by Nataliya Belyauskene

The Last Tighrope Dancer in Armenia, directed by Inna Sahakyan & Arman Yeritsyan

SaroyanLand, directed by Lusin Dink, docu-drama focusing on the journey of William Saroyan to his birthplace of his Armenian family in Turkey

Orphans of the Genocide, directed by Bared Maronian

Parajanov: The Last Spring, directed by Mikhail Vartnov, award winning documentary on the great Armenia film maker, Sergei Parajanov

Shadows of our forgotten Ancestors, directed by Sergei Prajanov

The Color of Pomegranates, directed by Sergei Prajanov

The Legend of the Suram Fortress, directed by Sergei Prajanov, a Georgian folk tale

Prisoner of the Mountain aka Prisoner of the Caucasus, directed by Sergei Vladimirovich Bodrov

Burnt by the Sun, directed by Nikita Mikhalkov, screenplay by Ruastam Ibragimvekov (Azerbaijani)

Madea, 1969, directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini, starring Maria Callas

Auction of Souls, directed by Oscar Apfel, 1919, aka Armenia Crucified, & Ravished Armenia, about the Armenian Genocide

Monsieur Ibrahim (Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du Coran) directed by François Dupeyron, starring Omar Sharif

Kidnapping, Caucasian Style, 1967 Soviet comedy, (lunch restaurant theme in Armenia Ski resort),

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kidnapping,_Caucasian_Style

***Recommended

Web links

G.I. Gurdjieff https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Gurdjieff

Revised Jul 20, 2017

Packing List

THE ESSENTIALS

- Air tickets (or E-tickets)
- Passport
- E-visa for Azerbaijan (sent to you by Wilderness Travel shortly prior to departure)
- Extra passport photos
- One other picture ID, such as a driver's license
- Expense money

WT GEAR STORE

To help you prepare for your next WT adventure, we've put together a great collection of top brands including Patagonia, Outdoor Research, Eagle Creek, and more at our **WT Gear Store** (<http://wildernesstravel.newheadings.com>).

LUGGAGE

You are allowed three pieces of luggage on the trip: a duffel bag or soft-sided suitcase, daypack, and an optional small roll-up bag that can fit inside your duffel.

Although airline service to Europe is generally reliable, it is best to wear or carry your comfortable walking shoes with you on your flights in the event that your luggage is lost or delayed. Likewise, don't pack valuables, such as travel documents, camera gear, or prescription medicines in your checked luggage.

- Duffel bag or soft-sided suitcase with small padlock (must be unlocked for air travel)
- Daypack, large enough for a fleece jacket, rain gear, water bottle, camera, and other items you want with you during the day
- Small roll-up duffel if you are an avid shopper (optional)

Having one duffel bag or soft-sided suitcase simplifies transportation of luggage during the trip.

Please check with your international airline for specific baggage allowances.

NOTES ON CLOTHING

The clothing list below is provided as a guideline only; we encourage you to pack as lightly as possible. Dress on the trip is informal, with the exception of city dinners for which you may want to dress up a little (jackets are not required for men).

People in the regions you will be visiting do dress conservatively, so please take care to dress modestly. A flexible system of layered clothing is recommended, such as lightweight shirts and trousers and lightweight raingear.

There are dress requirements to enter churches: shorts (or skirts) should come to the knees (or below), and shoulders should not be bare. A shawl or large scarf to cover bare shoulders; short-sleeved t-shirts are acceptable. This dress code applies to both men and women.

CLOTHING

- Wind/waterproof lightweight rain jacket with hood
- Fleece jacket
- Hiking pants, loose-fitting and comfortable. Quick-drying synthetic fabrics are a practical choice.
- Long-sleeved shirts. Quick-drying “travel” fabrics are ideal.
- T-shirts
- Shade hat with wide brim
- Lightweight hiking boots or sturdy running/walking shoes with good traction and ankle support
- Tevas or other sturdy hiking sandals
- Socks, underwear. Synthetics dry faster
- Sleepwear
- Casual city/hotel attire
- Bathing suit (for time at properties with pools)

EQUIPMENT

- Personal toiletries
- Laundry soap for hand-washing clothes
- Good quality sunglasses with case (bringing an extra pair is a great idea)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Kleenex pocket packs for “nature breaks” on drives
- Assorted plastic bags to organize items in your luggage; garbage bags to use as a bag liner for rain protection
- Money belt or neck pouch. Always carry your passport, credit cards, and cash with you in a money belt or neck pouch tucked down inside your shirt or blouse

PERSONAL FIRST AID SUPPLIES

Every trip member should bring a small kit for personal use. Your own experience will influence your choices.

- Sunscreen SPF #30 or higher. We recommend mineral-based sunscreens with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide because they do not contain harsh chemicals that are harmful to the environment. Brands such as Honest Company, Badger, and Alba Botanica are found in most sporting goods stores and drugstores.
- Lip balm with sunscreen
- Aspirin, ibuprofen, or Tylenol for muscle pain or headache, Tylenol PM for sleep
- Topical antibiotic (such as Neosporin) for cuts, bites, or sores
- Antihistamine such as Benadryl and cold remedy such as Sudafed
- Imodium for diarrhea. If you wish to bring an antibiotic for diarrhea prophylaxis, consult your physician
- Dramamine for motion sickness
- Insect repellent
- Blister kit. Look for the long-lasting gel-type bandages that you can apply directly on blisters, such as Band-Aid Advanced Healing Bandages or Curad Gel Multi-Day Bandages. "Liquid band-aids," such as New-Skin, are useful because they dry rapidly to form a tough protective cover over a blister.
- Moisturizing cream, Vaseline for nose/lips
- Anti-bacterial gel for hand washing
- Post-insect bite cream (antihistamine)
- Spare contact lenses or spare prescription glasses
- Prescription medications properly labeled

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Water bottle, 1 qt. capacity. Bottled water is available throughout the trip
- Converter and plug adaptor kit for appliance use in hotels. These countries have 220V-230V current. Plugs have a variety of blade types. It is best to bring a plug adaptor kit
- Camera with extra batteries
- Reading/writing material
- Lightweight binoculars
- Travel clock
- Extra batteries for hearing aids, if needed
- Extra reading glasses, if needed
- Small umbrella
- Favorite snacks or treats

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Satellite phones are no longer allowed to be brought into India. This also applies to travelers who are just transiting through India on the way to/from their actual trip. If you bring a satellite phone to India, it will be confiscated and you could be subject to serious penalties, including arrest. Please double-check entry requirements on your own before traveling.

Reading List

ESSENTIAL READING

The Caucasus, An Introduction

Thomas De Waal

2010, 288 PAGES

A timely, readable portrait of the Caucasus by an experienced journalist working in the region. With historical background, insight into energy production and an analysis of struggles for independence.

The Georgian Feast

Darra Goldstein

2013, 229 PAGES

Historian and food expert Goldstein explores the food, traditions and geography of Georgia, as beautiful as it is bountiful, in this savory cultural history. With illustrations by delightful 19th-century primitivist Niko Pisosmani.

Lonely Planet Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan

John Noble

2012, 296 PAGES

An excellent practical guide featuring a good overview of culture, history and nature, 16 pages of color photos, 40 maps and a language guide.

Caucasus: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan Map

Freytag & Berndt

2011

A travel map of the Caucasus at a scale 1:1,000,000.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

Culture Smart! Armenia

Susan Solomon

2009, 168 PAGES

A concise, well-illustrated and practical guide to local customs, etiquette and culture, equally of interest to the traveler and business person.

Culture Smart! Azerbaijan

Nikki Kazimova

2011, 168 PAGES

A concise, well-illustrated and practical guide to local customs, etiquette and culture, equally of interest to the traveler and business person.

Culinaria Russia: Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan

Marion Trutter

2008, 371 PAGES

Profusely illustrated with spectacular photography and peppered with authentic recipes, these volumes are a treat for both the mind and the palate.

Black Sea

Neal Ascherson

1996, 306 PAGES

In this skillful regional portrait, Ascherson weaves his own travels and impressions with a fascinating account of the Black Sea's history. From ancient mythology to modern politics, he admirably never loses sight of the sea itself.

Georgia, In the Mountains of Poetry

Peter Nasmyth

2006, 306 PAGES

A cultural portrait of the Republic of Georgia by a British journalist who has traveled extensively in the region. In its third edition, it's the best book on post-Soviet Georgia, with 170 black-and-white photographs and illustrations

The Ottoman Centuries

Lord Kinross

1988, 638 PAGES

A richly detailed, engrossing history of the Ottoman Empire from its dawn in 1300 up to the foundation of the modern republic in 1923, enhanced by maps and photos.

Caucasus, A Journey to the Land between Christianity and Islam

Nicholas Griffin

2004, 256 PAGES

An engaging account of travels in the Caucasus in the footsteps of Imam Shamil, a Muslim who resisted the Russians in the 19th century. The book is a portrait of the people, land and issues in the region.

My Brother's Road, An American's Fateful Journey to Armenia

Markar Melkonian

2008, 330 PAGES

Melkonian spent seven years unraveling the mystery of his brother's journey, one so complex that it transformed his brother from a California kid into the leader of an army in Armenia.

Stories I Stole, A Journey to Georgia

Wendell Steavenson

2004, 277 PAGES

Witty, engaging and attuned to the complexities of history and ethnicity, Steavenson, a veteran journalist, spins lyrical tales of the former Soviet Republic of Georgia as it crumbles around her in the late 1990s.

The Ghost of Freedom, A Modern History of the Caucasus

Charles King

2009, 336 PAGES

A professor at Georgetown, King reveals the imperial ambitions, larger-than-life personalities and romance of this strategic region.

Black Dog of Fate, A Memoir

Peter Balakian

2009, 304 PAGES

This powerful memoir combines Balakian's coming-of-age as an Armenian-American in New Jersey with his growing realization of the horrors suffered by his family in the Armenian genocide of 1915 in Ottoman Turkey.

Highlanders, A Journey to the Caucasus in Quest of Memory

Yo'av Karny

2001, 436 PAGES

In this astute portrait of a complex region in the wake of the Soviet Union dissolution, an Israeli journalist travels into the Caucasus to uncover what fuels the conflicts that divide the region's many ethnic and religious communities.

Passage to Ararat

Clark Blaise

2006, 293 PAGES

Arlen's National Book Award-winning memoir of his father and the rediscovery of his Armenian heritage. He interweaves stories of travel and family with an account of the troubled history of the country.

The Orientalist, Solving the Mystery of a Strange and Dangerous Life

Tom Reiss

2006, 286 PAGES

A storyteller of the first order, Reiss weaves a wonderful tapestry of information about the cultures and religions in the Caucasus with this wonderful tale of the remarkable life of Lev Nussimbaum -- a fabulist, interpreter of cultures, novelist and rogue who reinvented himself as Kurban Said.

A Hero of Our Time

Mikhail Lermontov

2009, 174 PAGES

The story of the bored and cynical antihero Pechorin. A subtle, psychological and brooding masterpiece of Russian Romanticism originally published in 1840, it influenced later 19th century greats including Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky and Chekhov.

Gentlemen of the Road

Michael Chabon

2008, 224 PAGES

This medieval adventure by Pulitzer Prize-winner Chabon is set in the Caucasus Mountains, where two thieves for hire are responsible for the fate of the empire of the Khazars.

Revised: July 26, 2019

Ali and Nino, A Love Story

Kurban Said

2013, 240 PAGES

The deeply sentimental tale, set in Baku in the years before WWI, of an Azerbaijani Muslim boy in love with a Georgian Christian girl, originally published in 1937.