

14 DAY HIGHLIGHTS PACKAGE

# GEORGIA & AZERBAIJAN

# \$3399

PER  
PERSON  
TWIN  
SHARE

TYPICALLY \$6799

BAKU • TBILISI • VARDZIA • SHEKI • MTSKHETA

## THE OFFER

Not quite Europe, not quite Asia; Azerbaijan - the land of fire - is a one-of-a-kind destination that refuses to be pigeonholed. From the medieval streets of Sheki to dazzling 21st century architecture in Baku, bubbling mud volcanoes in Gobustan to the Silk Road village of Lahij, it's a land that will both inspire and amaze. When combined with a visit to Georgia, home to some of the most dramatic landscapes in Eastern Europe, you have all the makings of an unforgettable journey.

Discover the highlights of two diverse countries, Azerbaijan and Georgia, on this 14 day tour of Baku, Tbilisi, Sheki and beyond. Be surprised by the contrast of old and new in beautiful Baku; take in the UNESCO listed Maiden Tower and Shirvanshahs Palace; wander through the cobbled streets of the charming old town; and delve into the country's intriguing past at the National Museum of History. Visit Yanar Dag on the Absheron Peninsula, where a natural gas fire has blazed for over 60 years; see the mud volcanoes and 6,000 year old rock carvings of Gobustan; and admire incredible mosaics and stained-glass windows of Sheki. Cross the border into Georgia and explore ancient Signaghi town, overlooking lush green vineyards; visit the UNESCO listed churches of Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia; explore the rock-hewn monastery of Vardzia; travel by 4x4 vehicles to Gergeti Holy Trinity Church, and more. This once-in-a-lifetime tour includes return international flights, 11 nights 4 to 5-star accommodation, English-speaking guides and more - the only thing missing is you.

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# THE ITINERARY

### Day 1 Australia - Baku, Azerbaijan

Today depart Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth for Baku, Azerbaijan. Fly with award-winning Qatar Airways (subject to availability).

**Meals included: In-Flight**

### Day 2 Welcome to Baku

Upon arrival, you will be greeted at the airport and transferred to your hotel in Baku.

**Overnight: Baku Rich Hotel, Baku or similar**

**Meals included: None**

### Day 3 Baku City Tour

After breakfast, embark on a Baku city tour with your local guide. Enjoy a panoramic view of Baku city and bay from Highland Park. See Martyrs Alley, a cemetery and memorial in Baku, and a marvellous view of Flame Towers, a famous trio of skyscrapers in the city.

Later, visit the Old City - the most historical part of Baku. Walk through the narrow cobbled stone streets, visit the fortification tower, Caravanseraï complexes, the UNESCO listed Maiden Tower, and Shirvanshahs Palace - one of the pearls of Azerbaijan's architecture.

The tour then continues to Nizami Street - a large pedestrian and shopping street in downtown Baku before visiting the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan (entrance included). Weather permitting, you will have the opportunity to join a boat tour on the Caspian Sea admiring the beautiful seaside boulevard.

**Overnight: Baku Rich Hotel, Baku or similar**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 4 Baku - Absheron Peninsula, Azerbaijan (approx. 15 km)

Today enjoy a sightseeing tour of the Absheron Peninsula.

See the Ateshgah, the Fire Worshippers Temple; the Qala Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum Complex; and the Ramana Tower, which dates back to the 12th century (entrance not included). Continue to the otherworldly Yanar Dag (Fire Mountain), where a natural gas fire blazes continuously, followed by the Oil Derrick Forrest and the Heydar Aliyev Centre (entrance not included) - designed by the late Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid. In the late afternoon return to Baku.

**Overnight: Baku Rich Hotel, Baku or similar**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 5 Baku - Gobustan, Azerbaijan (approx. 90km)

Today visit the Gobustan National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site. On the way, stop to view remarkable mud volcanoes, formed by the eruption of mud, water and gas from below the surface. Arriving at the Gobustan National Park, take time to admire the ancient rock carvings, which depict primitive people, animals, battle-pieces, ritual dances and much more. The park has more than 6000 rock carvings which date back to anywhere from 5,000 to 20,000 years ago.

On the way back to Baku, visit the Bibi-Heybat Mosque - a modern re-creation of a famous mosque of the same name which was built in the 13th century and later destroyed by the Bolsheviks in 1936.

**Overnight: Baku Rich Hotel, Baku or similar**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 6 Baku - Gabala, Azerbaijan (approx. 218km)

Today head to the ancient city of Gabala. En-route visit the 15th century Diri Baba Mausoleum in Maraza. Continue to Juma Mosque and the Mausoleum of Yeddi Gumbez in Shamakhi city.

Next drive through Girdimanchay River canyon to the historic village of Lahij, where you will see the workshops of blacksmiths, potteries, carpet weaving shops and more as you



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walk through the cobbled streets. Lahij was one of the main points on Great Silk Road. The tour then continues to Nohur Mountain Lake in Nohurgishlag, before visiting the Tufandag Mountain in Gabala, where you will have the opportunity to ride in a cable car and enjoy breathtaking views.

**Overnight: Gabala Qafqaz Sport Hotel, Gabala or similar**  
**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 7 Gabala - Sheki, Azerbaijan (approx. 90 km)

After breakfast, continue to Sheki on the southern part of the Greater Caucasus mountain range. On the way stop at the Chotari Albanian Church and Udi house in Nij village. Upon arrival into Sheki, visit the Kish village and the first church of Caucasus. Then continue to the Old Sheki (entrance included), where you will explore the medieval fortress, The Palace of Shaki Khans, the Historical Museum, and the Round Temple (entrance not included). Afterwards you will have the chance to join an arts and crafts workshop, creating traditional handicrafts.

**Overnight: Sheki Marxal Resort and Spa, Sheki or similar**  
**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 8 Sheki - Tbilisi, Georgia (approx. 270 km)

Following breakfast, head to Lagodekhi, the border passage to Tbilisi, Georgia. Along the way stop at the village of Bodbe and see the monastery complex of St. George and the grave of St. Nino that brought Christianity to Georgia. Afterwards, arrive in Signaghi and wander through the ancient town, perched atop a ridge overlooking the Alazani Valley. Here you will enjoy a Georgian wine tasting and cooking class at the Javakishvili Winery. In the late afternoon you will arrive into Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia.

**Overnight: Astoria, Tbilisi or similar**  
**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 9 Tbilisi - Mtskheta (approx. 25 km)

After breakfast, embark on a tour of Mtskheta, a UNESCO listed site which was the ancient capital of Georgia. Visit the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (1010-1029), which is the burial place of many Georgian kings and historical relics. Stop for lunch at the famous Salobio Restaurant to enjoy traditional Georgian cuisine.

After lunch, take in the sights of Tbilisi on a guided tour. Visit the old town and historic centre of Tbilisi, located at the foot of Mount Mtatsminda. Almost all buildings in the Old Town are historic sites; this part of the city buzzes with energy around the clock. Here artists often exhibit paintings and artisans sell their wares. You can admire the Tbilisi architecture, which is characterised by narrow streets, galleries and carved wooden balconies. During the tour you will also see the Mechetian Church, Narikala Fortress, Sioni Cathedral, Anchiskhati Basilica of St Mary, and 'Sameba' Holy Trinity Cathedral, the main Cathedral of Georgian Orthodox Church.

**Overnight: Astoria, Tbilisi or similar**  
**Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch**

### Day 10 Tbilisi - Akhaltsikhe (approx. 210 km)

Continue today to Vardzia. Along the way stop at Borjomi, a town famous for its mineral water, where you can have a drink from the spring. Afterwards, arrive in Vardzia, a cave monastery complex where around 600 buildings including churches, chapels, pantries, baths, libraries are carved into the mountain face. Here you can see the remains of preserved secret passages and ancient plumbing and irrigation systems. The site of Vardzia represents the Golden Age, and it is said that thousands of monks have once lived there. In the evening, arrive in Akhaltsikhe.

**Overnight: Vardzia Resort, Akhaltsikhe or similar**  
**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 11 Akhaltsikhe - Gori - Tbilisi (approx. 215km)

Following breakfast, visit the recently reconstructed



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Akhaltzikhe Fortress. Inside the complex is a mosque, catholic church and monastery of the Benedictine Sisters, a synagogue, and an Armenian church. Afterwards continue to the city of Gori, built by King David the Builder in 1089-1125. The birthplace of Joseph Stalin, your visit will take in the Stalin Museum (entrance included) before returning to Tbilisi.

**Overnight: Astoria, Tbilisi or similar**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 12 Tbilisi - Ananuri - Gudauri - Kazbegi -Tbilisi (approx. 300km)

This morning depart to Stepantsminda (Kazbegi). On the way admire the picturesque Ananuri fortress located above Aragvi River. You will also get to see the amazing beauty of Zhinvali reservoir. In Kazbegi, travel by 4x4 vehicles to visit the Holy Gergeti or Trinity Church, located 2170m above sea level. Weather permitting, you will be treated to stunning views of Mount Kazbeg (5147m), a dormant stratovolcano and one of the highest peaks in Georgia. Return to Tbilisi and enjoy a traditional Georgian farewell dinner and show at a restaurant.

**Overnight: Astoria, Tbilisi or similar**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 13 Tbilisi - Australia

Following your breakfast at the hotel this morning, take some time to explore Tbilisi at leisure before being transferred to the airport for your return trip home.

**Meals included: Breakfast;In-Flight**

### Day 14 Arrive in Australia



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# TOUR INCLUSIONS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the highlights of 2 diverse countries: Azerbaijan and Georgia
- Visit Baku, Tbilisi, Gobustan, Sheki, Absheron Peninsula, Gori, Gabala and more
- Enjoy a guided city tour of Baku, capital of Azerbaijan
- Admire the UNESCO listed Shirvanshahs Palace and Maiden Tower
- See the grand Bibi-Heybat Mosque of Baku
- Learn about the history of Azerbaijan at the National Museum of History
- Embark on a boat tour on the Caspian Sea (weather permitting)
- Visit the Absheron Peninsula, known as 'the land of fire'
- See the Fire Temple of Baku (Baku Ateshgah), built atop a natural gas field
- Journey through Azerbaijan's past at the Qala Archaeological and Ethnographic Complex
- Admire the ancient rock carvings at the Gobustan National Park
- Witness the bubbling mud volcanoes of Gobustan
- Drive through the stunning Girdimanchay River canyon
- See Diri Baba Mausoleum, Juma Mosque and the Mausoleum of Yeddi Gumbez
- Shop for arts and crafts in Lahij, part of the historic Silk Road
- Visit scenic Tufandag Mountain by cable car
- Explore the medieval Old Town and Palace of Shaki Khans in Sheki
- Experience a handicrafts workshop of Shabaka, traditional stained glass windows
- Shop for local souvenirs at the famous Eastern Bazaar of Sheki

- Visit Bodbe village and the monastery of St. George
- Explore Signaghi, a historic town overlooking the vast Alanazi Valley
- Enjoy wine tasting and a cooking class at Javakhishvili Winery in Kakheti
- Visit Mtskheta, a UNESCO heritage site and one of Georgia's oldest cities
- Admire the Clock Tower, Holy Trinity Cathedral and more on a tour of Tbilisi
- Explore Mtatsminda Park, the famous holy mountain and historic centre of Tbilisi
- Witness magnificent panoramic views over Tbilisi from Narikala Fortress
- Taste the famous mineral water of Borjomi Town
- Journey to the ancient cave monastery complex of Vardzia
- Visit the recently restored Akhaltsikhe Fortress (Rabati Castle)
- Wander through the medieval town of Gori
- Discover the history of Joseph Stalin at the Stalin Museum
- Visit the 16th century Ananuri Fortress, former residence of the Dukes of Aragv
- Explore the Gudauri Ski Region in the Great Caucasus Range
- Travel to the 14th century Gergeti Holy Trinity Church by 4x4 vehicles

### FLIGHTS

- Return international flights (economy class) ex SYD/MEL/ BNE/ADL/PER
- Fly with multi-award-winning Qatar Airways

### ACCOMMODATION

- 11 nights 4 to 5-star hotel accommodation



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## TOUR INCLUSIONS

### DINING

- Enjoy 13 meals including daily breakfast

### TOUR ESSENTIALS

- English speaking tour leader and guides
- All entrance fees and local taxes

### TRANSPORT

- Transportation by private A/C vehicles
- 4x4 private vehicles to Gergeti

### TRANSFERS

- Return Airport Transfers



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## BOOKING INFORMATION

After purchase, you will receive a receipt and a Purchase Confirmation, directing you to an online Passenger Information Form. The Passenger Information Form must be completed within 72 hours of purchase.

Any special requests, preferences and optional extras MUST be clearly stated in your Passenger Information Form. Any change requested after submitting your Passenger Information Form cannot be guaranteed, is strictly subject to availability and will incur surcharges as outlined in the Schedule of Fees below

On purchasing this Travel Offer you are bound by the General Terms and Conditions, in addition to the specific terms and conditions outlined in this Important Information.

**Please note:** all additional charges are payable direct to your Travel Consultant in AUD (unless otherwise stated).

## OFFER ESSENTIALS

Travel offer is valid for travel on selected dates until the 1st November 2019

This travel offer is priced for one person based on twin share.

### Single Traveller Supplement

For solo travellers a mandatory single supplement of \$580 applies.

### Departure Dates (2019)

Please see the TripADeal website for current departure dates.

### Surcharges

**Please note:** dates/months with a \* incur a flight high season surcharge of \$250 per person.

### Departure Cities

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth.

### FLIGHTS

#### Full Service Airline(s) Used

Qatar Airways plus any codeshare partners (subject to availability).

**Please note:** One way flights can not be accommodated. Travellers must take all included flights within the package, and any flights intentionally forfeited will result in later flights being subject to cancellation.

#### Arrive early in Baku, Azerbaijan

\$200 per person, subject to availability

#### Please note:

- This fee does not include extra nights accommodation, meals or airport transfers.
- No flight booking changes or cancellations permitted after air tickets have been issued.
- Flight changes are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Blackout Dates:
  - \* 20 June – 17 July 2019
  - \* 20 September – 13 October 2019

#### Stay behind in Tbilisi, Georgia

\$200 per person, subject to availability

#### Please note:

- This fee does not include extra nights accommodation, meals or airport transfers.
- No flight booking changes or cancellations permitted after air tickets have been issued.
- Flight changes are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Blackout Dates:
  - \* 30 November – 20 January 2020

### Stopover Packages

- Twin share: \$450 per person/one way
- Solo Traveller: \$700 one way

#### Locations:

\* Doha

#### Includes:

- 2 Nights in 4 star accommodation
- Daily breakfast

- Return airport transfers

#### Please note:

- Only an outbound OR inbound stopover may be chosen, not both.
- Stopover packages are subject to availability.

### Flight Class Upgrades

- Premium Economy: Not Available
- Business Class (International Sectors Only): Buy now for \$6499 per person

#### Please note:

- All Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are subject to availability (if we are not able to fulfill your business class request the upgrade cost will be refunded).
- On any upgrade purchase, short haul flights and domestic flight sectors are not guaranteed in a Premium or Business cabin; subject to aircraft configuration.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Accommodation Used

4-5 Star (self-rated)

- Baku: Baku Rich Hotel or similar
- Gabala: Qafqaz Sport Hotel or similar
- Sheki: Marxal Resort and Spa Hotel or similar
- Tbilisi: Astoria Hotel or similar
- Akhaltsikhe: Vardzia Resort or similar

**Please note:** Accommodation/rooms offered are based on a lead-in room type, and are subject to availability based on seasonality. Properties will be confirmed, no later than two weeks prior to travel.

### Extra Nights

- Baku, Azerbaijan (Pre Tour): \$110 per room (including breakfast).
- Tbilisi, Georgia (Post Tour): \$170 per room (including breakfast).

**Please note:** extra nights are subject to availability until the time of booking. Airport transfers are not included if you wish to arrive early or stay behind.

### Maximum Room Capacity

3 People (subject to availability).



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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Child Policy

- No child discounts. Full price applies for all children travelling with their parents.
- Valid for Children 8 years old and over.

**Please note:** Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years old and over to travel. No unaccompanied minors allowed.

## Triple Share

No discounts apply for 3rd person travelling. Full price applies, subject to availability.

**Please note:** Triple shares may be required to share existing bedding.

## Bedding Configuration

Twin or Double bedding (subject to availability).

## Adjoining / Interconnecting Rooms

Subject to availability and at the hotels discretion. Please enquire on booking if you require this option.

## GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Minimum group size 10, maximum group size 50 per vehicle.

## Optional Tours / Activities

**Please note:**

- Some tours require minimum numbers to operate.

## EXCLUSIONS

- Visa fees and requirements (A tourist visa is a strict requirement if travelling to Azerbaijan, however a visa is not required for Georgia if travelling on an Australian passport)
- Meals/beverages not stated in the itinerary (including any specialty restaurants onboard cruise)
- Recommended gratuities/tipping: \$3USD (approx. \$5 AUD) per person, per day, payable on tour
- Optional activities/tours
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance (Mandatory)

**Please note:** A comprehensive travel Insurance policy must be organised

BEFORE all details can be finalised.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### TOUR GUIDE VS. TOUR LEADER

#### Tour Guide:

Often locals with intimate knowledge of an area, its culture, and history. Their role entails providing commentary, routing the tour, and seeing that people have a good time. They are a licensed, qualified expert who supplies specific information on history, art, architecture and culture of the city/village/attraction in which he or she is guiding the tour. The guide meets the group at the required place and leaves the group at the end of the tour, they do not travel with the group.

#### Tour Leader:

An experienced person tasked with ensuring the smooth operation of tours, as well as providing practical support to passengers throughout the whole trip. Their role primarily includes assisting with accommodation, transportation between locations, and communication with tour guides in each stop. A tour leader may provide general guidance around a city or village, and offer information on the place visited on the bus, however they are not required to have specific knowledge on art, architecture, or history. They are not allowed to provide a guided tour or commentary of a city/village/attraction once there and if caught doing so, can be fined.

**Please note:** Tour leaders/guides are not a standard inclusion in all travel offers. Tour leaders/guides will only be made available when particularly required to enhance the experience of the destination featured.

## CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

### Baku, Azerbaijan:

- The climate is temperate with a marine influence therefore a constant marine breeze. There is a great range in temperatures; the winters are cold and even somewhat rigorous in the mountains, summers are hot and the other seasons are quite marked too.

- In September, weather conditions in Azerbaijan make it a medium trip destination. The average temperatures you'll face in September would be between 19.0°C and 27.0°C.
- In October, weather conditions in Azerbaijan make it a good trip destination. The average temperatures you will face in October would be between 13.0°C and 19.0°C.
- In November the average temperatures you'll face in November would be between 7.0°C and 12.0°C.

### Tbilisi, Georgia:

It has a humid subtropical with considerable continental influences. The city experiences very warm summers and moderately cold winters. Because the city is bounded on most sides by mountain ranges, the close proximity to large bodies of water (Black and Caspian Seas) and the fact that the Greater Caucasus Mountains Range (further to the north) blocks the intrusion of cold air masses from Russia, Tbilisi has a relatively mild microclimate compared to other cities that possess a similar climate along the same latitudes.

The average annual temperature in Tbilisi is 13.3 °C. In September the average temperature will be between 26°C to 15°C, October will be 20°C to 10°C and November 13 °C to 5°C.

## FLIGHTS

### Seat Selection & Frequent Flyer Points:

At TripADeal we do not arrange seat selection. It is important to highlight that some Airlines do not allow pre-selected seats. We strongly suggest you contact the Airline directly with seating allocation requirements and or arrive at the airport earlier to arrange your seating. While we do not add frequent flyer member details to bookings, you can do this directly with the Airline once you have your flight information.

### Passport Validity:

Customers are required to provide valid passport details either at the time of purchase, or no later than 45 days prior to departure date. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the booking. In this instance customers will



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be responsible for any costs and fees incurred.

## COACH TOUR

### Meals:

Daily breakfast is included in the tour, for all other meals; lunches and dinners the tour leader (when available) will offer assistance with reservations, suggestions and directions to local restaurants. It is your responsibility to notify TripADeal of any dietary requests/requirements. Please note; we will do our best to meet your requests/requirements, however cannot guarantee that we will always be able to.

### Luggage:

You will be responsible for all your personal belongings whilst on the tour. With regards to luggage, you must carry your own luggage from the coach to the hotel room and back to the coach. The driver will assist with the uploading and off-loading of the luggage from the coach.

## OTHER

### Fitness Level Required / Mobility:

Our vehicles are not equipped with wheelchair access, so unfortunately our tours are currently not suitable for wheelchair users and those less mobile.

**Please note:** a general level of fitness will be required. If you have any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.

### Gratuities / Tipping:

Gratuities (tips) are not included in the tour price for services of the tour leader (when available) and driver throughout the tour. The recommended tip for the tour leader and driver is \$3 USD (approx. \$5 AUD) per person per day, which will be collected whilst on tour.

### Sightseeing:

**Please note:** In the event entrance to a site is affected by changes in operating hours or public holiday closures, your

itinerary will be adjusted to ensure you do not miss out on the experience.

### Shopping:

Shopping overseas can be a daunting and confusing experience, especially when there is a language barrier. Please be very cautious when foreign currencies and prices are involved. If paying by credit card, please pay close attention to the amount you are being charged and keep all of your receipts.

Do not make any purchases you are not comfortable with or feel pressured into. If you are uncertain or need assistance with the language barrier, please seek assistance from your Tour Guide/Leader.

Please refer to our Terms and Conditions in regards to shopping for further information.

## VISAS

A tourist visa is a strict requirement if travelling to Azerbaijan on an Australian passport. However, a tourist visa is not required in Georgia if travelling on an Australian Passport.

**Important:** Please start arranging your visa at least 3 weeks prior to departure to account for any delays due to consulate operating hours.

**Please note:** Passengers who are not Australian citizens must check with the respective consulate or visa agency to determine what their visa requirements are and what personal identification is required. It is also important to note, some areas of employment such as journalism, government authorities and charity organisations may have additional restrictions in applying for Visas. This may in turn affect the type of application required.

## INSURANCE

We are proud to offer a range of travel insurance products - please ask your Travel Consultant for more information.

## SCHEDULE OF FEES

### Voluntary Changes

This includes booking changes requested by you, including but not limited to those changes requiring an airline ticket or a Purchase Confirmation reissue.

- 1st Change - \$100.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.
- 2nd Change - \$150.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.
- Subsequent changes - \$250.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.
- Changes within 30 days of departure \$350.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.
- Changes within 14 days of departure \$500.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.

### Name Changes Due To Passenger Error

- If the incorrect name has been advised to TripADeal, charges of \$150.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.



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