PRINCETON JOURNEYS

Treasures of Georgia and Armenia

June 14-25, 2027



Featuring Princeton Journeys Lecturer
Mark Beissinger, Henry W. Putnam Professor of Politics, Emeritus

Mark R. Beissinger is the Henry W. Putnam Professor Emeritus of Politics at Princeton University, former director of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, and former President of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (now the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies). A distinguished scholar of social movements, revolutions, nationalism, and state-building, he specializes in the former Soviet Union and its successor states. He is the author or editor of six books, including the award-winning *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State* and *Historical Legacies of Communism in Russia and Eastern Europe*. A 2017 Guggenheim Fellow, Beissinger has received numerous scholarly honors, including Princeton's 2024 Stanley Kelley Jr. Award for Excellence in Teaching.

PRINCETON JOURNEYS

Itinerary

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Monday, June 14-Tuesday, June 15 | Depart Home / Arrive Tbilisi, Georgia
Depart the U.S. on flights to Tbilisi, Georgia, arriving on June 15. Transfer to your hotel in the heart of Georgia's capital city and settle into your room.
Note: Flight times vary by gateway city; some flights might depart on June 13.
Tbilisi Marriott Hotel

Wednesday, June 16 | Tbilisi
Explore the vast collection of ancient gold decorative works and archaeological finds at the Georgian National Museum, then sit down to a refined Georgian lunch in the heart of the Sololaki district, followed by an architect-led tour of its Art Nouveau façades. From there, wander the winding alleyways of the Old Town, viewing the fairytale-esque leaning clock tower, the oldest church in Tbilisi, and the 4th-century Narikala Fortress. This evening, gather around the table for a Georgian *Supra* feast featuring traditional polyphonic vocal music.
Tbilisi Marriott Hotel (B, L, D)

Thursday, June 17 | Tbilisi / Mtskheta
Venture today to Georgia's UNESCO-designated ancient capital of Mtskheta at the confluence of the Kura and Aragvi Rivers. Step inside the stunning 11th-century Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, known as the burial site of Christ's mantle, and admire its frescoes and murals. Travel next to the village of Tserovani, where you will have the chance to meet with locals over lunch and learn about the micro-businesses and art studios of the town. Enroute back to Tbilisi, stop at the Chronicle of Georgia Monument, often referred to as the "Georgian Stonehenge," depicting some of the most important events and figures from Georgian history. The evening is at leisure to explore Tbilisi's rapidly growing food scene.
Tbilisi Marriott Hotel (B, L)

Friday, June 18 | Tbilisi / Kazbegi
This morning set out on the storied Georgian Military Highway toward Kazbegi, passing through rolling green hills and steep arid mountains. Stop at the medieval Ananuri Fortress, its stone towers and churches rising above the turquoise Zhinvali Reservoir. Enjoy a lunch of Georgian comfort food, then take in sweeping views of Devil's Valley and the Caucasus from the Gudauri Viewpoint, featuring a striking Soviet-era arch. Continue over the Krestovy Pass at almost 8,000 feet before descending to the alpine village of Kazbegi, set in a bowl of mountain peaks, and check in to your hotel at the foot of towering Mount Kazbek. Dinner this evening is at leisure.
Rooms Hotel Kazbegi (B, L)

Saturday, June 19 | Kazbegi
Begin the day with a drive through the stunning Dariali Gorge, a natural canyon carved by the Terek River, and visit the beautiful Dariali Monastery Complex near the Georgia-Russia border. Spend time with a local family in the tiny village of Tsdo, where you'll receive a master class in the art of making *khinkali*, a savory Georgian dumpling. After lunch, marvel at the iconic Gergeti Trinity Church perched at over 7,000 feet on a solitary ridge beneath Mount Kazbek. An option to hike up to the monastery will be offered to those interested.
Rooms Hotel Kazbegi (B, L, D)

Sunday, June 20 | Kazbegi / Tsinandali
Travel today to Kakheti, Georgia's rich viticulture region. Stop at the striking Alaverdi Cathedral, one of the tallest churches in Georgia, before arriving at your hotel in the heart of Kakheti, on the grounds of the palace home of Prince Chavchavadze. The evening is at leisure to wander the adjacent 18-hectare historic park, or to enjoy the hotel's stunning views and amenities.
Tsinandali Estate (B, L)

Monday, June 21 | Tsinandali
Spend the day exploring the villages of Kakheti. Gain an introduction to the homegrown wine of the Caucasus Mountains with a tour of Pheasant's Tears Winery, and enjoy a meal of traditional Georgian favorites paired with outstanding Georgian natural wines. Then wander the charming cobbled streets of picturesque Signagi, perched on a hilltop overlooking the Alazani Valley. Indulge in a cooking demonstration of Georgia's iconic canoe-shaped bread and signature sweet, *churchkhela*, before returning to the hotel for an evening and dinner at leisure.
Tsinandali Estate (B, L)

Tuesday, June 22 | Tsinandali / Yerevan, Armenia
Transfer early this morning to Tbilisi for the short flight to Yerevan, Armenia, a city older than Rome that has stood at the crossroads of empires for millennia. Join your guide for a walking tour, discovering medieval shrines hidden behind imposing Soviet-style façades, walking the narrow lanes of the Old Town, and seeing the dancing fountains of Republic Square and soaring Mother Armenia Monument. Stroll down fashionable Abovyan, one of Yerevan's first planned streets, and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Check in to The Alexander, your home for the next three nights. Rejoin the group this evening for dinner in Armenia's capital city.
The Alexander (B, L, D)

Wednesday, June 23 | Yerevan
Spend the morning discovering more of Yerevan's highlights. Visit the Matenadaran Museum, one of the world's oldest book depositories housing a vast collection of manuscripts, archival documents, and literary treasures about all aspects of Armenian culture. Then visit the studio of a master craftsman of traditional reed instruments and

enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. The afternoon and evening are at leisure to explore Yerevan at your own pace and experience the local dining scene.
The Alexander (B, L)

Thursday, June 24 | Yerevan
Venture outside of Yerevan today, visiting the Khor Virap Monastery, set on a ridge above the Ararat Valley with snow-covered Mount Ararat looming behind, and the must-see Garni Temple. An impressive classical colonnaded structure surrounded by stunning mountain views, this first-century temple is a symbol of pre-Christian Armenia. Stop at a local village bakery for a lavash demonstration before continuing on to UNESCO-designated Geghard Monastery, carved into the sheer cliffs of the Azat River Gorge. End the adventure with a moving a cappella performance and a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.
The Alexander (B, L, D)

Friday, June 25 | Depart Yerevan
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home.
(B)

Please note: Itinerary is subject to change.

Rates & Information

Program Rates

- $7,995 per person, double occupancy*
- $9,620 per person, single occupancy*
- A deposit of $1,000 per person is due upon registration.

**Please note: Internal flights from Tbilisi to Yerevan are not included in this rate. As of November 2026, the estimated cost of this one-way ticket is $215 per person and will be booked by MIR Corporation closer to departure*.

Program Rates Include
All accommodation based on double occupancy per itinerary with local service charge and tax (standard hotel check-in/out times apply unless otherwise noted) • Private vehicle for one group arrival and one group departure transfer • Transportation by private vehicle • All sightseeing and excursions including entrance fees • Local English-speaking guides • Special cultural features as stated in itinerary • Services of a Tour Manager, Staff Host, and Study Leader • Whisper headsets throughout the tour • Meals as listed in itinerary: breakfast daily, 9 lunches, and 4 dinners • Bottled/purified water with meals • Wine or beer with group dinners and lunches • Gratuities to tour manager, local guides, and drivers • Baggage handling at hotels • Comprehensive destination preparation information packet

Program Rates Do Not Include

International airfare to/from the start and ending cities • Internal flight from Tbilisi to Yerevan, currently estimated at $215, to be booked by MIR Corporation • Air taxes or fuel surcharges • Increases in local taxes/VAT • Pre- or post-tour services • Visa or passport fees • Medical and trip interruption insurance • food or beverages not included in group meals • Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expense, excess baggage fees, photo/video expenses inside museums (where allowed) • Other items not expressly listed as included.

What to Expect

Every destination and every Princeton Journeys travel program is unique. The information below provides some insight into what to expect on this particular tour:

- **Walking**: To participate safely in this tour, you should be able to comfortably walk four miles per day on uneven surfaces, including in historic city and town centers and religious and cultural sites with limited accessibility infrastructure. There is one optional hike offered during the program.
- **Transportation**: This trip moves between four different hotels, with transport from Tbilisi to Kazbegi and Kazbegi to Tsinandali via air-conditioned motorcoach. Transport to your final stop in Yerevan will be via a short domestic flight. Drive times for the coach transfers are substantial and will be broken up by sightseeing, meals, and comfort stops. Some roads, notably the Georgian Military Highway, traverse the mountains with sharp turns and switchbacks. Some day trips outside of each city/town will also be by motorcoach.
- **Food**: This immersive program offers many opportunities to try local food and wine. Throughout the tour, a variety of traditional and international meals will be offered, along with meals at leisure to explore the local dining scene.
- **Accommodations**: The city hotels in Tbilisi and Yerevan are upscale, luxury properties. The hotel in mountainous Kazbegi is casual and comfortable with stunning views, and the hotel in the Kakheti viticulture region is a sophisticated boutique hotel with local character and beautiful surroundings.
- **Cultural Programming:** This tour features unique opportunities to engage with local communities and culture, including a hands-on cooking class, cultural demonstrations, musical performances, and engagement with local artisans and community leaders.
- **Group Size**: This program is exclusive to Princeton Journeys and limited to 24 participants.
- **Extension:** The pre-tour extension to Baku, Azerbaijan, is operated by MIR and will not be staffed by a Princeton study leader or host.



Optional Pre-Tour Extension to Baku, Azerbaijan
June 11-15, 2027

Before the main tour, spend three nights in Baku, Azerbaijan's capital, a striking city where ancient history and futuristic architecture offer fascinating contrasts. Stay at the supremely situated Four Seasons Hotel between the Caspian Sea and the walls of the UNESCO-designated old city, Icheri Sheher, and explore its historic Shirvan Shah Palace, Maiden Tower, and charming shopfronts and courtyards.

Venture south to the prehistoric rock carvings at Gobustan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring thousands of ancient engravings and bubbling mud volcanoes. See the renowned Heydar Aliyev Center, a swooping architectural landmark, the "fire temple" at Ateshgah, and the 19th- and 20th-century mansions of Baku's oil barons. Outside of your touring, indulge in a hands-on cooking demonstration, taste Caspian caviar over a glass of local sparkling wine, and enjoy an evening of *mugham* music during dinner in a converted *caravanserai* inn. Then take an included group flight from Baku to Tbilisi for the start of the main program. *Breakfast (3), lunch (2), dinner (1)*

Note: June 11 denotes the departure date from the U.S. Depending on your gateway city and flight itinerary, you may need to depart on June 10. A detailed itinerary and flight guidelines will be shared with registered guests.

This pre-tour extension will be staffed by MIR Corporation. Your Princeton Journeys staff host and lecturer will participate in the main program only.

Extension rates: $2,245 per person, double occupancy; $2,920 single occupancy

Booking Terms and Conditions

Princeton University is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its Alumni and Friends through Princeton Journeys. Princeton Journeys works with tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Princeton family. Please note that neither the University nor Princeton Journeys conducts tours, nor does either act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Princeton Journeys acts as a facilitator with tour operators, and tour participants contract directly with tour operators to make arrangements for completing travel. Princeton Journeys encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. Neither the University nor Princeton Journeys is responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from or relating to travel. Review **Princeton Journeys' complete terms, which you are required to agree to before enrolling in a tour.**

Reservations, Forms & Payments The quickest way to pre-reserve is to register online here. Next, place a deposit by credit card for Tour Account Number 27C161U, here. Deposits are $1000 per person, are 50% non-refundable up to 91 days prior to the trip start, and fully non-refundable thereafter as well as non-transferable. When you reserve a MIR Tour, you agree to sign our Release, Limitation of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Binding Arbitration Agreement ("Release"). The Release, these Booking Terms and Conditions, your completed Reservation & Payment Authorization Form (collectively, "Forms") in a timely manner.

Final tour payments are required by check, wire transfer or ACH. The Tour balance is due as indicated on your invoice or latest by 75 days prior to departure. Full payment for Tours is due at the time of booking for reservations made at or within final payment deadlines, as MIR may be required immediately to pay for third-party services and in full, on your behalf. Failure to deliver complete payment on schedule is considered notification of cancellation by default and subject to cancellation charges. Once we receive your deposit, we will confirm your space and send you a confirmation notice, subject to availability; and on receipt of your completed Forms, we will send a comprehensive confirmation packet which includes the Tour itinerary, destination preparatory information, suggested packing and reading lists, and a preliminary invoice. Visa details may be included or will follow separately. A final packet is generally sent 2-3 weeks prior to departure. Documents are sent electronically.

Tour Cost Prices listed are per person in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy. Tour inclusions are those described in the daily itineraries and typically include: accommodations; meals on group Tours; guided activities and entrance fees; services of English-speaking guides; group baggage handling; and most group Tour gratuities. The quoted Tour price represents a package price for the services offered and an itemization of component costs will not be provided. The Tour cost on this program also includes the internal airfare, related taxes, and fuel surcharges. Tour costs do not include any airport arrival/departure fees or country taxes; custom or immigration fees; passport fees, visas or other travel documents; some meals; alcoholic beverages; travel insurance; single supplement costs (by choice or circumstance); personal expenses and all personal items; or expenses arising from delays, modifications or any cause beyond our control.

Travelers' Responsibilities & Eligibility Travelers are responsible for selecting an appropriate Tour that matches their interests and physical abilities and for preparing for the Tour by studying the itinerary and all additional Tour information sent by MIR. Travelers agree to conform to the local laws and customs and to act respectfully to their travel companions, as well as to comply with the directions by the Tour manager or guide including regarding personal hygiene guidelines in order to reduce the risk of travelers' disease, and to comply with the policy that smoking is not allowed in vehicles, trains, aboard flights, or other specified non-smoking areas. MIR recommends travelers review both the U.S. State Department and U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published and updated country-specific-information for travelers found here:

Traveler Cancellations Notice of change or cancellation must be made in writing to MIR by email (info@mircorp.com) or fax (206-624-7360).The date that MIR receives the written cancellation determines the cancellation charge applicable. Departure is defined as set forth in your itinerary, regardless of the date that you may depart from your location of origin. If you must cancel before Departure, be advised MIR must assess cancellation charges based on its cancellation schedule to cover non-refundable, non-recoverable Tour expenses including monies committed to airlines, railways, hotels, government bodies and other suppliers on your behalf, and other expenses. Cancellation fees are based on the following schedule: if received: 91 days or more before Departure, the deposit is 50% non-refundable; 90 days or less, the non-refundable deposit due or paid in full of $1000; 61-75 days before Departure, 50% of the Tour cost; 60 days or less before Departure, or at or after Tour Departure, no refund. Cancellation terms apply to all Tour components including single supplements, pre- and/or post-Tours, hotel nights and any other confirmed arrangements made on a traveler's behalf. Your decision not to participate on the Tour due to State Department warnings, fear of travel, if you do not have a valid passport or are unable to obtain a valid visa, or the like will be deemed a cancellation. MIR is not responsible for any expenses incurred by travelers in preparation for the Tour (e.g. non-refundable airline tickets, seat reservations, passport or visa fees, travel insurance, gear or equipment, etc.), including in the event of Tour cancellation for any reason. No refunds will be provided for any unused portion of a Tour once the Tour begins, including if you leave a Tour for any reason, miss the Tour's Departure date, or have to be removed from a Tour. There are no exceptions to this cancellation and refund policy, including for: reasons related to weather; terrorism; civil strife; airline default; strikes; personal, family or medical emergencies; your decision to not go on a Tour because of governmental/travel warnings or advisories, including but not limited U.S. State Department or World Health Organization warnings; or any other circumstances beyond our control. For this reason, we strongly suggest that you secure comprehensive Tour cancellation and interruption insurance for your Tour. One option for insurance will be sent to you on signup. You may also find alternative insurance. We also highly recommend that you consider securing "cancel for any reason" travel coverage (CFAR), which must be obtained soon after your first deposit is paid for your travels.

Tour Cancellations and Changes by MIR In the event that there are fewer than the minimum participants listed in your scheduled group Tour itinerary, you may be offered to pay a surcharge or accept a Tour modification to ensure that the journey departs as scheduled with a smaller group. MIR reserves the right to cancel any group Tour due to insufficient enrollment. In such case, travelers will be informed no later than 30 days prior to departure and are entitled to receive a full refund of the Tour cost paid MIR reserves the right to cancel, alter or postpone a Tour without prior notice at any time prior to departure or after a Tour commences for the safety and/or comfort of travelers, or if is not viable for us to operate the planned itinerary, and for circumstances of Force Majeure. MIR will not be responsible or liable for deposits, payments, incidental expenses, policies or penalties for other services not included in the Tour price (such as airline tickets) or other items (such as other Tours, hotel reservations or cruises) handled by travelers and not through MIR. If a Tour is cancelled due to reasons within MIR's control and not for reasons due to Force Majeure, we will offer you:

(a) Travel credit equal to the Tour cost that you have paid. Or,

(b) A refund equal to the Tour cost that you have paid. If a Tour is cancelled due to Force Majeure (see definition below), we will offer you one or more of the following choices, in our discretion:

(c) Travel credit equal to the Tour cost that you have paid minus any unrecoverable costs and monies, which includes our Tour Planning and Administrative Fee. Unrecoverable costs and monies include but are not limited to deposit monies that we have received from you and forwarded to our Suppliers, cancellation penalties imposed by Supplier, and our Tour Planning and Administrative Fee, which covers our time and costs in planning, booking and organizing your participation in a MIR Tour. Or,
(d) A refund equal to the Tour cost that you have paid minus any 1) unrecoverable costs and monies, and 2) our Tour Planning and Administrative Fee. Tour Planning and Administrative Fee: $500 per person.

Force Majeure MIR will not be deemed in breach of this agreement or otherwise liable to you, by reason of delay in performance or nonperformance of any of its obligations under this agreement to the extent that any such delay or nonperformance is due to any Force Majeure. "Force Majeure" means any circumstances beyond MIR's reasonable control, including without limitation: acts of God; forces of nature; terrorist activities; insurrection; explosion; flood; tempest; forceful wind; fire or accident; war or threat of war declared or undeclared; sabotage; civil disturbance; labor strikes; requisition; quarantine; sickness; pandemic; epidemic; diseases and viruses that are known, unknown or novel such as coronavirus/COVID-19 (including any spread thereof); foodborne, airborne, and communicable illnesses and disease; government interventions of any kind that affect domestic and/or international travel; government restrictions or warnings; diplomatic or health organization (e.g., World Health Organization) warnings; border closings; weather conditions; and unforeseen circumstances.

If Force Majeure prevents, significantly hinders, renders it difficult, makes it commercially impractical, or makes it impossible for us or our suppliers to provide the services including but not limited to your Tour, we and our suppliers shall be entitled to, and may in our complete and sole discretion, vary, delay, postpone, reschedule, alter or cancel any itinerary or arrangement in relation to the Tour, including the entire Tour itself. Regarding civil unrest, once we have investigated the prevailing situation, as we deem fit, it shall remain in our sole and absolute discretion whether to proceed with the Tour.

Health Clause Suppliers and government entities may quarantine, isolate, deny entry to or take other measures involving clients with symptoms of infectious diseases or illnesses in hotels and/or aboard confined modes of transport such as ships, trains, etc. No refunds will be provided to you for any unused portion of travel, damages, losses or other claims if you are quarantined. MIR is not responsible for any costs, damages or losses incurred by you in the event you are quarantined or otherwise interrupted from starting or completing your Tour or using portions thereof.

Limitation of Remedies The sole remedy for any default by MIR arising under this agreement shall be the return of the paid Tour cost, to the extent consistent with applicable law. To the maximum extent permitted under applicable law, MIR shall not be liable for any special, consequential, indirect, punitive, incidental, or other damages arising out of or in any way connected to this agreement, including lost profits, whether such damages arise in contract, negligence, tort, under statute, in equity, at law, or otherwise, even if MIR has been advised of the possibility of such damages. You expressly waive any right you, your heirs, or anyone acting on their own on your behalf, have to recover such damages.

Single Travelers If you prefer single accommodations, the single supplement fee/single occupancy rate is payable.

Air Reservations & Refunds MIR's in-house, full-service air department can assist with your air travel needs. Should you decide to take on the responsibility of making your own arrangements (including mileage-based reservations), please supply MIR with a copy of your air itinerary showing your full travel itinerary at the time of final payment for your Tour. Any contract or reservation for air travel is exclusively with the carrier, and not MIR – even if MIR assists with those arrangements as a convenience to you. Refunds for unused air tickets are subject to the rules of the respective air carrier(s) and may be subject to a MIR service fee of a minimum of $75/ticket. Advance seat assignment fees are typically non-refundable.

Traveler Documentation A valid passport with six months validity from the end of the Tour and with sufficient pages for entrance/exit and visa stamps are required for participation. Visas, vaccinations, permits and other documents may be required to participate, and travelers are responsible for obtaining and maintaining all necessary documents. While MIR may provide information and guidance on visas, vaccinations, climate, clothing, and baggage in good faith and as a courtesy to you, we are not responsible for any errors or omissions as to the information provided. MIR cannot guarantee visa or permit approval by foreign governments, and you assume sole responsibility for any adverse consequences resulting from incorrect, improperly issued or defective documentation.

Release, Limitations of Liability and Assumption of Risk & Binding Arbitration Agreement Reservation Form

You will be emailed a link to complete the Release form once you are confirmed on the tour. A preview of that document is available on request.