

# XAYAL TRAVEL





## About Us

Xayal Travel officially started its activity in 2016, and soon managed to make an outstanding achievement. It received thousands of tourists from the GCC region and other countries and began to introduce them the charming treasures not only Azerbaijan's, but also countries' such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and UAE. For two years of our existence, we have opened branches in these countries. We are a tour operator and we have a contract with more than 200 travel companies. We provide tailor made holidays to our customers with our expert staff consisting of 100 and more people and professional services.

It is one of few companies that brings the tourists from all over the world to visit Azerbaijan. It does its utmost to introduce to tourists this historical and contemporary country, the Pearl of the Caucasus, characterized by the charming nature, historical and architectural monuments and rich cultural heritage.

Tourists can visit Azerbaijan any time of the year because of the distinctiveness of seasons and the fact that each

season has its own climatic features. You even can visit Azerbaijan more than once a year, and each time you'll find something new.

### **Services**

Our company strives to provide full comfort to the visitors and meet their needs through a range of services including:

- Organizing tours for individuals, groups and families,
- Booking hotels with reasonable rates in Azerbaijan and in different
- places all over the world, Booking lights with convenient rates,
- Transfer services,
- Car (and bus) rental services,
- Translation and interpretation services,
- Tour guides (Male and female),



# Visa

All GCC, Turkey, Israel, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea citizens can obtain visas for Azerbaijan upon arrival at airport. Other foreigners can obtain visas through electronic review.

## Our Airport

Azerbaijan Airlines is Azerbaijan's biggest airline and national flag carrier, founded in 1992. The new air terminal complex of the Heydar Aliyev International Airport (Terminal 1) was commissioned in April 2014. Its total area is 65 thousand square meters.

Currently, the Baku airport serves over 30 airlines which flights to 35 cities in 19 countries, and also AZAL has 40 representative offices across the globe. The top ten most popular destinations are still headed by Istanbul, Moscow, Dubai, Kiev, Doha, Sharjah, Tbilisi, Baghdad, Tehran and St. Petersburg.

In May 2018, Heydar Aliyev International Airport was awarded the maximum rating of "5 Stars" from the prestigious audit company Skytrax, an influential British consulting company specializing in studying the quality of services provided by various airlines and airports around the world.

Also Baku Airport for the second year in a row topped the list of the best in terms of the level of services provided among all airports of Russia and CIS countries according to the Skytrax World Airport Awards.

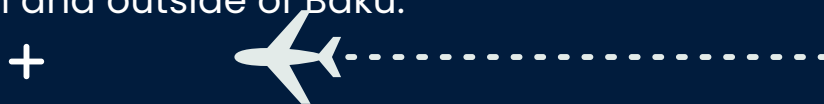


# Hotels



Hotel choice is the one of the important steps during the preparation of our traveling plan. Traveling to our country will made this choice easier and pleasurable. Azerbaijan aims to become a strategic hospitality industry player with a medium-term aspiration of taking a leader position in regional market, through establishing a world-class portfolio of hotels and resorts. This portfolio stretches across various hotel categories from mid-scale lifestyle to luxury hotels and other hospitality entities both in and outside of Baku.

# Tour Programs



The company has a number of interesting and useful tour programs carried out by male and female English, Arabic, Russian, Spain speaking guides who are familiar with the most prominent attractions of Azerbaijan. These guides can provide detailed information about Azerbaijan and answer the tourists questions, which let the tourists know more about Azerbaijan and leaving them with deep and nice impressions. The programs developed by the company are subject to tourist requirements, since it carries out the programs determined by groups or families. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the company can receive 500-1000 tourists for a month. The company is pleased to announce that the visitors' comfort is its main objective, following the saying "Customer is our Boss".



# About Azerbaijan (The Land of Fire)

Universally known as «The Land of Fire», Azerbaijan is an ancient settlement appeared on the scene of history 5000 years ago, where ancient inscriptions were found using fire as a symbol of blessing and immortality. Azerbaijan is rich in natural resources, deep rooted culture and ancient history. It has a total population of more than 9,000,000 people, who are known for their kindness and decency and have their own traditions in addition to traditions of various civilizations, making life a unique and harmonious blend of local and international traditions.

## Geographical Location

Azerbaijan is located in the South Caucasus region in Eurasia and expands into Western Asia and Eastern Europe. Azerbaijan geography is characterized by three main elements: the Caspian Sea -which is the natural coastal border- to the east, the Great Caucasus Mountains to the north and the vast plains in the center of the country.

It is bordered by Russia and Georgia in the north, Armenia and Turkey in the west, Iran in the south and, in the east, the Caspian Sea, with a coastline of 713 km sq., while Azerbaijan covers a total area of 86,600 km sq. of land.

## Brief History of Azerbaijan

The earliest evidence of the existence of human settlements in Azerbaijan dates back to the Late Stone Age, and is related to the Guruchay culture of Azikh Cave. It is represented in the first ethnic political units found in the Lake Urmia basin in the late 4th millennium BC.

Recently in 1918, Azerbaijan declared its independence for the first time after many years of Tsarist Russian occupation, yet it only lasted for 23 months since Azerbaijan was occupied again by the Soviet Union. In 1991, it regained independence. Azerbaijan is a secular state. Ilham Aliyev is the current President of Azerbaijan. In this regard, the name of "Heydar Aliyev", the public leader of Azerbaijan people who played an important role in its independence, is worth mentioning. In terms of its political system, it is a presidential republic.



## Culture

Particularly, Azerbaijan culture is part of the Islamic culture, and the Eastern culture in general. Islamic culture has played a main role in enriching of Azerbaijan culture, due to its geniuses and the cultural schools.

It is worth mentioning that Azerbaijan is known for making beautiful rugs, as well as its music maqams (types) with their special melodies. It is also famous for science and literature that reflect its identity.



## Climate and Nature

You can visit Azerbaijan any time of the year as it has 9 out of 11 climatic zones, and of course each season has its unique special colors.

Due to different climatic conditions, plant and animal diversity is richer in Azerbaijan than any other South Caucasus republic. Rivers and lakes form the main part of Azerbaijan's water system.



# Tourism in Azerbaijan



Whoever visits Azerbaijan, even once, must be astonished seeing the country. Tourists who visited it for the first time say that their journey to Azerbaijan was a real discovery. Everyone remembers the Maiden Tower located in the center of Baku, Shaki Khanate Palace, Qobustan Rock Art, and the many other attractions of Azerbaijan.

There's no doubt that the historical and cultural Azerbaijani heritage, amazing nature, mineral springs, natural medical centers, pleasant weather, the charm of all four seasons, as well as the rich cuisine enrich tourism in Azerbaijan, which can be categorized into summer tourism, winter tourism, sports tourism, medical tourism, eco-tourism, coastal tourism, as well as fishing and hunting.





## Summer Tourism

Summer tourism is the most important, even the main type, of tourism in Azerbaijan. Summer tourism is eco-tourism from spring to the start of autumn. From spring to summer temperatures rise day by day. Summer is the hottest season, but the temperatures are neither too high, nor wearisome, as they don't exceed 35°C. On the other hand, fruits multiply in this time of the year, including: apples, pears, peaches, plums, quinces, pomegranates, grapes, berries, nuts, etc. Summer tourism covers visiting natural spots like: rivers, waterfalls, lakes, valleys, mountains, forests, plains and villages, as well as the related activities.



Summer tourism locations can be categorized into:

Northern districts: Quba, Qusar, Nabran.

Northwest districts: Shamakhi, Ismailli, Qabala, Oghuz, Shaki, Qakh.

Western districts: Naftalan, Ganja, Goygol.

Southern districts: Astara, Lankaran, Lerik.

Each of these areas has a special kind of beauty, outstanding features, distinctive meals and individual traditions and rituals.





# Winter Tourism

Tourism in Azerbaijan is not limited to summer and spring due to geographical diversity which makes Azerbaijan crowded with tourists throughout the year. A lot of winter travel enthusiasts who like spending winter vacations overseas, practicing skiing and various winter sports and experiencing local life away from the hustle and bustle, visit Azerbaijan during snow seasons. In Azerbaijan, winter lasts about three months, and temperature ranges from (10 to 10 degrees below zero). Snow falls in mountainous regions over two months depositing ice, which creates the perfect atmosphere for winter tourism in Azerbaijan. Ice-skating rinks, cold weather, skiing resorts and chair lifts are the key elements of winter tourism in Azerbaijan. Among the districts mentioned above, Qabala and Qusar are the most famous districts in this area.



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Shahdag is located in the northeastern part of Azerbaijan in the shadow of the majestic Caucasus Mountains that offer indescribable views of nature. Shahdag contains a range of glaciers, deep valleys, marvelous mountain lakes and canyons, making the region an ecological treasure including several kinds of plants and animals. Shahdag Resort in Qusar gains popularity day by day, and is listed in the tourists rating lists. The complex is about 1300 – 2300 meters above sea level, and covers an area of 2058 hectares. It accommodates up to 1200 tourists a day. Visitors will be able to choose from a variety of accommodations spread across the complex and ranging between luxurious hotels and individual chalets. During the winter season, the 19 ski slopes will be open for skiers of all levels. There is a professional skiing school and a ski equipment rental store which offers a wide range of ski equipment and advice in order to meet the guests' needs. You'll find everything you wish for. The resort features a variety of restaurants and cafes catering for all tastes.

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The second winter tourism complex is «Tufandag» Winter-Summer Tourism Holiday Complex, located about 4 km away from Qabala city. The complex has 4 slopes; the first slope is 950 meters above sea level, while the final slope is 1920 meters above sea level. It can accommodate up to 1800 tourists an hour, and 3000 tourists, who can enjoy a variety of services, a day.

# Hunting/Fishing Tourism

Many notice that Azerbaijan has great opportunities to develop tourism. Hunting and Fishing very popular recent days. This area of tourism has been improving since the 1960s, and receives more attention in recent years.

Currently, there are different types of hunting and fishing in Azerbaijan. Mountain goats and birds hunting is the most known and developed of all. Hunting and Fishing tourism revives from March to November.

## Hunting/Fishing Types in Azerbaijan:

- Falconry: where hawks and peregrine falcons play a major role in hunting preys in the plains
- Cormorant fishing: where fishermen train a species of cormorants and shags to fish by tying threads around their necks and letting them dive into the water then pulling them back and having them disgorge their catches.
- Hunting with dogs: in this type of hunting, preys are pursued, particularly foxes and wild rabbits.
- Bustard hunting.

## Hunting/ fishing seasons in Azerbaijan can be set forth as follows:

- Mountain goats hunting	Mountain goats	June – October
- Rabbits hunting	Water birds	October – March
- Quails hunting	Rabbits	November – January
- Partridges hunting	Curlews	September – November
- Hunting of water birds (geese and ducks)	Partridges	January – March
- Curlews hunting	Quails	September – November



Azerbaijan is a perfect spot for physiotherapy for many diseases thanks to its natural medical resources. It has established therapeutic institutions, medical centers, clinics, wellness hotels and recreational facilities in the areas of therapeutic importance. Resorts and health wellness spots here include therapeutic mineral water and mudbaths, therapeutic salt baths and Naftalan oil therapy. Azerbaijan offers all 8 sets of world accepted therapeutic mineral water.

Qalaalti medical center is located in Shabran (120 km away from the capital). Based right in the woods, it is famous for its mineral water therapies using sulfur and hot water wells, as well as therapeutic mud spots for the treatment with slit (in Zigh and Masazir lakes) and volcanic mud.

Naftalan Health Resort is located in Naftalan district, and can serve thousands of people every year. Among the diseases that can be treated with oil: musculoskeletal conditions, vascular diseases, skin conditions, urinary system problems, nervous system conditions, gynecology diseases and otorhinolaryngology diseases.

Located in Nakhchivan city, Duzdagh health resort is 1173 meters above sea level. People with allergies and bronchial asthma are treated in therapeutic salt caves.

Qabala has a number of health centers, including Yengice, a contemporary wellness resort and hotel complex that offers a wide range of health and beauty treatments for the visitors. It offers more services, including Turkish baths, saunas, steam rooms, jacuzzis and hydrotherapy, as well as ayurvedic spa (ancient Indian medicine), yoga, Thai massage and classic massage.

Chenot Palace wellness center, located in Qabala, has been serving guests since the beginning of the year. It is surrounded by a haven of tranquility atmosphere in the magical pine forests, offering perfect views of Nohur lake. Chenot Palace is a wonderful escape from the hustle and bustle of the city and a perfect spot to recharge.





# Main Tourist Areas



## Baku

Baku is located in the south of Absheron Peninsula on the west coast of Caspian Sea. Baku is characterized by its charming and attractive surroundings creating a harmonization of both eastern and western architectural styles. It is home to a consistent mix of buildings reflecting the traditions of both eastern and European architectural styles.

### ***Tourist places in and around Baku:***

#### ***Carpet Museum:***

It is the first museum for carpets in the world, which was founded in 1967. This museum is the national cultural treasury of Azerbaijan, as it displays carpets and other kinds of traditional handiwork products in Azerbaijan. It offers a total number of about 1400 items ranging between traditional carpets, embroidery works, clothing, brass and jewelry, as well as some modern products like glass, wood and fur. Following a decree by Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, the current building was established in the shape of a carpet, and was opened in 2014.

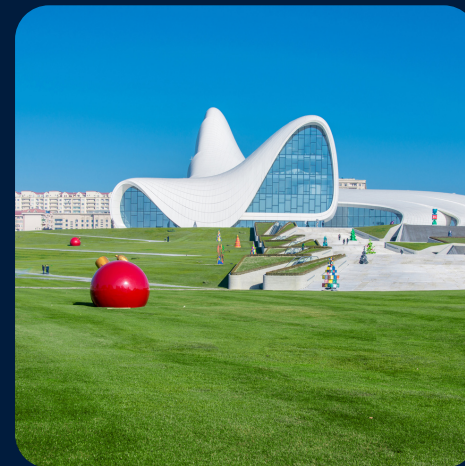
#### ***National History Museum of Azerbaijan:***

Established in 1920, it is the largest museum in the city displaying all the material and moral traces related to the history of Azerbaijan.

#### ***Heydar Aliyev Center:***

It is a center for research and international dialogue. It features conference rooms, a museum of the public leader of Azerbaijan people, Heydar Aliyev, and other exhibition halls.

The building was designed by the famous Iraqi architect, Zaha Hadid. The center is truly one of the modern icons of Baku.



### ***Caspian Sea Shoreline:***

It is the longest shoreline in the South Caucasus region, with a length of 40 km, and has two old and modern parts. You can enjoy the National Flag Square, Little Venice, passenger ship and some fun games.

### ***Old City (Inner City):***

Baku consists of two sections; a modern section (the downtown) and an old one (the Inner City). The Old City, dating back to the 12th century, is surrounded by brick walls, and is rich in globally significant attractions. Some of its establishments, including the Palace of the Shirvanshahs, Maiden Tower, hotels, baths, ancient mosques and city walls, were placed in the UNESCO list.

### ***Fountains Square:***

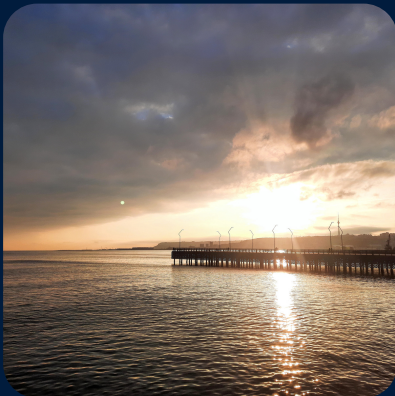
It is the most famous attraction in downtown Baku, which offers on top of that a range of shops and restaurants.

### ***Fire Mountain, «Yanar Dag» in Azerbaijani:***

There, you'll see continuously blazing fire resulting from natural gas leaking continuously on a hillside in Absheron Peninsula near Baku. The flames reach up to 3 meters high (9,8 ft.).

### ***Gobustan Preserve:***

Gobustan is known as an old settlement that is rich in rock inscriptions and mud volcanoes. It is famous for thousands of rock inscriptions spread across an area of 100 km<sup>2</sup> and picturing scenes of hunting, people, ships, towers and animals, where each rock has more than 6000 traces. The oldest rock inscriptions in the area date back to the 18th century BC. Traces from all ages, starting from the Middle Stone Age, were found there. Gobustan was listed in UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites since 2007. On the other hand, it is rich in hotels of different classes (4 and 5 stars) ready to welcome our guests.



# Gabala

Known as the Pearl of the Caucasus and Azerbaijan's Switzerland, Gabala is located in a breathtaking natural spot. It is one of the old cities in Azerbaijan. It is pervaded by Tikanlichai, Gumchai and Vandam rivers, and sits on the right bank of Damir Aparanchai river.

Characterized by its outstanding development, Gabala attracts many people to rest. It has modern buildings, public social facilities, industrial institutions, as well as educational, health and cultural facilities, besides an infrastructure conforming to the latest international standards, just to name a few.

Gabala has many hotels and wellness centers, including Qafqaz Riverside, Qabala Tufandag, Qafqaz Resort, and Qafqaz Sport.

Gabala, a world-renowned Azerbaijani old city, has become a tourist center attracting foreigners, and has experienced tourism growth in recent years.

It also features a shooting club focusing on "skeet shooting", the world popular sport included in the Olympic games list.

Several years ago, this old city became a cradle of music in Azerbaijan. International Festival of Music in Gabala attracts renowned musicians from almost all around the world.

Having marvelous natural landscapes and located among the towering mountains, this region is famous for its dense forests, rivers and its rich world of plants and wildlife, as well as Nohur Lake, Yeddi Gozel Waterfall and Laza village surrounded by forest-covered mountains.



# Guba



Guba is famous for its miraculous nature and hot mineral water. Gajrash forests, the 400–600 meter deep Tenga valley, the majestic waterfall on Avorga river, and “Mest Dergah” waterfall all create wonderful and miraculous landscapes.

The mountain peaks are always covered with snow, which is one of the characteristic features of the region. It is home to minorities from other nationalities, as well as the Azerbaijani. Guba attracts eco-tourism enthusiasts, and offers the perfect atmosphere for spending great times. Khinalig village, located in the north of Azerbaijan, is the most popular tourist spot capturing the eyes in Guba. It is isolated from the city and has a total population of 2000 people who practice their own traditions and speak their own language. During the summer and winter seasons, the weather dramatically changes with temperatures range between 18 and 20 °C. The 5-star Quba Palace Hotel is one of the most popular hotels in Azerbaijan.





# Qusar (Shahdag)



Qusar is located in the northeastern part of Azerbaijan in the shadow of the majestic Caucasus Mountains 715 meters above sea level. It is one of the most prominent tourist destinations in Azerbaijan with forests covering 20% of its land. It also has the highest mountain peaks of Azerbaijan, including Mount Bazarduzu and Shahdag, as well as Shahnabad, Laza and Gosha waterfalls, and Qusarchay and Samur rivers. It also has the recently established Shahdag Resort, the most prominent tourist destination in Azerbaijan.



All year long, the Resort offers the guests a long list of exciting sports and recreational activities suitable for kids and adults, both beginners and advanced. They will leave the guests with unforgettable memories in the charming beauty of nature and refreshing mountain air.

Qusar has a range of hotels, including Pik Palace, Park Chalet and Shahdag Hotel and SPA.



# Sheki

With its stone streets and ancient temples, Shaki has become a famous tourist destination for history enthusiasts. It also features a number of remarkable and beautiful cultural legacies, including Gelersen-Gorersen fortress (Come and See), Shaki Juma and Omar Efendi mosques, Shaki Round Temple, Narin Castle, Palace of Shaki Khans, Shaki Caravanserai as well as an Albanian church located in Kish village and dating back to 1st-2nd centuries. Due to location on the road of trade caravans, the city is famous for trade and local industries, especially natural silk, as traditional Azerbaijani scarves produced in Shaki are known for their elegance since ancient times.

There's no doubt that confections play a major role in Shaki's cookery. Wherever you come to the country, be sure to order the Shaki's halva, it is likely that it will make you taste itself to visit Shaki. Halva - Eastern dessert, made from sugar, nuts or seeds, a word used to describe several types of confectionery.

This Shaki's halva can taste only in Azerbaijan. Hard work and preparation conditions limit the ability to cook at home. On the Internet, there are many recipes of Shaki's halva, but this halva - have to be eaten only in Shaki city. The fact is that the secret of its manufacture is known to those for whom cook halva 200 years as a family business. The people they call "Halvachi." (Halva cooker)

From Shaki, you can also go to one of the beautiful corners of our country Oghuz. Oghuz district is located in a picturesque and landscape corner of Azerbaijan Republic. Around 40% covered by forests of Oghuz district with extremely beautiful, unique natural beauties. Oghuz district is a truly paradise region with amazement, with emerald forests, green slopes, ice springs from dental lorets, purest fountains, waterfalls, homeland of over 40 herbs. The famous Xal-Xal waterfall is also located here.

In addition, the most famous recreational centers in Shaki are Markhal, Soyuqbulaq and Gelersen-Gorersen fortress that situated on the snow-covered mountains. Shaki also features Marxal Resort and Spa, which is a popular tourist spot.





## Qakh

The waterfalls located in Ilisu and Lakit villages embody the amazing nature of Qakh, where mountain peaks are covered with ice blocks to the eighth month. The region attracts visitors with its cool breeze and springs. It offers the perfect atmosphere for eco-tours lovers. Tourist spots in Qakh are Ilisu and Lakit villages, Marmaray, Ilisu,

Aytshary Bazar waterfalls, Sumug Castle and

Ulukorby bridge.

It also features Uludagh Resort and

El Resort.



## Ismayilli

Ismayilli was a part of Shirvan historical region, and still embraces the traditions of folk art. People from different nationalities live in Ismayilli among the Azerbaijani. Basgal village holds a special place among the most prominent attractions in the region, as it has been widely known, since the Middle Ages, as a hub of handicrafts and raising silkworms where traditional Azerbaijani Kalagai silk scarves are produced. The tourist region, Shirin Su, has become a major destination for leisure, eco-tourism and travel lovers. Lahij village, located 36 km away from the center of Ismayilli, amaze the guests with its ancient atmosphere and handicraft models, as well as its beautiful surroundings, forests and towering mountain peaks. Lahij people work in smithing, copper works and carpet weaving.





## Ganja and Goygol

Ganja is the second largest city in Azerbaijan after the capital, Baku, and is one of the cultural hubs that holds many historical attractions, including the tomb of the great poet Nizami, Juma mosque, Shah Abbas mosque, Imam Zadeh group, Sheikh Ibrahim tomb, etc. It is an incomparable spot for eco-tourism enthusiasts, as the shore forests sitting along the coast of Kura River are an integrated ecosystem embracing different species of birds and animals included in the red book. It also features Haji Kand resort is located 1000 meters above sea level, as well as Kapaz mountain and the surrounding seven lakes (Goygol, Maralgol, Qaragol, Aghgol, Jeyrangol, Ordakgol, Zaligol), all of which are popular worldwide for their charm.

## Shamakhi

Shamakhi is one of the oldest cities in Azerbaijan, and was once the capital of Shirvanshah. Shamakhi Astrophysical Observatory, named after Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, is the region's most prominent attraction, since travelers can see the stars through the largest telescope in the region. Tourist spots in Shamakhi are: Pirgulu reserve, Juma mosque and a number of temples. Shamakhi features the most popular Shamakhi Palace hotel, a 5- star high quality hotel that can meet the needs of the visitors.



# Tours



## Baku Tour

General view of the city from the highest peak, Funicular, Carpet Museum, Little Venice, Old City (Maiden Tower, Juma Mosque, baths, the Shirvanshahs, Museum of Miniature Books), The most popular avenue of Baku – Fountains Square, National History Museum, Sea Trip, Shopping in Baku centers.

## Absheron Tour

Heydar Aliyev Center, The Fire Temple "Ateshgah", Qala Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum Complex, Bina Equestrian Club, Fire Mountain "Yanar Dag", Haydar Mosque, the largest mosque in the Caucasus.

## Gobustan Tour

"Gobustan" Rock Art Cultural Landscapes (at seventy kilometers from Baku), Mud Volcanoes, Sadarak Mall (Wholesale and individual), "Bibi-Heybat" Mosque, Local Bazaar (Nuts and Fruits).



## Qabala Tour

Juma Mosque in Shamakhi – the oldest mosque in the South Caucasus region, Yeddi Gozel Waterfall, Nohur Lake, Tufandag Winter-Summer Tourism Holiday Complex (chair lifts, skiing), Gabaland Amusement Park, Shooting Center, Gamaravan Valley, Local Bazaar, Suspension Bridge in Ismaili.

(Note: It is recommended to be a night/two day tour)

## Quba Tour (Shahdag)


Fruit Gardens, Acquaintance the nature of the region, Nazli Bulaq, "Mest Dergah" Waterfall, Khinalig Village, "Chanlibel" lake, Popular Local Bazaar, Guba carpet workshop. Guba Bazaar, Guba sweet Factory and Shop, Shahdag Winter-Summer Complex (chair lifts, skiing),

(Note: It is recommended to be a night/two day tour)



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