

# ALABAMA API TURKEY & AZERBAIJAN

FRIENDS & FAMILY CME TOUR

**MARCH 07-23,2025**



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## **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

- Internal Central Asia flight in coach class as per scheduled airline selected by Pollina Tours
- Deluxe/ First Class accommodation as per the program based on sharing a twin/double standard room as selected by Pollina Tours
- All transfers, sightseeing and excursion tours by private air-conditioned deluxe motor coach
- Six hours CME credits
- Entertainment: Cultural local folklore shows
- Buffet breakfast, and dinner with Vegetarian and Non vegetarian options (Indian meals wherever available)
- Services of experience English speaking local guide

## **ITINERARY**

### **March 07,2025: Depart for Istanbul, Turkey**

Fly to Istanbul, Turkey from USA on your own directly booked airline.

### **March 08,2025: Arrive in Istanbul, Turkey**

Arrive in Istanbul. Welcome and assistance upon arrival at the airport by your local English-speaking professional guide. Later transfer to hotel. In the afternoon, visit Grand Bazaar which is one of the World's largest and oldest medieval century Bazaar. You will visit the New City Taksim District and enjoy the walk through the famous bustling streets of Istanbul.

Overnight in Istanbul

### **March 09,2025: Istanbul**



After Breakfast, proceed on full Day Tour of Istanbul Explore the Topkapi Palace, which served as The Palace of the Ottoman Sultans between the 16th And 19th centuries. Visit Haghia Sophia (St. Sophia's Basilica) built by Constantine the



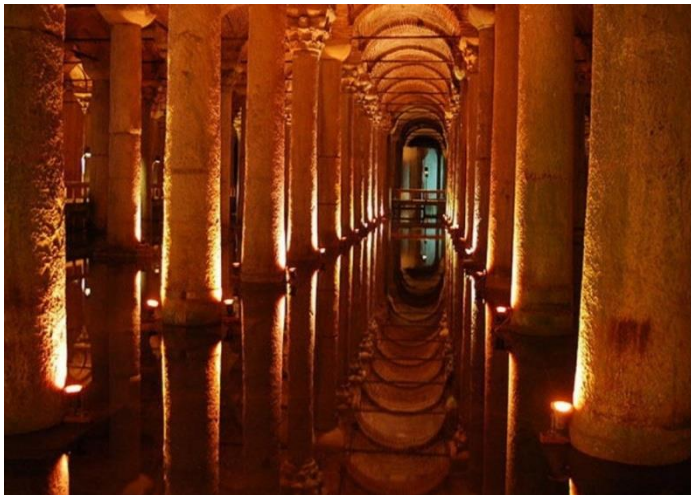
Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century with one of the biggest domes of the world.

Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Camii), famous for its six minarets, its beautiful blue iznik tiles, unique architecture and marble lattice work. Byzantine hippodrome, the center of byzantine life for 1000 years.



Overnight in Istanbul.

### **March 10,2025: Istanbul**



Explore the ancient underground wonder of Istanbul, the Basilica Cistern, discovering the largest surviving Byzantine cistern in Istanbul. Marvel at the 336 marble columns and intricate carvings and learn about the history and architecture of this 6th-century wonder. See the famous Medusa head columns and learn their story and enjoy the eerie atmosphere and soft lighting of the underground cistern.

This evening, enjoy a sunset cruise: Starting from Kabataş, this special boat tour allows you to experience the unparalleled views of Istanbul at sunset. Over the span of two hours, the Bosphorus and Golden Horn Sunset Tour offers an opportunity to create unforgettable memories amidst the historical and natural wonders of the city.

An experienced guide will provide in-depth explanations of historical and natural sites such as Dolmabahçe, Ortaköy Mosque, Bosphorus Bridge, Maiden's Tower, Topkapı Palace, and the Golden Horn.



Overnight in Istanbul.

### **March 11 ,2025: Istanbul – Izmir - Kusadasi**

After breakfast at the hotel, we checked out and transferred to the airport for a flight to Izmir. Arrive in Izmir and transfer to seaside resort of Kusadasi with Its Island Fortress and Pedestrian City Center. Arrive and Check into the Hotel. Overnight at Kusadasi hotel.

### **March 12 ,2025: Kusadasi (Ephesus)**

After Breakfast, visit The Premiere Greco-Roman City of The Ancient World, Ephesus. Explore The Temple of Hadrian, The Famous Celsus Library, Great Theatre, Temple of Artemis and Other Roman Sites. Then Visit the House of Virgin Mary and The Impressive Collections at The Ephesus Museum.



Overnight in Kusadasi

### **March 13,2025: Kusadasi - Pamukkale**

Today drive to Pamukkale. The direct drive from Kusadasi to Pamuk kale is 120 mi (193 km). Upon arrival, check in at your hotel.

Overnight in Pamukkale



### March 14 ,2025: Pamukkale



Start your day with a visit to the ancient city of Hierapolis. Hierapolis was rebuilt during the reign of the Roman emperor Tiberius and survived until 1334, when it was abandoned after an earthquake. Extensive ruins, excavated since the 19th century, include baths, a gymnasium, an agora, and a Byzantine church. Hierapolis was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988.



After exploring Hierapolis, head to the famous Pamuk kale Thermal Pools, renowned for their stunning white travertine terraces. This area has been drawing visitors to its thermal springs since the time of classical antiquity. The Turkish name refers to the surface of the shimmering, snow-white limestone, shaped over millennia by calcite-rich springs. Dripping slowly down the mountainside, mineral-rich waters collect in and cascade down the mineral terraces, into pools below.

Enjoy the amazing calcium rich hot springs, the famed white outdoor pools and soak up not just healthy waters but historical traditions.

Overnight in Pamuk kale

### March 15 ,2025: Pamukkale - Cappadocia

After breakfast, check out and transfer to airport for flight to Cappadocia. Arrive and check in at the hotel.

In the evening enjoy the swirling dervish Sufi show in a local theatre.



Overnight in Cappadocia

### March 16,2025: Cappadocia

Today enjoy a full day tour of Cappadocia to explore its lunar landscape like surroundings. Visit the Pasabag Valley, with its surreal mushrooming Pinnacles and Avanos, renowned for Its Handmade Pottery.

Visit the stunning Valley of Goreme and the Open-Air Museum, where the remains of churches and early christian Dwellings, hewn from the Rock, dates back to thousands of years. Begin your discovery of Cappadocia with Goreme's "Caves of God", A UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Monasteries and churches Hewn into Volcanic Rock reached their peak between 7th And 13th centuries. You will see the ongoing erosion on the Fairy Chimneys of Pasabagi. Overnight in Cappadocia

### March 17,2025: Cappadocia

Early morning sunrise optional balloon ride over the lunar like landscapes of Cappadocia (subject to weather conditions).





Visit the Derinkuyu Underground City. First, enjoy a panoramic view of Göreme and marvel at some of the best views in the region. Afterwards, visit Underground City which is the biggest and deepest underground settlement. It has 8 levels connected with narrow tunnels. You will visit stalls, stores, churches, wineries, kitchens and the other sections which are open to visitors.  
Overnight in Cappadocia

### **March 18,2025: Cappadocia – Istanbul**

Today transfer to the airport for your flight back to Istanbul. Day at leisure for wonder the city and last-minute shopping at the bazaars.  
Overnight in Istanbul

### **March 19,2025: Istanbul – Baku, Azerbaijan**

Today either you can return back to USA or continue your optional extension trip to Azerbaijan

## **OPTIONAL EXTENSION (March 19-23,2025) TRIP TO AZERBAIJAN**

Transfer to Istanbul airport for flight to Baku, Azerbaijan.



Upon arrival at Heydar Aliyev International Airport, and after migration and customs formalities, greet our local guide and transfer to your hotel and check-in.

Explore the city, starting with the Old Town (İçəri Şəhər) which has preserved much of its 12th-century defensive walls, which define the character of the property. Visit the Maiden Tower (Qız Qalası), an iconic symbol of Azerbaijan, which stands proudly in the heart of Baku's Old City. Dating back to the 12th century, this cylindrical structure has served various roles from a defensive fortress to a lighthouse. Its storied past and panoramic views of the Baku Bay make it a focal point for visitors. The enigmatic design and legends surrounding its origin add to the intrigue of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Also visit the Palace of the Shirvanshahs, another monument of universal value, one of the pearls of Azerbaijan's architecture is the 12th- to 15th-century, located at the highest point of Icherisheher. Within the Palace complex are the Divankhana (reception hall) or, as some researchers believe, the Tomb of Shah, the residential building of Shirvanshahs, the remains of Key-Kubad Mosque, the Tomb of Seyid Yahya Bakuvi, Murad's Gate (the only monument of the 16th century), the Tomb of Shirvanshahs' Family, the Shah Mosque and the Palace bath-house.



Overnight in Baku

### **March 20,2025: Baku**

Today continue your visit to Baku, starting with a visit to the wide range of art collections and exhibitions of the Heydar Aliyev Centre, then step outside to marvel at its wonderfully flowing structure.



Designed by the illustrious Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid, the eye-catching Heydar Aliyev Centre opened in



2012, since when it's astonishing curved, wave-like shape and innovative use of space have turned it into an icon of modern Azerbaijan. Explore the modern skyscrapers and shopping centers



Visit the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum, situated on the Seaside Boulevard, is one of Baku's modern architectural icons. Shaped like a rolled-up carpet, the eye-catching building was designed by Austrian architect Franz Janz and opened in 2014.



Today, the Carpet Museum is home to the largest collection of Azerbaijani carpets in the world – over 6,000. Those on display mainly date from between the 17th and 20th centuries and are arranged according to style and region. This evening, enjoy a traditional Azerbaijani dinner and folk show.



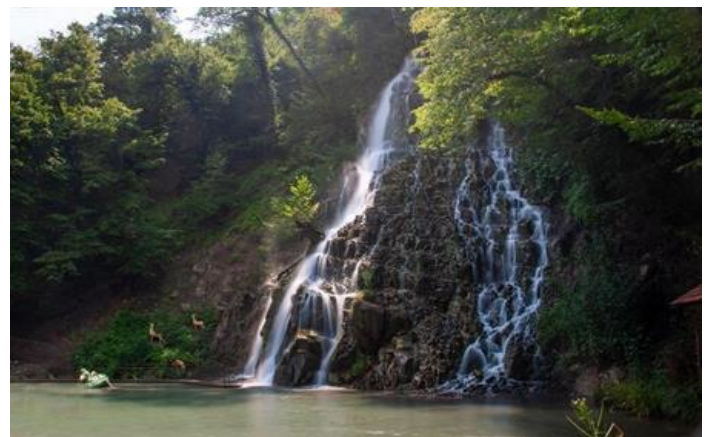
Overnight in Baku.

March 21, 2025: Baku – Gabala



Today drive to Gabala (approx. 3.5 hours), located on the territory of the Shaki-Zakatala zone, almost on the border of Dagestan and Georgia. Near modern Gabala are the ruins of an ancient city, which is about 2000 years old. Visit firstly Shamakhi Juma Mosque. This Azerbaijani Mosque is the oldest and largest in the Caucasus. According to legend, it was founded in the 8th century, when Shamakhi was chosen as the residence of the Arab caliph. The exact date of its construction is 744. It was at this time that the construction of new religious buildings (mosques) began on the territory of modern Azerbaijan. The Juma mosque in Shamakhi is the earliest in the Caucasus after the Derbent Friday cathedral mosque, built-in 734.

Also, visit the waterfall “Seven Beauties,” located in the outskirts of Gabala, near the village of Vandam. The waterfall consists of seven cascades, hence its name. A waterfall is a place of pilgrimage for tourists from all over the world. Some consider this place holy.



Explore the scenic valleys and mountains of the Greater Caucasus  
Overnight in Gabala



March 22,2025: Gabala - Baku

This morning drive back to Baku.



In the afternoon, visit the Ancient Zoroastrian Temple Ateshgah - "Fire Temple" The Temple of Eternal Fire - Ateshgah - is an authentic Azerbaijani exotic. It is well-known practically all over the world. It is located 30 km from the center of Baku in the suburb of Surakhany. This territory is known for such unique natural phenomenon as burning natural gas outlets (underground gas coming onto surface contacts oxygen and lights up). The temple in its present state was constructed in the 17th-18th centuries and built by the Baku-based Hindu community related to Sikhs. Remain of the day to explore the vibrant street art and markets

Farewell dinner in Baku



Overnight in Baku

March 23rd,2025: Baku - USA

Transfer to the international airport according to the return flight schedules and flight to home country with happy memories of Turkey and Azerbaijan.

**PER PERSON RATE BASED ON SHARING A TWIN/ DOUBLE ROOM**

LAND ONLY	PRICE (Per Person)
TURKEY	US \$ 4250
OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO AZERBAIJAN	US \$ 1995

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**NOT INCLUDED:** Any International flight from/to the US. Any Government issued mandatory vaccination requirements and charges needed to embark on the trip, Visa fee, Travel Insurance, portorage at the airport, CME fee, any beverages alcoholic or non-alcoholic, meals not mentioned in the itinerary, items of personal nature such as laundry, tips or gratuities, telephone, room service, any increase of government-imposed taxes, any other items not mentioned in the above tour inclusion list.

**TOUR BOOKING:** POLLINA TOURS AND TRAVEL, INC. located at 95 Broadway, Suite 5, Hicksville, New York 11801 is our Tour Operator. Each passenger must duly fill in the Booking form, sign it and mail the original hard copy of the Booking form to Pollina Tours along with their tour deposit of \$ 500 per person.

**FORM OF PAYMENT:** Please make the check payable to Pollina Tours & Travel, Inc for USD 500 per person. The final payment is due 120 days before departure.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Pollina Tours do not sell any travel insurance. We strongly recommend that you obtain a comprehensive Travel Insurance coverage, including but not limited to trip cancellation, delay, loss of deposit, medical expenses, personal accidents and death, loss of baggage, personal belongings. CFAR (Cancel for Any Reason) Travel Insurance Policy is one option that you must discuss with your Travel Insurance Company, as it offers a wider range of coverage if you cancel for any reason. Most Travel Insurance companies want you to buy insurance at the time of making your initial tour deposit to obtain the best coverage. Please contact and discuss all options available to you from the Travel Insurance companies of your choice before signing up on the tour.

**CANCELLATION AND REFUND** If the tour is cancelled by the tour participants for any reason or for any circumstances beyond the control of Pollina Tours & Travel, Inc, its agents, and its service providers, a cancellation fee will be applicable. CFAR (Cancel for Any Reason) travel insurance policy is one option that you must discuss with your Travel Insurance Company, as it offers a wider range of coverage if you cancel for any reason.

We highly recommend purchasing Travel Insurance policy from the travel insurance company of your choice, covering all eventualities including, but not limited to, trip delay, trip cancellation, medical



evacuation, illness, pandemic, endemic, outbreak of disease, terrorism, inclement weather, natural disaster, death of the traveler, accident etc that can protect yourself from cancellation fee as mentioned in the chart below:

Tour cancellation date	Cancellation Fee (Per person)
Before 180 Days of Departure	US \$ 500
Between 179 - 120 Days	25% of Tour Cost
Between 119 - 90 Days	50% of Tour Cost
Between 89 - 60 Days	75% of Tour Cost
Within 59 Days of Departure	100% of Tour Cost

A full 100% Refund will be made to the passengers if the tour is canceled by Pollina Tours due to the default of Pollina Tours & Travel.

It is mandatory for passengers to make all cancellations in writing, stating the reason for cancellation and same must be received in our office. Most refunds generally take 6-8 weeks to process.

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** It is the sole responsibility of each passenger/tourist to obtain and verify that all of their travel documents, such as passport, visa, and airline tickets, vaccination requirements etc are in order and meets the guidelines to embark on the trip.

**HEALTH:** You must consult with your physician every important aspect of your health-related issues, including sea-sickness, motion sickness, vaccinations such as Yellow Fever, Hepatitis, malaria prophylaxis etc. to ensure that you are in good health to engage in overseas travel. In addition, you are expected to carry your own regular medications, which may not be available aboard. All our overseas tours may require considerable walking and driving, sometimes on uneven, dusty and bumpy road and snow conditions. You may also need to take stairs and inclines during the tour. No individual assistance to passengers requiring wheelchair can be and may be challenging for the physically handicapped. For Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) or via the

CDC's Internet site, at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). For information and health guidelines about outbreaks of infectious diseases such as COVID 19 and other diseases abroad, please consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) official website. All passengers are personally responsible to ensure that they comply with overseas mandatory medical/vaccination requirements and are medically cleared by their Physicians to embark on the trip.

**AIRLINE GROUP BOOKING AND SEAT ASSIGNMENTS:**

POLLINA TOURS makes the booking with the Group Department of the airline, which means all the group members must travel together to and from a common gateway, as one Group. The Group tickets are lower fare tickets and carry restrictions. The tickets are nonrefundable, non-transferrable, non-re-routable, and non-endorsable. Policies governing seat assignments for groups vary greatly by airline. Most airlines currently offer preferred seating, a system which allows them to charge additional fees for more desirable seats, which may include window and aisle seats. As a result, many seats displayed on airline seat maps are set aside for clients willing to pay additional fees for them. Some seats may only be accessible at airport check-in, although sometimes passengers with frequent flyer status may have earlier access. Seat assignments preferences are not guaranteed by Pollina Tours. Airline reservation agents are often prohibited from assisting with seat requests for group reservations.

**GROUP HOTEL/CRUISE BOOKING:**

POLLINA TOURS makes the booking of the hotel/cruise in the specified hotel/cruise in "Standard" twin-bedded (two single beds) rooms or "Standard" double bedded (one double bed) room with private facilities, unless you have specifically requested and paid for an upgraded room category. Special requests, such as bed types, smoking preference and connecting rooms are subject to availability. Room selection in all cases, unless otherwise reserved, is strictly at the discretion of the hotel's management on a run-of-house basis.

**GROUP MEALS BOOKING:**

POLLINA TOURS make the group meals arrangements at the hotel or local restaurants based on the hotel or restaurant's Buffet or Set dinner menu basis policy. All efforts are made to offer Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian menu choice to the Group members. However, Pollina Tours cannot make multiple dinner menu requests based on each group members' individual request, likings, and disliking. No special dietary request can be guaranteed. Due to the presence of



food allergens in the processing environment and in meals and snacks served, Pollina Tours and its suppliers cannot guarantee an allergen-free meal. We encourage customers to review any health/food allergy concerns with their physicians prior to joining the tour.

**RESPONSIBILITY** : Pollina Tours & Travel, Inc. and/or their agents give notice that all tickets, vouchers and the coupons issued by them and all arrangements for transportation or for conveyance/hotel accommodation, sightseeing, excursions, etc, made by them, as AGENTS of the passenger upon the express condition that they shall not be held liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, death, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason or defect of any vehicle, or through the act or default of any person or company engaged in conveying or housing the passengers or in connection therewith, or of any hotel proprietor or employee. Pollina Tour and/ or their agents can accept no responsibility for cancellation penalties or losses or incidental expenses due to delay or change in schedules of airline, rail, motor coach, cruise or any transportation companies etc, hotel overbooking or default, sickness, injury, death, weather, strike, political or social unrest, disease, epidemic, pandemic, terrorism, natural calamities, quarantine or any other causes beyond the control of Pollina Tours & Travel, its agents and suppliers of services. All such losses or incidental expenses will have to be borne by the passengers. Baggage is at owner's risk throughout the tour. Obtaining a suitable travel insurance policy to cover the medical and non-medical eventualities from any Travel Insurance company of your choice is solely the responsibility of each passenger/tourist booked on our tour. Pollina Tours & Travel reserves the right to accept or reject any person as tour participants, to expel any tour participants from the tour, to make changes in the itinerary whenever the company deems it is necessary for the comfort, safety and convenience of the participants or their agents/service providers. Although, all safety measures are taken by our suppliers to ensure you have an enjoyable and safe tour. However, our Service provider will require you to sign their responsibility form to not hold them responsible for any injury, accident, death, etc, caused to you during any adventure tourism activities, jungle safari, etc. which is beyond their control. All prices are quoted in US Dollars. The transportation, airlines, rail, cruise, ferry companies, etc, concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or events during the time passengers are not on board their carriers and conveyance. The passenger's contract in use by the airline carrier, when issued, shall

constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the purchaser of the Tour(s) and/or passengers. Typically, check-in time at the hotels is 3:00 PM and check out time is 12 noon. Sequence of the itinerary is subject to change, due to circumstances beyond our control.

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**POLLINA TOURS AND TRAVEL, INC.**  
Tel: 1-516 358 1301 Email: [pollin@earthlink.net](mailto:pollin@earthlink.net)  
Web: [www.pollinatour.com](http://www.pollinatour.com)  
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**25 Years**  
ESTABLISHED 1990



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