



HALLI TOUR

21 – 28 October 2017

Textile Traditions of
Azerbaijan
&
Georgia



Welcome

Taking place directly after ISAC Baku in October 2017, this HALI Tour provides an expert-guided opportunity to explore the region's rich and long-standing weaving heritage.

Ben Evans

Editor, Hali Publications Limited



Shadda, Karabagh, 18th century, Simon Janashia National Museum of Georgia Collection, Tbilisi

In 2017 the HALI Tour to the Caucasus starts the day after the 5th International Symposium on Azerbaijani Carpets ends in Baku. The timing provides the perfect opportunity to share the knowledge and experience we have gained from HALI's two previous tours to the region.

While the conference will focus on the diversity of the region's weaving culture, the tour will allow people to see and understand how and where these rugs were made. The weavings of Azerbaijan are well known to many via their graphic patterns, bold colours and rich material quality, but travelling through the regions where these rugs were and are still made is a unique opportunity to broaden that knowledge. Experiencing

'I enjoyed every aspect of the tour.'

HALI Tour participant, Australia

'The level of expertise, for even small fragments or historical reference, was astonishing. The level of knowledge from specialists, dealers, editors and participants was most impressive!'

HALI Tour participant, USA

the culture first hand and gaining a sense of place enables a deeper appreciation of these rugs—making the remote more real and the foreign more familiar.

The unique selling point of any HALI Tour is to provide access to material, collections and experts that may not be widely available otherwise. Although the symposium will take place over four days in Baku, the city offers plenty of additional material available exclusively to the HALI Tour.

Georgia has a wealth of cultural experiences for visitors, some specific to the textile-minded but many that appeal beyond our area of interest—to the extent that it is fast becoming one of the most popular international tourist destinations.



Silk cross stitch embroidery, 18th century, Azerbaijan National Art Museum, Baku

Detailed Itinerary

HALI Tours represent the distillation of more than thirty-five years of HALI articles and the experience gathered through their preparation.



Ateshgah fire temple, Baku

DAY 1 *Saturday 21 October*

BAKU

ACCOMMODATION: **Hoïiday Inn Baku, Baku**

Icherisheher walking tour

An insight into the history and architecture of the capital's Old Town including visits to the Shirvanshah Palace, Caravanserai and Centre for Traditional Arts, as well as a special exhibitions and presentations

FR Collection

Fuad Jabrayilov and Ruslan Huseynov, two young textile collectors with a passion for Azerbaijan's weaving traditions (see profile, HALI 191), offer an exclusive presentation of their finds

Faig Ahmed's weaving workshop

One of Azerbaijan's best known contemporary artists presents carpets as sculpture to international acclaim

Baku waterfront museums

Three dedicated museums present Azerbaijan's special artistic heritage—ancient stone carving at Stone Chronicles, 20th-21st century painting at the Art Gallery and modern art at YARAT Contemporary Art Space

Ateshgah fire temple

An atmospheric site, holy to Hindus and Zoroastrians

Presentation of archival photos

From Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russia, giving context to the complexity of the region's textile traditions



Yeddi Gumbaz Mausoleum

DAY 2 *Sunday 22 October*

BAKU / ŞAMAXI

ACCOMMODATION: **Silent Lake Resort, Samaxi**

Leave Baku by coach for northwest Azerbaijan

Chelov village weavers

Weaving still occurs in rural villages in parts of Azerbaijan—visit looms in private family homes

Yeddi Gumbaz Mausoleum

Seven domes and ornate tombstones in a cemetery at the site of one of Azerbaijan's oldest settlements

Baskal batik workshop

A family run artisan craft studio where visitors can produce their own traditional *kalaghayi* silk scarf

Lahic

Historic village known for its cobbled streets and traditional craft studios, particularly copper work



Sheki Khans' Palace

DAY 3 *Monday 23 October*

AZERBAIJAN / GEORGIA

ACCOMMODATION: **Kabadoni Hotel, Signaghi**

Sheki Khans Palace

The summer palace of the Sheki Khans was built in 1797 by Muhammed Hasan Khan and is the only remaining structure of the palatial complex. The stained glass, tile work and murals have been restored and there are artisan workshops nearby

Sheki

A traditional sweet kitchen, batik studios and an abandoned Soviet weaving factory

Border crossing from Azerbaijan to Georgia by road at Matsimi.

Please check your personal visa requirements for both Azerbaijan and Georgia prior to travel and be prepared with the necessary documents.

Dinner at Pheasant's Tears

Georgian cuisine and natural local Kakhetian wines



Artisan vineyard



Fachralo prayer rug made in 2016/17 by ReWoven



Shirvan, 19th century, Azerbaijan, Janashia NMG Collection, Tbilisi



Point paper from the Straume archives, State Museum of Folk & Applied Arts

DAY 4

Tuesday 24 October

SIGNAGHI

ACCOMMODATION: **Kadonni Hotel, Signaghi**

Signaghi Museum

Anthropological archaeological exhibits discovered in Georgia and paintings by the posthumously celebrated self-taught artist from the Kakheti region, Niko Pirosmani (1862-1918)

Monastery of St Nino, Bodbe

One of Georgia's foremost pilgrimage sites, founded in the 9th century, pillaged by Shah Abbas I in 1615

Lunch and wine tasting at an artisan vineyard

Free time in Signaghi

Picturesque town overlooking the Alzani Valley with views across to the Greater Caucasus Mountains in the distance. Stroll the cobbled streets, take a horse ride to a local vineyard or relax in the hotel spa

DAY 5

Wednesday 25 October

SIGNAGHI / TBILISI

ACCOMMODATION: **Tbilisi Marriott Hotel**

Leave Signaghi to travel by coach to Tbilisi

ReWoven, Karachopt

A weaving project set up by an American expatriate to revive weaving with good design and quality materials in an Azerbaijani village in Georgia

Lunch in the village

Walking tour of Tbilisi Old Town

Grapevines tumble over the balconies of historic buildings, red-tiled roofs mix with Soviet architecture, and winding narrow streets reveal cultural delights and opportunities to visit antique carpet shops

DAY 6

Thursday 26 October

TBILISI

ACCOMMODATION: **Tbilisi Marriott Hotel**

Giorgi Chitaia Museum of Ethnography

Open air display of traditional domestic architecture and artefacts from fourteen different Georgian ethnographic zones

Simon Janashia National Museum of Georgia

Oriental textiles and carpets from the National Museum stores viewed with the curator, an expert on Caucasian kilims, and a treasury of pre-Christian archeological gold, dating to the 3rd millennium BCE

Cafe Litera

Lunch at one of the city's most exciting restaurants offering modern Georgian cuisine housed in the Art Nouveau Writer's House of Georgia

Dry Bridge Antiques Market

Bric-a-brac and antiques from pre-Soviet and Soviet periods.

Mtatsminda by Funicular Railway

Dine in Soviet style grandeur at the Funicular Complex, first opened in 1905 atop the Mtatsminda Plateau, with panoramic views of the city

DAY 7

Friday 27 October

TBILISI

ACCOMMODATION: **Tbilisi Marriott Hotel**

State Silk Museum & State Museum of Folk and Applied Arts

Two museums founded by the Russian Empire in the 19th century as part of an initiative to develop textile industries in Georgia. View carpets, textiles and archival material with the directors

Shalva Amiranashvili Museum of Fine Arts

Treasury containing Georgia's most sacred and revered icons, crosses and jewellery in enamelwork and gold

Dinner at Arzaphesha

With a presentation on local costume traditions and a performance of polyphonic singing

ONWARDS INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Should be arranged for the following day - Saturday 28 October 2017.

Optional extensions to the Bordjalou ReWoven project and to other regions of Georgia can be arranged through our local travel agent.

International flights are available from Tbilisi airport, a 30-minute transfer from the hotel.

Highlights



FR Collection, Baku

Visit local craft workshops and revival projects

Traditional craft heritage is a source of much national pride and remains a widely acknowledged expression of national identity



Georgian State Museum of Folk & Applied Arts, Tbilisi

Unique archival material relating to Caucasian carpet production

Photo archives, research portfolios and original hand painted designs trace the development of weaving in Azerbaijan and Georgia under the direction of the Russian Empire



Collection of Azerigalida Joint Stock Company, Baku

Special access to private collections and museum stores

Local curators, collectors and international experts introduce regional carpets and textiles in close-up viewing sessions



Georgian National Museum Collection

Discover historic decorative arts of the region

Tbilisi's museums hold outstanding material including icons and a treasury of ancient gold and jewellery, dating from the 3rd-4th century BCE

Hotels

All hotels have been carefully handpicked to provide the highest possible levels of comfort and service



DAY 1 *21 October*

HOLIDAY INN BAKU BAKU

ACCOMMODATION: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 1 night

A smart new hotel with contemporary rooms, panoramic views over the Caspian Sea and good service. Well situated for the Old Town and Carpet Museum.

www.holidayinn.com



DAY 2 *22 October*

SILENT LAKE RESORT ŞAMAXI

ACCOMMODATION: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 1 night

A cosy luxury resort situated around a secluded lake; a tasteful country retreat for the Baku elite.

eng.sakitgol.az



DAYS 3-4 *23-24 October*

KABADONI BOUTIQUE HOTEL SIGHNAGHI

ACCOMMODATION: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 2 nights

A modern hotel in a small historic town, with excellent views over the vineyards of the Alzani Valley from the restaurant and indoor pool. Relaxing spa facilities.

www.kabadoni.ge



DAYS 5-7 *25-27 October*

TBILISI MARRIOTT HOTEL TBILISI

ACCOMMODATION: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 3 nights

Crystal chandeliers and elegant furnishings are found in the 100-year old building in an excellent central location on Rustaveli Avenue.

www.marriott.com

Practicalities

Tour details

This includes:

- ❖ travel by private, air-conditioned coach
- ❖ hotel accommodation as described
- ❖ full-time services of local English-speaking guides and HALI editorial staff
- ❖ all admissions
- ❖ all state taxes
- ❖ 7 breakfasts in hotels, 6 lunches and dinners in selected restaurants with soft drinks, wine or beer, 2 wine tastings

Azerbaijani and Georgian cuisines contain a rich mix of cultural influences, and are proudly served banquet style. Expect a wide selection of salads, soups, cheeses, roast meats and fish, traditional flatbreads and fruits, both fresh and preserved.

Pricing

Price per person: **£2,500** (deposit **£250**)

Single supplement: **£500**

(The subscriber discount offer is not applicable to the single supplement amount.)

Limited spaces available.

HALI subscribers are entitled to a 10% discount on early bookings. The deposit must be paid before 28 July 2017 in order to take advantage of this special offer.

Booking

For further information, bookings and group rates, please contact Rachel Meek:

halitours@hali.com

+44 (0)20 3370 7572

It may be necessary to amend the programme slightly according to local conditions

If you are not already in Baku for the ISAC 2017 event, you will be met at the airport on arrival for transfer directly to the hotel. The same complimentary service is offered at the end of the tour.

It is recommended that you arrive on 20 October to begin the HALI Tour on the morning of 21 October. We can assist in booking additional accommodation should you need it.

HALI