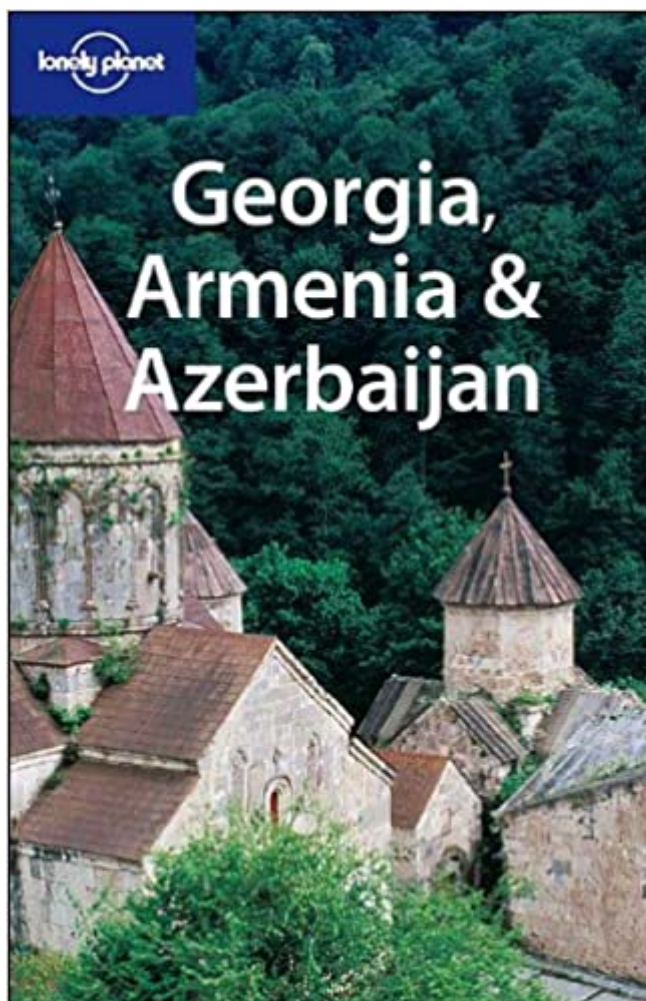


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# Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan (Lonely Planet Travel Guides)



## Synopsis

Hike in the stunning Caucasus Mountains, bathe in the Black Sea, explore lush, church-studded hills, laze on the shores of Lake Sevan and enjoy generous local hospitality. Connect with the diverse cultures and wide-ranging landscapes of the South Caucasus in this, the only guide to cover the the region. Unravel The Past – extensive coverage of the region's fascinating history and mosaic of cultures Plan Your Route with the help of tempting highlights and itineraries and over 40 detailed maps Sleep Soundly – wide-ranging listings from welcoming homestays to Soviet sanatoriums Enjoy fine wines from Georgia and tasty Armenian cognac with our enticing food & drink sections Talk The Talk – impress the locals in all three languages using our expert guide

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lonely Planet guidebooks are, quite simply, like no others.' --New York Times

Writing a guide book for these countries is not an easy job. In this book, information is good and extensive, but don't rely on it as your bible. Maps are not up-to-date, and this might be its biggest weakness; however, you might not find other maps anywhere in the Caucasus which are better, so get this book and use it on the way. You might want to notice that this book is ILLEGAL in Azerbaijan because of pro-Armenia information about Karabakh. At least when crossing by land, the custom control at the border will ask you which books you are bringing in. This is how I lost my book before I even got to use it in the country. But then again, don't blame Lonely Planet, blame the dictatorship.

I used the guidebook in all 3 countries within one month of its publication, and found it to be accurate for the most part. However, the authors seemed to be under orders to write glowing reports on anything considered mildly worthwhile to visit. Many of these places were not particularly noteworthy, and after awhile we took each raving description with a grain of salt. For some of the most spectacular sites (Davit Gareja and Kazbegi, both in Georgia) the book really should have included maps. The descriptions of both struck me as being second or third hand, as if the authors themselves had not taken any of the trails they described.

I only used this book for Georgia, but it got so much wrong---including maps!--that it was almost useless. It was good, however, for a general overview of the history and culture, and what's where. It was also used frequently to try to find the right 'mashtuka' when traveling, since routes are written in Georgian, and I could show the Georgian name to drivers to see if I was in the right van going to the right place. Let's hope that this book is either updated soon, or a competitor decides to publish a guide to this intriguing part of the planet.

The Caucasian countries probably constitute the last bastion of the enigmatic destinations in the world and are shrouded in rumors & unclear doubts. The time trusted Lonely Planet is your only hope and probably the only guide that'll help you plan and execute your trip. I recently came back from a short trip to Georgia and found the information remarkably accurate and undoubtedly useful. It'll serve as your lifeline whilst in the Caucasus. I've seen some dismal review comments and whilst I respect other people's opinions, I cannot help wonder what (else) were travelers expecting? A street-by-street guide with illustrated pictures will take away all the enigmatic charm and adventure that the Caucasian countries have to offer. A trip that is planned to perfection is usually not much fun. However, the hospitality of the wonderful people and the overwhelming beauty of the country will supersede your dependence on the guide.

I had been anticipating the new LP guide for Armenia for quite awhile. I must admit that when I finally got it I was disappointed. It is better than the last one, but that's not saying much. The information is OK, but not extensive. There are barely any photos, so you don't really get a good feel for any of the places. The maps are so small that you need a magnifying glass to read them. And, the 6 pages dedicated to Karabagh just doesn't cut it!

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