

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

17/6/14, Newsletter 2

IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: June 17th 2014 (51st day)

Location: Rasht, Iran

Driven km up to date: 7 200.



PHOTOS



NEWS

After having discovered **Eastern Turkey** (previously Western Great Armenia), its booming seaside economic activity, tea fields, high-altitude mysterious lands, and architectural pieces of art witnessing a rich past (Middle Ages fortresses, ancient city, churches), we headed towards South Caucasus.

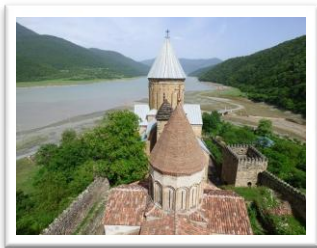
Armenia was a surprise for us due to its great past influence and its current tricky geopolitical situation (conflict with Azerbaidjan and slippery relations with Turkey).

We've had a real crush on **Georgia** (most probably since it resembles Bulgaria to a certain extent). Benefitting from a gorgeous nature, nice vineyards, a warm population, plenty of interesting historical sites and a modern capital, Georgia is a very nice country to visit (and who knows, maybe to live in...☺).

As far as the last country is concerned, **Azerbaijan**, this country has left a bitter taste in our mouths, capable of the best (Baku, magnificent city out of a surrounding lunar desert, thanks to the country oil wealth), as well as the worst (little swindles, distant population, dirt in the countryside).

Our van is in great shape! As we believed, it's really good to feel at home as soon as we close the doors and hide behind our tinted windows. We got used to new habits and do not bump everywhere in the van as much as before! Time flies and we accumulate experiences. We live in a timeless universe.

FUNNY PICTURE



Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine



INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- An evening with an Armenian family (at Sos's), where we've discovered the taste of local garden fruits and herbs.
- Several days spent on the Lake Bazaleti shore, letting time pass.
- Shopping at Carrefour (Tbilissi) followed by a royal barbecue with beef on the grill!
- The toast ceremony with local wine in Georgia: at Gotcha's (nostalgic about his years in USSR army), at Tavid's (with whom we have milked his cows), or with Georgi (big guy who was ballet dancer in the Chatelet theatre - Paris...).



CURRENT MOOD : It's time for Iran, during Ramazan in a Muslim country, where we expect great surprises. We've finished beers and wine, prepared Mathilde's dressing and we'll jump in the scorching heat. We also hope to be able to follow the World cup!

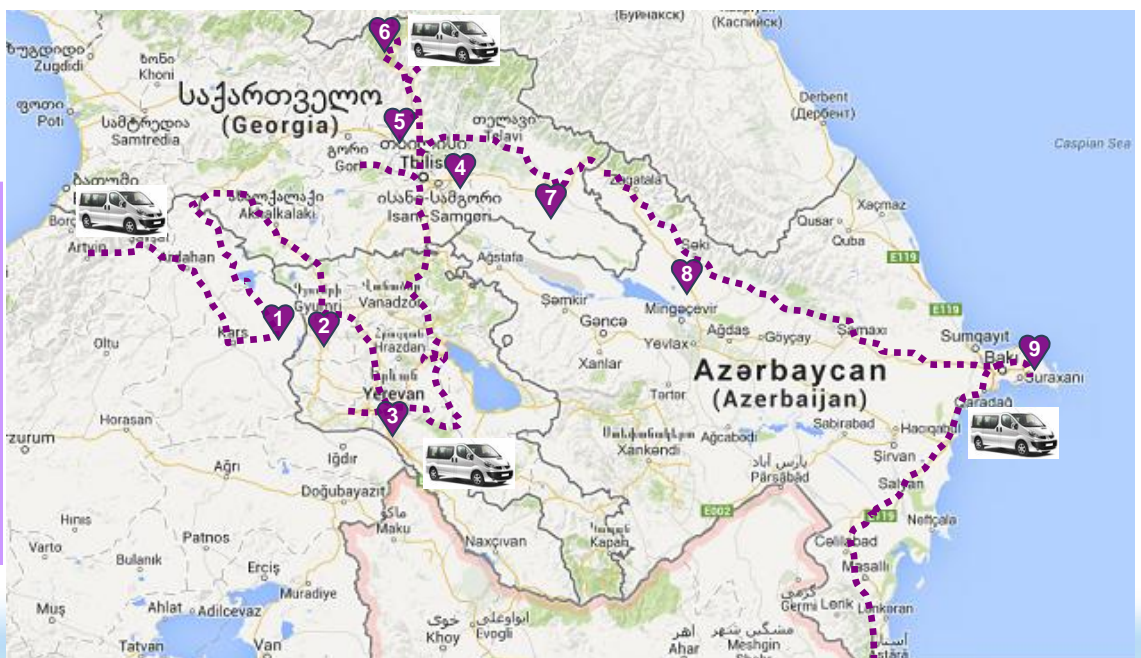


COUNTRIES VISITED : Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan

COMING : Iran, Turkmenistan, Ouzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kirghizistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, Japan, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodgia, Thailand, Birmania, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania.



MAP - ITINERARY : since the last newsletter



- 1) Ani (TK)
- 2) Marmashen (AR)
- 3) Yerevan (AR)
- 4) Tbilissi (GE)
- 5) Bazaleti (GE)
- 6) Kazbegi (GE)
- 7) Signagi (GE)
- 8) Seki (AZ)
- 9) Baku (AZ)