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Cultural Organization

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la science et la culture

World Heritage

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-third session

**Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
30 June – 10 July 2019**

GENERAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY

This document provides important information regarding the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee that will be held in the Republic of Azerbaijan (Baku) from 30 June to 10 July 2019 (registration, visas, travel and accommodation, etc.).

All information on the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee is also available at the following webpage: 43whcbaku2019.az



Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



43rd Session of World Heritage Committee
Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

General Information Document

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Azerbaijan has the pleasure of hosting the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee. The Committee Session will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan from 30 June to 10 July, 2019.

The information document is hereby presented to give a general introduction to the participants of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee. The practical information included in the document intends to ensure that the participants have all the required information to conveniently plan and realize their visit to the Host Country, Azerbaijan. Kindly be reminded that the official website 43whcbaku2019.az and the organizers of the 43rd Session of the Committee are ready to assist you, if you have any further questions.

2 PURPOSE

The World Heritage Committee is comprised of representatives from 21 States Parties to the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.

The current composition of the Committee is as follows:

Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

For further information, please visit <https://whc.unesco.org/en/committee/>.

The essential functions of the Committee are:

- i. To identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to inscribe those properties on the World Heritage List;
- ii. To monitor the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, in liaison with States Parties; decide which properties included in the World Heritage List are to be inscribed on or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger; decide whether a property may be deleted from the World Heritage List;
- iii. To examine requests for International Assistance financed by the World Heritage Fund.

The 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in Baku from 30 June to 10 July 2019 at the Baku Congress Centre.

3 SESSION ORGANIZERS

The 43rd session is organized by UNESCO with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed an order on 9 August 2018 to establish the Organizing Committee in connection with holding the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Baku in 2019. According to this order, the Ministry of

Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the main organizer of the session with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental agencies.

For general logistical and organizational information regarding the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, please contact the organizers at the following email address: information@43whcbaku2019.az

3.1 CONTACT DETAILS OF THE ORGANIZERS

For specific requests to the organizers, please find below a list of relevant contacts:

Host country: Chairperson

H.E. Mr. Abulfas Garayev
Minister of Culture
Chairperson of the 43rd Session of World Heritage Committee and Host Country Organizing Committee
Email: mct@mct.gov.az
Phone: +994124934398

UNESCO: Secretary of the World Heritage Convention

Ms. Mechtild Rössler
Director
World Heritage Centre
Email: m.rossler@unesco.org
Phone: +33145681891
Postal address: UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France

H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Azerbaijan to UNESCO
Email: a.karimov.az@unesco-delegations.org

Mr. Vasif Eyvazzade
Head of International cooperation and innovative development Department, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Head of Host Country Operational Committee of the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee
Email: v.eyvazzade@43whcbaku2019.az
Phone: +994124936538

3.2 SERVICE CONTACTS AND SIDE EVENTS

Side Events and Exhibitions, including Catering Requests

If you wish to organize a side event or an exhibition, kindly submit your request to the UNESCO Secretariat focal point, Mr David Martel (d.martel@unesco.org), by 15 May 2019 at the latest.

You will receive a form to fill in with details regarding the type of event or exhibition your country would like to organize, indicating the characteristics of the required space as well as catering and technical needs.

Further to the review of your request, you will be put in contact with the Host Country organizers for any relevant information and details concerning the organization of the event (technical assistance, catering, etc.). Please note that the organizers reserve the right to indicate the space in which the requested event will take place. Though diverse, the space available at the Baku Congress Centre premises is limited and it may occur that the organizers may not be able to accept all applications.

For logistical queries, you may contact the organizers of the session as below:

Mr. Eldar Gurbanov, Focal Point for Venue and technical issues:
00994125050585/86, e.gurbanov@43whcbaku2019.az

Mr. Mirkamran Mahmudov and Ms. Leman Alekberli, Focal Points for Accommodation:
+994125050585/86, m.mahmudov@43whcbaku2019.az and leman.alekberli@khazar-travel.com

Ms. Aygun Babazade, Focal Point for Registration:
+994125050585/86, a.babazade@43whcbaku2019.az

Ms. Safaa Hamdani, Focal Point for Side Events:
+994125050585/86, s.hamdani@43whcbaku2019.az

General e-mail address for logistical queries: information@43whcbaku2019.az

4 PARTICIPANTS AND REGISTRATION

4.1 PARTICIPANTS

The main participants in the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee are the **21 members of the Committee**.

The **States Parties to the Convention**, which are not members of the Committee, may attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

Non States Parties to the Convention who are Member States of UNESCO or of the United Nations may also be permitted by the Committee, upon written request, to attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

Representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS),

and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will attend the sessions of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

The United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system as well as, upon written request and at least 15 days prior to the date of the session of the Committee, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non-profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention, according to criteria defined by the World Heritage Committee, may be authorized by the Committee to participate in the sessions of the Committee as Observers.

4.2 REGISTRATION

Please note that all requests to participate in the 43rd session of the Committee must be submitted online through the official website: <https://43whcbaku2019.az/>

All delegates and those who wish to attend the 43rd session as observers are kindly advised to register preferably before 1 June 2019. This will allow the session organizers sufficient time to process the information and make the necessary arrangements. Please see further details under 7.2. Visa Requirements section.

To register, please use the registration code provided in the invitation letter addressed to either the Permanent Delegation, National Commission or your organization. If you have not received the registration code, please contact your Permanent Delegation or National Commission. Contact details are available at: <https://en.unesco.org/countries>.

Please note that the registration of participants for the Committee session will be entirely handled by the Host country. Once you have registered online, and your accreditation has been granted, you will receive an email confirming your registration. Should you require any assistance, please contact the organizers at: registration@43whcbaku2019.az. If you encounter any technical problems during your registration, kindly contact: information@43whcbaku2019.az.

For Media registration please refer to paragraph 9.

5 PROTOCOL

The Host Country is in charge of all matters relating to protocol and the reception of VIPs. For further information and necessary arrangements, please send an e-mail at protocol@43whcbaku2019.az. Please make sure to contact us as soon as possible to ensure we can meet your requests.

6 ACCOMMODATION

Kindly be informed that the participants are responsible for arranging their accommodation. For your convenience, organizers have agreed on special rates with a list of hotels and have reserved a certain number of rooms for the duration of the Committee meeting. The list of hotels can be found in the Annex 1 to this document and at: <https://43whcbaku2019.az/>. You are advised to book your accommodation as soon as possible. Shuttle buses will be provided

between the listed hotels and the venue on a regular basis. For further information, please refer to section 8.2. *Local Transportation and Transfers to the Conference Venue*.

The hotel rates are based on Bed & Breakfast basis. Kindly visit the official website (<https://43whcbaku2019.az/en/accomodation/>) for further details and booking your accommodation. Please kindly note that the hotel rates will be valid until 1 May, so please make sure that you visit the website and make your reservation beforehand.

7 PASSPORT, VISA AND OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION

7.1 PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

All participants in the 43rd session of the Committee are required to possess an international passport that is valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of entry into Azerbaijani territory, with sufficient pages for visa stamps.

Arrival to and departure from the Republic of Azerbaijan is exercised under one of the following documents:

(a) Ordinary International Passport; (b) Official/Special Passport; (c) Diplomatic Passport; (d) Service Passport.

7.2 VISA REQUIREMENTS

Only registered persons will be eligible to apply for visas, where required, and to enter into the territory of the Host Country to attend the Committee session. Please note that the UNESCO World Heritage Centre will be unable to intervene in any visa decisions taken by the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

All participants must check entry requirements to Azerbaijan in accordance with the nationality and the type of passport they hold with the nearest consulate or the diplomatic mission of Azerbaijan in their home country. The list of Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Azerbaijan abroad with their current contact details is available at:

[http://mfa.gov.az/files/file/The Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Azerbaijan - 19.01.16.pdf](http://mfa.gov.az/files/file/The_Diplomatic_Missions_of_the_Republic_of_Azerbaijan_-_19.01.16.pdf))

Should an Entry Visa be required, participants are advised to submit their visa application as early as possible, **at least 4 weeks** prior to the Session, and obtain the visa in advance.

At present in accordance with bilateral intergovernmental agreements, **visa free regime** (i.e. visa not needed) is being applied on the basis of reciprocity between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the following countries (Annex 2):

I group

Citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan and 62 foreign countries (see Annex 2) holding diplomatic or service (or official/special) passport

II group

Countries (see Annex 2) with visa free regime for:

Citizens holding any type of valid passport giving a right to cross a border in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and relevant foreign country – as well as diplomatic, service (or official/special) or regular passport;

Also citizens travelling with these persons, but not holding a valid passport, and whose photo, name, surname, patronymic is officially indicated in their passports;

Stateless persons having relevant identification document that is given to specially stateless persons by the government bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan or by the relevant foreign country for border crossing purposes;

Citizens and stateless persons holding a temporary border crossing document – repatriation certificate given to persons when the passport is lost, stolen, became worthless or validity period is expired for only to return for a short period to the country which is the citizen of or where he/she lives permanently.

III group

Meanwhile, visa free regime is being applied at present for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan holding regular passports, on a unilateral basis within relevant period by 6 countries (see Annex 2).

The list of countries that are visa free/ may obtain visa upon arrival, is also available at the official web site of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan** <http://www.mfa.gov.az>.

If you travel to Azerbaijan via another country, or if you are planning to stopover elsewhere, you must familiarize yourself with the entry and transit requirements of those countries. Please check with your travel consultant about the need for transit visas for all countries you may be travelling through on your way to or from Azerbaijan. The host organizer is not responsible for facilitating transit visas for any countries other than Azerbaijan.

7.3 E-VISA (ASAN VISA)

Participants can also apply for a visa through ASAN visa portal (evisa.gov.az) designed to simplify procedures for issuing visas to foreigners and stateless persons visiting Azerbaijan. Please see the list of countries eligible for e-visa before you apply: <https://evisa.gov.az/en/countries>

About e-visa (ASAN visa)

- **The Electronic standard visa** is issued within 3 (three) working days and there is also an **Electronic urgent visa** which can be issued within one day.
- e-Visa applications can be created for an individual, for a family (minimum of 2 and maximum of 10 persons) or for a group (minimum of 10 and maximum of 300 persons).
- The necessary data required for the e-Visa should be entered directly into the system.

- The fee for the e-Visa is paid electronically via the system. The fee for e-Visa is 20 US Dollars. An amount of 3 (three) US dollars is charged as a service fee for processing an electronic visa application. This amount is payable in addition to the 20 (twenty) USD state fee for the electronic visa.
- The e-Visa is sent to the e-mail address of the applicant.

For more information about e-visa please visit the website (evisa.gov.az)

Note: Only if there is not an Azerbaijani Embassy in the respective country/city or the country is not eligible for e-visa, official visa letters that will enable participants to obtain a visa upon arrival at Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport will be provided to invited participants who have sent their passports and flight details to Host Country organizers in advance. All participants will be responsible for their visa fees.

7.4 TRAVEL TO AZERBAIJAN AND TO BAKU

Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport which has recently been awarded as a 5-star Regional Airport by an international air transport rating organization is one of the six international airports serving in Azerbaijan. The airport is located 20 km northeast of the capital Baku and is linked to the city by two modern highways. Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport complies with international requirements. Due to its favorable geographical location, it has become a first-choice regional airport for transfer flights between East and West, North and South.

To assist participants attending the 43rd session of the Committee, a **clearly indicated airport welcome desk** will be set up at the Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport from 20 June 2019 for Committee participants.

7.5 MEDICAL INSURANCE

The Host Country will provide a first-aid service for participants at the meeting venue and all the recommended hotels. All other medical services will not be covered. Participants are expected to assume the costs of any medical treatment that they might receive while in Baku. It is strongly recommended that medical insurance be purchased in your home country to cover you in Azerbaijan as well as any other destinations on your journey. The Host Country will not be responsible for travel and medical insurance costs of the Session participants.

8 THE MEETING

8.1 CONFERENCE VENUE

The official venue of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee is **Baku Congress Centre**. Baku Congress Center is a multifunction complex located in Baku with the auditorium for 3,500 visitors. It was designed to host international events, banquets, presentations, concerts, trade shows, and meetings. It is situated near the Heydar Aliyev Center – building complex designed by Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid and noted for its distinctive architecture and flowing, curved style. Plenaries and Bureau sessions, working groups and side events will take place in this area. The detailed location and a plan of the venue will be available on the website. Heydar Aliyev International Airport is within approximately 20 minutes' driving distance from the venue session, Baku Congress Centre.

8.2 LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSFERS TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE

All participants of the 43rd session of the Committee are entitled to free of charge transportation with the designated buses, upon showing their registration badge. The buses will circulate between the airport and the session venue as well as between the recommended hotels and the session venue. A detailed timetable of buses will be available on the website beginning of June 2019, as well as at the session venue and at the airport information desk from 20 June 2019. Participants who prefer to rent their own vehicle should arrange it themselves with one of many international or local transportation companies.

8.3 REGISTRATION DESK AND DISTRIBUTION OF BADGES

Registration is mandatory for all participants.

The on-site registration desk, situated at the entrance of the session venue, Baku Congress Centre, will be open on 25 June until 30 June from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm, and from 1 July until 10 July between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. All participants are encouraged to present themselves at the on-site registration desk before the Opening Ceremony of the World Heritage Committee on 30 June in order to allow a smooth registration process. Furthermore, please note that a registration desk will also be available at the Boulevard Hotel for participants that will be accommodated in this location. A welcome package with an information dossier about the 43rd session will be provided at the time of registration. Please note that, due to safety reasons and the expected number of visitors, the registration process and receiving your badge may be time consuming. For this reason, an early registration is strongly encouraged.

The Opening Ceremony will take place on 30 June 2019. Only registered participants with a badge and invitation will be allowed to take part in the Opening Ceremony. Please collect your invitation beforehand at the on-site registration desk in Baku Congress Centre.

8.4 BADGES

Every participant must be in possession of a personal security photo identification badge (ID), which can be obtained at the registration desk. The ID badges are not transferable. For security purposes, the badge must be worn in a visible way at all time to access the session venue, to attend meetings and to participate in other activities, such as opening and closing ceremonies. Access to the meeting will be denied to any individual who is not officially accredited or who uses the ID badge in an inappropriate manner.

8.5 SERVICE AREA FOR PARTICIPANTS

Various participants' lounges with computers, internet access and printing facilities will be available at the session's venue. Technical staff will be on site to assist participants. Free wireless Internet connection will be provided in the entire venue at all times.

Each Committee member delegation will be provided with one paper copy of all session documents. All delegates are kindly requested to make use of the memory stick containing all relevant documents for the session, which will be provided upon registration. Documents will also be accessible online as soon as they are available.

8.6 MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS

During the session, coffee, tea, water and small refreshments will be offered outside the main plenary room free of charge. Lunch and snacks can be purchased in the cafeteria at the venue.

Participants are advised to check the possibility of having their meals delivered from their hotels to the venue, in case of renting a room with full board.

8.7 PRAYER AND MEDITATION ROOM

A Prayer Room will be at participants' disposal during the entire Committee session.

Participants can obtain additional information about the prayer and worship locations on the official website and at the registration desk.

9 MEDIA

9.1 ACCREDITATION, VISA AND CUSTOMS

Accreditation is mandatory for media representatives who wish to cover the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee. To be accredited, the following steps should be followed: Kindly send an email with the full name of each person and the name of the media organization seeking accreditation to information@43whcbaku2019.az. In reply to your email, you will receive a registration code and a letter, which will be required to complete your visa application. All media representatives who need a visa must apply for a visa by filling an online form through the registration system on the website: <https://43whcbaku2019.az>. All media representatives who wish to cover the session are kindly asked to register before 20 June 2019.

Please take note of the need to declare all media equipment at Customs upon arrival. Additionally, certain items such as drones may not be brought to Azerbaijan without additional permission from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Please visit <http://customs.gov.az/en/ferdler-ucun/mallarin-gomrukden-kecirilmesi/> for the list of all prohibited items.

The organizers of Host Country will be in a position to facilitate the permission process for these items, therefore, please contact the Organizers at: information@43whcbaku2019.az.

9.2 MEDIA REGISTRATION AND SECURITY MEASURES

A special desk will be reserved for the registration of media representatives in the main registration area at the venue. The hours of registration will be the same as for all other participants (please see point 8.3). Please note that your application for accreditation must be received and approved before you register on site. Part of the registration procedure will be to obtain your personal accreditation/security badge at the media registration desk. Accreditation badges are to be worn visibly at all times to gain access to the venue and must be presented upon request to security personnel. Accreditation badges are not transferable. Access to the session venue will be denied to any individual who uses the badge improperly. Please be advised that security personnel may verify that equipment taken into the session venue is used for its intended purpose. Kindly allow sufficient time in your schedule to pass the security checks.

9.3 MEDIA CENTRE

A Media Centre will be made available as a space with work stations for the media to cover the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee. Journalists will also have access to the Internet and a printer.

9.4 PRESS CONFERENCES

Press Conferences will take place in a dedicated space nearby the main plenary room of the session venue. Only accredited media will have access to the room.

9.5 PRESS MATERIAL

Official press releases, photographs and live streaming of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee will be available on the meeting website. Press releases and photos will be regularly updated and available to download. Media briefings will be held to provide information on proceedings or decisions taken by the Committee and press releases will be issued regularly during the session. A team responsible for media relations will be present at the Media Centre during the session.

9.6 MEDIA ACCESS TO THE SESSION OR MEDIA ASSISTANCE ON THE SPOT

A technical briefing for media representatives will be held prior to the session in order to review media protocols and conduct of business of the World Heritage Committee. The proceedings will also be live-streamed on the website of the session. A UNESCO-WHC press office will also provide assistance to press as needed. In case of additional questions related to media and media visas, you may contact the following email address: information@43whcbaku2019.az.

10 RECEPTION PROGRAMME AND RELATED EVENTS

All registered participants are cordially invited to attend the social events and side-events that will be held during the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee. Delegates who wish to attend the Opening and/or the Closing Ceremony are kindly requested to indicate explicitly their participation when registering online.

The Opening Ceremony of the 43rd session will be held on 30 June 2019 and will be followed by a cultural performance and refreshments. Formal dress is recommended for this event.

The Closing Ceremony for the session will be held on 10 July 2019 and will include cultural performances and a reception.

Further details on the Opening and Closing Ceremonies can be found on the website: 43whcbaku2019.az

10.1 GUIDED TOURS AND DAY TRIPS

Session participants and their accompanying family or guests will have opportunity to participate in complimentary guided tours of the cultural and natural heritage sites as well as some other destinations in Azerbaijan.

Full list of the tours and their timetable will be available on the website. Registration for tours will be possible on the website and at the tours desk located at the meeting venue. Please note that the availability for each tour is limited. You are therefore encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment. Additional information and the reservation for tours are available at the following link on the website: <https://43whcbaku2019.az/en/tours/>

11 WORLD HERITAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM

As an integral part of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, and in the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the Ministry of the Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan will host the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2019 under the theme of ‘World Heritage: Local Insights for Global Challenges’, from 23 June to 2 July 2019, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The overall aim of the Forum is to highlight the key opportunities and challenges of heritage management in the twenty-first century. Accompanied by local and international experts, and through a variety of site visits, presentations and roundtables, the participants will gain insights into the processes and working practices of the *1972 World Heritage Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. They will discuss and gain in-depth knowledge of the global concepts of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda, while also having the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the local Azerbaijani heritage and its management. At the end of the Forum, the young professionals will present their Declaration/statement to the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee.

12 WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS FORUM

Considering that the World Heritage List includes over 1,000 properties and a global territory of over 276 million hectares under its protection, increased understanding of the World Heritage decision-making processes among Site Managers has become crucial in order to achieve more effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties. It will allow the Convention to fulfill its potential as a tool and catalyst for World Heritage protection and heritage protection in general. At the same time, future improvements to the World Heritage decision-making procedures must build on and respond to greater engagement of those dealing with World Heritage on a day-to-day basis. Stronger bridges should be built between the procedural core of the World Heritage system and its outer segments – those in the field whose ongoing work to safeguard OUV constitutes the real expression of the Convention. In this context, the Host Country will continue the admirable initiative of the “World Heritage Site Managers Forum”, to unite representatives from World Heritage properties with those at the heart of World Heritage procedures.

The Site Managers Forum will be held in Baku, from 26 June to 4 July 2019.

Detailed information and call for participation for the World Heritage Site Managers Forum are available on the official website of the session: <https://43whcbaku2019.az/>.

13 INFORMATION ABOUT THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

13.1 REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The Republic of Azerbaijan is the largest country in the Caucasus region located at the crossroads of Asia and Europe. It is bounded by the Caspian Sea to the east, Russian Federation to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west and Iran to the south, covering an area of 86,600 km² with a population of 9,356,500.

Very often called the “Land of Fires”, Azerbaijan is a miraculous country with its rich natural resources, historical and cultural monuments, literature, arts and musical heritage and people, whose lifestyle is just a unique and harmonious combination of the traditions and ceremonies of many different cultures and civilizations. From time immemorial the caravan routes of the Silk Road invariably crossed Azerbaijan. It served as the “gate” between mysterious faraway China and rich Europe. Location at the heart of the ancient Silk Road is very much embodied in architecture, traditions and crafts of various emblematic monuments of Walled City of Baku with Shirvanshah’s Palace and Maiden Tower, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Azerbaijan is one of the most ancient sites of human civilization. People have been present here at every stage of history, leaving a wide range of ancient archaeological and architectural sites and monuments, which belong to different periods of history. One of the most prominent monuments of Azerbaijan, the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, UNESCO World Heritage site featuring an outstanding collection of more than 6,000 rock engravings bearing testimony to 40,000 years of rock art.

The Republic of Azerbaijan was established on 28 May 1918, becoming the first secular republic and first in granting women’s suffrage and the equal political rights in the Muslim World. Azerbaijan is also homeland of first opera of Muslim world “Leyli and Mejnun” by prominent composer Uzeir Hajibeyli in 1907.

The features of historical development of Azerbaijan, its geographical location, ethnic and religious diversity of local communities have led to the emergence and development of longstanding traditions of peaceful co-existence and tolerance. During different periods of history, communities in Azerbaijan have confessed their faith in Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, mutual influence of which has shaped the unique peculiarity of the religious environment in the country today. Islam remains the dominant religion among local population, but there are vibrant Jewish and Orthodox Christian communities in the country.

Wonderful nature, climate, natural resources of the country produced a significant impact on artistic thinking and creativity of the Azerbaijani people. The existing diversity of folk arts represent a unity and enable us to get the full idea of the intangible heritage of Azerbaijan. The living heritage of Azerbaijan is multi-coloured, complete and rich, just like its natural resources. It is linked to the daily life of people and occupies a very special place in their lives.

It is also to be noted that, imprinted in the daily life of local people, the intangible heritage of Azerbaijan is of particular importance for its society, proud of having more than ten elements recognized as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (2003 Convention).

You can easily find detailed information about Azerbaijan on the webpages of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Culture <https://azerbaijan.travel/en> , <http://www.mct.gov.az> and <http://www.azerbaijan.az> .

13.2 CLIMATE

The climate of Azerbaijan is unique as it presents nine of the Earth's eleven climatic zones. Azerbaijan is situated on northern extremity of the subtropical zone in the south-eastern

Caucasus. Its climatic diversity is caused by the complex geographical location and landscape and the proximity of the Caspian Sea. The climate varies considerably from east to west - in the western mountains, the weather is drier and more extreme. The eastern part of Azerbaijan, near the Caspian Sea, has relatively moderate climate.

Baku has a subtropical semi-arid climate with warm and dry summers, cool and occasionally wet winters, and strong winds all year long. However, unlike many other cities with this climate, Baku does not see extremely hot summers. This is largely because of its northerly latitude and the fact that it is located on a peninsula on the shore of the Caspian Sea. At the same time Baku is noted as a very windy city throughout the year, and gale-force winds, the cold northern wind khazri and the warm southern wind gilavar are typical here in all seasons. The daily temperature in July and August averages 26.4 °C (79.5 °F), and there is very little rainfall during the summer season. Winter is cool and occasionally wet, with the daily temperature averages 4.3 °C (39.7 °F). The average temperature in December varies 9.7 °C (49.5 °F).

13.3 CURRENCY & EXCHANGE

The Azerbaijani Manat (AZN) is the currency of Azerbaijan. Banknotes in circulation are 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 manat. Coins in circulation are 1, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 50 qepiks. ATMs are common throughout Baku.

Most accept foreign credit cards (preferably Visa and Mastercard) and many allow withdrawals in both AZN and US dollars. Some exchanges open late into the evening while most banks close by 4 pm. The import of foreign currencies must be declared and their export is limited to the amount declared upon arrival in the country.

The participants are recommended to check the currency rate at www.cbar.az.

13.4 GRATUITIES

In established restaurants, bars, hotels and taxis, a 5-10% service charge is usually added to the bill - though feel free to tip more than this for exceptional service. At restaurants where a service charge isn't included, 10% is the acceptable gratuity. Although tipping at other places isn't mandatory it will be well received, and setting aside a small amount for porters, guides and drivers is also a good idea.

13.5 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The voltage is 220 V. and plugs are of a two-pin design, therefore an adaptor is necessary. If your appliance's plug does not match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to safely plug it in. Hotels will have a limited number of adapters for guest use, so it is recommended that you obtain your own if you think you will need them during your stay.

13.6 SMOKING

It is against the law to smoke in public transportation and in most indoor facilities. Restaurants and bars, usually, offer smoking and non-smoking sections.

13.7 TIME ZONE

Starting from 2016, Baku is 4 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +4, Azerbaijan Time AZT).

13.8 DRINKING WATER

It is not recommended to drink tap water. Bottles of mineral water are widely available in shops and hotels.

13.9 TELEPHONE, MOBILE & USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Roaming agreements are in place with most international phone companies. SIM cards can be purchased at local phone stores (ID required) and supermarkets.

Country Code: **+994**

City (Baku) Code: **12**

Police Station: **102**

Fire Station: **101**

Medical Emergency: **103**

13.10 MEDICAL CARE

Basic modern medical care and medicines are available in several hospitals and clinics in Baku offering a wide range of medical services. Pharmacies are common throughout Baku and carry a wide range of medicine. Prescriptions are normally required. Payment at all medical facilities is due at the time of service. For information about health insurance please refer to the point 7.5.

14 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION





For further information about the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Convention, please see the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website at the following link: <https://whc.unesco.org>.





For all questions of an organizational nature concerning the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the session organizers: information@43whcbaku2019.





ANNEX 1: RECOMMENDED 4* AND 5* HOTELS


No	Photo	Hotel Name	Hotel Category	Address	Telephone	Website
1.		Azcot Hotel	4 Star	Azerbaijan ave. 7, Lane 1,	(+994 12) 4925477 (+994 12) 4972507 (+994 12) 4929340	www.azcot.com
2.		Boulevard Hotel Baku Autograph Collection	5 Star	Khagani Rustamov Street 4C	(+994 12) 310 00 10	www.boulevardhotelbaku.com/en
3.		Corniche Hotel Baku	4 Star	Nobel Avenue 20	(+994 12) 489-08-66 (+994 12) 489-08-67 (+994 12) 489-08-68 (+994 12) 489-08-69	www.cornichehotelbaku.com/dil/en/index.php
4.		Divan Express Baku Hotel	4 Star	15/A Hasanoğlu Ave.,	(+994 12) 564 25 55	www.divan.com.tr/divan-express-baku/tr


5.		Don-Dar Hotel Baku	4 Star	91-103, U. Hajibeyli str	(+994 12) 598 20 87	www.dondarhotel.com/?page_id=3720&lang=en
6.		Excelsior Hotel & SPA Baku	5 Star	Baku, Heydar Aliyev Avenue. 2,	(+994 12) 496 80 00 (+994 12) 496 80 01	www.excelsior.az
7.		Fairmont Hotel	5 Star	1A, Mehdi Huseyn	(+ 994 12) 565 48 48	www.fairmont.com/baku/
8.		Four Seasons Hotel	5 Star	1 Neftchilar Avenue	(+994 12) 404 24 24	www.fourseasons.com/baku

9.		Harmony Hotel	4 Star	7C, Khatai district, Khagani Rustamov str,	(+994 12) 404-80-70	www.harmonyhotel.az
10.		Hilton Hotel	5 Star	1B Azadlig Avenue, Baku 1000	(+994 12) 464 50 00	www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/azerbaijan/hilton-baku-GYDHBHI/index.html
11.		Holiday INN Hotel	5 Star	Keykab Khanim Safaraliyeva Street 5	(994 12) 599 11 00	www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/tr/tr/baku/bakhi/hoteldetail
12.		Hyatt Regency Baku	5 Star	Baku, Bakikhanov str. 1	(+994 12) 496 12 34	www.hyatt.com

13.		Intourist Hotel Autograph Collection	5 Star	Mikail Useynov avenue, 51	(+994 12) 310 33 10	www.intouristhotelbaku.com
14.		JW Marriott Absheron	5 Star	Azadliq squaree, Block 674	(+994 12) 493-20-57 (+994 12) 493-75-76	www.hotel-absheron.com
15.		Kaspia Park Hotel	4 Star	Khatai Ave 51	(+994 12) 496 39 85	www.qafqazhotels.com/en/hotels/qafqaz-park-hotel
16.		Park Inn By Radisson Baku Hotel	4 Star	Azadlig Avenue 1	(+994 12) 490 60 00	www.parkinn.com/hotel-baku

17.		Premier Expo	4 Star	26A, Agha Neymatulla Street,	(+994 12) 567 84 18	http://www.premierexpo.az/
18.		Premier	4 Star	28, Shamsi Rahimov Street	(+994 12) 447 57 00	http://www.premierhotel.az
19.		Qafqaz Sahil Hotel	4 Star	Khagani Rustamov Street, Block 1210	(+994 12) 404 14 70	www.qafqazhotels.com/en/hotels/qafqaz-sahil-hotel-baku
20.		Royal Garden Hotel Baku	4 Star	Bakikhanov Street 1	(+994 12) 490 70 61	www.royalgardenhotel.az

21.		Sapphire Bayil Hotel	4 Star	Gurban Abbasov Street 33	(+994 50) 229 22 32	www.sapphire.az
22.		Sapphire City Hotel	5 Star	64, Nizami Street	(+994 12) 498 80 06	www.sapphire.az/hotel_city
23.		Sapphire Hotel Baku	5 Star	23, Samed Vurgun Str.	(+994 12) 498 90 08	www.sapphire.az/hotel_baku
24.		Sapphire INN Hotel	4 Star	5, Hasan Abdullayev Str.	(+994 12) 505 11 05	www.sapphire.az/hotel_inn
25.		Shah Palace Hotel Baku	4 Star	Boyuk Qala str. 47, Icheri - Sheher,	(+99412) 497 0405	www.shahpalacehotel.com

26.		Winter Park Hotel Baku	4 Star	M. Aliyev str. 210, Nasimi district,	(+ 994 12) 599 91 99	www.winterparkhotel.net/en/home
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ANNEX 2: VISA REGULATIONS

I GROUP

	Name of the country	Type of passport visa free regime is applied	Permitted period of living without a visa between two countries
1.	Albania	Diplomatic and service	90 days
2.	Germany	Diplomatic	90 days
3.	Argentina	Diplomatic, official and service	30 days
4.	Austria	Diplomatic and service	90 days
5.	Belgium	Diplomatic	90 days
6.	UAE	Diplomatic, service and special	90 days
7.	Bulgaria	Diplomatic and service	90 days
8.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Diplomatic, official and service	30 days
9.	Brazil	Diplomatic, official and service	90 days
10.	China	Diplomatic and service	30 days
11.	Czechia	Diplomatic	90 days
12.	Croatia	Diplomatic Service	90 days 30 days
13.	Estonia	Diplomatic	90 days
14.	Finland	Diplomatic	90 days
15.	France	Diplomatic	90 days
16.	Palestine	Diplomatic	30 days
17.	Indonesia	Diplomatic and service	30 days
18.	Japan	Diplomatic	90 days
19.	Jordan	Diplomatic and service	90 days
20.	Iran (Islamic republic of)	Diplomatic and service	30 days
21.	Iraq	Diplomatic, service and official	30 days
22.	India	Diplomatic, service and official	90 days
23.	Spain	Diplomatic	90 days

24.	Sweden	Diplomatic	90 days
25.	Switzerland	Diplomatic and biometrical service	90 days
26.	Italy	Diplomatic and service	90 days
27.	Israel	Diplomatic and service	90 days
28.	Columbia	Diplomatic, official and service	90 days
29.	Republic of Korea	Diplomatic, official and service	30 days
30.	Cyprus	Diplomatic	90 days
31.	Cuba	Diplomatic, official and service	90 days
32.	Kuwait	Diplomatic, service and special	90 days
33.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Diplomatic	30 days
34.	Latvia	Diplomatic and service	90 days
35.	Lithuania	Diplomatic and service	90 days
36.	Libya	Diplomatic, service and special	Temporarily suspended
37.	Liechtenstein	Diplomatic	90 days
38.	Luxembourg	Diplomatic	90 days
39.	Hungary	Diplomatic and service	90 days
40.	Malta	Diplomatic	90 days
41.	Mexico	Diplomatic	90 days
42.	Morocco	Diplomatic, official, service and special	90 days
43.	Montenegro	Diplomatic and service	90 days
44.	Netherlands	Diplomatic	90 days
45.	Norway	Diplomatic	90 days
46.	Pakistan	Diplomatic and service	30 days
47.	Poland	Diplomatic	90 days
48.	Peru	Diplomatic, service and special	90 days
49.	Qatar	Diplomatic service and special	30 days
50.	Portugal	Diplomatic, service and special	90 days
51.	Romania	Diplomatic and service	90 days
52.	San Marino	Diplomatic and service	90 days
53.	Serbia	Diplomatic, service and official	90 days

54.	Slovakia	Diplomatic and service	90 days
55.	Slovenia	Diplomatic and service	90 days
56.	Syrian Arab Republic	Diplomatic, service and special	30 days
57.	Turkey	Diplomatic, service and special	90 days
58.	Turkmenistan	Diplomatic and service	30 days
59.	Greece	Diplomatic	90 days
60.	Venezuela	Diplomatic, service and official	30 days
61.	Viet Nam	Diplomatic, service and official	30 days
62.	Uruguay	Diplomatic, service and official	90 days

II GROUP

	Name of country	Period of visa free stay between two countries
	Republic of Belarus	90 days
	Georgia	90 days
	Kazakhstan	90 days
	Kyrgyzstan	90 days
	Republic of Moldova	90 days
	Uzbekistan	90 days
	Russian Federation	90 days
	Tajikistan	90 days
	Ukraine	90 days

III GROUP

	Name of country	Period of visa free stay between two countries
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	15 days
	Turkey	1 month
	Serbia	90 days
	North Macedonia	90 days
	Montenegro	90 days
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	90 days