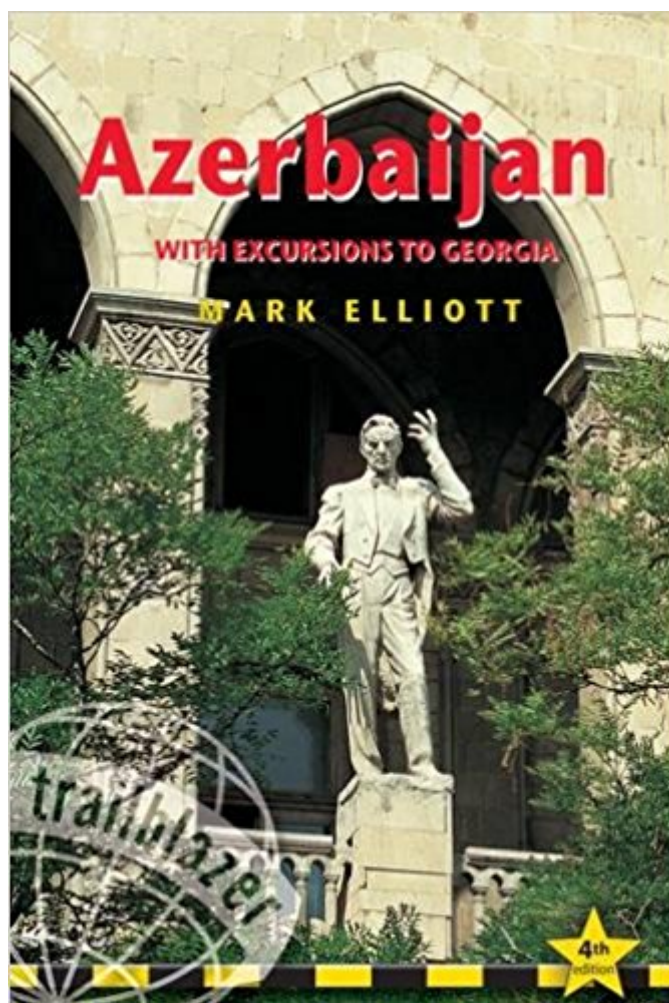


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Azerbaijan: With Excursions To Georgia



Synopsis

Perched beside the oil-rich Caspian Sea, compact, hospitable Azerbaijan is astounding in its scenic variety. Painted moonscape deserts, snow-capped Caucasian peaks, subtropical forests and flower-filled grasslands all lie within a few hours' drive of Baku, the artistically-vibrant, cosmopolitan capital with its UNESCO-recognized walled Old City. Since the first edition in 1999 this map-packed book has become the definitive guide for visitors and residents alike. Now in its expanded and fully-updated 4th edition it's more practical than ever. Practical information – Visas, getting to Azerbaijan, where to stay, where to eat – Sights and excursions – Discover bubbling mud volcanoes, linguistically-unique stepped villages, ruined castles, a flaming hillside and fire-temple, iron-wood forests, water that 'catches fire', 'magical' rocks kissed smooth by superstitious wish-seekers. On foot, by car, 4WD, bus, train or horse be among the first tourists to explore delightful Azerbaijan since Noah sailed across the country 5000 years ago, his Ark carving a great gash through Nakhchivan's Snake Mountain. 190 maps – Includes even more maps, illustrated with over 160 sketches and diagrams. As well as showing hotels, restaurants, bus stops etc, these maps also include landmarks at key unsigned junctions to help motorists and hikers. History, language, cultural tips – Excursions to neighbouring Georgia

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Customer Reviews

"Azerbaijan by Mark Elliott (Trailblazer) is an excellent guidebook with useful maps that make exploring in and around Baku possible. It is much more detailed than the new but disappointing Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan (Lonely Planet)". The Guardian (UK) "Invaluable" The Financial

Times (UK) "Recommended" The Independent on Sunday (UK) 'Very comprehensive coverage'
Caspian Business News

Perched beside the oil-rich Caspian Sea, compact, hospitable Azerbaijan is astounding in its scenic variety. Painted moonscape deserts, snow-capped Caucasian peaks, subtropical forests and flower-filled grasslands all lie within a few hours' drive of Baku, the artistically-vibrant, cosmopolitan capital with its UNESCO-recognized walled Old City. Since the first edition in 1999 this map-packed book has become the definitive guide for visitors and residents alike. Now in its expanded and fully-updated 4th edition it's more practical than ever. Practical information – Visas, getting to Azerbaijan, where to stay, where to eat Sights and excursions – Discover bubbling mud volcanoes, linguistically-unique stepped villages, ruined castles, a flaming hillside and fire-temple, iron-wood forests, water that 'catches fire', 'magical' rocks kissed smooth by superstitious wish-seekers. On foot, by car, 4WD, bus, train or horse be among the first tourists to explore delightful Azerbaijan since Noah sailed across the country 5000 years ago, his Ark carving a great gash through Nakhchivan's Snake Mountain. 190 maps – Includes even more maps, illustrated with over 160 sketches and diagrams. As well as showing hotels, restaurants, bus stops etc, these maps also include landmarks at key unsigned junctions to help motorists and hikers. History, language, cultural tips Excursions to neighbouring Georgia

I have seen 1st edition of this book about 7 years ago, and already was fascinated with it. I finally got my own copies this summer, and continue enjoying it. Not much known among local population in Baku it is nonetheless known in the regions. Elliott did a great research into almost all the places in the country and rural people happen to know him personally! Texts are great! I have fun reading them, likely because I am a native reading foreigners' views on the life, otherwise common to us. Maps are very informative, though larger black spots distract the attention or reduce the comfort of watching. I guess grey colours would fix the issue. Names, phones and addresses are helpful, we used them, so you can actually find the small places and people with this book. This book deserved to live through next editions, and there should definitely be more efforts put into updating it as realities in Azerbaijan are changing all the time, incl. new developments, buildings, changing catering and accommodation, prices, visa regime, etc. Highly recommended!

Lots of practical information. Well written. Very helpful

I should start by mentioning that I have not used this book to travel in Azerbaijan nor do I have plans to visit anytime soon. I am fascinated by the Caucasus region and own guides to Georgia and Armenia/Nagorno-Karabakh. Despite my interest in the region, I knew little about Azerbaijan and purchased this guide when I found no Bradt guide for Azerbaijan. I've always found Bradt guides to be very informative and a sort-of gold standard for guidebooks and did not have high expectations for this book but, when I received it, I was amazed and spent several days browsing through every page...it is a real gem. This book thoroughly covers every corner of the country and provides plenty of background info too. In addition to the standard history, food, & culture sections, there are several appendices which include a bibliography (recommended readings), menu decoder (several pages of terms you'll find on menus), a glossary (important/relevant terms, acronyms, places, events, etc), Who's who (several pages of important people), names (how to decipher person & place names and addresses). The "excursions to Georgia" part is just that...a couple pages of practical info, routes from Azerbaijan as well as routes to Turkey, some good info about Kakheti & T'bilisi, and a scant overview of what lies further inside Georgia...it is useful for just what the wording states a brief excursion or maybe for traveling en route to/from, but if you plan on traveling much in Georgia you should probably find a good guidebook to Georgia. One thing that sets this book apart is the maps. The maps in this book look hand-drawn (neatly and to scale) which I didn't like at first but now love. The map-maker was keen to make little notes that seem very helpful. For instance, the map covering the coast from Baku-Gilazi-Siyazan there are notes on the roads like: "Beware abrupt end of dual carriageway", "no access to beach", "very bumpy", "photogenically ugly factories and rusty pipes". There are also many little sketches on the maps like the image of a building by an important turn, a particular geographic feature to look for, or a landmark. So the maps, while a little untraditional, are very helpful. Now to the lackings: pictures and a good phrasebook! There are a few pages of pictures all found in the very back of the book...no pictures (aside from a few sketches on maps) in the 384 pages of text. However, the one and only thing I think this book really lacks is a decent language section. This book has a 5 1/2 page "menu decoder" with dozens and dozens of words/terms you may see on a menu and two half pages of a "place name decoder" (examples: adasi/island, ashagi/lower, bag/garden, bulaq/spring) both of which are very helpful to a traveller. However, there's only 1 1/2 pages of Azerbaijani/Russian words/phrases covering the keywords, where is...?, transport, hotel, restaurant, & days plus another 1 1/2 pages covering numbers in Azerbaijani, Georgian, Russian, Qinaliqi, Udi, & Talysh. Very odd that Georgian would be left out when this guide covers Georgia (there is a guide to the Georgian alphabet in the Georgia section, though)! While this may get you by for a few days, you will probably want these (I've never seen

them, they're just the only reasonably-priced ones on):~ ~ Azerbaijani-English English-Azerbaijani Dictionary and Phrasebook (Hippocrene Dictionary & Phrasebook)~ ~ and maybe~ ~ Georgian-English/English-Georgian Dictionary and Phrasebook (Hippocrene Dictionary and Phrasebook Series).All-in-all, this book is very useful and meets and exceeds the quality of LP & Bradt guides and, even without a good phrasebook, it still earns 5 stars from me!

Covers many of the remote areas as well as the tourist areas. Lots of info on culture as well.

Worthwhile

I got this book as I was researching countries around the caucas mountains area. I found this and some bradt guides to be helpful and that's about it. Lonely Planet was a little too broad on their book, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. I liked the info on Baku in that one though. This book has way much more info on Baku and the surrounding areas including the oil fields which I find interesting. The only downfall is the maps, which are kind of hard to read compared to Lonely Planet or even the bradt guides.

I can easily recommend this book to anyone who wants to do any travelling in Azerbaijan. The detail of the book and research that must have gone into it is almost scary. Granted, some of the maps (drawn by hand) are a little hard to read at first, but the detail, not just with respect to the city maps, but pretty much every stretch of road in the entire country is incredibly impressive. And for all the parts of the country that we travelled through more or less dead-on accurate. Which is actually pretty important when travelling in a country where road-signs are sometime a bit scarce, especially with respect to minor roads and places off the beaten track. There is absolutely no contest between this book and the Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan Lonely Planet. In fact, even when travelling in Georgia, we preferred using Elliott's Azerbaijan guide rather than the Lonely Planet (which is also an indication of us being seriously underwhelmed by this particular LP). Obviously, it is scantier on information about Georgia, but it contains an "Excursions to Georgia" section at the end which also contains a series of good maps and a lot of useful information. I have done my fair share of travelling, usually by car, and usually by myself, not going through travel agencies. Thus, over the years I've accumulated a fair number of travel guides. And I'm pretty sure that for my kind of travelling and for the countries that I've visited, this is the best that I've ever come across.

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