CROSSING THE CAUCASUS:
AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA & ARMENIA
September 8 - 23, 2019
Accompanied by Dr. Laurence Michalak
LECTURER BIOGRAPHY

DR. LAURENCE MICHALAK

Larry Michalak is a cultural anthropologist and specialist in North Africa and Western Europe. He received a BA from Stanford, MA at the University of London, and PhD at UC Berkeley. At Cal, Larry was Vice Chair of UCB’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies and taught for 23 years before retiring in 2002. He has taught and lectured on anthropology of food, tourism, migration, globalization, and problems of economic development. He is the author of numerous books on social legislation and labor migration and is currently working on a book about informal commerce.

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September 8 | US/Baku
Depart the U.S. for Baku, Azerbaijan.

September 9 | Baku
Arrive in Baku in the early evening and transfer to the Fairmont Baku.

September 10 | Baku
Morning orientation and lecuture by Dr. Michalak. Enjoy a walking tour exploring the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site where, in the small squares, traders are trading as they have done for hundreds of years.

After lunch visit the Historical Museum housed in an eclectic mansion built for 19th-century oil barons. End the day at Martyr’s Lane – a memorial dedicated to those killed by the Soviet Army.

Enjoy a special welcome dinner at a caravanserai built in the 16th-century for merchants coming from Central Asia.

September 11 | Baku
Visit the Absheron Peninsula, home to massive oil reserves at the edge of the Caspian Sea. Stop first at Yanar Dag (“Fire Mountain”) an ancient and visually stunning natural gas fire.

Drive to the unique Atesgah Fire Temple and Qala Village, one of the oldest settlements in the area.

Return to Baku and enjoy a cruise on the Caspian Sea, the world’s largest lake. End the day at the Heydar Aliyev Cultural Center designed by the late renowned architect Zaha Hadid.

September 12 | Sheki
Drive north to Sheki passing through dramatic landscapes with some interesting stops en route. Explore the mausoleum known as Diri Baba before arriving at Shemkha, a center of carpet weaving and home to many Azerbaijani poets.

End the day at Sheki which lies in thickly forested foothills to the south, while to the immediate north are the dramatic, snow-capped peaks of the Greater Caucasus.

Overnight at the Sheki Saray Hotel.

September 13 | Sheki
Explore Sheki Khan’s Palace whose Venetian stained-glass windows, traded for silk, are still intact. Fine frescoes depicting court life and the khan’s heroic deeds are still visible inside the Palace.

Afternoon drive to Kish, home to one of the most ancient churches in the region.

September 14 | Sheki
Visit the Absheron Peninsula, home to massive oil reserves at the edge of the Caspian Sea. Stop first at Yanar Dag (“Fire Mountain”) an ancient and visually stunning natural gas fire.

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September 15 | Sheki
Spend the day exploring the historically rich province of Kakheti. The silver-domed Cathedral of Alaverdi, stands as a powerful symbol of the technical and artistic achievements of the Georgian people.

Close by is the brick citadel of Gremi which offers sweeping views of the area.

September 16 | Tbilisi
En route to Tbilisi stop at the 6th-century nunnery of Ninotsminda.

Continue to Gori, Stalin’s birthplace and visit Stalin’s train and museum which provides an interesting insight into his life.

Check-in to the Radisson Iveria Hotel.

September 17 | Tbilisi
Begin the day in old Tbilisi walking its

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Tour price includes:
• Accommodations in double occupancy
• All meals as listed with bottled water
• All sightseeing in a deluxe, air-conditioned coach with bottled water
• A full sightseeing program as listed
• All entrance fees and special events listed
• Pre-departure materials and reading list
• Services of a tour manager throughout
• National guides in each country
• Gratuities to guides and drivers
• Porterage

Does not include:
• International airfare to Baku and from Yerevan (approximately $1,500)
• Passport and visa fees
• Any meals or beverages not listed
• Excess luggage charges
• Transfers unless on designated flights
• Travel Insurance
• Items of a purely personal nature

TOUR PRICE PER PERSON: $6,895
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: $1,585

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATELY ACTIVE
This tour has a faster pace, substantial distances are covered including extensive walking (1-2 miles per day) and stair-climbing (at times uneven and/or without handrails). Participants should be fit, in excellent health and able to participate in all activities without assistance.

Please contact us with any questions at:
Cal Discoveries Travel
Phone: 510.900.8222
Toll free: 888.225.2586
caldiscoveries@alumni.berkeley.edu
alumni.berkeley.edu/caldiscoveries

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Distant Horizons can assist with your international air arrangements. However if you choose to make your own air arrangements, Distant Horizons shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Cal lecturer’s participation cannot be guaranteed and is contingent on a minimum number of paying travelers.
TO RESERVE A PLACE, please complete and return this registration form with your deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Distant Horizons. Mail to: Cal Discoveries Travel, 1 Alumni House, Berkeley, CA 94720-7520.

For more information, please contact Cal Discoveries Travel at 510.900.8222 or caldiscoveries@alumni.berkeley.edu; or view our website: alumni.berkeley.edu/caldiscoveries.

PAYMENT
Enclosed is my check for $________ (1,000 per person, payable to Distant Horizons), to reserve _______ place(s) on Crossing the Caucasus.

OR Please charge the deposit to: □ Visa □ MC □ Amex □ Discover

Please note that final payment must be made by check.

CARD # EXP. DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE SECURITY CODE

I/we understand that final payment is due June 10, 2019, 90 days prior to departure. For registrations received after June 10, 2019: full payment is due.

NAME #1 (as on passport) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (as on passport) DATE OF BIRTH

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE ZIP / POSTAL CODE

TRAVELER # 1: PRIMARY PHONE/Czell PHONE/E-MAIL

TRAVELER # 2: PRIMARY PHONE/Czell PHONE/E-MAIL

Cal class year(s) ______________________________________________________________

Name #1 for name badges _______________________________________________________

Name #2 for name badges _______________________________________________________

SINGLE TRAVELERS
I prefer to have single accommodations.

OR □ I plan to share accommodations with: ______________________________________

OR □ I’d like to know about roommates.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of June 10, 2019, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Bed Preference in hotels (not guaranteed) □ Two beds □ One bed

I/we have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE DATE

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following terms and conditions.

Reservations, deposits and final payment
To reserve your space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Your final payment is due June 10, 2019. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment.

Cancellation and refunds: If you must cancel the trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification of cancellation. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Cal Discoveries Travel office. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

• Notice on or before June 10, 2019: a refund less a $500 cancellation charge.
• Notice between June 11 - July 8, a refund less 50% of trip price.
• No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received after July 8.

Because these cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend for your protection that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information on trip cancellation insurance will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation form.

Responsibility
The liability of Cal Alumni Association (CAA) as sponsor, and Distant Horizons as tour operator, is strictly limited. CAA and Distant Horizons purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent or arbitrary acts or omission of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. CAA and Distant Horizons are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident or delay that may be caused by any events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line and other independent suppliers.

The State Department issues each country a travel advisory number with a ranking number of 1 to 4 with 1 being “exercise normal precautions” and 4 being “do not travel.” (https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html). At the time of printing, December 2018, Azerbaijan is ranked a 2 meaning “Exercise Increased Caution”, Georgia and Armenia are both ranked a 1 “Exercise Normal Precautions”.

Many factors go into determining this ranking and we recommend that you are up-to-date with the ranking currently as signed to the country/countries you plan to visit. If, after a traveler has signed up for a trip, the ranking of the country/countries being visited changes, CAA and Distant Horizons will alert the traveler. A change in ranking from lower to higher is not necessarily considered a reason for cancellation without penalty. Each case will be reviewed by CAA and Distant Horizons to determine if the trip will be operated. If the decision is made to cancel the trip, all monies paid will be refunded in full. CAA and Distant Horizons cannot be held responsible for costs not paid to CAA and Distant Horizons but already incurred for the trip.

Cal Membership Policy: One traveler per room, whether an alumni or friend, must be a current Cal Alumni Association member at the time of departure to participate in Cal Discoveries Travel offerings. Payment of $60 for seniors 65 years and over and $75 for others establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association benefits. Memberships are for individuals only, and are non-refundable and non-transferable. A traveling pair and their children under 21 years may travel on one membership. Please make dues payable to CAA by separate check, or, if you prefer, provide a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express number with expiration date for payment. You can also enroll online at alumni.berkeley.edu/join.

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