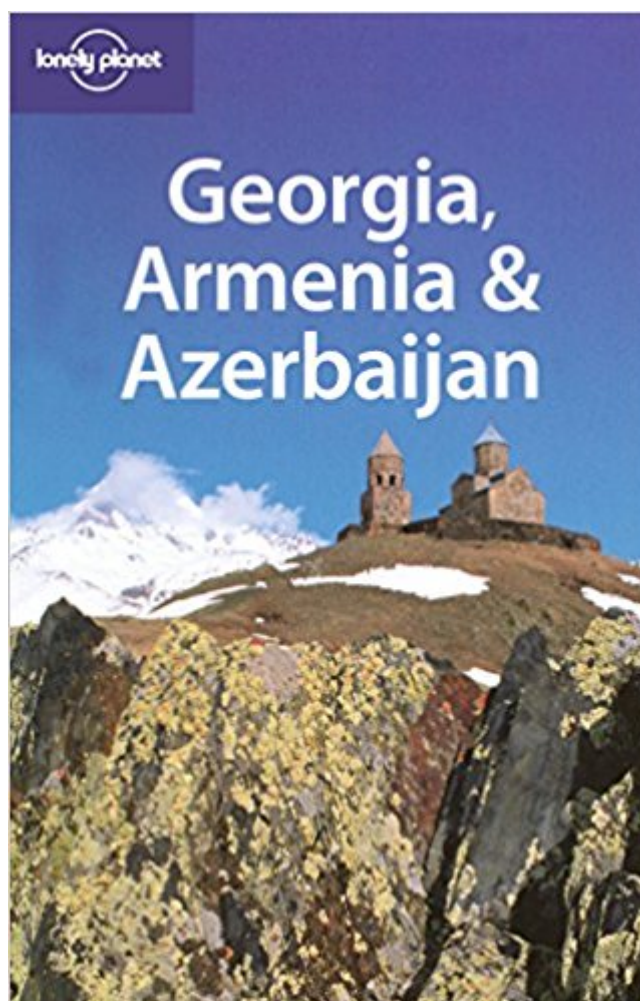




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Lonely Planet Georgia Armenia & Azerbaijan (Multi Country Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Discover Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan
Find out which Georgian king wanted the world to walk on his grave
Clamber down to the snake pit once occupied by St Gregory the illuminator
Watch the clouds lift above Xinaliq to reveal 360-degree views of the Caucasus mountains
Discover why you should never toast a Georgian with beer
In This Guide:
Expert authors: three. Days of research: 143.
Spontaneous on-the-road toasts: lost count
Expanded coverage of nature reserves, day walks and challenging mountain hikes
Content updated daily - visit lonelyplanet.com for up-to-the-minute reviews, updates and traveler insights.'

Book Information

Series: Multi Country Travel Guide

Paperback: 364 pages

Publisher: Lonely Planet; 3 edition (May 1, 2008)

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Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Lonely Planet guides are a must-pack --Toronto Star, February 2006

Who We Are
At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travelers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do
* We offer travelers the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages.
* We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are.
* We update our guidebooks by visiting thousands of places in person to get the details right and tell it as it is.
* We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent.
* We challenge our growing community of travelers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world.
* We tell it like it is

without fear or favor in service of the travelers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.

There are not a lot of guides for these countries, though perhaps one guide per country would give you more detail on each, and/or be more compact. It's not clear to me that anyone going to one of these countries would probably go to all three, especially since most Westerners go for business, or to live in one of these countries in the long-term. Nonetheless, given the paucity of travel guides for the region and the less than developed tourism industry in Georgia (the only country I have visited out of the three), the Lonely Planet guide was invaluable. Lonely Planet has a lot of problems - few photos, difficult to read black and white maps, and a lot of worthless practical information (post offices, laundromats, etc), the descriptions and histories of the sites and neighborhoods was better than anything I would have gotten within Tbilisi, in English. Georgia is a country in transition, so certain information was a bit out of date, particularly any area in or near the conflict zones. Can't blame Lonely Planet for unexpected wars. I had the opportunity to travel quite a bit in Georgia in the course of a week or so, with Georgians. Four out of five sites were well covered in LP, with good history and descriptions. So, if you happen to be going to Georgian and don't speak Russian or Georgian, this LP will make your trip much better. On another note, Tbilisi is a very lovely city surrounded by high hills and a large ruined fortress looking down into the city, with some of the nicest people I have ever met. I have had problems in many cities, "Western" and developing, where people were either rude, con-artists, outright thieves, or harassing. In Tbilisi people were welcoming and honest - even the taxi drivers! And if you are American, and afterwards an EU citizen, they tend to love you because of the events in August 2008. It's just sad that such a nice city is so far off the beaten path.

Such great details and excellent maps!

I review only parts of the book dealing with Armenia. Using this already outdated book - I've been to Armenia in June 2010 - I have found it quite useful. First of all it gives some information of how to use public transport in Armenia. In spite of the fact that the information is now very imprecise, it gives very handy ideas of how the transport is organized and how it works, what let us to understand and use it. We found also useful the information of hiking possibilities, however more detailed information and some, even basic plans would do much good. Anyway places proposed in

the book as interesting for the hiker, came out to be interesting, with the final prize of hidden in the wilderness churches, castles or wonderful Kilikia beer in one or another town. Much of the information about culture, people, places worth visit is still valid and I can not complain about safety - what was underlined in the guide and made us more brave in choosing Armenia as our holiday destination. The most important problem with the book is that it covers all 3 Caucasian countries when probably every one deserves a book. This way there is not enough information about surprisingly diversified nature wonders of Armenia in the book. I am absolutely convinced that more precise description of some more remote parts (for example Yeghanodzor, Yeghegis Valley) and some even simple plans (!!!), including plans of more often visited places (Dilijan surroundings, Tsackadzor, Geghard to Gamla valley) would make the travel to Armenia even bigger pleasure.

This book does well at offering condensed summaries of many places, supplementing them with historical and political information, although much of it has become quickly outdated. I have not yet gone to Georgia however, and cannot comment on the current status of specific details. As for this review, the most annoying thing to report about this book is not in the book itself, but this page which offers the 2001 edition reviews for the 2008 edition. Most of the reviews were written before this edition even came out. Shouldn't it have it's own page? Will the new edition to come out in a few months from now face the same problem, namely outdated reviews of an old edition?

I bought this book for my forthcoming trip however while reading it I found an alarming mistake. In this case, the currency exchange rate table for the Georgian currency Lari (GEL) is repeated in place of the tables for the Armenian Dram and the Azerbaijan Manat. I checked elsewhere and these currencies are not equal, so I know that is a mistake. This was an easy to find error, and now I wonder how many other mistakes there are which wouldn't be apparent until you get there.

I used this book for a trip to Armenia in 2011. The background about the many sites was useful. The addresses and phone numbers of restaurants, shops, and places to stay was more often wrong than right. A lot of the "recommended" restaurants no longer existed. Additionally, this book listed busses and matshruka schedules for transport around Armenia that was woefully outdated. I was disappointed because I've always loved Lonely Planet guidebooks.

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