

# 5 days in Dagestan

Caucasus sightseeing tour



The Republic of Dagestan is rich in unique places. It has the deepest canyon, the largest sand dune, and the oldest city in Russia. There is an underground waterfall, a narrow, labyrinth-like mountain gorge, and even its own Caucasian Trolltunga. In this program, you will see all the iconic locations of Dagestan without sacrificing comfort and time.



# Experiences you'll have

This journey can be divided into 3 parts: visiting the foothills, mountains, and the Caspian Sea shore. You will enjoy the Sulak Canyon and Sarykum Barkhan in the first part. Explore mountain villages with centuries-old history and unusual waterfalls in the second. And in the third, you will see Russia's most ancient city and the *Lun-class* ekranoplan.

Daily transfers and hikes in the mountainous terrain await you. In the evenings you will rest in a modern hotel and guest house.

Other unique places you will visit:

ancient settlements of Gimry, Stary Goor, and Gamsutl preserving its own mystery  
Saltinsky underground waterfall and Tobot waterfall falling from a 100 m height  
Derbent and Juma Mosque: one of the oldest cities in Russia and the oldest mosque in the CIS  
Chirkey Reservoir, the largest in the North Caucasus, where you will take a boat trip  
the Stone Bowl: a system of stone halls with narrow passageways decorated with mosses and flowers  
the Caucasian Trolltunga, a rock ledge overhanging the abyss where you can get great photos  
the Karadakh Gorge, a long and narrow rock corridor where sunlight hardly gets through


**We accept bookings for groups of 6 or more**

The base rate is in RUB. The price in dollars (478 USD) depends on the exchange rate of the [Central Bank of Russia](#) minus 2% and is valid as of February 28, 2024.

Most popular

Caucasus

## 5 days in Dagestan

Difficulty   
Age from 7  
Group size to 16  
Duration 5 days

Accommodation at the trip



4 nights

Языки



guide

from 43 000 EUR

## Itinerary

The journey begins in Makhachkala, where you should get to on your own. We are ready to help with the purchase of tickets. If necessary, leave a comment in the application.

*This is a general plan of the tour, the route may vary depending on the weather conditions.*

### Day 1

**After meeting at Makhachkala airport you will go to the**

Sarykum Barchan. This is the largest dune in Europe and the third largest in the world: its height reaches 250 m. The dune is a part of the Dagestan Reserve and is considered a natural monument with unique flora and fauna. Here you can meet rare and endangered species of plants and birds listed in the IUCN Red List of Russia and Dagestan.

**Then you will be taken to the Sulak Canyon, the largest in**

Russia and one of the deepest in the world. Its length is 53 km and its depth reaches 1920 m. You will stop at the viewpoint, enjoy the panorama, and drink tea.

**Then you will move to Stary Zubutli village. Here you will**

take a boat trip along the mouth of Sulak River.

**In the evening you will arrive at Dubki village, where you**

will stay in a hotel, have dinner and rest.

### Day 2

**After breakfast at the hotel, you will go to the mountainous**

part of Dagestan. Passing through the longest tunnel in Russia, you will get to the Gimrinsky Gorge. Visit Gimrinsky Tower, built in the 19th century to defend the nearby village. The guide will tell



you what happened in these places during the Caucasian War.

**The next stop is the viewpoint of the Irganay reservoir, the**

second largest in Dagestan. Here you will have a picnic and admire the emerald water surface.

**Then you will explore the Khunzakh plateau and Tobot**

waterfall, one of the largest and most powerful in this part of Dagestan. It falls into the gorge from 100 m height.

You will also visit the Matlas plateau. This is one of the most picturesque places in Dagestan, located at 1800 m altitude. Numerous canyons, waterfalls, and mountain lakes make the landscape especially beautiful.

**Afterward, you will hike through the Kamennaya Chasha**

(Rus. for Stone Bowl) gorge. It is a stone hall system with narrow passages decorated with mosses and mountain flowers.

Lunch will take place on the shore of Mochoh Lake, located between two ridges. Then you will go to the tourist base in Chalda village. The day will be finished with a delicious dinner of Dagestani meals.

You will spend the night in a guest house in Chalda village.

**Day 3**

**In the morning after breakfast, you will go to the Saltinsky**

waterfall. This is the only underground waterfall in Russia. It is formed by the Saltinka River, which falls through an almost perfectly round hole inside the gorge.

**Then you will visit the Gamsutl ghost aul, called the**

Dagestani Machu Picchu. It is located on the mountain crest at 1500 m altitude above sea level. You will hike up to the aul on foot and walk along its ancient streets: look at the stone arches and inscriptions in Arabic carved on the stones. The guide will introduce you to the centuries-old settlement history, which the last inhabitant left in 2015.

**Coming back down, you will have lunch in the guest house**

of Gunib village. Caucasian cuisine will be on the menu. Then you will be transferred to the guest house and have dinner.

**Day 4**

**After breakfast at the hotel, you will go to the Karadakh**

Gorge, spread over more than half a kilometer. The depth of the gorge is about 170 m. In some parts, the high vaults are practically close together and huge stone boulders rise overhead.

**Then you will move to Stary Goor aul, located on the edge**

of the abyss. A resident will give you a tour and introduce you to the history of the settlement. Everyone can take photos on the Dagestani Trolltunga, a rocky ledge above the 100-m abyss.

**Afterward, you will move to Makhachkala, where you will**

check in at a hotel, have dinner and rest.

## Day 5

### Today you will get acquainted with the sights of Derbent,

the oldest city in Russia.

### First, you will take a look at the *Lun-class* ekranoplan, a

unique military development of the USSR times, a hybrid of a sea vessel and an airplane. Now it is an exhibit of the open-air museum on the Caspian Sea shore.

### Then you will be taken on a tour of the ancient fortress

Naryn-Kala. This is the main attraction of Derbent, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fortress walls offer a magnificent panorama of the ancient city and the coast of the Caspian Sea.

### Coming from the fortress, you will visit Juma Mosque, the

oldest mosque in Russia, built in the late XIV century.

### You will have lunch at the guest house and then will be

taken to the airport of Makhachkala.

## Accommodation at the trip

The first night you will spend in the **Khadum Hotel** in Dubki village. You will stay in comfortable double rooms with double or twin beds and a private bathroom.

Two nights will be spent in the **Safar Guest House** in Chalda Aul on the bank of the river. You will stay in double rooms with double or twin beds and a private bathroom. There is a bar, a garden, and a terrace on the territory.

The last night you will spend in Makhachkala in the **Shato Hotel**. Accommodation in a standard double room with twin or double beds and a private bathroom awaits you. The room has AC, a fridge, a TV, a safe, a minibar, an iron, and a hairdryer. There is a restaurant in the hotel.

## FAQ

### What will the weather be like

In the second half of April, the air temperature does not rise above +15 °C. In May the air warms up to +20...+24 °C. Summer in Dagestan is hot, the air temperature is +28...+30 °C.

In September the daytime temperature is about +24 °C. In October it is cooler, the thermometer does not rise above +16 °C.

In mountainous areas, it can be 3-5 °C cooler.

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### What to bring with me

- documents (passport and health insurance policy)
- comfortable clothes
- windbreaker
- small backpack for radial walks
- comfortable shoes for long hikes
- swimsuits/swimwear

- repellents
- sunglasses
- sunscreen
- personal first aid kit

## Meals

The tour price includes 3 meals a day with Caucasian cuisine. Additionally, you will need to pay for breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 5.

If you prefer vegetarian meals or have any other special food preferences, please let us know when making your request.

## What transport is used on the route

All transfers along the route will take place in air-conditioned Mercedes Sprinter minibusses. On Day 1 you will take a speedboat ride on the Sulak River, and jeeps will take you to the village of Staroye Zubutli.

## Who will be my guide

You will have an experienced guide and driver with you throughout the journey.

## Mobile connection

There will be mobile communication in the vicinity of Derbent and Makhachkala. There is no signal in the mountains.

# Booking

Caucasus

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### What's included in the price:

- double accommodation per the program
- 3 meals a day
- transfer from the airport and back
- transportation service per the program
- guide service
- all excursions per the program
- entrance tickets to facilities and eco fees

### Extra charge:

- [airfare](#) to Makhachkala and back
- single accommodation (+10,000 rub/pp)
- additional charges in tourist complexes
- visa



Best price guarantee



Personal tours



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