



- 4000 km, 3 countries, 11 days
- A minimal assistance motor rally - you create your own adventure!
- Vehicles: anything goes!
- Launch: Istanbul, Turkey – 13 August 2019
- End: Yerevan, Armenia - 23 August 2019
- Sign up deadline: 28 June 2019

About

The Travel Scientists have carefully blended together unique travel scenarios with the challenge of a road rally, mixed in an array of adventure, wrapped it all in a journey into the unknown and then sprinkled it with some of the best parties you'll ever attend. During the Caucasian Challenge you'll cross borders and mountains and sample some of the most delicious food you've ever had - all that in a wacky vehicle of your choice together with a bunch of lunatics just like yourself.

We don't just give you a t-shirt and some stickers for your car before roughly pointing you in the direction of the finish line. Quite the opposite, we take rallying to a whole new level with:

- A route, carefully tested and developed by our experts, to make sure you get the maximum amount of adventure, sights and landscapes, off the beaten path travelling and cultural experiences.
- An extensive road book to guide your way.
- A community of like-minded nutters to share your adventure with. Even though we might not be mother-henning you all day, sure we and your fellow teams will be found at the designated base hotel in the evenings, sharing stories and a beer or two.
- Our experts with dozens of rallies under their belt will accompany you during the whole trip and are essentially the go-to person for any needs. Not exactly a guide, but a friendly face there to help out when needed. While we encourage you to figure out your own adventure, the trip manager is there in case you need a local helping hand.

Where?

We'll celebrate the start of the Caucasian Challenge in Istanbul, ancient Turkish gateway linking east and west, only to leave it quickly behind as we pass into Georgia and climb up its mountains towards the ancient town of Mestia. Through Tbilisi and Kapan we'll finish in the busy streets of the Armenian capital Yerevan after 2,500 miles of fun, challenge and adventure.

What?

The Caucasian Challenge is a 'minimal assistance' event. This means rather than handing it all to you on a plate we provide the tools you'll need to find your own adventure, equipping you with a framework from which to hang your personal discovery of unfamiliar places without spoiling the thrill of achievements by mothering you every mile of the trip. Drive anything you like, from an old fire truck to a hearse, just be sure you can make it to the finish.

Why?

If you want to bring back the excitement of adventure and discovery to your life, but not without sharing your experiences with a community and having the security of an organizer team in your back, the Caucasian Challenge is just made for you!



Route

Day 1, 13 August 2019. Istanbul, Turkey to Sinop, Turkey.

We leave Istanbul and speed along the highway by the black sea, before stopping for a night at Sinop beach.

Day 2, 14 August 2019. Sinop, Turkey to Batumi, Georgia.

Stop in the historic city of Trabzon or by the tea plantations of Rize, before crossing into Georgia, and staying in the eclectic coastal city of Batumi.

Day 3, 15 August 2019, Batumi, Georgia to Kutaisi, Georgia.

We journey through the green Georgian hills, navigating mountain passes and dirt tracks, ending up in the ancient capital, Kutaisi.

Day 4, 16 August 2019, Kutaisi, Georgia to Mestia, Georgia.

We drive through the high mountains of Svaneti, famous for its stone towers, riotous feasts, stunning scenery and dangerous homemade chacha.

Day 5, 17 August 2019. Mestia, Georgia to Ambrolauri, Georgia.

A challenging route on dirt tracks, takes us to Ushguli, Europe's highest village, then across the Zagar Pass, and finally to Ambrolauri, home of Khvanchkara, Stalin's favourite wine.

Day 6, 18 August 2019. Ambrolauri, Georgia to Tbilisi, Georgia.

An easy drive towards Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, with a stop in Gori to explore the fascinating, and controversial, Stalin Museum.

Day 7, 19 August 2019. Rest day in Tbilisi, Georgia.

A well-earned day off to wander the old streets of Tbilisi, take in the view from Narikala Fortress, and to eat as much Georgian food as you possibly can.

Day 8, 20 August 2019. Tbilisi, Georgia to Lake Sevan, Armenia.

We cross Armenia's eastern mountains into Nagorno-Karabakh, a place of hot springs, roadside war memorials, and the strangest village you'll ever encounter.

Day 9, 21 August 2019. Lake Sevan, Armenia to Vank, Nagorno Karabakh.

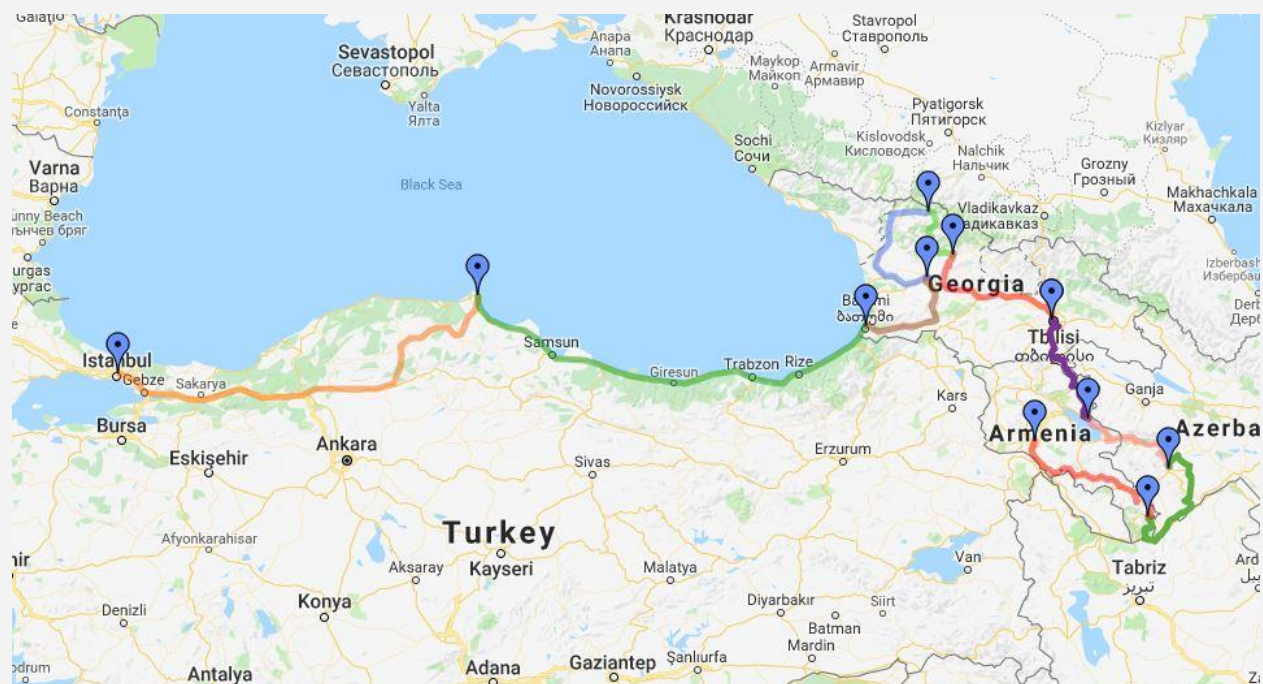
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Day 10, 22 August 2019. Vank, Nagorno Karabakh to Kapan, Armenia.

We briefly stop in the breakaway region's capital, Stepanakert, before navigating some dirt roads as we cross back into Southern Armenia.

Day 11, 23 August 2019. Kapan, Armenia to Yerevan, Armenia.

Our last day takes us (via cable car) to the impressive Tatev monastery, and past the imposing Mount Ararat, and finally to our finishing party in Armenia's capital Yerevan.



Fees & Dates



Dates: 13 - 23 August 2019

Included	Basic Package €550 (per person)	Standard Package €995 (per person)
Rally Gear	✓	✓
Event shirt and cap	✓	✓
Essential and hard to find maps	✓	✓
Kick-off and finish parties	✓	✓
Basic visa Assistance	✓	✓
Road maps (hard copies)	✗	✓
Hotel package	✗	✓



Vehicles

What are the Vehicle Rules?

Good news first: there are none!

Eccentric vehicle choices are positively encouraged and indeed the Caucasian Challenge is not about choosing the easy option. So whether it's a truck or a taxi, a Lada or Land Rover, a bus or a fire truck, if you bring it along we'll be only too happy to see it participate in the event.

After all, choosing a 20 year old rust bucket might be the safer choice, because the probability of finding a mechanic on the open road somewhere deep in the mountains of Georgia, who can fix any of those modern electronic fancies is close to zero.

Vehicle Purchasing

Purchasing a vehicle especially for the rally and selling it afterwards is a good option for everybody who wants to leave their luxury limousines in their safe garage. It can require substantial time and effort though, both prior to and after the event. The Travel Scientists can help facilitate your purchase of the desired vehicle. We can recommend models, equipment, dealers, and provide any additional advice you might need before purchasing your vehicle.

Travel Scientists

The [Travel Scientists](#) are the world's most gonzo adventure travel operator, whose mission is to create amazing thrills, unique experiences and a little drunken fun on the side. Not your usual travel operator, the maniacal travel research specialists have conjured up the most daring, inspiring and most memorable excursions still around in the modern world.

Why travel with us?

We might ham up the craziness, but we've been in the business for 12 years and we've certainly got plenty of road trips under our belt and over a 1000 happy travelers who have shared adventures with us, most of them multiple times. We've been around since 2006 when we launched the first Rickshaw Challenge, which has earned a place in the Lonely Planet's 'World's Top 10 Greatest Adventures' in 2012.

One reason for our success is that we like to operate in manageable groups rather than get lost in hordes of participants. For us, travel is about community, so we want to foster that on our trips, where everyone knows each other's name and even after doing their own thing on the road we can all sit down and share adventures together over a beer.

We carefully scout out the routes so we can still find places where adventure still exists, bringing leisure and the freedom of independent traveling together, as well as a healthy dash of partying into the mix.

Our Rallies

- [The Rickshaw Challenge](#) – *The race for the clinically insane, explore Southern India entirely from a rickshaw.*
- [The India's Cup](#) - *The great Indian run*
- [The Great Balkan Ride](#) – *Explore the wild side of Europe.*
- [The Central Asia Rally](#) – *A thrilling road trip across the steppes of Central Asia, tracing the old Silk Road from Samarkand to the Pamir Mountains.*
- [The Baltic Run](#) – *An icy adventure into the Baltic States.*
- [The Moroccan Escapade](#) - *A desert adventure exploring the gateway to Africa.*
- [The Wild West Challenge](#) – *Giddy up and get your cowboy boots on for this race into the deserts of the US.*



Custom Adventures

Do you want to join in with the fun of the Caucasian Challenge, but can't make the dates or you fancy tailoring the route or want to take in the sites at your own pace? No worries, the Travel Scientists can conjure up something from the depth of our labs just for you.

We can also set up a personalized rally for your company, which make excellent team building activities. You tell us where you want to go and what you want to do, and we can organize the rest for you.

Let us know the what, when, why, how, how much, we can take care of the rest. We're super flexible, so all you need to do is share your ideas and expectations and leave it up to us.

Contact Us

Interested in chatting more or have a query? Then drop us a line! We love to hear from people. If you have any questions, comments or proposals then let us know!

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