

IRISH RUGBY SUMMER TOUR

GEORGIA & PORTUGAL

FULL TOUR | BAKU - TBILISI - ISTANBUL - LISBON



30th June - 14th July

IRISH RUGBY SUMMER TOUR

Ireland will take on both Georgia & Portugal for the 2025 Irish Rugby Summer Tour and with the British & Irish Lions Tour underway in Australia, it will be the perfect opportunity for upcoming players to stake their claim for places in future Irish squads and maybe even earn a late call up to Australia. This will be Ireland's first ever time touring both Georgia and Portugal at full International Test Match level. We have a brilliant 14-night tour exploring four countries along the way, which will include stays in the beautiful cities of Baku, Tbilisi, Istanbul and Lisbon with plenty of activities and sightseeing along the way.

DAYS/NIGHTS	15 Days / 14 Nights	
INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS	International Flights: Dublin to Baku (via Istanbul), Tbilisi to Istanbul, Istanbul to Lisbon (All Turkish Airlines) / Lisbon to Dublin (Aer Lingus)	
HOTELS	<u>5* Sheraton Intourist Baku</u> <u>5* Marxal Resort & Spa Sheki</u> <u>5* Biltmore Hotel, Tbilisi</u>	<u>4* Moxy Istanbul, Beyoglu</u> <u>5* Dom Pedro, Lisboa</u>
MEALS	Breakfast each day + 10 Meals Included between Lunches & Dinners	
MATCH TICKETS	Category 1 Match Tickets to both test matches	
COST	€3,995* PER PERSON (<i>Prices were correct at printing but may change. Please check our website for the latest prices.</i>)	
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	€1,195	
TOUR EXCLUSIONS	Visa to Azerbaijan. Admission fees for activities or sights of interest not included in the tour itinerary. Personal expenses such as tips, telephone calls, beverages, all meals not mentioned under the inclusions and anything else of a personal nature.	



ITINERARY

Monday 30th June - Baku, Azerbaijan

Depart from Dublin Airport at 13:50 with Turkish Airlines to Istanbul Airport (4h 30m), here you will connect for your onwards flight to Baku, Azerbaijan at 21:45 with Turkish Airlines (2h 50m). Arrive in Baku at 01:35* (+1) and transfer to the [5* Sheraton Intourist Baku](#) via executive coach transfer. Check-in for three nights on a B&B basis (includes Monday night).

Tuesday 1st July - Baku

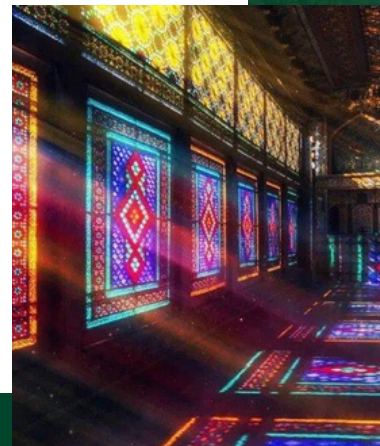
Have a lie in and then enjoy a Full day at leisure in Baku - Enjoy a drinks reception later this evening. A perfect opportunity to get to know everyone on tour!

Wednesday 2nd July - Baku, Azerbaijan

Today we have included a superb **Baku City Tour** - Embark on a journey through the vibrant tapestry of Baku, where ancient history meets modern elegance. Begin your exploration in the heart of the Old Town, where the Palace of the Shirvanshahs stands as a testament to centuries of rich heritage. Nearby, the iconic Maiden Tower offers panoramic views of the city and the Caspian Sea. Stroll along Boulevard Park, taking in the waterfront's scenic beauty and the Flame Towers' striking silhouette. From the timeless allure of the Old Town to the modern elegance of the Cultural Center, every corner of Baku invites discovery and wonder. After your city tour, enjoy a delicious local lunch, and wrap up your day with dinner.

Thursday 3rd July - Sheki, Azerbaijan

Today we are on the move, check out and transfer to Sheki, en-route we will explore the Yeddi Gumbaz Mausoleum, the royal burial site of the Shirvanshah Dynasty. This striking structure, known for its seven distinctive domes, offers a fascinating glimpse into the region's ancient past. Next, visit the Jummah Mosque, renowned for its impressive architecture and rich historical significance. Marvel at its intricate designs and peaceful atmosphere, a testament to the city's cultural heritage. In Sheki, we will discover the Sheki Medieval Fortress and the Sheki Khan's Palace (built in 1762 by Hussein Khan), with its stunning frescoes and vibrant stained glass, reflecting the city's rich royal heritage. Check-in to [5* Marxal Resort & Spa Sheki](#) for one nights stay, dinner is included this evening.



Friday 4th July - Tbilisi, Georgia

Today we cross the border to Georgia, check out of your hotel and transfer to Signaghi. Nestled atop a hill overlooking the Alazani Valley, Signaghi, the "City of Love," enchants visitors with its cobblestone streets, colourful houses, and stunning panoramic views. Just a short drive away, Bodbe Monastery offers a serene retreat dedicated to St. Nino, the Enlightener of Georgia. Surrounded by lush gardens, this spiritual site is a place of pilgrimage, known for its peaceful atmosphere and the healing waters of St. Nino's spring. Together, Signaghi and Bodbe offer a perfect blend of history, beauty, and tranquility. On your way to Tbilisi, we will stop at Giuaani Winery for a wine tasting tour and sample a selection of fine local wines and learn about the traditional winemaking process that makes Georgian wine so unique. Check into the stunning [5* Biltmore Hotel, Tbilisi](#) for four nights on a B&B basis.

Saturday 5th July - Tbilisi, Georgia

It's Match Day! For the first ever time, Ireland take on Rugby Europe Champions, Georgia on their home patch in Tbilisi. Georgia v Ireland, Kick Off TBC. Executive coach transfers to and from the stadium with pre-match lunch & drinks reception.

Sunday 6th July - Tbilisi, Georgia

Full day at leisure - Enjoy a day leisure and take in the breath taking city of Tbilisi or catch up on some rest or washing!

Monday 7th July - Tbilisi, Georgia

Today we are back exploring with a captivating city tour of Tbilisi. Start by exploring the historic Metekhi Church, perched on a cliff overlooking the Mtkvari River. Then, enjoy a scenic cable car ride to Narikala Fortress, where you'll be treated to panoramic views of the city. Stroll across the modern Bridge of Peace, a striking symbol of Tbilisi's blend of old and new. Continue your exploration with a visit to Sioni Cathedral one of Tbilisi's most revered religious sites. As a special welcome, savour a delightful reception featuring a glass of Georgian wine and an array of traditional sweets. Next, immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere of the Sulphur Bath District, where you can unwind and rejuvenate at the famous Sulphur baths. After your city tour, enjoy a delicious local lunch, and wrap up your day with a memorable dinner accompanied by vibrant folk performances that showcase the rich cultural heritage of Georgia.

Tuesday 8th July - Istanbul, Turkey

Check out of your hotel and transfer to Tbilisi International Airport for your flight to Istanbul with Turkish Airlines, departing at 06:55, landing in Istanbul at 08:30. Executive coach transfer to the [4* Moxy Istanbul Beyoglu](#) and check in for two nights on a B&B basis. (Early check in requested here / subject to availability). Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure and explore the stunning and historic city of Istanbul.



Wednesday 9th July - Istanbul, Turkey

Today we have included a fully guided tour of the stunning and historic city of Istanbul starting with a visit to the Hagia Sophia. Then it's on the energetic and vibrant Grand Bazaar & Spice Bazaar where you will be engrossed in the colours and aromas of the hustle and bustling market. Next on the list is a visit to the historical Sultanahmet Obelisk and Hippodrome structures before visiting the spiritual and significant Blue Mosque before topping the day off with a scenic cruise down the Bosphorus Strait which connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara.

Thursday 10th July - Lisbon, Portugal

Check out of your hotel and transfer to Istanbul Airport for your flight to Lisbon with Turkish Airlines, departing at 12:20, landing in Lisbon at 15:15. Executive coach transfer to the [5* Dom Pedro Lisboa](#) and check in for 4 nights B&B. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure and explore the beautiful city of Lisbon.

Friday 11th July - Lisbon, Portugal

Full day at leisure.

Saturday 12th July - Lisbon, Portugal

It's Match Day! Another historic occasion on this tour as Ireland take on Portugal for the first ever time in an International Test Match. Portugal v Ireland, Estadio Nacional do Jamor, Kick Off TBC. Executive coach transfers to and from the stadium with pre-match lunch & drinks reception.

Sunday 13th July - Lisbon, Portugal

Full day at leisure.

Monday 14th July - Dublin, Ireland

Check out of your hotel and executive coach transfer to Humberto Delgado Airport, Lisbon for your flight home to Dublin with Aer Lingus, departing Lisbon at 11:25 and landing in Dublin at 14:15.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

VISA / PASSPORT INFORMATION

When travelling to Azerbaijan, Irish & UK passport holders are required to hold a visa and the eVisa must be applied for through [Azerbaijan Immigration's eVisa portal](#) (please note that this is the only official eVisa portal for Azerbaijan). The current cost is roughly €20pp plus a service fee.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION - BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

OTP Travel Services Ltd T/A Rugby Travel Ireland (RTI) is fully bonded assuring you that your monies are secure at all times. Rugby Travel Ireland is bonded and licensed with the Commission for Aviation Regulation, Tour Operators Licence No. T.O.260. Further details are available at www.aviationreg.ie/.

INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking with Rugby Travel Ireland that you and any fellow travellers **MUST** have travel insurance in place. Your travel insurance should cover the cost of cancellation, medical expenses, loss of luggage or money, personal liability claims, participation in activities and costs of assistance (including repatriation) in the event of accident, injury, illness or death. You should check any exclusions and, in particular, that your policy covers you for the activities you want to undertake. We strongly recommend that you are covered from the time of booking as this may assist you in recovering monies paid in the unfortunate event of you having to cancel your trip. We recommend the services of our preferred travel insurance partner, Blue Insurance, and you can get a quotation directly from them as below:

HOTELS

Prices are based on twin/double rooms with two people sharing. Triple/Family rooms can be quoted subject to availability. Single occupancy incurs a single room supplement as outlined in our costs. This is because we are charged on a per room basis, but we cost the package based on two people sharing that cost. Should we change your hotel we will advise you at the earliest opportunity, but we will always endeavour to offer a hotel of the same standard. If this is not possible, an alternative will be provided, and a credit note will be applied. All accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis.

FLIGHT UPGRADES

Although the comfort and service offered by the airlines we use is excellent, you may wish to upgrade your flight to Business Class (not available for internal flights). You can request a quotation during the booking process.

CHANGES TO YOUR TOUR

RTI reserve the right to change/readjust the tour schedule, transportation, hotel accommodation and services indicated in the package. Promotions may end without notice. All tours are subject to availability.

IF YOU WISH TO CANCEL

Should you wish to cancel your booking, we will require notification in writing. Cancellation charges will be levied in accordance with the scale set out in our full set of Terms and Conditions. A summary of our cancellation provisions are as below: More than 100 days Deposit(s) - Between 99 and 70 days 50% of total booking cost - Between 69 and 56 days 60% of total booking cost - Between 55 and 43 days 70% of total booking cost - Between 42 and 15 days 90% of total booking cost - 14 days or less 100% of total booking cost.

Contact Us

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact one of our staff members at hello@rugbytravelireland.com or by calling us directly on +353 61 624 734 +353 1 556 7776 (Dublin).

 **ROI RESIDENTS ONLY**
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