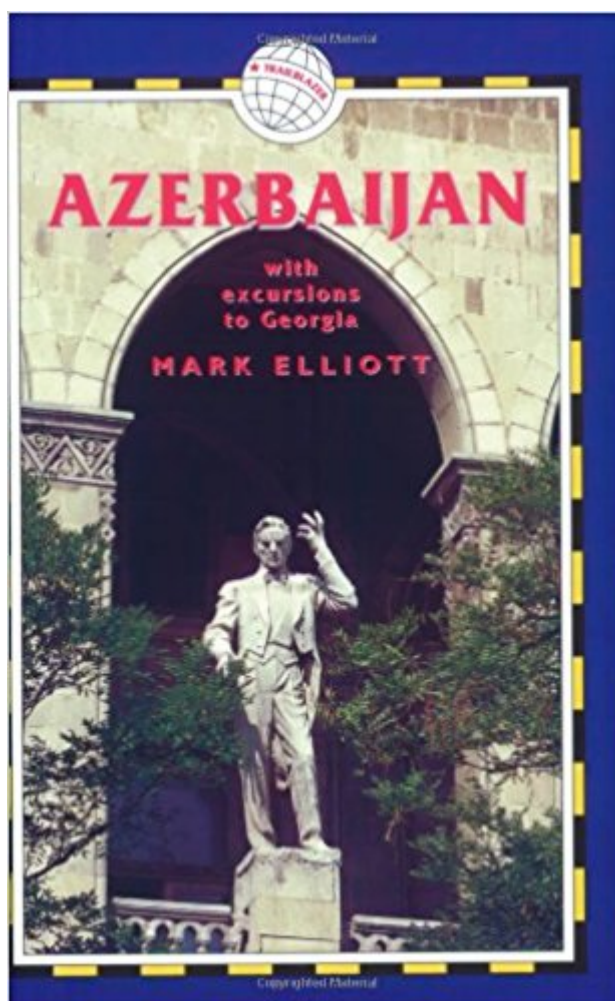


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# Azerbaijan, 3rd: With Excursions To Georgia (Azerbaijan (with Excursions To Georgia))



## Synopsis

Third edition of the guide that was the first and still remains the only dedicated guide to Azerbaijan. Features 200 maps with 180 explanatory visuals--vital in a country where there are few reliable maps. Includes full historical background, cultural tips, visas, where to stay, and where to eat for all budgets.

## Book Information

Series: Azerbaijan (with Excursions to Georgia)

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## Customer Reviews

"Azerbaijan by Mark Elliott (Trailblazer) is an excellent guidebook with useful maps that make exploring in and around Baku possible. It is much more detailed than the new but disappointing Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan (Lonely Planet)."--The Guardian (UK) "Recommended reading." --The Financial Times (UK)"As the first modern guide to Azerbaijan it is a real tour de force...meticulous research and evident affection for Azerbaijan."--Daily News (Azerbaijan)

Perched beside the oil-rich Caspian Sea, compact, hospitable Azerbaijan is astounding in its scenic variety. Painted moonscape deserts, snow-capped Caucasian peaks, subtropical forests and flower-filled grasslands all lie within a few hours' drive of Baku, the artistically vibrant, cosmopolitan capital with its UNESCO-recognized walled Old City. Since the first edition in 1999 this map-packed book has become the definitive guide for visitors and residents alike. Now in its expanded and fully-updated third edition it's more practical than ever. Inside you will find: practical information about Visas, getting to Azerbaijan, where to stay, and where to eat; discover bubbling mud

volcanoes, linguistically-unique stepped villages, ruined castles, a flaming hillside and fire-temple, iron-wood forests, water that "catches fire", "magical" rocks kissed smooth by superstitious wish-seekers. On foot, by car, 4WD, bus, train or horse be among the first tourists to explore delightful Azerbaijan since Noah sailed across the country 5000 years ago, his Ark carving a great gash through Nakhchivan's Snake Mountain; over 190 maps, illustrated with over 160 sketches and diagrams. As well as showing hotels, restaurants, bus stops, etc. these maps also include landmarks at key unsigned junctions to help motorists and hikers; history, language and cultural tips; excursions to neighboring Georgia.

As other reviewers have noted, the hallmark of this book is that we frequently met Azeri travellers either armed with it or knowledgeable about it. Some mentioned, and we agreed, an update is needed regards restaurants and hotels in Baku which come and go with disturbing frequency. But, really, the humour of the writing, and the lovely drawings, make this a special treat. We did encounter a writer updating the notorious Lonely Planet Guide, in Polish only though. Elliott gives the impression of having walked everywhere he describes. It is worth warning that, though English is on the increase in Baku, and regional centres especially with young people, Turkish in the south and Russian in the north are the more widespread second languages. And, taxi drivers, given the just mentioned language issues, are a very great challenge especially in Baku. Really they are the only negative I have about the place. Beyond Quba and heading into the high country is stupendous, even if you are not a hiker. Xinaliq is an amazing village, and there is now a shop, the road to it is bitumenized, and as I write a new consolidated school should be open for business. The teachers there can help with English. I also rate Zaqatala higher than the author. Coming across from Georgia's poverty-stricken villages, this immaculate town was astonishingly ordered and cared for. But in this regard, it was to prove exceptional in Azerbaijan. Lahic was lovely, as was Ilisu; Shaki less so, though we wished we'd booked ahead for a bed in the great caravanserai. Elliot's book seems at times like a promotional exercise for the tourist board, if such a thing exists in the country, and has a leaning towards a perceived audience, the considerable expat community in Baku for reasons to do with its oil industry. Here, hundreds of BMWs and Mercedes flourish with almost disgusting indifference to the real poverty on the footpaths, the suburbs and those regional towns and villages.

This book was very helpful while I was in Azerbaijan but some things desperately need to be updated. I only spent a couple weekends in Baku but the streets are changing all the time. We were

unable to find three of the Chinese food restaurants and the one we finally did eat at wasn't listed. The snippets on the towns in the outlying regions could definitely be added to as well. All in all it still is the best guide on the market.

This book can be of a great use for the travellers, expatriots moving to Azerbaijan or for those studying different regions/cultures. I enjoyed reading it!

Great book! Clearly written by someone who loves this country. My wife is a native of Baku learnt and laughed about her native country. Culturally savvy and sensitive.

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