

# MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

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## CAUCASUS & THE BLACK SEA

19 Day Conducted Tour  
for **\$6,975** per person twin share

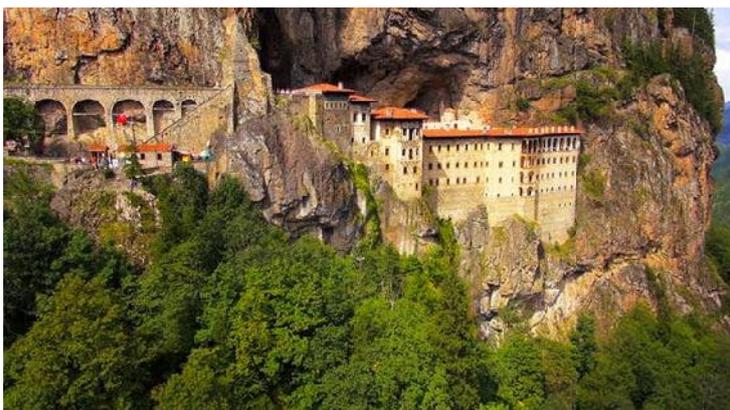
**This price includes airport taxes & levies**

This wonderful tour is great value as the price includes all of the following:

- Air fares with Emirates & Fly Dubai from Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane into Baku, Azerbaijan and out of Istanbul, Turkey, and a domestic flight within Turkey.
- A fascinating 16 day tour of the Caucasus region, including 4 days in Azerbaijan, 5 days in Georgia, 2 days in Armenia and 5 days in Turkey.
- Very good accommodation, mainly 3½ to 4½ star with private facilities.
- Nearly all meals, as stated in the itinerary.
- All transfers and transport, and entrance fees to many attractions.
- Prepaid gratuities to the main tour guide and drivers.
- Services of local tour guides and if there are 15 or more participants there will be an Australian tour escort.



The Caucasus region is located between the Black and Caspian Seas. It is both a compact and diverse region, known for its alpine terrain. Typical residents come from different ethnic, religious, and linguistic backgrounds and the area is a popular emerging tourist destination. Our time in Turkey is mainly concentrated in the far east of the country, near the Black Sea.



This is a small group tour exclusive to Macleay Valley Travel customers, with numbers limited to approximately 24 passengers.

If you don't have anyone to share with but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another person, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an extra cost of \$1,155.

**Tour departs Australia 8<sup>th</sup> September  
and returns 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

*We try harder to find you the best travel deal*

## Itinerary for Caucasus & the Black Sea Tour

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### **08.09.20 Australia – Dubai**

Depart Brisbane at 9.00pm on EK 435, arriving in Dubai at 5.15am the next morning.

Depart Sydney at 9.10pm on EK 413, arriving in Dubai at 5.40am the next morning.

Depart Melbourne at 9.15pm on EK 407, arriving in Dubai at 5.15am the next morning.

### **09.09.20 Dubai - Baku, Azerbaijan**

**(D)** All passengers then depart Dubai at 8.10am on Fly Dubai flight EK 2198, arriving in Baku, Azerbaijan at 11.00am.

Upon arrival we are met and transferred to our hotel for a three night stay.

Please note that your room may not become available until the usual afternoon check in time.

This evening we have an included welcome dinner.

Accommodation: Stay Bridge Hotel or similar

### **10.09.20 Baku**

**(B/D)**

Baku is the capital and commercial hub of Azerbaijan. With a population of over 2 million residents, it is a low-lying city with its coastline along the Caspian Sea. It's famed for its medieval walled old city, which contains the Palace of the Shirvanshahs, a vast royal complex, and the iconic stone Maiden Tower.

Contemporary landmarks include the Zaha Hadid-designed Heydar Aliyev Center, and the Flame Towers, 3 pointed skyscrapers covered with LED screens.

Today we visit Martyr's Lane with a beautiful view overlooking Baku's coastline.

We explore New Baku and see architecture from the 19-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. We will also visit the old part of the city, Icheri Sheher, see Maiden Tower, Shirvanshahs' Palace, Caravanserai and the market square. Dinner this evening is included.

Accommodation: Stay Bridge Hotel or similar

### **11.09.20 Baku**

**(B/L/D)**

Today we will visit the area of the Greater Baku and Absheron Peninsula. Highlights of our day are Gobustan National Park, the Petroglyphs Museum, where we can explore petroglyphs dating back to 10,000 BC, the mud volcanoes in Gobustan Reserve, Ateshgah (temple of fire worshippers located in Surakhany village) and the Yarnardag Mountain, which has a natural gas fire which blazes continuously on a hillside on the Absheron Peninsula of the Caspian Sea. Flames jet into the air up to 3 metres high from a thin, porous sandstone layer. The fire has been active for at least 60 years, and is believed to be much older. Lunch and dinner today are included.

Accommodation: Stay Bridge Hotel or similar

### **12.09.20 Baku - Sheki**

**(B/L/D)**

In the morning we will leave Baku on a five hour drive to the town of Sheki. We visit the medieval Sheki Fortress, the Palace of Sheki Khans, the local history museum, a handicrafts workshop, Khan's Mosque & Madrassah and the local bazaar.

Lunch and dinner today are included.  
Accommodation: Sheki Saray Hotel or similar

**13.09.20 Sheki – Tbilisi, Georgia**

**(B/L/D)** Today we will cross the border and enter the eastern part of Georgia, famous for its viticulture and winemaking traditions. We will drive through the beautiful landscapes of vineyards and wine-producing villages and visit the Khareba Winery located in a tunnel carved out of rock, originally built for military purposes. We then drive to Gremi architectural complex, a 16<sup>th</sup> century royal residence and the capital of the Kakheti Kingdom to visit the town of Telavi, which was an administrative centre of Kakheti region. Lunch and dinner today are included.  
Accommodation: Hotel River Side or similar

**14.09.20 Tbilisi – Lake Sevan, Armenia – Yerevan**

**(B/L/D)** This morning we depart on a 5½ drive to Yerevan. First we head for the Armenian border. After border formalities, we drive to the Lori region and visit Haghpat Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This stunning example of Armenian traditional architecture was erected in 10-13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Later we will drive to Lake Sevan, the ‘Jewel of Armenia’ and one of the largest high mountain freshwater lakes in the world. We will stop at Sevanavank to visit the remnants of the monastery that include two temples (Surb Arakelots and Surb Astvtsatsin), standing among numerous khachkars (carved cross-stones). The buildings were constructed from black tuff which probably gave the monastery its name Sevanavank ‘the Black Monastery’. We continue to Yerevan for a two night stay.  
Lunch and dinner today are included.  
Accommodation: Double Tree By Hilton or similar

**15.09.20 Yerevan**

**(B/L/D)** Yerevan is the capital and largest city in Armenia. It is also one of the world’s oldest continually inhabited cities. We begin today with a city tour visiting the Cascade Monument, which provides panoramic views of the city, including the Opera House, Mount Ararat in nearby Turkey, Swan Lake, Republic Square and the Abovyan Street. We will visit the Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex on the hill of Tsitsernakaberd. We will drive to Garni to see the pagan temple, which is a unique masterpiece of Hellenistic architecture in Armenia. We will also visit the Geghardavank Monastery. Lunch and dinner today are included.  
Accommodation: Double Tree By Hilton or similar

**16.09.20 Yerevan – Mtskheta, Georgia - Tbilisi**

**(B/L/D)** Today we will drive back to Georgia. On our way to Tbilisi we will visit Mtskheta, one of the oldest towns in Georgia and considered its cultural and religious centre. We will visit Svetitskhoveli, the main cathedral of Mtskheta and a sacred place where the robe of Christ is kept. We will also visit Jvari Church, which is built on a hilltop and is a true architectural masterpiece of the early Medieval Period. Lunch today is included. This evening we enjoy dinner and a traditional folklore show.  
Accommodation: Hotel River Side or similar

**17.09.20 Tbilisi**

**(B/L/D)** After breakfast we will explore Tbilisi and visit the monument to Vakhtang

Gorgasali, the legendary founder of Tbilisi. We take the cable car to Narikala Fortress to enjoy a panoramic view of the city and walk down to the district of Sulphur bath houses. We stroll through the Sharden area full of narrow streets with cozy café's, wine tasting bars and souvenir shops. We will also see Sioni Cathedral, Anchiskhati Basilica and the clock tower of famous Rezo Gabriadze Theatre and cross the Bridge of Peace leading to Rike Park and visit the National Museum. Lunch and dinner today are included.

Accommodation: Hotel River Side or similar

**18.09.20 Tbilisi - Kutaisi**

**(B/L/D)**

Today we have a 3½ hour drive to Kutaisi. En route we stop in Gori and visit the Stalin Museum. The museum includes more than 60,000 artifacts, the tiny house where Stalin was born and impressive bulletproof train Stalin used to travel to Yalta and Potsdam. We will explore the cave town Uplistsikhe, dating back to Hellenistic Period and notable for the unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures and the co-existence of Pagan and Christian architecture together.

Lunch and dinner today are included.

Accommodation: Best Western Kutaisi or similar

**19.09.20 Kutaisi - Batumi**

**(B/L/D)**

This morning we depart on a 2½ hour drive to Batumi. On the way we will visit Gelati Monastery. This perfectly restored monument of Georgian architecture was the centre of spiritual and scientific life of the Middle Ages. We see the tomb of Georgian rulers, the cult place of pilgrims. In the afternoon, we will tour in Batumi and see Europe Square, Piazza Square, Alphabet Tower, and Ali & Nino Statue. Lunch and dinner today are included.

Accommodation: Wyndham Batumi or similar

**20.09.20 Batumi – Rize Province, Turkey**

**(B/D)**

Today we will visit the Gonio Fortress. This is the oldest fortress in Georgia and located 2km from Batumi in the village of Gonio, near the border with Turkey. The fortress was constructed in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries and functioned as a citadel of the Roman and afterwards Byzantian Empire. Afterwards we cross into Turkey from the border of Sarpi and drive to the Province of Rize for a two night stay.

Dinner this evening is included.

Accommodation: Ramada Plaza Rize or similar

**21.09.20 Camlihemsin**

**(B/D)**

Today we will explore Camlihemsin and visit Firtina Valley, Zilkale Castle, Senyuva Village, Palovit Waterfall, Pokut Highland and see the spectacular Kackar Mountains and traditional Black Sea lifestyle.

Dinner this evening is included.

Accommodation: Ramada Plaza Rize or similar

**22.09.20 Rize Province - Trabzon**

**(B/D)**

We travel along wooded coast of the Black Sea, following the coastline to Trabzon. The scenery on this drive is incredible. Trabzon is an ancient Silk Road Black Sea port with its recorded history dating back to 746 B.C. With lush, green vegetation throughout the region, this area is a very unique part of Turkey. Hazelnut and tea

plantations are the major contributors to this region's agricultural exports. The highlight of the day is the Sumela Monastery, which is from the Byzantine era. Dinner this evening is included.  
Accommodation: Usta Park Hotel or similar

**23.09.20 Trabzon - Istanbul**

**(B)**

Today we will fly to Istanbul.

In the afternoon we visit Dolmabahce Palace, which was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was the last residence of Ottoman Sultans. It has 365 rooms and 22 saloons, as well as a great collection of antiques and 4½ ton chandelier, originally sent by Queen Victoria. We will also take a private Bosphorus Cruise and sail through the heart of the city to observe a unique view of the Ottoman Palaces, fortresses, forested hills and Istanbul's magnificent skyline.

Accommodation: Ramada Hotel Old City or similar

**24.09.20 Istanbul**

**(B/D)**

Today we will visit the Topkapi Palace, first built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1453 and the home of the sultan until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Following this we visit St. Sophia, which was built by the Roman Emperor Justinian and was completed in 537 AD. For more than 1,000 years it was the largest Christian church in the world. Next we visit the Blue Mosque, which was commissioned by Sultan Ahmet in 1603 and was constructed with the deliberate intention of rivalling St. Sophia.

This evening we have an included farewell dinner to commemorate our time on tour.

Accommodation: Ramada Hotel Old City or similar

**25.09.20 Istanbul – Dubai**

**(B)**

This morning is at leisure in Istanbul, before being transferred to the airport for our flights home.

All passengers depart Istanbul at 4.30pm on EK 124, arriving in Dubai at 9.50pm.

**26.09.20 Dubai – Australia**

Sydney passengers depart Dubai at 2.15am on EK 414, arriving in Sydney at 10.05pm.

Brisbane passengers depart Dubai at 2.30am on EK 430, arriving in Brisbane at 10.20pm.

Melbourne passengers depart Dubai at 2.40am on EK 408, arriving in Melbourne at 9.50pm.



### Tour Difficulty Ratings & Advice

To ensure that you select the right tour for you, Macleay Valley Travel has provided a clear set of tour difficulty and fitness recommendations for our tours. The ratings, from 1, being the easiest, to 5 the most strenuous, will give you a good idea of what is reasonably required for you to be able to participate on each tour. Most tours require a moderate to good level of fitness, however there are others that are quite challenging. For your enjoyment of the tour, and also the enjoyment of your fellow travellers, please consider whether or not the suggested difficulty level for the tour you are interested in is compatible with your health and fitness.

1	2	3	4	5
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#### **Tour Difficulty Level 3**

This tour rating typically involves a good level of physical activity, such as ascending stairs, getting into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, walking distances of up to and over 500 metres at a time over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets. Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating as well as early departures. The weather at this time of the year should be hot.

## Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Caucasus & Black Sea Tour

**Deposits and Payments:** A non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable 10 weeks prior to departure. Macleay Valley Travel often has to adhere to strict payment deadlines and your booking on the tour may be cancelled if final payment is not received by the due date, with no refund applicable.

**Refunds and Cancellations:** Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

**Airline Tickets** - Please note that any changes made to airline tickets once they have been issued will likely incur high cancellation and/or reissue fees. These fees are typically set by the airline and are outside of our control.

**Insurance:** Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form. Until this time the travel insurance may not be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bare no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

**Passports:** All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. An Evisa is required for Turkey and must be obtained prior to travel at [www.evisa.gov.tr](http://www.evisa.gov.tr) Current cost is \$60 USD per person. An Evisa is required for Azerbaijan and must be obtained prior to travel at <https://evisa.gov.az/en> Current cost if USD \$23 per person. No other visas are required if travelling on an Australian passport.

**Basic Tour Price and Taxes:** Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

**Not Included in the Cost:** All items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals, (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. Also travel insurance. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa / MasterCard) can only be accepted if 1% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 2.75% surcharge for American Express.

**Breakaway Fee** - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations on this tour is \$145 per person, plus any increase in airfare and taxes. Please inquire with our office for prices on any tour extensions

**Accreditation** - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

**Twin Share Bookings** - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

**Health and Fitness** - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. The Health & Fitness Questionnaire located on the last page of this itinerary needs to be completed in full by each passenger and accompany your booking form. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

**Limitation of Liability** - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual.

Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

**MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM**

**PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO**

**A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM**

Name of Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger 1** (as written in passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger 2** (as written in passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **PostCode** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone / Fax Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

**Single room / Twin beds / Double bed:** (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Special Dietary Needs – Passenger 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Extensions: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

Any existing medical conditions – Passenger 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger 2: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person and the health & fitness form.

**DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name; If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.**

**HEALTH & FITNESS QUESTIONNAIRE**

Macleay Valley Travel strives to make our tours enjoyable experiences for all passengers, however some countries and tour services lack the standards that you can typically expect in Australia.

To help ensure your personal safety and enjoyment on tour, please answer the following questions. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to check that the transportation, accommodation and facilities on tour are suitable for you:

1. Do you have any allergies? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details and severity: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Can you walk 500 metres to 1km in distance comfortably and unaided? Yes / No
3. Can you negotiate uneven, undulating and sometimes challenging terrain? Yes / No  
If no, please provide details about these limitations: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are you taking any medical equipment to assist you? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are you asthmatic or do you have other breathing difficulties? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended): \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you require supplementary oxygen? Yes / No
10. Are you currently taking medication? Yes / No  
If yes, are you able to administer your own medication? Yes / No
11. If you have any other medical information that is not covered in the previous questions, please provide a description here: \_\_\_\_\_

The information you supply us will be passed onto relevant travel suppliers who will do their best accommodate you. However, it is very important to remember that meeting your needs cannot be guaranteed, especially when travelling to third world countries.

**DISCLAIMER**

I confirm that the information provided on this questionnaire is both true and correct and I understand that there is no guarantee that all these needs will or can be met. I agree that Macleay Valley Travel may offer a recommendation with regard to fitness to travel, based on the information I have provided. I also understand that this information may be passed onto those responsible for supplying the land arrangements for my travel, and that my information will not be communicated to any party which is not directly responsible or otherwise associated with my travel arrangements. I further confirm and agree that should I choose not to disclose information which subsequently requires me to return or be returned home from a tour or cruise, Macleay Valley Travel is not responsible for any costs associated with cancellation penalties, airfares, land transportation or any other related hardship. Please note that a refund for lost touring cannot be claimed. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to update the information I provided to Macleay Valley Travel immediately should my circumstances change.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_