

2019 WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS' FORUM

26 June - 4 July | Baku, Azerbaijan



VENUE:

Baku Congress Centre

<https://43whcbaku2019.az/en/forums/2>

<https://43whcbaku2019.az/fr/forums/2>

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on being selected for the 2019 World Heritage Site Managers' Forum. The forum is taking place in conjunction with the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee meeting that will convene from 30 June to 10 July 2019. The forum is committed to unite representatives from World Heritage properties around the globe who work at the heart of World Heritage procedures. This document aims to prepare you for your journey to Azerbaijan and prepare you for the work to be done within the forum.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FORUM

Working Language

The working language of the forum will be English.

Food

Lunches and dinners will be provided during the forum at the Congress Center in a buffet style.

Accommodation

The Boulevard Hotel Autograph Collection is the official accommodation hotel recommended for participants attending the WHSMF2019.

Boulevard Hotel Baku Autograph Collection

www.boulevardhotelbaku.com

Xaqani Rustamov Street 4C, Baku, AZ1052

Tel.: +994 12 310 00 10

Transportation during the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum

During the period of 26 - 29 June, shuttle bus service will be provided between the official hotel and the Congress Center. From 30 June onwards, all official hotels designated by the host country of Azerbaijan for the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee will be serviced with shuttle bus services to and from the Congress Center. Please access the following link for the full list of official hotels. <https://43whcbaku2019.az/en/accomodation>

The following are hotels nearby the Boulevard Hotel, which can also be serviced by the shuttle bus service during the period of 26 - 29 June.

Corniche Hotel Baku

<http://www.cornichehotelbaku.com>

20/C Nobel Ave, AZ1000 Baku, Azerbaijan

tel.: +99412489 08 68

Qafqaz Sahil Hotel

<https://qafqazhotels.com/en/hotels/qafqaz-sahil-hotel-baku>

Khagani Rustamov Street, Block 1210, AZ1025 Baku, Azerbaijan

tel.: +994124041470

Harmony Hotel

<https://www.harmonyhotel.az/en/about-us>

7C Khagani Rustamov St, AZ1025, Baku, Azerbaijan

tel.: +994124048070; +994507776555

Further information concerning transportation around the city and during the World Heritage Committee session can be found towards the end of this information pack in the section “Useful Information”.

Clothes and attire

The Site Managers’ Forum does not observe a strict dress code policy. Participants are encouraged to pursue a business casual attire and to bring field-work clothes for the days dedicated to excursions and field-observation.

Participants are recommended to bring formal clothes for the World Heritage Committee session, the Orientation session and the opening ceremony on 30 June.

What to bring

- Formal clothes for official events and opening ceremonies.
- Comfortable clothes and shoes for site visits.
- Medications for any chronic disease and allergies.
- Personal laptop if needed. No computers are available at the forum venue.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

- General Assembly of State Parties to the World Heritage Convention (2015) Resolution 20 GA 13. [Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention](#)
- UNESCO (2019). [World Heritage and Sustainable Development](#)
- UNESCO, United Nations Foundation and IUCN (2008). World Heritage Paper No. 23, [Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit, Assessing management effectiveness of natural World Heritage sites.](#)

REGISTRATION FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

All participants are requested to register to attend the World Heritage Committee as part of the Site Managers’ Forum. Registration must be completed online through this website <https://43whcbaku2019.az/en/> and is a separate process from confirming your attendance to the Site Managers’ Forum. The registration code to be used is **BAKU43SMF**.

VISA PROCESS AND OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION

Passport and visa requirements

All participants to the Site Managers' Forum are encouraged to consult Section 7 (page 8) of Document WHC/19/43.COM/INF.1, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/document/173053>, for the relevant information regarding passport and visa requirements.

Travel to Azerbaijan and to Baku

To assist participants attending the Site Managers' Forum, a clearly indicated airport welcome desk will be set up at the Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport from 20 June 2019 for Committee participants.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DATE	THEMES OF THE DAY
26 June - arrivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 18:00 Opening of Site Managers' Forum
27 June - Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Opening session of the Forum● Principles and Objectives of the World Heritage Convention● Methodologies and Tools of Monitoring of World Heritage (Part 1)● World Heritage Management in Azerbaijan
28 June - Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Integration of a Sustainable Development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention● Methodologies and Tools of Monitoring of World Heritage (Part 2)● Site Visit to the Walled City of Baku
29 June - Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enhancing the effectiveness of World Heritage management● Joint session with the Young Professionals Forum
30 June - Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Towards the Forum's Statement (part 1)● World Heritage Committee Orientation session● Official opening of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee
1 July - Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increasing resilience of heritage sites in the face of change● Towards the Forum's Statement (part 2)
2 July - Day 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Committee session attendance - Presentation of the outcomes of the Forum to the Committee in Plenary
3 July - Day 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Committee session attendance
4 July - Day 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Committee session attendance

ABOUT AZERBAIJAN

The Republic of Azerbaijan is located in the Caucasus region of Eurasia. Its capital, Baku, sits on the Caspian Sea and the country is bordered by Armenia, Georgia, Iran and Russia. The official language is Azerbaijani, but there are an additional dozen minority languages spoken throughout the country.

<https://azerbaijan.travel/>

Azerbaijan has two sites on the World Heritage List:

1. Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape
2. Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower

During the time of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee meeting, participants will have opportunity to participate in complimentary guided tours of the cultural and natural heritage sites as well as some other destinations in Azerbaijan (Qabala, Quba and Shaki tours). Information about tours and timing are available at <https://43whcbaku2019.az/en/tours/>, registration for tours will also be possible at the tours desk located at venue of the World Heritage Committee meeting. Please note that the availability for each tour is limited.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Local currency and money exchange

The official currency of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan is the *Azerbaijani Manat (AZN)*, which is available in the following denominations: banknotes in circulation are 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 manat and coins in circulation are 1, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 50 qepiks. Currency rates can be checked at www.cbar.az.

Cash machines (ATMs) are available throughout Baku, accepting major credit and bank cards (preferably Mastercard and Visa). It is usually possible to withdraw both Azerbaijani Manat (AZN) and US Dollars (USD).

Banks and banking institutions close at 4:00pm in the afternoon and cash exchange services are normally open until later in the evening.

Time zone

Azerbaijan Time (AZT) is 4 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (**GMT/UTC +4**). The sun rises around 5:10am and sets approximately at 8:10pm.

Transportation

From 30 June 2019 onwards **free transportation** is available to participants upon showing their registration badge on officially designated event buses. These buses will be available between the airport and session venue (Baku Congress Centre) and additionally between the recommended hotels and the Baku Congress Centre. However, this will not apply during the period of 26-29 June 2019. Only transportation to and from the official hotel will be provided during this period.

Baku has **public transportation** through Baku Metro. It is open each day from 6:00 to 24:00. More

information can be found through their website: <http://www.metro.gov.az/en/>.

Opening Hours

Shops and businesses are generally open from 9:00am to 7:00pm. On Sundays and at times on Saturdays shops might be closed. Supermarkets are usually open all week until late evening around 11:00 pm. Restaurants, bakery and cafés are open all week.

Weather and temperatures

Baku has a characteristic subtropical semi-arid climate with warm and dry summers, cool and occasionally wet winters, and strong winds all year long. However, unlike many other cities with this climate, Baku does not see extremely hot summers. This is largely because of its northerly latitude and the fact that it is located on a peninsula on the shore of the Caspian Sea.

At the same time Baku is noted as a very windy city throughout the year, and gale-force winds, the cold northern wind khazri and the warm southern wind gilavar are typical here in all seasons. **The daily temperature in June and July can fluctuate between 23.5° C (74.3° F) and 26.4° C (79.5° F).**

Electricity supply and power plugs/sockets

Electricity in Azerbaijan is of the standard voltage of **220V**, with a frequency of **50hz**. If the standard voltage in your home country is in the range of 100 V - 127 V (which could be the case for participants coming from USA, Canada and most South American countries), you will be needing a voltage converter. Power plugs and sockets are of **type C and F**.

Emergency numbers

Police Station: 102

Fire Station: 101

Medical Emergency: 103

Taxi: 189

SITE MANAGERS' FORUM CONTACT INFORMATION

For any further information and/or clarification you can contact the organizers of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum via email at w.heritage.site.managers.forum@gmail.com

Organizers:

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan | Head of International Projects and Innovations

Ramil Abbakirov

ICCROM | Programme Coordinator - World Heritage Leadership Programme

Eugene Jo

UNESCO World Heritage Centre | Policy & Statutory Meetings Unit

Richard Veillon