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## Journey of the Flame
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Patrick Hickey
President, European Olympic Committees

“The first European Games flame will travel the length and breadth of Azerbaijan, lighting the way to the Games”

The Baku 2015 Torch Relay marks a defining moment for European sport. The first European Games flame will travel the length and breadth of Azerbaijan, lighting the way to the Games, until the final torchbearer enters the Olympic Stadium for the Opening Ceremony on 12 June.

The torch is a symbol that comes down to us from Ancient Greece. The Baku 2015 Torch Relay allows us to honour that spirit as we help to launch Europe’s own sporting tradition, which will contribute to strengthening the global Olympic Movement.

Thanks to these European Games, our continent is taking its place as a fully represented member of the global Olympic fraternity.

Twelve of the Baku 2015 sports will offer qualification opportunities to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, bringing Europe into step with the rest of the sporting world. Moreover, Europe’s people will benefit from the transformative power of sport, as successive host cities build on the great legacy the first European Games will provide, ensuring the Baku 2015 flame will continue to burn brightly for many years to come.

The European Olympic Committees have long held a dream of bringing the continent together for a celebration of sport, friendship and unity to inspire the whole continent. Europe is the home of the Olympic Movement yet, until now, the continent has never had its own multi-sport event.
“The torch relay will inspire our people and share their warmth, and our nation’s natural beauty, with the world”

In the coming weeks, the Baku 2015 Flame will illuminate every corner of Azerbaijan on its journey throughout the country.

From the Flame Capture Ceremony at the sacred Ateshgah Temple and onward through all 60 regions, the first European Games Torch Relay will inspire our people and share their warmth, and our nation’s natural beauty, with the world.

Fire has always represented passion and energy. For the early inhabitants of Azerbaijan, it also had a deep spiritual significance. The torch relay will bring the spirit of the European Games into every corner of Azerbaijan, as our torchbearers bring the flame to within one hour of 99% of our population. It will shine a light on our country and what we have to offer the world.

As representatives of the world’s media, you will be a key part of the Baku 2015 Flame’s progress through Azerbaijan, helping to spread the message of the first European Games.

I invite you to join us on the final stage of this journey to Baku 2015 and to experience for yourselves the inspiration the Games will bring.
“Hosting Games on this scale has been an unprecedented undertaking for Azerbaijan, but one we have approached with dedication”

Through our preparations to stage the Baku 2015 Games, we have challenged ourselves as a nation and united in our commitment to stage an event worthy of the start of a new European tradition.

Hosting Games on this scale has been an unprecedented undertaking for Azerbaijan, but one we have approached with dedication and a desire to surpass expectations at every turn.

Anticipation has been building since Baku was awarded the Games, and the torch relay will sustain the momentum achieved so far by involving and inspiring the whole country. This extraordinary tour around Azerbaijan will showcase the country’s diversity, taking in historical, natural, sporting and cultural highlights.

The flame will be a beacon for Europe’s athletes, beckoning them to Baku for the first European Games. Carrying it will be the torchbearers, chosen in recognition of their contribution to Azerbaijani society and relevance to Baku 2015. They include athletes, celebrities, politicians and individuals deserving of recognition for their work in the community.

We will soon have the privilege of welcoming 6,000 of Europe’s finest athletes and their supporters to our capital city, to compete in 253 medal events across 20 sports. Before that, the first European Games Torch Relay will touch the hearts of millions, bringing Baku 2015 to the whole country.
Welcome to Azerbaijan

The largest country in the Caucasus region, Azerbaijan is located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe. It shares borders with Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Turkey and Iran. While its eastern coastline is bounded by the Caspian Sea – the world’s largest enclosed inland body of water.

A land of plentiful natural resources, centuries-old culture and deeply-engrained hospitality, Azerbaijan has always played a vital role in the region.

It’s a nexus of ancient historical empires. But also a new nation – independent since 1991 – and a youthful country, with 40% of the 9.5 million population aged under 25.

It’s been known for its oil springs and natural gas sources since ancient times, when Zoroastrians (for whom fire is an important symbol) erected temples around burning gas vents in the ground.

Azerbaijan enjoys a booming economy that achieved the second highest GDP growth in the world between 2000 and 2010. The boom is largely driven by natural resources, but there’s also a strong maritime tradition and growing agriculture and tourism industries.

Nine out of 11 climate zones are present in Azerbaijan – from subtropics to alpine mountains. At the extremes, temperatures can reach 46°C and drop as low as -33°C.

Food is deeply rooted in the history, traditions and values of the nation. Aside from wonderful soups and kebabs, one of the most widespread dishes is the rice-based plov. Pomegranates (‘nar’) are also a feature of the cuisine. As a symbol of unity in Azerbaijani folklore, they can be seen everywhere – even one of the Baku 2015 mascots takes the form of a pomegranate.

The cosmopolitan capital, Baku, sits on the shore of the Caspian Sea surrounded by semi-desert. Its Unesco-listed Old City is ringed by burgeoning new skyscrapers yet, barely a few hours’ drive away, timeless rural villages are backed by the soaring Caucasus mountains.

Major events coming up in Azerbaijan

The Baku European Grand Prix 2016 will see Formula One cars racing through the streets of Baku.

Athletes from more than 50 countries will gather in Azerbaijan for the Islamic Solidarity Games 2017.

Three group stage football matches and a quarter-final of the UEFA European Championships 2020 will be played at the Olympic Stadium.
Baku 2015
European Games

In December 2012, Baku was announced as the host city for the first-ever European Games – an exciting and innovative multi-sport event for the continent.

The Games mark a historic moment for European sport, and for Azerbaijan it will be a milestone in the country’s progress as an independent, forward-looking member of the European family.

The Opening Ceremony will be held in the newly-built Olympic Stadium on Friday 12 June, and the following 17 days will see more than 6,000 athletes competing in 253 medal events.

There will be a total of 20 sports, including four exciting non-Olympic ones – 3x3 Basketball, Beach Soccer, Karate and Sambo.

Eleven sports offer qualification opportunities for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games – Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Cycling, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Triathlon, Volleyball and Wrestling.

Azerbaijan has always had a passion for sport and its investment in the Games will pay dividends in the future as the country hosts further events, such as the 2016 Formula One European Grand Prix, the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games, and UEFA Euro 2020 football matches.

Part of the lasting legacy will be to help educate and inform Azerbaijan’s younger generation (40% of the population are aged under 25) about the sporting world and major event management – invaluable skills in shaping the country’s future.

European Olympic Committees
The idea to formally bring together European Olympic Committees (EOC) began in 1967. Today, led by President Patrick Hickey, the EOC pursues the objectives of the Olympic Charter and develops programmes and activities geared to the specific needs of its 50 member nations.

Flamekeepers
In tribute to Azerbaijan ‘land of fire’ and the passion and warmth of its people, volunteers at Baku 2015 are called ‘Flamekeepers’.

More than 18,000 Flamekeepers will take on a wide variety of roles (there are 124 across 30 different functions): from welcoming visitors to transporting athletes, helping out behind-the-scenes and making sure the results get displayed as quickly as possible.

The Gilan Textile Park will produce 110,000 uniform items for the Flamekeepers to wear.

Games Academy
The Baku 2015 Games Academy is an innovative and impactful learning programme that’s been developed to build the skills and knowledge required to deliver the European Games and leave a lasting legacy in Azerbaijan.

Participants include students who graduated from universities in Azerbaijan in the last five years and a selection from the 50 EOC nations. Intensive training covers the core knowledge and skills needed to deliver large, complex projects; plus real hands-on practical experience and mentoring by experienced members of the BEGOC team.

FACTS & STATS
17 competition days
18 venues
20 sports
50 European Olympic Committees
253 medal events
6,147 athletes
Ceremonies
and Culture
Programme

Opening Ceremony
Friday 12 June

Artistic Director, Dimitris Papaioannou’s Opening Ceremony will tell a universal human story using elemental Azerbaijani ingredients in a way that is contemporary, inventive and playful, but always respectful of the culture’s enormous richness and depth.

Closing Ceremony
Sunday 28 June

Artistic Director, James Hadley’s Closing Ceremony will explore the union of traditional and modern Azerbaijani culture. We’ll see how the past is shaping the present and influencing the future. And celebrate the achievements of the athletes, the success of these inaugural Games, and pass the baton on to the next host city.

Culture Programme
1–30 June

Baku has an exceptional and diverse mix of cultural venues, ranging from the bold and modern Heydar Aliyev Centre to the grand and ornate State Opera and Ballet Theatre, and a wealth of other concert halls, theatres, museums, cinemas and galleries. To tie-in with the Baku 2015 European Games, an exciting programme of events has been programmed throughout June, including opera, ballet, theatre, film and visual arts.

For more information on Ceremonies and the Culture Programme visit www.baku2015.com
Journey of the Flame

OVERVIEW
The Journey of the Flame will build momentum and excitement in the lead up to the first-ever European Games. It will help set the tone for what’s to come and capture the attention of the world.

In a celebration of Azerbaijan’s extraordinary landscape, culture and heritage, the flame will travel the length and breadth of the country, spreading the spirit of the Games and warming the hearts of people in all 60 regions.

On Sunday 26 April, the flame will be captured from the earth at Ateshgah, an ancient and sacred temple on the outskirts of Baku, and travel nearly 5,500km before the cauldron is lit at the Opening Ceremony on 12 June – 47 days later.

The torch will come within an hour’s travelling time of 99% of the Azerbaijani population and thousands of people are expected to join in the daily celebrations along the route.

Local authorities nominated torchbearers and the Baku European Games Organising Committee (BEGOC) made a final selection. There are more than 1,000 torchbearers in total.

Baku 2015 Ambassadors will take part in relays in Baku and selected events around the country.

The torch will be transported over ground by bus, funicular railway, bicycle and Karabakh horse; underground on the Baku metro; on water by boat; and in the air by plane.

### Key points

- The Journey of the Flame will build momentum and excitement in the lead up to the first-ever European Games. It will help set the tone for what’s to come and capture the attention of the world.
- In a celebration of Azerbaijan’s extraordinary landscape, culture and heritage, the flame will travel the length and breadth of the country, spreading the spirit of the Games and warming the hearts of people in all 60 regions.
- On Sunday 26 April, the flame will be captured from the earth at Ateshgah, an ancient and sacred temple on the outskirts of Baku, and travel nearly 5,500km before the cauldron is lit at the Opening Ceremony on 12 June – 47 days later.
- The torch will come within an hour’s travelling time of 99% of the Azerbaijani population and thousands of people are expected to join in the daily celebrations along the route.
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- The torch will be transported over ground by bus, funicular railway, bicycle and Karabakh horse; underground on the Baku metro; on water by boat; and in the air by plane.

### Visit top sporting facilities...
- Football stadium in Imishli.
- Chess centre in Jalilabad.
- Six European Games venues in Baku.

### Get to know the country’s culture...
- Diri Baba, a 14th century temple in Gobustan.
- Sheri Bazaar, a medieval street with amphitheatre in Gakh.
- (What’s said to be) the Tomb of the Prophet Noah in Nakhchivan.
- Museum of Modern Art and Heydar Aliyev Centre in Baku.
- Khizi, birthplace of poet and playwright, Jafar Jabbarly.
- The tambur, a traditional Azerbaijani musical instrument, in Balaken.
- Shadbak Mountain in Gusar.
- River Kura in Mingachevir.
- Chestnut forests in Gabala.
- Pomegranate plantation in Goychay.
- Sturgeon fish farm in Neftchala.
- Traditional Azerbaijani tea in Oghuz.

### Facts & Stats

- 1 flame
- 48 days
- 61 locations
- 1,000+ torchbearers
- 5,500 kilometres

### Marvel at the breathtaking landscape...
- Museum of Modern Art and Heydar Aliyev Centre in Baku.
- Khizi, birthplace of poet and playwright, Jafar Jabbarly.
- The tambur, a traditional Azerbaijani musical instrument, in Balaken.
- Shadbak Mountain in Gusar.
- River Kura in Mingachevir.
- Chestnut forests in Gabala.

### Learn more about the country’s culture...
- Museum of Modern Art and Heydar Aliyev Centre in Baku.
- Khizi, birthplace of poet and playwright, Jafar Jabbarly.
- The tambur, a traditional Azerbaijani musical instrument, in Balaken.
The torch, lamp and Journey cauldron were art directed by Yarat and designed by Sebastian Bergne. They’re beautifully designed, engineered and crafted using materials and techniques inspired by traditional Azerbaijani metalwork.

Yarat (meaning ‘create’) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to nurturing an understanding of contemporary art in Azerbaijan and creating a platform for Azerbaijani art, both nationally and internationally.

Sebastian Bergne’s talent for industrial design has been recognised with international awards and inclusion in collections at The Museum of Modern Art, New York and Design Museum, London. His British/German heritage and early years in the Middle East have informed his sensitive approach to cultural projects.

**Torch**

Measuring 660mm high, the body of the torch features a pomegranate tree, echoing the Baku 2015 brand. The copper head that protects the flame is also in the form of a pomegranate – its 50 pips representing the number of nations participating in the Games.

**Lamp**

At each location, the flame will be transferred to a lamp (based on a traditional Azerbaijani design) that will be prominently displayed and remain alight until the cauldron is extinguished at the Closing Ceremony on 28 June.

**Journey cauldron**

At each location, there will be a ceremonial lighting of the Journey cauldron – an elegant shallow bowl sitting on a lattice of brass rods.
## Schedule at a glance

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Capturing the Flame
Sunday 26 April
The Baku 2015 European Games Flame will be captured from the earth at Ateshgah, an ancient and sacred temple on the outskirts of Baku. One of Azerbaijan’s most remarkable landmarks, it stands on a site renowned for its naturally occurring flames, sacred to Zoroastrian fire worshippers for centuries.

Journey of the Flame
Monday 27 April – Saturday 6 June
In a celebration of Azerbaijan’s extraordinary landscape, culture and heritage, the flame will travel the length and breadth of the country, spreading the spirit of the Games and warming the hearts of people in all 60 regions.

Relay and torchbearers
There will be a relay of up to 4km at each location, finishing at the point where the Festival of Fire/Welcome Ceremony takes place. There are more than 1,000 torchbearers in total, including many nominated by local authorities plus Baku 2015 Ambassadors.

Festival of Fire
Free evening events at 15 locations will bring together thousands of people to be part of the festivities. Each event will include a specially created ‘fire show’ (see overleaf), plus performances by local artists, a speech by the Governor and ceremonial lighting of the Journey cauldron.

Welcome Ceremony
Forty-four smaller events will unite locals in celebrating the Baku 2015 European Games. Each event will conclude with a speech by the Governor and ceremonial lighting of the Journey cauldron.

Lighting the Way to the Games
At each location, the flame will be transferred to a lamp that will be displayed prominently and remain alight until the cauldron is extinguished at the Closing Ceremony on 28 June. As the Journey unfolds, the entire country will light up – Lighting the Way to the Games.

The Flame in Baku
Sunday 7 – Thursday 11 June
From Freedom Square to Flag Square... five days of spectacular events showcasing all that Baku has to offer.

Opening Ceremony
Friday 12 June
When the flame arrives at the Olympic Stadium for the Opening Ceremony it will have travelled nearly 5,500km, been carried by more than 1,000 torchbearers across all 60 regions, and come within an hour’s travelling time of 99% of the population. Lighting the Baku 2015 Cauldron marks the official opening of the first-ever European Games.

There will be photo and filming opportunities at each location on the Journey. For filming in Baku, please refer to the ‘City Filming Guide’ on the media extranet.
A spectacular fire show has been specially created for presentation at the Festivals of Fire

Set many centuries ago in the sacred land of Azerbaijan – ‘land of fire’ – the show tells the story of a boy and a girl, good and evil, truth and lies. There’s Zoroastrianism, Novruz, mystic rituals, love, birth, passion and, most importantly, lots of fire.

Dramatic music combines with thrilling visual effects to intensify the drama and create an unforgettable experience, full of energy and athleticism.

The show is conceived and performed by Proty Nochi who specialise in creating unique shows with fire and light.

Singer Farid Mammadov was born in Baku. He was raised on traditional mugham music, but also counts soul, jazz and pop among his musical influences. He represented Azerbaijan at the 2013 Eurovision Song Contest.

Master of Ceremonies, Tural Asadov is a well-known Azerbaijani TV host, producer and media personality.

Duration: 16 minutes
Ateshgah Temple

Ateshgah is about 30km east of Baku, in the suburb of Surakhani.

The unique Ateshgah Temple is one of Azerbaijan’s most remarkable locations. It stands on a site renowned for its naturally occurring flames, sacred to Zoroastrian fire worshippers for centuries. The present temple was built by 18th-century Indian Shiva devotees and has a flaming stone hearth at its centre.

In Ancient Greece, the Olympic Flame was kindled from the rays of the sun. For the first European Games, we’re capturing the flame from the earth. What could be more appropriate in Azerbaijan, ‘land of fire’.
Nakhchivan

Festival of Fire
19:45  Torch relay
20:45  Festival of Fire, Heydar Aliyev Square
22:05  Ends

About the location
Population: 89,500
This cradle of Azerbaijani culture and history is now a disconnected lozenge of Azerbaijan, wedged between Armenia and Iran. Historical monuments and villages are dotted around a landscape of deserts and melon fields rimmed by craggy mountains. Heydar Aliyev (1923-2003), national leader of Azerbaijan, was born in Nakhchivan. As were Jalil Mammadguluzadeh (satirist and writer) and Huseyn Javid (poet and playwright).

Photo opportunities
• Tomb of the Prophet Noah: said to be the burial location of Noah.
• Duzdag Salt Mine: an old mine that’s used today as a treatment centre for respiratory ailments.
• Ashabi Kahf: a famous Islamic holy site set in a picturesque mountain canyon.

Lankaran

Festival of Fire
19:45  Torch relay
20:45  Festival of Fire, Heydar Aliyev Memorial Park
22:05  Ends

About the location
Population: 221,000
Azerbaijan’s fourth largest city sits between the Caspian Sea and Talysh mountains. With impressive architecture and beautiful landscapes, it’s one of the country’s most attractive cities. The area is celebrated for its tea, but the subtropical climate is also ideal for growing citrus fruits and vegetables.

Photo opportunities
• Tea plantation: tea is important to Lankaran, both economically and culturally. The idea of growing tea was first raised in the 1880s, when farmers realised that the warm and humid climate, rich soil and surrounding mountains were ideal conditions for cultivation.
• Samovar: a huge samovar greets visitors at the entrance to the town.
• Mayak Lighthouse: linked to the fortress where it’s believed Stalin escaped imprisonment through a secret underground tunnel.
Lerik

Welcome Ceremony
11:00  Torch relay
12:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square
12:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 80,800
Lerik lies high in the picturesque Talysh mountains, where the clean air promotes long life. When local shepherd Shirali Muslimov died in 1973 he was said to be 168. The mountain rivers are rich in the raw materials used in the construction industry. Locals are also employed in farming, carpet weaving, blacksmithing and carpentry.

Photo opportunities
• The Museum of Long Livers: the town has more centurions than any other in Azerbaijan and has a museum to celebrate them.
• Thyme fields: the herb has medicinal properties and is commonly used in tea.

Astara

Welcome Ceremony
17:00  Torch relay
18:00  Welcome Ceremony, Bulvar Park
18:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 104,000
Astara is on the southern tip of Azerbaijan on the Lankaran plain. The region’s black sand beaches on the Caspian to the east, forests and springs to the west, and subtropical climate make it an attractive year-round resort.

Photo opportunities
• Bee keeping: bees kept in an area of linden trees, produce the famous mountain honey the region is known for.
• Burning spring: sulphurous water is extracted from the ground at the Archivan settlement in the region.
**Yardimli**

**Welcome Ceremony**
11:00  Torch relay
12:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square
12:30  Ends

**About the location**
Population: 63,400
Limestone and marble are found in the region.

**Photo opportunities**
- Takdam waterfall: a two-level waterfall with magnificent views from the top.
- Peshtasar mountains.

**Masalli**

**Welcome Ceremony**
17:00  Torch relay
18:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square
18:30  Ends

**About the location**
Population: 215,500
Located in the south of the country, Masalli is known for its subtropical climate, azure beaches and abundance of hot springs. Vegetables, citrus fruits, and tea are all grown in the area.

**Photo opportunities**
- Istitu thermal spring: deep in the forest, surrounded by waterfalls, Istitu (literally 'hot water') has long been a place of pilgrimage for people seeking relaxation and therapeutic qualities of the water.
**Bilesuvar**

**Welcome Ceremony**
- **13:00** Torch relay
- **14:00** Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square
- **14:30** Ends

**About the location**
Population: 97,300
Situated to the south of the Mugan plain, the warm and arid climate makes the area famous for cotton and grain.

**Photo opportunities**
- Flag Square.

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**Jalilabad**

**Festival of Fire**
- **19:00** Torch relay
- **20:00** Festival of Fire, Heydar Aliyev Square
- **21:20** Ends

**About the location**
Population: 209,000
Jalilabad’s dry and mild climate makes it ideal for growing wheat, vegetables and, particularly, grapes for which the region is renowned. The area’s long history is evidenced by the discovery of ancient settlements, dating back to the Bronze Age.

**Photo opportunities**
- Chess centre: a new centre of excellence to encourage locals to take up the sport.
Salyan

**Welcome Ceremony**
12:00  Torch relay
13:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
13:30  Ends

**About the location**
Population: 132,000

Known as the ‘gate to the south’, Salyan is in a sub-tropical area with a dry, desert climate. It was the birthplace of Ali bey Huseynzade (1864–1940), a noted writer, philosopher, artist, doctor and creator of the modern flag of Azerbaijan.

**Photo opportunities**
- Heydar Aliyev Park.

Neftchala

**Welcome Ceremony**
16:00  Torch relay
17:00  Welcome Ceremony, Flag Square
17:30  Ends

**About the location**
Population: 84,900

The Kura is the largest river in the Caucasus. It rises on the slopes of Mount Kısırindağı in north east Turkey, meanders through Georgia and finally enters the Caspian Sea 1,364 km later at Neftchala. The region is famous for black caviar and sturgeon.

**Photo opportunities**
- Sturgeon fish farm: the Caspian Sea accounts for 80% of the world’s sturgeon reserves. This large fish farm is integral to Azerbaijan’s fishing and caviar industries.
- River Kura: sail along part of Azerbaijan’s longest river (1,500km).
Shirvan

**Welcome Ceremony**

14:00  Torch relay  
15:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square  
15:30  Ends

**About the location**  
Population: 83,000  
Situated on the Kura river, Shirvan is in an area of semi-desert with a dry subtropical climate. It’s known for its manufacturing and energy industries.

**Photo opportunities**  
- Shirvan National Park: 55,000 hectares of semi-desert devoted to the conservation of indigenous flora and fauna, including 65 varieties of birds and goitered gazelles (on the Red List of endangered species).

Hajigabul

**Welcome Ceremony**

17:00  Torch relay  
18:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park  
18:30  Ends

**About the location**  
Population: 71,540  
Situated on the Shirvan plain, most of the region is below sea level. The climate and geography are ideal for dairy farming and growing vegetables, fruit, grain and cotton.

**Photo opportunities**  
- A new high school built with funding from the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.
Saatli

Welcome Ceremony
15:00  Torch relay
16:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
16:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 101,800
Saatli’s location on the Araz river has made it known for its fishing industry. Cotton weaving, horticulture and cattle-breeding have also developed in the region.

Photo opportunities
- Sunset on the River Araz.

Sabirabad

Festival of Fire
19:10  Torch relay
20:10  Festival of Fire, Heydar Aliyev Park
21:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 167,400
The region is known for its agricultural industries, particularly tomatoes and watermelon. Sabirabad takes its name from Mirza Alakbar Sabir (1862–1911), a renowned philosopher, teacher and poet-innovator.

Photo opportunities
- Tomato greenhouses: the largest in the country.
- Kura and Aras rivers: the meeting point of the country’s two largest rivers.
Imishli

Welcome Ceremony
12:00 Torch relay
13:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
13:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 123,650
Imishli is in the lowland plains between the Kura and Araz rivers. A temperate, dry climate contributes to well developed agriculture and livestock industries.

Photo opportunities
• Sugar factory: the only one in the Caucasus. Specialises in producing sugar beetroot.
• Football stadium: the largest in the region, home to FK MKT Araz Imishli.

Horadiz town, Fizuli

Festival of Fire
19:10 Torch relay
20:10 Festival of Fire, Heydar Aliyev Park
21:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 124,400
This agricultural region stretches between the south-eastern foothills of the Caucasian mountains and the Araz river lowlands.

Photo opportunities
• Flag Square.
• Amphitheatre.
**Beylagan**

**Welcome Ceremony**
12:00 Torch relay
13:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
13:30 Ends

**About the location**
Population: 95,000
Beylagan is in the south-west of the country, in the lowlands between the Kura and Araz rivers. Industries include cotton processing and bakery factories. The revered 12th century poet, Mujiraddin Beylagani was born in the region.

**Photo opportunities**
- Sports stadium: Soviet period stadium, recently modernised.
- Chess centre: one of the most popular sports in Azerbaijan, in recent years chess has developed under a state-supported development programme.

**Yeni Khojavend settlement, Beylagan**

**Welcome Ceremony**
16:00 Torch relay
17:00 Welcome Ceremony, Flag Square
17:30 Ends

**About the location**
Population: 42,800
Yeni Khojavend settlement is a small, new town close to the disputed Karabakh region that Azerbaijan won back from Armenia in 1994. The area is famous for its grapes and green marble.

**Photo opportunities**
- Nargiz-Tepe: a hugely important site with a number of ancient monuments largely destroyed by fires in an ongoing battle with Armenia over the territory. A plaque shows the names of soldiers who died during the hostilities.
Agjabedi

Welcome Ceremony
14:00 Torch relay
15:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square
15:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 130,400
The warm, lowlands of Agjabedi are ideal for cattle, goat and sheep farming. Uzeyir Hajibeyov (1885–1948), recognised as the father of Azerbaijani classical music and opera, was born here.

Photo opportunities
- Uzeyir Park: both the park and mugham centre within it are named after the renowned composer, Uzeyir Hajibeyov.

Guzanli village, Agdam

Festival of Fire
19:10 Torch relay
20:10 Festival of Fire, Heydar Aliyev Square
21:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 191,000
Agdam, meaning ‘white house’, is an ancient and magnificent area in the centre of Karabakh. Mugham is an important part of the region’s musical heritage.

Photo opportunities
- Karabakh horses: an official symbol of the Agdam and Shaki regions, Karabakh horses have played an important part in Azerbaijani history and culture. The breed is noted for its good temper and speed.
- Baku 2015 Ambassadors will join celebrations to mark Heydar Aliyev’s birthday.
Zardab

Welcome Ceremony
11:00    Torch relay
12:00    Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
12:30    Ends

About the location
Population: 56,300
Situated in the Shirvan plain, with a dry sub-tropical climate, the main industry in the region is agriculture.

Photo opportunities
• Home of Hasan bey Zerdabi: founder of the first Azerbaijani-language newspaper, Akinchi (The Ploughman) in 1875, and regarded as a pioneer of modern Azerbaijani journalism.
• Sailing on the river Kura River.

Terter

Welcome Ceremony
17:00    Torch relay
18:00    Welcome Ceremony, Main Square
18:30    Ends

About the location
Population: 101,800
Located in the north-eastern foothills of the Lesser Caucasus, rivers in the region are a rich source of raw materials for the construction industry.

Photo opportunities
• Terter Cultural Center.
Yevlakh

Welcome Ceremony
14:00 Torch relay
15:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square
15:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 125,000
On the right bank of the Kura River, the region has a rich, fertile soil. Local industries include brickworks and concrete, clothing and leather. Yevlakh city has a 2.5km boulevard along the river bank.

Photo opportunities
• Views from the boulevard along the River Kura.

Bard a

Festival of Fire
19:10 Torch relay
20:10 Festival of Fire, Central Square
21:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 149,500
Agriculture is the main activity in the area. The local economy is based on the production and processing of cotton, silk, poultry and dairy products.

Photo opportunities
• Remains of a 7th century bridge over the Terter River.
• Remains of a 5th century fort and 14th century tombs.
• Arts school for 8-16 year olds, specialising in dance, music and painting.
• Cycle route through Heydar Aliyev Park.
**Goranboy**

**Welcome Ceremony**

15:00 Torch relay  
16:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park  
16:30 Ends

**About the location**

Population: 100,200  
Situated in the foothills of the Lesser Caucasus. The region is known for producing construction materials and household goods made of gypsum, which is mined in the area, as well as for growing quince, persimmons, grapes and apricots.

**Photo opportunities**

- Heydar Aliyev Centre: a new centre for the community.

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**Naftalan**

**Welcome Ceremony**

17:00 Torch relay  
18:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park  
18:30 Ends

**About the location**

Population: 9,600  
A burgeoning resort destination, numerous spas in the town offer treatments using Naftalan oil, a substance unique to the area that it’s claimed has therapeutic properties. In the 13th century, on his journey from Venice to China, Marco Polo stopped in Naftalan and noted that the local oil was an effective treatment for both human and animal skin conditions.

**Photo opportunities**

- Town centre: an attractive tree-lined resort.
Goygol

Welcome Ceremony

15:00  Torch relay
16:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
16:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 61,500

Goygol (formerly Elenendorf) was founded by German colonists in 1819. Traces of its heritage can be seen in buildings across the town. The region is home to one of the country's largest vineyards and has a long history of producing wine – archeologists have found jars with remains of wine dating back to 2000 BC.

Photo opportunities
- Flag Square: magnificent views overlooking the mountains.
- German church: built by settlers in 1854.

Ganja

Festival of fire

19:20  Torch relay
20:20  Festival of Fire, Heydar Aliyev Park
21:40  Ends

About the location
Population: 327,600

Azerbaijan's second largest city has a rich cultural heritage. Ganja is European Youth Capital 2016, when it will focus on volunteering, youth employment, social cohesion, active participation and education.

Photo opportunities
- Nizami Ganjavi Mausoleum: Ganja is the birthplace and resting place of Nizami (1141–1209), considered the greatest romantic poet in Persian literature.
- Bottle House: a quirky local icon built in 1966 by Ibrahim Jafarov in honour of his brother who went missing during World War II. Apparently constructed entirely of glass bottles, nearly 50,000 of them create mosaics on every square inch of the building.
- Khan’s Garden: one of Azerbaijan's oldest parks, featuring an incomparable diversity of trees and plants.
**Dashkasan**

**Welcome Ceremony**

12:30  Torch relay  
13:30  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square  
14:00  Ends

**About the location**

Population: 34,082  
Dashkasan is rich in natural resources and sits in one of the country’s most significant mining areas. Iron ore, gold, copper, cobalt, aluminum, limestone and marble can all be found in the region.

**Photo opportunities**

- A 4km gondola system used to transport iron ore from rocks above to smelters below.  
- Mountain views.

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**Samukh**

**Welcome Ceremony**

17:00  Torch relay  
18:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park  
18:30  Ends

**About the location**

Population: 57,300  
Samukh is in the foothills of the Gazanli mountains, on the banks of the Kura river which is rich with raw materials used in the construction industry. The area is also known for its vineyards, particularly the cultivation of Madrasa grapes – a sweet, pink-skinned variety. Fascinating architecture, beautiful natural scenery and a warm, dry climate make it one of the most attractive cities in the country.

**Photo opportunities**

- Heydar Aliyev Park.
Gazakh

Welcome Ceremony
14:00  Torch relay
15:00  Welcome Ceremony, Central Square
15:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 93,000

Sometimes known as the 'Western Gate', the region is bordered by Georgia and Armenia. Gazakh city is on the banks of the Agstafa river, 464km from Baku. Poets Samad Vurgun (1906–56) and Osman Sarivelli (1905–90), and writer Mehdi Huseyn (1909–65) were all from the region.

Photo opportunities
• Statue of Samad Vurgun.

Agstafa

Welcome Ceremony
17:00  Torch relay
18:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
18:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 84,600

The region, known for its sweet pears and grapes, stretches between the Greater and Lower Caucasus and includes the Garayazi State Reserve and Keshikchidag State Historical and Cultural Sanctuary.

Photo opportunities
• Model park of Azerbaijan: includes the country's key landmarks.
Tovuz

Welcome Ceremony
11:00  Torch relay
12:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
12:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 168,200
Tovuz is a large agricultural region in west Azerbaijan, famous for its vineyards and other fresh produce. The history of wine making in the area can be traced back to the 7th century and was influenced by German and Russian settlers in the 19th century. Today, Tovuz is twinned with the wine-growing town of Cognac, France which gives its name to one of the world’s best-known brandies.

Photo opportunities
• Heydar Aliyev Park: gate to the park and fortress opposite.

Gadabay

Welcome Ceremony
17:00  Torch relay
18:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
18:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 97,400
In the northern foothills of the Shahdag mountain range, Gadabay has an ancient history. The region is renowned for its potatoes and gold fields. It’s also noted for ashiqs – professional musicians who master traditional instruments and build up a repertoire of Turkic folk songs.

Photo opportunities
• Bloody Bridge: spanning the Cholpan River, the bridge opened in 1879.
**Shamkir**

**Festival of Fire**
- **19:20** Torch relay
- **20:20** Festival of Fire, Flag Square
- **21:40** Ends

**About the location**
Population: 206,850

Located in the foothills of the Caucasus, the city dates back to the 5th century. For many years Shamkir prospered as a centre of international trade, but by 1235 it had been occupied and destroyed by Mongols. Today Shamkir is a flourishing modern city, famous for its Sharg Ulduzu wines.

**Photo opportunities**
- Shamkir Fortress: dates back to the 10th century and is currently the site of an archeological dig.

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**Ujar**

**Welcome Ceremony**
- **14:00** Torch relay
- **15:00** Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square
- **15:30** Ends

**About the location**
Population: 84,000

Located on the Shirvan plain, Ujar is midway between Baku and Tbilisi, Georgia, on the ancient Silk Way. Fruit, cotton, grain, poultry and cattle are all farmed in the region.

**Photo opportunities**
- Horse and cart: a traditional means of transport in farming communities.
**Goychay**

**Welcome Ceremony**

17:00  Torch relay
18:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Avenue
18:30  Ends

**About the location**

Population: 115,500

Located in the centre of the country, the area is famous for its pomegranate growing industry. An annual festival celebrates Azerbaijan’s iconic fruit and includes prizes for the biggest pomegranate and pomegranate eating competitions. The fruit is exported around the world. The region also produces bricks and tiles from high-quality clay.

**Photo opportunities**

- Pomegranate plantation.

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**Agdash**

**Welcome Ceremony**

14:00  Torch relay
15:00  Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square
15:30  Ends

**About the location**

Population: 105,500

Agdash is in the centre of the country, north-west of the Shirvan plain. Its main industries are agriculture and livestock.

**Photo opportunities**

- White stone: located in the centre of the park, it’s a symbol of the city. The Azerbaijani form of the town name, ‘agdas’ means ‘white stone’.
Mingachevir

**Festival of Fire**

- **19:20** Torch relay
- **20:20** Festival of Fire, Heydar Aliyev Square
- **21:40** Ends

**About the location**

Population: 101,642

The fourth-largest city in Azerbaijan is known as 'the city of lights' because of its hydroelectric power station on the Kura River, which splits the city in half. The area has been settled for thousands of years, but the current city was founded in 1948. Mingachevir is the venue for the Canoe Sprint at Baku 2015.

**Photo opportunities**

- Kura River by canoe.

Balaken

**Welcome Ceremony**

- **15:00** Torch relay
- **16:00** Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
- **16:30** Ends

**About the location**

Population: 95,000

Balaken is the capital of Azerbaijan’s northernmost region, close to the borders with Georgia and Russia. It has a rich natural scenery of forests, mountain rivers and the country’s largest waterfall. It’s noted for its natural produce, including nuts, persimmons, pears and honey.

**Photo opportunities**

- Cable car: spectacular views along the 1,400m ride from one end of the park to the Heydar Aliyev memorial statue.
- Tambur: a musical instrument specific to the region, the tambur is made of one piece of wood and strumming its two strings creates a fast, rhythmic melody distinctive of Azerbaijani music.
Zagatala

About the location
Population: 124,900
Azerbaijan’s hazelnut capital sits at the confluence of two wide mountain rivers descending steeply from the Greater Caucasus. Tobacco and roses are also produced in the region. The region is known for Peri Qala, a castle-like structure carved into the 300m high rock cliff outside of Zagatala.

Photo opportunities
• Russian fortress: Zagatala’s most characteristic landmark was built in the 1830s to guard against attacks from the Dagestan-based guerrilla army. Later, sailors from the battleship Potemkin, whose famous 1905 mutiny at Odessa foreshadowed the Russian revolution, were imprisoned here.

Welcome Ceremony
18:00  Torch relay
19:00  Welcome Ceremony, Fortress Square
19:30  Ends

Gakh

About the location
Population: 55,200
The region, bordered by Russia and Georgia, is best-known for producing nuts (hazelnuts, chestnuts, walnuts). 40% of the land is forested and mountainous and a rich source of materials used in the construction industry. Tourist attractions in the area include Ilisu hot springs and waterfalls.

Photo opportunities
• Sheri Bazaar: a medieval street with a 450 seat amphitheatre.
• Sankag Qal: a centuries-old fortified tower set in the mountains outside of Gakh.

Welcome Ceremony
15:00  Torch relay
16:00  Welcome Ceremony, Central Square
16:30  Ends
Oghuz

Welcome Ceremony
13:00 Torch relay
14:00 Welcome Ceremony, Olympic Complex Stadium
14:30 Ends

About the location
Population 42,700
Surrounded by the Greater Caucasus mountains on three sides, Oghuz is the capital of a small region bordering Dagestan. The area is famous for growing walnuts, hazelnuts, chestnuts and apples.

Photo opportunities
• Tea house: traditional Azerbaijani tea in a beautiful mountain setting.

Sheki

Festival of Fire
19:30 Torch relay
20:30 Festival of Fire, Rasulzade / Ahundzade Avenues
21:50 Ends

About the location
Population: 181,300
One of the oldest cities in Azerbaijan, Sheki is set in the forested Caucasus Mountains. The region is known for its silk and weaving industries.

Photo opportunities
• The Church of Kish: said to be the oldest Christian church in the Southern Caucasus, according to legend it was founded by the first century apostle Eliseus, who converted the site from a pagan temple to an apostolic church.
• The Palace of Sheki Khans: built in 1762, the lavishly decorated summer residence of the Sheki Khans is the only remaining part of a much larger complex, which would have included a winter palace and other residences.
Ismayilli

About the location
Population: 84,500
Situated in the southern foothills of the Greater Caucasus mountain range, the region is noted for Qizil Ahmad apples, copper goods, carpet weaving and silk shawls.

Photo opportunities
• Historic villages: Basqal is famous for its mosque and Turkish baths. Ivanovka is home to Molokan Russians who live on Kholkhoz (a form of collective farm in the former Soviet Union). While Lahic is noted for its traditional handicrafts, particularly copper and carpets.

Gabala

About the location
Population: 101,900
Archeological evidence indicates that Gabala was the capital of Caucasian Albania as early as the 4th century BC. It’s located on the centuries old Silk Road, a series of trade and cultural routes connecting the East and West. Today, local industries range from soft drink and confectionery factories to livestock and dairy farms.

Photo opportunities
• Gabala Shooting Club: the country’s premier club hosts international competitions.
• Chukhur Gabala: the ancient fortress and walled city dates from the 4th century BC.
• Piano factory: the famous Dutch piano maker, Beltman, has a factory in Gabala.
Kurdemir

Welcome Ceremony
15:00 Torch relay
16:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Street
16:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 111,500
Kurdemir is in an agricultural region, known for cotton, wheat, grapes and watermelon, as well as poultry and cattle. Shilyan village is noted for the ancient art of carpet weaving.

Photo opportunities
• Toyuq chigirtmasi (chicken with eggs): a local speciality enjoyed throughout the country.

Aghsu

Welcome Ceremony
15:00 Torch relay
16:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
16:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 76,200
The Baku-Aghsu highway reaches a height of 900m above sea-level. In good weather, it offers stunning scenery across the Shirvan plain. While on a foggy day, people feel like they’re travelling through the clouds. The region’s main industries are based around juice and wine production.

Photo opportunities
• Wine and juice factory: the largest in the Caucasus region, using a range of fruits to produce more than 60 wines and juices.
Gobustan

Welcome Ceremony
11:00  Torch relay
12:00  Welcome Ceremony, Flag Square
12:30  Ends

About the location
Population: 44,000

Gobustan lies 35km east of Shamakhi, on the road to Baku. Local industries include mills, bakery and asphalt factories. Alim Qasimov, a renowned musician and one of the foremost mugham singers in Azerbaijan, was born in Gobustan.

Photo opportunities
- Diri Baba: a 15th-century mausoleum built into the mountain. Locals believed that Saint Diri Baba was buried here, however legends abound as to its origins. Today it attracts both pilgrims and the simply curious.

Shamakhi

Festival of Fire
19:30  Torch relay
20:30  Festival of Fire, Heydar Aliyev Park
21:50  Ends

About the location
Population: 99,700

Shamakhi was the capital of Shirvan Shah (rulers of Shirvan) from the 6th to the early 16th century. Today, local employment ranges from wine making and cattle farming to engineering and electrical industries.

Photo opportunities
- The Shamakhi Astrophysical Observatory: known for its specifications of the exact time of holidays – such as the traditional new year, Novruz.
- Pirdireyi mountain.
Sumgayit
Welcome Ceremony
12:00 Torch relay
13:00 Welcome Ceremony, Flag Square
13:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 333,600
Azerbaijan’s third largest city is on the Absheron Peninsula, about 34km north of Baku. Birthplace of Ilham Zakiyev, a blind judoka who won gold at two Paralympics, two World Championships and five European Championships.

Photo opportunities
- Dove of peace: a statue of the city symbol was unveiled in the centre of Nasimi Park in 1978. Covering 80 hectares, the park was named after the great 14th century Azerbaijani poet, Imadaddin Nasimi.

Khizi
Welcome Ceremony
18:00 Torch relay
19:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Park
19:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 16,000
A mountainous region with a mild, dry climate. The area is known for cattle and sheep farming. Birthplace of poet, playwright and screenwriter Jaffar Jabbarly (1899–1934). Among his many accomplishments, he introduced European plays to Azerbaijanis – translating and directing Shakespeare’s Hamlet. The national film studio, a street and a subway station in Baku are all named after him.

Photo opportunities
- Besh Barmag (Five Finger Mountain): one of the most famous mountains in the Caucasus, known for its mythical stories and as a sacred place for pilgrims.
**Gusar**

**Welcome Ceremony**

12:00  Torch relay  
13:00  Welcome Ceremony, General Abilov Square  
13:30  Ends

**About the location**

Population: 94,000

Nestled in the foothills of the Greater Caucasus, near the border with Russia, the town takes its name from the mountain river, Gusarchay. Azerbaijan’s highest mountains – Bazarduzu (4,466m) and Shahdag (4,242m) – are found in the area. The region is known for fruit, cattle and agriculture.

**Photo opportunities**

- Mount Shahdag: Azerbaijan’s second highest peak and home to the country’s first, and largest, ski resort.

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**Guba**

**Festival of Fire**

20:15  Torch relay  
21:15  Festival of Fire, City Square  
22:35  Ends

**About the location**

Population: 163,000

The fertile region is best known for its production of apples. While Guba itself is known for fine carpets. The suburb of Qırmızı Qəsəbə is the home of Azerbaijan’s largest community of Mountain Jews. While 50km out of the city, Khinalig village is one of the highest residential settlements in Europe (2,350m above sea level). Guba is known as Azerbaijan’s ‘apple country’.

**Photo opportunities**

- The National Azerbaijan Golf Club: the country’s first golf course has been created to exacting standards and is an ambitious foray into the sport for the emerging golfing nation.
- Carpet weaving: traditional weavers hand craft beautiful carpets from naturally died wools and silks, just as their forebears have done for centuries.
**Khachmaz**

**Welcome Ceremony**
- **15:00** Torch relay
- **16:00** Welcome Ceremony, Flag Square
- **16:30** Ends

**About the location**
Population: 171,600
The most north-eastern region of Azerbaijan is a popular tourist destination, offering warm summers, golden beaches and beautiful forests. The region has a number of cultural and ancient monuments, and its long history is evidenced by the discovery of Bronze Age settlements throughout the area.

**Photo opportunities**
- Museum of Personalities: the open air museum is filled with statues of prominent Azerbaijanis from the worlds of culture, arts and science.

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**Shabran**

**Welcome Ceremony**
- **15:00** Torch relay
- **16:00** Welcome Ceremony, Recreation Park
- **16:30** Ends

**About the location**
Population: 55,000
In centuries past, Shabran was a stopping point on the Silk Road, where caravans of camels and traders rested. Today, the warm climate makes it renowned for its fine produce – vegetables, fruit and grapes.

**Photo opportunities**
- Recreation Park.
Siyazan

Welcome Ceremony
15:00 Torch relay
16:00 Welcome Ceremony, Heydar Aliyev Square
16:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 39,900
Located on the shores of the Caspian Sea, 120km north of Baku. The surrounding lowlands are semi-desert. The region is home to a significant community of Tats (people of Iranian origin).

Photo opportunities
• Memorial site honouring victims of 20th century wars.

Khirdalan

Welcome Ceremony
18:00 Torch relay
19:00 Welcome Ceremony, Flag Square
19:30 Ends

About the location
Population: 166,400
The city of Khirdalan is 10km north-west of Baku in one of Azerbaijan’s key industrial and agricultural regions. It’s an ancient settlement, proved by barrows, fire traces and tombs found during archaeological excavations.

Photo opportunities
• Music school: opened by President Aliyev in 2014, the building’s striking facade features the forms of traditional musical instruments in its architecture.
Gobustan National Park

About the location

60km south of Baku, Gobustan National Park occupies 4,500 hectares of the south-eastern spur of the Great Caucasus. The semi-desert region is home to one of the world’s most important collections of rock engravings charting ancient human settlement. The Park’s museum was honoured with a special commendation at the 2013 European Museum Awards.

Photo opportunities

- Gobustan National Park has an outstanding collection of more than 6,000 petroglyphs (ancient rock engravings) bearing testimony to 40,000 years of rock art. The Unesco World Heritage Site also features the remains of inhabited caves, settlements and burials, all reflecting intensive human use during the Stone Age.
Baku

Sunday 7 June
The flame makes a spectacular arrival in Baku.

Monday 8 June
Sporting venues day.

Tuesday 9 June
Old City day.

Wednesday 10 June
Art and architecture day.

Thursday 11 June
Final celebrations in the city.

The flame arrives in Baku for five days of events, showcasing the South Caucasus’ largest and most cosmopolitan city (population 2.1 million).

The heart of the Old City, a Unesco World Heritage Site, reveals evidence of habitation since the Palaeolithic period. While beyond its crenellated walls, modern architecture looms above and around.

In Baku’s elegant centre, pedestrianised tree-lined streets are increasingly filled with exclusive boutiques – a magnet for shoppers. While the central sweep of the promenade that hugs the Caspian is eternally popular with families – its blues and greens in contrast to Baku’s desert-ringed location.

The flame was captured at the Ateshghah Temple on 26 April, since then it’s travelled nearly 5,500km across all 60 regions of Azerbaijan. It’s been carried by more than 1,000 torchbearers and transported over ground by bus, funicular railway, bicycle and Karabakh horse; underground on the Baku metro; on water by boat; and in the air by plane.

The journey ends this evening as the cauldron is lit, marking the opening of the first-ever European Games... in Baku!

Let the Games begin!
Journey of the Flame
Baku 2015 European Games Operations Committee

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