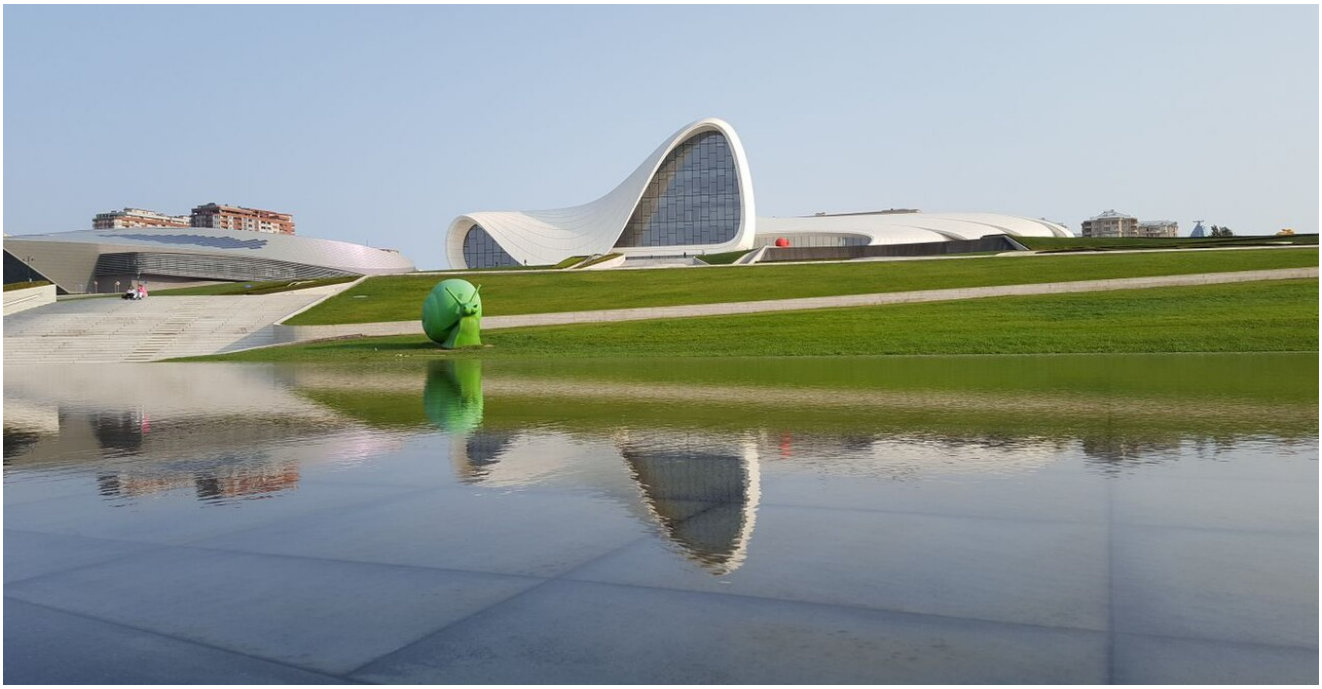
Baku Architecture & Travel Guide

A walled medieval city on the Caspian shore, and the theatrical skyline rising behind it.



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ARCHITECTURAL LENS	GUIDE STATUS	WEB EDITION
Medieval · Oil-Boom · Parametric	Editorial guide · reviewed 08 October 2026	worldarchjournal.com/atlas/azerbaijan/baku/

01 / ORIENTATION

Read the city in layers.

Baku is the City of Winds: the khazri blows off the Caspian and can turn a boulevard walk into an exposed one. Spring and autumn are the walking seasons. Use the guide as an architecture-led framework and confirm opening hours and access with each venue.

> *This downloadable edition is an editorial companion to the live guide. It is not a booking service, does not make a current price or availability claim, and does not replace official venue information.*

02 / ARCHITECTURE

Five places to study.

Icherisheher (Old City)

Enter through the Double Gates and read the walled fabric: stone lanes, bathhouses, caravanserais and carved wooden balconies composing a complete medieval town.

Maiden Tower (Q■z Qalas■)

The twelfth-century stone cylinder at the Old City's edge — part watchtower, part enduring mystery. Climb it for the panorama over the bay and the rooftops.

Palace of the Shirvanshahs

The fifteenth-century palace complex at the city's high point — Divankhana, mosque, mausoleum and baths in honey-coloured stone.

Heydar Aliyev Center

Zaha Hadid's 2012 landmark: one continuous surface folding from plaza to roof without a straight line. Study the plaza first; the building is the landscape.

Flame Towers

Three flame-shaped towers on the hill above the bay, their LED facades running fire animations after dark — the second oil age's city symbol.

03 / ARCHITECTURE ROUTES

Two ways to explore.

Old City walking loop

Enter through the Double Gates, climb to the Shirvanshahs' Palace first, then descend through the lanes to the Maiden Tower and out along the walls. Allow around two and a half hours, more with interiors.

Boulevard to Highland Park

Walk the Caspian promenade from the Carpet Museum past the Baku Eye and Little Venice, then ride the funicular to the Highland Park terrace for the bay panorama. Time the top of the hill for the hour before sunset.

04 / PRACTICAL NOTES

Use the live page for links and updates.

Opening hours, access, weather, transport, trail conditions and venue policies can change. Re-check the official source before travelling. The web edition contains live Google Maps links and the current source list.

Open the live guide: https://worldarchjournal.com/atlas/azerbaijan/baku/

05 / RESEARCH NOTES

Sources and editorial boundary.

• UNESCO: Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower

• Azerbaijan Travel: official visitor information

• Zaha Hadid Architects: Heydar Aliyev Centre

The routes and architecture readings in this edition are World Arch Journal’s synthesis of the cited material. Venue ownership, entry conditions and commercial availability remain with the official provider. No affiliate relationship is implied by this guide; any future partner link will be labelled and activated only after verification.

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