

JOURNAL

MAY 2018

Friday, May 18, 2018, 08:29 PDT

I-5 S, Seattle, WA, United States
12°C Cloudy 

Departure

The start of a long trip always seems overwhelming to me because I'm viewing the trip as a whole rather than just what the day in front of me holds. Big surprise I'm not in the moment.

Fittingly it begins raining as we depart.

Friday, May 18, 2018, 09:41 PDT

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, SeaTac, WA, United States
12°C Cloudy 

Un-fucking-real

Five security checkpoints but general boarding is only allowed at one. And obviously it's swamped. Fuck capitalism

Friday, May 18, 2018, 11:03 PDT

16470 Uplands Way SE, North Bend, WA, United States
14°C Cloudy 

Left behind

I forgot to consider and bring the car seat pillow. Good for plane. Good as extra head pillow in hostel. Great for maxitaxis

Oh well 😞

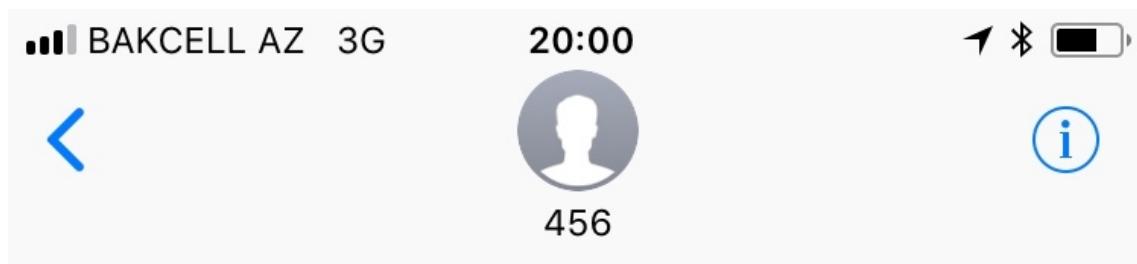
Airport snacking \$9.50



Should not have done this. Overfed, predictably, on the flight. But I was bored.

Saving on cell phone

The plan for the month expires tomorrow. So a la 2015 I just disabled autopay. And set it to resume on the 5th. So that's 19 days without a useless charge saving me \$20



Text Message
Today 19:59

Free T-Mobile Msg: Your payment for your T-Mobile plan is past due so your plan is inactive. Visit my.t-mobile.com/billing to make a payment to get your monthly service working again

Not able to check in online...



Apparently leads to downgrade from row 13 to 23. That's some 60 odd people who now deplane before us, with a one hour connection to make.

And we had to stand in yet another unmoving queue to finally get our boarding passes

And I still don't have my milage account tied to it

And my damn USB port doesn't work. Fucking again. JFC

And I didn't get my pre ordered meal

Did snag a decent pillow from the flight and a backup blanket. And it looks like we'll be about 20 minutes early so not real worried about the connection.

Friday, May 18, 2018, 23:38 EDT

703 Bennington St, Boston, MA, United States
9°C Mostly Clear

Ethernet onboard



Smart since bandwidth may be less a problem than saturation of the wifi access points

Also what appears to an s-video port?

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 16:51 GMT+3

Istanbul Atatürk Airport, Bakırköy, İstanbul, Turkey
28°C Mostly Sunny



Girl, no photo shown

Super cute, very reinforce the body type I find irresistibly attractive. Slender frame, tight ass with cleft, thigh gap, flat tummy

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 16:52 GMT+3

Istanbul Atatürk Airport, Bakırköy, İstanbul, Turkey
28°C Mostly Sunny



Lufthansa FF miles?

Confusing interaction with CSR saying he sees it and will write down and something about card or new card?

PA announcements and clapping as we board plane about how today is their national birthday of sorts. Their July 4.

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 18:15 GMT+4

Break fast PA announcement

Captain came on to notify when we passed sundown time and could break fast. Reminder that we're flying during Ramadan.

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 18:59 GMT+3

Black Sea
19°C Mostly Cloudy



First views of the Caucasus



How do you spell Caucases? I think I keep spelling it wrong

Crescent Moon



Photo doesn't come up but a fittingly crescent moon for landing into Baku during Ramadan

Welcome to Azerbaijan



Got through with the N-K papers in my pocket too

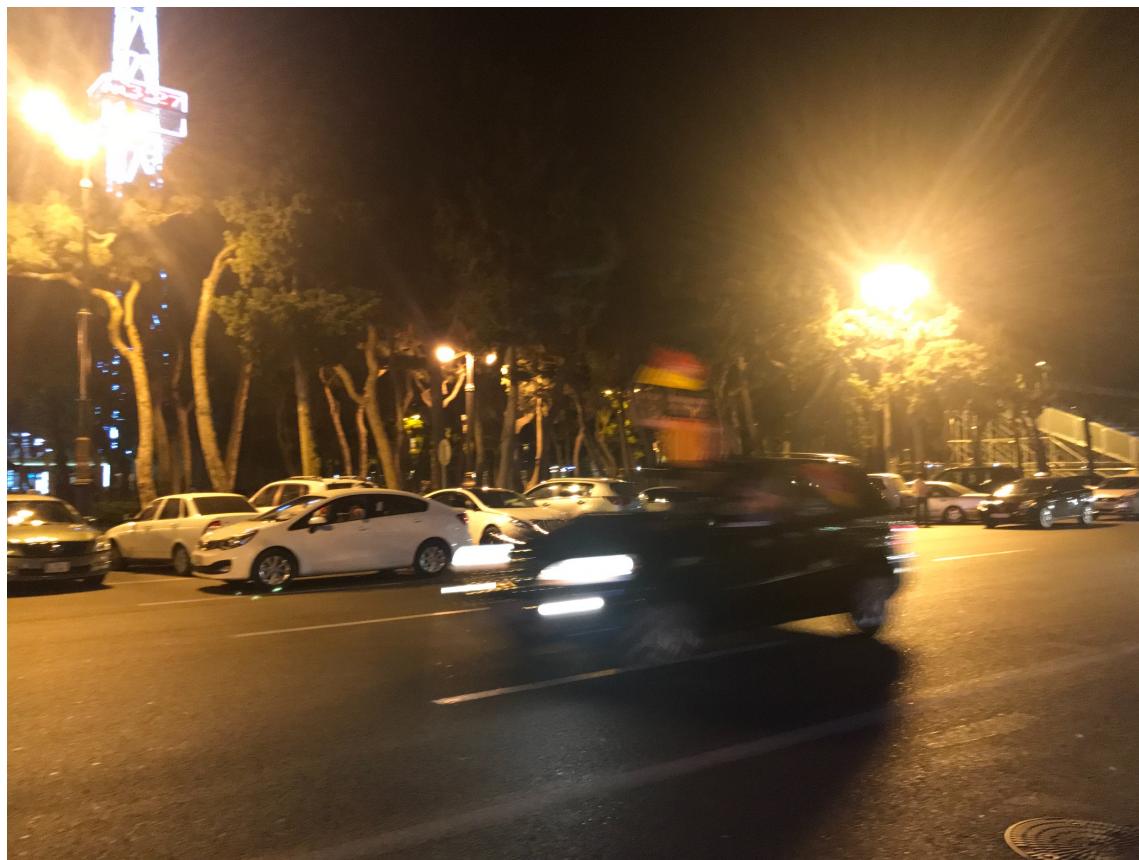
Saturday, May 19, 2018, 22:05 GMT+4

BakiKart

Machine had no English option. Neither did the airport Wi-Fi fwiw. Lots of drivers trying to get us to take taxi instead saying no bus, etc. Would've been 20m vs 2.6m for the bus

Soccer celebrants

Hanging out of cars driving down the highway, waving scarves and honking horns. Appears maybe galatasaray?



The Caspian Bay



It actually smells like petroleum.

Flashbacks to wandering around Geneva with no aim.

Free mezes or...?



I hate the awkwardness of not knowing what's free and what might be an exorbitant ripoff in different cultures

I guess finding out is the basis for a funny story though either way?

39m for the food holy fucking hell. A kebab is like 3. Hate feeling taken advantage of, or being a rube. Also hate paying \$25 for some chips, smoked cheese, and lemon slices with sugar. Even an airport would be ashamed to charge that.

Can't shake the anger. 39m would buy a good steak dinner for two! But also ultimately it's \$20. God I'm broken.

Trying to look at it like a counseling lesson. Maybe now I won't feel awkward about being straight forward and asking "what is this?" and "how much does it cost?"

But so far three incidents in like 6 hours:

- No Bus, Taxi drivers
- Hostel putting us in 12-person dorm despite paying for 6-person
- The above

MAY 2018

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 09:58 GMT+4

Old Town dead

Nobody out. Not very exciting. Kinda hot in the sun all the time.

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 11:08 GMT+4

"free" funicular

Charged 1 manat. The low level scam like that I don't much mind.

Also charged 1 manat for a water. No way

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 20:52 GMT+4

Loooooong siesta

Went back to the hostel around 1p meaning to escape the sun and think of what to do.

Used a decent chunk of time interacting on tinder. A couple prostitutes. Weirdly the rate seems to be for two hours. Ranges from 100 to 150

Anyways, ended up falling asleep and instead of a cat nap, everytime ibwokenup there was no motivation to do anything so went back to sleep. Stayed in bed until 8:30! Not going to be great for getting on a normal schedule but oh well.

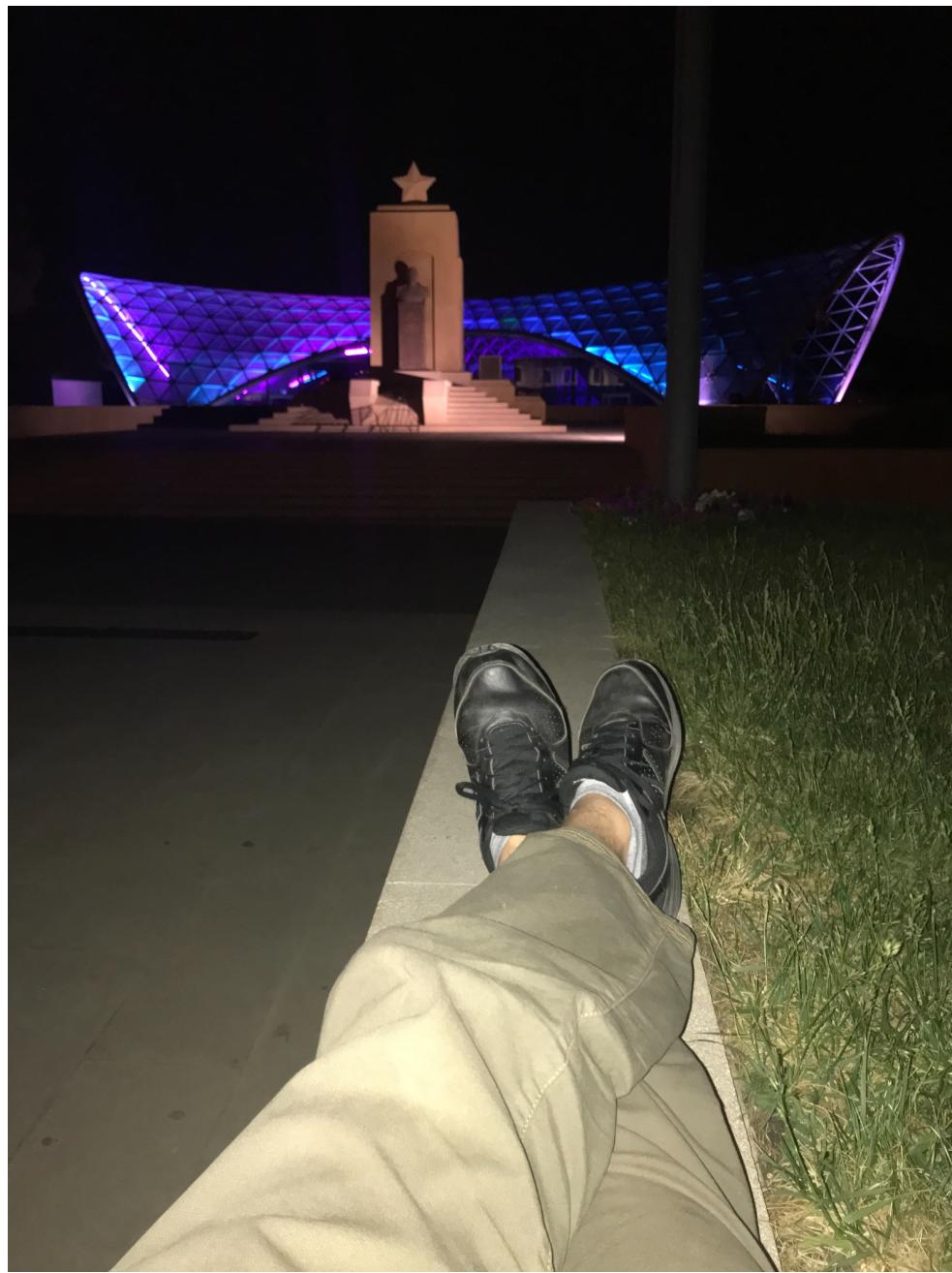
Larger picture I'm just not very excited by Baku. Can't quite tell why. Even in places not my fancy I usually get an energy boost from arriving. Instead I'm more wondering if I'll feel so nonplussed all trip. Maybe I'm just put off by the disappointing hostel and bulvar rip-off?

Interesting word choice



For closed

Waiting for Robert and thinking



The funicular going up had doors closed and locked despite running time until 10p it said (it was 9:30 at the time). I opted for the stairs and Robert true to form decided to wait and see.

Result is that I've been up here by the Soviet statue for 20 minutes. But it's nice. There's a persistent gentle breeze and the square is rather deserted leaving me unbothered and free to reflect. Robert comes along sooner than expected too.

I travel and avoid social interactions almost to a fault. No taxis or haggling or trying to learn from locals, preferring to do research ahead of time. I say it's to not look foolish and be taken advantage of.

(or be vulnerable? though when I've been truly vulnerable people have been amazing)

I travel to see human creations but don't like humans or want to interact with them?

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 23:26 GMT+4

Finally not efes



The light pils was solid, the marzen medium red good, the dark average

Monday, May 21, 2018, 00:57 GMT+4

Interaction with locals

I don't have the hesitation in Germany that I do here about trusting strangers. Is it culture? Is it language? Is it personal experience?

Bizarre spar

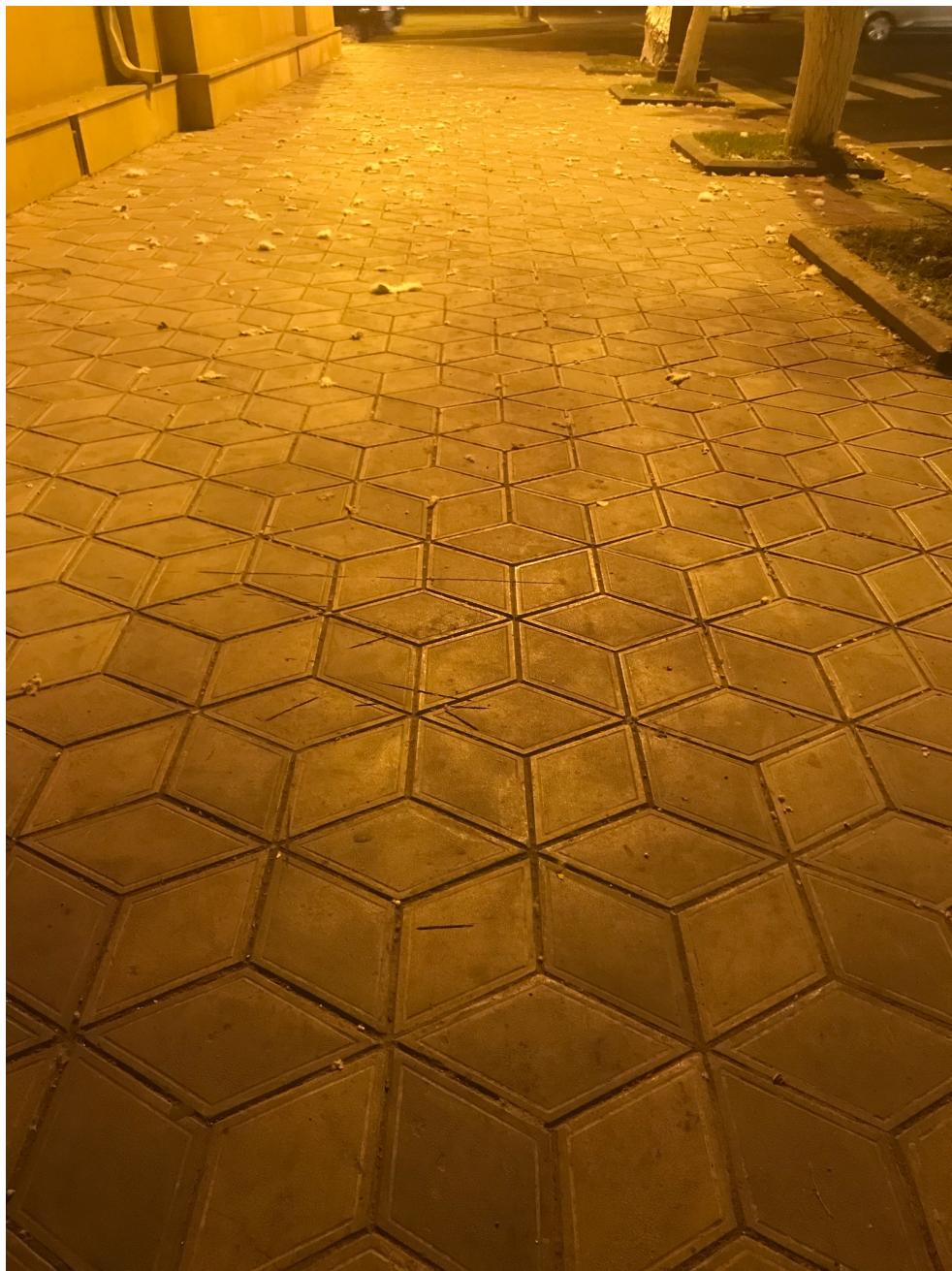
Just browsing around looking at what's there and what beers they have when a clerk comes over and complains about something and mimes. I keep saying I don't know and just decide to leave. On way out second clerk with a bit of English mildly interrogates us. Best I can tell accusing us of taking photos? Never even had phone out of my pocket.

Wait nevermind. Sheepish. Because i did take this.



Thinking it was funny but Robert points out might be counterfeit

Trippy sidewalk



The pattern made it seem 3-d

Gold Porsche outside a nightclub



Definitely a spot we should go into

Monday, May 21, 2018, 02:19 GMT+4

Positive food step?

Deposited not really eating today and passing an abundance of late night döner stands for 3.5m, I didn't get one. Probably because of the bulvar thing but I can pretend it's because I'm not hungry and rationally decided not to eat just for the sake of eating cheaply.

Should get a döner tomorrow though

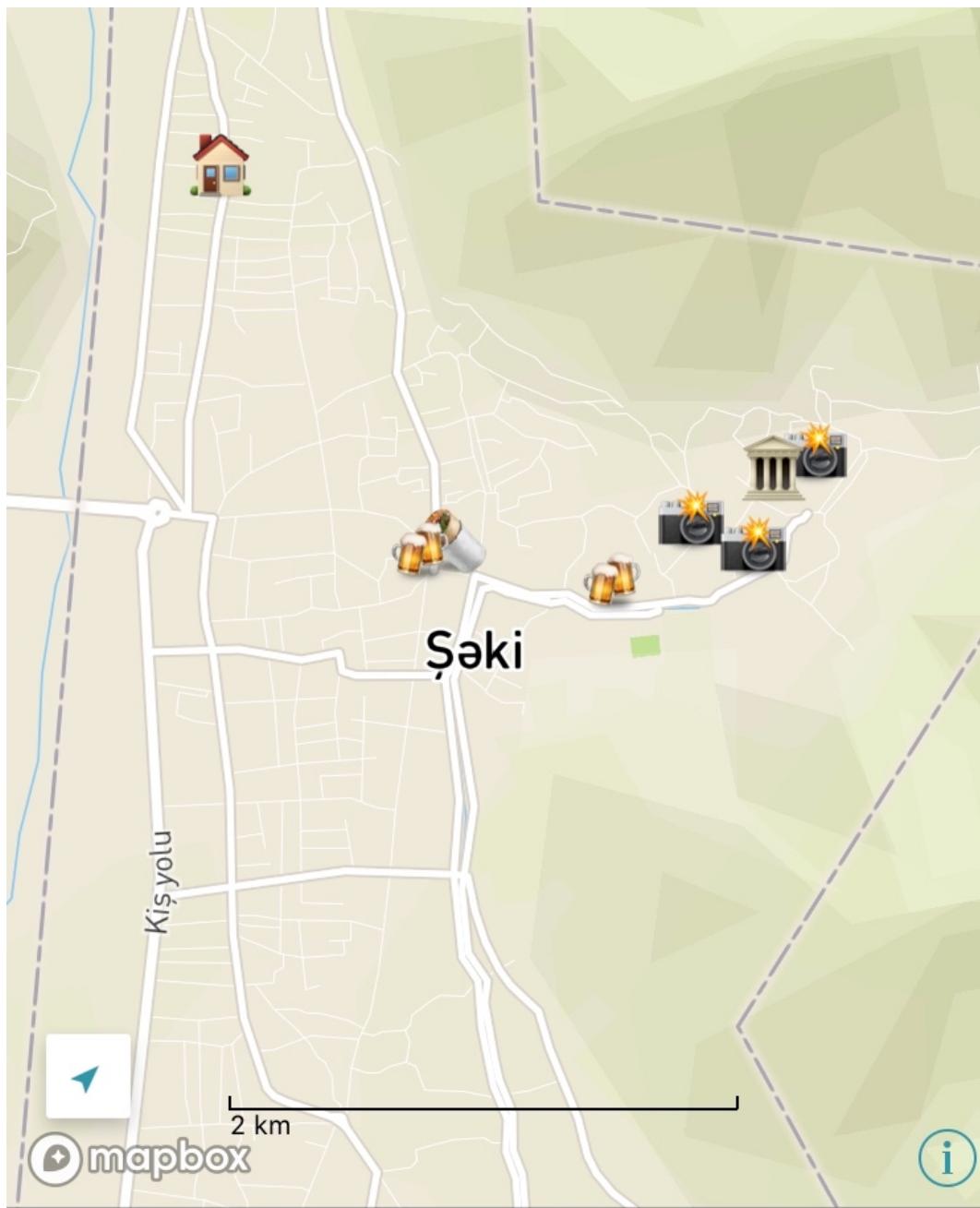
Monday, May 21, 2018, 09:57 GMT+4

Baku metro, to Sheki

Almost take an Uber to bus station but decide on metro instead. Get to see how deep it runs, for bomb shelter purposes.

Trying to decide on bus vs maxitaxi. Bus looks old probably not aircon and the guide says buses take less interesting route. So opt for typical maxitaxi can, 7m that leaves 50 minutes later. Supposedly.

Messed up with Sheki lodging



The hostel is quite a bit away from the sights to see. Best case this maxitaxi does only take four-ish hours and we're there by 3pm, allowing leisurely walk to fortress

Road to Sheki

Cows on the road.

Green rolling hills and arbor

Damn old woman came in and shut the window ahead of us, making the back stifling.

Split up because I'm willing to walk to Hostel and Robert isn't. Too late from him and the few ATMs in the center I remember I have no money

Doing it cheap

Getting Around

Marshrutky (20 qapik) run till around 7.30pm. or 9pm summer. Marshrutki 10, 8, 5, 11 connect center city, bus station, taza bazar to the town Tehran Hostel, picking up at the Izzat Hamidov streets/ M.E.Rasulzade streets junction a half block north of the bus station. Marshrutka 11 continues to the Karvansaray and passes near the Sheki Khan Palace. Route 17 does the same but continues into Birinci rayon, Route 8 goes on past the Silk Factory. Route 15 goes Kish.

Taxis charge AZN3 for rides within town, around AZN10 to the train station.

Sheki

02424

Snoozing amid green pillows of beautifully forested mountains, Sheki is Azerbaijan's loveliest town, dappled with tiled-roof old houses and topped off

A taxi would be \$1 while the bus (+connection) is \$0.25 and I know I should "indulge" in convenience more but part of me feels cheated not doing as locals would. It's a bizarre fetish

Monday, May 21, 2018, 19:38 GMT+4

Sheki cooldown



This.

This is nice. Just chilling out here with a drink and watching the sunset.

Monday, May 21, 2018, 20:04 GMT+4

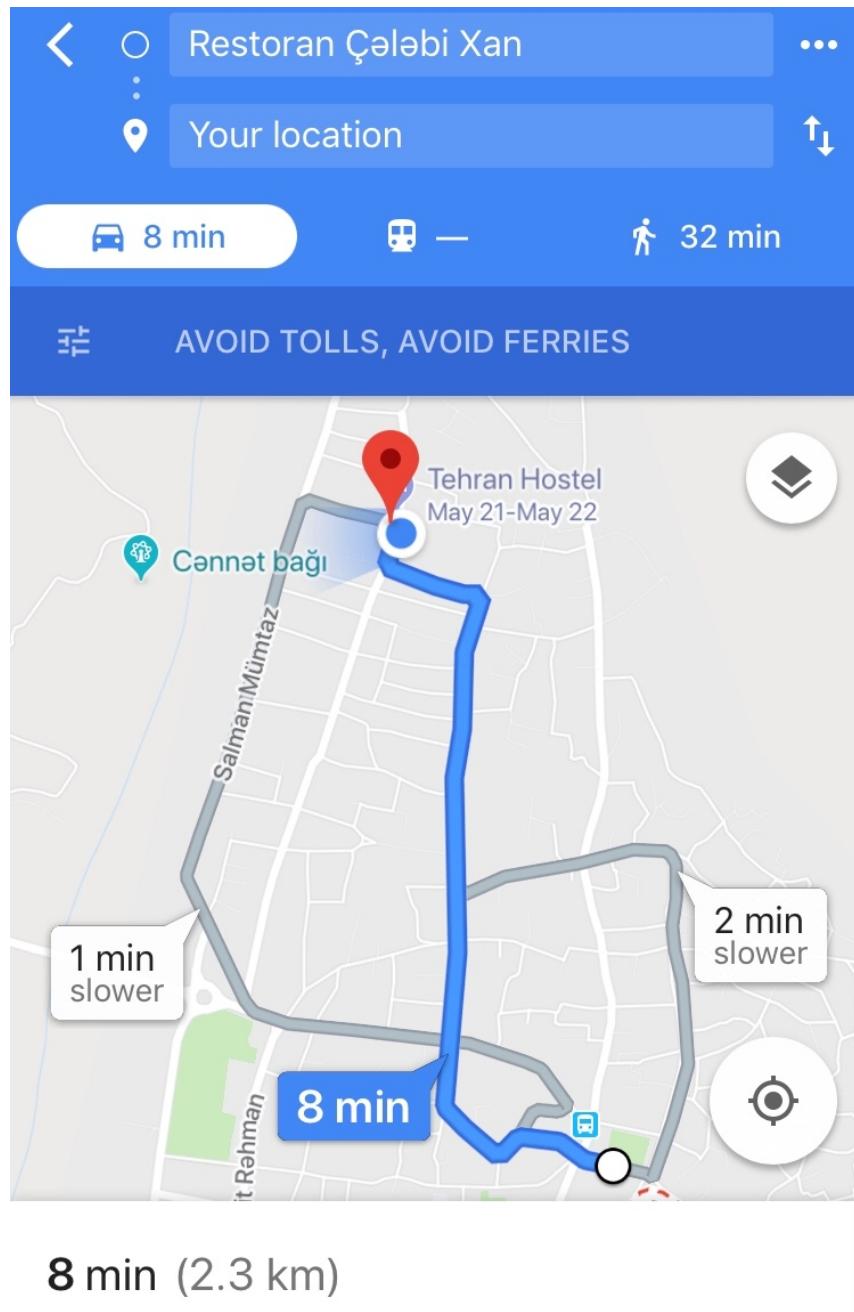
Assumed round up

Multiple times now a bar/restaurant doesn't give back coin change, rounding the bill up to nearest 1m

Piti was quite good

Trying to get a taxi back in Sheki

You're like a two street town. How is there confusion on how to get to a place on one of the main drags?



Has to ask three people for directions when literally it was drive down main street until other main street and take a right

MAY 2018

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 06:46 GMT+4

Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan
19°C Mostly Cloudy 

Kish Albanian Church

Opens at 9 am. About 45-60 minute walk, or 10 minute taxi, or ? minute bus, away and if I were on my own I'd likely check out, walk there, then taxi to his station trying to catch the 10am maxi to Qax.

Actually that's not a good idea even as I hypothetically create it. Too little room for error in getting that maxi and the alternative isn't great after that.

Going to see Kish and the exterior doesn't seem worth it. The interior museum and artifacts do.

I probably would've done it yesterday by going maxi to palace to hostel, rest, then church. But couldn't because Robert.

Hard to accept not doing things even if they're likely somewhat marginal. As soon as I can't do it I start attaching all this mythos and prestige to it. I envision being able to tell a story about it and feel moved by it. Far more likely I won't and wouldn't.

So many mosquito bites from Baku



Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 07:38 GMT+4

Dog guide to bus station!



Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 07:39 GMT+4

Cars literally filled with the round bread in the backseat.

Hundreds

Hello I'd like the most Caucases photo please

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 07:43 GMT+4

Local maxi can with probably 25 people in it

Literally squashed up to the windows

The habit of always pushing time

Leaves at 8 acted on like we can show up at 8 or little later

We need to pick up the pace a little and no change or even acknowledgement

Aaron is me except at all times while I try to only be like it when pressing against a deadline. But my trips usually feature a lot of deadlines since I pack them so tight. Which works for me solo.

(Also wouldn't be so tight in this case if it wasn't always 10-15 minutes from ok let's go to actually going) and I hate feeling like I have to be the schedule master at all times. Like pulling teeth multiple times a day. Puts me in a foul mood

Rarely any outward enthusiasm. Hard for me to get positive by relation

The fatness causing a burden on others due to exertion level, energy, and also has to have best seats

Qax

Watched the minibus pass us (empty) on walk to bus station, then it's not there when we arrive at 8:02

Go via zaqatala or balakan? Or taxi to Qax (15, down to 12, probably get down to 10).

Only 26 manat left between us makes the connection to Tbilisi a little worrisome?

Robert's not wrong about bartering here is a little gross. But I'm not wrong about not taking first offers on principle.

Also irritates me that he'd be so blithe "let's just get a taxi". I know it's not actually that much money, (see also remarking on beer costs of 4.5m) it's the relative inflation I'm just noting. Taxi is 6x more expensive and we didn't catch the maxi because of you.

For me, continue fighting notion of trying to save pennies at every opportunity. Remember Bend? It was a little anxious to be so careless but not bad. Remember that the point isn't to save it's to experience. If frugality becomes it's own goal then you've lost.

Hard for me to walk that line. Noting also that just an hour ago we were making fun of Kirk for his lack of money sense and just spending without thinking

Robert notes the car keeps dying mid drive

Roads are surprisingly nice after the horror show in Sheki

Aaaaaand bus leaves at 10:30 not 9:30. So we have some time to kill

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 09:23 GMT+4

Even way out here they have LED bulbs



Reminder of that stupid meme about how millennials don't know how to change a lightbulb. Because we don't have to! And none of us can own a home

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 09:28 GMT+4

Iisu Qax mini Swiss

Good idea. My inherent conservative kicks in and veto. But remember to appreciate the idea

Later rationalize that relying on last bus to Tbilisi not great idea. Though could always just taxi again

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 11:59 GMT+4

To Tbilisi

Qax has a cool old town but it is Leavenworth like I'm being somewhat artificial. Though not completely foreign like Leavenworth.

The maxis keep shuffling people to avoid having unaccompanied women sit next to men

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 12:58 GMT+4

Azeri to Georgia border

Had a poster board in four languages, including English, about claiming refugee status. Who is that aimed at?

To Tbilisi

Took six hours total. I was right. Maybe it was four hours from the border.

We were dropped off the bus on George W Bush street

Pass guy on street wearing remember Benghazi shirt

Subway doors open before the train has stopped moving

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 19:05 GMT+4

Tbilisi

Adjusting to a slightly different exchange rate is mentally hard. From 1.7m to 2.44l

Pretty city but perhaps with too much traffic

Dive Bar, Tbilisi



Haha holy shit

Gori and beyond

So hard and frustrating to have daily planning discussion because Robert never remembers any details even from conversations a few hours ago. Have to constantly backtrack and explain timing and logistics. So his suggestion are rarely helpful and it just wastes time. And frustrates me because how are you this forgetful?

So stop having them? Travel like you would on your own. You wouldn't have this discussion with yourself.

Always taking up two seats on metro too. Just selfish and unconcerned about others by default

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 10:39 GMT+4

Rare case of being approached by girls and not a scam?

Two girls approach us at bus station first speaking Russian I think then English. Saying they're going to Gori but just two girls and don't want to get scammed. They ask to travel together.

Seems super fishy especially since one is very attractive and wearing upscale clothes not at all fit for maxitaxi travel.

But as we walk towards maxis they don't try to steer us to anything or engage in conversation. Seems actually genuine. They follow us to the van and also get in and also pay.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 11:12 GMT+4

Pass a road sign saying Istanbul 1715

That's over a 1,000 miles away. Like getting on I5s and seeing San Francisco and not Portland. Which we should absolutely do.

Also pass signs for Sokhumi.

Always amused by the dropping off of maxi passengers in the middle of nowhere.

Pass the scene of a construction truck that completely burned down.

Remember to incorporate counseling and other keep notes into this after the fact

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 12:40 GMT+4

Stalin M

Use UW id to get free train admission :)

How does a revolution actually happen? The nuts and bolts. Thinking about Ender's Game and the net vs reality XKCD comic vs sometimes it does actually work (Soviets).

A hoped-for Cascadia Rev allows me to understand. But have to think of something like Vietnam with the draft combined with a WW1 style homefront. So much I will never be able to grasp because we've never even come close to knowing what a home front is like

What's with the tree painting?



Saw it in Balkans but don't remember the reason

It's limestone. It keeps bugs away

Gori and Kutaisi

So far a day I worried about how transport would work is going fine and languid. Not feeling rushed and enjoying the day. Having to skip some slightly out of town stuff like mtskheta and up caves and kut monastery but successfully not fretting.

Welp, no transportation to Kutaisi (bus would've cost 20l [for 2]). But instead of paying 80l for taxi get maxi to Khassuri for 6l, leaving in 20 and then we'll see.

Think 60l would've been ok price from Gori. Khassuri is ~1/3 way there so if no maxi I'd consider 40l total for taxi rest of way a fair deal.

Taxi less than 5x the bus cost is generally ok in my book

1503 - maxi breaks down. 😬

I'm very reliant on Latin script. Place names (ie bus placards) in non Latin confound me.

Ask for help spotting a van and Robert sits down facing away from the oncoming vans. Guarantee he's going to just say he doesn't think one is coming, (or that they all look uncomfortable) without offering an action. He's going to want a taxi but not do anything about it

Eventually after waiting 15 minutes to no avail we cross the street and find a taxi stand. Guy asks where we going and after a brief language barrier per usual we come to an understanding in Spanish! 20l to Kutaisi. A pretty good steal.

He asks for address. I forget taco comes with Dustin dog (taxi comes with custom drop off) who is nice because Kutaisi isn't super convenient station. It comes at price of 10l more but saves us like 5km.

Would kyle do this?

The stranger trust here compared to say Azerbaijan or even taxi in Seattle.

Taxi vs maxi cost benefit analysis. But I do wish Robert wouldn't be so damn preachy about it after the fact. If you have a reason to prefer a taxi bring it up beforehand! Defend your point!

There are good reasons for taxis that appeal to me. Speed and convenience of custom drop off. Fun driving. Potentially able to ask for photo stops.

It's a natural gas taxi.

Why does Georgia have both cars with left and right hand drive?

Can't give homeless services

Because not all deserve it. A) they think 90% are grifters choosing to be homeless. But even if you get them to agree most aren't they'll fall back on the anecdotes of a few bad apples and say you can't justify helping them even if you'd mostly help good people.

But take that logic and apply it to collateral damage and civilian casualties and their argument is immediately 180. We have to bomb for the greater good even if there's collateral damage.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 14:43 GMT+4

Our friends as always sunny

Eric is Frank

Robert is Charlie

Kirk is Mac

I am Dennis but without the sex part

Becca is Dee

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 16:46 GMT+4

b 1, Tbilisi, Georgia

Naturalist lessons from Wolves + Salmon

It's not just what you can see (tracks, scats, etc) but what you can't but expect (etc shrubs, beaver dams, etc)

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 16:49 GMT+4

b 1, Tbilisi, Georgia

Taxi trip

Just did a double pass, passing a van that was itself passing a van

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 17:43 GMT+4

Tamar Mepe St, Kutaisi, Tbilisi, Georgia

25°C Mostly Cloudy



Key to keeping a journal

Don't spend time keeping up with social media and email and the like. Devote that time to journal to capture moment fresh. That other crap will still be there later. Don't need to stay in touch. You're on vacation for a reason.

Kutaisi

Almost sat on a very small kitten

Cathedral not where its marked on city maps

Never had a welcome to hostel like this. Just here's your room. No check in info (grabbed from the reservation) or payment or orientation.

Robert illprepared for idea cathedrals will frown on shorts. Doesn't have thin pants. Doesn't know Thailand has that rule for everywhere

Old guy sweeping floor in market wearing Wal-Mart greeter vest

Chant in bagrati

Just said f it and did round-trip taxi to gelati. Positive step?

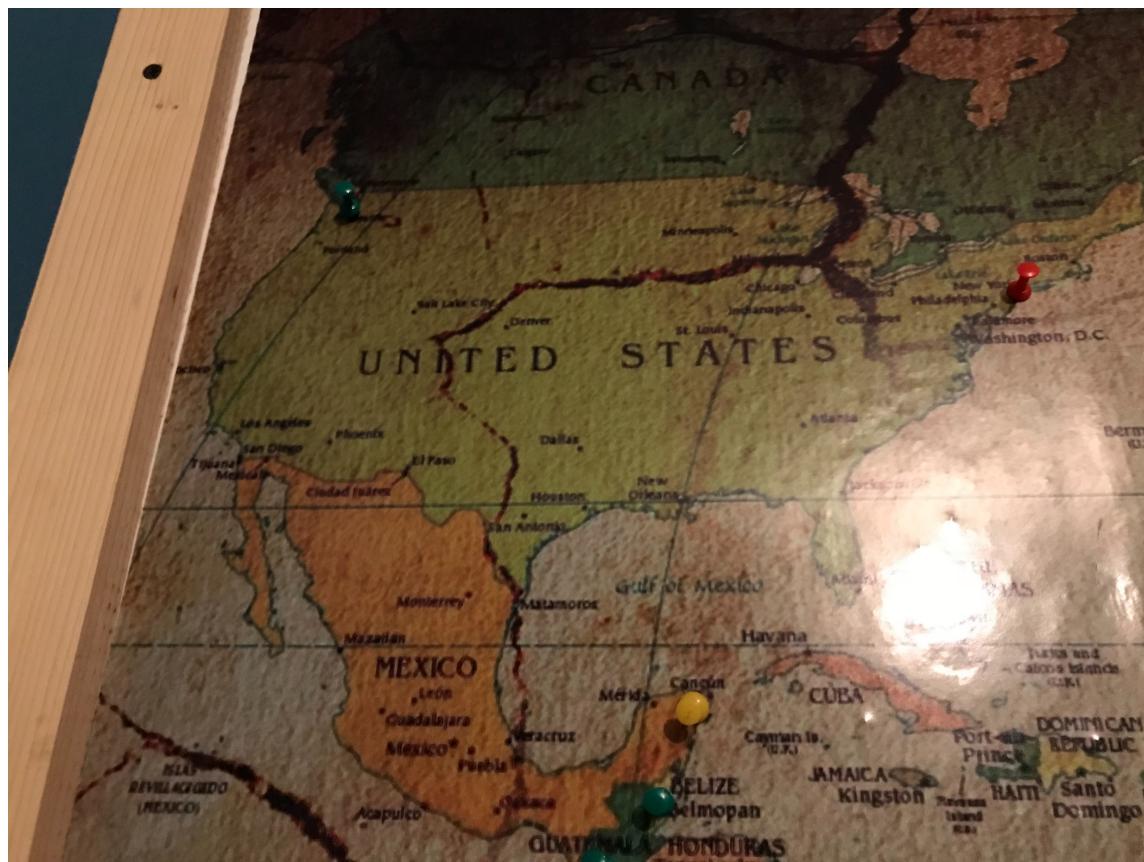
Really feel uncomfortable with round-trip taxis because they wait on me at the sight.

Able to ignore feeling and enjoy it. Get a stop at Motsameta too.

Good convo with hostel runner and Tobias from Munich. Other German girls also going to Mestia are sleeved about splitting a taxi four ways for 50L instead of 25L.

The intermittent Wi-Fi here is mild aggro

Not even the first from Seattle...



So many street dogs



So happy to get any attention.

Their dry matted fur reminds me of rocket when I first got him and silently was very disappointed. Wonders what bathing and brushing does.

To Mestia

Really struggling with the taxi v bus decision. Really want to just do the easy bus option whereas the progressive choice is probably taxi?

Also I'm getting disquieting vibes about abkhazia the closer it gets

Plan for Mestia is hike to chal glacier? Long hike for sure but maybe good for me. Not much to do in town anyways.

Will have to get going early tmrw morning for marsh to Zugdidi

If the girls would've joined us would've made taxi decision easy. Only extra 25l each plus saves 2, maybe 3 hours! Able to leave about 8:30 instead of 10:30 and drives faster. Plus maybe photo stops. Plus nicer ride.

But I can understand their hesitation. Two stranger guys, four to a taxi isn't always comfortable. And Robert tried to sell the taxis speed by mentioning the risky fast driving. Not how to sell it!

Petro prices here appear to be 2.45l which is \$1. Per gallon? That's unusual. But per liter would mean very expensive

Intertia and following the girls wins out and it's maxi. Little sad about not having the wind and views and speed of a taxi but relieved at the price and somewhat comfort of other travelers.

But now watch this be very uncomfortable...

Not too bad actually. Tinted windows that don't open though.

Sure are a lot of Germans here

American SW flute music in the van

Scenery

Waterfall. Reservoir 42.81, 42.04



Mestia

Goal is chalbaardi glacier hike. Ethno museum would be a plus if able to do that then taxi out to hike and walk back. Guessing 4+ hours RT for the hike. Want to be back by 8:30 so have to leave by 4 could be ok but kinda pushing it. With taxi, say leave by 6 or 5:30 to be safe (esp if w/Robert)

Hand bridge across the canyon



Thursday, May 24, 2018, 14:28 GMT+4

Mountains



MAY 2018

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 17:11 GMT+4

Close enough to Russia to get tinder matches

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 17:38 GMT+4

No knee pain :)

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 18:08 GMT+4

Shepherd staying downwind

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 19:12 GMT+4

Ushba Ln, Mestia, Tbilisi, Georgia

Cow jumped!





Kubdari and chacha



Spicy and good. Fennel maybe?

Haha the weather is not 40°c

Chacha is definitely rakija



Thinking about Swiss contrast

Never once used an ATM. Credit card and Apple pay for everything.

Now heading to abkhazia with \$300 worth of rubles and not \$0 in lari and if it gets taken no clear idea what to do

Also dreading having to buy a train ticket



Logistical hurdles I foresaw

- Sheki To Tbilisi -- fairly easy minus missed maxi
- Tbilisi To Gori To Kutaisi -- turned out ok with taxi
- Abkhazia Border & Getting To Sukhumi -- turned out ok but very justified in my anxiety!
- Visa -- *discovered Morning Of Not Open Weekends, * turned out to work ok
- Return To Border -- getting a taxi to border proved weirdly hard but overall no problem. Didn't get to keep the visa :(
- Night Train -- appears to be no problem was no problem except stuffy
- Agdam -- skipped
- Leaving NK -- no problem
- Returning Rental -- ...dinged...
- Istanbul Excursion --



Panic about abkhazia

Rereading the guide to get a sense of the overview again I encounter that the MFA is open 9-5 m-f **only**

Best case I think is we're in sukhomi at 2:30, realistic case is 4...

And you have to pay for the visa at a bank and their hours are unknown...

Abkhazia is on Moscow time instead of Georgia time so it's one hour behind, buying us another hour...

Why didn't we catch this in advance? Could've switched around to do abkhazia yesterday. I know I blanked, seeing NK visa office open 7 days a week.

But how come the myriad of personal blogs that detail getting to abkhazia never mention weekend issues?

I think we can pull this off and I think there's better odds than not we try but this is not a smart play I think. Downside is we're stuck there until getting a visa on Monday, meaning out on the two yours that I most wanted to do.

Meanwhile the alternative plan is realistically good, head to batumi.

And prior to the visa thing I was feeling very anxious about this section of the trip. I woke up at 3am and couldn't go back to sleep. Now I'm offered a lifeline to bail on it and all I feel is disappointment.

I hate feeling like I chicken out on something. Like I'm eternally comparing myself to some mythical (Australian) backpacker. That's dumb.

And that I'll feel like I let people down when I return having not lived up to my goals. They won't actually care. Also why should I?

Do I want to go to abkhazia for me? Or to be able to tell others? To have a one up card against other stories?

I do want to go for me, it seems interesting and cool. But have to acknowledge that others plays a big draw in it as well and it should not.

Isn't going to Georgia etc a good enough story? Goes back again to things going according to plan does not make for good (enough) stories.

I wonder if missing out on abkhazia because of a planning oversight would convince Robert to take planning more seriously. (Haha, no)

Batum is the smart call. Sukhom is the "good story" call. Being trapped is a funny story and missing the yours sucks but isn't a life breaker if I assume I'm coming back. And can do kakheti tour the last Monday before flying out, or a self Kazbegi tour.

Friday, May 25, 2018, 10:28 GMT+4

To Zugdidi

Have the backseat of the maxi to myself and a pile of bags so that's pretty nice

Get into Zugdidi with time. Confirm maxis to batumi available. Confirm night train available with tickets.

Robert feeling nerves.

Taxi driver tries Russian and Italian before giving up

Russia initially had sanctions on abkhazia despite helping them in the war. Not until ossetia war of 2008 did they get buddy buddy

Friday, May 25, 2018, 13:09 GMT+4

Border

Waiting at Georgian side for 30 minutes. See UN vehicles (2nd time ever, Kosovo) and cars with abkhazia plates



13:30 arrive at Abkhazia border. Cleared first stop in 15.

Second one taking much longer. Putting time for visa at risk. Waited in front of two way mirror post for 20 minutes.

Then escorted across street, past a fence, past another fence and taken to a portable office where our passports are handed to a senior looking fellow. On the wall of the office is a nap and the other wall has a giant Russian flag with an eagle logo and Russia spelled out...

We're escorted back to our original spot and told to wait ten minutes. It takes fifty until a guy comes to question us. His insignia is three stars in a triangle with two more stars from the top.

He asks basic questions. How long, where, asks about previous trips (Ukraine). It takes maybe 5 minutes. Then he hands passports back and simply says

welcome

I wonder how that process plays out if we're Canadian or if we had a Russian visa

The entire time I felt basically no reaction

Friday, May 25, 2018, 15:11 GMT+4

Abkhazia Visa

Through the border at 3pm Georgia time. Right at the fucking limit. Should be 2pm local time. We should get there with an hour to spare. But we've heard be there by 4 (our host), by 5 (MFA itself), by 6 (lonely planet).

The way they drive with cattle all over the road is amazing.

Friday, May 25, 2018, 15:33 GMT+4

Welcome to Russia



Friday, May 25, 2018, 16:21 GMT+4

Police car who had half it's lights working. Just red. No blue.

Took Robert's bottle gently



Right out of his hands

Lol, sukhomi has a 1r bag tax



Bread

Two ice creams

Two beers

225r

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 09:25 GMT+4

Melted ice cream



I mistook fridge for freezer and overnight my white chocolate ice cream melted 😞

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 10:23 GMT+4

Набережная Махаджиров
24°C Partly Cloudy ☁

Typical Robert again

I'm ready to go, completely and he says he is but he's not and then decides now is the time to investigate changing the rental car. Because that'll be quick... Meanwhile I'm now stuck waiting. You had so many hours earlier this morning to do this. Selfish. Never thinks ahead or to when to do things to minimize impact on others. It's a very ugly trait.

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 10:54 GMT+4

Dolphin!



Saturday, May 26, 2018, 11:39 GMT+4

Saturday morning boardwalk



Deserted.

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 12:43 GMT+4

Remarkably unable to get a taxi

All on lunch break?

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 13:20 GMT+4

Still waiting.

Trying to communicate. Maybe got an understanding that maxi cost 200 (all the way or just to gal?) And leaves at 1420. Taxi cost 3000

Should've had host call us one. That was very dumb not to

Robert's being no help and I'm frustrated

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 14:36 GMT+4

Taxis constantly filling small

And needing their fare to do it. Indication of the small buffer they have?

Passing by so many abandoned derelict buildings

The country does feel very underpopulated



MAY 2018

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 16:19 GMT+4

Abkhazia has their own passport



Saturday, May 26, 2018, 16:28 GMT+4

Robert bag search. Asked if we have guns :)

News of our Americanish (California) spreads in the line

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 16:32 GMT+4

As we enter the exit line...

We spot a pair of obvious backpacker tourists heading the other way. Watch their ordeal, similar to ours yesterday, with satisfaction

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 16:33 GMT+4

Why does Robert constantly talk at wrong volume?

Practically shouting when alone but around ambient sounds always too quiet and without warning

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 16:50 GMT+4

Apparently it's Georgia Independence day

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 16:57 GMT+4

And still king of hassled border xing

Us to Canada. Moving and fall break

Don't get to keep Abkhazia visa :(and they stamped it too :(

Saturday, May 26, 2018, 17:09 GMT+4

Yet again can't communicate the simplest direction to a taxi driver

Train station.

I wrote it into Google translate...

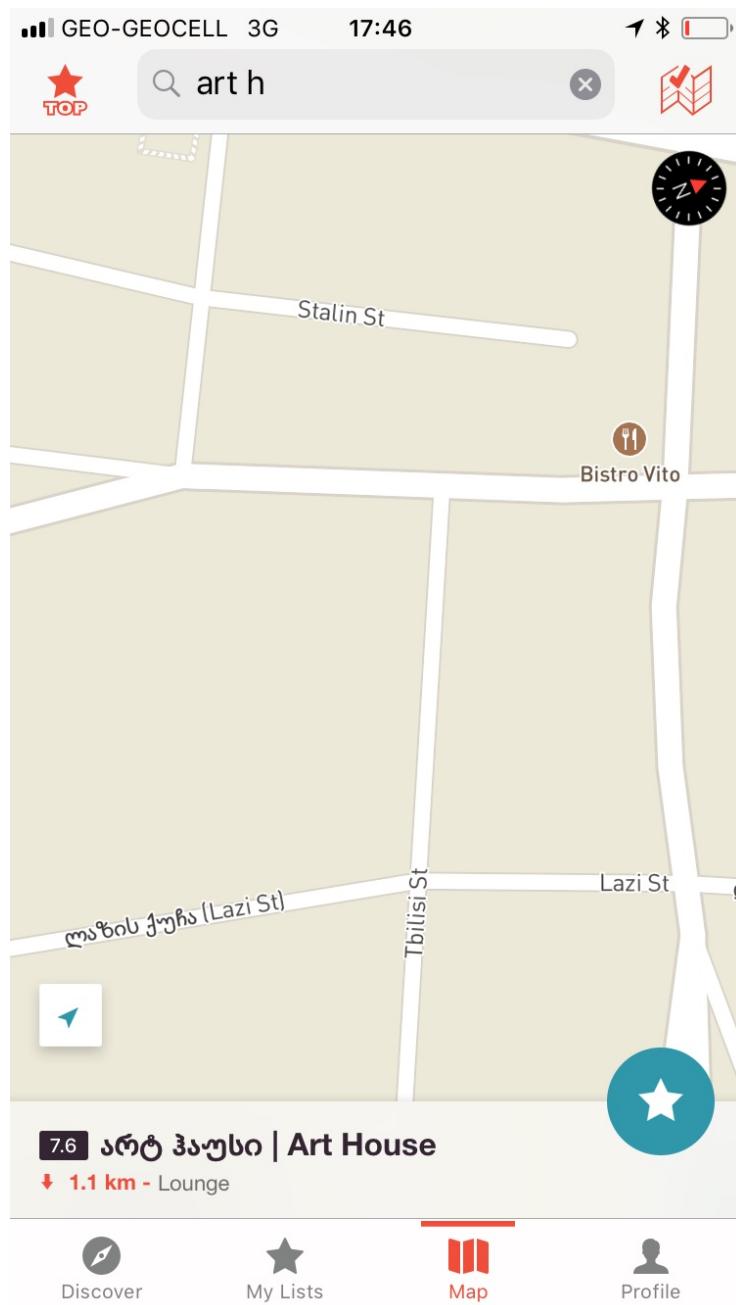
I pointed to it on the map...

The map has a train emoji...

There's only one station in the city...

Driver finally had to call someone who spoke enough English to translate

Stalin St and lazi St



Train Tix

Ask for next train and only given night train option. Maybe a miscommunication. The evening train is still waiting outside, not leaving for another 45 minutes.

Maybe because you have to show id or something that they don't allow ticket sales within a period of time?

Eggplant with walnuts



And corn bread thing

Both really good. But wow the wait. The wait here is insane. Like over an hour without even getting another bottle of beer

When confronted the server is at least apologetic. Robert's Corn bread order comes out with cheese as an apology.

Imagine if it had been tasteful cheese and had melted over the corn bread 😂

The strays



Are very ubiquitous and heart breakingly friendly.

There's a reality where I move to Georgia, buy land in the mountains, and start a spay and neuter advocacy service

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 06:38 GMT+4

Night train

Left exactly on time. Arrived three minutes late for an 8.5 hour ride. Curious country to be fastidious about their transit schedule

Night train was soooo stuffy at first. Eventually became tolerable

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 06:51 GMT+4

Georgian Military Road, Tbilisi, Georgia
18°C Partly Cloudy ☁

That's not a sea...



Sunday, May 27, 2018, 07:19 GMT+4

Right behind the presidential palace



Sunday, May 27, 2018, 08:27 GMT+4

Georgia museum or tour down to yerevan?

Only chance to see museum vs org tour down to yerevan. Knocks alaverdi out for us. Tour costs 135 vs 35 for just transport though. Extra \$40

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 11:23 GMT+4

Kazbegi tour



Van broken down 😂 told 90 minute wait for new car. We'll see...

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 12:17 GMT+4

Rental car

For like the 19th time Robert fails to search cars properly. Told him everytime to use the kayak website, or search rentalcars.com directly, or the rental agency, Hertz. Instead for the 19th time he uses the kayak app and, I'm fairly sure, doesn't change the default sort off "best" to "cheapest"

Infuriating. He never fucking listens and can't be trusted to organize anything.

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 12:23 GMT+4

Packaged croissant rolls

That I saw everywhere in Albania are now everywhere everywhere. Had an odd champagne cream? one. Good. Like lemon vanilla custard but somehow bubbly.

Kazbegi tour 2



About 100 minutes. New van tries to make up time and about 25 minutes later pulled over for reckless passing on the mountain roads

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 13:53 GMT+4

Kazbegi tour 3



Friendship monument closed. Hooray for metaphors!

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 16:17 GMT+4

Hiking after 3 shots plus wine

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 17:48 GMT+4

Kazbegi part 4

Six person tour. One grew up in Renton. One went to UConn

Cream lemonade



It's so good. Astes like a bubbly cream soda

MAY 2018

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 20:14 GMT+4

David Aghmashenebeli Alley, Tbilisi, Georgia
21°C Mostly Cloudy 

Kazbegi tour 5

Rushing through traffic trying to get to rail station by 8:20. Gonna come down to wire amazingly

Nevermind we apparently weren't going to train station first. Would've been there within two minutes of departure I think. Likely not have made it given curious punctuality of Georgian rail but worth the shot

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 21:13 GMT+4

Hostel with a Bible...



Monday, May 28, 2018, 00:30 GMT+4

A finish is not worth it

50l but no change for 60 and the stupidly paid 20 more for brief view of tits. Good tits though. I miss tits. But what's dumb is that a finish, after an hour of massage build up took like one minute. Very not worth the cost.

But it's not really related to traveling so I think note it here, 80l (\$32) and keep it off budget. After all, remember to spend your money?

Really want to feel a snatch though and that doesn't seem like a thing here. Surprisingly little info online.

The massage is good though. Legit. And only 60l / hour

Task now is not to dwell on it and impact on trip budget

Monday, May 28, 2018, 09:13 GMT+4

Georgia changed its flag in 2003 rose revolution

Monday, May 28, 2018, 10:19 GMT+4

In Georgia you can see 1,000 year old preserved Churches and 20 year old ruins side by side

Monday, May 28, 2018, 10:20 GMT+4

Schedule

Should've done wine tour on last day of trip. Could've gone to Armenia one day sooner, returned one day sooner. Leaves last Sunday open for museum and also if we wanted to buy Georgian wine could buy it on tour and immediately bring it home. And made for a logically relaxing final day.

We don't have much time in Yerevan so trying to figure out if tour makes sense wrt. Cuts down on Alaverdi later but also takes extra 6 hours to reach Yerevan.

My urge is to discuss with Robert but what's the point? He can't keep simple details correct in his head and therefore rarely provides good insight. Best case is he gets me to think of an idea in a new way

As in for that Monday Mtskheta, ramble, wine souvenir, sulphur baths

Insane drinking spot



Right near here there's a bar with a patio overlooking this whole valley. Come back here

Traditional wine making

Keep pots open for two months, stirring, open to air. Then closed and left for 6 months for red and 8 months for white.



In ex SSRs

I'm always thinking about how someone my age was born in USSR and saw it fall apart and saw the nationalism revolutions

Traditional Wine. White. 8 months



Smells very sweet but quite dry

European style white



Muted nose but semi sweet taste. Very drinkable without being too cloyingly sweet or bubbly.

Traditional red.



Oak oak oak aroma. Taste is more muted

Monday, May 28, 2018, 14:07 GMT+4

Semi sweet red.



Smells like port. Not as sweet on the mouth. Need to find the wine from yesterday

Monday, May 28, 2018, 14:38 GMT+4

Ask a simple thing

Can you see if Tbilisi rail station has left luggage. Then explain why. Then Robert doesn't do it. GDI

Monday, May 28, 2018, 14:40 GMT+4

Cemeteries are such wastes of land

Should double as civic groves or something.

Faces scratched out by Muslim Persians



Because we can't get along

Getting tour of old capital of kakheti

And all we can hear in background is car peeling out for like 5 minutes. Apparently it is graduation time

Also like 75 year old guy speaking a passable English. And again I just want to hear about history he's seen, not so much 17th century history

Corn grinder



Thinking about the people who've touched this



The domain of Kings before

MAY 2018

Monday, May 28, 2018, 16:37 GMT+4

People before



Who else has stood right here and looked out? Kings for sure. It's an odd juxtaposition to think about and how times have changed

Do you think this was all covered in plaster?

Monday, May 28, 2018, 17:35 GMT+4

Chokers are so fucking sexy



Monday, May 28, 2018, 17:48 GMT+4

AA employee on our Kazbegi tour

Tells us Mike should absolutely be a Capt by now

And that main lines are in real shortage of pilots. He does scheduling so would presumably know

Monday, May 28, 2018, 17:49 GMT+4

Why go on a wine tour and not taste wine?

Euro style



Little sweeter than other dry

Euro style red



Very plum dark fruit smells. Taste is somewhat flat. Tannin.

Best and brightest thoughts

Keep being treated, thought of, analyzed as, a military war. But it was a political war. Body counts don't matter. Civilian morale does. And the SV govt was corrupt and out of touch :o

Military loyalty to itself rather than to the truth and trust in its civilian oversight. Thinking it knows better. Do the civilians want us there? Eg Iraq

Catch-22: If you aren't considered loyal to your brothers you won't find the truth that you need to tell to others outside your brotherhood. And when dissent is punished then you only get failure.

Question the information's loyalty.

Sack people who are wrong.

Potentially interesting debate with Alex

American equivalent of Soviet red terror of military in 30s was done to American foreign service in the 50s. Also costing them expertise on Asia in the 60s

Guy, shirtless, doing push-ups in the highway

Monday, May 28, 2018, 21:27 GMT+4

Betleimi Street, Tbilisi, Tbilisi, Georgia
23°C Partly Cloudy

Everything with Robert is always

Me: Here's the context. Here are the options. Here's my opinion. We should make a decision

Robert: ok

Me: ...

Robert: //reads Twitter

Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 09:38 GMT+4

Checking out envoy

Should've been 734, 125 each your x 4 plus 234 for the beds. Instead it was 656... No idea why but ok!

Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 09:50 GMT+4

Judgement on the pillow

Not useful for maxitaxi because to use as lower back rest you need more legroom. And as butt rest it pitches my posture forward. Good for sleeping though.

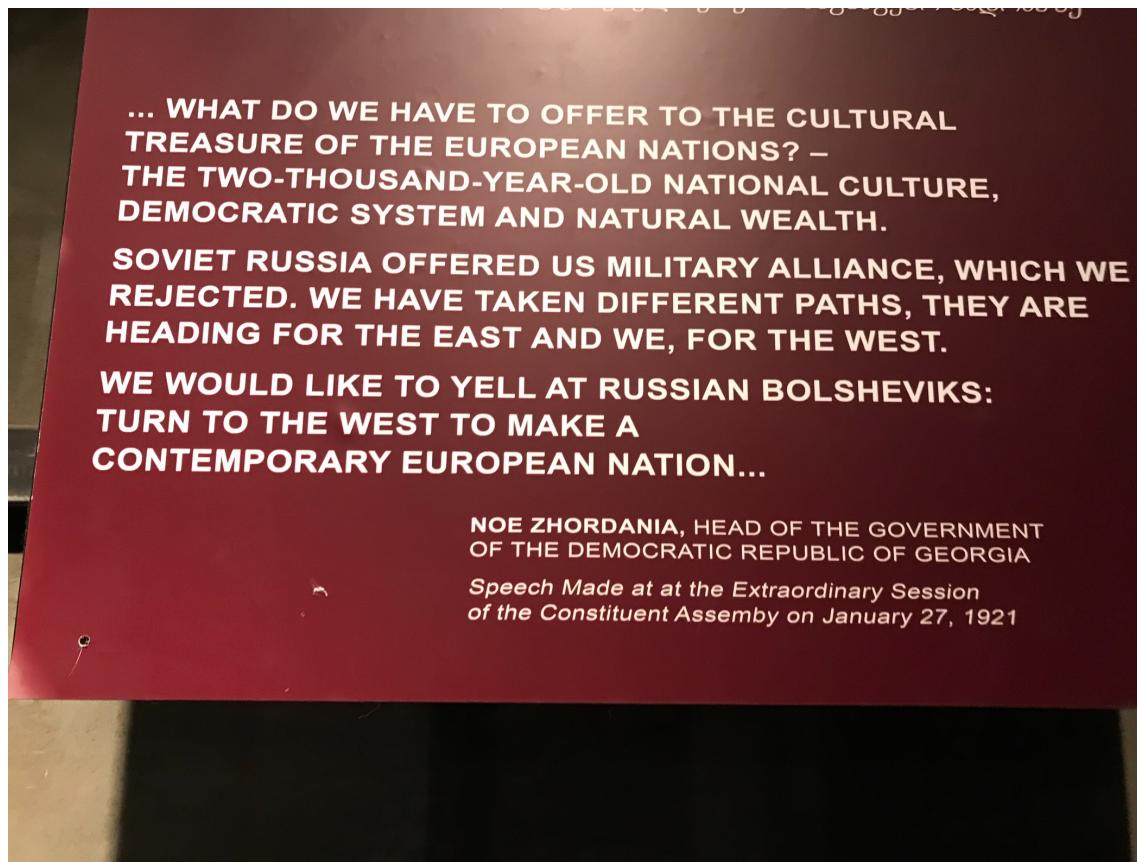
The backpack pillow probably better idea for future trips since it takes up so little room and does 90% of the job

Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 10:19 GMT+4

Sniper Spiderman

Remember that toy being sold on the street.

Nothing's changed...



I travel...

To experience new places and cultures. And to leave my home world behind. To give me thought about what I take for granted and discover gratitude or new ideas. Luxury travel insulates me from that latter part and dampens the experience.

Taking the east road

And it's bumpy as hell

Dilijan in the rain



Haha we drive right by some of the stretch goals

So much traffic.



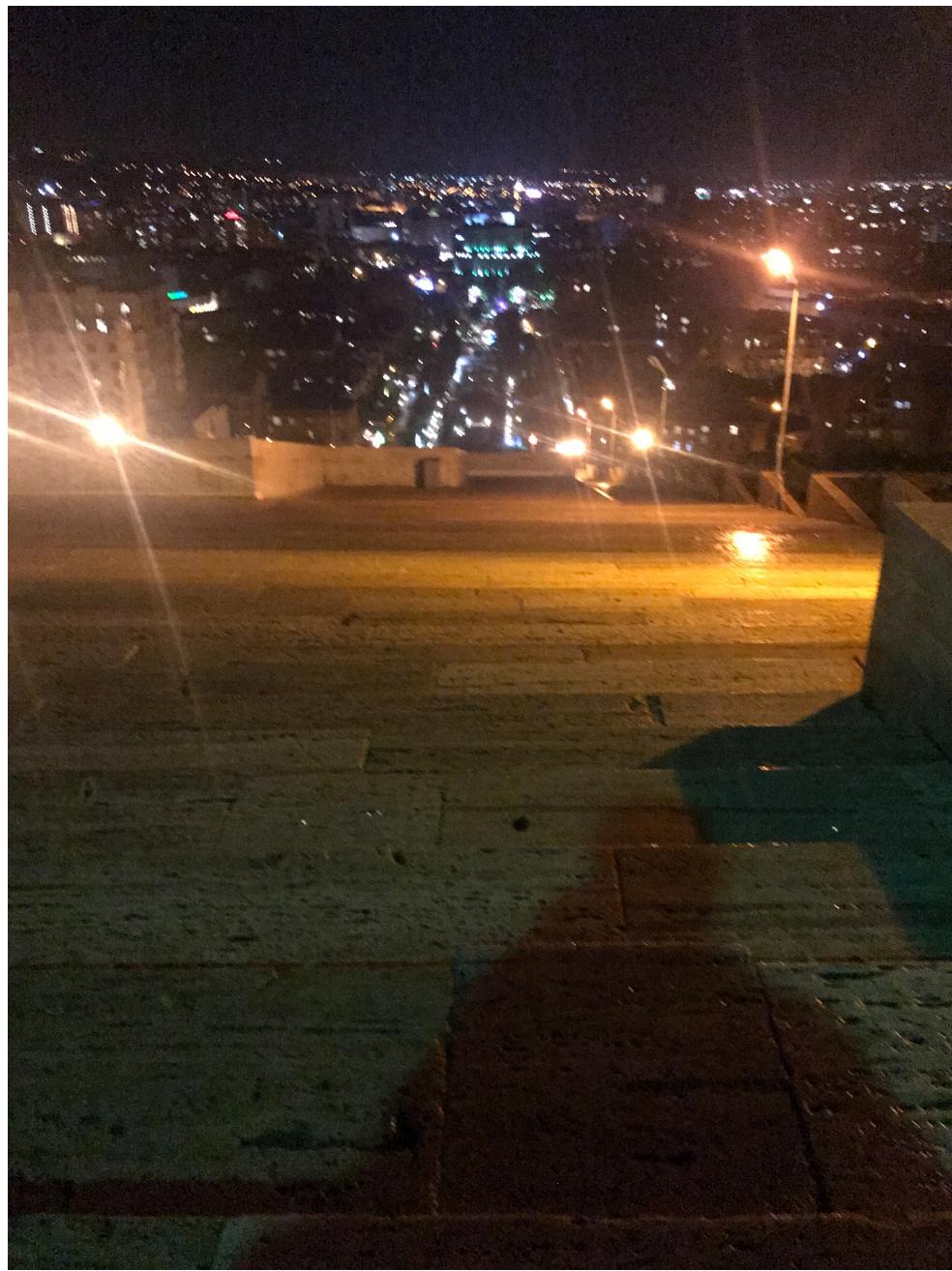
And we drove right by our hostel. But couldn't get him to stop

Gigantic thunderclap

Robert's convinced it was an explosion

Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 22:45 GMT+4

Steps at night are disorienting



Vertigo inducing a bit

Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 23:09 GMT+4

Yerevan has patient polite drivers!

No honking and they stop for jaywalking

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 12:25 GMT+4

Getting rental

Lost about two hours time figuring out the bus. Hopefully figuring out the bus... And then it literally drives right by our hostel. Should've asked hostel. Keep forgetting that.

Sickening thought that there are two airports. But wikivoyage definitely said Zvartnots...

Robert's routine of laying in bed for two hours then complaining about wasting time waiting for a bus and instead we should take a taxi is infuriating. Don't make me pay for your shit

And don't give me shit like I was laying in bed too. I was laying in bed, completely packed. I don't need to be your task master at all hours. Show your own fucking initiative.

Not fucking fair that I do all the planning then have to be tour guide and drill sergeant and pay extra for your high maintenance.

But getting upset at him doesn't do any good. He'll never ever change or realize or acknowledge it. So why bother. If he says stuff just ignore it like he does to you.

Robert also has a habit of just saying yes to things without question.

Hertz is very easy.

Robert immediately starts driving on the left lane. The only car to do so...

I ask to get wine from a roadside stand. Five minutes later Robert drives past all the stands without stopping.

Never asks if I want to stop for anything while driving.

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 14:55 GMT+4

Something almost died.

Oncoming traffic. Dog on our side of road. It turns, sees us, and jumps IN FRONT of us, halfway into the lane, barking

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 18:01 GMT+4

Noravank. Wow

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 18:06 GMT+4

Camping crossroad sign

Passed. Had directions to spots all over the world. Saw Tibet.

Iran oil convey



They signal when it's ok to pass.

Power lines Mar the landscape everywhere



MAY 2018

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 19:17 GMT+4

Hard to feel more remote



Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 20:02 GMT+4

U-2, Armenia, Armenia

Foggy, car passing in front of us

Stays in pass lane with left blinker on. Letting us know it's safe to follow and pass trucks

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 22:03 GMT+4

Skip hotel offer of dinner

Because first instinct is icky potentially personal relationship type experience. Go instead for a restaurant elsewhere because that'll be transactional. Safe. Impersonal

Wish I had a travel partner who pushed against that knee jerk reaction of mine instead of reinforcing it. Mike maybe would.

Maybe build empty day or night into travel plans so I don't have initial hesitation due to giving up plans



Estrogenoff. It was very very good at least. Veal.

Homemade wine kinda vinegary

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 08:25 GMT+4

Shockingly I had to wake Robert up at 7:30

And after diddling on his phone for 30 minutes in the hotel, gets into the car and before I've even buckled asks me which way to go. And starts driving before I have the chance to look it up. Fucking infuriates me.

"How much time does this route add" he asks as he takes it and knowing I don't have data... Always demands answers to questions I can't possibly have had time to look up.

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 08:53 GMT+4

| live life like you drive a rental car

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 08:55 GMT+4

| "what's old?"

Robert asks as we visit Tatev. Man, do your own research.

But it does clarify to me that I enjoy logistical planning. Where to go and how to organize it. I don't like research planning. I want someone else to be the tour guide once we get there

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 09:11 GMT+4

How many things have I wanted to do while traveling...

That I could reasonably be expected to not be able to do again but passed because of cost or hassle like getting a taxi to see something?

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 09:35 GMT+4

Dinner then 

Dinner last night was fine but I didn't feel full after just satiated. And wanted to keep eating. By the time got back to the room with grocery store bread that urge had passed and I was simply left not hungry.

That's what I need to drill in to lose the gut

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 16:18 GMT+4

17°-2, Armenia, Armenia
27°C Partly Cloudy 

House all by itself lonesome on a steep hill

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 16:56 GMT+4

Have a second dog chase the car

And then later kill a bird

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 17:07 GMT+4

Robert thinks every horn is directed at him

Don't be like Robert. Don't assume others are obsessed with you.

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 18:07 GMT+4

NK, like much of this trip

surprisingly beautiful country and very depopulated. Janapar trail probably nice

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 20:38 GMT+4

Guesthouse English actually

13 year old. Very adorable and proud

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 22:42 GMT+4

I really hate language barriers

The abkhaz taxi, NK guesthouse, NK restaurant (need a few minutes to order...)

JUNE 2018

Friday, Jun 1, 2018, 12:12 GMT+4

Can't find NK flag to my liking

Buy the smaller one that doesn't match size of other two now, or gamble on finding a match later?

But the smaller now. Only 500. Robert points out that if do find a larger oneater I can use the smaller as a gift to someone

Friday, Jun 1, 2018, 18:52 GMT+4

Downpour and hail as we approach Sevan peninsula

Friday, Jun 1, 2018, 19:16 GMT+4

Fuel scare almost to dilijan

Because again Robert ignores all my comments on the matter. God.

Friday, Jun 1, 2018, 19:47 GMT+4

Hovsepyan street, Armenia, Armenia
20°C Scattered Storms 

Robert almost runs over my foot

Because he fucking panics anytime someone else gets mildly upset at him. The car was in a fine place to wait 30 seconds but somebody makes a gesture and he freaks out and then gets pissed at me.

Friday, Jun 1, 2018, 19:59 GMT+4

This room is excessive

Friday, Jun 1, 2018, 20:01 GMT+4

Hovsepyan street, Armenia, Armenia

Every damn time

Get into a room and Robert lays down to check Twitter or some shit. Never asks what I want to do. Never volunteers to take care of anything. We need to check in. Etc. Just. So. Fucking. Entirely. Self-absorbed.

Saturday, Jun 2, 2018, 12:00 GMT+4

So many bike tourists in the Armenian hills

Can't imagine the effort to go up and down these hills with all that gear

Saturday, Jun 2, 2018, 13:39 GMT+4

10°-6, Armenia, Armenia

Constantly have to remind of every detail.

We're going there on the way back. 10 minutes later, "aren't we going there?"

Debed canyon history

Thinking about the medieval and ancient history of this area. Seeing old abandoned forts and such

Saturday, Jun 2, 2018, 16:50 GMT+4

H33, Armenia, Armenia
18°C Scattered Storms



Lots of poverty and poor infrastructure

But in whole trip never saw a homeless person.

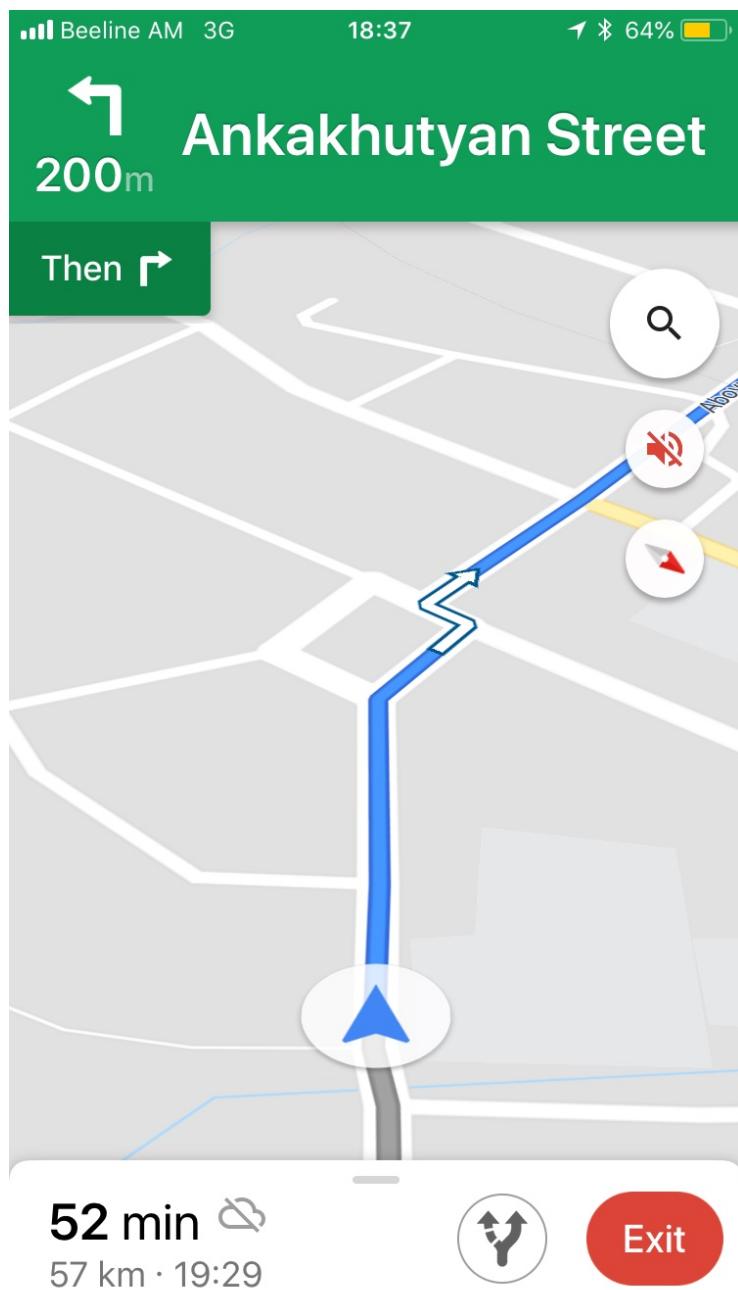
The benchmark for a society should be how well off its poorest members are, not how rich its richest are.

Or maybe by the smallest gap between poorest and median.

I'm a socialist who paradoxically dislikes society

Saturday, Jun 2, 2018, 18:37 GMT+4

A square-about



Bless you Soviet Urban planning

Saturday, Jun 2, 2018, 18:49 GMT+4

What do shepherds think about all day?

And what do they talk about at night?

Pillbox



Met Luke's Teddy Roosevelt?

While two similarly aged ditch girls who just came from Iran were sitting across from us

Funny how here



I cannot tell my palate exists. I can sense what's slightly off in each of these beers. Each. They're not bad and I can sense their intention but the ingredients and maybe technique is just not quite there

Sunday, Jun 3, 2018, 10:50 GMT+4

How long until Trump starts giving himself medals?



Sunday, Jun 3, 2018, 10:52 GMT+4

Rarely much depiction of USSR women soldiers in paintings and the like

Get a car wash for the rental but end up with a full blown hand detail



Cheap but unnecessary and we actually are a bit short on time...

It took an hour!

Trying to communicate to fill the tank is curiously difficult

Lots of anxiety right now with the rental return

Why did Robert have to drive that shitty road?

And despite being explicitly told don't take a ticket for parking, Robert took a ticket. I theorized maybe the card we were told to show was a reader. Robert half assed waved the card and it didn't do anything. Turns out it was an RFID card :O

A tiny scratch on the bumper apparently? When the car already scratched up to begin with? On one hand be glad to escape with that only but in the other wth that's super petty

Sunday, Jun 3, 2018, 13:38 GMT+4

In summation

Azerbaijan - don't like the persistent ripoff culture, didn't care for the cities, the north is prettier than I expected. It's very cheap.

Georgia - liked everything. But expected that. Liked Kutaisi more than I figured.

Armenia - liked the countryside far far more than expected. Disliked the cities quite a bit.

Istanbul -

Sunday, Jun 3, 2018, 13:55 GMT+4

Bus to Tbilisi

They try to get us to pay 10000d, then 7500. But I saw no it's 7000. They acquiesce.

Robert asks if he can pay in Lira. He meant lari. Georgia's currency. Lira is Turkish...

Sunday, Jun 3, 2018, 15:16 GMT+4

M-4, Armenia, Armenia
25°C Mostly Sunny 

God fuck you

I didn't agree to the hotel at that price. There were plenty of other options to try and get the referral code. I didn't say yes and you didn't at all double check with me. And you can say sorry without getting into a hissy fit

I really hate it when other people spend my money because of their unwillingness to make an effort. You're the one who wanted a hotel and instead of putting in some effort you'd also rather just play civ. Fine for you but why do I pay for it?

Sunday, Jun 3, 2018, 15:37 GMT+4

Gas station dog



Seen a lot of dogs here with cropped ears 😞

Sunday, Jun 3, 2018, 19:36 GMT+4

Zviad Gamsakhurdia Embankment, Tbilisi, Tbilisi, Georgia

Into Tbilisi. Pass by a car on the main road flipped over

Monday, Jun 4, 2018, 11:27 GMT+4

Vakhtang the Sixth Street, Tbilisi, Tbilisi, Georgia
18°C Partly Cloudy

So tired of bad wifi

Monday, Jun 4, 2018, 12:22 GMT+4

Should've checked envoy tour and free walking tour for today

Monday, Jun 4, 2018, 12:51 GMT+4

Why did I drink so much beer here instead of wine?

Monday, Jun 4, 2018, 14:36 GMT+4

Bemoaning the souvenir situation here

Plastic 187ml wine would be perfect

Monday, Jun 4, 2018, 20:26 GMT+4

Metro closed for some reason

Have to use bus. Instead of taking a minute to look up on Google what it might cost so we can be prepared, Robert just says, I have enough coins.

Irritating

Riding dirty

Monday, Jun 4, 2018, 21:20 GMT+4

Tbilisi streets with uncrossable highway thru old town-ish area is pissing me off

Monday, Jun 4, 2018, 23:12 GMT+4

Robert just jams his debit card, keys etc

Into slots constantly hitting edges. Then wonders how his card gets broken... 😢

Monday, Jun 4, 2018, 23:20 GMT+4

Walk by people painting in the underpass tunnel

Tuesday, Jun 5, 2018, 00:02 GMT+4

Goodbye to my last street dog 😞



Tuesday, Jun 5, 2018, 00:35 GMT+4

N. Baratashvili Rise, Tbilisi, Tbilisi, Georgia
18°C Showers

Metro closed, fireworks, buses free

What's up today?

Good thing it was free because we didn't put money on the card. Planned to do cash but nope

Tbilisi has specific bus stops

 T-Mobile Wi-Fi  00:44  38%
 37 34 min

- Opposite to Bushi Street #30
- Shervashidze Deadlock
- Metro Station Samgori (Upper Exit)
- Kakheti Highway #3a
- Javakheti downstream
- III Masivi
- Geocell Bridge (towards Airport)
- Opposite to III masivi bloc #1, korp "e"
- Pepela
- Opposite to Gakhokidze Street
- Opposite to Sante
- near the mill (Kakheti Highway)
- Orkhevi Crossing Road Down
- Orkhevi Bridge
- Kvemo Aleqseevka
- Special Task Service of Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Alekseevka Settlement #3
- Airport Highway
- Saint Nikoloz Church
- Terminali Gako

Raining in Istanbul...

Metro card requires exact change. ATM only gave out a 50tl

Get change then fight the damn machine and its bad English. One pass is what we end up needing. Why call it a pass when it's a ride...

We've landed leg one home

And still couldn't check into our final leg home because it wasn't yet within 24 hours

Tuesday, Jun 5, 2018, 09:50 GMT+3

Atatürk Bulvari 58, Fatih, İstanbul, Turkey

23°C Partly Cloudy



Gross



Tuesday, Jun 5, 2018, 12:59 GMT+3

Istanbul Atatürk Airport, Bakırköy, İstanbul, Turkey

24°C Partly Cloudy



Went through security

Then passport control with the most not interested guy ever.

Then bag check again.

Then gate passport check.

Then another passport check.

Then another id check.

Then another bag check. This one a full on search



Tuesday, Jun 5, 2018, 14:59 GMT+3

Istanbul Atatürk Airport, Bakırköy, İstanbul, Turkey
25°C Partly Cloudy 

Lol 2 hours sitting on the tarmac waiting for entertainment system

They made up no time. No way we make our connection

No announcement. No info. They rebooked without telling us. Then United says there's Alaska room. Alaska says no. Back to United and wait behind a family of like 7 for like 20 fucking minutes.

Turkish continues to offer nothing. Alaska and United friendly and helpful as possible. United gives \$40 in food vouchers for basically no reason.

Then overbooked standby express sitting next to death himself

Wednesday, Jun 6, 2018, 08:18 PDT

3901–3933 Ashworth Ave N, Seattle, WA, United States
14°C Sunny 

First time I came home to empty apt in a year