

8 DAYS ARMENIA

Day 1: Arrival / 30 km, 15 min. drive /

Arrival at the Zvartnoc airport and transfer to the hotel.

Day 2: Yerevan- Ejmiatsin – Zvartnoc- Parakar -Yerevan / 70 km, 1 hour 10 min. drive /

Breakfast. We will start the excursion to centuries-old monuments Ejmiatsin and Zvartnots. These sites are listed on UNESCO World Heritage list. The Cathedral of Ejmiatsin, founded in 303, is the official residence of the Catholicos of Armenia. We'll continue the trip to Zvartnots Temple, which was built on 7th century by Nerses Builder Catholicos. *Drive to Parakar village and at a local house we will have lunch and will enjoy the cooking master class of Armenian desserts "gata" and "Sudzukh". The show will be run by a famous Armenian TV star. The active participants will get gifts by the host.* Drive back to Yerevan. (B, L).

Day 3: Yerevan –Khor Virap –Noravank – Areni - Yerevan / 265 km, 4 hours 25 min. drive /

Breakfast. Take trip to Khor Virap Monastery (4-18th cc.). This monastery is very prominent because of its history; Gregory the Illuminator, who introduced Christianity to Armenia, has been imprisoned there about 13 years as at that time there was a prison in the place of the monastery. Here we can enjoy the spectacular view of the sacred Ararat Mountain - an immortal symbol of Armenia. We will continue our tour to Noravank - a monastery of XII century situated among amazing sheer rocks on the bench of a twisty gorge. This is the only monastery where we may find a unique sculpture of Father God. *On our way back we will visit village Areni which is considered to be an important center of wine production industry. You are welcome to taste its excellent wine.* Return to Yerevan and overnight there. (B)

Day 4: Yerevan -Sevan –Dilijan /135 km 2 hours 15 min. drive /

Breakfast. We will drive to Lake Sevan which is one of the largest lakes in the world. It stands out with its sweet and astonishingly blue water. Here we can enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the beautiful lake. Then we will visit Sevanavank Monastery which is situated on Sevan Peninsula. There are 2 monasteries actually; one of them is destroyed but the other stands still. They have been built in the Middle Ages, around 10th century. Then we will drive to Dilijan. Walking along the Sharamberyan Street we will come across with many museums, souvenirs' markets, small shops and so on. We will also observe two traditional houses built of wood, with tiled roofs and balconies with meticulously carved being typical examples of Dilijan. Overnight in Dilijan. (B)

Day 5: Dilijan – Haghartsin-Goshavank – Yerevan /270 km 5 hours drive /

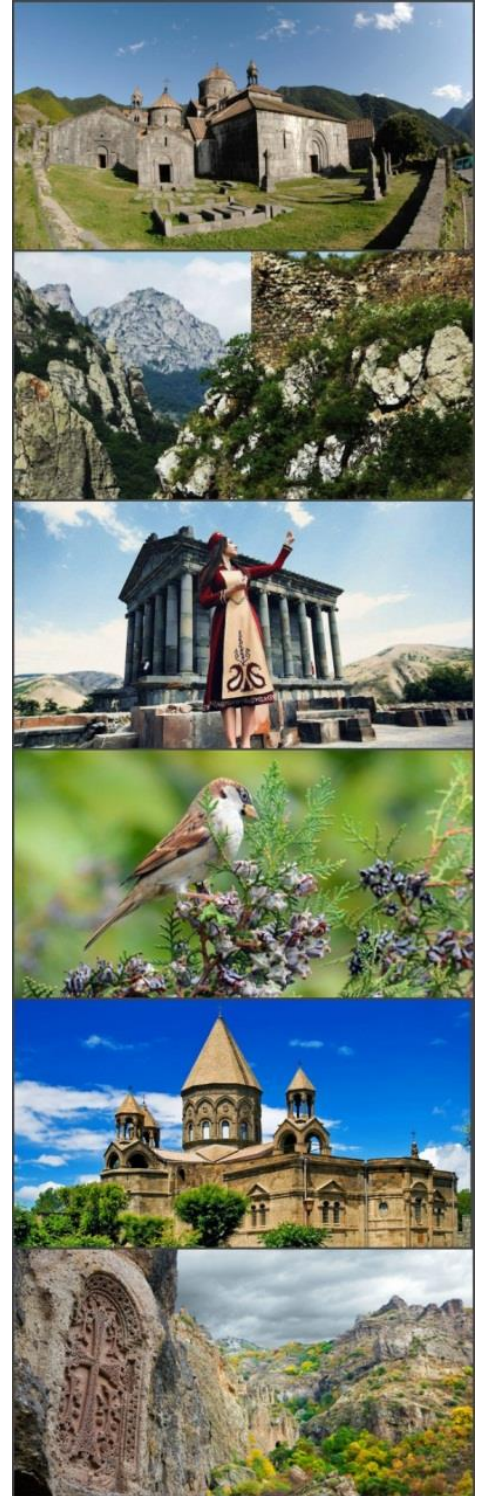
Breakfast. Visit the monastery of Haghartsin, which is a prominent structure of Medieval Armenian Architecture. Lunch. Then we will continue the tour visiting the monastery of Goshavank. It has been named to the honor of its founder, Mkhitar Gosh, who has been very famous and outstanding scientist and writer in the 13th century. Goshavank Monastery was one of the largest religious, cultural and educational centers of medieval Armenia. Get back to Yerevan. Overnight. (B)

Day 6: Yerevan /city tour /50 km 50 min. drive and approx. 6 hours' tour /

Breakfast. We will start the tour with the tour in the capital of Armenia: Yerevan. For ages this city has been known as a "pink city" because of the color of the stone it has been built with. So we will visit Republic square, Mashtoc Avenue, the House of Opera and Ballet after Aram Khachaturyan, the park "Cascade". Then we will visit the Manuscript Museum of Armenia, which is called Matenadaran; here all ancient Armenian Manuscripts are kept. Then we should visit Erebuni museum and Genocide Memorial known as Tsitsernakaberd. Overnight in the hotel. (B)

Day 7: Yerevan - Garni –Geghard - Yerevan / 90km, 1.5 hours' drive/

Breakfast. Take trip to Garni. This Pagan Temple was built in the 1st century AD. It is the only temple that has been preserved from the Pagan times in Armenia. It was devoted to the god Mihr, who was the god of cleanness. In 1679 it was destroyed by earthquake. In the 1975 the Temple was restored. Then we will continue our trip to Geghard Monastery. Its name came from the legendary lance that was used to pierce the body of Christ. It has been kept here for centuries. Though the exact foundation of the monastery is unknown, the present complex was built in the mid – 13th century. *Afterwards we will a local house where you will have the chance to see and participate in the preparation of Armenian national bread: lavash. It is a very thin, usually sold in*



very large forms. It is usually cooked in a ground oven: "tonir". In 2015 it has been inscribed in UNESCO intangible heritage list. Here we will enjoy the "Armenian fast food" with lavash and cheese. Get back to Yerevan and overnight at hotel. (B)

Day 8: Departure/ 30 km, 15 min. drive /
Breakfast. Transfer to the airport.

The Prices in USD per person

Hotels	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	S/S	HB	FB
3*	950	660	610	560	520	500	540	520	510	490	190	100	230
4*	1010	740	700	640	600	590	620	600	590	580	250	100	230

Tour price includes :

- Accomodation in hotels in DBL rooms;
- Professional English speaking guide;
- Transportation / 2-4 pax- Mini van, 5-13 pax- Mercedes Sprinter, 14-20 pax, Mercedes Atego /
- All entrance fees to monuments mentioned in the program;
- A bottle of water per day per person;
- Wine factory visit and degustation
- Master class of Armenian desserts
- Master class of "lavash"
- 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch

Tour price does not include:

- Travel Insurance;
- Alcoholic beverages;
- Air Tickets;
- Visits outside the program;
- Other meals not mentioned in the program

Note:

Vernissage / Armenian handicraft market / is open only on Saturdays and Sundays

On Monday all museums are closed/ Matenadaran is also closed on Sundays /

Zvartnots monument is closed on Mondays

Ejmiatsin Cathedral is under restoration and the visit to Ejmiatsin will be comprised of the other churches and monasteries there

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(SRA – 15/01/2020)