ACTIVITY TOURS

# Explore Armenia in 8 days

Caucasus Travel Caucasus Travel




**Day 1: Arrival at Zvartnots International Airport.** Transfer to the hotel, check-in and overnight.

**Day 2 : Yerevan City tour - Tsitsernakaberd Memorial**
The day will start with a city tour in the capital of Armenia, Yerevan, one of the world's ancient cities dating back to 782 BC. Yerevan is often called "The Pink City" since most of the buildings are designed with a pink volcanic stone called tuff. We will walk around the center of the city and visit the Republic Square, Opera House, Swan Lake, walk down the Northern Avenue - the coolest street of the city, climb the stairs of Cascade – a giant stairway with works of art exhibited at all levels of the complex and admire the enchanting panorama of Yerevan and the biblical Mount Ararat from the top of the monument.
Thereafter, we will head to the Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex or Tsitsernakaberd, dedicated to the commemoration of the victims of the Armenian Genocide.
Overnight.

**Day 3 : Yerevan - Etchmiadzin Cathedral – Khachkar's House - Zvartnots Temple – Fruit Market - Yerevan**
After breakfast at the hotel, we will drive to Etchmiadzin, the mother church of the Armenian Apostolic Church, built in 303 AD after the adoption of Christianity. The monastery complex of Etchmiadzin is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
Next, we will visit the house of a local artisan renowned for preserving the ancient art of khachkar crafting – Armenia's unique tradition of intricately carved cross-stones. Stepping into their workshop, you will witness a fascinating master class, where the artisan demonstrates the delicate process of chiseling the intricate patterns, religious symbols, and inscriptions that adorn these stones. This intimate experience provides a rare opportunity to connect with the heart of Armenian artistry and witness a tradition that has been recognized by UNESCO as part of the world's intangible cultural heritage.
On our way back, we will visit the ruins of Zvartnots, another UNESCO listed monument. Zvartnots is one of the magnificent landmarks of medieval Armenian architecture, constructed in the 7th century. Even the ruins of this unique architectural structure give us the idea of its rare and majestic beauty.
We will return to Yerevan and visit the local fruit market. The fruit market in Yerevan is a vibrant scene filled with colorful displays of fresh produce like apples, pomegranates, grapes, and cherries. Vendors call out to passersby, offering samples and sharing local insights. It's a lively and flavorful experience that showcases Armenia's rich agricultural heritage.
Free time to rest and stroll in the capital. Overnight.

**Day 4: Yerevan - Khor Virap Monastery - Noravank Monastery - Areni Cave - Yerevan**
After breakfast at the hotel, we will have a one-hour drive to Khor Virap Monastery, the closest point to Mount Ararat. The name Khor Virap means "deep pit" which symbolizes its history. The monastery was built over an underground dungeon, where Saint Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned for about 14 years by the Armenian king Trdat for spreading Christianity in Armenia. From the beautiful monastery opens one of the most impressive views to the biblical Mount Ararat.
Our next stop will be Noravank Monastery, a true treasure of Armenian religious art. What makes it especially unique is that Noravank is one of the few monasteries in the world consisting of two floors. Noravank is a must-see place not only for its cultural importance but also for its magnificent location. The stunning architecture of the monastery contrasts amazingly with the red rock cliffs surrounding it.
Thereafter, we will visit the fascinating Areni Cave, a significant archaeological site where the world's oldest known winery was discovered during excavations in 2011. This remarkable find includes a wine press, fermentation vats, and ancient clay jars, offering a glimpse into the winemaking traditions of over 6,100 years ago.
Return to Yerevan. Overnight.

**Day 5 : Yerevan - Sevan Lake - Diljan - Haghartsin Monastery – Alaverdi**
After breakfast we will drive to Sevan and climb the stairs to Sevanavank Monastery, one of the most outstanding historical and cultural sites of Armenia, located on the peninsula of the lake Sevan. The blue-eyed beauty of Armenia lake Sevan, also called the "Blue Pearl of Armenia", is one of the largest freshwater high-altitude lakes in the world, situated at an altitude of 1,900 meters above sea level. Sometimes it seems that the water surface is about to touch the sky. The beauty of Sevan landscapes is especially marvelous from the peninsula, thus Sevanavank monastery has become one of the most famous tourist destinations of the country.
Then we will continue to Dilijan, often referred to as "Armenian Switzerland" due to its rich nature with lush green forested areas. Here we will visit Haghartsin Monastery, one of the most mysterious places of the country located high in the woody mountains. The monastery complex represents an amazing harmony of architecture and nature.
Moving on, we will head to the North of the country. On our way there we will have a tea stop at Fioletovo, a village where Molokans (local Russian minorities) live. Here we will enjoy a special samovar tea talking to the representatives of the community and getting acquainted with their traditions and daily lives. Overnight in Alaverdi.

**Day 6: Alaverdi - Haghpat Monastery - Saghmosavank Monastery – Armenia Wine Factory – Yerevan**

We will start the day with a visit to the UNESCO listed monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin, built in the 10th century. Both monasteries were major educational and spiritual centers in the Middle ages. Having enjoyed the beauty of this unique places, we will head to Saghmosavank Monastery, located at the edge of a canyon with a fascinating view to the precipitous gorge. Its name comes from the word “saghmos” which is the Armenian word for psalm- a spiritual song or a lyric poetry. Legend has it that the first church of the complex was founded by Saint Gregory the Illuminator who taught psalms to clergymen here.
Next, we will head to the renowned Armenian wine factory, where the ancient winemaking traditions of Armenia meet modern techniques. Nestled in a region famed for its viticulture, the factory offers a fascinating insight into Armenia's 6,000-year-old winemaking heritage. We’ll take a guided tour of the facility, exploring the vineyards, production areas, and cellars where the wines are aged to perfection. Along the way, you'll learn about the unique grape varieties indigenous to Armenia, the fermentation process, and the meticulous craftsmanship that goes into every bottle. During the tour, you’ll savor a selection of their finest wines. Continue to Yerevan. Overnight.
**Day 7: Yerevan - Geghard Monastery - Garni Temple – Vernissage - Yerevan**
Our last day in Armenia will start with a visit to Geghard Monastery, one of the most stunning monasteries of medieval Armenian architecture. This unique monastic complex, part of which is carved in the rock is included in the UNESCO’s World Heritage list. The monastery was named Geghardavank - the Monastery of Spear. Legend has it that St. Thaddaeus the Apostle brought here the spear with which the Roman soldier had pierced the heart of crucified Christ. The spear had been kept in the monastery for about 500 years (now it is kept in the Museum of Etchmiadzin). The monastery has unbelievable acoustics, the mystery of which has not yet been revealed.
Our next destination will be the pagan temple of Garni, one of the most famous and important tourist attractions of the country. The temple was constructed in the 1st century AD and was dedicated to God Mihr, the Armenian pagan god of the Sun.
Afterwards, we will enjoy a local lunch accompanied with lavash-baking masterclass, a pure Armenian traditional bread inscribed on UNESCO’s List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
Then we will drive back to Yerevan and visit Vernissage, an open-air market and an exhibition displaying different Armenian artworks and handmade items. It offers various kinds of national souvenirs, rugs, bags, paintings, jewelry and other traditional items. Overnight.
**Day 8: Departure.** Check-out formalities. Transfer to the airport.

## Address

24 Mesrop Mashtoc pokhota, 0002, Yerevan, Armenia

## Company Info

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## Contact Info

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## Offer Conditions

## RESTRICTIONS

- Included <ul><li>7 overnights according to the program</li><li>Meals according to the program (all breakfasts and 1 lunch and 1 dinner)</li><li>Transfers and transportation according to the program</li><li>Professional English-Speaking guide during the program</li><li>Entrance tickets</li><li>Wine degustation in Armenia Wine Factory</li><li>Tea stop at Fioletovo village</li><li>Khachkar crafting master class (cross-stones)</li><li>Masterclass of national cuisine: baking UNESCO listed “Lavash”</li><li>One bottle of water per person per day</li></ul>

- Excluded <ul><li>Flight tickets</li><li>Tips and portage</li><li>Alcoholic beverages</li><li>Meals not mentioned in the inclusions</li><li>Insurance and visa fee</li><li>Services not mentioned in the program</li></ul>