

## Jeep Tour in Armenia

### Key information

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Best season: May - September

Tour type: Small group / individual (starting from 2 persons)

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### What's included:

Airport transfers, 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.), 4-wheel drive vehicle with experienced English speaking guide driver, All entrance fees as per program, Accommodation as per itinerary in double rooms, Meals: breakfast, Vehicle – Mitsubishi Pajero 4 seats / Land Rover Discovery

### What's not included:

flights, visa fee, medical insurance

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### Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Transfer to Yerevan - Yerevan City Tour - Matenadaran - Genocide memorial

Day 2 - Aragats Mount - Saghmosavank Monastery - Gyumri City Tour

Day 3 - North-east of Armenia - Sanahin Monastery - Haghpat Vilage

Day 4 - Haghpat Monastery - Ijevan - Dilijan National Park

Day 5 - Lake Sevan - Sevanavank - Selim Pass - Eghegis State Sanctuary - Fortress of King Smbat

Day 6 - “Wings of Tatev” ropeway - Tatev Monastery - Tatev Village - Old Khndzoresk village - Sisian

Day 7 - Karahunj - Ukhtasar Mountain - Vayots Dzor region - Areni Village

Day 8 - Departure



## Detailed itinerary

### Day 1

Arrival to airport, transfer to hotel.

Short city tour in the city (depends on your arrival time). You will have chance to admire at city from the birds fly from the area at Mother Armenia statue. Time depending visit to Matenadaran-Depository of more than 17000 unique manuscripts, it's know Matenadaran holds the third largest collection in the world (*optional € 5 per person*). Continue to Genocide memorial, solemn monument of the first massacre of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Evening waking tour in the city, State Opera House, Cascading step stairs with nice park, Republic square, North Avenue filled with cheerful local will make you love this city.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Yerevan*

### Day 2

After breakfast at the hotel we will have short briefing on the tour, board Toyota land cruisers and will drive to the North to the highest mountain of Armenia Aragats (4090 m) to visit Amberd Fortress a midcentury fort-city built during the 10th century. We will enjoy the landscape surrounding the fortress and alpine flowers near the fortress and on the wings of Aragats. Then we will have lunch. After lunch we will visit Saghmosavank Monastery built in 125 by the Noble Vache Vachutian. Leaving the monastery, we will drive to the North-East towards Gyumri, which is the second city in Armenia visiting on the way Artik town rich with the monuments of Armenian culture. Here we will visit Harichavank Monastery built in 1201 and situated in the village of the same name in the Shirak district, on a cape formed by shallow ravines and the rivers flowing in them. Leaving the monastery, we will continue our way to Gyumri. After accommodation in the hotel in Gyumri we will have short city tour visiting the most interesting places and sights in one of the oldest cities in Armenia, which is also famous place for its historical-cultural traditions, strong art and crafts, education and also by film making industry (a lot of films were produced in Gyumri). After city tour we will have dinner tasting the food specific to Gyumri' famous kitchen.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Gyumri*

**Meals:** *B*

### Day 3

After Breakfast at the hotel we will drive to the North-East towards Lori Region and after reaching village Arjut we will continue our way through the mountainous way towards Pushkin Pass. From there we will take our way Dzoraget River to the connection of Debed River canyon, surrounded by the mountainous beautiful natural and historical sites. Having lunch in Kurtan village we will drive to Sanahin village stopping on the way in one of the most beautiful places in northern Armenia called Sanahin Monastery Complex included in UNESCO Heritage Site. The complex was built in 966 A.C. and stands on a high plateau, amidst low structures, against the background of steep forest-grown slopes of Bazum ridge. After excursion in the complex we will drive to the hotel in Haghpat village surrounded by the rich flora where we will have dinner specific to the northern Armenian kitchen.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Haghpat village*

**Meals:** *B*

### Day 4

After Breakfast at the hotel we will drive to Haghpat Monastery built in X century and standing against the background of steep forest-grown slopes of Bazum ridge. Leaving Haghpat Monastery we will drive to the South towards Ijevan town taking off-road through mountainous landscapes. Having picnic lunch in the nature we will continue our way to Dilijan National Park located on the upstream pool of Aghstev River, and surrounded by the Lesser Caucasus Mountains. Here



we will visit Goshavank Monastery built in XII century. Leaving the monastery, we will continue our way to Dilijan town, where we will have dinner and stay for overnight.

**Overnight:** *Hotel Dgyhayk in Dilijan*

**Meals:** *B*

### **Day 5**

After Breakfast we will drive to the South towards to Lake Sevan, which is the largest lake in Caucasus as well as one of the largest, and highest freshwater lakes of the world located on 1897m above sea level, depth is 90m, an area-1260km square, length-70km, width-55km and the volume is 58billion cubic meters. In summer, the average water temperature is 18-23°, which is very convenient for swimming. After reaching the shore of Lake Sevan we will walk to the top of Sevan peninsula to visit Sevanavank monastery built in 305 A.C. by the daughter of King Ashot Bagratuni - Mariam and during the 9th century became the royal citadel of the Armenian Kings. Leaving the Peninsula, we will drive to the South-West towards Selim Pass climbing up over 2,410m and following the historic Silk Road and visiting on the way Caravanserai built in 1331. Continuing our way, we will drive to Eghegis State Sanctuary where we will first have picnic lunch, then we will visit the Fortress of King Smbat located on the top of mountain and built X – XI centuries with high and wide (2-3 m) pyramid type fort-walls and protected by the Artabuni River and deep canyons. From the fortress there is an amazing view to Tsakhats Kar Monastery and magic jeep route connecting it with the Citadel and telling us about the local legends and story about these two historical monuments. Leaving the fortress and monastery we will drive to Sisian town for rest and overnight, en route passing Spandaryan Reservoir.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Sisian*

**Meals:** *B*

### **Day 6**

After breakfast at the hotel we will drive to Tatev Monastery Complex built in 895-906, which is one of the most important Education and Religion Centers situated in medieval Syunik region and is under UNESCO World Heritage Site. On the way we will take Tatev Wings ropeway, which is the longest two-way ropeway of the world and flies above deep Vorotan gorge opening breath-taking views of the Vorotan Canyon (*optional € 10 per person*). Visiting Tatev Monastery we will enjoy Tatev ensemble fitting in perfectly with the mountainous landscape around it. This gives the ensemble an original and majestic appearance. During the XIV and XV centuries it was famous for its university. Leaving Tatev Monastery we will have lunch in Tatev village, where we will explore Armenian village hospitality hosted by the local family, getting acquainted village family life, their culture and traditions. After lunch we will drive to Old Khndzoresk village, where we can visit the canyon of ancient cave residences of the people. On the way we will enjoy surrounding mountainous sights and beautiful city Goris. We will hike to the Old Khndzoresk gorge, while the jeeps will drive to the other side of the Gorge and meet us. Leaving these amazing cave residences we will drive back to the hotel in Sisian town, where we will have dinner and stay for overnight.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Sisian*

**Meals:** *B*

### **Day 7**

After breakfast at the hotel we will drive to one of the most ancient megalithic constructions of the world called (Stonehenge). The two-meter pointed blocks last precisely from the south to the north, fencing large territory, in the center they form a correct circle. There is a hypothesis, that Zorats Karer is an observatory built in VI mil. B.C. Scientists have found similar constructions in many areas of Europe. The most known of them is the Stonehenge in England (II mil. B.C.). Leaving the Stonehenge, we will take off-road route to drive up to Ukhtasar Mountain. This trip is optional depending on the season. Driving closely to the top of Camel mountain (3300 meters above sea level) we will hike up to





the lake called “Ukhtasar”, enjoy sightseeing and visit one of the unique wonders of the world, rock carvings of Ukhtasar Mountain from pre-historic era. After interesting mountainous excursion, we will drive to Aghavnadzor village where we can explore Armenian village life typical to Vayots Dzor District culture and traditions. Introduction of old Armenian lifestyle, experiencing the hospitality and participating in Armenian Lavash (bread) baking and tasting, honey squeezing and tasting, cheese making and tasting and homemade wine and vodka tasting and also we can choose from national Armenian dishes such as tolma, harisa, apur, ghapama and many others during our lunch hosted by the local family. After Lunch we will drive to Areni Village to visit Areni Wine Factory, where we will be introduced and degustate different wines made with "Arnei" grape sort. After wine tour we will drive to Ararat Valley and enjoying the panoramic view of Ararat we will reach Yerevan, where we will have dinner and again enjoy night Yerevan.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Yerevan*

**Meals:** *B*

### **Day 8**

Transfer to airport, departure.



### **Booking terms and conditions**

Once we received your application, confirmed all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 50-100 euro per person (depending on the tour price) is received, we will start your hotel reservation and other service booking and will send your Tour Voucher with all the trip details.

### **Payment Terms**

After you have booked the tour, it is necessary to make a non-refundable deposit of 50-100 euros, which will provide our coordinators with the possibility to start organizing a trip (hotel reservation, food, transportation, etc.). Final payment could be made after your arrival in Armenia. We reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply the relevant cancellation charges (detailed below) if we do not receive all payments at the due time.

### **Cancellation of the tour**

If you or a member of your group wants to cancel the tour, please, inform our company as soon as possible in writing form. Please, note that the prepayment (50-100 euros) is non-refundable, however, you can use it throughout the year and book another tour. In this case, our company will have to charge an extra 100 euros for re-booking the hotel.

### **Rights and obligations**

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before its inception and are not the subject of change or cancellation. Under the obligation of forced circumstances (weather, holidays) we can make some changes in the itinerary, however, all that relates to services and attractions will remain unchanged.

Please note, that our tours require a minimum number of participants – 2 persons. We reserve the right to cancel the trip, if any tour will not have the minimum number of participants. We will inform you about the cancellation of the tour no later than 30 days before the start and will do the full refund of the amount paid, including the prepayment.

We also request immediately and promptly report all complaints and any claims during the tour. If possible, all problems will be solved. If the tourist does not report any complaint, the compensation will not be implemented.

Please, also note that the company AraraTour is not liable for services not included in the tour price. Our responsibility is limited only to the extent provided by our tour.

Force majeure or any other event which is beyond our control and which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part frees both parties from liability or obligation. In case of Force majeure, we don't issue any refund.

### **Insolvency or bankruptcy insurance**

Tour operator Arara guarantees the refund of clients' money for unfulfilled services even in the case of company's own insolvency or bankruptcy.

