

Walking Tour in Armenia

Key information

Duration: 11 days / 10 nights

Season: May-October

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

What's included:

Airport transfers, Accommodation (3*/double rooms/10 nights), Meals: breakfast, All transfers in air conditioned vehicles, English-speaking hiking guide service for all days, All admission fees according to the itinerary, 1 bottle (0.5 litre) of water per day per person, 24-hour office support, Local mountain guide service where needed

What's not included:

Flights, Visa fee, Medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival - Yerevan City Tour - Garni - Geghard

Day 2 - Amaghu - Noravank - Yeghegnadzor

Day 3 - Vernashen - Spitakavor - Goris

Day 4 - Khndzoresk - Tatev - Devil's Bridge - Hermon

Day 5 - King Smbat Fortress - Yeghegis - Dilijan

Day 6 - Parz Lake - Dilijan - Ijevan

Day 7 - Yenokavan - Lastiver - Haghpat

Day 8 - Haghpat - Sanahin - Kayan - Debed - Odzun

Day 9 - Lori Berd - Stepanavan - Byurakan

Day 10 - Mount Aragats - Yerevan

Day 11 - Departure



Detailed itinerary

Day 1

After your arrival at Yerevan airport, you'll be met by our company representatives and transferred to the hotel. This day you will have a city tour around Yerevan – the bustling capital having a history of over 2800 years. The cuneiform inscription proving that Yerevan was built in 782 AD is kept in the History Museum of Armenia. You will start your tour with a short walk in the city centre, and then visit the History Museum of Armenia offering a fascinating journey through the pages of Armenian history. After lunch, you will have a trip to Geghard Cave Monastery, partly carved in the adjacent rocks. Nearby in Garni village, you will visit Garni Pagan Temple which is the only preserved example of Hellenistic architecture in the Caucasus region. After your return in Yerevan enjoy an opportunity to feel the pulse of capital's nightlife.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Hiking: *No hiking*

Day 2

This day you'll begin an exploration of Southern Armenia. Our first stop will be Amaghu Village, from where you will start your hiking through the deep narrow canyon surrounded by red rocks to beautiful two-storied Noravank Monastery. In the monastery, yard enjoys an awesome view of surrounding landscapes. Also, you will visit Areni Cave, where was found the oldest shoe in the world exactly during the archaeological excavations. The day will end with wine tasting at the local winery where you'll have a chance to taste different types of famous wines of Armenia.

Overnight: *Guesthouse in Yeghegnadzor/Areni*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Hiking: *3 km*

Asc / Desc: *1525-1395-1515 m*

Day 3

After having breakfast at the hotel you will head to Vernashen village from where your hiking starts to Spitakavor Monastery. It is a 14-century Armenian Monastic Complex near the town of Yeghegnadzor. The hiking route is not one of the hardest one, you will reach the monastery by following the dirt road. The name Spitakavor means white in English and comes from the white polished felsite stone which it was built of. The monastery is also home to the grave of the Armenian military leader, political thinker Garegin Nzhdeh. On the way back you might have a chance to see the endemic Armenian Bezoar goats. The day will end with an overnight in Goris.

Overnight: *Hotel in Goris*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Hiking: *11 km*

Asc / Desc: *1545-2125-1545 m*

Day 4

After wholesome breakfast, you will immerse yourself deeper in the southern part of Armenia. Explore this region in 19-century Khndzoresk cave town. The hanging bridge heading to picturesque rock formations and gently inviting nature make this one of Armenia's most popular sites. Then you will follow the trail to the Tatev Monastery, after admiring monastery, a narrow footpath will take us back in time, to the tiny cloister of Tatev Hermitage, a highly



evocative place. Our next stop is Devil's Bridge with its limestone caverns and natural hot baths in a gorge. We will continue to Hermon village for some rest and overnight.

Overnight: *Hotel in Hermon*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Hiking: *6 km*

Asc / Desc: *1560-1010 m*

Day 5

After breakfast you will head to the medieval well-preserved fortress of King Smbat, standing on the elevation of about 1950. You will continue along the mountain foothills overlooking the Yeghegis river to Tsakhats Kar Monastery located on the elevation of 2080 m. Your exciting journey will continue on a slighter note to Yeghegis village, where you can find Jewish Cemetery and little churches right in the gardens of villagers. The cemetery was investigated by an Armenian-Israeli team in 2000–2003 and its renovation was initiated by Bishop Abraham. Still, there is no clear understanding of how the Jewish community appeared in Yeghegis during the 12th century and disappeared in the 13th century. At the end of the day on your way to Dilijan, you will pass through the part of the Great Silk Road and will see one of the well-preserved caravanserais. If time allows you will also have a chance to admire Lake Sevan which is one of the highest freshwater lakes in the region.

Overnight: *Guesthouse in Dilijan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Hiking: *12 km*

Asc / Desc: *1550-2150-1550 m*

Day 6

This day you will be transferred to Parz Lake. The hike will start in Dilijan National Park and will pass along stunning forest trails. You will cross the wildly beautiful Areguni Pass and reach Goshavank Monastery named after the great scholar of the 13th century Mkhitar Gosh (the trail length – 8 km). In the evening you will be transferred to cosy resort town Dilijan, which keeps the spirit of rural Armenia. You will visit Old Dilijan complex and head to Ijevan town for an overnight.

Overnight: *Guesthouse in Ijevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Hiking: *7 km*

Asc / Desc: *1340-1570-1240 m*

Day 7

After breakfast at the hotel, you will head to Yenokavan Village near Ijevan where we will organize for you a short transfer to the Lastiver trailhead. A wonderful forested route will take you into the most unpolluted and rugged area of north-eastern Armenia. You will head into a deep gorge before descending to cascading waterfalls and the most scenic meadows in Armenia, perhaps Armenia's best-kept secret. In the end, you will explore the ancient caves of Lastiver. In the evening you'll stay in Haghpat village for a rest and overnight.

Overnight: *Guesthouse in Haghpat*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Hiking: *7 km*



Asc / Desc: 1335-1130-1335 m

Day 8

This day will take you to Lori region where Haghpat and Sanahin Monastery complexes (UNESCO World Heritage Sites) are situated. They both are equally beautiful but have a very different atmosphere. You will hike from Haghpat to Sanahin through beautiful meadows and small villages. The hike is easy and will take about 3 hours. On the way, you will explore formidable Kayan fortress and enjoy the best viewpoints over dramatic Debed gorge. The tour will end with a trip to Odzun Village known for its Odzun three-nave basilica. This church is considered unique because of its dome construction.

Overnight: Guesthouse in Odzun/Alaverdi

Meals: Breakfast

Hiking: 10 km

Asc / Desc: 1015-835-1025 m

Day 9

Walking trip to Lori Berd. The ruins of medieval town-fortress Lori, are situated not far from Stepanavan, on the left bank of the Dzoraget river. The fortress was founded in 1005-1020. Being situated on the Northern trading way, Lori was a huge trading and cultural centre of medieval Armenia. Next, you will head to Stepanavan town located on the left bank of the River Dzoraget. After the hiking to Lori Fortress, you will visit Stepanavan Arboretum Armenia's first botanical garden and have an exciting stroll. On its territory of about 15 hectares is planted with rare exotic trees and plants, and the rest 20 hectares are covered with natural wild forests. In the evening you will stay in Byurakan.

Overnight: Hotel in Byurakan

Meals: Breakfast

Hiking: No hiking

Day 10

On the last day of your trip, you will hike to the highest mountain of Armenia - Aragats. The first point of your hiking adventure is Kari Lake located on the slope of Mount Aragats (an extinct volcano). You will start your hike to the Southern Summit (the trail duration – 5-7 hours). If the day is clear you will have a chance to enjoy great view on Mount Ararat. In the evening you will head to Yerevan for another lovely evening in the city.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Meals: Breakfast

Hiking: 10 km

Asc / Desc: 3190-3890 m

Day 11

Transfer to the 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 on the spot. 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.

