

## New Year Tour to Armenia and Georgia

### Key information

Duration: 7 days / 6 nights

Best season: Winter

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

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### What's included:

Transfer to/from the airport, accommodation in Armenia (3 nights) and in Georgia (3 nights) in 3\*/4\* hotels and double rooms, breakfast and christmas dinner, 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.), transport with air conditioning, English speaking guide service, all entrance fees, transfer to the border with Georgia

### What's not included:

Flights, visa fee, medical insurance

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### Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival - Yerevan City Tour

Day 2 - Tsaghkadzor - Sevan - Sevanavank - Yerevan

Day 3 - Garni - Geghard - Echmiadzin - Yerevan

Day 4 - Debet - Sanahin - Haghpat - Armenia-Georgia border - Tbilisi

Day 5 - Tbilisi City Tour

Day 6 - Mtskheta - Ananuri - Gudauri - Tbilisi

Day 7 - Kakheti - Signaghi - Alazani - Tbilisi - Departure



## Detailed itinerary

### Day 1

After your arrival at Zvartnots airport, we will organize a transfer to the hotel for you. Your journey will start from the ancient capital of Armenia – Yerevan. Walking along the city streets, you will enjoy the bright festive atmosphere, friendly smiles of local people and unique coloring of this wonderful ancient city. You will make a stop at the Opera House, at the Republic Square, as well as climb the Cascade, the observation area of which offers a breathtaking view of Yerevan and Ararat. You will also have an opportunity to visit souvenir shops and make nice purchases. The dinner will be arranged in the traditional Armenian restaurant.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Lunch

### Day 2

On the second day, you'll go to the most popular ski resort of Armenia – Tsaghkadzor. Here you will have free time during which interested persons can go skiing and snowboarding, or just have a good time. Your way will continue to Lake Sevan – the pearl of Armenian nature and the highest freshwater lake in the world. Here you'll go up to the monastery of Sevanank and enjoy the amazing view of the lake. In the local restaurant, you can enjoy delicious fish dishes prepared of fish types bred in Sevan. In the evening, you'll return to the hotel in Yerevan for rest and overnight.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### Day 3

The third day will start with a trip to the cave monastery of the 13 th century – Geghard. This unique in its kind monastery is carved out of a rock and its surrounding cliffs are part of the monastery complex. It is important to note that Gegard is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After visiting the monastery, your way lays to the village of Garni with its only preserved example of Hellenistic architecture – Temple “Garni”. Further, in the private local restaurant owned by a hospitable Armenian family, you can taste delicious dishes of the national cuisine. And after the dinner you'll go to the city of Echmiadzin – the religious center of all Armenians and the residence of the Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Here will be held the main Christmas liturgy of the country. You'll see the ruins of Zvartnots temple (7th century, UNESCO World Heritage Site), that was a miracle of its time. In the evening you'll return to Yerevan.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Yerevan

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### Day 4

After a delicious breakfast in the hotel, you'll head to Lori region known for its ancient sites and delightful wooded scenery and deep rocky canyon of the river Debet. Here our program includes a visit to the famous monasteries “Haghpat” and “Sanahin”, which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Both monasteries are not just outstanding masterpiece of medieval architecture, but once they were important centers for scholars, and many famous manuscripts were written here in the middle Ages. In the local cozy restaurant, you will have lunch after which the tour continues to the border with Georgia – another bright and colorful country of the South Caucasus.

**Overnight:** Hotel in Tbilisi

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### Day 5

From that day begins your exciting journey around Georgia. And it will start with a city tour around its unique capital – Tbilisi famous for its colorful atmosphere and elegant architecture. This excursion will give a great chance to fully enjoy



all the bright and festive colors of Christmas Tbilisi. The tour program includes the visit to the main Georgian Orthodox Church – “Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi,” which is a real symbol of the Georgian revival and unity. Then we will walk through the cozy streets of Chardin and Leselidze, located in the old city. Once upon a time many years ago, they were filled with arcades, and craft workshops. At present, they are still crowded with lots of cafes, restaurants and shops, and the architecture reminiscent of Paris. You will also see the famous Bridge of Peace and perform automobile walk along Rustaveli Avenue and the beautiful streets of Mardzhaneshvili. You won’t also miss one of the best known and most popular attractions of the city – Narikala Fortress, located on a hill. After climbing up the hill by famous cable car, you will enjoy a breathtaking view of the city.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Tbilisi*

**Meals:** *Breakfast, Lunch*

### **Day 6**

In the morning, you will go to the first capital of Georgia – a delightful city “Mtskheta”. Nowhere in Georgia is there such a large number of religious and holy places as in this small town. Due to its ancient history, leaving roots deep in Bible times, this town is sometimes called the “second Jerusalem”. Now the central part of it is under UNESCO protection. Here you will visit the Cathedral “Svetitskhoveli» (XI c.) (which houses the tunic of the Lord), as well as the Monastery of “Samtavro” and Jvari Monastery (V century), immortalized in literature by Mikhail Lermontov. It is situated high on a hill offering a fabulous view of the surrounding mountains and Mtskheta. It must also be noted that Djvari has never been restored, and it has retained its original appearance. After lunch, you’ll take a look of Ananuri fortress of the XVI century, and then go to a popular ski resort in Georgia – Gudauri. Here, everyone will be able to ski. In the evening, you’ll return to the capital of Georgia – Tbilisi.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Tbilisi*

**Meals:** *Breakfast, Lunch*

### **Day 7**

This day you will head to the beautiful region of Georgia – Kakheti famous for its traditions and secrets of the production of Georgian wine. On this day, you will learn the secrets of Georgian wine and how it differs from the European varieties. What concerns the attractions you will visit the famous nunnery “Bodbe” where St. Nino is buried. Lunch will be organized in a beautiful small town – Signaghi – the city of love. The magnificent architecture of Signaghi in the style of southern Italian classicism is unlikely to leave anyone indifferent. Here you can see the fortress of the XI century and enjoy the views of the Alazani Valley. This charming town, filled with clean mountain air and well-known for its beautiful nature, will allow you to feel real Georgian hospitality. In the evening, you’ll return to Tbilisi, and you will be transferred to the airport.

**Meals:** *Breakfast*



### **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.

