

Christian Pilgrimage Tour in Armenia

Key information

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Best season: April - November

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

What's included:

Airport transfers, accommodation in hotels 7 nights (3* / double rooms), half board (breakfast + lunch), 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.), all transfers in air-conditioned vehicles, English speaking guide service for all days, all admission fees, wine tasting in Areni

What's not included:

Flights, visa fee, medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival - Echmiadzin - Yerevan

Day 2 - Geghard - Garni - Yerevan

Day 3 - Khor Virap - Noravank - Areni - Karahunj - Goris

Day 4 - Tatev - Selim Caravanserai - Sevan

Day 5 - Sevanavank - Dilijan - Haghartsin - Haghpat

Day 6 - Sanahin - Aparan - Saghmosavank - Mughni

Day 7 - Free day

Day 8 - Departure



Detailed itinerary

Day 1

The first-day trip will begin with a visit to Saint Sargis Church. The church is nicely located on the left bank of Hrazdan River Canyon facing the 16th century Yerevan fortress. The trip will continue to Matenadaran – the repository of manuscripts which holds one of the three largest collections in the world. Not to be missed a visit to Saint Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral, which is the symbol of the 1700th anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as a state religion in Armenia. The huge Cathedral is a complex, consisting of three churches with the total area of 3,822 square meters. After lunch, the tour will continue to the Holy See of Echmiadzin, the religious center of all Armenians around the world. The residence of Catholicos Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church is located in the main Cathedral of Echmiadzin – one of the first official Christian cathedrals in the world. Our next stop is Saint Hripsime Church founded in 618. In the evening you will be back in Yerevan to experience the calm evening of this bustling city.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Duration: *7 hours (70 km)*

Meals: *Lunch*

Day 2

After a relaxed breakfast at the hotel, the second day's tour involves a drive to the scenic canyon of the Azat River. The 7th-century Geghard Cave Monastery is located deep at the bottom of the canyon and is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Following on from the tour of the monastery, the tour is continued by bus to Garni village, where is located the Hellenistic Garni temple. Garni's complex also consists of a royal bath which exhibits a fascinating hypocaust along with a well-preserved original mosaic tiling. A visit to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute is the next stopping point. The museum was founded to commemorate the innocent victims of the biggest crime against humanity of the 20th century and to raise international awareness among the international community. In the evening you will have a walk in the city center.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Duration: *7 hours (90 km)*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 3

After breakfast, the tour will begin with a journey to the south of Armenia. At about 40 km south from Yerevan we will visit Khor Virap – a historic site located amidst the Ararat Valley. Here at the place of the monastery once was a prison where Gregory the Illuminator suffered for 13 years for preaching Christianity in Armenia during. Nowhere else in Armenia does the biblical mountain of Ararat seem within arm's reach than at the site of Khor Virap on a clear day. Noravank Monastery will be your next stop. A drive through a narrow canyon is in order to reach the valley of red rocks. This region of Armenia has been made famous for its unique grape sort "Areni" hence where "Areni" wines are derived from. One cannot pass through without a stop at a local winery for a tasting of some locally produced, exquisite wines. The tour will continue to the southeast, where you will visit to Karahunj – a 6,000-year-old observatory also known as the "Armenian Stonehenge". In conclusion to the day's tour, a visit is made to the town of Goris, encompassed by rocky caves and mountains.

Overnight: *Hotel in Goris*

Duration: *9 hours (270 km)*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch*



Day 4

This day is dedicated to the pearl of Armenian Medieval Architecture – the monastery of Tatev. Thanks to its strategic location, Tatev was unreachable for centuries by enemies of the Armenian Kingdom, so it is well preserved. Here, one has a chance to ride on the longest cable car in the world which flies over the 320 meter-deep Vorotan River Canyon (optional). On the way back a drive down to the bottom of Vorotan Canyon awaits and a passing over the “Devil’s Bridge”. The next stop is 14th century Selim Caravanserai, which is one of the best-preserved hostels along the ancient Great Silk Road. From here, one can enjoy the magnificent view over the wide valley and the surrounding mountains. Only after a few kilometers the landscape changes dramatically and one can immerse themselves in the surrounds of Lake Sevan, the blue pearl of Armenia, sitting at 1,900 meters above sea level.

Overnight: Hotel at Lake Sevan

Duration: 9 hours (290 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5

After morning fresh coffee, we head to Sevan Peninsula, the stunning hilltop view of the azure lake framed by the surrounding mountains makes you feel inspired yet powerless by the same token. Sevanavank Monastery located on the hilltop was founded in 874 by Armenian Princess. You will continue your trip to Dilijan, a lush town known as a spa resort. A stroll in the historical district lets you experience the atmosphere of the old town as it was in the 19th century. The imaginatively carved balconies so typical of 19th century Dilijan display the region’s historical love for fine woodwork. You will continue to Hagartsin Monastery dramatically located among picturesque mountains covered with dense forest. You will continue your trip to Haghpat village where Haghpat Monastery – UNESCO World Heritage Site is located.

Overnight: Hotel in Haghpat

Duration: 7 hours (160 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 6

After fresh coffee and a scrumptious breakfast, the day starts with a journey in Lori region of Armenia. The tour consists of a visit to the Sanahin Medieval University, which is listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Site. Marvel at the intricate reliefs showing biblical scenes and characters whilst relishing the captivating old auditorium of Sanahin University. In addition to the many architectural attractions, the Lori region delivers beautiful landscapes of lush forests, the rocky deep canyon of Debed river and quaint little villages scattered along the canyon. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant where Armenian traditional dishes are introduced to the palate. Upon the journey returning to Yerevan, allow yourself to appreciate the view from the Lori highlands, where the nearby Pambak pass brings astounding views over the quadruple-peaked Mount Aragats. You will visit a well preserved, triple-nave basilica-type church of 4th century in the town of Aparan, the tour progresses on to stop at the Saghmosavank Monastery, located atop the yawning gorge carved by the Kasakh River. Not to be missed a visit to Saint Gevorg Church in the Village of Mughni. With nightfall nearing, we approach your hotel in Yerevan for rest, dinner and the evening at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan

Duration: 9 hours (190 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7

You will have a free day in Yerevan to explore the city.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan





Meals: Breakfast

Day 8

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.

