

Transcaucasian Trail

Key information

Duration: 10 days / 9 nights

Season: Mid April – End of October

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

What's included:

Airport transfers, accommodation (3* / double rooms / 9 nights), meals: breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners, all transfers in air conditioned vehicles, English-speaking hiking guide service for all days, local mountain guide service where needed, all admission fees, 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.), 24-hour office support.

What's not included:

Flights, Visa fee, Medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Transfer from airport – free day

Day 2 – Yerevan – Dilijan – “Drunken Forest”

Day 3 – Dilijan – Kahchardzan – Gosh Lake

Day 4 – Gosh Village – Goshavank Monastery – Parz Lake

Day 5 – Parz Lake - Dilijan

Day 6 – Hayravank Monastery - Orbelian Caravanserai – VayotsDzor

Day 7 – Noravank Monastery - Gnishik

Day 8 – Gnishik – Martiros - Gomk

Day 9 – Areni – Khor Virap - Yerevan

Day 10 - Departure



Detailed itinerary

Day 1

After your arrival in Yerevan you will be transferred to the hotel. Yerevan is the capital of Armenia, its largest city and the administrative, cultural, and industrial center. Yerevan is often referred to as the city of contradictions where modernity is interweaving with antiquity.

Overnight: hotel in Yerevan

Day 2

Your hiking adventure through the Transcaucasian Trail starts with a trip to Dilijan. Through a picturesque perfect route of the “Drunken Forest” you will enjoy the wilderness feel, although being very close to civilization. The abundance of tall and slanted pine trees makes the atmosphere of this place magical. The “Rotonda” monument on the way to Pines will add some mysticism with its appearance of abandoned historical building ruins, half-reclaimed by nature. After reaching the city center, you will stroll in town discovering its cozy streets and enjoying the atmosphere. Visit Dilijan Visitor Information Center for some spectacular details about the city and Dilijan National Park for various activities. Enjoy a short cycling around the town, perhaps a short stop by the “Verev Rope Park”.

(Hiking –1,5km/ Ascent/descent 1267/1354m)

Overnight: Hotel in Dilijan

Meals: B, L

Day 3

This day you will head to Khachardzan village. The population of this small, cozy village is just 480 people. The origin of its name came from the cross stones long kept here. Following the footpath close to the river, you will pass several km-s and start climbing up a small valley. You will reach a beautiful trail between Chermakavan village and riverside orchards and follow it until reaching the astonishing views of the valley below.

The further road takes you through the remains of abandoned Chermakavan village, which translates into “white village”. You will see the ruins of the church and several old houses. Reach Gosh Lake by a smooth route through a peaceful untouched forest. The lake and its surroundings create a beautiful and peaceful atmosphere of tranquility.

(Hiking – 12 km / Ascent/descent – 1020/1610m)

Overnight in tents by Gosh Lake

Meals: B, L, D

Day 4

The day starts with a hike towards Gosh village. The impressive 12th century Goshavank Monastery is located here. The Monastery has some unique selection of khachkars. In 12-13th centuries Goshavank became one of the most famous religious and scholarly medieval centers in Armenia. Following a path through the cemetery and wooded gorge will take you to a small stream crossing. You will continue through a footpath which brings you to a natural rock formation. Ascending it you will be presented with marvelous views of Goshavank and khachkars below. After reaching a natural freshwater spring, head to Parz Lake recreational area.

(Hiking –11 km /Ascent/descent –1224/1561m)

Overnight in tents by Parz Lake

Meals: B, L, D



Day 5

This day you will hike from Parz Lake through the Transcaucasian Trail towards Dilijan. On the way you will see the remains of water infrastructure from Soviet era. Walking towards North enter a forest and take the trail to Dilijan. Following the path and leaving behind several small clearings, you will finally reach a stream crossing after 650m. After following a narrow trail along a hillside and passing above one of Dilijan's dairy farms, you will be amazed by cozy picnic space. Reach Dilijan for rest and overnight.

(Hiking – 13,5km / Ascent/descent – 1266/1748m)

Overnight: hotel in Dilijan

Meals: B, L

Day 6

Your adventure through the picturesque Transcaucasian Trail continues towards Vayots Dzor region. After grabbing snacks at Tsovaghyugh Supermarket, head to Hayravank Monastery in Gegharkunik region, on the way to Vayots Dzor. The impressive medieval monastery complex includes a church, a chapel and a gavit, surrounded by Armenian cross-stones and gravestones. The monastery is located on Sevan lakeshore and offers mesmerizing views. Next stop is Noratus Cemetery which includes more than 800 cross-stones carved between 9-17th centuries. Stop at 14th century Selim Caravanserai – one of the most well-preserved hostels along the ancient Great Silk Road.

Overnight: Hotel in Hermon/ Yeghegnadzor

Meals: B

Day 7

In the morning you will be transferred to Noravank Monastery to start hiking on Transcaucasian Trail. The Monastery was built in the 13th century and is a masterpiece of Armenian architect Momik. On the territory of the monastery amazing khachkars are scattered all around – cross-stones designed by Momik.

After passing the gorge, the trail continues to a bit sharp hillside, Gnishik River being located below. There is a clearing across the river with a caravan and beehives. The place is well-known as Jafar Grove in memory of a man living here many years ago. Following the river you will continue your way along a footpath through an absolutely beautiful gorge. The path will soon take you to the small village Gnishik.

(Hiking – 11,5km / Ascent/descent – 1393/2037m)

Overnight: Gnishik Visitor Center

Meals: B, L

Day 8

After breakfast you will head to Martiros village. The hiking starts in Martiros towards Gomk village. The route from Old Martiros center follows narrow valleys through old house ruins and drops down to the river. After passing 200m you will reach Holy Mother of God church. A mixture of jeep tracks and newly constructed trails cross the mountainsides above the marshland areas. Here you will enjoy some of the most astonishing views of the Transcaucasian Trail.

(hiking – 14,8 km / Ascent/descent – 1804/2206m)

Overnight:

Meals: B, L



Day 9

In the morning you will have a check out from the hotel and head to Yerevan. En route, you will visit Areni-1 cave. Areni-1 Cave complex is a natural treasure of Copper Age artifacts which preserved the oldest shoe in the world before it was discovered and brought to the museum. Trip to the south of Armenia to KhorVirap Monastery located at the foot of Biblical Mount Ararat. You will reach Yerevan and start exploring the vibrant capital of Armenia. The ancient city was founded in 782 B.C. Armenians are proud that Yerevan is 29 years older than Rome. During the city tour, you will walk around the centre of the city and visit Cascade, Opera and Ballet Theater, Mashtots Avenue, and the Republic Square.

***Overnight:**Hotel in Yerevan*

***Meals:**B, D*

Day 10

Transfer to airport, departure.

