



TOUR SOUTHERN ARMENIA

Duration: 9 days/ 8 nights

Best period: May – November

Characteristics: Silk Road Route, Worlds Longest Aerial Tramway and Tatev Monastery, Khndzoresk cave town and Karahoune Astronomical Observatory, 3 nights countryside
Suitable for FITs and mid-size groups





BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1: DEPARTURE FORM HOMELAND

Day 2: YEREVAN CITY TOUR

Day 3: YEREVAN – KHOR VIRAP – NORAVANK – KARAHOUNGE – GORIS

Day 4: GORIS TATEV – KHNDZORESK – JERMUK

Day 5: JERMUK – SELIM – NORADUZ – SEVAN – DILIJAN

Day 6: DILIJAN – AMBERD – SAGMOSAVANK – YEREVAN

Day 7: YEREVAN – ECHMIADZIN – ZVARTNOTS – GENOCIDE MEMORIAL – YEREVAN

Day 8: YEREVAN – GARNI – GEHGARD – MATENADARAN – VERNISSAGE

Day 9: Departure

DESCRIPTIVE ITINERARY

Brief itinerary:

Day 1: Departure from homeland

Day 2: YEREVAN - THE CITY OLDER THAN ROME

Arrival to Zvartnots international airport in Yerevan - the capital of Armenia. Meet the guide and private transfer to the hotel. Check in and short rest or overnight depending on flight schedule. City tour in Yerevan – the city older than Rome. Visit State History Museum and Cascade monument to have a panoramic view to the cit. Welcome dinner at a traditional restaurant with live music and evening stroll in Republic Square to enjoy the Singing Fountains. Overnight in Yerevan.

Day 3: Trip to the past

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Ararat province to have the closest view to Biblical Mt. Ararat and to visit Khor Virap monastery 4-17 cen. where Armenian 1st Catholicos was imprisoned for 13 years. Continue to Noravank monastery 9-14 cen, passing through the fantastic Gnishik river canyon. Lunch in a cave. Continue to Karahoung ancient astronomical observatory – older than Stonehenge. Arrival to Goris. Overnight in Goris

Day 4: World Longest Aerial tramway

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Tatev monastery 10 -15 cen. taking world's longest aerial tramway which flies over the spectacular Vortan river canyon. Continue to Khndzoresk cave village for a panoramic view to the caves. Drive to Jermuk resort town famous for its mineral water. Tasting and SPA procedures upon request in Jermuk are available. Overnight in Jermuk



Day 5: Great Silk Road route

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Selim pass to visit Orbelians caravanserai 14 cen. built on the former routes of Great Silk Road. Continue to Noraduz cemetery where hundred cross stones are laid. Meeting with local people. Continue to Sevan monasteries 9 cen. and world's second highest alpine freshwater Lake Sevan. Drive to Tavush forested province and overnight in Dilijan

Day 6: Mt. Aragats and Amberd Fortress

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to the highest peak of Armenia Mt. Aragats 4090 m. and meeting with nomads. Visit Amberd fortress ruins on the Slopes of Mt. Aragats at 2000 m. and Armenian Alphabet park en route. Last stop at Sagmosavank monastery which offers a beautiful view to Qasagh river canyon. Overnight in Yerevan

Day 7: CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to the religious center of Armenia – Echmiadzin Cathedral 4th cen. and Zvartnots cathedral ruins 7th cen. UNESCO. Return back to Yerevan and visit Tsitsernakaberd Memorial park and Genocide Museum. Overnight in Yerevan

Day 8: HANDCRAFTING AND LOCAL TROADITIONS

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Garni pagan temple of 1st cen. – the only one survived in the Caucasus and the Geghard cave monastery 12-13 cen. UNESCO main relic – Holy Spear. Have a nice lunch in a local family house yard tasting delicious Armenian Khorovats (barbeque). Return back to Yerevan and Matenadaran manuscript depositary an Vernissgae open air handcraft market. Overnight in Yerevan

Day 9: Departure

Transfer to airport. Departure.

Notes:

The order of the itinerary is subject to be revised.

Museums are closed on Mondays.

Scarves are required for women to enter in Armenian Orthodox churches.

Short trousers aren't acceptable in the church both for women and men.

Wind and rain coats, hat, sun cream and comfortable shoes should be in every luggage.