



Tour: **GRAND ARMENIA** - The other side of Armenia

Duration: 11 days/ 10 nights

Best period: May - November

Characteristics: all provinces, 5 nights countryside in local houses and BB, nature and agro - tourism

Suitable for FITs and mid-size groups





"...But there is another Armenia, a subtly green, richly textured landscaped, every corner of which has been sculpted by millennia of human triumphs and tragedies. There is a gifted and generous population, now mostly cut off from outside stimuli but still desperately eager to demonstrate to foreign visitors its traditional hospitality and pride at its survival. There is nature, exotic, sometimes heart-rending beautiful, now mostly unvisited but far from inaccessible."

Brady Kiesling. Rediscovering Armenia

## BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1: DEPARTURE FROM HOMELAND

Day 2: YEREVAN - THE CAPITAL

Day 3: YEREVAN - KHOR VIRAP - ECHMIADZIN - ZVARTNOTS - GENOCIDE MEMORIAL - YEREVAN

Day 4: YEREVAN - SAGMOSAVANK - AMBERD - GYUMRI

Day 5: GYUMRI - MARMASHEN - HAGPAT - ODZUN

Day 6: ODZUN - FIOLETOVO - NOR GHETIK - YENOKAVAN

Day 7: YENOKAVAN - SEVAN - NORADUZ - ORBELIANs CARAVANSERRAI (SELIM) - YEGHEGNADZOR

Day 8: YEGHEGNADZOR - AGHAVNADZOR - KHNDZORESK - TATEV - HALIDZOR

Day 9: HALIDZOR - SPANDARIAN - NORAVANK - ARENI - YEREVAN

Day 10: YEREVAN - GARNI - GEGHARD - MATENADARAN - YEREVAN

Day 11: Departure

## DESCRIPTIVE ITINERARY

### CENTRAL ARMENIA

Day 1: Departure from homeland

Day 2: YEREVAN - THE CAPITAL

Arrival to Zvartnots international airport in Yerevan – the capital of Armenia /Yerevan – the city older than Rome (city tour)/ State History Museum / Cascade monument and panoramic view to the city / Evening stroll in Republic Square to enjoy the Singing Fountains / Overnight in Yerevan

Day 3: ARARAT, ARMAVIR provinces - Mt.Ararat and Ararat Valley

Yerevan / Stunning view to Biblical Mt. Ararat and tour to Khor Virap monastery 4-17 cen. – important pilgrimage center where Armenian 1<sup>st</sup> Catholicos was imprisoned for 13 years / Religious center of Armenia – Echmiadzin Cathedral 4<sup>th</sup> cen. UNESCO / Zvartnots cathedral ruins 7<sup>th</sup> cen. UNESCO / Lunch in an art school / Tsitsernakaberd Memorial dedicated to the victims of Armenian Genocide / Overnight in Yerevan

[incoming@neoarmenia.com](mailto:incoming@neoarmenia.com) T.: (+374) (0)60 483872

Skype:NeoArmenia URL: [www.neoarmenia.com](http://www.neoarmenia.com)



**Day 4: ARAGATSOTSN & SHIRAK provinces - Mt. Aragats and Shirak Valley**

Yerevan / Sagmosavank monastery 13 cen and beautiful Qasagh river canyon / Highest peak of Armenia Mt. Aragats 4090 m. and meeting with nomads / Amberd fortress ruins on the Slopes of Mt. Aragats at 2000 m./ Armenian Alphabet park / Shirak valley and Gyumri town / Dinner at a fish farm restaurant / Overnight in Gyumri

**NORTHERN ARMENIA**

**Day 5: SHIRAK & LORI provinces – forests and mountains**

Gyumri / Shirak valley – the second largest valley of Armenia, Akhuryan river and Marmashen monastery 10 cen. / Hapgat monastery 10-13 cen. highlight of UNESCO / Overnight at a BB in Odzun village feeling real Armenian hospitality

**Day 6: LORI & TAVUSH provinces – forests and mountains**

Odzun / Fioletovo village at a 1800 m. a.s.l., and tea tasting from samovar in a local house at ethnic and religious minority named “molokans” / Nor Ghetik – small village and agro tourism center famous for “motal” cheese, master class / Overnight in Yenokavan village at a resort enjoying the evening in mountains with friends around the fire place and nice dinner

**Day 7: GHEGARQUNIK & VAYOTS DZOR provinces – Lake Sevan and Selim pass**

Yenokavan active leisure options – horse riding, hiking, zip-line, 4x4 etc. / Sevan monasteries 9 cen. and world’s second highest alpine freshwater Lake Sevan / Noraduz cross stones and meeting with local people / Beautiful Selim pass and Orbelians caravanserai 14 cen. / Overnight at a BB in Yeghegnadzor

**SOUTHERN ARMENIA**

**Day 8: VAYOTS DZOR & SYUNIK provinces – canyons and gorges**

Yeghegnadzor / Trinity winery in Aghavnadzor an organic winery famous for the quality of rose wine and blow-your-socks off areni wine. Wine and grappa tasting / Khndzoresk cave village panoramic view / Tatev monastery 9 -15 cen. and spectacular Vortan river canyon view from Worlds longest aerial tramway listed in Guinness World Records / Overnight in Halidozr village in a very cozy and special resort where the rooms are in huge barrels standing over the Vorotan river canyon

**Day 9: SYUNIK, VAYOTS DZOR & YEREVAN – wine yards**

Halidzor / Karahoung ancient astronomical observatory 6000 years near Sisian / Spandarian reservoir / Noravank monastery 9-14 cen, fantastic Gnishik river canyon and lunch in a cave / Areni 1 cave complex to explore ~ 5500 years wine making traditions, famous Areni wine producing village and goat factory, goat cheese tasting / Yerevan

**THE HEART OF ARMENIA**

**Day 10: KOTAYK province**

Yerevan / Garni pagan temple of 1<sup>st</sup> cen. – the only one survived in the Caucasus / Ghegard cave monastery 12-13 cen. UNESCO main relic – Holy Spear / Lunch in a local house tasting famous “Khorovats”- pork barbeque which is Armenians main dish for every feast table / Matenadaran manuscript museum – one of the biggest libraries of the world which contains 17 000 books and



manuscripts of middle ages / Free time in Vernissgae open air handcraft market and fruit market / Farewell dinner at a traditional restaurant with live music / Overnight in Yerevan

**Day 11: Departure**

**OPTIONAL: 1- 2 DAYS MORE IN NAGORNO KHARABAGH**

**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.