

## ARMENIA - NATURE AND RELIGION

### 10 DAYS 9 NIGHTS



#### Day 1. Arrival

Arrival at the Zvartnoc airport and transfer to the hotel.

#### Day 2. Yerevan City Tour

Breakfast. We will visit Matenadaran which is both a museum of ancient manuscripts and a scientific research institute. Here all ancient Armenian Manuscripts are kept. Hardly a visitor leaves Yerevan without visiting the institute. Next, we will visit The Armenian Genocide memorial complex: Armenia's official memorial dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, built in 1967 on the hill of Tsitsernakaberd. This will include a visit to the Genocide museum Afterwards, we will take a trip to Ararat Brandy Factory. (B/-/D)

#### Day 3. Yerevan – Ejmiatsin – Zvartnoc – Yerevan (67km)

Breakfast. We will start the day by visiting the centuries-old monuments of Ejmiatsin and Zvartnots. These sites are listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The Cathedral of Ejmiatsin, founded in 303, is the official residence of the Catholicos of Armenia. We'll continue the trip to Zvartnots Temple, which was built in the 7th century by. We then return to Yerevan and visit Megeryan Carpets. Overnight at the hotel. (B/L/-)

#### Day 4. Yerevan – Stepanavan – Lori berd – Haghpat (215km)

Breakfast. Today, we head towards Lori and visit "Dendropark", a few kilometers away from the center of Stepanavan where, there are many beautiful plants from different countries of the world. Here we can take a pleasant walk through the forest. Next, we visit Lori fortress and then drive towards Haghpat Monastery (The UNESCO World Heritage Site). Dinner and overnight stay in Haghpat. (B/-/D)

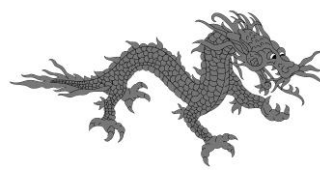


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### **Day 5: Haghpat – Akhtala –Lake Parz –Dilijan (160km)**

Breakfast. We begin with a visit to the monastery of Akhtala, which was built at the end of the 10th century. The main church at the compound is famous for its highly artistic frescoes, which cover the inside walls, the partitions, and the bearings of the building. We then visit Lake Parz where you'll enjoy the splendid panorama of the lake. Dinner and overnight in Dilijan. (B/-/D)

### **Day 6: Dilijan – Sevan – Noratus – Selim – Hermon (190km)**

Breakfast. We Depart towards Lake Sevan, which is one of the largest freshwater high-altitude lakes in Eurasia. Here you can enjoy the beautiful view of the island. We can visit two monasteries of the 10th century. Noratus which is most famous for its cemetery, the oldest part of which includes over 800 khachkars (stone crosses), which were carved between the 9th-17th centuries. Selim Carvansarai was an important center of commerce on the Great Silk Road.. Dinner and overnight in Hermon. (B/-/D)

### **Day 7. Hermon - Jermuk - Karahunj (Stonehenge) – Tatev – Goris (260km)**

Breakfast. Today, we head to the famous spa city of Armenia: Jermuk , a town in Southern Armenia, where much of the country's mineral water comes from. The countryside at this very high elevation resort is worth visiting as well, with canyons, forest and wildlife to explore. We will visit Karahunj or Zorakarer which are 3,500 years older than Stonehenge and 3,000 years older than the Pyramids. According to many archaeologists, Karahunj was a "temple with a very large-scale observatory", Then we will continue on to the monastery complex of Tatev (9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries), which was the center of study in those times. To reach the monastery we ride the world's longest non-stoppable cable car. Next, we drive to Goris. Dinner and overnight in Goris. (B/-/D)

### **Day 8 .Goris – Khndzoresk -Noravank – Areni – KhorVirap– Yerevan (300km)**

Breakfast. First, we visit Khndzoresk, which is a village and rural community (municipality) in the South-East of Armenia, in the province (marz) of Syunik. We head to Vayots Dzor region and Noravank Monastery (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) situated on the edge of a precipice. Lunch will be in a local home. Here you witness the preparation of the Armenian "Barbeque". Next we continue on to Areni winery which is a 6100-year-old winery that was discovered in 2007. Afterwards, we head to the Ararat region to visit the Monastery of KhorVirap, the famous pilgrimage site, visited by Pope John Paul II. KhorVirap means “deep gorge” From here a breathtaking panoramic view opens up to the biblical Mount Ararat. In the evening, we head back to Yerevan. (B / L / -)



### **Day 9. Yerevan – Garni – Geghard – Yerevan (90km)**

Breakfast. The day begins with a trip to Garni (about 30 km from Yerevan) which is the only pagan temple preserved in Armenia from pagan times. It was dedicated to the God Mihr. By taking the 4x4 cars we visit Garni's gorge to see the “Symphony of stones”. We will visit a local house where you can have the opportunity



to see and participate in the preparation of Armenian bread, Lavash, (which is baked in underground oven called a “tonir”). Lavash has a UNESCO Cultural Heritage Status. We continue the tour by visiting Geghard Monastery (UNESCO Heritage Site) named after the spear that pierced Christ’s body. It is located in a very spectacular, deep canyon: which is carved out of the gorge. Overnight in Yerevan. (B / L / -)

### Day 10. Departure

Breakfast. Transfer to airport.

### 3\*/4\*hotels

<i>Per Pax</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10+1</i>	<i>15+1</i>	<i>20+1</i>	<i>25+1</i>	<i>30+1</i>	<i>SGL</i>	<i>Full Board</i>
<i>GBP</i>	<i>935</i>	<i>740</i>	<i>670</i>	<i>640</i>	<i>630</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>565</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>530</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Euro</i>	<i>1055</i>	<i>835</i>	<i>755</i>	<i>720</i>	<i>710</i>	<i>670</i>	<i>640</i>	<i>605</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>USD</i>	<i>1245</i>	<i>985</i>	<i>890</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>840</i>	<i>785</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>710</i>	<i>705</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>120</i>

### Tour price includes :

- Accomodation in hotels in DBL rooms;
- English Speaking Guide;
- All the transfers;
- All entrance fees to monuments mentioned in the program;
- A bottle of water per day per person;
- Meals per program

### Tour price does not include:

- Travel insurance;
- Alcoholic beverages;
- Air Tickets;
- Visits outside the program;

### Note :

*Vernissage / Armenian handicraft market / is open only on Saturdays and Sundays*  
*On Monday all museums are closed/ Matenadaran is also closed on Sundays*