

## *The Food and Drink of Armenia*

10 Days 9 Nights



### **Day 1. Arrival**

Arrival at Zvartnots International Airport. Transfer to the hotel.

### **Day 2. Yerevan City Tour**

#### **Brandy Factory**

Breakfast. We will start the tour with the capital of Armenia: Yerevan. For years this city has been known as a “pink city” due to the colour of the stone used in construction. We begin by visiting Republic Square, Mashtoc Avenue, the House of Opera and Ballet and Cascad Park. Next, we visit Matenadaran: the manuscript museum which is also the world's largest repository of ancient Armenian manuscripts. It holds not only Armenian but also Persian and Arabian manuscripts. Lunch will be at a restaurant during the tour. After this we will visit the history museum with a collection of 400,000 objects. Afterwards, we visit the Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex: Tsitsernakaberd dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Next, we head to the most famous Armenian Brandy Factory. Dinner will be at a local restaurant with folk music, where most delicious dishes of Armenian cuisine are waiting for you to taste. Overnight at the hotel (B/L/D)

### **Day 3. Yerevan – Ejmiatsin – Zvartnots – Yerevan**

#### **Wine Factory and Brandy**

Breakfast. We will start the excursion to 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. Echmiadzin is a sacred place for Armenian people and a spiritual heart of the Armenian Apostolic Church. We'll continue the trip to Zvartnots Temple, which was built in the 7th century. Currently there are only the ruins of Zvartnots, but it is a magnificent structure nevertheless. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Afterwards, we will go to see Armenian wine and Brandy being produced. We then return to Yerevan and visit Megeryan carpet factory. Dinner will be at the factory restaurant. (B/L/D)

### **Day 4. Yerevan - Khor Virap – Areni Village – Noravank – Karahunj - Goris**

#### **Local wine and Armenian “barbeque”**

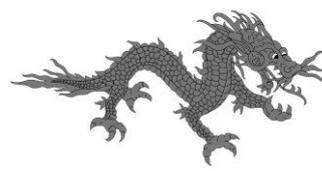
Breakfast. We begin with a trip to Khor Virap Monastery (4-18th cc.). This monastery is very prominent because of its history; Gregory the Illuminator, who introduced Christianity to Armenia, was been imprisoned here for about 13 years as at that time there was a prison in the place of the monastery. Here we can enjoy the spectacular views of the sacred Ararat Mountain - an immortal symbol of Armenia. Literally Khor Virap means deep gorge. We then visit v Areni village which is an important center of the wine production industry and which has a history of more than 6000 years. You are welcome to taste its excellent wine. Here you will also get the chance to participate in preparation of the famous Armenian barbecue. Next, we continue our tour to Noravank - a monastery of the 12th century situated among amazing

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sheer rocks of a twisty gorge. Lunch will be at a local house in Areni. Afterwards. We visit Karahunj or Zorats Karer which is 3500 years older than Stonehenge and 3000 years older than Egyptian pyramids. Some specialists even calculated the age of the stone circle itself, purely basing on the position of stars in the sky in earlier times - the result was 7.6 thousand years ago. This would make Karahunj the oldest astronomical observatory in the world. Dinner and overnight in Goris. (B/L/D)



#### **Day 5. – Goris – Tatev – Khndzoresk – Jermuk**

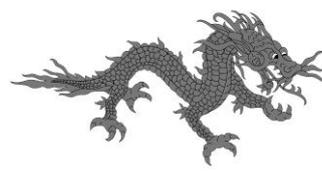
##### **Local dishes and fruit vodka**

Breakfast. We start our day with a visit to the cave village of Khndzoresk. We then continue our trip to the monastic complex of Tatev (9-13th century): a famous center of study in those times. To reach the monastic complex we will use a cable car which holds the record for the world's longest non-stoppable double-track cable car. Lunch will be at a house where you can taste the local dishes and admire a master class in the preparation of vodka from different fruits. After these activities we head to famous spa town of Jermuk. Here you will have the opportunity to enjoy fresh mountain air and visit one of the most beautiful Armenian cascades. Dinner and overnight in Jermuk. (B/L/D)

#### **Day 6. Goris – Selim – Noraduz - Sevan – Dilijan**

##### **Armenian Beer**

Breakfast. Today we are going to pass the route that has been used by the travelers of the Great Silk Road. We will drive through the Selim Caravanserai, which served as an important center of exchange, trade and lodging during the times of the Great Silk Road. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. We will then visit Noraduz and then drive to Lake Sevan which is one of the largest lakes in the world which has astonishingly blue water. Here we can enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the beautiful lake. Then we will visit Sevanavank Monastery which is situated on the Sevan Peninsula. There are two monasteries actually; one of them was destroyed but the other still stands. They were built in the middle Ages, around the 10th century. Next, we will drive to Dilijan. Walking along Sharambeyan Street, which is one of the oldest streets of the city, and a good place to buy souvenirs and see the life of the small city. During the walk you will breathe the clean mountain air. Then we visit the brewery, where you will get acquainted with the process of making Armenian beer. Dinner and overnight in Dilijan. (B/L/D)



## Day 7. Dilijan – Ijevan – Haghpat – Gyumri

### Brandy, White wine and sea food



First, we head to Alaverdi and on the way, we will stop at the wine and brandy factory which is famous for its white wine products. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Next, we Visit a unique masterpiece of Armenian architecture of the X-XIV centuries: the monastery of Haghpat which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Haghpat Monastery was one of the largest religious, cultural and educational centers of medieval Armenia. Finally, we depart for Gyumri. Dinner will be at a local restaurant most famous for its appetizing and tasty fish dishes. (B/L/D)

## Day 8. Gyumri – Amberd – Saghmosavank – Yerevan

### Armenian desserts and local beer

Breakfast. We begin by walking down the beautiful streets of Gyumri: a city which has changed its name several times. Initially it was called Kumayri, later Alexandrapol. After that it was called Leninakan and finally Gyumri. This city is the second largest city of Armenia. It is located at a distance of about 120 km away from Yerevan and is located on the bank of the Akhurian River. While exploring Gyumri we will visit Dzitoghtsyan house-museum; an Architecture and Ethnography museum. The museum is impressive because it gives a chance to look closer at the history and know more about traditions and habits of Armenians during the nineteenth century. We will visit Alexandrapol brewery before heading to the Aragatsotn region. Lunch will be at a local house and includes an amazing master class of Armenian sweets " Sujukh " and " Gata ". We will then visit the Armenian Alphabet monument. Afterwards, we head towards the medieval and mysterious Amberd fortress (7th-13th centuries AD), which was built on the slope of Mount Aragats (4091 meters above sea level). We will also visit Saghmosavank monastery. Finally, we return to Yerevan and have dinner at a traditional restaurant. Overnight in Yerevan. (B/L/D)

## Day 9. Yerevan – Garni – Geghard – Yerevan

### Traditional dishes

Breakfast. We begin with a trip to Garni. This Pagan Temple built in the 1st century AD. It is the only temple that has been preserved from pagan times in Armenia. It was devoted to the god Mihr, who was the god of cleanness. In 1679 it was destroyed by an earthquake. In 1975 the Temple was restored. Then we will continue our trip to Geghard Monastery. It's name came from the legendary lance that was used to pierce the body of Christ. It has been kept here for centuries. Though the exact foundation of the monastery is unknown, the present complex was built in the mid – 13th century. Afterwards we will visit a local house where you will have the chance to see and participate in the preparation of Armenian national bread: lavash. It is very thin and usually sold in very large forms. It is usually cooked in a ground oven: "tonir". In 2015 it has been inscribed in the UNESCO intangible heritage list. Here we will enjoy the "Armenian fast food" with lavash and cheese. Next, we return to Yerevan where we will visit the fruit market. We will then have a farewell dinner of traditional dishes. Overnight in Yerevan. (B/L/D)

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### Day 10. Departure

Breakfast. Transfer to airport.

#### 3\* hotel

Per Pax	2	4	6	8	10+1	15+1	20+1	25+1	30+1	SGL
GBP	955	710	670	640	630	610	570	555	540	190
Euro	1080	805	755	720	715	690	645	630	615	215
USD	1195	905	840	795	785	765	705	700	680	230

Yerevan – Silachi or similar

Goris – Mina or similar

Jermuk – Verona or similar

Dilijan – Haghartsin or similar

Gyumri – Alexandropol or similar

#### 4\* hotel

Per Pax	2	4	6	8	10+1	15+1	20+1	25+1	30+1	SGL
GBP	1025	790	740	725	720	680	640	630	615	220
Euro	1160	895	840	820	815	770	725	715	695	250
USD	1280	990	925	915	900	850	805	785	765	270

Yerevan – Opera Suite or similar

Goris – Mina or similar

Jermuk – Verona or similar

Dilijan – Best Western Paradise or similar

Gyumri – Nane or similar

#### Tour price includes:

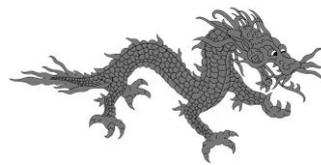
- Hotel accommodation in DBL rooms
- English speaking guide;
- All the transfers;
- All excursions and entrance fees mentioned in the program ;
- A bottle of water per day per person;
- Meals according to the program.

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**Tour price does not includes:**

- Travel insurance;
- Alcoholic beverages ;
- Air tickets;
- Tips for guides and drivers;
- Visits outside the program.

Notes:

Vernissage/handicraft market/ is open only in Saturday and Sunday

On Monday all the museums are closed/ Matenadaran is also closed on Sunday