

## Trekking in Armenia

### 15 Days 14 nights

#### Day 1. Arrival

Arrival at Zvartnoc International airport and transfer to the hotel.

#### Day 2. Yerevan /city tour/

Breakfast. We will start the tour in the capital of Armenia: Yerevan. For years this city has been known as a “pink city” because of the colour of the stone used in construction. We begin with a visit to Republic Square, Mashtoc Avenue, the House of Opera and Ballet and Cascad Park. Then we will visit the Manuscript Museum of Armenia, which is called Matenadaran; here all the ancient Armenian manuscripts are kept. Next, we will visit Erebuni museum and the Genocide Memorial known as Tsitsernakaberd. Dinner at a traditional Armenian restaurant where you may taste the masterpieces of Armenian cuisine. Overnight in the hotel. (B/L/D)

#### Day 3. Yerevan – Sevaberd – Lake Akna

Breakfast. Morning transfer to the village of Sevard where we start our trekking tour to the lake at Akna (3030m). Camping near the lake. (B/L/D)

**Trekking - 12km, +700m, 5-6 hours**

#### Day 4. Lake Akna – Mount Ajdahak- Mount Vishapasar

Breakfast. The trek climbs from Akna lake to Mount Ajdahak. Then there is a descent to Akna lake to the top of Ajdahak mountain, then downhill to the slopes of the mountain of Vishapasar. Overnight in tents. (B/L/D)

**Trekking - 14km, +600m, -700m, 8-9 hours**

#### Day 5. Vishapasar- Geghard –Garni- Yerevan

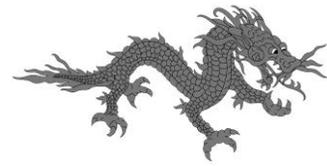
Breakfast. Descent from the mountains. We then visit the Monastery of Geghard. Its name came from the legendary lance that was used to pierce the body of Christ. It has been kept here for centuries. Though the exact foundation of the monastery is unknown, the present complex was built in the mid-13th 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 called a “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. Then the journey continues towards the pagan temple of Garni. 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. We return to Yerevan, dinner at local restaurant. (B/L/D)

**Trekking - 14km, 4-5 hours, -900m**

#### Day 6. Yerevan – Haghpat – Sanahin – Dilijan

Today we will visit two unique masterpieces of Armenian architecture from the 10th-14th centuries: the monasteries of Sanahin and Haghpat which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Literally the name “Sanahin” in Armenian means “this one is older than the other,” These two monasteries are very close to each other and can be easily seen together. Both are located on an uneven plateau, separated by a deep crack formed by a small river that flows into the River Debed. Haghpat Monastery was one of the largest religious, cultural and educational centers of medieval Armenia. We will continue on our trekking route from Haghpat to Sanahin. Next we visit Dilijan with lunch at local house. Then there will be a city tour of Dilijan with its handicraft workshops and small shops of Armenian souvenirs. Dinner and overnight in Dilijan. (B/L/D)

**Trekking - 9km, 3-4 hours, -150m, +150m**



### **Day 7. Dilijan –Sevan – Selim- Goris (cultural day)**

Breakfast. We will then drive to Lake Sevan which is one of the largest lakes in the world. It stands out with its 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 2 monasteries actually; one of them was destroyed but the other still stands. Today we are going to follow the pathways that have been used by the travellers 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. Afterwards, we will drive to Goris. Dinner and overnight in Goris. (B/L/D)

### **Day 8. Goris – Kapan – Khustup**

Breakfast. Transfer to Baghaburj village, near Kapan. From here we start trekking up to the camp on Mount Khustup (2100m). Overnight in tents. (B/L/D)

**Trekking - 9km, +1000m, 5-6 hours**

### **Day 9. Khustup Summit**

Breakfast. A very nice day, but a little strenuous where we climb to the summit of Mount Khustup. (3215m). Then return to the campsite. (B/L/D)

**Hiking over 9km, +1100m, -1100m, 7-8 hours**

### **Day 10. Khustup –Vachagan – Vahanavank - Goris**

Breakfast. We begin with a descent to Vachagan village, then visit Vahanavank monastery. Dinner and overnight in Goris. (B/L/D)

### **Day 11. Goris – Noravank – Khor Virap - Yerevan (cultural day)**

Breakfast. We take a trip to Noravank - a monastery of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, situated among amazing sheer rocks on a twisty gorge. Next, we will continue to the wine village of Areni. This village is very famous for its red wine. Here we can taste some of the wine. Then, we will stop at Khor Virap Monastery (4-18th century.). This monastery is very prominent because of its history; Gregory the Illuminator, who introduced Christianity to Armenia, was 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 view of the sacred Ararat Mountain - an immortal symbol of Armenia. Then we drive back to Yerevan. Dinner and overnight. (B/L/D)

### **Day 12. Village Aragats – Gegharot**

Breakfast. Leave for the village Aragats, from where begins the climb to the cascade of Gegharot. Overnight in tents. (B/L/D)

**Trekking 11km, 4-5 hours, + 650m**

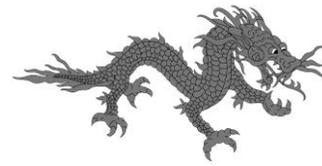
### **Day 13. Gegharot – North (or West) summit – Lake Kari – Yerevan**

Breakfast. Perhaps this is the most difficult day of our trip. From the campsite we climb up the highest peak of Armenia, then descend to Lake Kari (3200m). Return to Yerevan. Dinner in local restaurant. Overnight in Yerevan. (B/L/D)

**Trekking - 14km, +1250m, -800m, 8-9 hours**

### **Day 14: Yerevan – Zvartnoc – Ejmiatsin - Yerevan**

Breakfast. We will start the excursion to the centuries-old monuments Ejmiatsin and Zvartnots. These sites are listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Zvartnots Temple was built in 7th century. Our next stop is the spiritual center of Armenia: Ejmiatsin. The Cathedral of Ejmiatsin, founded in 303, is the official residence of the Catholicos of Armenia. We will also visit the museum of Ejmiatsin where supposedly a small part of Noah's Ark



is kept. Finally, we return to Yerevan and visit Megeryan Carpet factory. In the evening you may enjoy the night life of modern Yerevan. There will be a farewell dinner at a very beautiful restaurant. Overnight in Yerevan. (B/L/D)

### Day 15: Departure

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport

### 3\* Hotels

<i>Per pax</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Sgl</i>
<i>GBP</i>	<i>1495</i>	<i>1075</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>895</i>	<i>830</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>EURO</i>	<i>1690</i>	<i>1215</i>	<i>1130</i>	<i>1010</i>	<i>940</i>	<i>180</i>
<i>USD</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1430</i>	<i>1335</i>	<i>1190</i>	<i>1100</i>	<i>210</i>

### 4\* Hotels

<i>Per pax</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Sgl</i>
<i>GBP</i>	<i>1575</i>	<i>1160</i>	<i>1085</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>905</i>	<i>225</i>
<i>EURO</i>	<i>1780</i>	<i>1310</i>	<i>1225</i>	<i>1100</i>	<i>1020</i>	<i>255</i>
<i>USD</i>	<i>2095</i>	<i>1545</i>	<i>1440</i>	<i>1295</i>	<i>1205</i>	<i>300</i>

### The quote includes:

- All Transfers
- Accommodation in hotels and tents in double base;
- English speaking guide
- Full board
- Transportation according to the program
- Jeep
- Tents

### The quote does not include:

- Insurance
- Tickets
- Alcohol drinks
- Everything that is not mentioned in the program