



Step into the world's first Christian nation.

## 📍 Armenia

Journey to the land where the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew first preached, and where King Trdat III made history by adopting Christianity as the state religion in 301 AD.

Walk in the footsteps of St. Gregory the Illuminator at Khor Virap, before the majestic gaze of Mount Ararat. Discover ancient, rock-hewn monasteries like Geghard and visit Etchmiadzin, the spiritual heart of the Armenian Apostolic Church and one of the world's oldest cathedrals.

Here, faith is etched in stone—a profound, 1,700-year-old heritage waiting to deepen your spiritual journey.

# TOUR ITINERARY



## Day 1

**Departure from UK / Arrival in Yerevan, Armenia**



## Day 2

**Morning:** Matenadaran Museum of Ancient Manuscripts

**Early Afternoon:** Garni Temple

**Late Afternoon:** Geghard Monastery

**Overnight:** Yerevan.

## Day 3

**Morning:** Noraduz Cemetery of Cross-Stones

**Early Afternoon:** Lake Sevan & Sevan Monastery

**Late Afternoon:** Haghartsin Monastery

**Overnight:** Dilijan



## Day 4

**Morning:** Drive to Lori Region

**Afternoon:** Haghpat Monastery

**Overnight:** Gyumri

## Day 5

**Morning:** Tour of Gyumri

**Afternoon:** Aruch Cathedral

**Overnight:** Yerevan

## Day 6

**Morning:** Ararat Valley & Khor Virab Monastery

**Early Afternoon:** Noravank Monastery & Bird's Cavern

**Late Afternoon:** The History Museum of Armenia

(Yerevan)

**Overnight:** Yerevan

## Day 7

**Morning:** Echmiadzin

**Afternoon:** Zvartnots

**Late Afternoon:** Genocide Memorial and Museum

**Overnight:** Yerevan

## Day 8

**Departure Transfer to Airport**



## TRAVEL GUIDE

### Day 1 Departure

Departure from home country and arrive to **Zvartnots International Airport in Yerevan**.

In the morning, visit the **Matenadaran**, a **Museum of ancient manuscripts**, and then proceed to the **Garni Temple** (a **UNESCO World Heritage** site). It is the **only pagan temple** in the territory of Armenia, built in the **1st century AD** by the Armenian King **Trdat I**. It is dedicated to the **God of Sun, Mithras**. The Garni Temple lies about **32 km east of Yerevan**, and the complex hosts a number of buildings including a royal palace, a Roman bath, and a church. Destroyed by an earthquake in **1679**, the Garni Temple was **reconstructed in the 1970s** and is now made up of both original and replacement masonry. Enjoy the beautiful sounds of the **Armenian Duduk** in the Garni Temple, an **ancient double-reed woodwind flute** made of **apricot wood**. It is indigenous to Armenia and was proclaimed a **Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2005**.

### Day 2 Garni/Geghard/Matendaran/Yerevan 80 km

Have lunch in a rustic house and discover how the traditional Armenian flatbread **Lavash**, inscribed in **2014** on the **UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**, is made. The next stop is **Geghard** (a **UNESCO World Heritage site in Armenia**), an incredible **medieval Armenian monastery**, partly carved out of a mountain. Though the monastery has been around since before the 4th century, the **main cathedral** was built in **1215**. The existing ensemble dates back to the **12th-13th centuries**, the time of the flourishing of national culture, especially architecture. Enjoy a **quintet choir** in Geghard for **25 minutes**, a **spiritual concert of Armenian medieval music** in the **Geghard Monastery**. Drive back to Yerevan. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in **Yerevan**.

### Day 3 Lake Sevan/Dilijan/Haghartsin/Dilijan 190 km

In the morning, proceed to the **Noraduz Cemetery of Khachkars (cross-stones)**. Noraduz is the **largest surviving medieval cemetery** with **khachkars**. Since **2010**, **khachkars**, their symbolism, and craftsmanship are inscribed on the **UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage**. Proceed to **Lake Sevan**, one of the **world's high-altitude lakes**. Take the stairs to the top of the **Sevan peninsula** to enjoy the **breathtaking scenery**. Now it is time to uncover the secrets of the Sevan Monastery dating back to the **9th century**. **St. Arakelots** and **St. Astvatsatsin** churches are beautiful examples of **Armenian church architecture** of the **medieval period**.

Proceed to **Dilijan**, known as **Armenian Switzerland**. Dilijan attracts visitors with **lush forests, fertile meadows**, the rushing **Aghstev River**, and its **stunning and quiet nature**. Stroll through the picturesque **Old Quarter**, particularly **Sharambeyan Street** and its **artisan shops**. After taking another **18 km drive** through a forest road, find the hidden treasure—the **13th-century Haghartsin Monastery**. Dinner at the **Paradise Hotel** in Dilijan. Overnight in **Dilijan** (Best Western Paradise or similar).

Drive to the **Lori region**. The **Debed Canyon, Pambak** and **Lori mountain chains**, and the rushing **Debed River** will make your drive a very enjoyable experience. The **Monastery of Haghpat** (a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**) was founded in **976** during the reign of **King Ashot III Bagratouni**. The **oldest structure** of the Monastery is the **Church of St. Nshan**. It is of the **domed-hall type** and was consecrated in **991**. The monastic complex also includes: a small domed church of St. Grigor, the chapel of St. Astvatsatsin, the **scriptorium**, and the **refectory**. After lunch, proceed to **Gyumri**. Dinner in **Gyumri**. Overnight in **Gyumri** (**Shiraz Radisson Blu** or similar).

Day 4  
Haghpat/Gyumri  
240 km

**Gyumri** is the **second largest city in Armenia** and the capital of the **Shirak Province** in the northwestern part of the country. It was originally founded as **Kumayri**, later re-founded as **Alexandropol** between **1837** and **1924** during the Russian rule, then **Leninakan** between **1924-90**, and then as Gyumri. Four percent of the **Catholic population of Armenia** lives in Gyumri. The major **Catholic Church (2010)**, the **Boghossian Centre**, and the **Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate** are all located in Gyumri and nearby villages (Ashotsk). Khachkar (cross-stone) making workshop in Gyumri. Visit the unique **khachkar studio** in Gyumri, where you will meet a wonderful Armenian, the **only Armenian woman-khachkar maker**. Tour of Gyumri and proceed to **Yerevan**, on the way visiting the **Aruch Cathedral (7th century)**. Drive back to Yerevan. Dinner in Yerevan. Overnight in **Yerevan**.

Day 5  
Gyumri/Aruch/Yerevan  
125 km

Driving through the most fertile **Ararat Valley**, you will make a stop in **45 minutes** at the medieval **Khor Virap Monastery (4th-17th centuries)** with an incredible view of glorious **Mount Ararat**. **Khor Virap** has a special place in the history of Armenia and the adoption of **Christianity as a state religion in 301**. The name Khor Virap means a **Deep Dungeon**, where **Gregory The Illuminator** was **imprisoned by King Trdat for 13 years** and survived, proving the real God and true religion. The next stop is at the **Noravank Monastery (9th-14th centuries)**, the **masterpiece of Master Momik**. Lunch in a winery with **wine tastings**.

Day 6  
Khor Virap/Noravank/Yerevan  
250 km

Visit also the recently excavated, very well-preserved **Copper Age settlement, Bird's Cavern**, which uncovers the secrets of **6,000-year-old wine production in Armenia**. The site boasts incredible items excavated in **2008-2010**, among which is the **world's oldest shoe, 5,500 years old**. Explore the unique cavern's **ritual and burial halls**. Drive back to **Yerevan**. Dinner in a restaurant. Overnight in **Yerevan**.

Day 7  
Khor Virap/Noravank/Yerevan  
250 km

A fascinating journey through the path of Christianity. **Echmiadzin** is the **spiritual center of Armenia**, the **Armenian Vatican**. It is a truly amazing experience to visit the **Echmiadzin Mother Cathedral**, one of the **world's most ancient churches**, built and consecrated by **St. Gregory the Illuminator** and **St. Trdat the Great in 303 AD**. Echmiadzin translates literally to **"the place where the Only Begotten Son of God descended."** According to tradition, **St. Gregory the Illuminator** saw a vision... and with a golden hammer struck the ground where the Cathedral was to be located. Echmiadzin is also the **See of the Armenian Apostolic Church** and the residence for its head, the **Catholico**. Five kilometers towards Yerevan from Echmiadzin there are the ruins of **Zvartnots**. It was added to the **UNESCO World Heritage list in 2000**.

The temple was a **three-tiered, central-domed structure** that astounded with its magnificence. According to the opinion of European specialists, the **Temple of Zvartnots** may be ranked with the **greatest monuments of ancient architecture**. Lunch in **Echmiadzin**.

## Day 7

**Khor Virap/Noravank/Yerevan**  
250 km

Drive back to **Yerevan**, and continue to the **Cascade**, a long stairway alongside multiple levels of fountains with its amazing sculptures by world-famous artists such as **Botero**, **Chadwick**, and **Flanagan**. Visit the **Republic Square** with its magnificent buildings enhanced by singing fountains, via **Northern Avenue**—an ambitious project of independent Armenia—to **Freedom Square** and the **Opera House**. Your visit also includes the **Genocide Memorial and Museum**. Farewell Dinner in a restaurant. Overnight in **Yerevan**.

## Day 8

**Departure from Yerevan**

**Departure from Zvartnots International Airport in Yerevan.**