

## Great Armenian Discovery - 10 days

AM-03



The comprehensive itinerary of this ten day tour enables participants to get to know the fascinating country of Armenia. Many of the country's most attractive monasteries feature in the programme, including Khor Virap with its views of Mount Ararat, Sevanavank overlooking beautiful Lake Sevan and Tatev, perched on a hill and reached by the world's longest cable car. The tour also includes time in the capital Yerevan, the pretty spa town of Dilijan and some spectacular scenic drives including a crossing of the Selim Pass.

**DEPARTURE DATES:**

06.05.2025; 13.05.2025; 20.05.2025; 27.05.2025; 03.06.2025; 10.06.2025; 17.06.2025; 24.06.2025; 01.07.2025; 08.07.2025; 15.07.2025; 22.07.2025; 29.07.2025; 05.08.2025; 12.08.2025; 19.08.2025; 26.08.2025; 02.09.2025; 09.09.2025; 16.09.2025; 23.09.2025; 30.09.2025; 07.10.2025; 14.10.2025; 21.10.2025; 28.10.2025; 04.11.2025; 11.11.2025; 18.11.2025; 25.11.2025; 02.12.2025; 09.12.2025; 16.12.2025.

## ITINERARY

**Day 1 - Yerevan**

Today your Armenian adventure begins as you arrive in the capital Yerevan. The transfer to your hotel is included. Overnight in Yerevan. (D)

**Day 2 - Yerevan - Ejmiatsin - Zvartnots - Yerevan**

Discover the allure of Yerevan, the captivating capital of Armenia, where Soviet-era architecture harmonizes with a rich historical tapestry and a vibrant café scene. Your day begins with a city tour that highlights the stunning Singing Fountains of Republic Square, the lively Vernissage market brimming with antiques and crafts, and the esteemed Matenadaran, home to invaluable ancient manuscripts that tell the story of Armenia's heritage. Ascend the famous Yerevan Cascade for breathtaking views, where, on clear days, you may spot the magnificent Mount Ararat in the distance. In the afternoon, pay a visit to the poignant Armenian Genocide Memorial, a heartfelt tribute to the lives lost during the 1915 genocide and a vital part of Armenia's identity. Next, journey to Echmiadzin, where you'll find the oldest cathedral in the country, serving as Armenia's spiritual nucleus. After that, explore the ruins of the 7th-century Zvartnots Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site celebrated for its stunning architecture. As the day comes to an end, return to Yerevan for a delightful dinner in the heart of the city. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

**Day 3 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan**

Garni and Geghard are typically combined into one excursion due to their close proximity, yet each offers a unique experience. Garni boasts a rare Ionic Greco-Roman pagan temple, originally constructed in the 1st century AD and carefully restored in the 1970s after a devastating earthquake in the 17th century. Before visiting Geghard, we'll take a scenic walk through the breathtaking Garni Gorge, known for its striking basalt columns, famously called the "Symphony of Stones." Afterward, we'll head to Geghard Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site founded by Gregory the Illuminator in the 4th century. Although the structures you see today date back to the early 14th century, the sacred spring is still nestled within Gregory's original cave. Before we return to Yerevan, you'll have the chance to enjoy a traditional lavash-baking experience, sampling fresh lavash with local cheese and herbs for an authentic taste of Armenia. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

**Day 4 - Yerevan - Khor Virap - Noravank - Areni - Yerevan**

Khor Virap's location is pretty special - situated close to the Turkish border, it often offers breathtaking views of Mount Ararat in the distance. The monastery itself is incredibly photogenic and fascinating to explore up close. Noravank's setting is even more spectacular. As we drive down a narrow canyon, the anticipation builds until the monastery complex, famous for its intricate carvings, comes into view. If you don't mind heights, you can climb the steep, open-air steps on the front of the church for incredible views back along the valley from the first floor. Our final stop today is Areni, renowned for its winemaking. Before heading to the winery for a tour and tasting, we'll visit the famous Birds' Cave, an archaeological site where some of the world's oldest artifacts were discovered. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

**Day 5 - Yerevan - Sevan - Dilijan**

Sevanavank monastery is built on the top of a small hill. You'll climb 243 steps to the top and the reward, once you've caught your breath, is the incredible view across the lake. The monastery itself is very pretty and in its churchyard you'll be wowed by the beautifully carved khatchkhars which look a little like gravestones. It's a short drive to Dilijan, a spa town and our base for the next couple of nights. You can amuse yourself in the local Geological Museum and Art Gallery which exhibits archaeological pieces and works of art or perhaps visit one of the craft workshops that are dotted about the town. Overnight in Dilijan. (B, D)

**Day 6 - Dilijan - Haghpat - Sanahin - Lermontovo - Goshavank - Dilijan**

This morning we set off for the Debed Canyon. Haghpat and Sanahin monasteries face off against each other and when built, there was a rivalry between them. In fact, Sanahin's name means "older than that one". Haghpat itself was built back in the 9th century; check out the holes in the floor designed to keep wine at a cool temperature. Inside Sanahin, don't be too concerned about showing a lack of respect if you walk over the gravestones on the floor - it's actually considered good luck as it's believed the act of stepping on them frees the dead from the burden of sin. The village of Lermontovo, named after the Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov, who's often called "the poet of the Caucasus" is our next stop and we fit in a visit to the 12th century monastery of Goshavank before returning to Dilijan in time for dinner. Overnight in Dilijan. (B, D)

**Day 7 - Dilijan - Noratus - Selim Pass - Jermuk**

It's time to depart Dilijan this morning and our first stop is at Noratus Cemetery. This mediaeval graveyard has the largest concentration of khatchkhars in the entire country. Large and small, embellished with carvings of crosses and weathered with moss and lichen, they are fascinating to explore. Legend has it that when Tamerlane planned an attack, locals placed helmets on top and propped swords up to make them appear like soldiers from a distance. Departing Noratus, we will cross the Selim Pass, calling in at the 14th century Orbelian's Caravanserai and head for Jermuk. This attractive mountain spa town is our base for the next two nights. Overnight in Jermuk. (B, D)

**Day 8 - Jermuk - Tatev - Goris - Khndzoresk Caves - Jermuk**

Continuing on, Tatev is our destination today. This hilltop monastery is reached via a flight on the Wings of Tatev, the world's longest cable car. The journey across the valley is spectacular and the monastery's remoteness is reinforced as you approach. In the complex itself, seek out a column tucked away in one of the courtyards which historically has helped to predict earthquakes and approaching enemy armies. Departing Tatev, we'll soon reach the town of Goris from where we visit the nearby Khndzoresk Caves. Until relatively recently, these caves were inhabited. Once we've had a good look we'll set off back to Jermuk. Overnight in Jermuk. (B, D)

**Day 9 - Jermuk - Gladzor - Yerevan**

Today we journey back to Yerevan. We'll make a stop after about an hour at the church of St Jacob in a village called Vernashen. Inside there's a small museum whose exhibits are devoted to education, art, mediaeval science and the history of the ancient Gladzor University which it's thought was located at Tanahat Monastery about three miles away. It was also an important centre for calligraphy and hundreds of manuscripts were created there. Afterwards, we'll depart for Yerevan, where you'll spend your final evening. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

**Day 10 - Yerevan**

Today's departure day and it's time to return to the airport in good time to catch your flight home. (B)

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

**Included**

- [International flights](#)
- [Accommodation](#)
- [Guided tours & cultural programme](#)
- [English - speaking guides](#)
- [Half board meals](#)
- [Evening entertainment](#)
- [Ground transportation](#)
- [Airport transfers](#)

**Not included**

- [Personal travel insurance](#)
- [Optional excursions](#)

**Practical information**

- [About Best of Caucasus company](#)
- [How our tours are run](#)
- [Contact our travel consultants](#)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

**COMFORT - 3\* PACKAGE**

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
06/05/2025 - 15/05/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
13/05/2025 - 22/05/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
20/05/2025 - 29/05/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
27/05/2025 - 05/06/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
03/06/2025 - 12/06/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
10/06/2025 - 19/06/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
17/06/2025 - 26/06/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
24/06/2025 - 03/07/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
01/07/2025 - 10/07/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
08/07/2025 - 17/07/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
15/07/2025 - 24/07/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
22/07/2025 - 31/07/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
29/07/2025 - 07/08/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
05/08/2025 - 14/08/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
12/08/2025 - 21/08/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
19/08/2025 - 28/08/2025	£1795	£2195	£195
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16/12/2025 - 25/12/2025	£1795	£2195	£195

#### PREMIUM - 4\* PACKAGE

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06/05/2025 - 15/05/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
13/05/2025 - 22/05/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
20/05/2025 - 29/05/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
27/05/2025 - 05/06/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
03/06/2025 - 12/06/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
10/06/2025 - 19/06/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
17/06/2025 - 26/06/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
24/06/2025 - 03/07/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
01/07/2025 - 10/07/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
08/07/2025 - 17/07/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
15/07/2025 - 24/07/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
22/07/2025 - 31/07/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
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05/08/2025 - 14/08/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
12/08/2025 - 21/08/2025	£1895	£2295	£295
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## ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > [Highlights of Armenia - 5 days \(AM-01\)](#), Price from £995, 5 days
- > [Luxury Armenia Tour - 8 days \(AM-06\)](#), Price from £1,795, 8 days
- > [Discover Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan: from the Highlands to the Caspian - 16 days \(CT-02\)](#), Price from £2,995, 16 days
- > [Great Georgian Discovery - 11 days \(GE-03\)](#), Price from £1,995, 11 days

## HOW TO BOOK

### Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Best of Caucasus holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

### Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

**Online:** log on to [www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk](http://www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk) and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Best of Caucasus, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

**Email:** alternatively, you can book your tour per email - [info@best-of-caucasus.co.uk](mailto:info@best-of-caucasus.co.uk), or

**Phone:** call us on **+44 (0)20 30 51 76 40**

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel category), and available upgrades.

### Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

### Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum BJ100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card,

cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

On request we can organise an additional programme for you, please inquire about the price and availability of the optional excursions.

Please find below some space to write down your queries or comments regarding this trip.

This image shows a full page of a handwriting practice worksheet. The page is white and contains numerous horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly apart, designed to help children learn letter height and placement. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.