**TRIP TO ARMENIA - 6 DAYS**

**Itinerary**

**Day 1. Arrival at Yerevan Airport**

Our representative will meet you at the international airport. Transfer to the hotel. Check-in.

Overnight in Yerevan.

**Day 2. Excursion in Yerevan**

After breakfast, we'll embark on a captivating city tour of Yerevan, the ancient capital of Armenia, renowned as one of the oldest cities globally, predating Rome by 29 years. As we explore, you'll notice the distinct pink hue of the city's buildings, giving rise to its nickname, the "pink city." Our tour takes us through the city center, where we'll discover the vibrant atmosphere and rich history that permeates the streets. A highlight of our tour is the "Cafesjian" Centre for the Modern Arts, located in the heart of Yerevan's Cascade complex. From the top of the Cascade, you'll enjoy panoramic views of the city below. Next, we'll visit the remarkable Matenadaran Library, home to an impressive collection of 17,000 rare manuscripts, including some of the world's oldest Greek, Persian, and Arabic texts. Our journey continues to Victory Park, also known as "Hakhtanak" Park, commemorating the USSR's victory in the Second World War. Here, we'll encounter the iconic monument "Mother Armenia," symbolising Armenia's eternal commitment to protecting its people. The sculpture depicts a woman holding a sword in hand and a shield at her feet, representing the spirit of the homeland.

Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.

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

Start your day with a hearty breakfast at the hotel before embarking on an enriching trip to Garni. We'll begin by strolling along the canyon, admiring the stunning columnar basalt formations and crossing the picturesque 9th-century stone bridge over the Azat River to reach the ancient Garni Pagan Temple. Built in the 1st century AD, the temple underwent restoration in 1975 after being destroyed by an earthquake in 1679. Next, we'll explore the UNESCO-listed Geghard Monastery, named after the legendary lance believed to have pierced the body of Christ, which was housed here for centuries. Although its exact foundation remains unknown, the present complex dates back to the mid-13th century.

Afterwards, we'll visit a local house where you'll have the unique opportunity to observe and even participate in the preparation of Armenian bread, an artistry recognized on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

After lunch we'll journey to witness one of Armenia's most breathtaking natural wonders - the Symphony of Stones, also known as the Basalt Organ. Marvel at the awe-inspiring rock formations, which resemble a colossal musical instrument with their long vertical pillars of hexagonal shape.

As the day comes to a close, we'll return to Yerevan, filled with memories of ancient history, cultural heritage, and the wonders of nature.

Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.

**Day 4. Yerevan - Ashtarak - Byurakan - Yerevan**

Our first destination is the "Gourmet Dourme" Chocolate House, where you'll have the unique opportunity to observe the fascinating process of chocolate production and indulge in delectable chocolates. Next, we'll visit the prestigious Byurakan Observatory, nestled on the slopes of Mount Aragats in the charming village of Byurakan. Established in 1946 by Viktor Hambardzumyan, this astronomical observatory has been at the forefront of astronomical research. Designed by architect Samvel Safarian, the observatory has made significant contributions to our understanding of the universe, including the discovery of special star clusters, flare stars, supernovae, and galaxies. After a day filled with chocolate delights and astronomical wonders, we'll return to Yerevan, reflecting on the memorable experiences and fascinating insights gained throughout the day.

Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.

**Day 5.

Option 1: Yerevan - Gyumri - Sev Berd Fortress - Yerevan**
We travel to Gyumri, the second-largest city in Armenia and the administrative centre of Shirak province. Gyumri boasts a rich cultural heritage and is home to several prominent museums. We'll begin our exploration with a visit to the Dzitoghtsyan Museum of Social Life and National Architecture, housed in an old mansion. Here, you'll discover fascinating collections related to the history and everyday life of Gyumri, along with an array of paintings and other works of art. Next, we'll explore the Sev Berd, also known as the Black Fortress, an abandoned Russian imperial fortress in Gyumri. Erected in response to the Russian-Turkish war of 1828-1829, the Sev Berd is now a national cultural heritage monument of Armenia and serves as an art and cultural centre.

**Option 2: Yerevan - Sevan - Dilijan - Yerevan**
We embark on an unforgettable journey to Lake Sevan, the largest lake in the Caucasus and one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world, with an altitude of 1,897 metres above sea level. Upon arrival at Lake Sevan, we'll make our way to the Sevan Peninsula to visit the historic Sevanavank monastery, dating back to the 9th century. Here, you'll have the opportunity to explore the ancient monastery and admire the breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. Don't miss the chance to visit the ruins of the church built in 305, shortly after the adoption of Christianity. After our visit to Lake Sevan, we'll continue our tour to Dilijan. Upon arrival, we'll embark on a short excursion in the charming city of Old Dilijan. Explore the picturesque Sharamberyan Street, renowned as a symbol of "The Old Dilijan," lined with artistic workshops, small shops offering Armenian traditional objects and souvenirs, and a museum housed in a 19th-century home decorated with local furniture. As we stroll through the historic Sharamberyan Street, you'll have the opportunity to admire two beautifully restored traditional houses, constructed of wood with tiled roofs and intricately carved balconies, offering a glimpse into Dilijan's rich architectural heritage.

After our exploration, we'll return to Yerevan in the evening, filled with memories of the stunning natural beauty and rich cultural heritage of Armenia.

Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.

**Day 6. Yerevan**

End of the programme. Airport transfer.

Breakfast.

**Included**

* Hotel accommodation 3\*\*\* - [Cascade hotel](https://www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk/en/yerevan_hotel_cascade.html) or similar
* Meals according to the programme (breakfasts - 5, dinners - 4)
* English-speaking guide from the arrival of the group to the end of the trip
* Transport, [view our fleet](https://www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk/en/our-transport.html)
* Entrance tickets to museums and tourist sites according to the programme
* One bottle of water per person per day
* Guided airport transfers

**Price**

Below is the estimated cost of the trip excluding flights. We can provide a detailed calculation based on the size of your group. The approximate cost of air tickets from the UK to Yerevan is from £450 per person. The cost of air travel depends on your departure city and trip dates. Our company will assist with booking flights.

The cost per person in pounds sterling, taking into account free places and the number of participants in your group.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **10 people2 free of charge** | **15 people​2 free of charge** | **20 people​2 free of charge** |
| £675 | £645 | £595 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **25 people3 free of charge** | **30 people​3 free of charge** | **40 people​4 free of charge** |
| £575 | £525 | £495 |

**request a no-obligation quote**

<https://www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk/en/school-armenia-6-days.html>

