**TRIP TO ARMENIA - 8 DAYS**

**Itinerary**

**Embark on an immersive journey through Armenia, blending ancient history, stunning landscapes, and rich culture. Explore Yerevan’s vibrant city life, iconic landmarks, and poignant memorials. Venture beyond the capital to discover ancient temples, monasteries, and unique natural wonders that make Armenia a hidden gem in the Caucasus.**

**Day 1: Welcome to Yerevan**

**Arrive at Zvartnots International Airport and transfer to your hotel in Yerevan, where you can relax and settle in after your journey. Prepare for the exciting days ahead exploring Armenia’s rich history and vibrant culture.**

**Overnight in Yerevan.**

**Day 2: Yerevan City Tour**

**After breakfast, start your day with an exploration of Yerevan, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, founded in 782 BC. Known as the “Pink City” for its rosy stone architecture, Yerevan offers a rich blend of historical sites, artistic centres, and cultural landmarks. Begin with a walking tour of the city’s lively streets and then visit the Cafesjian Centre for the Arts, located in the impressive Cascade Complex, which also provides panoramic views of the city. Next, head to the Karen Demirchyan Museum, dedicated to the influential Armenian statesman who served as the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Armenian SSR. The museum’s collection includes personal artefacts, awards, and documents from his life, shedding light on Armenia’s Soviet-era history.**

**Continue with a visit to the Matenadaran Library, home to 17,000 rare manuscripts, making it one of the world’s foremost archives of ancient texts in Greek, Persian, and Arabic. Then, learn about Armenia’s tragic history at the Genocide Museum and Memorial, dedicated to commemorating the victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. This powerful site honours the resilience of the Armenian people and provides a deeper understanding of their path to recovery. Conclude the tour at Victory Park, a popular local spot featuring the striking “Mother Armenia” monument, symbolising the strength and determination of the Armenian people.**

**Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.**

**Day 3: Free Day in Yerevan**

**Take the day to explore Yerevan at your own pace. You may choose to visit a Russian school or participate in other planned activities to further immerse yourself in the local culture. This is your opportunity to explore the city’s vibrant streets, sample Armenian cuisine, or visit more of Yerevan’s museums and landmarks.**

**Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.**

**Day 4: Garni & Geghard Day Tour**

**After breakfast, venture out to experience some of Armenia's most iconic ancient landmarks, starting with Garni Temple. This majestic 1st-century Greco-Roman structure, dedicated to the sun god Mihr, is the only remaining pagan temple in Armenia and a unique testament to the country’s pre-Christian history. Built by King Tiridates I in 77 AD, Garni Temple displays an exceptional blend of classical Hellenistic architecture with local Armenian styles, featuring a colonnade of 24 Ionic columns that stand proudly against the backdrop of rugged mountains and the serene Azat River gorge.**

**After exploring Garni, proceed to the Geghard Monastery, a marvel of medieval Armenian architecture partially carved from the surrounding mountains. This UNESCO World Heritage Site dates back to the 4th century and is famous for its impressive stonework and spiritual significance.**

**Conclude the day with a visit to the Symphony of Stones, a natural wonder that creates the appearance of an organ’s pipes in the rock face. The day also includes a lavash-baking experience with locals, where you’ll learn to make Armenia’s traditional flatbread, listed as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.**

**Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.**

**Day 5: Chocolate and Stars in Ashtarak & Byurakan**

**Start your day with a sweet stop at the Gourmet Dourme Chocolate House in Ashtarak. Here, you’ll watch the chocolate-making process and taste a variety of treats, sampling Armenia’s unique blend of local ingredients and European techniques. Then, continue to Byurakan Observatory, a renowned centre of Soviet astronomy founded in 1946 by Viktor Hambardzumyan, an Armenian astrophysicist. Located on Mount Aragats, the observatory is celebrated for its ground-breaking discoveries in stellar and galactic formations and its minimalist Soviet architectural design. During the USSR era, Byurakan was one of the Soviet Union’s leading scientific research centres, contributing to major advancements in space science. Today, it remains an active centre for astronomical research and observation.**

**Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.**

**Day 6: Cultural Treasures of Gyumri**

**Today, explore Gyumri, Armenia’s arts capital, famous for its cultural resilience and creativity. Stroll through the charming streets lined with colourful buildings and experience the city’s rich cultural legacy. Visit the Dzitoghtsyan Museum of Social Life and National Architecture, housed in a 19th-century mansion, where you’ll see artefacts and artworks that capture Gyumri’s unique social history. The museum’s displays offer a glimpse into traditional Armenian life, showcasing textiles, clothing, and art.**

**Discover the Iron Fountain, a remarkable example of Soviet industrial design built entirely of iron in the 1980s. This site’s raw beauty and geometric patterns attract photographers and history enthusiasts, as it exemplifies Soviet-era artistry.**

**Then, visit Sev Berd, or Black Fortress, a Russian military fortification from the 1830s built after the Russo-Turkish War. Now a cultural heritage site, Sev Berd occasionally hosts art and cultural events. The fortress also provides panoramic views of the Shirak landscape, a fitting end to your day immersed in Gyumri’s unique blend of history and art.**

**Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.**

**Day 7: Lake Sevan & Dilijan**

**After breakfast, take a scenic drive to Lake Sevan, the largest freshwater lake in Armenia and the Caucasus. Begin by visiting the Sevanavank Monastery on the lake’s peninsula, where you can enjoy breath-taking views of the lake’s crystal-clear waters. Then, head to Dilijan, a picturesque town known as “Little Switzerland” for its lush forests and quaint architecture.**

**Stroll down Sharamberyan Street, famous for its restored historic homes, artisan workshops, and boutiques. Don’t miss the impressive Five-Winged Star Monument, a stark white structure set against Dilijan’s green landscape, offering an ideal photo opportunity. Explore the traditional shops and small museums that showcase the town’s artistic heritage before returning to Yerevan.**

**Overnight in Yerevan. Breakfast, dinner.**

**Day 8: Departure**

**It’s time to say farewell to Armenia. After breakfast, you’ll be transferred to Zvartnots International Airport for your departure, taking with you unforgettable memories of Armenia’s culture, history, and natural beauty.**

**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 - 7, dinners - 6)
* 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** |
| £895 | £795 | £745 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **25 people3 free of charge** | **30 people​3 free of charge** | **40 people​4 free of charge** |
| £725 | £695 | £675 |

**request a no-obligation quote**

<https://www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk/en/school-armenia-8-days.html>

