

MAY - EACH DAY HOLIDAY

6 DAY TOUR ITINERARY*

DAY 1

Meeting in the airport, transfer to the hotel and check-in.

City tour in the capital of Armenia - Yerevan - one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and the only one, that has "Birth Certificate" at the Erebuni Fortress - a cuneiform inscription left by King Argishti I on a basalt stone slab about the foundation of the city in 782 BC. Yerevan is often pegged as the "Pink City" because of the colour of the stone used to build much of the city centre. Another name of Yerevan is "Open-air Museum", the reason of which you will understand upon your visit.



We will start the ***City tour*** from visiting Cascade Monument. Mega scale staircase is about 450 meters high and 50 meters wide. From the top of the monument opens up a breathtaking city view with ***Opera House, Mount Ararat, Swan Lake, Republic Square*** and posh ***Northern Avenue*** around, which you will also walk along during the tour. Our next stop will be the ***Matenadaran***, which means a "book-depository" in ancient Armenian. Indeed, Matenadaran is the pride of Armenian culture, the world's largest storage of ancient manuscripts. In fact, it is a scientific research institute of ancient manuscripts which stores more than 17 thousand ancient manuscripts and more than 100 thousand ancient archival documents.

After enjoying a ***traditional Armenian lunch*** in a restaurant, we will continue our tour in the famous ***Ararat Brandy Company***, which is the oldest one in the country, opened in 1887 by merchant Nerses Tairyants. It later became the supplier of His Imperial Majesty's court and since then the world-renowned brandy has been admired by many, among them Frank Sinatra, Agatha Christie and Winston Churchill. We will have a tour in distillery, which includes a tasting. The tour takes place in the in-house museum, where visitors learn about the history of the company and the making of this fine alcohol.



May 1 eve will start in a fabulous restaurant to feel the taste of the Traditional Armenian cuisine. Our meal will be punctuated by a performance of traditional Armenian music and dance, with beautifully costumed artists. To multiply our festive mood, we will continue our evening in classy "**Malkhas Jazz Club**" (only entrance fee is included). After midnight Levon Malkhasyan himself will perform, whose name is going as a synonym to Armenian Jazz.

DAY 2

After the breakfast in the hotel we will leave for an incredible ancient, now ruined city of Dvin, which was built in 335 on the site of an ancient settlement and fortress from the 3rd millennium BC. From here we will continue our way through a hidden (and unknown for travelers and even travel agencies) majestic road full of Spring impressions to **Garni** - the only survived pagan temple in Transcaucasia built in the I century. We will also descend to **Garni Gorge** to admire a nature created marvel called **Symphony of Stones**. You will participate in the process of baking lavash - the traditional Armenian bread made in tonir (included in UNESCO World Heritage List). After, you will taste it with traditional Armenian cheese, fresh greens, homemade 65 degrees vodka . We will have a dinner in a restaurant hanging on the canyon with an incredible view enjoying famous Armenian cuisine. Bonfires? Upon your wish!

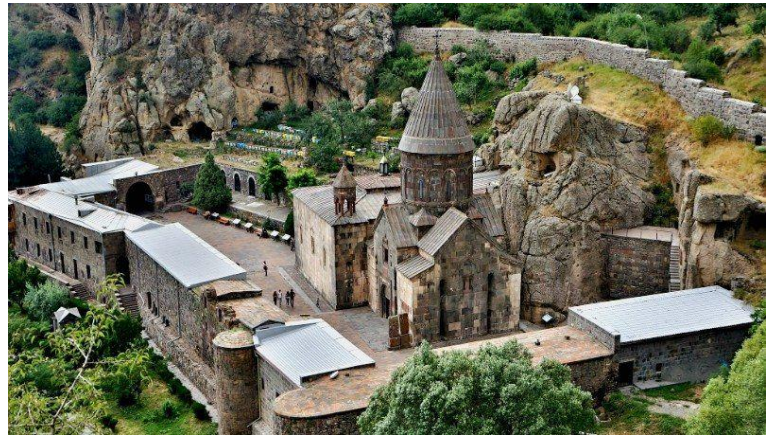
Overnight in Garni.



Day 3

After the tastiest breakfast we will start hiking to **Havouts Tar Monastery** (XI c.) situated in Khosrov Forest State Reserve. Our next stop will be an ancient Armenian cliff-cut **Geghard Monastery** (UNESCO), 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 monastery is located literally at the end of the road. From here you walk up a path which has a few vendors of souvenirs and snacks (try the sweet "sujukh", sweet lavash and gata if you have never tasted them before).

The miraculous annex is surrounded by high walls on three sides and the mountain on the fourth. Inside, you can enter the churches which are interconnected. We will have a dinner in a restaurant with an picturesque view and traditional Armenian cuisine, of course!



DAY 4

Unique Chance! As this is the only season possible to catch hidden magic of these sites, we will not miss the opportunity to pass through non-standard, yet miraculous routs of western Aragatsotn Province - to wander around the ancient gorges of Kakavadzor and Dian, enjoy a picnic around Dashtadem Fortress of 7th Century, visit the ancient churches of Talin and Akunq and admire medieval caravansary in Aroutch...



DAY 5

After the breakfast we will move to **Lake Sevan** - "Pearl of Armenia" where we will visit **2 Monasteries on top of Sevan Peninsula**. The largest lake in the Caucasus, it's also one of the largest freshwater high-altitude lakes in the world. Its colours and shades change with the weather and by its own mysterious processes, from a dazzling azure to dark blue and a thousand shades in between. The lake supports a healthy fish population, including the endangered Ishkhan (prince trout), named for a row of spots like a crown on its head. Other species include introduced crayfish and Sig (white fish). We will have a lunch in a restaurant with wonderful view of lake and have the pleasure to enjoy some tasty freshwater fish.

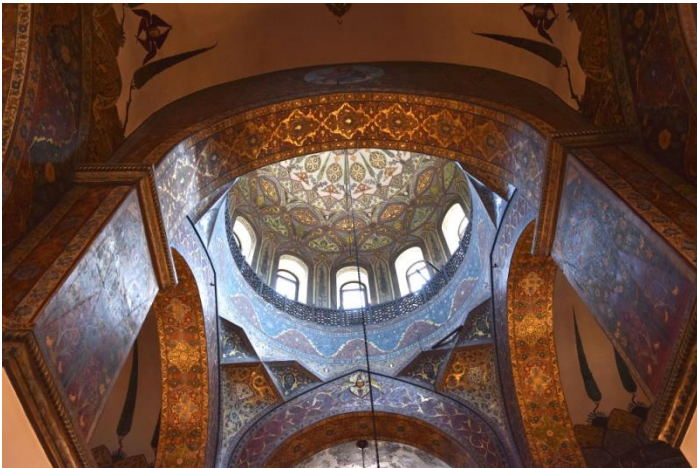


Upon return to Yerevan we will stroll in a picturesque Vernissage, where you can find the best examples of Armenian exclusive handmade masterpieces of folk art - ceramics, carved wood, stone, embroidery, dolls, paintings, jewelry, carpets, books, musical instruments, T-shirts, etc. Take a piece of Armenia with you!

In the evening we will attack the Wine Street of Yerevan with plenty of Wine restaurants and clubs to taste wines of the world's first 6500-year-old winemaking country.

Day 6

After the breakfast we will drive to the most ancient cathedral and Mother Church of Armenia and the oldest Christian cathedral around the world - **Etchmiadzin** (UNESCO), built between 301 and 303 AD. As the seat of the Catholicos of All Armenians, the Cathedral protects miraculous relics of the Armenian Church - the Lance, the hand of St. Gregory the Illuminator, the hand of the Apostle Thaddeus, a finger of St. Jude, a drop of St. Hripsime's blood, many more.



Transfer to the airport, sincere long hugs and tears with promises to meet again!



* - Depending on your arrival/departure time the schedule may have some changes. Besides, we always take into consideration your preferences, so the itinerary can be customized due to it.