

Experience World Heritage of ARMENIA MILLENIA AGO AND TODAY

Travel to the **Routes of Civilization** to get in touch with great **heritage** and the array of **culture** that Armenia offers as a travel destination, experience **genuine interaction with people** and create amazing memories, encounter with **authentic, diverse cuisine and delicious wine**.

Pass through **millennia long history**, **culture**, **science and culinary traditions** up to nowadays modern Armenia and its "Pink City" Yerevan.

To make this adventure more than just another tour, you can choose to **spice it up** with **canyoning** in mysterious caves and enjoy the variety of adventure activities that Armenia has to offer.



| Start: Yerevan, Armenia | Physical rating: (1 out of 5) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Finish: Yerevan, Armenia | Group size: Min 2 Pax, |
| Tour Theme: Cultural Adventure | Ages: Min 18 or Family |
| Duration: 3N/4D | Tour Availability: March - October |



<u>Itinerary</u> Day 1: Arrival to Yerevan, City Tour, Megerian Carpet Cultural Center



Welcome to **Yerevan**, the capital city of **Armenia**. Our tour leader will greet you at the airport and help you with all the ground handling services. Transfer to hotel. After a welcome briefing meeting with the tour leader, you will check in to your hotel.

15:30 – 17:00 / Time to explore the Armenian capital <u>Yerevan</u> – a 2805-year-old and modern city, located in the shadow of the biblical Mount Ararat. It is one of the oldest cities in the world. You will explore The Republic Square with its dancing and singing fountains, Cascade, Opera House, North Avenue, parks devoted to 2700th and 2800th anniversaries of the city. From the impressive Cascade you have a panoramic view of the whole capital.



17:30 – 20:00 / Visit <u>Megerian Carpet Cultural Center</u> with participation in traditional Armenian food preparation master class with one of the most demanded and famous chefs Mr. Sedrak Mamoulian and have your first encounter with genuine and authentic Armenian food during your welcome dinner.



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After the dinner free time in Yerevan. Evening Yerevan is another highlight that should be added to your bucket list. Cafes and bars are full of locals at night. Join them for glass of local Armenian wine. You'll not regret!

Accommodation

• Overnight in Yerevan.

Included Activities

- Yerevan city guided walking tour
- Megerian Carpet Cultural Center

Important Notes

It's important that you attend the welcome meeting, as we will be distributing details and next of kin information such as brochures with useful info about Yerevan and Armenia, maps, places to eat and things and activities to do around.

Day 2: Khor Virap Monastery, Areni-1 Cave, Tatever Ropeway, Tatev Monastery

08:00 - Breakfast in the hotel and check out 09:00 – Starting the tour

10:00 – 11:00 / The morning starts by heading to the Southern part of Armenia. From Yerevan we move towards <u>Khor Virap Monastery</u> (in Armenian stands for "deep dungeon"). Khor Virap's notability as a monastery and pilgrimage site is attributed to the fact that Gregory the Illuminator was initially imprisoned here for about 14 years by King Tiridates III of Armenia. Saint Gregory subsequently became the king's religious mentor, and they led the proselytizing activity in the country. In the year 301 Armenia was the first country in the world to be declared a Christian nation.

The walled religious complex also stands before the snowcapped flanks of Mount Ararat, offering a spectacular view of the mountain and cutting a striking silhouette in and of itself.





12:30 – 13:15 / Our next highlight is <u>Areni -1 Cave</u> - a multicomponent site, and late Chalcolithic / Early Bronze Age ritual settlement, located near the Areni village. In 2010, archeologists discovered the earliest known shoe (5500 years old) at the site. In January 2011 the earliest known winery (about 6100 years old) in the world was uncovered in the cave. Later, in 2011 the discovery of a straw skirt dating to 3,900 years BC was reported. In 2009, the oldest humanoid brain was discovered in the cave.



13:30 – 15:00 / Lunch will be at"Tnjri" Restaurant.

17:00 – 18:30 / To finalize this beautiful day, we visit <u>**Tatev Monastery</u>** - a 9th century historical monument. It is one of the oldest and most famous monastery complexes in Armenia. During medieval times Tatev Monastery was a vital scholastic, enlightenment and spiritual center and played a singular role in the country's history. You will reach the Tatev Monastery by the shortest, most picturesque and impressive route, by "Wings of Tatev" - the longest reversible cableway in the world (5752 m), recorded in the **Guinness Book of Records**: twelve minutes of unforgettable flight above the gorge of the fierce Vorotan River, through a celestial highway at the altitude of 320m.</u>





19:30 / Check in at Bassen hotel.

Accommodation

• Overnight in Sisian.

Included Activities

- Khor Virap Monastery
- Areni-1 Cave
- Tatev Monastery
- "Wings of Tatev" longest reversible cableway

Meals Included

• Breakfast at the hotel

Day 3: Devil's Bridge, Canyoning (Optional), Shaki Waterfall, Carahunge (Armenian Stonehenge)

08:00 - Breakfast in the hotel and check out

09:00 - Starting the tour

09:00 – 12:00 / After breakfast, in Devil's Bridge for the most intrepid explorer we offer **Canyoning** as an optional activity at extra cost. Descend by ropes to see the mysterious caves below the springs, jump from small cliffs, waterfalls and water slides. That's worth a try!

For those who are not into canyoning, can explore and enjoy **Devil's bridge**, one of the true natural wonders of Armenia. Over the millennia, wind and water have created this marvel, polishing and piercing the petrified lava. The width of this natural bridge, along which runs the asphalt road to **Tatev Monastery**, is 60 m, the length 30 m. You may swim and relax near the bridge in the **warm**, **salubrious springs**, **ringed by stalactites of marvelous colors**. Another option is to have a small hike in **Tatev's Dessert**.



12:30 – 13:30 / Lunch in Tatev

14:30 – 15:00 / We reach beautiful **Shaki Waterfall**, one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Armenia, where we will have a small hike/walk. On the left side of the river <u>Vorotan's</u> gorge, basalt lava flows have solidified to form a 18 meters high ledge from which the waterfall cascades down. Get closer to the refreshing splashes and enjoy the calming sound of the water. One could stay hours in this magnificent location.



15:30 – 16:30 / After your refreshing hike time to visit the mysterious prehistoric complex of **Carahunge (Zorats Karer – Armenian Stonehenge)** (small hiking/walking). This famous megalithic structure consists of hundreds of vertically arranged stones that are stretched from the south to the north. In the middle, there are about 40 stones that are formed into an ellipse. The size of the stone's ranges from 0.5 to 3 meters and can weigh up to 10 tons. It is also called "Armenian Stonehenge". According to researchers, Carahunge could be among the world's oldest astronomical observatories, and is at least 3,500 years older than British Stonehenge.

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20:00 / Back to Yerevan for overnight. Check in at the hotel.

Accommodation

• Overnight in Yerevan.

Included Activities

- Shaki Waterfall
- Carahunge (Armenian Stonehenge)

Optional activities at extra cost

• Cannoning at Devil's Bridge – 20,000 AMD

*Included - All the necessary equipment apart from shoes and clothes. Please bring extra set of dry clothes and towel to dry.

Meals Included

• Breakfast at the hotel

Important Notes

Today we will be having small hiking and walking in Shaki Waterfall and Carahunge. No special physical readiness is required, being moderately fit is enough. It is recommended to wear comfortable shoes and clothes and have sun protection (caps, sunglasses, sun cream).

Day 4: Departure

Breakfast at the hotel and Departure.

See you soon in Armenia.

We hope that while looking at Armenia pinned in your travel map, will bring back unforgettable memories and experience during your two wheels adventure with us!



Included

- ✓ Accommodation
 - Total Hotels in each destination 3 nights
- ✓ Meals BB meals
- ✓ Water during trips
- ✓ Transportation and all transfers
- \checkmark All museum and entrance tickets according to the program
- ✓ Tour Guide
- ✓ Food Preparation Master Class
- ✓ Optional Activities (at extra cost upon request)

Not Included

- × Air tickets (will be provided upon request)
- × Visas (will be provided upon request)
- × Travel Insurance (will be provided upon request)
- × Any meals that are not specified in the itinerary

Travel Enjoy Respect...

