

TOUR DOSSIER

Aspirational Travel to Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan Tel: +1 (917) 259 13 33 info@best-of-caucasus.com www.best-of-caucasus.com

Best of Armenia - 8 days

AM-02



This eight day tour offers the chance to travel to many of Armenia's most important cultural sites. You'll tour many of the country's captivating monasteries - each has a spectacular setting and you won't tire of such a varied programme. As well as the monasteries of Geghard, Sevanavank, Noravank, Khor Virap, Sanahin and Haghpat, you'll get the chance to explore Armenia's delightful capital Yerevan, taste local wine in Areni and also to visit the spa town of Dilijan.

DEPARTURE DATES:

05.20.2025; 05.27.2025; 06.03.2025; 06.10.2025; 06.17.2025; 06.24.2025; 07.01.2025; 07.08.2025; 07.15.2025; 07.22.2025; 07.29.2025; 08.05.2025; 08.12.2025; 08.19.2025; 08.26.2025; 09.02.2025; 09.09.2025; 09.16.2025; 09.23.2025; 09.30.2025; 10.07.2025; 10.14.2025; 10.21.2025; 10.28.2025; 11.04.2025; 11.11.2025; 11.18.2025; 11.25.2025; 12.02.2025; 12.09.2025; 12.16.2025.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Yerevan

We'll meet you at the airport and transfer you to your centrally located hotel in the Armenian capital Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan. (D)

Day 2 - Yerevan - Ejmiatsin - Zvarnots - Yerevan

Yerevan, the captivating capital of Armenia, offers a unique blend of Soviet-era architecture, rich history, and a vibrant $caf\Gamma \otimes culture$. Your city tour begins with visits to the iconic Singing Fountains of Republic Square, the bustling Vernissage market brimming with antiques and crafts, and the renowned Matenadaran, home to ancient manuscripts that tell the story of Armenia's past. You'll also head up the Yerevan Cascade for sweeping views of the city, and on a clear day, you'll spot the stunning silhouette of Mount Ararat. In the afternoon, you'll visit the Armenian Genocide Memorial, a poignant reminder of the tragic events of 1915 and an important part of the country's history. The tour continues to Echmiadzin, the site of Armenia's oldest cathedral and its spiritual center, followed by a visit to the magnificent 7th-century ruins of Zvartnots Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its impressive architecture. The day wraps up with a return to Yerevan, where a delicious dinner in the city awaits. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

Day 3 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

Not far from Yerevan, you'll encounter two remarkable sites: the Temple of Garni and Geghard Monastery. The Temple of Garni, dating back to the 1st century, is an impressive lonic pagan temple built in the Greco-Roman style. Although it was destroyed by an earthquake in the 17th century, it was beautifully reconstructed three centuries later. Before visiting the monastery, we'll take a scenic walk through the breathtaking Garni Gorge, renowned for its dramatic basalt columns, often referred to as the "Symphony of Stones." Following this, we'll head to Geghard Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site founded by Gregory the Illuminator. Here, you can peer through a hole in the floor to see the church below and visit the sacred spring that holds significant meaning for the Armenian people. Before returning to Yerevan, you'll also enjoy a traditional lavash-baking experience, sampling fresh lavash with local cheese and herbs for a true taste of Armenia. After exploring these stunning sites, we'll return to Yerevan, giving you the opportunity to further immerse yourself in the city. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

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

In the morning, the majestic snow-capped peak of Mount Ararat rises prominently on the horizon, enhancing the allure of Khor Virap Monastery. Noravank Monastery boasts an even more stunning setting; as you navigate through a narrow canyon, this remarkable religious complex reveals itself, celebrated for its exquisite carvings of Jesus alongside Peter and Paul. Climbing the steep steps that ascend the outside of the church provides breathtaking views from the first floor for those adventurous enough to tackle the ascent. Our day will conclude with a visit to Areni, where we'll explore the fascinating Birds' Cave, notable for its archaeological finds, followed by a delightful local wine tasting at a renowned winery. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

Day 5 - Yerevan - Sevan - Dilijan

We'll take an excursion out of Yerevan to visit Armenia's most beautiful lake. Sevanavank Monastery is located on a hilltop and from it there are breathtaking panoramic views of the lake. In the churchyard, take a look at the intricately carved stones, known as khatchkhars. From Sevan, we'll drive to the nearby spa town of Dilijan, where we can visit the Geological Museum and Art Gallery which displays archaeological pieces and works of art. There are also plenty of craft workshops in town where you can pick up a souvenir or two. Overnight in Dilijan. (B, D)

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

The twin monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin face off across the Debed Canyon. Haghpat is a mediaeval complex largely completed in the 9th century. Grey stone is topped with terracotta roof tiles, but it's the floor that's most interesting - the holes in it were originally designed to keep wine cool. Sanahin is Haghpat's twin; its name means "older than that one". The floor of the cavernous interior is covered with tombstones, though it's considered good luck to step on them as it's thought doing so will free the dead of their sins. From there, we'll head to the village of Lermontovo, named after the Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov, who's often called "the poet of the Caucasus". Our final stop is at the 12th century monastery of Goshavank before we return to Dilijan for dinner. Overnight in Dilijan. (B, D)

Day 7 - Dilijan - Yerevan

Today, we'll retrace our steps and return to Yerevan. The drive takes about two hours from Dilijan so there'll be plenty of time today to fit in some independent sightseeing. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

Day 8 - Yerevan

After what's been a fascinating and enjoyable week, it's time to return to the airport in good time to catch your flight home. (B)

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

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	Tour Price	Single suppliment
05/20/2025 - 05/27/2025	\$1595	\$225
05/27/2025 - 06/03/2025	\$1595	\$225
06/03/2025 - 06/10/2025	\$1595	\$225
06/10/2025 - 06/17/2025	\$1595	\$225
06/17/2025 - 06/24/2025	\$1595	\$225
06/24/2025 - 07/01/2025	\$1595	\$225
07/01/2025 - 07/08/2025	\$1595	\$225
07/08/2025 - 07/15/2025	\$1595	\$225
07/15/2025 - 07/22/2025	\$1595	\$225
07/22/2025 - 07/29/2025	\$1595	\$225
07/29/2025 - 08/05/2025	\$1595	\$225
08/05/2025 - 08/12/2025	\$1595	\$225
08/12/2025 - 08/19/2025	\$1595	\$225
08/19/2025 - 08/26/2025	\$1595	\$225
08/26/2025 - 09/02/2025	\$1595	\$225
09/02/2025 - 09/09/2025	\$1595	\$225
09/09/2025 - 09/16/2025	\$1595	\$225
09/16/2025 - 09/23/2025	\$1595	\$225
09/23/2025 - 09/30/2025	\$1595	\$225
09/30/2025 - 10/07/2025	\$1595	\$225

10/07/2025 - 10/14/2025	\$1595	\$225
10/14/2025 - 10/21/2025	\$1595	\$225
10/21/2025 - 10/28/2025	\$1595	\$225
10/28/2025 - 11/04/2025	\$1595	\$225
11/04/2025 - 11/11/2025	\$1595	\$225
11/11/2025 - 11/18/2025	\$1595	\$225
11/18/2025 - 11/25/2025	\$1595	\$225
11/25/2025 - 12/02/2025	\$1595	\$225
12/02/2025 - 12/09/2025	\$1595	\$225
12/09/2025 - 12/16/2025	\$1595	\$225
12/16/2025 - 12/23/2025	\$1595	\$225

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
05/20/2025 - 05/27/2025	\$1695	\$275
05/27/2025 - 06/03/2025	\$1695	\$275
06/03/2025 - 06/10/2025	\$1695	\$275
06/10/2025 - 06/17/2025	\$1695	\$275
06/17/2025 - 06/24/2025	\$1695	\$275
06/24/2025 - 07/01/2025	\$1695	\$275
07/01/2025 - 07/08/2025	\$1695	\$275
07/08/2025 - 07/15/2025	\$1695	\$275
07/15/2025 - 07/22/2025	\$1695	\$275
07/22/2025 - 07/29/2025	\$1695	\$275
07/29/2025 - 08/05/2025	\$1695	\$275
08/05/2025 - 08/12/2025	\$1695	\$275
08/12/2025 - 08/19/2025	\$1695	\$275
08/19/2025 - 08/26/2025	\$1695	\$275
08/26/2025 - 09/02/2025	\$1695	\$275
09/02/2025 - 09/09/2025	\$1695	\$275
09/09/2025 - 09/16/2025	\$1695	\$275
09/16/2025 - 09/23/2025	\$1695	\$275
09/23/2025 - 09/30/2025	\$1695	\$275
09/30/2025 - 10/07/2025	\$1695	\$275
10/07/2025 - 10/14/2025	\$1695	\$275
10/14/2025 - 10/21/2025	\$1695	\$275
10/21/2025 - 10/28/2025	\$1695	\$275
10/28/2025 - 11/04/2025	\$1695	\$275
11/04/2025 - 11/11/2025	\$1695	\$275
11/11/2025 - 11/18/2025	\$1695	\$275
11/18/2025 - 11/25/2025	\$1695	\$275
11/25/2025 - 12/02/2025	\$1695	\$275
12/02/2025 - 12/09/2025	\$1695	\$275
12/09/2025 - 12/16/2025	\$1695	\$275
12/16/2025 - 12/23/2025	\$1695	\$275

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:

- > Great Armenian Discovery 10 days (AM-03), Price from \$1,995, 10 days
- > Luxury Armenia Tour 8 days (AM-06), Price from \$1,995, 8 days
- > <u>Discover Armenia</u>, <u>Georgia and Azerbaijan 16 days (CT-02)</u>, Price from \$3,495, 16 days
- > Highlights of Iran and Armenia 15 days (CT-04), Price from \$2,995, 15 days

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 <u>www.best-of-caucasus.com</u> 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.com, or

Phone: call us on +1 (917) 259 13 33

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 \$250) 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.

YOUR NOTES

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

riease find below some space to write down your queries of comments regarding this trip.			