

Great Armenian Discovery - 10 days

AM-03



The comprehensive itinerary of this ten day tour enables participants to get to know the fascinating country of Armenia. Many of the country's most attractive monasteries feature in the programme, including Khor Virap with its views of Mount Ararat, Sevanavank overlooking beautiful Lake Sevan and Tatev, perched on a hill and reached by the world's longest cable car. The tour also includes time in the capital Yerevan, the pretty spa town of Dilijan and some spectacular scenic drives including a crossing of the Selim Pass.

DEPARTURE DATES:

05.06.2025; 05.13.2025; 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

Today your Armenian adventure begins as you arrive in the capital Yerevan. The transfer to your hotel is included. Overnight in Yerevan. (D)

Day 2 - Yerevan - Ejmiatsin - Zvartnots - Yerevan

Yerevan, the captivating capital of Armenia, harmoniously fuses Soviet-era structures with a rich historical backdrop and a vibrant café scene. Your morning begins with an exploration of the city's key attractions, including the lively Singing Fountains at Republic Square, the eclectic Vernissage market brimming with antiques and crafts, and the esteemed Matenadaran, which houses ancient manuscripts that reflect Armenia's storied past. You'll also ascend the famous Yerevan Cascade, where breathtaking views unfold, allowing you to spot the iconic Mount Ararat on clear days. In the afternoon, pay a visit to the poignant Armenian Genocide Memorial, a heartfelt homage to the victims of the 1915 genocide and an integral part of the country's history. Your adventure continues with a trip to Echmiadzin, the site of the oldest cathedral in Armenia and its spiritual hub. Next, marvel at the remnants of the 7th-century Zvartnots Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its stunning architectural beauty. Conclude your day with a return to Yerevan, where a delicious dinner awaits in the city center. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

Day 3 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

Garni and Geghard are often paired into one excursion due to their close proximity, yet each offers a uniquely captivating experience. The Temple of Garni is an extraordinary Ionic Greco-Roman pagan temple built in the 1st century AD. It was carefully restored in the 1970s after a 17th-century earthquake left it in ruins. Before heading to Geghard, we'll take a scenic detour to the breathtaking Garni Gorge, renowned for its impressive basalt columns, often called the "Symphony of Stones." After visiting the gorge, we'll proceed to Geghard Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site founded by Gregory the Illuminator in the 4th century. The main structures you see today date back to the early 14th century, and you can also visit the sacred spring within Gregory's cave, which has been revered for centuries. Before returning to Yerevan, you'll experience traditional lavash-baking, sampling fresh lavash with local cheese and herbs for an authentic taste of Armenia. After exploring these remarkable sites, we'll return to Yerevan, where the rest of the day is yours to discover the city at your own pace. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

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

Khor Virap offers a truly unique experience, with its stunning location near the Turkish border providing excellent views of the majestic Mount Ararat in the distance. The monastery itself is a remarkable sight, well worth a closer look. Even more impressive is Noravank, set within a dramatic narrow canyon. As you approach, the monastery complex reveals its beautifully detailed carvings. For those up for a challenge, a steep set of steps built into the church's façade leads to the first floor, where you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views down the valley. Today's journey ends in Areni, famous for its rich winemaking tradition. Before visiting a top winery for a tasting session, we'll explore Birds' Cave, an ancient site where the world's oldest known winery and artifacts like the oldest leather shoe were discovered. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

Day 5 - Yerevan - Sevan - Dilijan

Sevanavank monastery is built on the top of a small hill. You'll climb 243 steps to the top and the reward, once you've caught your breath, is the incredible view across the lake. The monastery itself is very pretty and in its churchyard you'll be wowed by the beautifully carved khatchkhars which look a little like gravestones. It's a short drive to Dilijan, a spa town and our base for the next couple of nights. You can amuse yourself in the local Geological Museum and Art Gallery which exhibits archaeological pieces and works of art or perhaps visit one of the craft workshops that are dotted about the town. Overnight in Dilijan. (B, D)

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

This morning we set off for the Debed Canyon. Haghpat and Sanahin monasteries face off against each other and when built, there was a rivalry between them. In fact, Sanahin's name means "older than that one". Haghpat itself was built back in the 9th century; check out the holes in the floor designed to keep wine at a cool temperature. Inside Sanahin, don't be too concerned about showing a lack of respect if you walk over the gravestones on the floor - it's actually considered good luck as it's believed the act of stepping on them frees the dead from the burden of sin. The village of Lermontovo, named after the Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov, who's often called "the poet of the Caucasus" is our next stop and we fit in a visit to the 12th century monastery of Goshavank before returning to Dilijan in time for dinner. Overnight in Dilijan. (B, D)

Day 7 - Dilijan - Noratus - Selim Pass - Jermuk

It's time to depart Dilijan this morning and our first stop is at Noratus Cemetery. This mediaeval graveyard has the largest concentration of khatchkhars in the entire country. Large and small, embellished with carvings of crosses and weathered with moss and lichen, they are fascinating to explore. Legend has it that when Tamerlane planned an attack, locals placed helmets on top and propped swords up to make them appear like soldiers from a distance. Departing Noratus, we will cross the Selim Pass, calling in at the 14th century Orbelian's Caravanserai and head for Jermuk. This attractive mountain spa town is our base for the next two nights. Overnight in Jermuk. (B, D)

Day 8 - Jermuk - Tatev - Goris - Khndzoresk Caves - Jermuk

Continuing on, Tatev is our destination today. This hilltop monastery is reached via a flight on the Wings of Tatev, the world's longest cable car. The journey across the valley is spectacular and the monastery's remoteness is reinforced as you approach. In the complex itself, seek out a column tucked away in one of the courtyards which historically has helped to predict earthquakes and approaching enemy armies. Departing Tatev, we'll soon reach the town of Goris from where we visit the nearby Khndzoresk Caves. Until relatively recently, these caves were inhabited. Once we've had a good look we'll set off back to Jermuk. Overnight in Jermuk. (B, D)

Day 9 - Jermuk - Gladzor - Yerevan

Today we journey back to Yerevan. We'll make a stop after about an hour at the church of St Jacob in a village called Vernashen. Inside there's a small museum whose exhibits are devoted to education, art, mediaeval science and the history of the ancient Gladzor University which it's thought was located at Tanahat Monastery about three miles away. It was also an important centre for calligraphy and hundreds of manuscripts were created there. Afterwards, we'll depart for Yerevan, where you'll spend your final evening. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

Day 10 - Yerevan

Today's departure day and 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
05/06/2025 - 05/15/2025	\$1995	\$225
05/13/2025 - 05/22/2025	\$1995	\$225
05/20/2025 - 05/29/2025	\$1995	\$225
05/27/2025 - 06/05/2025	\$1995	\$225
06/03/2025 - 06/12/2025	\$1995	\$225
06/10/2025 - 06/19/2025	\$1995	\$225
06/17/2025 - 06/26/2025	\$1995	\$225
06/24/2025 - 07/03/2025	\$1995	\$225
07/01/2025 - 07/10/2025	\$1995	\$225
07/08/2025 - 07/17/2025	\$1995	\$225
07/15/2025 - 07/24/2025	\$1995	\$225
07/22/2025 - 07/31/2025	\$1995	\$225
07/29/2025 - 08/07/2025	\$1995	\$225
08/05/2025 - 08/14/2025	\$1995	\$225
08/12/2025 - 08/21/2025	\$1995	\$225
08/19/2025 - 08/28/2025	\$1995	\$225
08/26/2025 - 09/04/2025	\$1995	\$225
09/02/2025 - 09/11/2025	\$1995	\$225
09/09/2025 - 09/18/2025	\$1995	\$225
09/16/2025 - 09/25/2025	\$1995	\$225
09/23/2025 - 10/02/2025	\$1995	\$225
09/30/2025 - 10/09/2025	\$1995	\$225
10/07/2025 - 10/16/2025	\$1995	\$225
10/14/2025 - 10/23/2025	\$1995	\$225
10/21/2025 - 10/30/2025	\$1995	\$225
10/28/2025 - 11/06/2025	\$1995	\$225
11/04/2025 - 11/13/2025	\$1995	\$225
11/11/2025 - 11/20/2025	\$1995	\$225
11/18/2025 - 11/27/2025	\$1995	\$225
11/25/2025 - 12/04/2025	\$1995	\$225
12/02/2025 - 12/11/2025	\$1995	\$225
12/09/2025 - 12/18/2025	\$1995	\$225
12/16/2025 - 12/25/2025	\$1995	\$225

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
05/06/2025 - 05/15/2025	\$2095	\$345
05/13/2025 - 05/22/2025	\$2095	\$345
05/20/2025 - 05/29/2025	\$2095	\$345
05/27/2025 - 06/05/2025	\$2095	\$345
06/03/2025 - 06/12/2025	\$2095	\$345
06/10/2025 - 06/19/2025	\$2095	\$345
06/17/2025 - 06/26/2025	\$2095	\$345
06/24/2025 - 07/03/2025	\$2095	\$345
07/01/2025 - 07/10/2025	\$2095	\$345
07/08/2025 - 07/17/2025	\$2095	\$345
07/15/2025 - 07/24/2025	\$2095	\$345
07/22/2025 - 07/31/2025	\$2095	\$345
07/29/2025 - 08/07/2025	\$2095	\$345
08/05/2025 - 08/14/2025	\$2095	\$345
08/12/2025 - 08/21/2025	\$2095	\$345
08/19/2025 - 08/28/2025	\$2095	\$345
08/26/2025 - 09/04/2025	\$2095	\$345
09/02/2025 - 09/11/2025	\$2095	\$345
09/09/2025 - 09/18/2025	\$2095	\$345
09/16/2025 - 09/25/2025	\$2095	\$345
09/23/2025 - 10/02/2025	\$2095	\$345
09/30/2025 - 10/09/2025	\$2095	\$345
10/07/2025 - 10/16/2025	\$2095	\$345

10/14/2025 - 10/23/2025	\$2095	\$345
10/21/2025 - 10/30/2025	\$2095	\$345
10/28/2025 - 11/06/2025	\$2095	\$345
11/04/2025 - 11/13/2025	\$2095	\$345
11/11/2025 - 11/20/2025	\$2095	\$345
11/18/2025 - 11/27/2025	\$2095	\$345
11/25/2025 - 12/04/2025	\$2095	\$345
12/02/2025 - 12/11/2025	\$2095	\$345
12/09/2025 - 12/18/2025	\$2095	\$345
12/16/2025 - 12/25/2025	\$2095	\$345

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:

- > [Highlights of Armenia - 5 days \(AM-01\)](#), Price from \$1,095, 5 days
- > [Luxury Armenia Tour - 8 days \(AM-06\)](#), Price from \$1,995, 8 days
- > [Discover Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan - 16 days \(CT-02\)](#), Price from \$3,495, 16 days
- > [Great Georgian Discovery - 11 days \(GE-03\)](#), Price from \$2,295, 11 days

HOW TO BOOK

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 www.best-of-caucasus.com 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.

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

Please find below some space to write down your queries or comments regarding this trip.

This image shows a full page of a document template designed for handwriting practice. It consists of two vertical columns of horizontal dotted lines on a white background. Each column contains 20 evenly spaced rows of dots, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The overall layout is clean and minimalist, focusing entirely on the structural guidance provided by the dotted lines.