

## 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:**

12.08.2022; 12.15.2022; 01.03.2023; 01.10.2023; 01.17.2023; 01.24.2023; 01.31.2023; 02.07.2023; 02.14.2023; 02.21.2023; 02.28.2023; 03.07.2023; 03.14.2023; 03.21.2023; 03.28.2023; 04.04.2023; 04.11.2023; 04.18.2023; 04.25.2023; 05.02.2023; 05.09.2023; 05.16.2023; 05.23.2023; 05.30.2023; 06.06.2023; 06.13.2023; 06.20.2023; 06.27.2023; 07.04.2023; 07.11.2023; 07.18.2023; 07.25.2023; 08.01.2023; 08.08.2023; 08.15.2023; 08.22.2023; 08.29.2023; 09.05.2023; 09.12.2023; 09.19.2023; 09.26.2023; 10.03.2023; 10.10.2023; 10.17.2023; 10.24.2023; 10.31.2023; 11.07.2023; 11.14.2023; 11.21.2023; 11.28.2023; 12.05.2023; 12.12.2023.

## 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**

You'll begin by getting to know Armenia's charming capital, Yerevan. This morning's tour will encompass the main sights in the city, including the impressive Singing Fountains in Republic Square and the fascinating market stalls of the Vernissage with their mixture of objets d'art, Soviet memorabilia and local crafts. Also on the programme is a visit to the Matenadaran where ancient manuscripts are housed and the Yerevan Cascade, which offers panoramic views across the city and beyond from the top of its many flights of steps. Later, you'll drive out to Echmiadzin where you'll be able to see Armenia's oldest cathedral and on to Zvartnots, home to a ruined 7th century cathedral listed by UNESCO. Return to Yerevan in time for dinner. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

**Day 3 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan**

Garni and Geghard are usually combined into one excursion as they are geographically close together; however, in style they couldn't be more different. Garni is the more unusual, an Ionic Greco-Roman pagan temple initially constructed in the 1st century AD but restored in the 1970s after a 17th century earthquake left it in ruins. Geghard is a UNESCO-listed monastery which was founded by Gregory the Illuminator in the 4th century. What you see today dates from the early 14th century but the spring that you can visit is the original sacred spring in Gregory's cave. After our visits, we'll drive back to the city and the rest of the day is yours to explore on your own. Overnight in Yerevan. (B, D)

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

Khor Virap's location is pretty special - located very close to the Turkish border you often have wonderful views of Mount Ararat in the distance. The monastery is photogenic in its own right and fascinating to inspect close up. Noravank's location is even more spectacular. The anticipation builds as we turn down a narrow canyon. The buildings of this monastery complex feature some very intricate carvings. If you have a head for heights, climb the steep, open steps built onto the front of the church to gaze back along the valley from a first-floor vantage point. Areni's our last stop today. This place is known for its viticulture and we'll make a stop at one of Armenia's top wineries to learn about the production process and of course enjoy a tasting. 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 khatchkars 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](#)  
[Book with confidence - covid FAQs](#)  
[Contact our travel consultants](#)

## AVAILABLE PACKAGES

### COMFORT - 3\* PACKAGE

Dates	Tour Price	Single supplement
12/08/2022 - 12/17/2022	\$1795	\$245
12/15/2022 - 12/24/2022	\$1795	\$245
01/03/2023 - 01/12/2023	\$1895	\$245

01/10/2023 - 01/19/2023	\$1895	\$245
01/17/2023 - 01/26/2023	\$1895	\$245
01/24/2023 - 02/02/2023	\$1895	\$245
01/31/2023 - 02/09/2023	\$1895	\$245
02/07/2023 - 02/16/2023	\$1895	\$245
02/14/2023 - 02/23/2023	\$1895	\$245
02/21/2023 - 03/02/2023	\$1895	\$245
02/28/2023 - 03/09/2023	\$1895	\$245
03/07/2023 - 03/16/2023	\$1895	\$245
03/14/2023 - 03/23/2023	\$1895	\$245
03/21/2023 - 03/30/2023	\$1895	\$245
03/28/2023 - 04/06/2023	\$1895	\$245
04/04/2023 - 04/13/2023	\$1895	\$245
04/11/2023 - 04/20/2023	\$1895	\$245
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05/02/2023 - 05/11/2023	\$1895	\$245
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05/30/2023 - 06/08/2023	\$1895	\$245
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11/14/2023 - 11/23/2023	\$1895	\$245
11/21/2023 - 11/30/2023	\$1895	\$245
11/28/2023 - 12/07/2023	\$1895	\$245
12/05/2023 - 12/14/2023	\$1895	\$245
12/12/2023 - 12/21/2023	\$1895	\$245

**PREMIUM - 4\* PACKAGE**

Dates	Tour Price	Single supplement
12/08/2022 - 12/17/2022	\$1895	\$295
12/15/2022 - 12/24/2022	\$1895	\$295
01/03/2023 - 01/12/2023	\$1995	\$295
01/10/2023 - 01/19/2023	\$1995	\$295
01/17/2023 - 01/26/2023	\$1995	\$295
01/24/2023 - 02/02/2023	\$1995	\$295
01/31/2023 - 02/09/2023	\$1995	\$295
02/07/2023 - 02/16/2023	\$1995	\$295
02/14/2023 - 02/23/2023	\$1995	\$295

02/21/2023 - 03/02/2023	\$1995	\$295
02/28/2023 - 03/09/2023	\$1995	\$295
03/07/2023 - 03/16/2023	\$1995	\$295
03/14/2023 - 03/23/2023	\$1995	\$295
03/21/2023 - 03/30/2023	\$1995	\$295
03/28/2023 - 04/06/2023	\$1995	\$295
04/04/2023 - 04/13/2023	\$1995	\$295
04/11/2023 - 04/20/2023	\$1995	\$295
04/18/2023 - 04/27/2023	\$1995	\$295
04/25/2023 - 05/04/2023	\$1995	\$295
05/02/2023 - 05/11/2023	\$1995	\$295
05/09/2023 - 05/18/2023	\$1995	\$295
05/16/2023 - 05/25/2023	\$1995	\$295
05/23/2023 - 06/01/2023	\$1995	\$295
05/30/2023 - 06/08/2023	\$1995	\$295
06/06/2023 - 06/15/2023	\$1995	\$295
06/13/2023 - 06/22/2023	\$1995	\$295
06/20/2023 - 06/29/2023	\$1995	\$295
06/27/2023 - 07/06/2023	\$1995	\$295
07/04/2023 - 07/13/2023	\$1995	\$295
07/11/2023 - 07/20/2023	\$1995	\$295
07/18/2023 - 07/27/2023	\$1995	\$295
07/25/2023 - 08/03/2023	\$1995	\$295
08/01/2023 - 08/10/2023	\$1995	\$295
08/08/2023 - 08/17/2023	\$1995	\$295
08/15/2023 - 08/24/2023	\$1995	\$295
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08/29/2023 - 09/07/2023	\$1995	\$295
09/05/2023 - 09/14/2023	\$1995	\$295
09/12/2023 - 09/21/2023	\$1995	\$295
09/19/2023 - 09/28/2023	\$1995	\$295
09/26/2023 - 10/05/2023	\$1995	\$295
10/03/2023 - 10/12/2023	\$1995	\$295
10/10/2023 - 10/19/2023	\$1995	\$295
10/17/2023 - 10/26/2023	\$1995	\$295
10/24/2023 - 11/02/2023	\$1995	\$295
10/31/2023 - 11/09/2023	\$1995	\$295
11/07/2023 - 11/16/2023	\$1995	\$295
11/14/2023 - 11/23/2023	\$1995	\$295
11/21/2023 - 11/30/2023	\$1995	\$295
11/28/2023 - 12/07/2023	\$1995	\$295
12/05/2023 - 12/14/2023	\$1995	\$295
12/12/2023 - 12/21/2023	\$1995	\$295

## 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 \$995, 5 days
- > [Luxury Armenia Tour - 8 days \(AM-06\)](#), Price from \$1,895, 8 days
- > [Discover Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan - 16 days \(CT-02\)](#), Price from \$2,995, 16 days
- > [Great Georgian Discovery - 11 days \(GE-03\)](#), Price from \$1,795, 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](http://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](mailto:info@best-of-caucasus.com), or

**Phone:** call us on **+1 (631) 621 53 25**

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.

