

Hiking in Armenia

AM-05



This 9 day tour places the emphasis on Armenia's natural beauty, providing multiple opportunities to hike in the countryside. Slowing down the pace and covering the ground on foot will take you to places that aren't accessible by road and often open up to extraordinary, unspoilt views. You'll visit ancient monasteries and isolated villages, follow secluded forest trails and traverse meadows and valleys known mostly to local shepherds and beekeepers. This is a side of the country that few travellers experience and it's a real privilege to be able to show you these hidden gems and off the beaten track locales.

DEPARTURE DATES:

04.23.2024; 04.30.2024; 05.07.2024; 05.14.2024; 05.21.2024; 05.28.2024; 06.04.2024; 06.11.2024; 06.18.2024; 06.25.2024; 07.02.2024; 07.09.2024; 07.16.2024; 07.23.2024; 07.30.2024; 08.06.2024; 08.13.2024; 08.20.2024; 08.27.2024; 09.03.2024; 09.10.2024; 09.17.2024; 09.24.2024; 10.01.2024; 10.08.2024; 10.15.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Yerevan

Our representative will meet you at the international airport and after border formalities transfer you to your hotel in Yerevan.

Day 2 - Yerevan

Our sightseeing programme in Yerevan kicks off with a visit to the Matenadaran. This fascinating place houses more than 17,000 ancient manuscripts which were written about topics as diverse as geography, mathematics, law and philosophy. Afterwards, you'll enjoy a comprehensive city tour, including visits to Republic Square, the Vernissage market and to the Cascade for a breathtaking view over the city and beyond. The most moving moment of the day will undoubtedly be when you visit the Genocide Monument and Museum. Pay your respects as the flame flickers and learn more about the horrific events of a century ago that shaped a nation. Lunch and dinner; overnight in Yerevan.

Day 3 - Yerevan - Spitakavor - Proshaberd Citadel - Yeghegis

Many of Armenia's monasteries are located in remote areas, sometimes hidden from sight along a narrow gorge or high up surrounded by mountains. Today, you'll start in the south of the country. Driving through scenery where rocks have been sculpted by the wind and rain into curious shapes, you'll get your first taste of the jaw-dropping beauty of the Armenian landscape. Leaving your luggage in the capable hands of our driver, we'll hike to the 14th century Spitakavor Monastery and enjoy a picnic lunch. We'll follow the trail that leads to Proshaberd Citadel. In places, these are rough paths and quite the challenge, but the dramatic views of the mountains and valleys along the way are more than reward for your efforts. Dinner and overnight in Yeghegis.

Hiking notes: distance 14 km, ↑↓930 m. Altitudes: Vernashen village 1,529 m, Spitakavor 2,180 m, Proshaberd Citadel 2,380 m.

Day 4 - Yeghegis

Today we set out on a circular hike that will bring us back to Yeghegis in time for dinner. Our first destination is the mediaeval fortress of Smbataberd, which perches on the end of a ridge above the Arpi valley. Despite its advanced age, its ramparts and towers are still largely intact. Continuing on, our target is the remote Tsaghats Kar Monastery; the complex contains a number of churches, some in ruins, and a number of khachkars (stone crosses). In many respects we save the best until last with a final push to the Shatin Observation Point, from where we might catch a glimpse of horned Bezoar goats across the gorge. Again, we'll stop for a picnic midway through the day and have you back at the hotel in time for dinner. Dinner and overnight in Yeghegis.

Hiking notes: distance 14 km, ↑680 m ↓610 m. Altitudes: Yeghegis 1,532m, Smbataberd 1,950m, Tsaghatsqar 2,078m.

Day 5 - Yeghegis - Tatev - Yeghegis

For today's excursion, it's back on the winding roads of mountainous southern Armenia to reach the cable car which will take us to Tatev Monastery. The Wings of Tatev, as it's called, is the longest cable car in the world. It

makes light work of the Vorotan Gorge compared to the switchbacks you'd have to tackle down below. The monastery itself dates back to the 9th century; check out the Gavazan Column that was used as a crude seismometer back in the day. We will hike today: first to the Tatev Big Hermitage and then to limestone caverns of the Devil's Bridge that promise natural hot baths ideal for soaking any aching muscles under a ceiling of stalactites. Dinner and overnight in Yeghegis.

Hiking notes: distance 6 km (3-4 hours), ↑180 m ↓700 m. Altitudes: Tatev Monastery 1,565 m, Devil's bridge 1,026 m.

Day 6 - Yeghegis - Selim Caravanserai - Noratus - Sevan - Dilijan

This morning we'll set out over the Selim pass in the direction of Lake Sevan. A stop will be made at a 14th century caravanserai located 2410 metres above sea level and Noratus cemetery - the sight of so many weathered khachkars in one place. Lake Sevan is a sizeable high altitude lake and from the vantage point of Sevanavank 243 steps uphill, an extraordinary sight. As a group we'll lunch on the lake shore at Chekalovka before continuing on to Dilijan where we'll find our overnight accommodation.

Day 7 - Dilijan - Lake Parz - Dilijan National Park - Goshavank - Lake Gosh - Yerevan

The landscape of Dilijan National Park is one of the most magnificent in the country and as you begin your hike from Lake Parz, whose name translates as "Crystal Lake", it's not hard to see why it's special. You'll walk through verdant forest and cross the stunning Areguni Pass. Before long, you'll arrive at Gosh village, located beside the breathtaking gorge of the Tandzut River. There, we'll tour Goshavank, a monastery whose name honours the 13th century scholar who is buried there. Surrounded by nature and listening to the lilting notes of birdsong, those who wish to see more can follow the delightful trail up to Lake Gosh, an almost circular lake enclosed by trees. Finally, we'll drive back to Yerevan where our final hotel awaits. Overnight in Yerevan.

Hiking notes: distance 7 km (without Lake Gosh) or 14 km depending on group preferences, ↑260 m ↓365 m. Altitudes: Parz Lake 1,344 m, Goshavank Monastery 1,232 m, Lake Gosh 1, 423 m.

Day 8 - Yerevan - Mount Aragats - Kari Lich (Stone Lake) - Yerevan

Mount Aragats is Armenia's highest peak; the tallest of its four summits sits at more than 4,000 metres above sea level. The mountain is actually a dormant volcano, and boasts an impressive crater. Hiking its flanks is a particular treat if you time your climb for when the slopes are strewn with wildflowers. A few shepherds and beekeepers scratch a living up here, but for the most part it's uninhabited. Tackling the south peak is the most straightforward; you'll begin your ascent from Kari Lich (Stone Lake) and reach the summit around three hours later. Climbing the western route is more challenging but brings with it the reward of uninterrupted views of Mount Ararat over the Turkish border. Tonight's hotel rooms are reserved in Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

Hiking notes: distance 14 km, ↑700 m ↓700 m. Altitudes: Kari Lich (Stone Lake) 3,200 m, South summit 3,879 m, Western summit 4,080 m.

Day 9 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

Spend your final full day sightseeing close to the Armenian capital at Geghard and Garni. Geghard is a popular destination for visitors; its name is derived from the spear used by a Roman guard to pierce Christ's side as he was tied to the cross. Nearby, Garni feels almost out of place as its Greco-Roman colonnades feel like they belong in the Mediterranean rather than the Caucasus. A short hike along the Azat River gorge takes us to the Stone Symphony, a rock formation of basalt columns. Some nickname it "The Organ" because of the sound of running water as the river passes by. Overnight in Yerevan.

Day 10 - Yerevan

Even the most magical trip must come to an end and today is that day. We'll transfer you to the Zvartnots International Airport near Yerevan for your flight home and wish you safe passage.

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

Accommodation

Guided tours & cultural programme

English - speaking guides

Full board meals

[Ground transportation](#)
[Airport transfers](#)

Not included

[Personal travel insurance](#)
[Optional excursions](#)

Practical information

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AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT - 3* PACKAGE

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
04/23/2024 - 05/02/2024	\$1495	\$195
04/30/2024 - 05/09/2024	\$1495	\$195

05/07/2024 - 05/16/2024	\$1495	\$195
05/14/2024 - 05/23/2024	\$1495	\$195
05/21/2024 - 05/30/2024	\$1495	\$195
05/28/2024 - 06/06/2024	\$1495	\$195
06/04/2024 - 06/13/2024	\$1495	\$195
06/11/2024 - 06/20/2024	\$1495	\$195
06/18/2024 - 06/27/2024	\$1495	\$195
06/25/2024 - 07/04/2024	\$1495	\$195
07/02/2024 - 07/11/2024	\$1495	\$195
07/09/2024 - 07/18/2024	\$1495	\$195
07/16/2024 - 07/25/2024	\$1495	\$195
07/23/2024 - 08/01/2024	\$1495	\$195
07/30/2024 - 08/08/2024	\$1495	\$195
08/06/2024 - 08/15/2024	\$1495	\$195
08/13/2024 - 08/22/2024	\$1495	\$195
08/20/2024 - 08/29/2024	\$1495	\$195
08/27/2024 - 09/05/2024	\$1495	\$195
09/03/2024 - 09/12/2024	\$1495	\$195
09/10/2024 - 09/19/2024	\$1495	\$195
09/17/2024 - 09/26/2024	\$1495	\$195
09/24/2024 - 10/03/2024	\$1495	\$195
10/01/2024 - 10/10/2024	\$1495	\$195
10/08/2024 - 10/17/2024	\$1495	\$195
10/15/2024 - 10/24/2024	\$1495	\$195

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
04/23/2024 - 05/02/2024	\$1595	\$255
04/30/2024 - 05/09/2024	\$1595	\$255
05/07/2024 - 05/16/2024	\$1595	\$255
05/14/2024 - 05/23/2024	\$1595	\$255
05/21/2024 - 05/30/2024	\$1595	\$255
05/28/2024 - 06/06/2024	\$1595	\$255
06/04/2024 - 06/13/2024	\$1595	\$255
06/11/2024 - 06/20/2024	\$1595	\$255
06/18/2024 - 06/27/2024	\$1595	\$255
06/25/2024 - 07/04/2024	\$1595	\$255
07/02/2024 - 07/11/2024	\$1595	\$255
07/09/2024 - 07/18/2024	\$1595	\$255
07/16/2024 - 07/25/2024	\$1595	\$255
07/23/2024 - 08/01/2024	\$1595	\$255
07/30/2024 - 08/08/2024	\$1595	\$255
08/06/2024 - 08/15/2024	\$1595	\$255
08/13/2024 - 08/22/2024	\$1595	\$255
08/20/2024 - 08/29/2024	\$1595	\$255
08/27/2024 - 09/05/2024	\$1595	\$255
09/03/2024 - 09/12/2024	\$1595	\$255
09/10/2024 - 09/19/2024	\$1595	\$255
09/17/2024 - 09/26/2024	\$1595	\$255
09/24/2024 - 10/03/2024	\$1595	\$255
10/01/2024 - 10/10/2024	\$1595	\$255
10/08/2024 - 10/17/2024	\$1595	\$255
10/15/2024 - 10/24/2024	\$1595	\$255

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:

- > [Trekking in Georgia - Kazbegi Region - 8 days \(GE-06\)](#), Price from \$1,595, 8 days
- > [Great Georgian Discovery with Trekking Extension - 13 days \(GE-11\)](#), Price from \$2,395, 13 days
- > [Great Armenian Discovery - 10 days \(AM-03\)](#), Price from \$1,895, 10 days
- > [Discover Unknown Georgia - Svaneti - 7 days \(GE-08\)](#), Price from \$1,695, 7 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.

