# BEST OF

# TOUR DOSSIER ASPIRATIONAL TRAVEL TO

GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN

Tel: +1 (917) 259 13 33 info@best-of-caucasus.com www.best-of-caucasus.com

# Luxury Armenia Tour - 8 days





This 8 day tour is the ideal introduction to Armenia, one of the most fascinating countries in the Caucasus region. Over the course of a week its people will extend their customary warm welcome as we show you some of its highlights. We'll showcase its rich cultural heritage and illustrate a long and prosperous history. Yerevan, the capital, will undoubtedly work its magic and charm its way into your affections. Beyond the city limits, you'll explore UNESCO-listed cathedrals and ancient monasteries sited in extraordinary locations and be treated to magnificent views of gorges and mountains along the way.

Accommodation will be provided at luxury Grand Hotel Yerevan and Best Western Plus Paradise in Dilijan National Park. After a day's sightseeing, book a massage at the hotel's spa or swim a few restorative laps in its outdoor pool.

DEPARTURE DATES: 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

Welcome to Armenia. We'll meet you at the airport and transfer you to your centrally located hotel in Yerevan. Settle in and prepare for your adventure to begin at the aptly named Grand Hotel Yerevan. This well-appointed hotel is one of the finest in the country, a stellar five star property that' falls under of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World umbrella. Dinner and overnight in Yerevan.

# Day 2 - Yerevan - Ejmiatsin - Zvarnots - Yerevan

Yerevan boasts an array of intriguing architectural sights. You can enjoy the enchanting singing fountains at Republic Square, shop for handicrafts at the vibrant Vernissage market, and admire the ancient manuscripts housed in the Matenadaran. In the afternoon, pay a visit to the Armenian Genocide Memorial, a heartfelt tribute to the victims of the 1915 genocide and an essential part of the nation's history. Later our excursion takes us to Echmiadzin, Armenia's fourth largest city, located about a half-hour drive west of Yerevan. This city is a treasure trove of UNESCO sites, with five monuments holding this prestigious designation. We will focus on the oldest cathedral in Armenia before moving on to Zvartnots. The Zvartnots Cathedral was abandoned in the 7th century and rediscovered after archaeological excavations in the early 20th century, with the reasons for its sudden decline remaining a mystery. Enjoy breakfast and dinner, with an overnight stay in Yerevan.

# Day 3 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

Today's excursion offers a unique opportunity to explore two historic religious sites and the stunning natural beauty of Garni Gorge. We'll begin at the Garni Temple, an extraordinary pagan temple distinguished by its unusual Greco-Roman architectural style, making it one of a kind in Armenia. After being reconstructed following earthquake damage, its grand colonnades create a breathtaking sight that every visitor should experience. Next, we'll take a scenic detour to Garni Gorge, renowned for its striking basalt columns, often called the "Symphony of Stones." The dramatic landscape provides a perfect backdrop for some memorable photographs. Following our time in the gorge, we'll visit the nearby Geghard Monastery, founded by Gregory the Illuminator, the first leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church. This monastery is famous for its incredible acoustics, where a single voice can resonate as if sung by a choir. Don't miss the unique peephole that allows you to glimpse the church from above, as well as the chance to visit its sacred spring. Before heading back to Yerevan, you'll experience traditional lavash-baking, sampling fresh lavash with local cheese and herbs for an authentic taste of Armenia. After our day of exploration, we'll return to Yerevan for dinner. Breakfast and dinner. Overnight in Yerevan.

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

Many of Armenia's monasteries are situated in stunning locations, and today's visits are no exception. We'll start at Khor Virap, a site deeply connected to the story of Gregory the Illuminator, who was imprisoned here for a time. Perched on a small hill, the monastery provides magnificent views of the surrounding landscape, with Mount Ararat prominently visible across the border in Turkey. Next, we'll head to Noravank, which is beautifully

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positioned along the steep Amaghu River gorge. The monastery's stone walls are richly decorated with carvings that illustrate Biblical stories, including depictions of Jesus with his apostles, Peter and Paul. If you're feeling adventurous, you can ascend the stone staircase on the exterior of Noravank's two-storey church for stunning panoramic views of the valley. We'll also explore Birds' Cave in Areni, an important archaeological site known for its historical significance. To cap off the day, we'll enjoy a tasting at a famous winery in Areni. Breakfast and dinner are included; overnight in Yerevan.

## Day 5 - Yerevan - Sevan - Dilijan

It's time to move on from the capital so we'll check out of the Grand Hotel Yerevan this morning, our sights set on Lake Sevan. On a hill overlooking the lake shore you'll encounter Sevanavank. This remarkable monastery is one of Armenia's prettiest, particularly on a sunny day when cloudless skies and the vivid blue of the lake set off the colour of its stonework to perfection. You'll need to climb a long flight of steps to reach it, but with panoramic views out over the water and graveyard full of khachkars (carved stones) it's well worth the effort. Next stop today is Dilijan. This is a popular spa town but it's also home to a fascinating museum in which you'll find a diverse array of objects covering topics like geology, history and art. The town is also known for its handicraft shops where you can browse for a suitable souvenir to bring home. Our base will be the delightful Best Western Plus Paradise Hotel Dilijan. This four star property is surrounded by forested slopes which you can see from the outdoor pool and terrace. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Dilijan.

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

Today we'll focus on a trio of monasteries. First up is a drive over to the Debed Canyon where we'll tour Haghpat and Sanahin. These monasteries are a heritage double act thanks to their proximity to each other. Both date from the 10th century and have earned recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Haghpat in particular has a stunning location up on the hill, where its monks could benefit from solitude and privacy. After we've explored a little, we'll move on to another monastery. Goshavank is thought to date from the 12th or 13th century and its cluster of churches is in good condition; all but one are connected to each other. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Dilijan.

#### Day 7 - Dilijan - Yerevan

It's around a two hour drive to get back to Yerevan, which means there's plenty of time for you to see a bit more of the Armenian capital when we return. We recommend you visit the haunting but fascinating Genocide Memorial and Museum, where you can pay your respects beside the eternal flame. The old quarter of Kond, often overlooked by visitors, has a dilapidated charm; you'll often see wool drying on the ground outside its historic houses. The Cascades, in contrast, teems with visitors who climb its staircases to take in the views over the city. However you choose to spend this additional time, we're sure you'll relish getting to know Yerevan a little better. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Yerevan.

#### Day 8 - Yerevan

All that remains is for us to accompany you to the airport for your flight home and wish you a pleasant and safe journey. We trust you have enjoyed your tour and hope to see you in Armenia again very soon.

#### TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

#### Included

Accommodation Guided tours & cultural programme Not included Personal travel insurance Optional excursions

English - speaking guides Half board meals Ground transportation Airport transfers Practical information About Best of Caucasus company How our tours are run Contact our travel consultants

#### AVAILABLE PACKAGES

#### **LUXURY - 5\* PACKAGE**

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
07/15/2025 - 07/22/2025	\$1995	\$495
07/22/2025 - 07/29/2025	\$1995	\$495
07/29/2025 - 08/05/2025	\$1995	\$495
08/05/2025 - 08/12/2025	\$1995	\$495

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08/12/2025 - 08/19/2025	\$1995	\$495
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12/02/2025 - 12/09/2025	\$1995	\$495
12/09/2025 - 12/16/2025	\$1995	\$495
12/16/2025 - 12/23/2025	\$1995	\$495

#### 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 <u>contact us for a quote</u>.

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
- > Best of Armenia 8 days (AM-02), Price from \$1,595, 8 days
- > Luxury Georgia Tour: Tbilisi, Signagi, Borjomi 8 days (GE-09), Price from \$2,195, 8 days
- > Short Break in Istanbul with a Visit to Cappadocia 6 days (TR-02), Price from \$1,245, 6 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 <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,

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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.

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

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



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