

Luxury Armenia Tour - 8 days

AM-06

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 the pool.

DEPARTURE DATES:

21.05.2024; 28.05.2024; 04.06.2024; 11.06.2024; 18.06.2024; 25.06.2024; 02.07.2024; 09.07.2024; 16.07.2024; 23.07.2024; 30.07.2024; 06.08.2024; 13.08.2024; 20.08.2024; 27.08.2024; 03.09.2024; 10.09.2024; 17.09.2024; 24.09.2024; 01.10.2024; 08.10.2024; 15.10.2024; 22.10.2024; 29.10.2024; 05.11.2024; 12.11.2024; 19.11.2024; 26.11.2024; 03.12.2024; 10.12.2024.

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 - Zvartnots - Yerevan

Let's get acquainted with Armenia's enchanting capital today. Alongside the usual Soviet-era architecture, Yerevan has some interesting sights. You can watch the singing fountains of Republic Square, shop for handicrafts at the Vernissage market and admire the many ancient manuscripts housed in the Matenadaran. Echmiatsin, Armenia's fourth largest city, is around a half hour drive west of Yerevan and is our first excursion. It's a treasure trove of UNESCO sites, with five monuments holding the prestigious status. We'll concentrate on the oldest cathedral in the country, and then move on to Zvartnots. The cathedral there was abandoned in the 7th century and rediscovered after archaeological excavations at the beginning of the 20th century. The reasons for its unexpected demise remain a mystery. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Yerevan.

Day 3 - Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan

Today's excursion gives you the opportunity to visit two historic but very different religious buildings. The first is a pagan temple built in a rather unusual Greco-Roman style; there's nothing else like it anywhere in Armenia. Rebuilt after damage caused by an earthquake, its impressive colonnades make this a must for any tourist. We'll also take you to nearby Geghard Monastery. It takes its name from Gregory the Illuminator, who was the first to head up the Armenian Apostolic Church. The monastery's church boasts incredible acoustics which can trick you into thinking a lone voice is a choir. Check out a peephole through which you can see into the church from above and also visit its holy spring. Afterwards, we'll return to Yerevan in time for dinner. Breakfast and dinner; overnight in Yerevan.

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

Many of Armenia's monasteries can be found in extraordinary locations and today's pair is no exception. We'll show you Khor Virap first. Gregory the Illuminator's story continues here, as he was a prisoner for a time in one of its cells. Perched on a small hill, you can see it from afar and also offers breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside. The mountain you can see in the distance is Mount Ararat, but it actually sits across the border in neighbouring Turkey. Noravank too is a delightful place. This monastery is situated along the steep sided Amaghu River gorge. Its stone walls are etched with images depicting Biblical scenes, such as an image of Jesus with his apostles Peter and Paul. Prepare to wait in line if you wish to climb the stone staircase along the outside of Noravank's two-storey church to take in the amazing view along the valley. Round off the day with a tasting at

the renowned Areni winery. Breakfast and dinner; 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

- [International flights](#)
- [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](#)
- [How our tours are run](#)
- [Contact our travel consultants](#)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

LUXURY - 5* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
21/05/2024 - 28/05/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
28/05/2024 - 04/06/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
04/06/2024 - 11/06/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
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02/07/2024 - 09/07/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
09/07/2024 - 16/07/2024	£1795	£2195	£395

16/07/2024 - 23/07/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
23/07/2024 - 30/07/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
30/07/2024 - 06/08/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
06/08/2024 - 13/08/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
13/08/2024 - 20/08/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
20/08/2024 - 27/08/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
27/08/2024 - 03/09/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
03/09/2024 - 10/09/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
10/09/2024 - 17/09/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
17/09/2024 - 24/09/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
24/09/2024 - 01/10/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
01/10/2024 - 08/10/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
08/10/2024 - 15/10/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
15/10/2024 - 22/10/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
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05/11/2024 - 12/11/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
12/11/2024 - 19/11/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
19/11/2024 - 26/11/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
26/11/2024 - 03/12/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
03/12/2024 - 10/12/2024	£1795	£2195	£395
10/12/2024 - 17/12/2024	£1795	£2195	£395

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 £1,695, 10 days
- > [Best of Armenia - 8 days \(AM-02\)](#), Price from £1,295, 8 days
- > [Luxury Georgia Tour: Tbilisi, Signagi, Borjomi - 8 days \(GE-09\)](#), Price from £1,995, 8 days
- > [Short Break in Istanbul with a Visit to Cappadocia - 6 days \(TR-02\)](#), Price from £1,095, 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 www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk 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.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on **+44 (0)20 30 51 76 40**

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 £100) 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.

