

Armenia

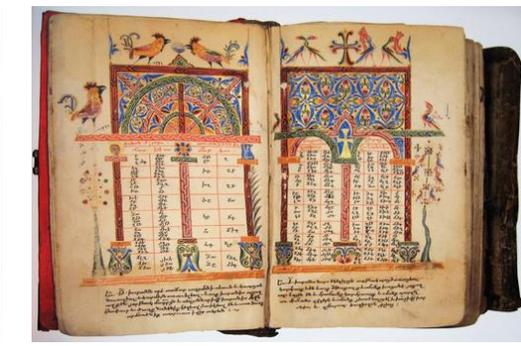
Duration	6nights/ 6 days: Oct. 7-13. 2022.
Accommodation	3* / Guest House
Meal Plan	Half Board
Kilometer	~966

Day 0/ Oct. 7. Arrival. Transfer to hotel. Rest.

Day 1/ Oct. 8. Yerevan – city tour- Garni Pagan temple- Geghard- Yerevan (110km)

- ✚ Start your day with observing city tour in Yerevan, learn the history of the city. Visit main streets and squares.
- ✚ Visit Manuscript museum- one of the biggest book depositories in the world, representing book creation culture and history in Armenia.
- ✚ Visit Legendary Ararat cognac factory to see the production of cognac and have degustation of the highlighted ones.
- ✚ Visit Megeryan carpet factory where you will be represented the culture of 1000 years of carpet waiving techniques and history. And still this factory keeps totally all traditions and techniques of carpet waiving and known as heritage keepers.
- ✚ Lunch at factory. They also revive old Armenian recipes and combine them with modern tastes.
- ✚ After lunch drive to Kotayk region to visit the only Pagan Temple survived and reconstructed in whole ex USSR territory. 2000 year old temple will impress you with its style and surrounding nature.
- ✚ Then 15min drive and another masterpiece is worth to visit. Geghard 4-13th c. Monastery half of which is from one piece of rock with reach background history and entire water source is the most visited sight in Armenia.
- ✚ Drive back to Yerevan / free time/ overnight.

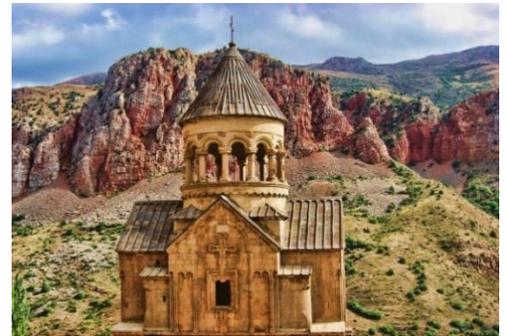
Breakfast/ lunch included



Day 2/ Oct. 9. Yerevan- Wine region- Areni Cave- Noravank- Shaki- Karahunj- Goris (250km)

- ✚ Tour to Wine region will be through Ararat valley, known as cradle of civilizations.
- ✚ Photo-stop for the Biblical Mountain Ararat where Noah descended and planted first grape.
- ✚ Continue to wine region which was a part of ancient Silk Road.
- ✚ Visit Oldest known winery- open archeological site in Areni village, 6100 years old. Here also the oldest shoe in the world was found, 5500 years old and the oldest human brain was found.
- ✚ Take road through a very narrow canyon to Visit Noravank 9-14th c Monastery surrounded with picturesque red rocks.
- ✚ Lunch in Trinity winery of organic wines. Meet the owner of the winery that besides the wines and grapes will tell you the traditions of Armenian feast.
- ✚ Drive to Syunik for visiting Shaki waterfall. A very short walk to waterfall which is the pearl of the area.
- ✚ Visit Karahunj 7600 year old observatory. Learn the mystic history about the stars Armenians worshiped and connected the ritual with New Year.
- ✚ Drive to Goris town. Dinner/ Overnight in Guest House

Breakfast/ lunch / dinner included



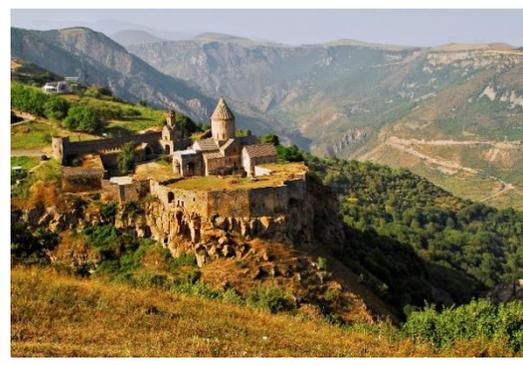
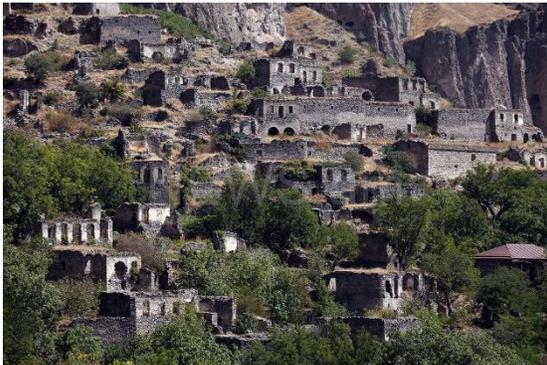
Day 3/ Oct. 10. Goris – Old Khot- Tatev- Shatin- Yeghegis (157km)

- ✚ Have short observing tour in Goris. It is one of the least discovered places in Armenia by tourists. I would say it is the only city with original architecture surviving.
- ✚ Visit Old Khot Village. The ancient Armenian village of Hin Khot is rightly called the “Armenian Machu Picchu”. The mountainous terrain and landscape strongly resemble the ancient city of the Incas in South America – in Peru. However, Machu Picchu today is a tourist Mecca, but only Armenians know

about the Hin Khot. We will have walk / hiking around the village, depending on weather and the group mood about an hour.

- ✚ After visit 9th c. Tatev Monastery which was like Oxford and Harvard for its times. Take the longest reversal cable car in the world to get there. The View and atmosphere is breathtaking.
- ✚ Lunch in Tatev Village.
- ✚ Drive to Shatin village to watch mountain goats in wild.
- ✚ Overnight and dinner in hotel in Yeghegis Village.

Breakfast/ lunch / dinner included



Day 4/ Oct. 11. Yeghegis – Selim Silk road pass – Noratus – Cheese farm- Tsaghkunq – Dilijan (178km)

- ✚ Start the day with passing old silk road. You can trace the Silk Road in Armenia by following its caravanserai, or inns; medieval stopping points where caravan riders and their pack animals spent the night. The Selim Pass Caravanserai is a valuable example of these inns along the Armenian Silk Road.
- ✚ Continue trip to Sevan lake. Visit Noratus village cemetery, the oldest part of which includes over 800 khachkars (stone crosses), carved between the 9th-17th centuries.
- ✚ Visit local family that has very unique cheese farm. Meet the family and have degustation of cheeses created by them.
- ✚ Continue to Tsaghkunq village. See an example of ancient Armenian house, have a bread backing masterclass and degustation. Learn history about bread backing traditions in Armenia. Lunch in restaurant where recently Co-founder of the world's best restaurant in different years Noma, Michelin cook and world celebrity Mads Refslund made 15 day masterclass and feast for international food journalists. Today's chef continues surprising guests.
- ✚ Drive to Dilijan. Observing tour in Dilijan. It's known for spa resorts and traditional craft workshops. The town is surrounded by the forests of Dilijan National Park.
- ✚ Light walk/ hiking in national park.
- ✚ Visit Armenian food laboratory for tea break. Degustation of local wild goods experimented and made by local girl.
- ✚ Free time. Overnight in guest house.

Breakfast/ lunch included.



Day 5/ Oct. 12. Dilijan - Gyumri (100 km)

- ✚ Drive to Gyumri. Cultural capital and second biggest city of Armenia. Gyumri and the surrounding area have been populated since the ancient times. Settlements that have recently been discovered that date back to the beginning of the 3rd millennium B.C.E
- ✚ Visit the first cobweb art gallery in the world in 21st c.
- ✚ Observing tour in city.
- ✚ Lunch in fish breeding gorge famous among locals.
- ✚ Visit Aero Engineering club in Gyumri, where kids and teenagers learn mini airplane engineering and experience flying the planes with promote control.
- ✚ Visit local Artist Brothers' workshop.
- ✚ Free time / Overnight in hotel.

Breakfast / lunch included



Day 6/ Oct. 13. Gyumri – Orgov - Amberd – Yerevan (171km)

- ✚ Drive to Yerevan.
- ✚ On the way visit Orgov Radio Optical Telescope-The scientific giant out of action build by Herouni. Soviet Russia wasn't thrilled with Paris Herouni's plans to build a radio-optical telescope in Armenia. The Armenian scientist was asked to consider Crimea, where the authorities even found a large natural pit for the purpose. Herouni struggled to get a permit from the government in Moscow for about 17 years before finally bringing to Armenia a scientific project of unprecedented scale.

- 🚩 Visit Amberd Fortress 9th c. on the highest mountain in Armenia Aragats 4090m high.
 - 🚩 Lunch in Local house.
 - 🚩 Drive to Yerevan. Free time.
- Breakfast/ lunch included.**

