

Duration **7 days** 

Guaranteed
2 travellers

Group size

18 travellers

From AUD \$ 1,369



#### WHAT TO EXPECT

Visit some of the oldest cathedrals in the world and an open-air handicraft market in Yerevan. Take in magnificent views of the iconic Mount Ararat from beautiful river canyons and gorges and see ancient cave monasteries, pagan temples, and fortresses. Taste the wines at a local winery, see alpine lakes, visit the smallest church in Armenia and enjoy the singing fountains of Republic Square.

## Day 1: Arrival to Yerevan

Welcome to Armenia! Upon arrival to International Zvartnots Airport in Yerevan, transfer on your own to your hotel (transfer not incl). Remaining day at leisure. Overnight in Yerevan.

### Day 2: Yerevan

Join an excursion to Echmiadzin town, the religious center of Armenia (start approx 11am). First you will stop at 4th century Echmiadzin cathedral, often considered as the oldest cathedral in the world. Afterwards you will visit St. Hripsime church of 7th century. Armenia is the 1st country of the world to adopt Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD. Return back to Yerevan and visit the ruins of Zvartnots cathedral. End your sightseeing with a visit of a Vernissage open-air handcraft market in Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Excursion to Echmiadzin, Spiritual Stop at Echmiadzin cathedral, Visit of St. Hripsime church, Visit of the ruins of Zvartnots cathedral, Arts & Craft Visit of a Vernissage open-air handcraft market

# Day 3: Yerevan - Day trip: Khor Virap & Noravank Monastery

Today you will visit Khor Virap monastery, which offers the best and the closest view to Mt. Ararat. It is a very important sanctuary for pilgrims as here Armenian church 1st Catholicos (highest supreme of the church) was imprisoned before proclaiming Christianity as a state religion. Continue to Noravank monastery of 9-14th cen. which is situated in picturesque Gnishik river canyon. It's very close to wine producing region Areni where an optional stop can be done for local wine tasting (against surcharge). Return back to Yerevan. Overnight in Yerevan.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Visit of Khor Virap monastery, Visit of Noravank monastery, Optional: local wine tasting

## Day 4: Yerevan, Garni Pagan Temple & Ghegard Cave Monastery

Start your sightseeing tour of Yerevan after breakfast. First you will visit the Cascade monument for a panoramic view to the city. Afterwards stop by Tsiternakaberd Memorial park and museum dedicated to the victims of 1915 Genocide. Drive to Garni Pagan Temple of 1st cen. dedicated to the God of Sun. Continue to Ghegard Cave Monastery of 12-13 cent. UNESCO. Return to Yerevan.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Yerevan city tour, Visit of Garni Pagan Temple, Visit of Ghegard Cave Monastery

#### Day 5: Yerevan - Day trip: Lake Sevan & Hagpat Monastery

Join an excursion to Lake Sevan, which is one of the largest freshwater high-altitude alpine lakes in Eurasia. Afterwards continue to Hagpat monastery, being one of the most beautiful monastic complexes in Armenia and one of the first monuments to be inscribed in UNESCO heritage list. Return back to Yerevan. Overnight at your hotel in Yerevan.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Excursion to Lake Sevan, Visit of Hagpat monastery

#### Day 6: Day at leisure in Yerevan

Day at leisure.

Optional excursion available (against surcharge): Drive to Amberd fortress of 9-11 century, which is situated on the slopes of Mt. Aragats on 2200 m. above sea level. Mt. Aragats is the highest peak of Armenia 4090 m. a.s.l. and one of the highest peaks of Lesser Caucasus mountains. Return back to Yerevan and stop near Armenian Alphabet letters park and visit Sagmosavank monastery of 13th cen. which is situated over the beautiful Qasaagh river gorge. Stop in Ashtarak town visiting the smallest Armenian church. Visit Matenadaran manuscript museum in Matenadaran. Free evening with a farewell scroll in Yerevan enjoying the singing fountains of Republic Square.

Note: For late autumn, winter and beginning of spring season period Amberd fortress will be excluded from the program due to weather conditions. It will be replaced with the visit of History Museum in Yerevan.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Optional excursion: Amberd Letters Park Sagmosavank Ashtarak Matenadaran

## Day 7: Departure from Yerevan

Check out from your hotel. Transfer to the airport on your own.

Meals included: Breakfast

# **Inclusions**

