



Website: www.aryans-tours.com

E-mail: info@aryans-tours.com

Tel: + (374) 10 220 138

7 Day Classical Tour in Armenia

Day 1

After arrival you will be transferred to your hotel in Yerevan and checked in. You will start your trip in the ancient 2795 year old capital of Armenia. Yerevan Birth Certificate is held in History Museum. It is cuneiform inscription of Urartian King Argishti which let scientists tell the exact time of city founding and prove Yerevan was built in 782 AD. Some decades ago Alexander Tamanyan, the general architect of Yerevan draw contemporary plan of the city which we can see today. The warm smiles of its inhabitants give unique charm to this eternal city ancient and so young at the same time. One of the stops included within the city tour is the “Matenadaran”, which houses over 17,000 ancient and medieval manuscripts, making it the significant bearer of one of the largest collections in the world. You will enjoy Yerevan’s vibrant nightlife with an abundance of outdoor cafés filled with eclectic people and the sounds of live music. *(Total drive 40 km / 6 hours)*

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan **Meals:** B, L

Day 2

This day begins with a visit to the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, the religious center of all Armenians around the world. The residence of Catholicos, Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church is in Echmiadzin. Here the first official Christian church was founded in the first half of the 4th century, later it was reconstructed and stands today with the whole charm Echmiadzin Cathedral. After lunch in the holy city, you will be back in Yerevan continue trip in the Genocide Memorial, a solemn reminder of the first genocide of the 20th century. This day you will have free evening in Yerevan. *(Total drive 65 km / 6-7 hours)*

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan **Meals:** B, L

Day 3

After breakfast you will head to the south of Armenia, roughly 40 km south of Yerevan stands KhorVirap Monastery, a historic site located amidst the Ararat Valley. The monastery was built on the place of royal prison of Armenian city of Artashat. Here in royal prison Grigor Lusavorich was sentenced to death by King Trdat for preaching Christianity in Armenia in the 3rd century. Nowhere else the Biblical Ararat has such a magnificent view. You will continue through a narrow canyon to the valley of red rocks and Noravank amidst them. This region of Armenia has been made famous for its unique grape sort “Areni” hence where “Areni” wines are derived from. One cannot pass through without a stop at a local winery for a tasting of some locally produced, exquisite wines. In the evening we will be back to your hotel in Yerevan for rest and overnight. *(Total drive 260 km / 8 hours)*

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan **Meals:** B, L

Day 4

After a relaxed breakfast at the hotel, the fourth day's tour involved a drive to the scenic canyon of the Azat River. The 7th century Geghard Cave Monastery is located deep at the bottom of the canyon and is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The towering cliffs of its surrounds are part of the monastery's complex which is both carved from the adjacent mountain as well as partially built from local basalt stones. Once inside the monastery, its fascinating labyrinth of chambers are illusive to one's orientation within the complex. Following on from the tour of the monastery, the tour is continued by bus to Garni village, where the Hellenistic-inspired "Garni" temple lies. Built in 66 AD, Garni was a temple dedicated to the Armenian God of the Sun "Mitra". Garni's complex also consists of a royal bath which exhibits a fascinating hypocaust along with a well preserved original mosaic tiling. Lunch is enjoyed in the courtyard of a family in Garni, consisting of local traditional cuisine. *(Total drive 80 km / 6 hours)*

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan Meals: B, L

Day 5

This day you will head to Lake Sevan, the "Blue Pearl of Armenia" and one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world at about 2000 meters above sea level. The stunning hilltop view of the azure lake framed by the surrounding mountains makes you feel inspired yet powerless by the same token. Lunch is enjoyed in a restaurant overlooking the lake with local lake-caught fish on the menu. The trip continues to Dilijan, a lush town known as a spa resort. A stroll in the historical district lets you experience the atmosphere of the old town as it was in the 19th century. The imaginatively carved balconies so typical of 19th century Dilijan display the region's historical love for fine woodwork. You will continue to Hagartsin Monastery dramatically located among picturesque mountains covered with dense forest. In the evening you'll be back to Yerevan for rest and overnight. *(Total drive 230 km / 8 hours)*

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan Meals: B, L

Day 6

After breakfast at hotel you will head to Saghmosavank Monastery located atop the yawning gorge carved by the Kasakh River. Amazing view on the Canyon opens in front of you once you reach the monastery. Your next stop on the trip will be the monument of Armenian Alphabet which was opened on 2005 to celebrate the 1600th anniversary of alphabet foundation. You will continue uphill to the Amberd fortress proudly standing on the foot of Mount Aragats encompassed by two deep canyons (2300 meters above sea). In the evening you will be back to your hotel in Yerevan. *(Total drive 130 km / 6 hours)*

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan Meals: B, L

Day 7

A free day allows one to enjoy their time in Yerevan visiting souvenir shops, outdoor cafes or some fine jazz clubs at one's liberty. Should this day of leisure fall upon a weekend, one should be lucky enough to visit Vernisaj, an art and craft market offering both souvenirs and a showcase of local Armenian craftsmanship for purchase or perusal. Another highlight of the tour is the opportunity to enjoy traditional Eastern Armenian cuisine at a local restaurant on the last evening before the conclusion of the tour.

Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan Meals: B, D

Day 8

Transfer to the airport, departure.