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## 10 Day Hiking Trip in Armenia

### Day 1

This trip begins with a city tour in Yerevan, bustling capital of Armenia having a history of over 2700 years. The cuneiform inscription proving Yerevan was built in 782 AD is in the History Museum of Armenia. You will start your tour with a short walk in the city center, and then visit Armenia History Museum. Excursion in History museum is fascinating Journey through the pages of Armenian History. After lunch you will head to Geghard Cave Monastery, partly carved pure rocks. Garni Pagan Temple is the only preserved in the Caucasus region. You will be back to Yerevan and have opportunity to feel the pulse of Yerevan night life as our itinerary starting from the second day gets you to the regions to hiking routes of this ancient country.

*Overnight: Hotel in Yerevan Meals: B*

### Day 2

This day you'll begin exploration of Southern Armenia. Our first stop will be Areni wine market where you'll have a chance to taste one of famous wines of Armenia. You will continue trip to beautiful two storied Noravank Monastery through the deep narrow canyon surrounded with red rocks. In the monastery yard awesome landscape of red rocks opens in front of you. You will head to your hotel, check in and get ready for the first hike to Proshaberd Citadel (trail length 10km). Here you'll be rewarded for our efforts by the dramatic views of the mountains and the valley below.

*Overnight: Yeghegnadzor Meals: B*

### Day 3

After wholesome breakfast you will immerse yourself deeper in the southern part of Armenia. This day our trail gets us to the Tatev Monastery, after admiring monastery, a narrow footpath will take us back in time, to the tiny cloister of Tatev Hermitage, a highly evocative place. Our next stop is Devil's Bridge with its limestone caverns and natural hot baths in a gorge (trail length 5km). We will continue to explore this region in 19<sup>th</sup> century Khndzoresk cave town. The hanging bridge heading to picturesque rock formations and gently inviting nature make this one of Armenia's most popular sites.

*Overnight: Hotel in Goris Meals: B*

### Day 4

After breakfast you will head to Hermon Village standing amidst a charming valley of Yeghegis river. You will be checked in at hotel and start hike to the medieval well preserved fortress of King Smbat, standing on the elevation of about 1950, you will continue to Takhats Kar Monastery on the elevation of 2080 m. (trail length 12km). You will continue your walk on a slighter note to Yeghegis village where you can find Jewish Cemetery and little churches right in the gardens of villagers. Your hotel in Hermon village has all the amenities (swimming pool, thermal baths and gym) bikes and horses to organize your evening leisure.

*Overnight: Hotel in Hermon Village Meals: B*

### Day 5

This day is a relaxed day, you will cover a part of The Great Silk Road, see one of well-preserved caravanserais. Here one has feelings the time has stopped for a long as very little has changed since the times

of trade caravans. You will be driven to Lake Sevan, admire one of the highest freshwater lakes from the hilltop of Sevan Peninsula. In the evening you will have time to walk along shores of Lake Sevan.

**Overnight:** *Hotel at Lake Sevan* **Meals:** *B*

#### **Day 6**

This day you will be transferred to Cristal Lake. Start hike in Dilijan National Park along stunning forest trails, cross the wildly beautiful Areguni Pass and reach Goshavank Monastery, named after the great scholar of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Mkhitar Gosh (trail length 8km). In the evening you will be driven to cozy Town of Dilijan, which captures the spirit of rural Armenia. You will visit Old Dilijan complex and observe the weaving carpets by local women at Tufenkian Carpet Showroom.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Dilijan* **Meals:** *B*

#### **Day 7**

After breakfast at hotel you will head to Gomer Village near Ijevan where we you will take a short transfer to the Lastiver trailhead. A wonderful forested route into the most unpolluted and rugged area of north-eastern Armenia as you will head into a deep gorge before descending to cascading waterfalls and the most scenic meadows in Armenia, perhaps Armenia's best-kept secret. Explore ancient caves of Lastiver. In the evening you'll be back to town of Ijevan for rest and overnight.

**Overnight:** *Guesthouse in Ijevan* **Meals:** *B*

#### **Day8**

This day takes you Lori region where Haghpat and Sanahin Monastery complexes (UNESCO World Heritage Sites) are situated. They both are equally beautiful but have very different atmosphere. You will hike from Haghpat to Sanahin through beautiful meadows and small villages. The hike is easy, around 3 hours. On the way you will explore formidable Kayan fortress and enjoy the best viewpoints over dramatic Debed gorge. You will be driven to Odzun Village where Odzun 3 nave basilica is located. This church is unique by its construction domed basilica.

**Overnight:** *Guesthouse in Odzun* **Meals:** *B*

#### **Day 9**

In the morning you will head to northwestern of Armenia to Shirak region. Here Arpi Lake National Park is located. You will get to the Guesthouse in Ashotsk and start hike after lunch. Ashotsk is amazing site with lots of natural capacities for hiking, Green valleys, snaking Ashortk river with surrounding pine tree forest and Arpi Lake make this area heaven for hikers. Optionally you will have chance to canoe on Arpi Lake or have some fishing there. You will stay this day in a small family run guesthouse.

**Overnight:** *Guesthouse in Ahsotsk* **Meals:** *B*

#### **Day 10**

On the last day of your trip you will hike to the highest mountain of Armenia. You will reach Amberd Medieval Fortress of 12<sup>th</sup> century standing on the elevation of 2300 m. The first point of your hiking adventure is the Stone Lake on the slope of mount Aragats an extinct volcano. You will start your hike to the Southern Summit (trail length 5-7 hours). If the day is clear you will have a great view from here on Mount Ararat. The day continues with a relaxing sightseeing in Saghmosavank Monastery perched on the edge of picturesque Kasakh Canyon and then head to Yerevan for another lovely evening in the city.

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

#### **Day 11**

Departure day.